Overview of the UN Network in Burkina Faso

The UN Network (UNN) in Burkina Faso is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2018–19, the Network was chaired by UNICEF, with WFP serving as the vice-chair. Since December 2014, Burkina Faso has benefitted from the support of UNN-REACH, which provides on-the-ground neutral facilitation support for nutrition through designated facilitator(s).

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the UNN in Burkina Faso collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (RESONUT) to finalize a draft decree on the Marketing Code for Breast-Milk Substitutes and advocate for “Tax-Free Importation of Food Fortification Products for the Prevention and Treatment of Malnutrition,” targeting parliamentarians. The UNN also collaborated with the SUN Donor Network (SDN) to develop a nutrition investment case for the Global Financing Facility, alongside donors such as the World Bank, Power of Nutrition and European Union. The Network further supported the establishment of Burkina Faso’s Academia and Research Network for Nutrition (RECANUT) and assisted the Parliamentary Network in its efforts to implement the Ouagadougou commitments. Lastly, UNN-REACH helped galvanize actors to develop a common narrative, embracing the country’s SUN Movement architecture, to guide collective nutrition action in the future.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

UNN has been engaged in the Technical Committee of the National Council on Food Security as well as the Technical and Financial Partners (PTF) Nutrition Group and its advocacy sub-group. The PTF Nutrition acts as a sectoral group in emergency situations within which the UNN has remained committed to enhancing nutrition coordination and technical solutions.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

The country UNN reported undertaking a joint programme on capacity building for nutrition education and food safety, which targets school teachers and rural training institutes. Another joint programme is being developed for the prevention of chronic malnutrition in four communities within Burkina Faso’s Eastern region.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- During the reporting period, Burkina Faso’s UNN successfully provided support: (1) for the integration of nutrition in local development plans through UNN-REACH; (2) to establish RECANUT; and (3) to finalize the Marketing Code for Breast-Milk Substitutes. The Network also contributed substantially to the development of the 2019 Food and Nutrition Crisis Response Plan, providing support to the National Food Security Council.

- The Network has, nevertheless, experienced difficulties in adopting the national nutrition policy and action plan as well as with establishing clear linkages between nutrition and other sectoral frameworks. To mitigate these challenges, the UNN could continue to draw upon the findings generated through UNN tools and UNN-REACH facilitation support to give impetus to the development, endorsement and progressive operationalization of multi-sectoral policies and plans at national and sub-national levels. Such efforts seek to engage different stakeholders and bring together humanitarian and development actors to further enhance understanding and ensure coordinated actions for nutrition.

- The Network is also encouraged to continue to work closely with the United Nations Resident Coordinator on the national nutrition agenda, while also expanding its membership base to include other United Nations agencies, who support nutrition outcomes. These efforts will foster improved multi-sectoral coordination and make for better integrated, multi-dimensional and scalable nutrition interventions.

1. REACH stands for the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition partnership.