The 2017 SUN Movement Global Gathering [2] took place last week in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. ASSIST's Dr. Houleyemata Diarra was honored as a finalist for the “Nutrition Ambassadors of the 2017 SUN Movement [3]."
The USAID ASSIST Project is pleased to announce that Dr. Houleymata Diarra, Chief of Party for ASSIST/Mali, was nominated by the United Nations Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat as a finalist for the “Nutrition Ambassadors of the 2017 SUN Movement”; one of only 50 finalists.
worldwide. Dr. Diarra was selected for this honor due to her efforts to address anemia and her advocacy for the importance of nutrition in improving health outcomes.

Under the leadership of Dr. Diarra, URC/Mali assisted the national nutrition technical committee to develop an advocacy tool to help decision makers understand the importance of nutrition and support investment in nutrition. As a national expert in this tool, Dr. Diarra has promoted its use and taught others to use it.

Dr. Diarra and her team have worked closely with the REACH team [7] to advocate for and organize with MoH the creation of a National Nutrition Coordination Cell (Cellule nationale de coordination pour la nutrition) that is leading the implementation of multi-sectoral nutrition plan and working with different ministries and partners (both national and international) to mobilize resources for nutrition activities within country.

As the only civil society organization official member of the national committee for the multi-sectoral nutrition plan (Comite technique intersectoriel pour la nutrition), URC is providing technical assistance for the training of committee members as well as strategic planning for national nutrition activities.

Dr. Diarra also participates in a global anemia task force and was honored by the Embassy of the United States in Mali in 2016 for her dedication and leadership as part of International Women's Day [8].

**Topic(s):** Nutrition [9]  
**Related Countries:** Mali [10]

**Language:** English [11]
ASSIST’s Dr. Diarra nominated as finalist for United Nations’ “Nutrition Ambassadors of the 2017 SUN Movement”

Published on USAID ASSIST Project (https://www.usaidassist.org)