Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Progress has been made by officially appointing a Government focal point and conveners of networks and stakeholder groups. The Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) has expanded to include additional members from civil society, the private sector, media, parliament and academia. A donor network was established in early 2018. Plans are underway to expand MSP structures at the sub-national level. For this, communication between central and local levels needs strengthening. Also, there is a need to define MSP workplans, which include the priorities, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

An updated National Nutrition Policy is currently being drafted. The next National Development Policy framework will further prioritise nutrition. While work is ongoing to formulate new policies and legislation, implementing existing policies and enforcing the law remains a challenge. Stronger links between academia and policy-makers will be pursued. Advocacy for mandatory food fortification has been carried out, targeting parliamentarians and the private sector. Meanwhile, the focus is on ensuring appropriate maternal protection laws and implementing the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (BMS).

Aligning actions around common results

The National Nutrition Strategic Plan 2014–2025 serves as the Common Results Framework. Although there is no overarching monitoring mechanism, donor-funded programmes typically have structured monitoring and evaluation frameworks. In general, monitoring and reporting on nutrition-sensitive interventions is challenging. During the reporting period joint sector assessments, studies, and impact evaluations were carried out at national and sub-national level. The donor network began to develop a tool for mapping their nutrition interventions in order to align with national policies and priorities.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Despite efforts to track finances sectoral data gaps exist. A financial tracking study is therefore planned. Sustainable multi-year funding is not available, making it difficult to adequately plan and implement as activities are funded on an ad-hoc basis. Once developed, costed nutrition plans are expected to generate additional resources, this will be advocated for via parliamentarians. A national nutrition investment case has illustrated where funding for nutrition would be most effective, and a cost-benefit analysis for wheat flour fortification has been conducted.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Develop a national multi-sectoral nutrition plan;
- Strengthen the national coordination mechanism for nutrition;
- Update policies and strategies on nutrition.