Overview of the UN Network in Cameroon

The UN Network (UNN) in Cameroon is chaired by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and is also comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). During the 2018–19 reporting cycle, the UNN made notable efforts to bring the nutrition agenda to the forefront of discussions at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the UNN supported efforts to establish the SUN Business Network (SBN) in Cameroon by engaging actively in discussions with the private sector. UNN also collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) to follow-up on the Code of Marketing for Breast-Milk Substitutes, food fortification with micronutrient powders (MNPs) as well as Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes. In collaboration with the SUN Donor Network (SDN), the UNN mobilized resources for financing nutrition-related UN programmes on the ground. It also worked with the Academic Network to undertake a review of Cameroon’s nutrition training curricula.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Cameroon’s UNN participated in the meetings of various nutrition coordination mechanisms, namely: (1) the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Fight against Malnutrition (CILM); (2) the Nutrition Sector Group; and (3) the Food Security Cluster.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- During the reporting period, UNN contributed to the successful validation of Cameroon’s National Nutrition Policy. The Network also assisted efforts to advocate for budgetary allocations for nutrition among related ministries. Furthermore, the Network made substantive contributions to the development and integration of nutrition in Cameroon’s recent United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), which covers the 2018–2020 period.

- In spite of these efforts, progress was hampered by insufficient human and financial resources as well as the irregular nature of multi-sectoral platform meetings.

- To mitigate the challenges faced, the UNN could explore opportunities to develop and implement joint programmes with United Nations agencies and other partners, helping to pool resourcing for nutrition interventions. The country UNN is also encouraged to explore opportunities to engage the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the national nutrition agenda, while expanding its membership base to include agencies beyond those with a direct nutrition mandate. These efforts will foster improved multi-sectoral coordination for nutrition and make for integrated nutrition interventions that are more conducive to delivery at scale.