Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) convene at the national level on a quarterly basis, via the National Committee for Food and Nutrition (NCFN). They are established in every state via the State Committees. Multi-sectoral coordination is also achieved through the National Fortification Alliance and Nutrition in Emergency Working Group. Nutrition is afforded high profile support in Nigeria with the recent establishment in November 2017 of the National Council on Nutrition (NCN) inside the Office of the Vice President. The First Lady is also a nutrition advocate.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The establishment of the NCN followed the adoption in 2016 of a Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP), a health-centric policy coordinated by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning. The Government is committing to nutrition in many of its programmes. Linking agriculture, local business, education and culture, local business, education and research, the Vice President launched Nigeria’s National Home Grown School Feeding Programme, which provides free school meals made from locally procured food from smallholder farmers. While food fortification has been mandatory since 2002, enforcement of this legislation must be improved.

Aligning actions around common results

All stakeholders have a common set of priorities derived from the FNSP, as well as the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition and the Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy. A multisectoral Common Results Framework—which is awaiting approval from the Federal Executive Council—was established, to outline stakeholder roles and responsibilities in carrying out activities. While multi-sectoral actors have an established system for collecting routine data, including drafting the NCFN progress reports quarterly, a platform for collecting data has not yet been established.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

The National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition at National and Sub-National levels (NSPAN) has been finalised and costed. Investment in nutrition is not solid, but ministries, departments and agencies have dedicated nutrition budget lines and nutrition divisions do exist in most of them. The Civil Society Network (CS-SUNN) conducted a budget tracking exercise at the national level and in Kaduna, Nasarawa and Niger states. Advocacy from the CS-SUNN has led to increased nutrition financing in 3 states, but efforts must be sustained to increase domestic financing more broadly.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Advocate for additional nutrition resources via domestic financing, and improve resource tracking;
- Mobilise stakeholders to form an Academia and Research Network;
- Roll out the Partnership in Improving Nutrition Systems (PINS) project on improved results orientation;
- Roll out the NutriPitch programme, which provides entrepreneurs with access to financiers for nutrition-related business plan.