Overview of the UN Network in Kenya

The UN Network (UNN) in Kenya is comprised of six agencies, namely: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). The platform is co-chaired by UNICEF and WFP, who bring together the constituent members to foster harmonized UN support, both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive. According to the findings from the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018-19. This, in turn, helps to put nutrition on the radar of other United Nations agencies as well as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and to reinforce the need for joint action.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting cycle, Kenya’s UNN worked closely with the SUN Business Network (SBN) and the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN), known in-country as the Civil Society Alliance. Its collaboration with the Civil Society Alliance extended to implementation, with the UNN providing technical support for national nutrition programmes.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The country UNN has conducted continuous advocacy for the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) and the engagement of government at the highest level. This culminated in the establishment of five MSPs at sub-national level during the reporting period. The UNN also supported the National Nutrition Information working group, which provides inputs for coordinating action among diverse actors in Kenya’s vibrant nutrition community. In addition, the SUN Government Focal Point regularly received technical and financial support from the UNN for various SUN-related activities.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the following joint UN programming on nutrition was undertaken in Kenya: (1) implementation support for emergency nutrition interventions; and (2) support to nutrition-sensitive programming, linking nutrition and livelihoods as part of efforts to address underlying factors that contribute to malnutrition in the country.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

• The UNN in Kenya achieved several milestones in 2018–19. For example, it supported the completion of SMART surveys, biannual food and nutrition security assessments, a Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study and a related investment case for Kenya, which generated evidence for advocacy purposes. It also supported the development of the Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP) 2018–2022 as well as resource mobilization activities to enable the operationalization of the plan. Furthermore, the country UNN supported drought-related emergency planning, resourcing and implementation as part of measures to safeguard the nutrition of vulnerable groups.

• Looking ahead, the main priority of the UNN in Kenya is to strengthen the MSPs, including those at sub-national levels.

With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:

To learn more about how the UN Network is supporting country-level action visit https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/ or write to unnetworkforsun@wfp.org

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