Overview of the UN Network in Rwanda

The UN Network (UNN) in Rwanda is chaired by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and also composed of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). While the Network formally engages these four agencies as members, the collective nutrition agenda was also sometimes tabled among a wider group of United Nations agencies, through United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings. This helps the multi-sectoral nutrition approach get more traction and may even motivate other agencies to join the UNN in the future.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2019−20 reporting period, Rwanda’s UNN collaborated with various other SUN networks active in the country. It provided technical and financial support to the University of Rwanda, through the Academic Network, for nutrition research. It also continued to collaborate with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) on range of advocacy activities to raise awareness about malnutrition in all its forms, including talk shows, radio messaging, scroll messages as well as coverage in the national newspapers. In addition, the UNN regularly participated in the SUN Donor Network (SDN) meetings and contributed to the preparation of the SDN’s annual workplan, helping to foster increased complementarity and alignment between the efforts of both networks.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The UNN is a member of the National Food, Nutrition and WASH Technical Working Group that is led by the National Early Child Development Programme. In 2018−19, the UNN regularly supported the Government in organizing these meetings at the national level, hosting some of them as well as assisting with the documentation of their ensuing outcomes.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018−19, the four UNN member agencies worked on phase II of the joint nutrition project, Effectively fighting chronic malnutrition in Rwanda. The project design was in part guided by the findings of the UN Nutrition Inventory exercise (2016), supported by the UNN Secretariat, which identified gaps and areas for increased synergy among the United Nations agencies.