REACHing for the SUN
UN support for scaling up nutrition in Burkina Faso

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SUN Movement in Burkina Faso: Opportunities and challenges
Burkina Faso signed up to the SUN Movement in 2011 in order to tackle persistently high rates of undernutrition (10.2% stunting and 19.4% wasting prevalence among children under five) and to scale up activities that have a significant impact on nutrition. The Nutrition Director in the Ministry of Health is the Government’s SUN Focal Point and coordinates the National Council for Nutrition Coordination (Conseil National de Coopération en Nutrition) (CNUN), set up in 2008. Attached to the Ministry of Health, the CNUN brings together various ministries that contribute to nutrition (agriculture, education, water, hygiene and sanitation and social protection).

In Burkina Faso, nutrition interventions are covered by policies and programmes that are developed separately in different ministerial departments that do not share a common objective. Existing nutrition strategies and policy documents focus on the health/nutrition sector. This approach neglects factors that are essential when tackling malnutrition, for example, the water and sanitation, agriculture, and social protection sectors. Linking nutrition to the health sector alone does not make it easy to coordinate a multi-sector approach, hence the need to create the CNUN, a body that overarches the key ministries.

The Government of Burkina Faso signed up to the REACH initiative in 2014 to take advantage of opportunities offered by improved coordination of the multi-sector approach to nutrition.

REACH contribution to the SUN Movement
REACH is founded on political commitments made through SUN and provides the Government with support to facilitate and coordinate nutrition governance at national level. The REACH facilitators work directly with the Government’s SUN Focal Point and the UN agencies’ nutrition technical committee to implement priority nutrition activities that have been identified and agreed by all the stakeholders.

More specifically, REACH support in Burkina Faso focuses on the following:

1. In-depth analysis of the nutritional situation and identification of needs using key REACH analysis tools:
   - Existing nutrition surveys in relevant sectors were compiled in order to analyse the nutrition situation and identify trends in different types of malnutrition and determining factors. Scoreboards covering the main indicators were developed to give an overview of the situation at national and regional level.
   - Nutrition interventions and key nutrition actors were mapped in order to provide an overview of the geographical distribution of activities and actors (i.e. who does what and where). This mapping exercise, combined with the analysis of the nutritional situation, makes it possible to identify the best approaches and the most suitable strategies for scaling up priority interventions by comparing the extent to which target groups are covered.
   - Finally, a review of the extent to which nutrition is included in policies and strategic plans in the sectors contributing to nutrition allows the case to be made for it to be better taken into account in sectoral planning.

2. Review of the National Nutrition Policy (NNP) and development of the Common Results Framework (CRF) for nutrition:
   - Support from the REACH Secretariat in sharing experiences and good practices from other countries had a strategic impact on the drafting of these guidance documents.
   - The REACH facilitators provided conceptual support

* Results from the 2015 SMART nutrition study/Ministry of Health, Nutrition Department