POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR NUTRITION

Liberia has made some progress toward reducing stunting and improving exclusive breastfeeding rates. Yet malnutrition continues to affect nearly one-third of all children under-five, and policies that help ensure the optimal feeding of infants and young children are lacking. To realize the full health, social and economic benefits of improved nutrition, Liberia should:

- Scale up coverage of proven Direct Nutrition Interventions (DNI) in the public health care system
- Ensure implementation of nutrition-sensitive interventions at scale through strong implementation of the multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Strategy and common results framework, including increased coordination between sectors
- Strengthen the policy and legislative environment that fosters positive nutrition outcomes, including the National Nutrition Policy, adoption of the Infant and Young Child Feeding policies and the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes
- Develop a costed plan for nutrition and mobilize adequate resources to support implementation of proven direct-nutrition and nutrition-sensitive interventions

PROGRESS AGAINST STUNTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under-five, stunting</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHILD NUTRITION INDICATORS

- 15% of children under-five are underweight
- 32% of children under-five are stunted
- 6% of children under-five are wasted
- 14% of children are born with low birthweight

CHILD MORTALITY

70 deaths per 1,000 live births which puts Liberia off-track to contribute to reducing under-five mortality to 25 per 1,000 live births (Sustainable Development Goal 3).

MATERNAL NUTRITION AND HEALTH

- Women of reproductive age with anaemia: 49%
- Women of reproductive age, thinness: 6%
- Women of reproductive age, short stature: 2%

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY'S GLOBAL NUTRITION TARGETS 2025

- 40% reduction in the number of children under-five who are stunted
- 50% reduction in anemia in women of reproductive age
- Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50%
- 30% reduction in low birth weight

CATEGORIZATION OF CODE LEGISLATION

- No legal measures: country has taken no action or has implemented the Code only through voluntary agreements or other non-legal measures (includes countries that have drafted legislation but not enacted it).

IMPROVING NUTRITION STRENGTHENS NATIONS AS A LEADING CONTRIBUTOR TO:

- Reducing mortality rates
- Promoting optimal growth and development
- Decreasing the risk of infectious diseases

1 UNICEF, DHS 2013
2 UNICEF, WHO 2015
4 UNICEF/WHO/WB 2015
5 SUN Liberia Profile
6 Ibid.
7 DHS 2013
8 Ibid.
9 The Lancet
10 ILO Maternity and Paternity at Work 2013
12 SUN Liberia Annual Progress Report 2016
13 Ibid.
14 UNDP Report 2015
15 WHO report 2015
16 UNICEF, World Bank, The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition
17 UNICEF/AIDS
18 HANCI-Africa 2014
19 SUN Liberia Proﬁle
20 UNICEF, World Bank, The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition
22 The Lancet
23 UNICEF, WHO 2015
24 Ibid.
25 UNICEF, World Bank, The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition
26 Ibid.
27 UNICEF, WHO 2015
28 Ibid.