Overview of the UN Network in Mali

The UN Network (UNN) in Mali 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 United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). UNICEF and WFP co-chair the platform. In addition, the UNN’s intensive facilitation support service, known as REACH 1, was operational in the country, strengthening the functionality of the UNN coordination mechanism. The country UNN reported that the collective nutrition agenda was often tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, which has further helped to galvanize the agencies in this crucial area of development.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

Collaboration with the other SUN networks during the 2018–19 reporting period included: (1) the operationalization of the technical committee on food fortification with the SUN Business Network; (2) capacity strengthening of the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN); and (3) nutrition advocacy jointly carried out with the SUN Donor Network (SDN). The country UNN also collaborated regarding the development of the UN common nutrition agenda, articulating joint priorities to improve impact thanks to support from both the UNN-REACH Facilitator and UNN Secretariat.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Mali’s UNN provided technical and financial support at national level to the Nutrition Intersectoral Technical Council and the Nutrition Coordination Cell (Cellule de Coordination), where the SUN Government Focal Point is based, with substantial contributions from UNN-REACH. It also supported nutrition MSP meetings at the sub-national level.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, UNN Mali fostered the implementation of various joint programmes on nutrition, including a project on micronutrient supplementation and a nutrition and resilience project, among others.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- During the reporting cycle, the UNN provided substantial support to nutrition MSPs at both national and sub-national levels, as highlighted above.
- Nutrition-related surveys (e.g., SMART surveys) were another important national milestone, sustained by the Network. The UNN also supported the SUN Government Focal Point with the elaboration of a strategy on the accessibility of inputs for the management of severe and moderate acute malnutrition (SAM and MAM).
- Some of the other top UNN achievements in Mali are linked to the UNN-REACH engagement, including the generation of evidence through UNN analytics, such as the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview (MNO) and Policy and Plan Overview (PPO). An initial wave of Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping was conducted in 2018, while the MNO was updated (2018–19) and the PPO followed (2018–19), helping to guide decision-making on nutrition.

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