The Gambia

Joined: July 2011
Population: 2.10 million

Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action
The current National Nutrition Committee is chaired by the Vice President. The national Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) has expanded to include institutions such as: The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industries, for the business community; the University of The Gambia; the Association of Health Journalists and The Association of Non Governmental Organizations. They are working together to conduct the mid-term review of the National Nutrition Policy 2010-2020 and develop a new policy for 2018-2025. It is necessary to obtain financial reporting from all sectors to effectively track investment.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
The National Assembly Committee is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Women, Youth and Children. The MSP members supported the development and review of the National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan. There are efforts to develop a National Food Fortification Policy and promote relevant legislations. A costed strategic plan and business plan needs to be developed. It continues to be challenging to advocate for mainstreaming nutrition into other relevant policies and programmes.

Aligning actions around common results
There is no Common Results Framework, but the MSP has proposed that one should be developed now that the national nutrition policy has been finalised. Several surveys are currently being finalised in order to provide information on the progress of programme implementation.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation
The Government has been steadily increasing allocations for nutrition over the reporting period, but these allocations are mainly for Personal Emoluments. Donors and partners are giving high levels of support to nutrition-related initiatives, but at the national level the country cannot clearly identify the extent of resource coverage in terms of programming. It is also difficult to identify gaps. Most donors who pledged to support nutrition interventions are disbursing funds regularly, and even though the Government’s commitments are minimal, it is honouring them to a certain extent.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Development of a Common Results Framework;
- Obtain financial reporting from all sectors to enable adequate tracking of investment in nutrition;
- Ensure the business sector is represented in the MSP;
- Incorporate nutrition into all relevant sectoral policies and programmes;
- Develop a costed strategic plan and business plan.