Overview of the UN Network in Democratic Republic of Congo

The UN Network (UNN) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is chaired by United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and is also comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The UNN also interacted with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Nutrition Cluster, where United Nations agencies engage in joint discussions with other partners to discuss ways of scaling up nutrition actions in both humanitarian and development contexts.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, UNN supported efforts to revitalize the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) as well as to establish the SUN Business Network (SBN). The country UNN also participates in the activities of the Donor Network (GIBNUT) and has made efforts to rally parliamentarians in the nutrition agenda by organizing nutrition sensitization workshops. In addition, UNN engaged the media in order to foster common nutrition messaging and enhance advocacy for nutrition.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

During the reporting cycle, UNN actively participated in multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) at sub-national level, with the support of FAO, UNICEF and WFP.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, DRC’s UNN reported undertaking and/or formulating joint nutrition programming, through: (1) a multi-sectoral project on the prevention of chronic malnutrition, including in the South Kivu province, funded by the Swiss Cooperation; (2) a project on resilience; (3) a country-wide HIV project; and (4) two pilot nexus programmes in the Kasai and Tanganyika provinces. Three of the programmes utilized a humanitarian-development nexus approach and covered several thematic areas, such as nutrition, food security, WASH, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, HIV and health.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The country UNN was reported to be an important broker for the DRC’s Humanitarian Response Plan (2018) and for revitalizing the SUN networks as well as pursuing considerable UN joint programming. In addition, the pilot humanitarian-development nexus programmes can be considered as important nutrition achievements, informed by the UN Nutrition Inventory conducted in 2017.
- The main challenges and priorities include resource mobilization, implementation of accountability mechanisms and capacity building at national/provincial levels in terms of coordination and communication.