Overview of the UN Network in Senegal

The UN Network (UNN) in Senegal takes the form of a combined UN-Donor platform, which is co-chaired by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Canadian development cooperation (Global Affairs Canada). It also includes participation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Four of these United Nations agencies (IFAD, UNFPA, UNOCHA and UN WOMEN) were inspired to join the Network following a strategic UN retreat on nutrition in late 2018, facilitated by the UNN-REACH Regional Facilitator, where the results from the UN Nutrition Inventory exercise were presented. Despite this increased momentum and extensive following, the collective nutrition agenda was rarely tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings. This indicates that further measures are needed to operationalize a collective UN approach to nutrition in the country.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting period, the UN-Donor platform collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) and also supported the elaboration of a nutrition guide for the Parliamentarian Network. The combined UN-Donor Network arrangement adopted in Senegal is also testament to the strong partnership between the United Nations agencies and donors. In addition, the UNN Secretariat provided coordination tools, such as the UN Nutrition Inventory, and knowledge sharing support to ensure the country’s multi-sectoral/stakeholder approach thrived, consolidating gains made through UNN-REACH, which concluded just prior to the UNN reporting exercise.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

At the national level, the United Nations agencies supported the Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition (CLM), including its National Coordinator, who duals as the SUN Government Focal Point. The CLM is the government’s well-established coordination mechanism for nutrition, which values UN support in mobilizing twelve nutrition-related ministries in line with the national nutrition plan. UN colleagues also engaged with the Senegalese Committee for the Micronutrient Fortification of Foods (COSFAM), where other stakeholders are also active to help ensure a robust approach to fortification. Among other actors, these include millers and flour, oil and salt producers from the private sector who are directly involved in operationalizing mandatory fortification policies in Senegal.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Among the main achievements for the established period was the more than doubling of the UN membership base in the combined UN-Donor platform, including those agencies which have not traditionally been involved in nutrition. The expansion was also in part triggered by the UNN Director/Global Coordinator’s mission (July 2018), who highlighted that this is a first step for making UN support more nutrition-smart, with the potential to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Priorities include the Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) coaching project planned for 2020, financed through the SUN Pooled Fund, which will provide expert facilitation support coupled with action-oriented analytics to strengthen coordination capacity at both national and sub-national levels.