Overview of the UN Network in The Sudan

The UN Network (UNN) in the Sudan brings together five United Nations agencies, namely: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). It applies a co-chairing system whereby WFP serves as the chair and WHO the co-chair. In addition, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings over the course of the reporting period, helping to further sensitize UN leadership on nutrition issues.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting cycle, the United Nations agencies collaborated extensively with all SUN networks in the Sudan, employing a ‘division of labour’ approach. Essentially, one agency engaged with a given network, keeping the other United Nations agencies abreast related developments to ensure active UN participation in each of them. For example, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to establish the Academic Network, whereas WFP supported the SUN Business Network (SBN) in a range of activities. This included support with nutrition orientation workshops for the Sudanese Chamber of Industries, where some small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were active as well as the initiation of an industry mapping exercise of flour and oil companies within the context of fortification. WHO took the lead in UN collaboration with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN), helping to establish its management structure in the Sudan. It also facilitated CSN proposal submissions to the SUN Pooled Fund of which two were accepted to support nutrition advocacy. Furthermore, the country UNN acted hand in hand with the SUN Donor Network (SDN) and provided technical briefings at SDN meetings. Among other examples of inter-network activity, the UNN advocated for the Donor Network to contribute funds to the simple spatial surveying method (S3M) II nutrition survey, leading to a contribution from DFID.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The UNN has actively participated in all SUN Country Network meetings at the national level, where the other networks were also present. In addition, the UNN, represented by the Heads of Agencies, participated in the various meetings and discussions regarding the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), further helping to align the efforts of the UNN members behind national nutrition priorities.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, FAO, WFP and WHO worked jointly to enable inclusive and sustainable value chains, food fortification and micronutrient supplementation.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Among the main UNN achievements in the Sudan during the reporting period are: (1) the initiation of the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping to ascertain intervention coverage and identify gaps and overlaps; (2) the development of a common UN nutrition strategy and workplan for the Sudan to promote increased synergies among member agencies; and (3) joint effort to strengthen legislation and policy to support positive nutrition outcomes.
- Priorities for 2020 include the finalization of the mapping exercise, which will inform the development of the national multi-sector nutrition plan and help to identify overall resource needs for nutrition.

With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from: [UN Network Secretariat: Via Cesare Giulio Viola, 68/70 - 00148 Rome, Italy]