Overview of the UN Network in Uganda

The UN Network (UNN) in Uganda is composed of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It applies a co-chairing system, with UNICEF and WFP in the lead. In addition, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018−19, helping to raise awareness among UN leadership in the other resident agencies in Uganda.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting period, the country UNN collaborated with the SUN Business Network (SBN), the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) and the SUN Donor Network (SDN). For instance, the UNN supported efforts to revitalize the SBN in the country, such as the completion of a desk review and a mapping of business presence to strategically orient SBN’s future activity. UNN-SDN collaboration went to the next level, with the two networks devising a joint workplan on key areas to support in 2019.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Uganda’s UNN worked with the SUN Government Focal Point with a view to better integrating multi-sectoral nutrition actions at both national and sub-national levels. The UNN is an affiliate of the national multi-sectoral coordination committee, chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister, which serves as the country’s multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) and discusses implementation progress of core nutrition interventions. The committee is also comprised of the key government ministries involved in nutrition (e.g. Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; Education; Health; and Gender, Labour and Social Development), the CSN and other development partners. In addition, different United Nations agencies are represented in nutrition coordination committees at the district level. The UNN supported the establishment and activation of some of them during the reporting period to further advance the country’s nutrition agenda and achieve results at scale.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018−19, the United Nations agencies carried out joint programming on nutrition. UNICEF and WFP teamed up for the joint Karamoja Nutrition Programme, funded by DFID, on the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM). As many as seven United Nations agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, WFP and WHO) – including all of the UNN member agencies – were involved in a joint programme (JUPSA), funded by Irish Aid, to address nutritional vulnerabilities of people living with HIV/AIDS and maximize the effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

• The main UNN achievements in Uganda include: (1) the formulation of the new nutrition policy and its submission to the Cabinet; (2) the review and finalization of the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan II (UNAP II) and Health Management Information System; and (3) support to the government for the review and implementation of the IMAM guidelines.

• Looking ahead, the priorities for the UNN in the next reporting cycle will be to conduct a second round of mapping and a capacity assessment for UNAP II along with the formulation of a subsequent capacity development plan. In both cases, UNN analytical tools will be used for these comprehensive exercises.