UN Network develops Common UN Agenda on Food and Nutrition Security (2017-2021) in Haiti, paving the way for increased convergence.

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Following a series of consultations, initiated in 2016 and facilitated by UNN−REACH, the United Nations agencies have launched a Common UN Agenda on Food and Nutrition Security (2017-2021) in Haiti¹ in support of doing business differently in nutrition. Essentially, the Agenda serves as a declaration of intent to improve UN nutrition support through a common vision and priority actions, both policy and programming-related. The efforts engaged eight UN agencies, including the five members of the UN Network in-country, namely: FAO; IFAD; UNICEF; WFP; and WHO. In addition, UNDP, UNFPA, UNOCHA and the UNRC participated in a pivotal workshop alongside the member agencies, which was held in May 2017, and the ensuing development of the Common UN Agenda. The involvement of both humanitarian and development actors was key in view of the recurrent emergencies in Haiti and the pressing need to build resilience.

Findings from the UN Nutrition Inventory, completed in 2016, as well as responses to a pre-workshop questionnaire fed into the retreat, helping to safeguard the objectivity of those discussions. Moreover, the presence of UNN−REACH was crucial for brokering neutral, solution-oriented, inter-agency workshop discussions. Together, these resources helped participants to discern how to address gaps and unpack ways of working together on nutrition and food security in a more efficient and cohesive manner, enabling the UN System to better contribute to the SDGs, particularly SDG2.

The outcomes of these participatory discussions informed the development of the Common Agenda. The Agenda also drew upon visuals from the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview, completed through UNN-REACH, which compiled secondary data and other inputs generated by United Nations agencies to depict the situation in the country. This also provided context about the nutrition governance landscape and ensured that the Agenda was tailored to the unique Haitian context. Lastly, the document identifies indicators to track the status of its operationalization. Similarly, the active engagement of UNOCHA has been sustained in exercises such as the UNN-REACH mapping, demonstrating more broadly how UNN is helping to foster a more inclusive and systematic way of addressing nutrition at the country level.