Overview of the UN Network in Costa Rica

The UN Network (UNN) in Costa Rica is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, the Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO) actively participates in the Network’s activities, helping to cultivate a climate for inter-agency collaboration. The collective nutrition agenda was, nevertheless, rarely discussed at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings. Costa Rica is preparing for a Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping with support from the UNN Secretariat, which will take place in 2020 and may help to engage other United Nations agencies.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting period, the UNN engaged with civil society organisations (CSOs) to expand and strengthen the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN). The UNN plans to further identify and engage other CSOs that play a key role in food security and nutrition, leveraging the results of the mapping. Efforts are also underway to outline areas of possible collaboration between UNN and other SUN networks. In the meantime, Costa Rica’s UNN has continued to work with other groups, such as the Parliamentary Front against Hunger and Malnutrition and similar groups within the legislative assembly to bolster political support.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The agencies involved in the UNN worked together to consolidate and strengthen the country’s SUN Movement Platform, alongside partners such as the Centre for Education and Nutrition and Children’s Centre for Comprehensive Care (CEN-CINAI) and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS). In 2018–19, the country UNN provided technical assistance to the SUN Government Focal Point in her efforts to secure high-level commitment from the Government for tackling child and adolescent overweight and obesity.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Various joint efforts were pursued by the constituent members of the UNN in Costa Rica although not joint programming on nutrition.