Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action
The Government-led Food Security, Nutrition and WASH (FSNWASH) policy will be housed by the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion and led by the National Early Childhood Development Program (NECDP). A SUN Government Focal Point has been nominated in the reporting period. The UN Network for SUN is fully functional, with joint programmes and projects planned annually. The SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) has expanded, including a move to chair the East Africa Civil Society Network. The SUN Donor Network has been formalised during the reporting period and NECDP plans to formalise a business network.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
The National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan and Policy came to an end in June 2018 and its next iteration will be the FSNWASH policy, to harmonise across sectors. Each district has a District Plan to Eliminate Malnutrition (DPEM) Committee. UN and donor groups have jointly advocated for the creation of a national nutrition coordination body, the NECDP, which is developing a national advocacy strategy. The National Food and Drug Authority was created in early 2018 to oversee food safety. Laws are needed to support the International Code on the Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

Aligning actions around common results
The Joint Action Plan to End Malnutrition acts as the Common Results Framework and outlines the roles of government ministries and a monitoring and evaluation system. The MINAGRI Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation IV (PSTA IV) and the Ministry of Health's Health Sector Strategic Plan IV (HSSP IV) were both launched in 2018 and include nutrition activities. The SUN Networks for the UN, donors and the Government are supporting DPEMs, but coordination needs to be improved. Data collection systems are in place for nutrition indicators, including for children receiving fortified foods.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation
The National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan and Policy was costed, but financial tracking of development partners has been complicated. More funding for nutrition and WASH was needed at district level. The CSN conducted a public expenditure analysis of food and nutrition programmes in Rwanda. The UN Network for SUN financed the Nutrition Secretariat for its first year. The World Bank identified nutrition as a major national need and launched a significant multi-sectoral investment. MINAGRI provided supplies during a 2017 drought in the Eastern Province to help alleviate a nutrition crisis.