Overview of the UN Network in Yemen

The UN Network (UNN) in Yemen is comprised of four agencies, namely: 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). Co-chaired by UNICEF and WFP, the country UNN also has close ties to the Yemen Nutrition Cluster in view of the ongoing large-scale humanitarian operations. The collective nutrition agenda was not tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018−19, where logistics and security issues tend to take centre stage.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018−19 reporting period, Yemen's UNN worked with other SUN networks, including efforts to establish the SUN Business Network (SBN) and the Civil Society Network (CSN), respectively. Furthermore, a common call to action was developed for partnering with the SUN Donor Network (SDN), paving the way for increased collaboration in the future. The call to action outlines a three-year strategy to address chronic and acute malnutrition in a complex emergency, helping to bridge the humanitarian-development divide.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The member agencies were engaged in the development of the nutrition component of the humanitarian response plan to link urgent nutrition-specific activities (e.g. management of acute malnutrition) with resilience-building programmes that address underlying determinants of malnutrition. The country UNN also extended support to the SUN Government Focal Point to strengthen nutrition coordination across multiple stakeholders and sectors despite the challenging environment.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting cycle, the United Nations agencies carried out three joint programmes. The first joint programme covered community management of acute malnutrition within the context of emergency response, leveraging support from UNICEF, WFP and WHO. The second encompassed the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies (UNICEF and WFP) and was pursued through both a humanitarian and development lens. Lastly, UNICEF, WFP and WHO teamed up to carry out social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) programmes to promote optimal infant and young child feeding practices, critically important in both humanitarian and development settings.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The main UNN achievements in Yemen include: (1) catalytic support to establish both the SBN and the CSN; (2) the finalization of the costed multi-sectoral nutrition plan; (3) an annual review meeting; as well as (4) the development of the nutrition information system, jointly supported by UNICEF, WFP and WHO.
- Looking ahead, the UNN agencies in Yemen identified the need to align budgetary frameworks with that of the government.

1. This was ongoing at the time the 2019 UNN annual report was finalized.

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