Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Technical Coordination Committee (MSNTC) meets quarterly, led by a Permanent Secretary based in the Office of the Prime Minister. This Committee is responsible for ensuring joint planning and budgeting for nutrition. A National Nutrition Forum is held annually, helping to raise the profile of nutrition – particularly among parliamentarians – and is chaired by the Prime Minister. The establishment of a Multi-Stakeholder Nutrition Advocacy Platform (MSNAP) has resulted in increased commitment to nutrition by legislators and parliamentarians.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

As the first Nutrition Action Plan came to a close in 2017, the process to develop the second Nutrition Action Plan for 2018 to 2025 began during the reporting period, involving consultations with multi-sectoral stakeholders at regional and national levels. The Ministry of Health has developed the Uganda Nutrition in Emergencies and Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Strategic Response Plan 2018-2023, although this is still awaiting sector approval. None of the regulations on the marketing of breast-milk substitutes are operational as of yet.

Aligning actions around common results

Significant progress has been made in supporting district-level multi-sector coordination. A website has been set up via the Office of the Prime Minister to provide resources to strengthen multi-sectoral nutrition governance. A nutrition database was established, providing reports which helps districts align their own plans with national priorities. Facilitated by the MSNTP, an Orientation Guide was provided to 89 districts to enhance local-level coordination: 80 districts have now developed Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plans for 2018-2020, aligned with their 2015-2020 District Development Plans.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive budget lines have been established in Sector Development Plans for 2015-2020. However, costing of high-impact nutrition interventions is still required and tracking of nutrition-disaggregated expenditures has not been undertaken, neither from Government nor donor contributions. This will be a priority in 2019 in order to identify resource gaps. To boost resource mobilisation, the MSNAP has developed a Joint Nutrition Advocacy and Communication Plan for 2017-2022 and provided training on advocacy to the Parliamentarians – and is chaired by legislators and parliamentarians.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Make firm financial commitments for nutrition, within priority programme areas, in order to tackle malnutrition;
- Align plans and budgets to make them nutrition-sensitive;
- Track current levels of investments in multi-sectoral nutrition interventions, with the aim of identifying funding gaps;
- Commit to mutual accountability mechanisms in monitoring of multi-sectoral nutrition programmes.

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