



WFP/Alexis Masciarelli

End of Term Evaluation “Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition (REACH)” - Haiti Case Study

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Scope and aim What have we evaluated and what for?

The Renewed Efforts against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) inter-agency initiative aims to strengthen nutrition governance, utilizing analytical tools and resource materials, as well as tailored support through facilitation, coaching and mobilization.

This evaluation was part of a wider multi-country assessment and covered the REACH implementation in Haiti between 2014 and 2017. Its goal was to explore barriers and enabling factors and assess the extent to which outcomes had been achieved. Equally important was fostering learning and accountability to initiative’s stakeholders. The findings and recommendations were shared with the UNN/REACH Secretariat and participating countries, enabling them to understand how their own experiences worked comparing to those of other countries.

Results What have we learned?



Effectiveness

The REACH Facilitators’ mobilisation efforts, their ability to deliver outputs for which they were the sole responsible and their overall perseverance were key success factors. Despite

this, the uncertain political situation, the reshuffling of sector ministries and legislation gaps forced a decrease of planned outputs and deliverables.

The main constraint centred on the absence of a multi-stakeholder platform, resulting in the inability to reach a consensus on the Core Nutrition Actions (CNA) or advance the Scaling-up Nutrition Planning and Monitoring Tool (SUN PMT). Despite this, UN agencies actively participated in the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview (MNO) and its outcome was well received. Nonetheless, awareness of this document was variable, suggesting it was not widely shared among stakeholders.

REACH awareness-raising efforts profited from an existing communication strategy by the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP). Inserts in newspapers, radio and television were produced, achieving general satisfaction among stakeholders. If these achieved raising awareness among decision-makers is unknown. The choice of Monitoring and Evaluation indicators, together with inconsistent stakeholder engagement, made it difficult to assess and quantify the initiative’s contributions.





Efficiency

Initially, the International Facilitator was to be hosted at the MSPP office. This was later replaced with UNICEF premises and ended with a rotation among UN agencies' offices. These changes, whether justified or not, had a negative impact on MSPP buy-in for REACH. Misconceptions about REACH arose from unclear lines of communication, delays in formal introductions and not officially sharing the Country Implementation Plan (CIP) and annual work plans with Government counterparts.

Among partner agencies, commitment varied mainly due to high staff turnover and low familiarity with the initiative. This environment, together with the political situation, Hurricane Mathew and the absence of a platform bringing together all relevant stakeholders, resulted in an overall underspending.



Equity

While the CIP included gender-related activities on policies and strategy, coordination and advocacy, these were not explicitly built into REACH annual work plans. Therefore, technical support by UN agencies for gender was limited.

Nonetheless, REACH indicators were analysed with a gender perspective and the MNO and the situation analysis dashboard included relevant issues. But finally, beyond data analysis, no specific gender-related role was foreseen for REACH in the future.



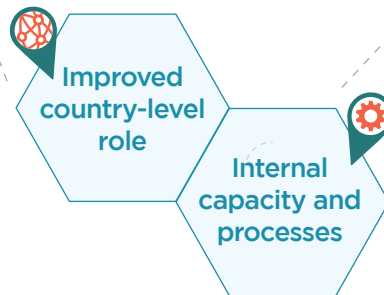
Sustainability

While REACH outcomes, outputs and deliverables were aligned with national priorities, national authorities have not always endorsed them. The existence of separate nutrition and food security coordination mechanisms, as well as blurred communication lines and decision-making hindered government buy-in to REACH. Therefore, it was not possible to achieve lasting change within national governance processes.

Recommendations What has been suggested to be continued, improved or changed in the future?

UN agencies should adopt a common vision and collaboratively build a strategy for food security and nutrition, aligned with national priorities and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

The WFP should clarify the role REACH can play during emergency response, in particular related to Scaling Up Nutrition and bridging humanitarian response with development efforts.



The UNN/REACH Secretariat needs to review the process by which countries are selected and REACH implementation designed.

The WFP must review and update REACH indicators and parameters for base- and endline assessments.

It's necessary to update the REACH SOP in light of a formalised Theory of Change for Scaling Up Nutrition and the REACH Strategic Independent Evaluation conducted in 2015.



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Methodology How we carried out this evaluation?

The evaluation sourced its primary qualitative data from interviews with REACH stakeholders, complemented by a desk review of relevant documentation and M&E outputs. A remote debriefing was carried out to share findings and validate information.



key informant interviews

- 6 REACH staff and Country Committee members
 3  3
- 4 nutrition focal points of UN agencies and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
 2  2
- 1 representative of the Government of Canada

- 9 external stakeholders
 3  6

References:

Full evaluation report and the WFP Management Response are available at: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/renewed-efforts-against-child-hunger-and-undernutrition-evaluation>
 For more information, contact the Evaluation Office at wfp.decentralizedevaluation@wfp.org