



**UN Network**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2019**







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# Foreword

This has been a rich and rewarding year in UN Network (UNN) history, a year in which we were able to consolidate previous gains, document experiences and grow together. Windows of opportunity, such as UN reform presented, enabling us to explore new frontiers and ways of working. Among these, were efforts to engage United Nations Resident Coordinators in the nutrition arena and leverage their influence to promote collective action within the UN family. In Burkina Faso, this also helped the UNN take important steps towards bridging the humanitarian and development divide.

We have, likewise, seized the 2030 Agenda and our tools (e.g. UN Nutrition Inventory) as entry points for expanding the UNN membership base – going beyond those United Nations agencies with a nutrition mandate. As many as sixteen different United Nations agencies/entities (e.g. UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN WOMEN) are now engaged in the UNN at country level, compared to five when UNN was initially established. This is a means for harnessing the full potential of the UN System and demystifying what multi-sectoral nutrition means in concrete terms. In particular, our non-nutritionist colleagues increasingly understand how various sectors relate to nutrition, and how by keeping nutrition at the outcome level, we can collectively accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Thanks to generous funding from Irish Aid, the European Union and the United Nations, UNN continued to work closely with government to strengthen multi-stakeholder/sectoral platforms (MSPs), through capacity building, including the UNN-REACH mechanism, and multi-sectoral analytics. We were able to reach additional countries to map intervention coverage across stakeholders and networks, using the UNN's web-based tool. This is empowering MSPs – both at national and sub-national levels – to better coordinate nutrition actions across the multi-sectoral/stakeholder landscape. It is also helping countries get a better grasp of what it will take to augment coverage in order to achieve results at scale.

Today, twenty-five countries have undertaken the mapping and others have or will soon initiate the exercise. Even more promising, some countries are beginning to replicate the exercise as part of efforts to track the implementation status of national nutrition plans (e.g. Mali, Niger, Senegal).

There is much more work to be done. We need to further engage UN leadership and additional United Nations agencies in more countries, integrate new features into our tools, take measures to ensure they are used as intended and work towards increased convergence with the other SUN networks. Every step counts; together we are better.

**Dr. Purnima Kashyap**

*UN Network Director/Global Coordinator*



# Acronyms and abbreviations

<b>ACF</b>	<i>Action contre la Faim</i> (Action Against Hunger)
<b>AFSeN</b>	Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda
<b>BFHI</b>	Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative
<b>CAADP</b>	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
<b>CAN</b>	Compendium of Actions for Nutrition
<b>CAR</b>	Central African Republic
<b>CERF</b>	Central Emergency Response Fund
<b>CMAM</b>	Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition
<b>CRF</b>	Common results framework
<b>CSN</b>	[SUN] Civil Society Network
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organization
<b>DHIS2</b>	District Health Information Software, Version 2
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>ENN</b>	Emergency Nutrition Network
<b>ESARO</b>	Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (UNICEF)
<b>EVD</b>	Ebola virus disease
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FfA</b>	Framework for Action
<b>FIRST</b>	Food and nutrition security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation programme
<b>FNCO</b>	Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office (Lesotho)
<b>GRAINE</b>	<i>Gabonaise des Réalisations Agricoles et des Initiatives des Nationaux Engagés</i> (Gabonese Initiative for Achieving Agricultural Outcomes with Engaged Citizenry)
<b>HKI</b>	Hellen Keller International
<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan
<b>IAEA</b>	International Atomic Energy Agency
<b>ICN2</b>	Second International Conference on Nutrition
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IMAM</b>	Integrated management of acute malnutrition
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Food Security Classification
<b>IPU</b>	Inter-Parliamentary Union
<b>IYCF</b>	Infant and young child feeding
<b>IYCF-E</b>	Infant and young child feeding in emergencies
<b>MEAL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and evaluation
<b>MIYCF</b>	Maternal, infant and young child feeding
<b>MNO</b>	Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview
<b>MNP</b>	Micronutrient powder

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<b>MS-NPAN</b>	Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition, 2018–2022 (Myanmar)
<b>MSPs</b>	Multi-stakeholder/sectoral platforms
<b>MUCH</b>	Meeting the Undernutrition Challenge (Bangladesh)
<b>NCDs</b>	Noncommunicable diseases
<b>NIPN</b>	National Information Platforms for Nutrition
<b>NNC</b>	National Nutrition Committee (Myanmar)
<b>ONN</b>	<i>Office National de Nutrition</i> (National Nutrition Office, Madagascar)
<b>PAINA</b>	<i>Plan Intersectoriel de Nutrition et d’Alimentation</i> (Inter-sectoral Food and Nutrition Action Plan, Chad)
<b>PNAN-III</b>	<i>Plan National d’Action pour la Nutrition</i> (National Nutrition Action Plan, Madagascar)
<b>PPO</b>	Policy and Plan Overview
<b>PSMN</b>	<i>Plan Stratégique Multisectoriel de la Nutrition</i> (Strategic Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan, Senegal)
<b>PSMSAN</b>	<i>Plan Stratégique Multisectoriel de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle</i> (Multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategic Plan, Burundi)
<b>SAM</b>	Severe acute malnutrition
<b>SBCC</b>	Social and behaviour change communication
<b>SBN</b>	SUN Business Network
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SDN</b>	SUN Donor Network
<b>SUN</b>	Scaling Up Nutrition Movement
<b>SUNRAP</b>	SUN Research and Academic Platform (Zimbabwe)
<b>TA</b>	Technical assistance
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNCDF</b>	United Nations Capital Development Fund
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UNN</b>	UN [nutrition] Network
<b>UNN-REACH</b>	UNN’s Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition
<b>UNOCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UNRC</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator
<b>UNSCN</b>	United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>UN WOMEN</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>WASH</b>	Water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# Executive summary



## OVERVIEW

The UN [nutrition] Network carried out an annual reporting exercise in 2019, which covered three domains. The first measured the functionality of the UN Networks in 60 SUN countries, using a ten-indicator index, called the functionality index+.<sup>1</sup> A second aspect ascertained the extent to which the country UN Networks were collaborating with other SUN networks. A third component took stock of nutrition capacity strengthening activities carried out by United Nations entities in line with outcome 3 in the UN Network results framework. Qualitative data about the UN Network analytical tools was also solicited by the annual reporting instruments, which was supplemented with other monitoring data and a related impact assessment on the tools, likewise conducted in 2019. Furthermore, the reporting exercise explored challenges and forward-looking priorities, as disclosed by the respective country Networks.

The decision to zoom in on outcome 3 follows a strategic decision made in 2017 to focus on one of the five UN Network outcomes in the annual reporting exercise, in addition to the UN Network functionality metrics.

### Outcome 3: Increased human and institutional capacity to support the scaling up of nutrition actions at all levels

It was chiefly driven by feedback received in previous years to lighten the reporting requirements so as to reduce the reporting burden on countries. It also enables the UN Network annual reports to delve into selected themes, helping to sharpen the Network's activity in the given area. Subsequently, the 2019 reporting exercise provided an opportunity to explore joint UN efforts for strengthening nutrition capacity, recognizing that enhanced capacity will be crucial for achieving national nutrition targets and the Sustainable Development Goals in the final decade of the 2030 Agenda.

1. Honduras was not included in the exercise, as it joined the SUN Movement after the reporting period.

## KEY FINDINGS

### PART 1: UN NETWORK FUNCTIONALITY AT COUNTRY LEVEL

Overall, 90 percent of country UN Networks were classified as being highly functional based on the data obtained through the 2019 reporting exercise. The following are some additional highlights regarding functionality:

#### Membership, leadership and arrangements

- **Sixteen United Nations agencies were engaged in country UN Networks** up from the twelve agencies recorded in the 2018 reporting exercise.
- 97 percent of country UN Networks reported having **nutrition focal points appointed from at least three of the United Nations agencies** engaged in the Network.
- 93 percent of countries reported the presence of a **UN Network chair/co-chair**, with UNICEF and WFP frequently fulfilling that role.
- Most country UN Networks reported utilizing a **rotational or co-chairing system**, allowing for equity in leadership among participating United Nations agencies.
- UN Networks are **taking other forms beyond formally established country UN Networks** *per se*. In 2019, some countries reported the presence of combined UN-Donor Networks, Development Partners Groups and nutrition working groups, within which United Nations agencies have worked together to advance the national nutrition agenda.

#### Facilitating the collective nutrition agenda

- In 2019, all country UN Networks inferred the presence of a **collective nutrition workplan, strategy and/or agenda** irrespective of the network arrangement, thereby fostering increased collaboration, including UN Joint Programmes or projects on nutrition.



→ The majority of countries (73 percent) reported having presented the **nutrition agenda at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings** during the reporting period, with varying frequency.

### Joint United Nations frameworks

→ According to the findings from the 2019 UN Network reporting exercise, 55 out of 60 country UN Networks (92 percent) supported efforts to **either develop or update the nutrition content of joint United Nations frameworks**, including United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs). This constitutes a twelve-percentage point increase with respect to the previous reporting cycle.

### Joint UN Programmes/programming

→ 68 percent of country UN Networks indicated having taken efforts to **implement joint UN nutrition programmes or programming** in 2019. Over 100 examples of joint nutrition programming were reported, covering thematic areas such as: food consumption practices for healthy diets; infant and young child feeding (IYCF); and the management of acute malnutrition.

→ 62 percent of the reported **joint programmes/programming exclusively covered development actions**, 21 percent covered **humanitarian interventions** and a final 17 percent covered a **combination** of both.

### Engagement in multi-sectoral platforms and technical support to SUN Government Focal Points

→ 92 percent of country UN Networks reported having provided **technical assistance to the SUN Government Focal Point**, with the majority of such efforts taking place at both national and sub-national levels.

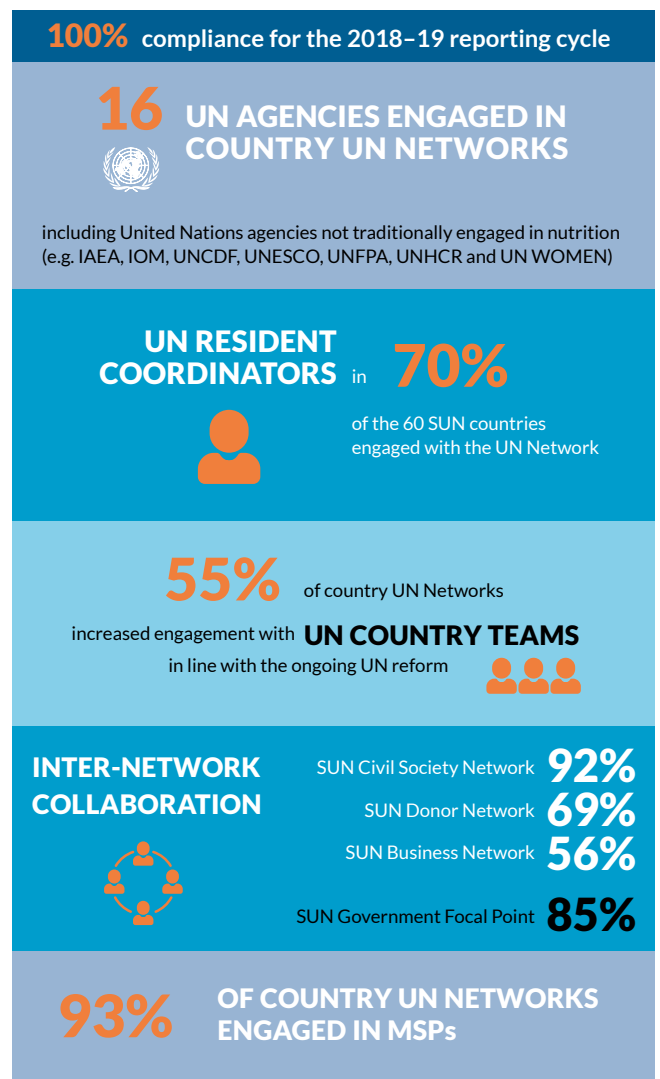
→ Similarly, 93 percent of country **UN Networks engaged in multi-stakeholder/sectoral platforms (MSPs)**, helping to plan, review and coordinate nutrition actions during the reporting period.

### Collaboration with other SUN networks

→ In 2019, a sizable proportion of country UN Networks reported **collaborating with other SUN networks**, as follows.

- 56 percent with the **SUN Business Network (SBN)**
- 92 percent with the **SUN Civil Society Network (CSN)**
- 69 percent with the **SUN Donor Network (SDN)**
- 67 percent with **other entities or networks** beyond the three main networks of the SUN Movement, such as Parliamentarian Networks

**FIGURE 1. UN Network functionality at a glance**



With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:

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## PART 2: UN NETWORK ANALYTICS

- UN Network tools continued to be a **means for enhancing UNN functionality** and **strengthening nutrition capacity** at the country level.
- Five country UN Networks cited the **Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping and UN Nutrition Inventory as one of the top three achievements** during the reporting period.
- **Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping** was the most utilized tool by countries during the 2018-19 reporting cycle.
- Five countries successfully completed the **mapping, where it enhanced nutrition governance processes and informed decision-making**.
- One country (Sudan) successfully executed the **Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview**, helping to establish a common language and rally diverse actors for the mapping exercise. In addition, the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview and **Policy and Policy Overview** was initiated in Liberia, helping to sensitize actors on their respective roles in nutrition and foster policy coherence.
- Two countries (Burundi and Lesotho) undertook the **UN Nutrition Inventory**, inspiring additional United Nations agencies to join the UN Network.

## PART 3: UN JOINT EFFORTS FOR NUTRITION CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Nutrition capacity strengthening plays an important role in enabling the achievement of global nutrition targets, as articulated within national frameworks, as well as fostering sustainable development. This third aspect of the reporting exercise encompassed both efforts to build the nutrition capacity of government and that within the UN System, including among UN leadership.

Overall, the findings from the 2019 reporting exercise illustrate an increase in measures undertaken by country UN Networks to strengthen nutrition capacity in Government and the United Nations, as compared to the baseline assessment in 2016.

Opportunities remain for stepping up such efforts especially with regard to the implementation of joint UN programming on nutrition as well as the engagement of United Nations Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in the national nutrition agenda. These efforts will not only make for a stronger UN Network, but may also serve to increase buy-in from other sectoral actors and create pathways for increased nutrition-sensitive programmes across governments, United Nations agencies and other key actors.

Additional key findings from this part of the 2019 UN Network reporting exercise are highlighted below.

### Capacity strengthening for Government

- 67 percent of country UN Networks supported governments with **identifying capacity needs and developing plans** to address those needs. Almost 60 percent of these efforts covered national and sub-national levels, reflecting increased attention to the latter.
- 85 percent of country UN Networks reported having taken measures to **build data management capacities** on nutrition in 2019. These efforts enabled key actors to utilize nutrition data in decision-making processes in as many as 43 countries.
- 72 percent of country UN Networks provided **financial support to government-based nutrition staff**, helping to develop institutional capacity for delivering on the national nutrition agenda.
- 80 percent of country UN Networks reported having undertaken efforts to build the capacity of national and local actors to **generate common nutrition messaging** in order to inform nutrition advocacy.
- 90 percent of all country UN Networks indicated that they had supported the **establishment and/or strengthening of MSPs** at national and/or sub-national levels.

- 80 percent of the UN Networks **supported the SUN Government Focal Point or other nutrition authorities** by strengthening their individual skills, equipping them with tools (including UNN analytics) to coordinate nutrition actions, sharing related guidance and coaching them (e.g. through UNN-REACH facilitation support) to bring different stakeholders into a common nutrition space.
- 97 percent of country UN Networks reported efforts to support the **development of multi-sectoral nutrition policies, strategies and plans**, leveraging the technical expertise of two or more United Nations agencies/entities.

### Enhancing capacity within the UN System

- **UN joint programming on nutrition:** About half of the country UN Networks (52 percent) indicated having strong capacity to formulate or design joint nutrition projects/programmes. With that said, lower percentages of strong capacity were observed for joint implementation (38 percent) and joint monitoring and reporting (26 percent), suggesting a need to further strengthen capacity for UN joint programming on nutrition, particularly the operational dimensions.
- 70 percent of country UN Networks reported efforts to **engage the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC)** in the nutrition agenda, helping to elevate nutrition to the highest level and foster increased collaboration among the United Nations agencies.
- 55 percent of country UN Networks undertook efforts to **strengthen the capacity of UNCTs** in order to address nutrition issues, in more holistic and integrated manner.

## CONCLUSION

The 2019 UN Network reporting exercise demonstrated an increase in the country UN Networks with high functionality scores, from 85 percent (2018) to 90 percent (2019). These high scores affirm that the UN Network is a viable platform for multi-sectoral nutrition dialogue and action among United Nations entities. In addition, the 2019 reporting exercise illustrated that UN Networks exist in different forms, not always as discrete bodies. In some countries, United Nations agencies contribute collectively to national nutrition priorities through other arrangements, such as Development Partners Groups and nutrition working groups. This shows collaboration between United Nations agencies and other actors in efforts to address malnutrition as well as the use of context-specific mechanisms to advance harmonized and coordinated UN nutrition actions. More efforts were also undertaken by country UN Networks to engage the senior leadership of United Nations agencies and UNRCs in the nutrition arena. This, in turn, raised the profile of nutrition, helping to both place and sustain it on national development agendas.

Similarly, positive trends were observed in nutrition capacity strengthening at the country level, with more UN Networks reporting efforts to support the development, maintenance and strengthening of such capacities in the 2019 reporting exercise than in previous years. The 2019 findings also illustrated that United Nations agencies are taking strides towards scaling-up multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder engagement in the context of a systems approach for enhanced nutrition outcomes. UN reform and the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda have helped give impetus to these efforts and reinforce the values of the UN Network. Finally, the findings suggest that the UN Network will continue to be an important part of country support mechanisms for advancing the nutrition agenda in view of its strategic ties to UNRCs, SUN Government Focal Points and other nutrition authorities as well as its increasingly popular analytics that are helping to build capacity for multi-sectoral/ stakeholder coordination and guide decision-making on nutrition.

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A close-up photograph of a young boy with dark skin and short hair, wearing a white button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to his right with a neutral expression. The background is blurred, showing other people in a crowd. The image has a blue tint.

# 1. Background

## 1.1. INTRODUCTION

Today, countries around the world are grappling with nutrition issues of some sort. This makes nutrition a uniting force, crucial for the good health and well-being of people and for helping nations prosper. The nutrition challenges being faced in the twenty-first century are more complex and intertwined than ever before, putting conventional paradigms to the test. Sometimes, these nutrition challenges are overlapping, within countries and communities, even within the same individual. The magnitude of malnutrition is large, and the consequences can be severe (e.g. irreversible cognitive deficits, mental retardation, increased risk of child and maternal mortality) if unabated during critical stages of the lifecycle. Approximately, 2 billion people are deficient in essential micronutrients, while 149 million children are stunted.<sup>2</sup> Overweight and obesity are on the rise, affecting 40 million children under the age of five, 207 million adolescents and as many as 2 billion adults. In addition, recent estimates indicate that approximately 820 million people still suffer from hunger, signalling a regression from the levels recorded in 2010.<sup>3</sup>

Population growth, rising income levels, climate change, urbanization and conflict are exerting pressures on the world's demand for food. Diet is among the top risk factors of the world's global disease burden. As a result, the world cannot afford to maintain business as usual. Urgent action must be taken to scale up nutrition actions across sectors to enable a world free of malnutrition by 2030, one that will further drive sustainable development. This is no simple task. Strong partnerships and effective coordination have a critical role to play, underscoring the need for country-focused collaboration platforms such as the UN [nutrition] Network.

2. FAO. 2019. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World: Building Climate Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition* Rome. Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/i9553en/i9553en.pdf>.

3. *Ibid.*

## 1.2. HISTORY

Prior to the establishment of the UN Network (herein UNN), the partnership for Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition (REACH) was founded in 2008 by 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) as a mechanism for providing a country-centred, multi-sectoral approach to strengthen national capacities for nutrition governance and accelerate nutrition scale-up for increased impact.<sup>4</sup> The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) later joined the partnership, as an observer, in parallel with the fund's increased engagement in nutrition. In many ways, REACH served as the precursor to the UNN and a testing ground for its increasingly popular suite of analytical tools.

As the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement gained momentum, further changes took place in the nutrition community, including within the UN. The principals of the above United Nations agencies formally endorsed the establishment of the UNN in 2013, as one of the four main networks of the SUN Movement. REACH played a catalytic role in setting up UNNs at the country level, where its facilitators were present on the ground. The advent of the UNN enabled new tools to be developed, including those that help expand membership to other United Nations entities at the country level. In 2015, the institutional links between the UNN and REACH were formalized, giving the Rome-based REACH Secretariat jurisdiction to dually serve as the UNN Secretariat. A few years later (2018), the UNN underwent a strategic visioning exercise, whereby the functions of the REACH partnership were absorbed by the UNN's Multi-sectoral Technical Assistance Facility, giving rise to the new nomenclature, UNN-REACH, to reinforce this branding.

4. Adapted from the UN Network for SUN Strategy (2016–2020).

Today, the UNN functions as a unique platform for operationalizing collective action for nutrition at the country level, thereby supporting dialogue and action across sectors and stakeholders. This is increasingly relevant in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UN reform, which reinforce the values of partnership and integrated action. Over the years, the activities of the Network have extended beyond its founding agencies, rallying UN entities that have not traditionally been involved in nutrition, but whose work supports positive nutrition outcomes. The UNN also serves as a platform for raising awareness about the United Nations Decade of Action for Nutrition (2016–2025). In 2019, the Network operated in 60 of the 61 SUN member countries<sup>5</sup> and also rendered its services to countries outside the SUN Movement (e.g. Bolivia and Egypt) in response to demand. The activities of country UN Networks are supported by the UNN Secretariat, hosted by WFP headquarters.

## 1.3. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND OUTCOMES

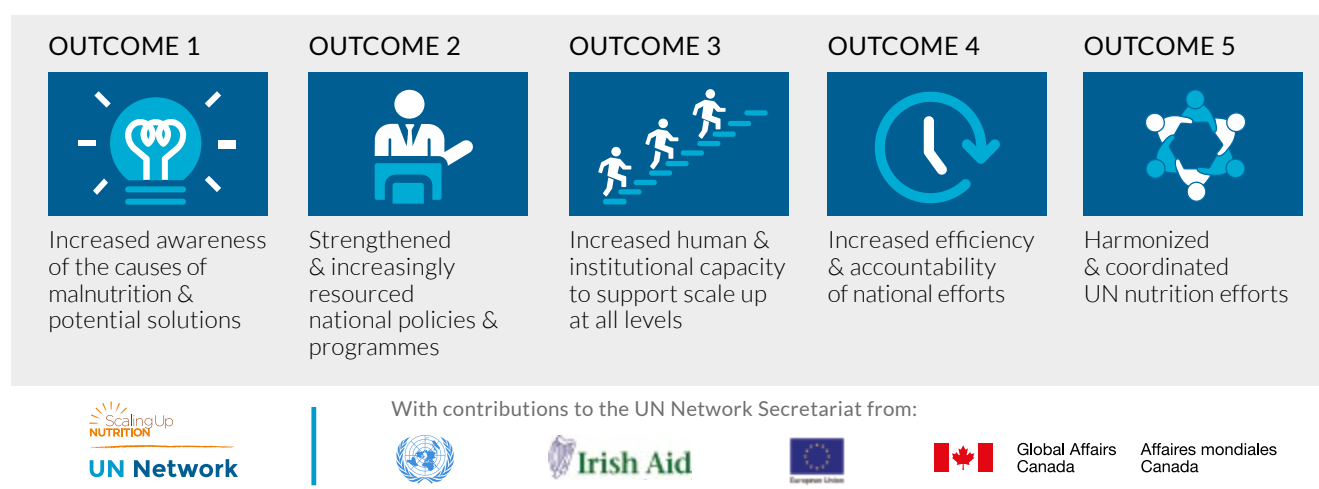
The UNN works towards the following vision, goal and strategic objective as outlined in Table 1. Essentially, the overarching premise is that the impact of UN nutrition support can be increased if the efforts of individual agencies are integrated and well-coordinated.

The UNN strategy (2016–2020) articulated a results framework that helps the constituent members develop common strategies to advance the national nutrition agenda. UNN is uniquely positioned to leverage UN expertise in nutrition as well as various related tools to foster harmonized and coordinated efforts in pursuit of achieving its five strategic outcomes.

**TABLE 1. Strategic directions of the UNN**

<b>VISION</b>	All UN agencies at all levels, recognize that nutrition is central to the Sustainable Development Agenda and collectively act in a coherent manner upon this, in terms of policies, actions, staffing and resources.
<b>GOAL</b>	To harness the potential of the whole UN System to synergize efforts that help governments address all forms of malnutrition, for all people by 2030.
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>	To provide an entry point for all United Nations agencies to harmonize and coordinate nutrition efforts in support of national governments.

**FIGURE 2. The five strategic outcomes of the UNN (2016–2020)**



5. Honduras was the only country where the UN Network was not functional given that it had joined the SUN Movement after the UN Network reporting period for 2019.

## 1.4. CORE BUSINESS AREAS

The UNN plays an integral role in facilitating a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to nutrition, helping actors transcend ‘siloed’ approaches in tackling malnutrition. To that end, the Network brings together all United Nations agencies with an interest in nutrition to consolidate know-how, better utilize resources, help UN entities speak with one voice and position the United Nations as an invaluable service provider and partner in this area. **This helps the United Nations agencies and entities shine in the SUN Movement.**

UNN support clusters around four main areas, namely: (1) *advisory services* to help UN colleagues set up and strengthen the functionality of country UNNs in order to work towards national nutrition targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); (2) *translating policy to action*; (3) a *multi-sectoral technical assistance (TA) facility* to promote and support holistic action; and (4) *knowledge management* to share guidance and experiences and thus impart learning, including through South-South collaboration, as a means to accelerate scale-up. While many of these services are catered to UN colleagues, such as advising on UNN membership, leadership and joint programming, others support a wider nutrition sphere of action, such as nutrition advocacy which may be pursued with Government and

other SUN networks. Stakeholders may draw upon UNN analytics, a core component of its multi-sectoral TA facility, to frame, catalyse and inform data-driven, collective nutrition action.

In this manner, the UNN acts as a single reflection of the UN System for nutrition at the country, regional and global levels. It works to elevate nutrition on the humanitarian and development agendas by engaging UN leadership, such as UNRCs, Humanitarian Coordinators and Country Representatives of the respective agencies, in nutrition. The UNN also provides substantive support to SUN Government Focal Points and other nutrition authorities, helping them to engage multiple stakeholders across sectors to advance progress towards national nutrition targets. This capitalizes on the UNN’s unique reach to civil society, donors, the private sector, academia and researchers, youth and the media. While the focus of its work is on supporting country-level action, UNN also liaises with UN leadership and nutrition advisors at the regional level in addition to global actors. This helps to foster dialogue and coherence, increase access to UN resources and tools as well as to create feedback loops, particularly between global and country developments within the SUN community. Further efforts to better connect global and country engagement and promote common UN messaging are being pursued *vis-à-vis* the impending UNN/UNSCN merger, which will give rise to a new UN entity, called UN Nutrition.



## MULTI-SECTORAL TA FACILITY: CATALYSING SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN NUTRITION

Over the years, several countries have benefitted from UNN's multi-sectoral TA facility to enhance nutrition governance, including coordination processes. The facility supports government efforts to rally multiple stakeholders across sectors and achieve better results in nutrition. In particular, UNN-REACH facilitation and the analytical tools<sup>6</sup> are two celebrated components of the facility that have spurred transformational change in how nutrition is being addressed at the country level. They are increasingly acknowledged as an effective means for realizing well-coordinated, coherent and efficient actions, helping governments manage the crowded nutrition landscape, and thus optimize scarce resources. The following subsections provide further insight on these two services.



## UNN-REACH support

UNN-REACH has dedicated human resources, including on-the-ground coaches, known as facilitators, who can be drawn upon by government and UN entities to spark multi-sectoral/stakeholder dialogue and foster collective nutrition action, where funding is available.<sup>7</sup> The UNN-REACH approach is country-centred and context-specific, supporting nutrition governance processes and actions at national and sub-national levels. Essentially, it provides a boost to SUN activity in-country, complementing and helping to consolidate the efforts of individual members of the UNN. The facilitators work directly with SUN Government Focal Points, government-led nutrition coordination mechanisms and the United Nations agencies and receive support from the UNN Secretariat. They are praised for their neutrality, which in turn, enables them to build trust among diverse, sometimes competing, nutrition actors and to create a safe space where all contributions are valued and feed into the operationalization of the national nutrition plan. During the reporting period, UNN-REACH was operational in eight countries, namely: Burkina Faso; Chad; Lesotho; Liberia; Mali; Myanmar; Sierra Leone; and Zimbabwe.



UNN-REACH facilitators with members of the UNN Secretariat at the SUN Global Gathering (2019).

6. Many of tools were originally developed by UNN-REACH prior to the initiation of the SUN Movement.

7. See Annex D for current and former country coverage of UNN-REACH.



**BOX 1. Window for learning****UNN-REACH engagement spurs decrease in malnutrition levels in countries**

Notable progress is being made in terms of nutrition outcomes and investments in countries where UNN-REACH services have been deployed. A review of thirteen countries<sup>8</sup> with UNN-REACH engagements revealed decreases in the prevalence of stunting (nine countries), anaemia (eight countries) and undernourishment (seven countries).<sup>9,10</sup> A collection of case studies from these countries also revealed an increase in nutrition investment during the UNN-REACH engagement, such as in Bangladesh (+10 percent), Chad (+51 percent) and Nepal (+12 percent).

Further analysis elucidated that nutrition-specific spending had increased substantially over the period of engagement in Nepal, where there was more than a two-fold increase (+238 percent).<sup>11</sup> With that said, a decrease in nutrition-specific spending was observed in countries, such as Bangladesh (-22 percent) and Chad (-41 percent), indicating a possible shift to nutrition-sensitive interventions, which were gaining more ground in these contexts for longer-term and sustainable impact.<sup>12</sup> While the numbers are telling, conclusions about the causal effect of UNN-REACH cannot be made in absence of a pre/post study with a formal comparison group. They are, nevertheless, important observational trends that match the growing appreciation of UNN-REACH.

8. These countries include: Bangladesh; Chad; Ethiopia; Ghana; Lao PDR; Mauritania; Mozambique; Myanmar; Nepal; Niger; Rwanda; Sierra Leone; and Uganda.
9. This analysis was performed using the latest data available for these indicators.
10. World Bank. 2019. *Data Bank: Health, Nutrition and Population Statistics*. Washington D.C. Available at <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/health-nutrition-and-population-statistics/preview/on>; UNICEF. 2019. *UNICEF Data: Monitoring the situation of children and women - Malnutrition*. New York. Available at <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>.
11. Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. 2019. *SUN Nutrition Investment Snapshots*. Geneva. Available at <https://idb.scalingupnutrition.org/>.
12. *Ibid.*
13. Additional information about the coverage of UNN analytics is provided in Annex C.

**FIGURE 3. Use of the UNN analytics<sup>13</sup>**

UN Network

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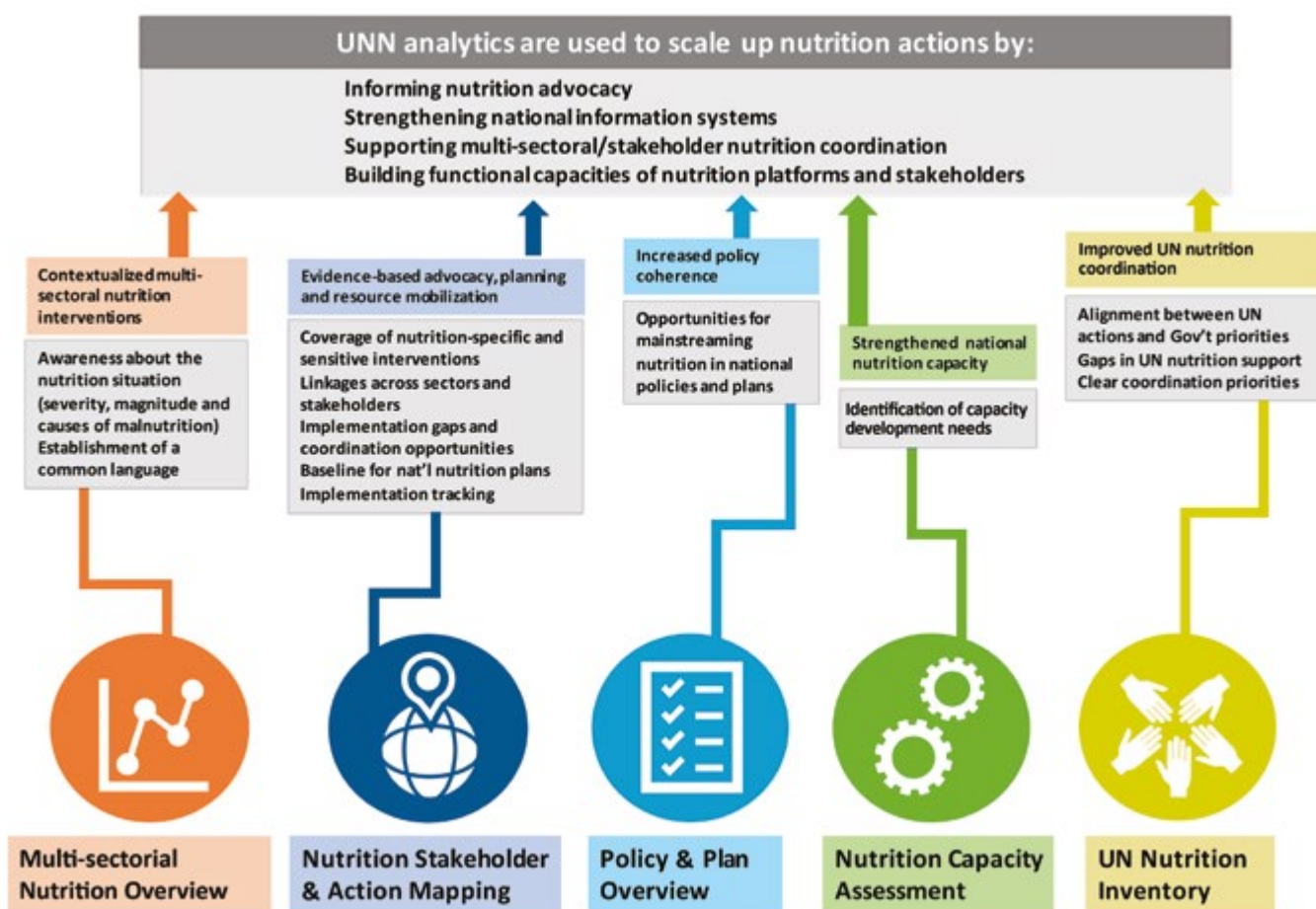
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## UNN’s action-oriented toolkit

As part of its TA facility, the UNN manages a portfolio of analytical tools to enrich nutrition advocacy, bolster multi-stakeholder coordination, strengthen national capacity and nutrition governance, and ultimately, scale up multi-sectoral nutrition actions.<sup>14</sup> The tools draw upon the technical expertise of the United Nations agencies and foster a common nutrition language among diverse actors. Furthermore, these analytics go beyond a single United Nations agency or entity, engaging multiple stakeholders<sup>15</sup> to

provide a holistic picture of the nutrition landscape at the country level. Thanks to their catchy visuals, the outputs of these tools are amenable for both decision-makers (including high-ranking members of government such as executive powers) and technical practitioners. The toolkit is comprised of five elements, namely: (1) the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview (MNO); (2) the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping; (3) the Policy and Plan Overview (PPO); (4) the Nutrition Capacity Assessment; and (5) the UN Nutrition Inventory. Further information about the tools is outlined in Annex B.

**FIGURE 4. Overview of the UNN analytical tools**



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14. See Annex C for country coverage of the UNN analytical tools.

15. The UNN tools encompass different stakeholder groups, including SUN networks, except for the UN Nutrition Inventory, which is exclusively targeted to the United Nations.

## 1.5. ABOUT THIS REPORT

*The 2019 UN Network Annual Report highlights progress achieved in tackling all forms of malnutrition from May 2018 to April 2019.* This reporting period was established so as to coincide with that of the SUN Joint Annual Assessment, understanding that the ensuing results could feed into SUN reporting and thus help country UNNs prepare their contributions to such. The report highlights trends and good practices with regard to: (1) the functionality of country UNNs; (2) UNN analytics; and (3) collective UN efforts for nutrition capacity strengthening at the country level. These three domains also represent the main substantive sections of this report and are largely based on submissions received from the 2019 UNN reporting exercise. With that said, data from secondary sources were used to supplement information gathered through the 2019 UNN reporting instruments in order to provide further

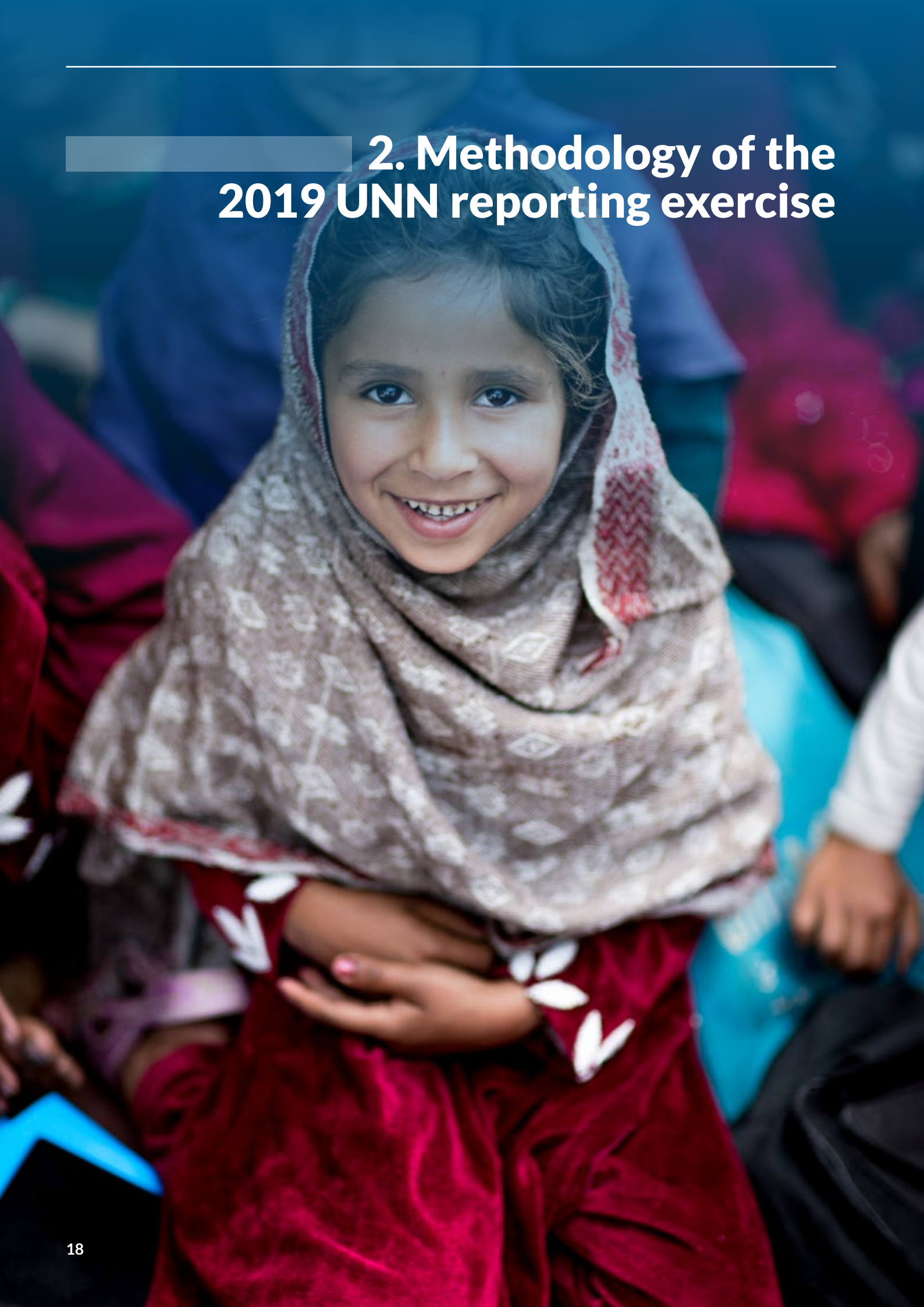
context, where applicable. The report captures the engagement of the UNN Secretariat with country UNNs, which designed the survey metrics and later collated and analysed the data received.

The next section unpacks the methodology used in the 2019 reporting exercise. While the third section is based on the scores derived from the UNN functionality index+, the fourth section summarizes UNN analytical activity undertaken through the multi-sectoral TA facility during the reporting cycle. The fifth section on nutrition capacity strengthening encompasses all elements of UNN outcome 3 on “increased human and institutional capacity to support the scaling up of nutrition actions at all levels.” It also integrates new metrics to keep pace with the UNN’s latest vision, which were deemed important to enhancing nutrition capacity for increased impact on the ground. The final section further reflects on the main findings of the 2019 reporting exercise and provides insights about the next steps.



---

## 2. Methodology of the 2019 UNN reporting exercise



## 2.1. MONITORING HARMONIZED AND COORDINATED UN EFFORTS IN NUTRITION

The first UNN annual reporting exercise was conducted in 2016, providing a baseline against which to plot future progress. It has since served as a mechanism for monitoring and reporting on collective UN activity and gains in nutrition. The UNN Secretariat has continued to administer the process and prepare annual reports that highlight key trends. The following subsections outline the methodology employed in the 2019 exercise and provide insight on compliance.

The 2019 UNN reporting exercise was undertaken through a combination of online surveys and an offline case study template, pursued at two levels: country and regional. A detailed questionnaire for country UNNs was uploaded in English, French and Spanish to the designated UNN reporting portal, where colleagues could directly enter their responses. The country-level questionnaire included four domains: one on the respective components of the UNN functionality index+; a second on inter-network collaboration; a third on joint UN efforts for nutrition capacity strengthening; and a summary section on the main achievements and challenges faced by the country UNN. The third section, devoted to capacity strengthening, covered outputs for UNN outcome 3, such as identifying nutrition capacity needs, developing a plan to address those needs, strengthening capacity in service delivery and programme implementation of both nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions and establishing functional MSPs both at the national and/or sub-national level. The UNN Secretariat contacted UN colleagues in 60 countries engaged in the SUN Movement, flagging

new features and providing guidance on how to complete the exercise. Honduras and the four Indian States were not approached, understanding that the former had joined the SUN Movement after the reporting period and that efforts carried out in the latter were not directly comparable to those of SUN countries.

The United Nations agencies and entities involved in a given country's UNN were encouraged to discuss their responses as a group and ensure that such responses reflect the joint vision of the Network (or UN agencies/entities engaged under the common nutrition agenda). *Sixty countries participated in the exercise, constituting a record compliance rate of 100 percent.* This was a 33 percent increase in participation compared to the 45 countries (75 percent response rate) in the 2018 reporting cycle.

An inaugural UNN regional reporting exercise, consisting of a seven-question Google survey and a case study template, was disseminated among UN Regional Nutrition Advisors. The regional reporting stream aimed to document regional activities that had fostered a harmonized approach on nutrition among the United Nations agencies. Unlike the country questionnaire, each United Nations agency was invited to complete one survey per region in an effort to explore the respective agency perspectives. A total of ten UN Regional Nutrition Advisors from FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO participated in the exercise. Since the regional questionnaire was largely exploratory and the response rate was low, this report focuses on the country-level findings of the 2019 UNN reporting exercise. With that said, the engagement of these regional colleagues was also leveraged to identify good practices for the case studies, providing a robust outlook on the state of convergence for nutrition among United Nations agencies at the country level.

## 2.2. UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+

The UNN functionality index+ constitutes a core part of the annual reporting exercise. Designed to review the alignment of United Nations agencies under a common nutrition agenda at country level, the index assigns an overall score to countries based on the ten indicators below.

1. Completion of the *UNN annual reporting exercise*
2. Nomination of a *chair/co-chair(s)* to spearhead *collective UN nutrition efforts*
3. Appointment of *nutrition focal points* from 3+ United Nations agencies
4. Establishment of a *UNN strategy/agenda*
5. Development of a *UNN workplan/Priorities defined* in support of national nutrition efforts
6. Frequency with which the *UN collective agenda is tabled at UNCT meetings*
7. *UNN engagement in MSPs*
8. Provision of *technical support to the SUN Government Focal Point* or other government authorities
9. UNN efforts to develop or update *nutrition content of joint UN frameworks* (e.g. UNDAF, UNSDCF), reflecting a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition
10. Implementation of *UN Joint Programmes/programming on nutrition*

The guiding premise is that these indicators reflect the degree of UN harmonization and collaboration on nutrition as well as the UN's collective contribution to a country's nutrition coordination architecture. Furthermore, country UNNs with an overall index score between 0 and 4 were classified as having low functionality (low). Those falling between 5 and 7 were characterized as being moderately functional (medium). Finally, country UNNs that scored between 8 and 10 on the index were deemed to be highly functional (high).

### Functionality index + score categories

High (8-10)

Medium (5-7)

Low (0-4)

The 2019 UNN functionality index+ differs slightly from that applied in the 2018 reporting cycle. Essentially, two indicators were dropped from the index in 2019, leveraging learning from the previous reporting exercise. Since the other indicators were unchanged, it was possible to deduce trends for the individual components of the index between years. It was also possible to make comparisons between the overall country functionality scores after adjusting the 2018 data, whereby the two additional indicators were removed.

## 2.3. TAKING STOCK OF JOINT UN EFFORTS FOR NUTRITION CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

The information gathered on capacity strengthening was intended both to capture the state of collective UN nutrition capacity strengthening activities carried out at the country level and to guide future efforts so that countries (government and the UNCT) are better equipped and empowered to scale up nutrition actions across sectors and stakeholder networks.

When taking stock of these capacity strengthening efforts, the country UNNs were asked to qualify whether the support provided could be categorized as limited, moderate or intense, with consideration to the below criteria (see Table 2). In addition, the country UNNs were required to articulate the contributions of each United Nations agency/entity<sup>16</sup> to the specified activity.

The following sections of the report provide a detailed analysis of the data garnered from the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, making comparisons, where possible, with results recorded in previous reporting cycles in order to reflect progress made.

**TABLE 2. Levels of United Nations agency/entity support in nutrition capacity strengthening activities**

Limited support	Moderate support	Intense support
<p>When minimal resources (financial and human) are deployed by the UNN/ United Nations agencies and entities engaged in the common nutrition agenda.</p> <p><i>An example of limited support may include attending a meeting/event on behalf of the UNN with no or little additional support.</i></p>	<p>When discreet resources (financial and human) are deployed by the UNN/ United Nations agencies and entities engaged in the common nutrition agenda.</p> <p><i>An example of moderate support may include partially funding an activity, engaging in planning as well as participating in a meeting/event with a defined role and defined expected outputs.</i></p>	<p>When significant action is taken and/ or significant resources (financial and human) are provided on the part of the UNN/United Nations agencies and entities engaged in the common nutrition agenda.</p> <p><i>An example of intense support may be hosting as well as chiefly funding a meeting/event. Intense support defines a leading/driving role by the UNN/United Nations agencies and entities engaged in the common nutrition agenda.</i></p>

16. Efforts of relevant UN entities, such as UNN-REACH were taken into account.

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### 3. UNN functionality at country level



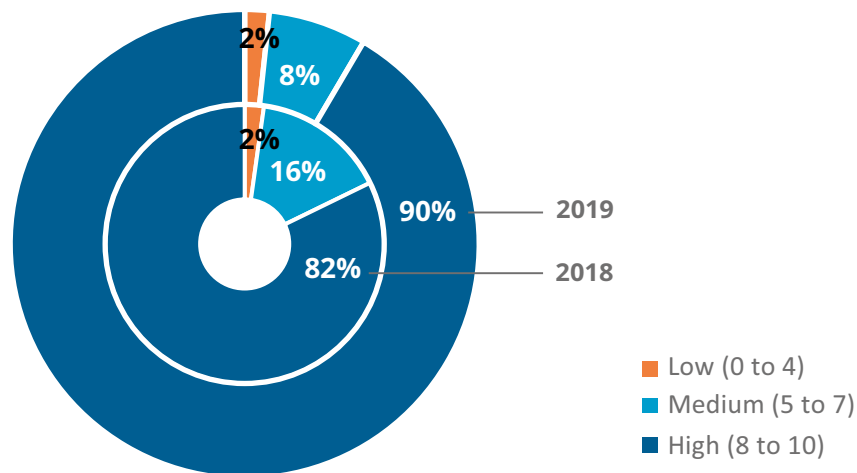


### 3.1. SUMMARY TRENDS IN UNN FUNCTIONALITY

Overall, the vast majority (90 percent) of UNNs at the country level were highly functional in 2019 according to the UNN functionality index+ ratings. This compares to 82 percent of country UNNs which were classified as highly functional in the previous UNN reporting exercise, after adjusting the 2018 data

for comparability purposes. These scores not only reflect a high degree of collaboration among United Nations agencies in ensuring the pursuit of national nutrition objectives, but also an increasing trend. A mere 2 percent of country UNNs were within the low functionality range while 8 percent corresponded to the medium functionality range in the 2018-19 reporting cycle. This meant that a number of countries (e.g. Ghana, Mali, Viet Nam), which had moderately functional UNNs in 2018 later became highly functional in 2019.

**FIGURE 5. Overall UNN functionality scores at country level**



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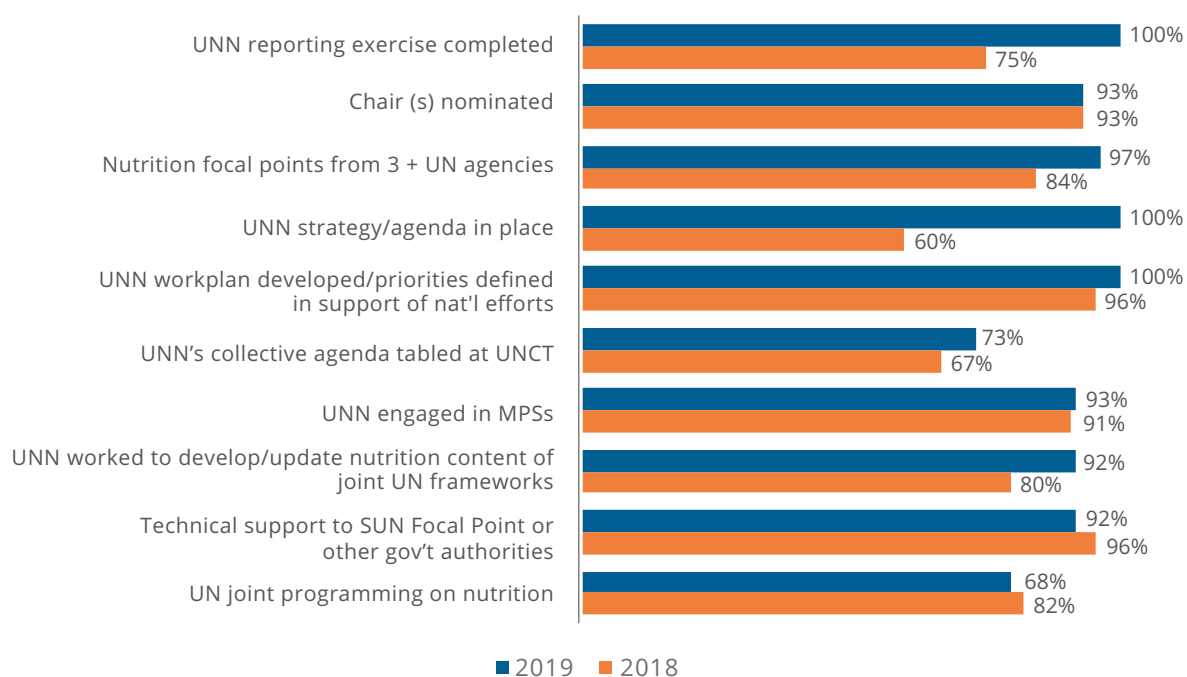
Further analysis of the 2019 reporting data indicates that the average country UNN functionality score was 9.08, corresponding to a high level of functionality. This compares to an average of 9.30 among country UNNs that had ever benefitted from UNN-REACH support and an average score of 9.63 among countries that received such support during the reporting cycle.<sup>17</sup> While the difference is small, these findings suggest that UNN-REACH is an effective mechanism for enhancing UNN performance at the country level. They also may indicate that the UNN-REACH model has improved over time. With that said, high levels of functionality were also observed in some countries that

used existing platforms (e.g. Development Partners Groups, nutrition working groups, combined UN-Donor Networks) to bring UN actors together within the context of promoting collective action on nutrition.

A breakdown of these composite scores is provided below for each of the ten indicators included in the 2019 UNN functionality index+, comparing those to the adjusted 2018 figures. The results show improvement in seven of the ten indicators, no change in one of the indicators (chair(s) nominated) and a slight decline in the remaining two indicators (support to the SUN Government Focal Point and UN joint programming).

17. See Annex D for the countries that have received UNN-REACH support.

**FIGURE 6. Summary functionality metrics by indicator (2019)**



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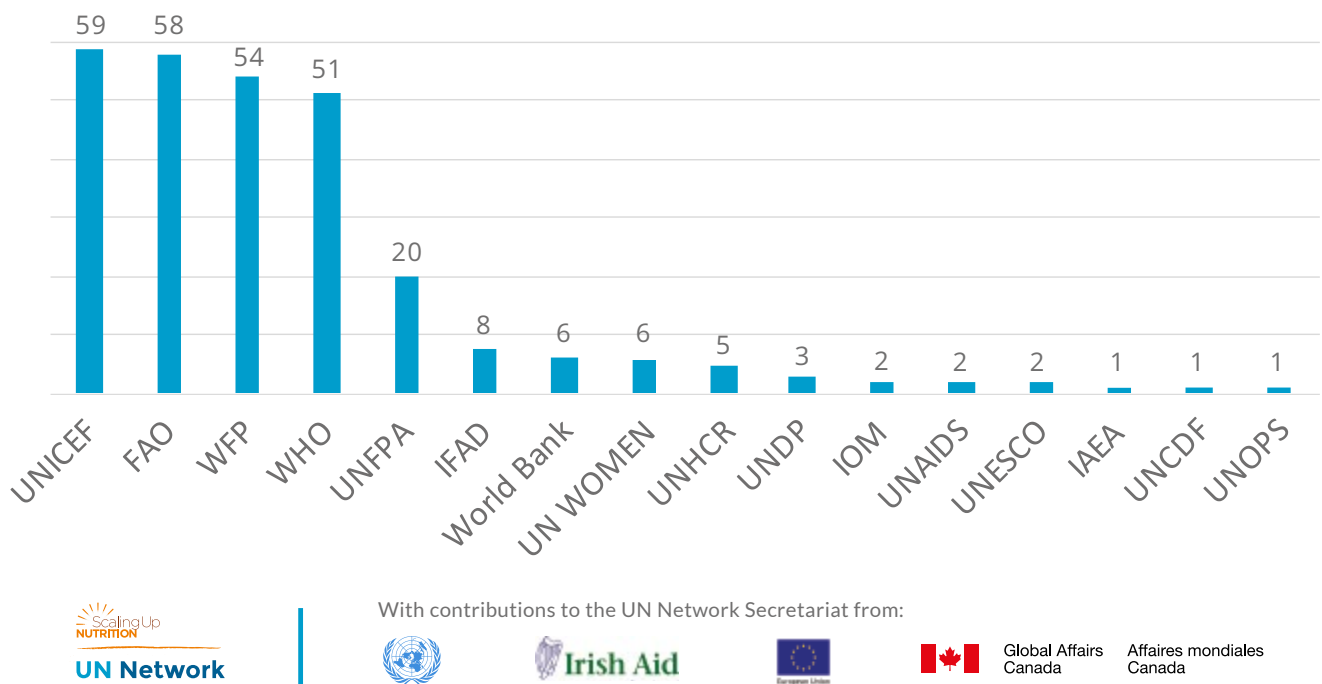
## 3.2. COMPOSITION OF THE UNN

### MEMBERSHIP

During the 2019 reporting cycle, a total of sixteen United Nations agencies were engaged in country UNNs up from twelve agencies recorded in 2018. This shows enhanced ownership of the Network and heightened awareness of nutrition’s multisectorality. Moreover, the increasing membership among United Nations agencies that have not typically engaged in the nutrition arena reflects an improved understanding of the role different sectors can play in the country’s nutrition agenda. Examples of non-traditional agencies now participating in the UNN include: the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS); and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN). In addition, the World Bank had become increasingly engaged in the Network at country level, going from being a member in one country in 2018 to six countries in 2019. The highest number of agencies engaged in a single country UNN were recorded by Burundi, Myanmar and Zimbabwe, which all had eight agencies. All three countries had undertaken the UN Nutrition Inventory exercise in years past, which largely catalysed the expanded membership.

In addition, more United Nations agencies had appointed focal points for country UNNs in 2019 than in previous years. Nearly all countries (97 percent) reported that focal points had been appointed by at least three different United Nations agencies in the country. Together, this signals a high commitment among the agencies to leverage UNN as a platform for integrated nutrition actions.

**FIGURE 7. Representation of United Nations agencies in country UNNs (2019)****BOX 2. Window for learning****Harnessing global momentum to intensify multi-sectoral/stakeholder nutrition action**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SUN Movement, the endorsement of the Second International Conference on Nutrition's (ICN2) Framework for Action (FfA) and the ensuing proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) have provided greater windows of opportunity to advance the nutrition agenda at country level. Nutrition is inextricably linked to the SDGs and secures a return of \$16 on every \$1 invested.<sup>18</sup> More specifically, nutrition is intertwined with the SDGs through: (a) sustainable food production (leading to SDGs 2, 13, 14 and 15); (b) systems infrastructure (SDGs 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12); (c) health systems (SDG 3); (d) equity and inclusion (SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10); and (e) peace and stability (SDG 16). Due to its multisectorality, nutrition is also an entry point for establishing and strengthening partnerships (SDG 17), which in turn, can enhance the enabling environment for realizing the other SDGs.<sup>19</sup> This makes nutrition both a viable area for intervention and an outcome of development. **It also underscores the need for wide UNN membership, including non-traditional agencies, in more countries.**

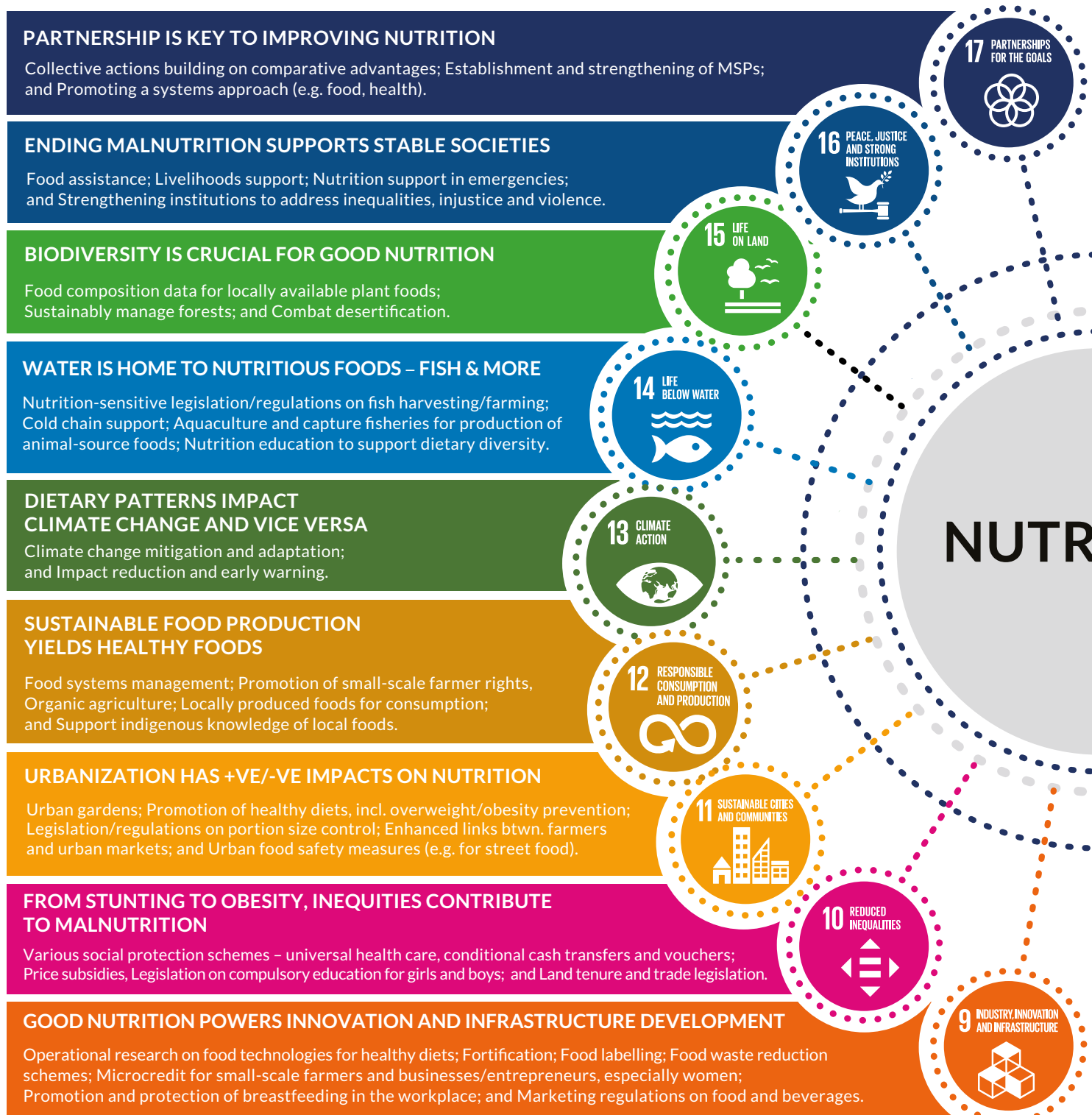
Recognizing the potential, the UNN Secretariat has encouraged country UNNs to rally a growing number of United Nations agencies in pursuit of positive nutrition outcomes and subsequent development gains. This work encompasses efforts to ensure that the 'big' UN nutrition players (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) are fulfilling their roles as well as those to encourage others to come forward. While newer to the scene, these non-traditional agencies make key contributions to nutrition. The expanded membership is helping the United Nations System embrace the multi-dimensional nature of nutrition and enabling it, through the UNN, to set in motion a holistic approach in line with recent calls for UN reform.

By helping country actors understand how nutrition is interlinked and mutually reinforces the SDGs, the UNN is helping stakeholders break down silos. The following infographic depicts the links between nutrition and the respective SDGs, identifying concrete actions that can be taken under the auspices of a collective UNN.

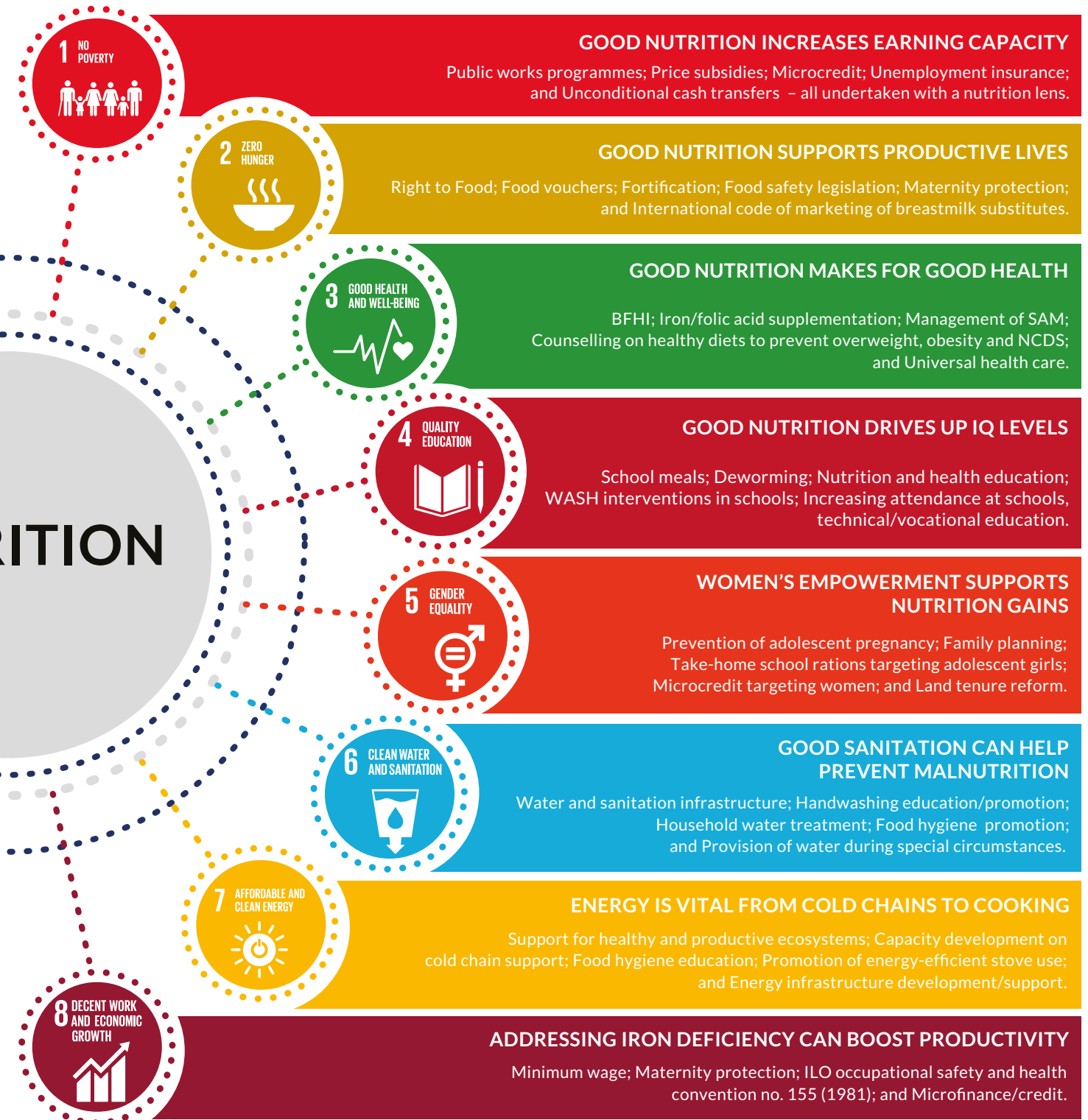
18. International Food Policy Research Institute. 2014. *Global Nutrition Report: Actions and Accountability to Accelerate the World's Progress on Nutrition*. Washington, D.C. Available at <https://globalnutritionreport.org/reports/2014-global-nutrition-report/>.

19. Development Initiatives. 2017. *Global Nutrition Report 2017: Nourishing the SDGs*. Bristol. Available at <https://globalnutritionreport.org/reports/2017-global-nutrition-report/>.

**FIGURE 8. Leveraging the power of nutrition to achieve the SDGs**



**UN Network**



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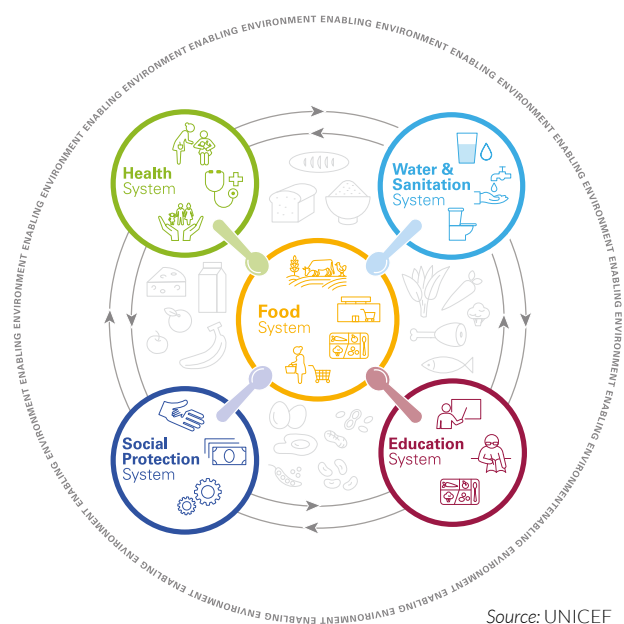
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Due to the complex web of interconnected dynamics and forces, the UNN Secretariat has also been positioning this holistic perspective in the context of a systems approach. Adopting a systems approach helps to ensure that nutrition efforts go beyond SDG2 on “Zero Hunger”. It also reinforces the need for integrated responses that implicate five systems, namely: the food system (from farm to fork to disposal); the health system (from health services to supplies, equipment, workforce and information systems); the education system (from teachers to education infrastructure, resources and curricula); the social protection system (from safety nets to technology for income transfers and information systems); and the water and sanitation system (from infrastructure to related equipment, supplies and individual behaviours). It recognizes that each system is comprised of a set of actors, services and programmes backed by policies and other governance mechanisms, all of which can be channelled to support good nutrition.<sup>20</sup>

In basic terms, a systems approach explores what people eat, how that affects the environment, how people manage their health, which education opportunities they pursue, how that affects their nutrition and future earnings, which safety nets are in place and who has access to them, among other considerations. It also acknowledges that these dynamics and actions within and between systems are interrelated. Consequently, the systems orientation entails elaborating coherent public policies and programmes that address supply and demand sides, while understanding which factors and forces influence peoples’ decisions. It also helps elevate accountability for nutrition results beyond sectoral schemas and promote sustainable capacity strengthening in order to target the root causes of nutrition challenges.

The triple-burden of malnutrition – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight and obesity – provides an unprecedented opportunity to promote and pursue a systems approach. As outlined in the Global Nutrition Report (2017), triple duty actions can be taken to achieve nutrition targets and address other development challenges, triggering improved outcomes across the SDGs. In addition to consolidating the efforts of individual United Nations agencies, UNN support to MSPs enables government authorities to mobilize a systems approach by helping them more effectively bring together and coordinate diverse stakeholders to work towards collective action and achieve scalable impact. Under this premise, the broader the UNN’s reach, the greater its potential to drive transformational change, where people and countries come out as the nutrition winners.

**FIGURE 9. Five systems influence nutrition outcomes**



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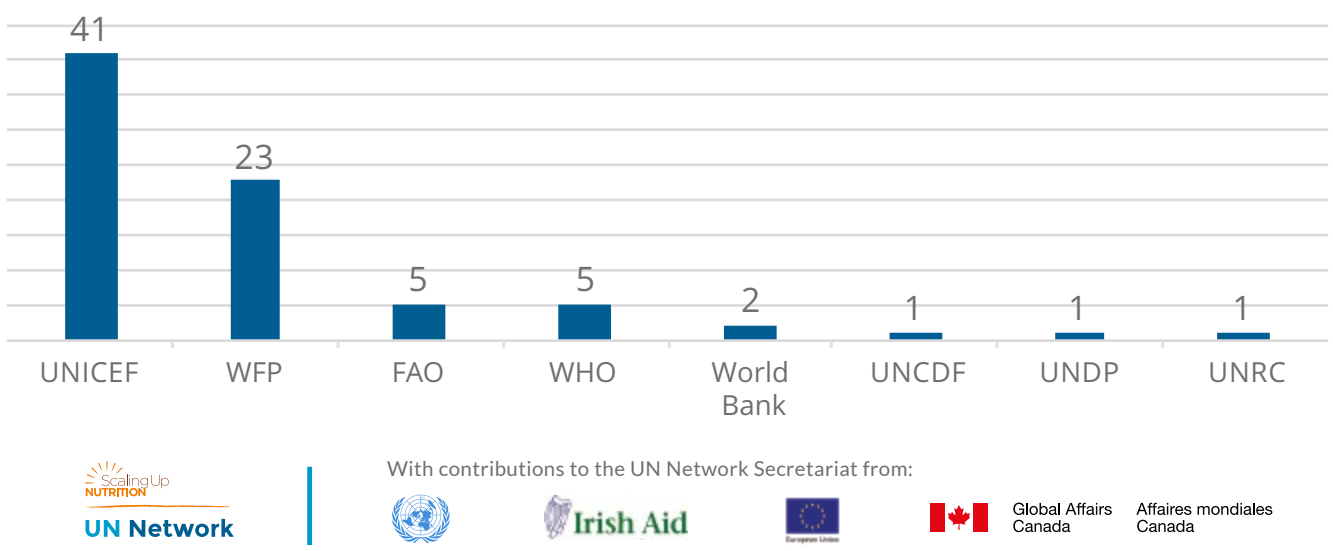
20. UNICEF. 2019. *The State of the World’s Children. Children, food and nutrition: Growing well in a changing world*. New York. Available at <https://www.unicef.org/reports/state-of-worlds-children-2019>.

## LEADERSHIP

The involvement of UN leadership in the UNN helps to positively reinforce multi-sectoral action so that UN support goes beyond the immediate nutrition community (e.g. nutritionists). In 2019, most country UNNs reported employing a rotational or co-chairing system for leading the Network, allowing for equity in leadership among the participating United Nations agencies. Nearly all of the countries (93 percent) reported the presence of a chair/co-chair(s) to spearhead the work of the collective network, with UNICEF and WFP most frequently carrying out that role. While the founding UNN agencies tend to lead the Network,

additional United Nations entities, such as UNDCF and UNDP also served as co-chairs in Papua New Guinea. The World Bank is also co-chairing the Network in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. In Congo, the UNRC chaired, while in Costa Rica, the UNRC was engaged as a formal member of the Network. A number of other countries (fourteen) benefitted from strong UNRC engagement in UNN activities, including: Bolivia; Burkina Faso; Burundi; the Comoros; Indonesia; Lesotho; Liberia; Mali; Nepal; Nigeria; the Philippines; Sierra Leone; Zambia; and Zimbabwe. Overall, this shows increased ownership of the UNN as well as a more sophisticated understanding of the nutrition beyond those traditionally involved in the nutrition agenda.

**FIGURE 10. Number of country chairs/co-chairs, by United Nations agency (2019)**

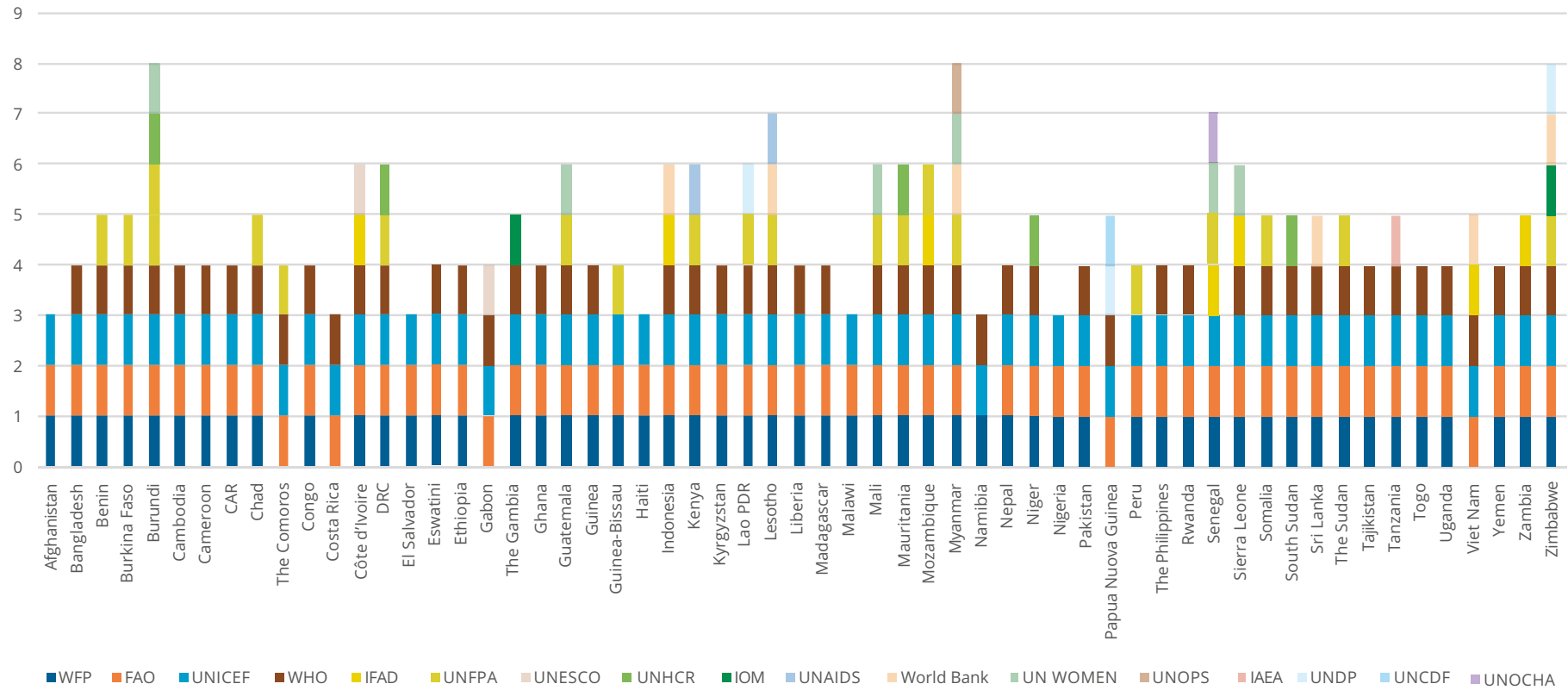


## FORMAL VERSUS INFORMAL UNN ARRANGEMENTS

According to the findings of the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, UN colleagues worked together on nutrition issues through pre-existing platforms in lieu of a formally established country UNN in some cases. Countries such as Ghana, Indonesia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo, reported the presence of Development Partners Groups or combined UN-Donor Networks, within which United Nations agencies joined forces. Others such as the Central African Republic (CAR) and Eswatini noted the presence of nutrition working groups, where United

Nations agencies engaged in joint discussions at the technical level to foster the achievement of national nutrition targets. Irrespective of the arrangements utilized, the 'country UNNs' have taken steps to formulate a collective nutrition agenda and engage the UNCT accordingly. In some cases, such as Ethiopia and Nigeria, the use of existing, context-specific platforms was equally effective for facilitating UN collaboration on nutrition. Both country UNNs received the maximum score on the functionality index+. With that said, this arrangement may be more conducive to country contexts, where government nutrition capacity is relatively high, as in the two countries stated above.

**FIGURE 11. Composition of the UNN, by country (2019)**



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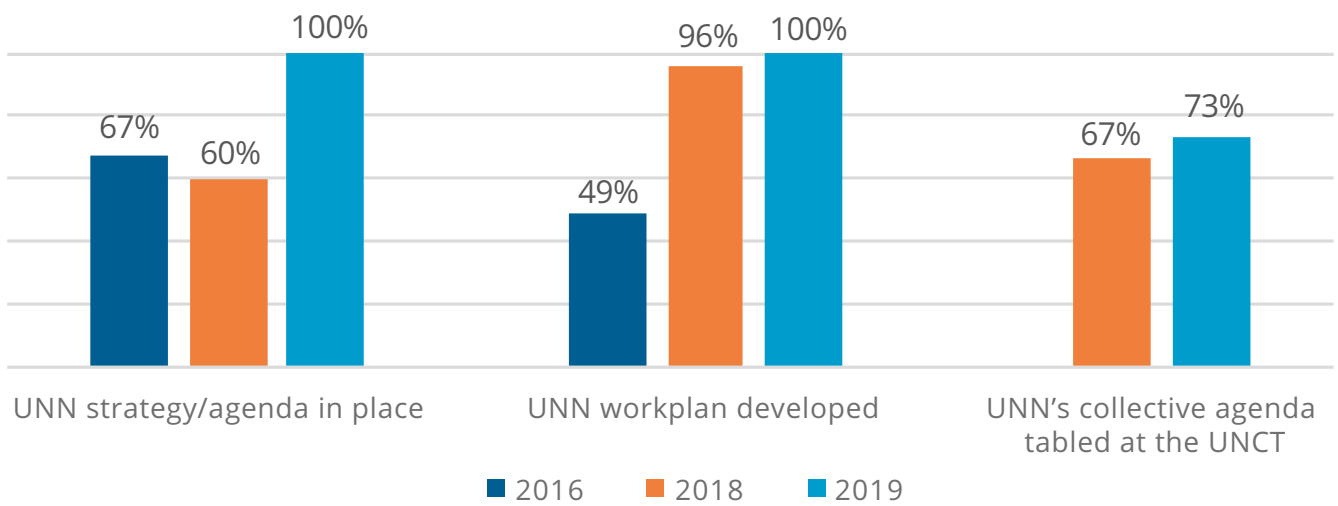


### 3.3. SEIZING UNCT MEETINGS TO PROMOTE THE COLLECTIVE NUTRITION AGENDA

The UNCT represents the foremost inter-agency coordination and decision-making mechanism at the country level. Led by the UNRC, the UNCT comprises the representatives of the resident United Nations agencies in the country. As a result, UNCT meetings

offer a strategic avenue for raising the profile of nutrition within the UN family. Presenting the nutrition agenda at UNCT meetings also provides an opportunity to build a stronger UNN by engaging a larger group of UN entities and to increase buy-in for collective responses towards the achievement of national nutrition targets and the SDGs. The involvement of UNRCs also encourages government leadership on nutrition at the highest political level. In 2019, all country UNNs except for Botswana inferred the presence of a collective nutrition workplan or strategy/agenda, independent of the network arrangement pursued.

**FIGURE 12. Trends in articulating and positioning a common UN agenda on nutrition**



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**In Senegal**, the combined UN-Donor Network developed a common nutrition agenda, covering the 2019–2023 period, which is aligned to the country’s Strategic Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan (*Plan Stratégique Multisectoriel de Nutrition*, PSMN). Other countries (e.g. El Salvador, Nepal, Zambia) looked to the UNSDCF, formerly known as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework or UNDAF, as the primary document from which a common nutrition

agenda was established.<sup>21</sup> Furthermore, the 2019 reporting data indicates that the nutrition agenda was more frequently tabled at UNCT meetings, with 73 percent of countries adopting this practice compared to 67 percent in 2018. This also shows a trend towards more United Nations agencies becoming involved in the nutrition arena, providing scope for increased joint programming on nutrition and individual agency programmes that are more nutrition-smart.

21. For the purposes of this reporting exercise, the inclusion of nutrition within the UNSDCF (formerly UNDAF) was also considered to attest the presence of a UNN nutrition strategy or workplan.

## 3.4. WORKING TOWARDS INCREASED COHESIVENESS IN UN NUTRITION PROGRAMMING

### JOINT UN FRAMEWORKS

The efforts of the UNCT are underpinned by a renewed UNSDCF, jointly developed by the United Nations agencies in consultation with the host government. The UNSDCF serves as the most important UN tool for planning and implementing development activities at the country level.<sup>22</sup> In 2019, 55 of 60 country UNNs (92 percent) supported efforts to either develop or update the nutrition content of joint UN frameworks, including UNSDCFs and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs). This figure represents a notable increase (12 percentage points) from levels recorded in the previous reporting cycle, signalling that UN entities had stepped up efforts to mainstream nutrition in different sectors and within joint UN frameworks.

These frameworks provide a vital opportunity to plot the UN's path towards scaling up nutrition actions (humanitarian and development) across sectors. In addition, the inclusion of nutrition-specific and sensitive provisions, indicators or outcomes within joint UN frameworks enable nutrition to be leveraged as a cross-cutting catalyst for achieving targets throughout the SDGs. When included as a pillar, nutrition is more apt to benefit from the allocation of human and financial resources. Nutrition mainstreaming in joint UN frameworks also enhances opportunities for United Nations agencies to undertake joint nutrition programming, including UN Joint Programmes.

In humanitarian contexts, the integration of nutrition in the UNSDCF allows UNCTs to pay close attention to nutrition considerations in order to facilitate smooth transitions from emergency response to recovery and development assistance. In **Mozambique**, UNICEF, WFP and WHO jointly contributed to the nutrition component of the Humanitarian Response Plan for Cyclone Idai (March 2019) and Cyclone Kenneth (April 2019) through active engagement in the country's nutrition cluster.

**Sri Lanka's** UNN undertook efforts to ensure the inclusion of nutrition as a standalone outcome in the UNSDCF. It also worked to develop a nutrition strategy, annual plan and a joint proposal to secure funding for UN joint programming on nutrition.

**In Cambodia**, nutrition was integrated into two outcomes of the new UNDAF (2019–2023), and furthermore, positioned as an accelerator of sustainable development, thanks to the country UNN.

### UN JOINT PROGRAMMING

Joint programmes provide an opportunity to pool resources, capacities and experiences from different agencies to address the immediate, underlying and basic causes of malnutrition. Joint programmes are considered to be in place when a set of activities has been formalized through joint workplans and budgets, involving two or more United Nations agencies with the intention of achieving results aligned with the country's nutrition priorities. On the other hand, joint programming refers to a less formalized approach, whereby complementary activities are undertaken by two or more United Nations agencies within the same geographic area and/or for the same target group.

During the reporting period, 68 percent of country UNNs (41 out of 60) had implemented joint UN nutrition programmes or programming. The main

22. UN Sustainable Development Group. 2019. *Management and accountability framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System*. Available at <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/management-and-accountability-framework-un-development-and-resident-coordinator-system-0>.

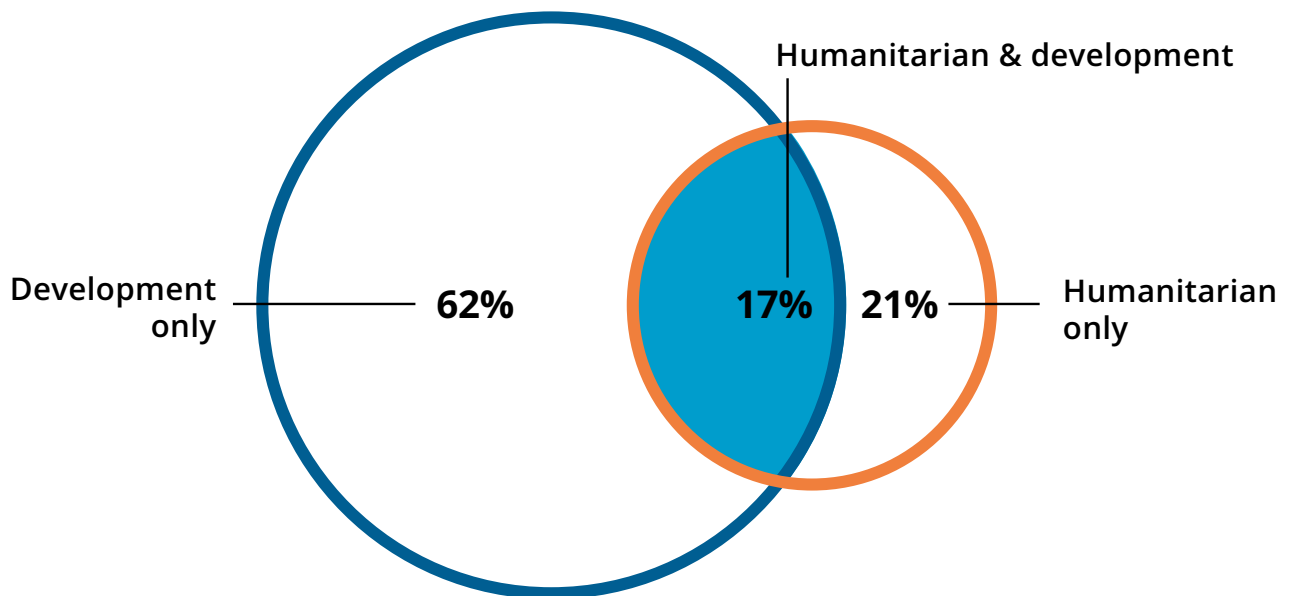
thematic areas of the 100-plus joint projects reported include: food consumption practices for healthy diets; IYCF; and the management of acute malnutrition. About one-third of these (36 percent) were categorized under “other thematic areas”, thus falling outside the main categories cited in the 2019 UNN reporting questionnaire. This illustrates the dynamic nature of UN nutrition programming and emerging areas of activity carried out over the period. It also indicates that the provided list was too long, as various countries selected ‘other’ rather than screening all the options.

Furthermore, the majority of joint programming (62 percent) was exclusively development-oriented or reflected a combination of humanitarian and development components (17 percent). The remaining 21 percent of these efforts included humanitarian-only interventions. With that said, these statistics should be interpreted with caution understanding that

not all countries faced emergencies. The breakdown, nevertheless, indicates that country UNNs are actively taking measures to bridge the humanitarian-development divide, and that further efforts are needed to increase UN programming coherence.

Most countries highlighted the lack of adequate human and financial resources as hindering the formulation of joint nutrition programming. Other factors, such as weak coordination capacity, competing priorities and different operational modalities used by the United Nations agencies, were also highlighted as barriers. Despite this, the country responses from the 2019 reporting exercise reflect a rise in efforts to undertake UN joint programming on nutrition, when compared with the UNN baseline assessment (60 percent) in 2016. Additional information is provided in section 5.4, where the capacity for UN joint programming on nutrition is further examined.

**FIGURE 13. Joint programming tendencies – development, humanitarian or both (2019)**



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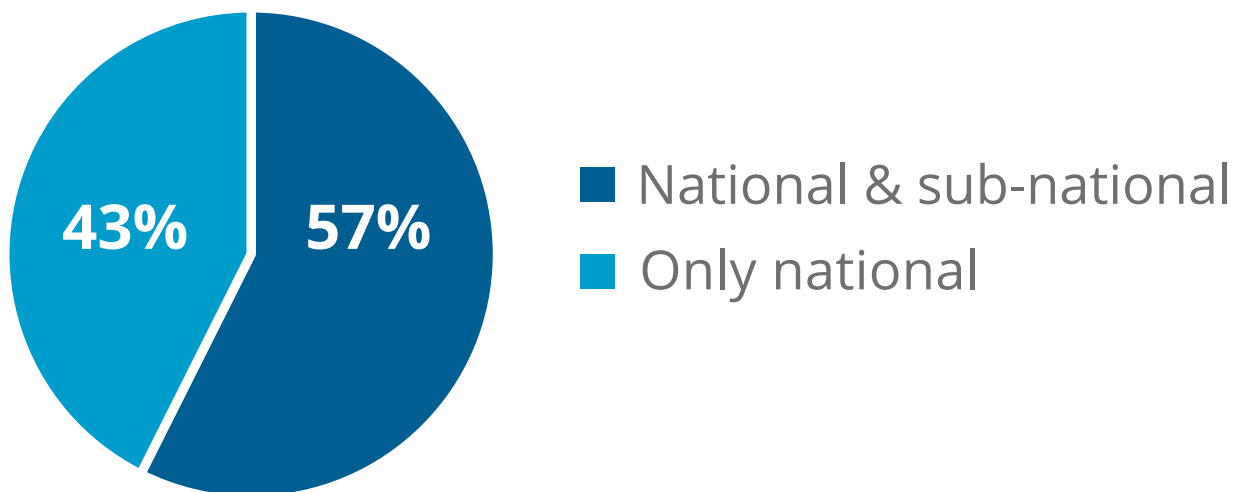
### 3.5. UNN WITHIN COUNTRY-LEVEL, NUTRITION COORDINATION ARCHITECTURE

#### TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE SUN GOVERNMENT FOCAL POINT OR OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

While the UNN is a UN platform, its activity goes beyond the UN circle. As many as 55 country UNNs (92 percent) reported efforts to provide TA to the SUN Government Focal Point or other government authorities in 2019. This is important in that the SUN Focal Point is a government official responsible for uniting nutrition actors and fostering

an environment conducive for multi-sectoral/ stakeholder nutrition action, including within higher echelons of government. As such, the SUN Government Focal Point often leads national MSPs, convening regular meetings and serving as the interface between different government offices (e.g. ministries) and other stakeholder networks. For this reason, the ability of a country to mobilize a multi-sectoral/stakeholder approach to nutrition is in part contingent on the skills of the SUN Focal Point and his/her standing with other actors, particularly within Government. Moreover, the Focal Point typically fulfils this role in addition to other duties, meaning that the s/he often does not have the luxury of carrying out SUN duties on a full-time basis. This reality further underscores the relevance of the UNN's support to SUN Government Focal Points, including that provided through UNN-REACH. The UNN mechanism also allows for greater efficiency in leveraging the joint capacity of the agencies represented in the Network as well as their respective tools and guidance.

**FIGURE 14. Technical support provided to the SUN Government Focal Point at national and sub-national levels (2019)**



With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



Global Affairs  
Canada

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Canada

The majority of these efforts took place at both national and sub-national levels (Figure 14). This field presence distinguishes the UNN from some other stakeholders in the SUN community and represents one of its strengths. **In Namibia**, the UNN seconded a nutritionist to the Ministry of Health and Social Services to provide technical support to the SUN Government Focal Point. **In Mali and Sierra Leone**, the UNN Secretariat in collaboration with the country UNN, supported the SUN Government Focal Point by orchestrating the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping exercise, which clarified the nutrition landscape across sectors. The efforts of the UNN-REACH Facilitator, who works directly with Sierra Leone's SUN Secretariat in the Vice President's Office, were pivotal in the mapping as well as supporting the SUN Government Focal Point, more broadly. The mapping exercise is one example whereby UNN support (e.g. on data collection and validation, training on data analysis) was carried out at the national and sub-national levels. **In Burundi**, the country UNN assisted the SUN Government Focal Point in developing Terms of Reference for the new

Multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategic Plan, 2019–2023 (*Plan Stratégique Multisectoriel de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle*, PSMSAN).

**Cameroon's** UNN provided support to the SUN Government Focal Point for the validation of the national nutrition policy and its operational plan.

**In CAR**, the UNN contributed to the development of the national nutrition policy and the country's 2019 Nutrition Road Map, coaching the SUN Government Focal Point through both processes.

*“The support provided by the UN Network has been very helpful for capturing partner's interventions, including the geographic and population coverage of nutrition actions, which greatly inform the district councils' annual work plans”*

**Abu Daffae**, SUN Government Focal Point, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Sierra Leone.

### BOX 3. Window for learning

**UNN support proves pivotal in formulating Myanmar's new national nutrition plan, giving rise to a new nutrition era in the country**

Exemplary work was undertaken in Myanmar, where the UNN (particularly the UNN-REACH facilitators), helped the SUN Government Focal Point and the National Nutrition Committee (NNC) shepherd the consultative process to develop the new multi-sectoral national nutrition plan (MS-NPAN, 2018-2022), including its common results framework and capacity strengthening provisions. Thanks to context-specific analyses and visuals generated through UNN's multi-sectoral toolkit along with other UNN knowledge management resources, such as the Compendium of Actions for Nutrition (CAN), the facilitators were able to help the SUN Government Focal Point position nutrition as a multi-sectoral issue and stimulate inter-ministerial dialogue and collaboration. These materials informed planning discussions and helped keep them solutions-oriented so that the provisions of the plan, launched in July 2018, responded to Myanmar's needs. As a result, seven states/regions were prioritized in the plan, taking into account malnutrition levels and intervention coverage.

Another critical success factor was the UNN's wide membership, which includes eight agencies.<sup>23</sup> This enabled the Network to actively engage multiple sectors, where nutrition took root. Additionally, strong collaboration with other SUN networks, such as the SUN Civil Society Network and the SUN Donor Network, further helped to nurture relations between the SUN Government Focal Point and nutrition-related ministries (e.g. Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Education; Health and Sports; and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement), contributing to this milestone. With the MS-NPAN in place, the government, United Nations, civil society and donor activities are now better aligned and the enabling environment is more conducive to scaling up nutrition interventions. Mothers, children, adolescent girls and other vulnerable groups are sure to benefit from these efforts.

23. These include: FAO; UNFPA; UNICEF; UNOPS; UN WOMEN; WFP; WHO and the World Bank.

## ENGAGEMENT IN MSPs

MSPs are important for facilitating the coordinated engagement of various actors and sectors in order to employ a systems approach, which fosters person-centred interventions for increased nutrition impact. Furthermore, “MSPs are seen as vital forums for developing policies, plans and CRFs and for mutual accountability.”<sup>24</sup> In 2019, 93 percent of country UNNs had reportedly engaged in MSPs, similar to the level observed in the previous reporting period (91 percent). For instance, **Pakistan**’s UNN engaged in the MSPs (national and provincial) to contribute to the development of the country’s new Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy and encourage the adoption of the National Action Plan for Nutrition. In **Lao PDR**, where the UNN functions as a part of a larger Development Partners Group, the Network participated in the meetings of the National Nutrition Committee as well as the National Nutrition Forum. The Network also supported eighteen provincial nutrition committees as well as those operating at the district level.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the UNN worked to enhance the MSP’s ability to coordinate a multi-sectoral approach to food security and nutrition. These efforts involved initial advocacy, targeting the Prime Minister’s Office and Members of Parliament. They also attracted a study visit by the Inter-sectoral Coordination Council of the Republic of Tajikistan. **Costa Rica**’s country UNN contributed to the development of a Theory of Change for the MSP. In addition, the UNN lobbied for the inclusion of the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping exercise as a means for attaining a well-functioning Nutrition Directorate. Country actors are also looking to the mapping to help establish an empowered Civil Society Network to further animate a vibrant MSP. In **Bangladesh**, the UNN is an integral part of the MSP and engages with multiple sectors represented in government, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector and academia. The country UNN has also contributed to multi-sectoral capacity strengthening for nutrition by delivering trainings to government officials from different ministries, including those that engage in the MSP. Further information about how the UNN supported nutrition coordination architecture at the country level is provided in section 5 on Joint UN efforts for nutrition capacity strengthening.<sup>25</sup>



24. Independent Expert Team. 2020. Strategic Review of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, 2019-2020. Final report. Available at [https://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SUN-Strategic-Review-Final-Report\\_ENG.pdf](https://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SUN-Strategic-Review-Final-Report_ENG.pdf).

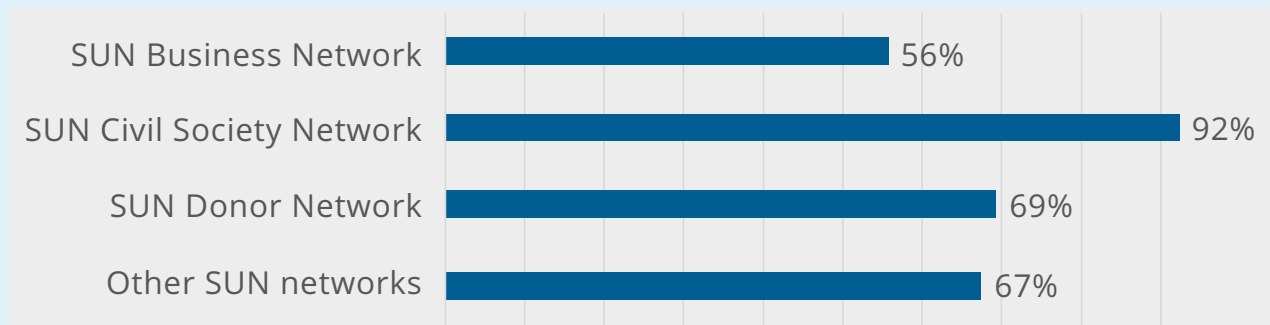
25. See subsection on Promoting multi-sectoral/stakeholder engagement in nutrition.

# Special feature: Celebrating partnership

## UNN as a key collaborator within the SUN Movement

While inter-network collaboration is not captured in the UNN functionality index+ *per se*, the UNN values partnership with the other SUN networks in the march towards increased nutrition impact. For this reason, a series of questions were included in the 2019 UNN reporting questionnaire to document how the Network was interacting with the other SUN networks on the ground. According to the findings of the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, many UNNs collaborated with other SUN networks at country level.<sup>26</sup> Close collaboration was particularly pronounced with the Civil Society Network (CSN), as depicted in Figure 15. The following sections provide insight into the UNN's interactions with the CSN, the SUN Donor Network (SDN), the SUN Business Network (SBN) as well as other forms of networks engaged in the SUN Movement.<sup>27</sup> In Chad, the UNN-REACH facilitators continued to support collaboration across the SUN networks, helping actors come together to develop inter-network annual workplans.

**FIGURE 15. The degree to which the UNN collaborated with other SUN networks (2018-19)**



## Collaboration with the SUN Business Network

The SBN is a platform that engages businesses in the nutrition arena by encouraging them to invest, innovate and pursue sustainable actions for good nutrition. The UNN has been actively involved in efforts to establish and reactivate the SBN at country level over the years. This held true in countries such as Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Myanmar, Uganda and Zimbabwe during the 2018-19 reporting period. While collaboration with the SBN was the lowest among the other SUN entities, this is likely due the limited number of SUN countries that had a Business Network at the time.<sup>28</sup>

More specifically, the SBN was revitalized in **Lesotho** with UNN's assistance, including that of UNN-REACH. This support contributed to the achievement of several milestones, including: the development of a nutrition stakeholder list; a desk study and mapping exercise of private sector activity; and the preparation of an action plan for the Business Network. Similarly, UNN-REACH worked to reactivate **Zimbabwe's** SBN by supporting efforts to develop a strategy for engaging the private sector in food and nutrition. In **Ethiopia**, the SBN representative is an active member of the Nutrition Development Partners Forum, where the constituent members of the UNN also engage, and nutrition issues are jointly discussed with a range of other stakeholders. **Sierra Leone's** UNN, including its neutral UNN-REACH Facilitator, worked with the SBN to develop the multi-sectoral plan for the reduction of malnutrition in the country.

(continued...)

26. Of the 60 participating SUN countries, only 52 responded to this question in the 2019 UNN reporting questionnaire.

27. In view of the extensive data compiled through the 2019 reporting exercise on how the UNN is collaborating with the other SUN networks and the increased attention to inter-network collaboration over the last year, the UNN Secretariat is looking to develop a separate publication with further details.

28. When this report went to print, there were fourteen SUN countries with an established Business Network according to the SBN Secretariat.

(... continued)

### Collaboration with the SUN Civil Society Network

The CSN brings together various CSOs from multiple sectors at the country level, with the aim of scaling up actions for nutrition. In **Lao PDR**, the Development Partners Group for Food Security and Nutrition consists of the UNN, the Civil Society Alliance, SBN and SDN. The group meets on a quarterly basis to discuss nutrition issues and to determine next steps with regard to the implementation of the national nutrition strategy. **Cambodia's** UNN worked closely with the Government, CSN and SDN to identify strategic priorities and to formulate the new National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition. The Network also collaborated with CSN to develop draft guidance to support the integration of food security and nutrition into community plans and budgets. Furthermore, Cambodia's UNN worked with CSN to align actions carried out by both networks, especially those pertaining to nutrition mapping exercises and collecting nutrition data.

### Collaboration with the SUN Donor Network

The SDN functions to improve transparency and coordination between donors and foundations to ensure that efforts are aligned with the national nutrition agenda. Countries such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Sri Lanka reported the presence of combined UN-Donor Networks, exemplifying full partnership. As previously stated, these consolidated arrangements sometimes leveraged pre-existing Development Partners Groups rather than establishing new structures. Nevertheless, this joint engagement helps draw attention to the need for nutrition-specific and sensitive investments, capitalizing on the UN's technical expertise.

Other examples of fruitful collaboration between the UNN and SDN include the UNN's persuasive advocacy in **Sudan**, which attracted funds from the SDN for conducting the largescale S3M II Nutrition Survey. In **Uganda**, the UNN worked with SDN to formulate a joint annual workplan (2019) that identified areas where further support is required for nutrition. Additionally, **Gabon's** UNN worked with SDN to ensure the implementation of the country's draft regulation on bush meat, the extension of its GRAINE (*Gabonaise des Réalisations Agricoles et des Initiatives des Nationaux Engagés*<sup>29</sup>) Programme as well as the implementation of other nutrition-relevant projects.

### Collaboration with other SUN networks

The UNN has also collaborated with other networks beyond the three mentioned above. In **Kyrgyzstan**, a Parliamentary Network has been established to promote nutrition within parliamentary proceedings. For the first time, parliamentarians were sensitized and engaged by the country UNN, culminating in the development of a joint action plan for 2019. Its activities are centred around the formulation and adoption of nutrition-related policies and legislation, with consideration to vulnerable population groups. The UNN in **Namibia** co-organized a nutrition workshop where parliamentarians signed a "Nutrition Manifesto" to pledge their support for scaling-up nutrition actions in the country. In **Tanzania**, the UNN worked with parliamentarians to advocate for prioritizing nutrition funding within available domestic resources. Similarly, **South Sudan's** UNN held an initial nutrition advocacy workshop, sensitizing parliamentarians (and other key stakeholders) on nutrition to ensure that it is prioritized at all levels from lawmakers to local communities. The workshop was also an opportunity to urge participants to agree on priority issues that, in turn, fed into government planning, budgeting and monitoring activities. In **Sierra Leone**, there was good dialogue between the UNN and the Parliamentary Health Committee, helping to support nutrition interventions in their respective constituencies.

In other cases, the UNN collaborated with SUN Academic Networks, particularly helping to improve the evidence base for programming and/or enrich nutrition advocacy. For example, the **Zimbabwe** UNN supported the establishment and initial functionality of the SUN Research and Academic Platform (SUNRAP) by providing technical and financial support. The UNN-REACH Facilitator liaised across the UNN agencies to compile related inputs and spearhead related action. As part of these efforts, a priority research agenda for food and nutrition was developed to guide the work of SUNRAP and to identify capacity gaps that academic institutions can help address.

29. This refers to the Gabonese Initiative for Achieving Agricultural Outcomes with Engaged Citizenry.



**BOX 4. Window for learning****Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping bolsters joint action in Sierra Leone**

In early 2019, a Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping was completed in Sierra Leone, using the UNN tool, to enhance the coordination of multi-sectoral nutrition actions. The exercise was government-led and supported by the neutral UNN-REACH Facilitator and the UNN Secretariat, which helped to ensure robust results and leverage learnings from other countries. Overall, the mapping indicated that less than half of the country's core nutrition actions (ten out of twenty-five) were being implemented in all provinces. The exercise also included an analysis of the delivery mechanisms utilized by key actors and found that, on average, more than 40 percent of the nutrition actions mapped were delivered by Community Health Workers at district level. These findings have since informed sectoral planning, including the development of the National Plan on Community Health Workers, with a view to supporting increased intervention coverage.

The process and results of the mapping have also served as a basis for bolstering joint action among SUN networks in the country, presenting a clear picture of gaps and opportunities for increased synergies. As many as eight sectors and three different SUN networks (UN, civil society and donor) and parliamentarians partook in the exercise, which covered a total of 149 stakeholders and twenty-five actions. Increased collaboration was particularly observed between the UNN and civil society partners, undertaking nutrition-sensitive programmes, such as scaling-up orange flesh sweet potato production. The exercise also sparked joint advocacy efforts at the Annual Nutrition Fair and National Breastfeeding Week as well as joint proposal writing to address imminent funding shortfalls. In addition, the exercise prompted additional stakeholders and sectors to engage in SUN coordination platforms, thereby increasing communication and collaboration, including with non-traditional stakeholders. Actors on the ground have hailed the tool as a practical resource for helping them work towards achieving shared nutrition goals. Magnus S. Conteh from Marie Stopes International, found the “mapping is very useful to spot areas that need more attention and subsequently, spread out partners equally across districts and regions, avoiding duplications.” Further information about the UNN analytical tools and how they have been applied in countries is highlighted in the next section.



## 4. UNN analytics



## 4.1. EMBRACING UNN TOOLS AS A MEANS TO ENHANCE UNN FUNCTIONALITY

The UNN analytics are a vehicle for strengthening UNNs at the country level as well as multi-sectoral nutrition governance, more broadly. Five country UNNs went as far as to list the mapping and inventory exercise as one of their top three achievements in the 2019 reporting exercise.

*The UNN analytical tools have been described by users at country level as 'powerful evidence-based instrument[s]', useful for informing and guiding decision-making on nutrition at various levels.*



### BOX 5. Window for learning

Results from the impact assessment of the UNN analytical tools affirm their utility

As a foundation for the SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system and as part of efforts to capture the long-term impact of UNN technical assistance on national systems and structures, the UNN Secretariat conducted an assessment of its five analytical tools in 2019.

#### Methodology

The assessment was carried out through an online survey that measured the use of the tools through key functionality indicators. The survey was first piloted in two countries, and subsequently, validated before being disseminated to national teams across the countries where the tools have been utilized to date. The assessment was comprised of a first section with questions pertaining to the analytical tools as a full portfolio (of five tools) and a second section with questions pertaining to the use of each tool on an individual basis. All questions were conducive to analysing comparative trends, considering factors such as the temporal and geographical differences in the use of collected data, mapping outcomes for advocacy efforts, formulation and tracking of national plans through monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms and so on. A total of nineteen respondents in different roles, across twelve countries participated in the survey. These countries include: Burkina Faso; Burundi; Chad; Ghana; Guinea; DRC; Lesotho; Mali; Myanmar; Nepal; Sierra Leone; and Zimbabwe. All respondents were given an opportunity to provide qualitative feedback on the tools utilized. Almost half of respondents (47 percent) provided such feedback on all five tools, while 41 percent provided feedback on a single tool. Nearly all respondents (94 percent) had been engaged in the use of the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping exercise in their countries, making it the tool with the most responses in the assessment.

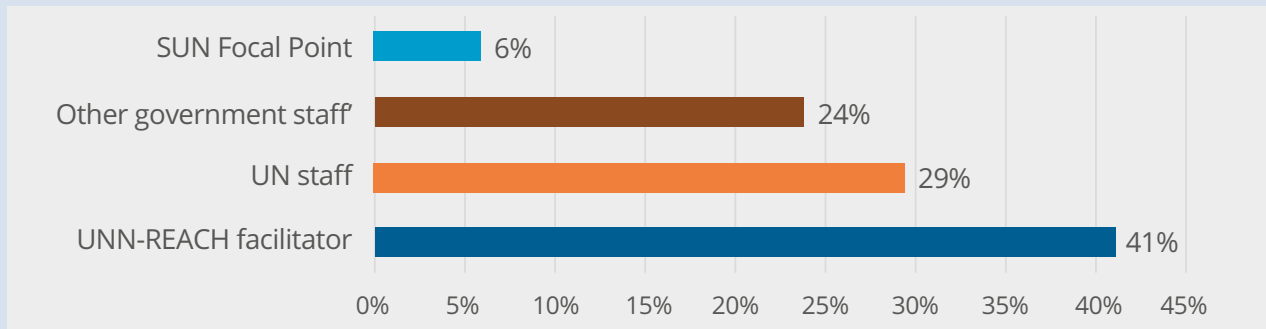
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**FIGURE 16. Profiles of participants in the impact assessment**



UN Network



**Results**

The tools had been utilized for various purposes across the countries, with notable impact observed for the following four themes.

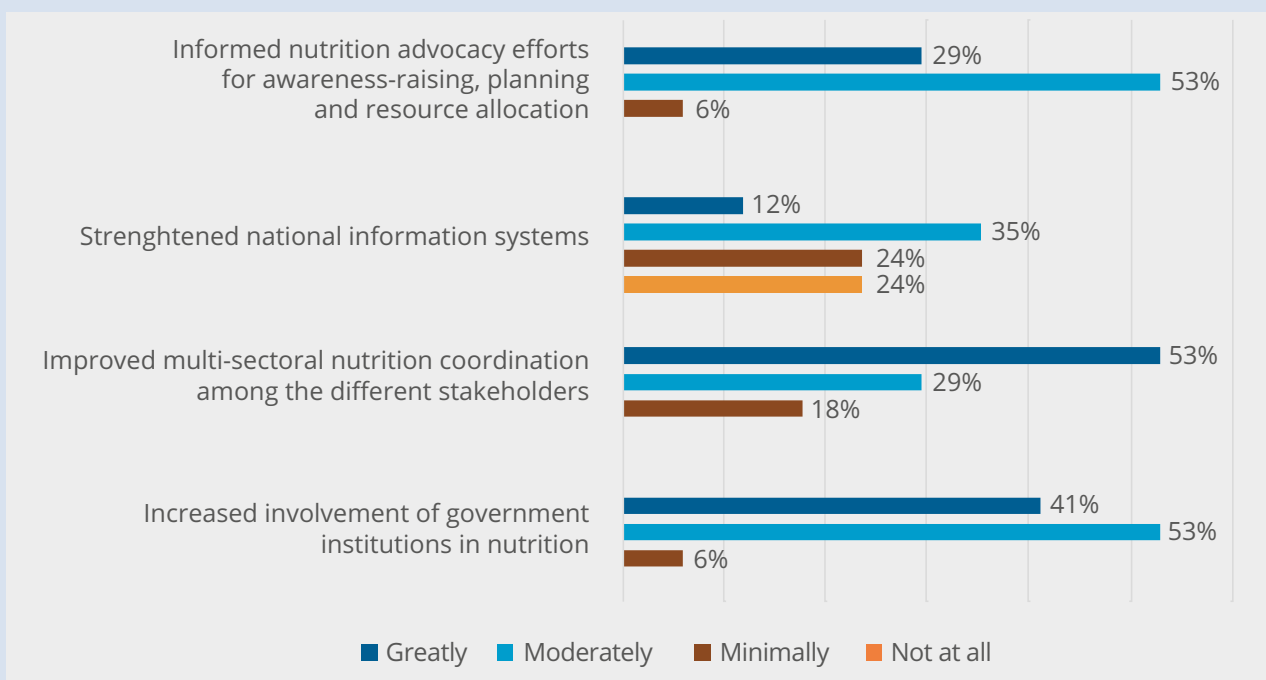
- More than 80 percent of respondents reported **improved nutrition advocacy efforts for awareness-raising, planning and resource allocation** stemming from the use of the tools.
- 47 percent of respondents noted that the tools had contributed to **strengthening national nutrition information systems**.
- More than half of respondents reported major **improvements to multi-sectoral nutrition coordination**.
- 94 percent of respondents highlighted **increased engagement of government institutions in the nutrition agenda** as a result of using the tools.

In contexts where the full suite of analytical tools have been utilized, **all respondents** reported great improvements in multi-sectoral coordination and nutrition advocacy as well as increased engagement of government institutions in the national nutrition agenda.

**FIGURE 17. Overall impact of the UNN analytical tools**



UN Network



During this period, the **Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping** was the most utilized tool by countries. The exercise was conducted in Chad, Lesotho, Mali, Niger and Sierra Leone, even if completed in Chad and Niger after the reporting period. It was also initiated in the Sudan although later stalled in view of political instability and travel limitations imposed of UN staff.<sup>30</sup> One distinguishing factor about the mappings undertaken in Chad, Mali and the Sudan was the scope of actions covered, whereby a mix of humanitarian and development assistance was included. This proved to be an entry point for bringing actors together from these two workstreams, and thus strengthening

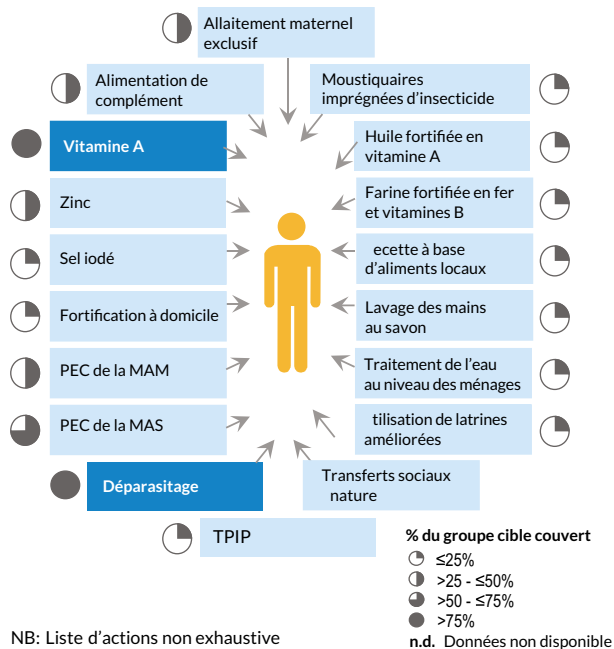
the humanitarian-development nexus. The SUN Government Focal Point in Mali noted that the mapping “enables the Government, particularly nutrition collaboration mechanisms, to monitor nutrition-specific and sensitive programmes in a holistic and systematic manner.” He also recognized that the mapping helped to improve communication across institutions and bring new actors into the nutrition arena, engaging a total of eight sectors (agriculture, fisheries, food security, health, livestock, social protection, WASH and women’s empowerment). In Mali, the mapping tool is part of the district-level nutrition information system, helping to monitor progress across multiple sectors and inform corrective action.

**FIGURE 18. Excerpt from the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping in Mali (2018-19) conducted through UNN-REACH**

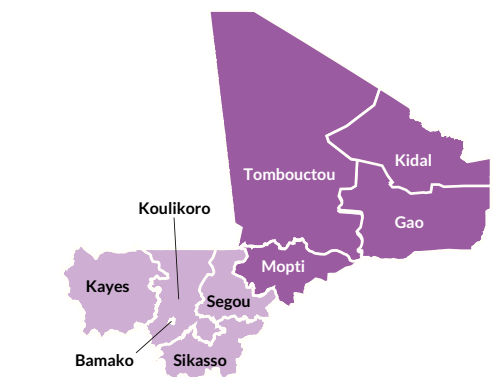
## La cartographie comme outil de prise de décision



Seulement 2 interventions visant les enfants touchent plus de 3/4 des enfants au Mali

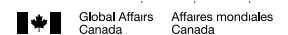


Peu d'interventions couvrent plus de 75% des enfants et seules les régions du Nord ont entre 4 et 6 interventions couvrant plus de 75% de la population cible



# des interventions clés avec au moins 75% de la population cible couverte

- 1-3 actions
- 4-6 actions
- 7-9 actions



30. The Sudan mapping resumed in late 2019 after the political situation improved and government stakeholders could return their attention to the exercise.

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The Lesotho mapping also stands out in that it was the first to encompass actions to address overweight and obesity, such as nutrition awareness campaigns that targeted the whole population and training/ demonstrations on home food preparation and preservation. This helped to ensure that efforts to track intervention coverage were also applied to this emerging area and to reshape the national nutrition agenda, recognizing that 7.5 percent of under5 are overweight and 26.7 percent of adult women are obese.<sup>31</sup>

In addition to these five mappings, preliminary trainings were held by members of the UNN Secretariat in the Comoros and Madagascar, which laid the groundwork for the activities that followed. In the Comoros, the training coincided with the submission of an executive decree that seeks to establish the National Food and Nutrition Council (*Conseil National de la Nutrition et de l'Alimentation*) under the President's Office, another maneuver intended to enhance multi-sectoral/ stakeholder coordination. The Prime Minister of the Comoros endorsed the decision to map nutrition

stakeholders and actions, giving further weight to the exercise. Furthermore, enhancements were made to the mapping tool at the global level over the reporting period. This upgrade enabled financial data to be captured in the tool in response to growing demand, which will help countries link implementation and expenditure tracking.

With respect to the other UNN analytics, the preparatory phase was initiated for the **MNO and PPO** in Liberia, through UNN-REACH, as its efforts intensified in early 2019. These exercises provided an opportunity to rally different actors and sensitize them on their respective roles in nutrition. Emerging findings from the MNO also provided key inputs for parliamentary sensitization activities, helping to elevate nutrition on the political agenda. In the Sudan, the MNO was also undertaken, helping to make sure that actors had a common understanding of the nutrition situation before undertaking the mapping exercise. During the reporting cycle, the **UN Nutrition Inventory** was also conducted in two countries: Burundi and Lesotho.



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31. Global Nutrition Report. 2019. *Country Nutrition Profile, Lesotho*. Available at <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/africa/southern-africa/lesotho/#profile>.

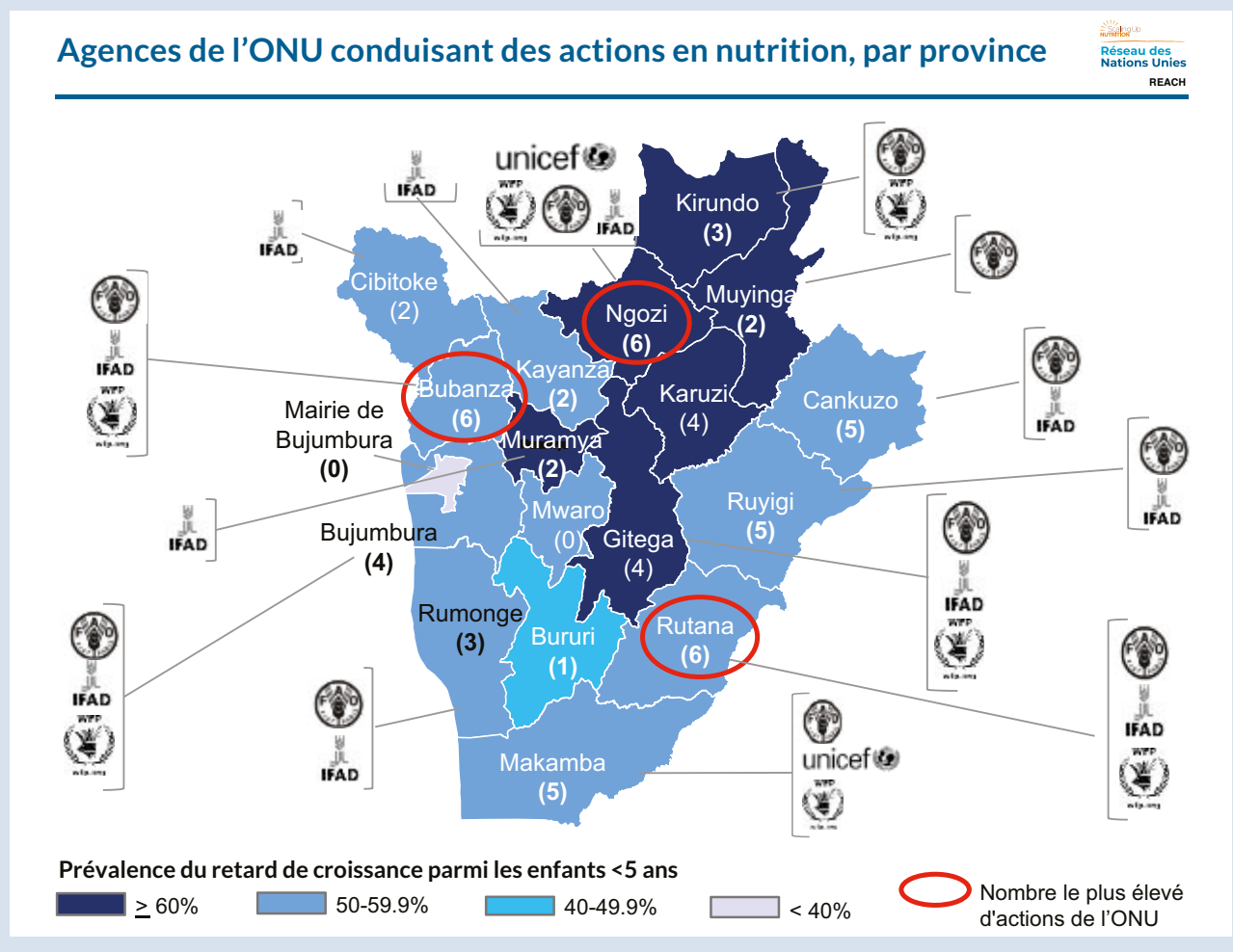
### BOX 6. Window for learning

#### UN Nutrition Inventory motivates additional United Nations agencies to join the Network in Burundi

The Burundi experience is an excellent example of how the Inventory can be used to broaden UNN membership for achieving increased nutritional impact. Initially, the five founding UNN agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) were involved in the exercise, which encompassed multiple sectors. Gaps and overlaps were identified, and a UN nutrition retreat was convened on 30 July and 1 August 2018 to determine how these findings could be taken into account in subsequent UN planning, targeting, implementation and M&E schemes. After viewing the preliminary results and compelling images generated by the Inventory tool at the retreat, four other United Nations agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR and UN WOMEN) expressed interest in participating in the exercise. This gave rise to a second wave of data collection and provided a more complete picture of how the UN was working to achieve national nutrition targets. It also prompted three of the additional agencies to join the country's UNN.

The success of the Burundi Inventory can be attributed to multiple factors. Thanks to the large scope of actions covered in the tool, from animal rearing to breastfeeding education and counselling, prevention of adolescent pregnancy and household water treatment, newcomers were able to see how their regular work supports nutrition outcomes. It also gave UN colleagues from different United Nations agencies an increased understanding of the singular efforts that the other United Agencies were undertaking. Furthermore, the tool made strategic comparisons between the concentration of UN nutrition actions and stunting levels by province, revealing that UN support was not always most concentrated in provinces with the greatest stunting burden. Together, the findings provided a foundation upon which to build a collective vision for the country UNN, later articulated in a common UN Agenda on Nutrition (2019-2023).

**FIGURE 19. Excerpt from the UN Nutrition Inventory in Burundi (2018), conducted with support from the UNN Secretariat and the Chad UNN-REACH Facilitator**



In Lesotho, the UN Nutrition Inventory was conducted and engaged seven agencies (FAO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and the World Bank), including some that were not traditionally involved in nutrition. At the national level, it revealed that sixteen interventions and thirty enabling environment actions were supported by two to four agencies, underscoring the need for effective coordination to avoid duplication of efforts. The findings also

indicated that implementation support provided by the participating United Nations agencies clustered around the following three thematic areas.

- Nutrition interventions through reproductive and paediatric services
- IYCF
- Nutrition-related Disease Prevention and Management

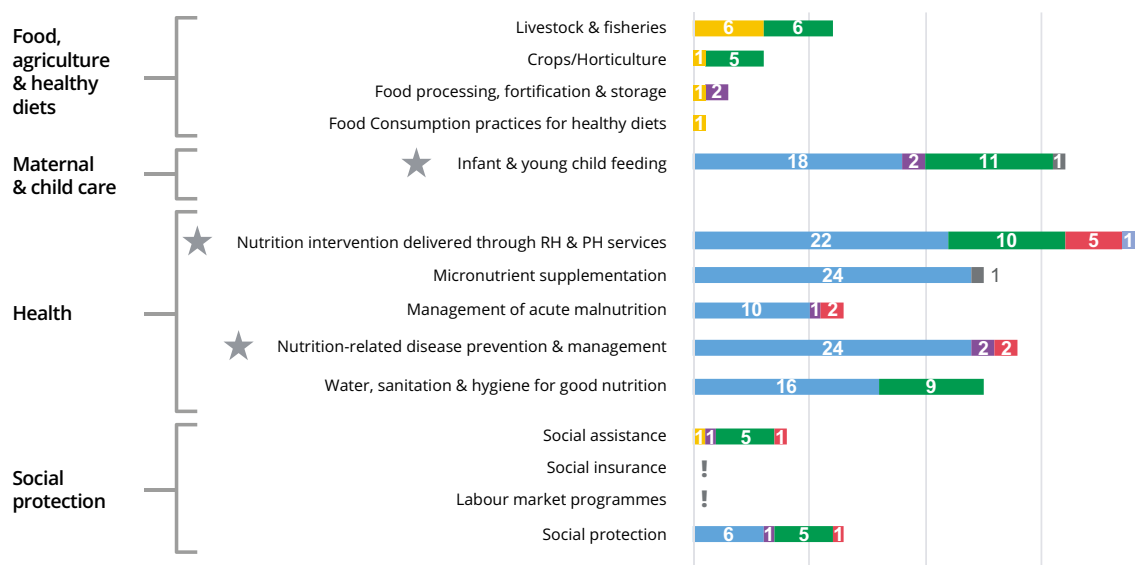
**FIGURE 20. Excerpt from the UN Nutrition Inventory in Lesotho (2019) conducted through UNN-REACH**

Three thematic areas are being supported by more than 3 UN agencies, which can be further examined to ensure complementarity, avoid duplication of efforts and exploit synergies



**Number of actions reported by participating agencies**

# action instances



★ More than 3 UN agencies working on a thematic area

■ FAO ■ WHO ■ WFP ■ UNICEF ■ UNFPA ■ World Bank ■ UNAIDS

Source: UN Nutrition Inventory



While the three areas are predominantly related to the health sector, IYCF also encompasses other sectors, such as agriculture, social protection, labour, women’s empowerment and industry, providing opportunities to enhance multi-sectoral linkages. Overall, the exercise created an appetite for increased

collaboration among the agencies in Lesotho, identifying concrete opportunities for increased synergies. UN colleagues felt that the Inventory was so helpful that additional United Nations agencies should be encouraged to participate, and furthermore, that it should be updated on an annual basis.



## 4.2. UNN ANALYTICS AS AN AVENUE FOR NUTRITION CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

In addition to helping country UNNs enhance their functionality as a collective network, the UNN analytics provide an entry point for building nutrition capacity. They provide a practical means for national teams, including government staff, to strengthen data management capacity at both national and sub-national levels. Exercises such as the mapping use innovative web-based platforms, such as District Health Information Software, Version 2 (DHIS2),

training country-level actors on these tools from data entry to data analysis and automated data visualization functions. This directly enhances a country's ability to generate up-to-date coverage data that benefits multiple parties. It also improves data and communication flows between capital cities and sub-national areas. This, in turn, brings positive knock-on effects for coordination capacity so that government-led coordination mechanisms are able to determine where action should be intensified and how to better allocate resources in order to respond to the country's nutrition needs so that 'no one is left behind'.

Additional examples of how the UNN analytics advanced nutrition governance processes and strengthened nutrition capacity are highlighted in the Window for learning boxes in the next section.



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## 5. Joint UN efforts for nutrition capacity strengthening



## 5.1. STRONG CAPACITY IS PIVOTAL FOR DELIVERING NUTRITION RESULTS AT SCALE

Governments are increasingly acting on the global commitment to end malnutrition in all its forms by enacting policies, strategies and plans that provide a national roadmap for nutrition. Estimates provided in the latest Global Nutrition Policy Review (2018) show that up to 167 countries have either developed a policy, strategy or plan for improving nutrition outcomes and promoting healthy diets across their populace.<sup>32</sup> In spite of these policy commitments, the 2018 Global Nutrition Report noted that less than 50 percent of countries are on track to meet at least one of the nine global nutrition targets and no country is on course to meet all nine. This suggests that countries still face considerable implementation gaps which hinder efforts to combat malnutrition. Without adequate capacity, the effective implementation of nutrition governance frameworks will be comprised at national and sub-national levels, with far-reaching consequences.

To this effect, the third outcome of the UNN results framework (outcome 3) calls for increased human and institutional capacity to support nutrition scale-up at all levels. The UNN, therefore, works closely with governments, including SUN Government Focal Points, as well as other key actors to enhance functional and technical nutrition capacities at the national and sub-national levels. These efforts encompass three dimensions of capacity development, namely: the enabling environment; the organizational level; and the individual level.<sup>33</sup> *The 2019 reporting exercise captured efforts undertaken collectively by United Nations agencies and other UN entities to*

*strengthen nutrition capacity within the enabling environment and organizations.*<sup>34</sup> Whereas the former encompasses legal frameworks, national policies, action plans, parliamentarians, SUN Government Focal Points and staff in government ministries, the organizational dimension includes operational capacity, information systems, staffing levels/the nutrition workforce and governance platforms, such as nutrition coordination mechanisms.

## 5.2. SUMMARY TRENDS IN NUTRITION CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

The following sections outline the support provided by the country UNNs as well as through the UNN analytics to enhance nutrition capacities within the government and across United Nations agencies during the reporting period. Overall, the results show that the UN is collectively investing considerable energy and resources into strengthening such capacities, starting with efforts to assess nutrition capacity needs and formulate subsequent capacity development plans. Many country UNNs had also reportedly provided support to government-based nutrition staff, helping to bolster other capacity development activities. The responses to the 2019 UNN country-level questionnaire also indicated that the majority of UNNs had taken measures to strengthen capacity on common nutrition messaging. Furthermore, the UNNs have been increasingly involved in supporting the development of nutrition policies, strategies and plans in countries. High levels were also sustained to foster multi-sectoral/ stakeholder engagement for nutrition through the UNN's support to MSPs, both national and sub-

32. WHO. 2018. *Global nutrition policy review 2016-2017: Country progress in creating enabling policy environments for promoting healthy diets and nutrition*. Geneva. Available at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/275990/9789241514873-eng.pdf>.

33. Adapted from the Nutrition Capacity Assessment guidance package, developed by the UNN Secretariat in collaboration with the five founding UNN agencies.

34. A number of other capacity development activities were pursued by the United Nations agencies on an individual basis, although these were not reported here in view of the collective lens characteristic of UNN's engagement.

national. The 2019 UNN reporting data also elucidates encouraging trends for strengthening nutrition capacity within the United Nations System. With that said, more efforts are required to strengthen capacity to improve UN coordination, particularly joint delivery of UN nutrition programming in order to reach the UNCT’s full potential. These findings, in turn, serve as helpful inputs to guide future UNN work on capacity strengthening, providing insights for the Nutrition for Growth Summit to be hosted by the Government of Japan.

### 5.3. A CLOSER LOOK AT GOVERNMENT CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

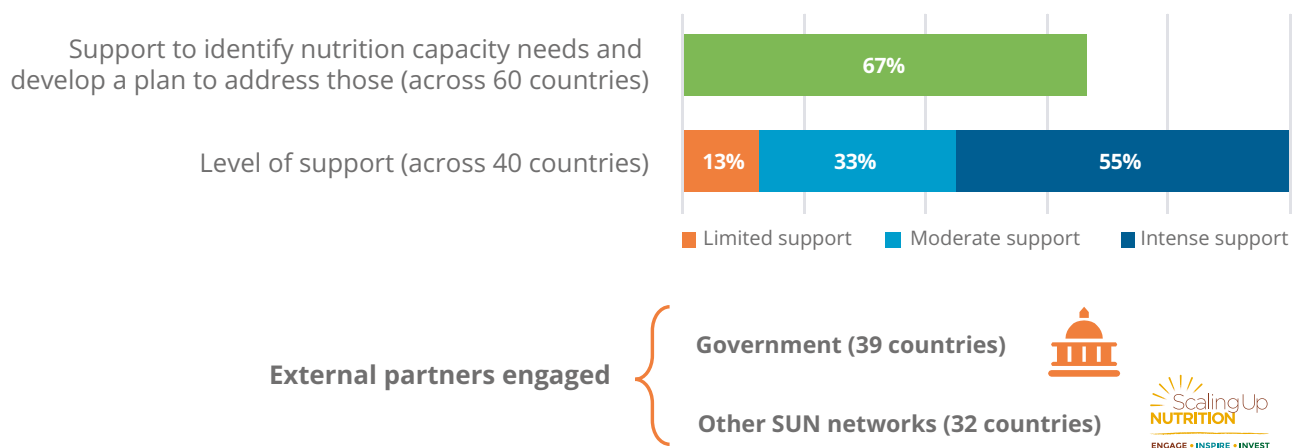
#### UNDERSTANDING NUTRITION CAPACITY NEEDS AND HOW TO ACT

Capacity assessments enable countries to identify capacity gaps and bottlenecks in multi-sectoral

nutrition actions. They can also inform the subsequent design of a capacity development response that may be integrated into a national capacity development agenda for nutrition. In 2019, 67 percent of country UNNs reported efforts to assist governments in identifying nutrition capacity needs and developing a plan to meet them. This represents an increase from figures recorded in the baseline assessment (2016), where only 45 percent of country UNNs had done so. Many of the country UNNs (55 percent) indicated that intense support had been provided, suggesting that significant UN resources had been devoted to identifying and addressing capacity gaps at the country level. These trends were likely influenced by the fact that the 2016 UNN baseline assessment had revealed that the UNN was undertaking substantial efforts to strengthen nutrition capacity without necessarily assessing the needs.

The 2019 reporting exercise also revealed that many of these efforts were jointly undertaken with the government and other SUN networks, thereby helping to maximize impact.<sup>35</sup> Moreover, nearly 60 percent of the activities undertaken covered both national and sub-national levels so that nutrition capacity gaps at the local and community levels could also be taken into account.

**FIGURE 21. UNN efforts to assess nutrition capacity and formulate nutrition capacity development plans (2019)**



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35. Of the 60 SUN countries surveyed, 40 countries responded to this question in the 2019 UNN reporting exercise.

**In Bangladesh,** FAO's Meeting the Undernutrition Challenge (MUCH) policy advisory project provided financial and technical support to conduct an institutional capacity needs assessment for food security and nutrition across selected ministries. The assessment culminated in a set of recommendations that were embraced by the collective UNN, calling for the establishment of organizational development plans, nutrition trainings and strengthening multi-sectoral nutrition policies as well as their respective implementation and monitoring processes. The UNN in Bangladesh is also assisting the government with efforts to implement these recommendations within the Ministry of Food, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

Thanks to the Nutrition Capacity Assessment conducted in **Chad** (2018<sup>36</sup>) and the ensuing five-year nutrition development plan, the country UNN was able to mobilize funding for a new training project (FORMAT-NUT), which is applying the recommendations and guidelines from the assessment. The UNN-REACH facilitators have temporarily been coordinating FORMAT-NUT activities until the project coordinator is deployed.

**In the Philippines,** the country UNN has conducted in-depth assessments and research projects as

part of efforts to identify nutrition capacity needs and provide evidence-based recommendations for nutrition policies. These were pursued by multiple United Nations agencies amounting to a comprehensive package, including: the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis conducted by UNICEF and WFP; qualitative research on the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme (based on conditional cash transfers) carried out by UNICEF; the SAM<sup>37</sup> Bottleneck Analysis conducted by UNICEF; the Food Quantification Study undertaken by FAO; and the Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC) undertaken by FAO and WFP, among others. **Yemen's** UNN carried out a multi-stakeholder review, which in turn, led to the development of a nutrition needs assessment and plan. The **South Sudan** Nutrition Cluster, which comprises United Nations agencies and other partners, identified gaps in the capacities of key nutrition partners. The assessment led to the organization of a series of Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions at both national and sub-national levels to enhance the delivery of nutrition interventions in emergencies. **Rwanda's** UNN supported assessments on maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) and the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI), leveraging UNICEF and WHO expertise and resources. The identified gaps informed the design of a curriculum for community health workers and a review of the counselling tools on MIYCN.

## BOX 7. Window for learning

### Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region: United Nations agencies team up to strengthen capacities for MIYCF in emergencies

A landscape analysis of IYCF in emergencies (IYCF-E), conducted in 2016 by UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), in collaboration with Save the Children, revealed inadequate attention to IYCF interventions in crisis situations throughout countries in the region. This coupled with low investment led to poor IYCF practices, exacerbating levels of acute malnutrition and increasing the risk of infant mortality. To address this challenge, United Nations agencies, including UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP, partnered with Save the Children to prioritize IYCF-E in countries within the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes. The efforts focused on enhancing related capacities at both country and regional levels by undertaking capacity gap assessments to identify specific training needs; providing technical support to the Technical Rapid Response teams in country offices; and providing joint statements to give guidance on infant feeding in the context of the Ebola virus disease (EVD). These measures collectively contributed to improving awareness and enhancing government capacity for addressing IYCF-E. They also helped improve collaboration among United Nations agencies and partners, paving the way for a harmonized and complementary approach with wider coverage to prevent acute malnutrition and safeguard recommended IYCF practices in emergency contexts. As a result, an enhanced continuum of care on IYCF has been established in the region and a strategic reference document on IYCF-E has been developed to guide future efforts, with a view to supporting nutrition gains among vulnerable mothers, infants and children.

36. The Chad assessment was conducted, through UNN-REACH, just prior to the 2018-19 reporting cycle, as highlighted in the 2018 UN Network Annual Report.

37. SAM refers to severe acute malnutrition.

## STRENGTHENING NUTRITION DATA MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING

Adequate data management facilitates country efforts to monitor and report on progress made. It also can guide corrective action to improve nutrition for healthy people and prosperous nations. The collection of nutrition-relevant data in a common repository allows actors to determine where and what nutrition interventions are most needed, helping to

ensure that 'no one is left behind'. According to the findings of the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, the majority of country UNNs (51 out of 60) had worked to improve government capacity in nutrition data management. Of those, 43 UNNs noted that these efforts had prompted key actors to utilize nutrition data in decision-making. These efforts were related to platforms based on DHIS2 in multiple countries, including those directly supported by the UNN Secretariat.

### BOX 8. *Window for learning*

#### Second round of mapping reveals glaring coverage shortfalls and clarifies nutrition priorities in Niger

The UNN works closely with governments and different stakeholders to increase nutrition data availability, particularly nutrition intervention coverage through its increasingly popular mapping tool. Four years after Niger's first mapping exercise, completed under the auspices of UNN-REACH, a second round was initiated in December 2018 thanks to funding from FAO (through its Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation [FIRST] initiative) and the SUN Movement Secretariat (through UNOPs). Niger is one of a growing list of countries to repeat the exercise, with a view to monitoring coverage trends on the path to scale-up.

The exercise engaged eight ministries and over sixty stakeholders, capturing their activity right down to the municipality (*commune*) level. It also expanded the scope of nutrition actions mapped from nineteen to twenty-seven, providing a concrete opportunity to link humanitarian and development workstreams. While this is just one activity, it is a step forward in strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus in the area of nutrition. The idea is that by knowing which interventions have low coverage and which geographic areas are underserved, the government will be better placed to coordinate nutrition actions across stakeholders. The mapping illustrated that intervention coverage varies from region to region. Less than 15 percent of the mapped interventions had a geographic coverage greater than or equal to 50 percent, a sobering wake-up call for many actors. It also revealed that most actions rely on three delivery mechanisms: the health system; community relays; and non-governmental organizations. This underscores the need to explore new partnerships and innovative ways to augment the coverage of these services to vulnerable populations. Consequently, the results have provided a basis for actors to re-frame and better align their efforts to deliver well-targeted packages of prioritized interventions with proven impact across communities.

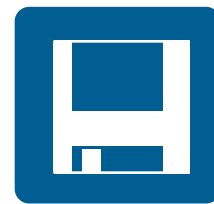
In addition, the mapping identified data gaps and further strengthened data management at both national and sub-national levels. A national mapping team, including government staff, was trained by the UNN Secretariat on the online platform (based on DHIS2 software) and provided subsequent hands-on coaching. The Niger mapping also affirmed the feasibility of integrating mapping data into the National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN), a first for the wider nutrition community. To facilitate this process, members of the national mapping team were invited to participate in NIPN's Technical Committee. "It was unanimously recognized that the mapping exercise was not only a reference tool for monitoring the implementation of the national nutrition plan, but also for advocacy and decision-making at all levels," observed Sarah Cruz, an Analyst at the UNN Secretariat. It has also created an appetite for data-driven policymaking and the review of the national nutrition governance strategy.

**In Lao PDR**, the UNN, through UNICEF, WFP and WHO, worked with other partners to develop a nutrition surveillance system. The platform is currently being utilized by all sectors to inform the mid-term review of the National Plan of Action for Nutrition as well as to formulate its next phase.

**Ethiopia's** UNN, via UNICEF, supported the establishment of a Unified Nutrition Information System, which contains both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive data, using DHIS2. The system

enables governments to collect and analyse data from different nutrition implementation sectors, helping it and other nutrition actors (including United Nations agencies) obtain a holistic view of the situation. **In the Comoros**, the UNN conducted trainings for health workers on data collection and integration into DHIS2, while the UNN Secretariat trained government staff on the UNN mapping tool, based on the same software.

**In 51 of 60 countries, the UNN provided support to governments in strengthening data management systems for nutrition**



**... prompting the use of nutrition data by relevant actors in 43 countries.**

**In Burkina Faso**, the country UNN is supporting the government's Department of Statistics to pilot the data capture of nutrition programmes in two districts, using the country's DHIS2 platforms. **Mozambique's** country UNN supported a nutrition scoping exercise to inform the development of an integrated multi-sectoral information system on food security and nutrition.<sup>38</sup> The Network also provided financial and technical support for trainings on nutrition planning and monitoring at both national and sub-national levels. In **Myanmar**, the Network has collectively funded various nutrition positions in government as well as the UNN-REACH Facilitator, who directly

supports efforts to improve multi-sectoral nutrition governance. WHO has funded five nutrition-related staff positions within the government in order to step up the country's nutrition data management capacity. In addition, UNICEF and WFP have funded other nutrition positions within government, further helping to build a robust nutrition workforce in the country. These efforts attest that country UNNs are actively taking measures to ensure that governments are well-equipped with tools and data management skills to support evidence-based policy and action for improved nutrition outcomes.

38. This differed from the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping, conducted through the tool developed and supported by the UNN Secretariat.

## BOX 9. Window for learning

### Joint UN efforts help integrate nutrition indicators in Guinea's Health Information System

Like several countries, the Government of Guinea is committed to achieving the global nutrition targets by 2025. Efforts to chart progress were, nevertheless, hampered by the lack of indicators fit for purpose. To strengthen the national nutrition surveillance system, United Nations agencies, including UNICEF, WFP and WHO, partnered with *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF) and Hellen Keller International (HKI) to provide support to the Ministry of Public Health's Nutrition Information and Health Information System Department. The support enabled an analysis of the nutrition indicators utilized in the collection of data through maternal and child health services. The analysis also examined data gaps, data quality and data utilization for clinical, programmatic and strategic decisions. Furthermore, it identified opportunities to address these gaps with the aim of enabling the country to monitor the nutritional status of Guinean citizens. A set of key indicators was developed and added to the existing list of indicators, in line with the country's nutrition profile.

Based on results of the analysis, Guinea's DHIS2 tool and other data collection tools were revised so that the new indicators could be incorporated into the existing platforms. The agencies also worked together to strengthen the competencies of national staff for undertaking child growth assessments to identify all forms of malnutrition, ensuring data validity during data collection and timeliness of reporting. In addition, trainings were conducted to strengthen the skills of health workers in utilizing nutrition data at all levels. Through this demand-driven and government-led initiative, the TA collectively provided by United Nations agencies engaged in the UNN led to a detailed mapping of healthcare services that collect nutrition data as well as the main indicators collected.

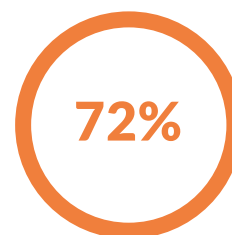
## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE NUTRITION WORKFORCE

As many as 72 percent of country UNNs reported the provision of financial support to government-based nutrition staff in 2019. This support took various forms, including funding to attend nutrition-related trainings, workshops and events. For instance, the UNN in **Cambodia** provided financial resources to enable government participation at international trainings and conferences, to hold national workshops and consultations as well as to support the process of developing the national nutrition strategy.

**Cameroon's** UNN, through UNICEF, seconded

personnel to the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Fight against Malnutrition as part of greater UNN efforts to improve multi-sectoral coordination and programme delivery. **In Liberia**, UNN-REACH along with the various United Nations agencies persuasively advocated for the government to formally nominate a SUN Focal Point, a development that materialized in 2019. The UNN in **Indonesia** provided financial support for staffing at the national SUN secretariat. In addition, UN staff was seconded to the Ministry of Education and Culture as well as the District Education Office in the Pidie district to support the provision of nutritious school meals at both national and sub-national levels.

**In 43 of 60 countries, the UNN provided financial support to government-based nutrition staff.**





**In Mali**, UNN-REACH has provided financial support to the National Nutrition Coordination Unit (*Cellule de Coordination de la Nutrition*), helping to animate the multi-sectoral approach in the country. **Nepal's** UNN, through UNICEF and WFP, has supported two staff positions in order to assist the effective implementation of the country's Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan. **In Zimbabwe**, the UNN funded three national staff positions within the Ministry of Health and Childcare, including a Deputy Director for Nutrition, Nutrition Measurement and Evaluation Officer and a Communications Officer. The Network also provides salary support for 330 Ward Nutrition Coordinators, employed by the Ministry of Health at sub-national level.

*"In a difficult environment, the continued support from the UN Network has ensured the retention of critical staff for nutrition."*

Government nutrition staff, Zimbabwe

The above efforts attest UN's commitment to ensuring that there is government capacity to deliver on the national nutrition agenda, while also encouraging governments to allocate increased domestic funding to nutrition.

## STRENGTHENING NUTRITION ADVOCACY

Considering the diversity of nutrition's crowded landscape, it is critically important to find common ground and speak with one voice in order to place nutrition high on the political agenda of countries. Over the years, the UNN, including UNN-REACH, has made concerted efforts help actors establish a common nutrition language and articulate common messaging. These types of exercises often provide a prime opportunity to define targets and clarify how actors will work towards shared nutrition goals. The results from the 2019 reporting cycle show that country UNNs are substantially contributing

to nutrition advocacy efforts to attract increased attention to and investment in nutrition. The majority of country UNNs (80 percent) had reportedly taken measures to build the capacity of national and local actors to generate common nutrition messaging in order to inform or strengthen nutrition advocacy. These activities ranged from supporting the development of common nutrition narratives to assisting efforts to establish nutrition advocacy and communications committees and the development of advocacy and communications strategies.

80%



**In 48 of 60 countries, the UNN provided support to national and local actors to generate common nutrition messaging.**



## BOX 10. Window for learning

### UN-led advocacy leads to enhanced parliamentary engagement in Eastern Africa

Evidence suggests that frameworks anchored in legislation are more effective for fostering sustainable improvement in nutrition outcomes.<sup>39</sup> With standing legislative and budgetary powers, Members of Parliaments are critical partners in the quest to attain food and nutrition security. Yet, the role of parliamentarians can only be effectively harnessed if they are nutrition savvy. The United Nations agencies in Eastern Africa have therefore worked together to engage parliamentarians in the regional and national nutrition agendas to help address systematic challenges, such as the weak implementation of policy frameworks, and accelerate progress on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) goals.

FAO, UNICEF and WFP kicked off these efforts by co-organizing a dialogue to sensitize parliamentarians on measures they can take to support the achievement of nutrition targets. The participants were enthusiastic and committed to jointly establish sub-regional platforms to facilitate related experience sharing among parliamentarians. In addition, the agencies jointly supported the participation of parliamentarians in major nutrition events, such as the SUN Global Gathering, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Meeting on Nutrition and the Global Parliamentary Forum on Food Security and Nutrition. The United Nations agencies also carried out capacity building activities for Members of Parliament, supported the development of national alliances for food security and nutrition and provided support to foster strategic partnerships between regional organizations (e.g. the African Union), regional economic communities and academic networks.

Overall, these efforts led to increased awareness of among parliamentarians on nutrition issues and their role in tackling them. The efforts culminated in the launch of the Eastern African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in April 2019, which brings together ten countries and two regional economic communities (e.g. the East African Community and Intergovernmental Authority on Development). Three new parliamentary alliances were also established in Djibouti, Somalia and Uganda, with discussions underway to establish similar ones in South Sudan and the Sudan.

This regional milestone has already contributed to related advancements at the country level. In Djibouti, measures are being taken to consolidate separate but related coordination mechanisms (e.g. nutrition, food security, social protection, child well-being). These developments have also helped address legislative gridlock in Uganda on a food and nutrition bill that had been pending for years. The bill was since revamped and the country's Food and Nutrition Policy was revised in preparation for its adoption by the Office of the Prime Minister.

*Many of these efforts were supported by UNN-REACH during the 2018-19 reporting period, illustrating its high engagement in this aspect of nutrition.* For example, the UNN-REACH facilitators in **Burkina Faso** worked with the SUN Government Focal point, colleagues from the UN agencies and the UNRC as well as other nutrition stakeholders to spearhead the development of a Common Nutrition Narrative.<sup>40</sup> Launched in late 2018, the narrative serves as the bedrock of

successive SUN activity in the country from the capital to sub-national areas. The process of developing the common narrative was highly participative, thanks to the neutral facilitators, providing an opportunity to nurture the collective spirit of the SUN Movement and reaffirm commitment among SUN actors in the country. While developed by UNN-REACH, the document outlines a set of recommendations for each of the six SUN networks (including UNN) as

39. FAO. FAO Regional Office for Africa. FAO, lawmakers call for stronger political commitment and funding to end Hunger in Eastern Africa. Available at <http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/1173613/>.

40. UNN-REACH. *Narratif Commun du Réseau des Nations-Unies pour la nutrition au Burkina Faso*. Ouagadougou. Available at <https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/sites/default/files/documents/files/Common%20UNN%20Narrative-Burkina%20Faso-18Apr2019%20%28Final%29.pdf>.

well as for the SUN Government Focal Point, key ministries and decentralized government authorities. **Chad's** UNN, including through UNN-REACH, was actively engaged in the development of a nutrition advocacy strategy to bolster the operationalization of the country's Inter-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Action Plan, 2017-2025 (PAINA). **In Zimbabwe,** UNN-REACH facilitation services also supported the development of the country's Food and Nutrition Advocacy and Communication Strategy and Plan (2019), which addresses emerging challenges such as rising levels of overweight, obesity and dietary related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Furthermore, the collective UNN, including UNN-REACH, supported the establishment of Zimbabwe's Food and Nutrition Knowledge Hub, which provides a one-stop repository for all multi-sectoral activities relating to nutrition and food security. The UNN-REACH Facilitator in **Lesotho** also played an instrumental role in strengthening government capacity for nutrition advocacy, including efforts to support His Majesty King Letsie III in his activism on the topic. This

included the formulation and operationalization of a road map for strengthening the capacity of Lesotho's Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office (FNCO) in the area of advocacy. The road map has also enriched H.M. The King's Advocacy Plan on Nutrition. In collaboration with the Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN), the UNN Secretariat produced a **podcast** on the *Power of nutrition champions*,<sup>41</sup> leveraging UNN-REACH experiences in **Sierra Leone**. The podcast explores the tactics that the UNN-REACH Facilitator used to engage parliamentarians and to position nutrition as critical for the nation's wellbeing and prosperity. These efforts helped transcend nutrition from a technical issue with a narrow following to a political priority for Sierra Leone, paving the way for increased commitments to nutrition. The podcast also interviewed, the UNICEF Country Representative, who was chairing the UNN at the time and a representative from Irish Aid, who praised the facilitator for his ability to couple soft skills with nutrition data, including that generated and visualized through the UNN analytical tools.



41. To listen to the podcast, visit <https://www.enonline.net/mediahub/podcast/nutritionchampionsierra Leone>.

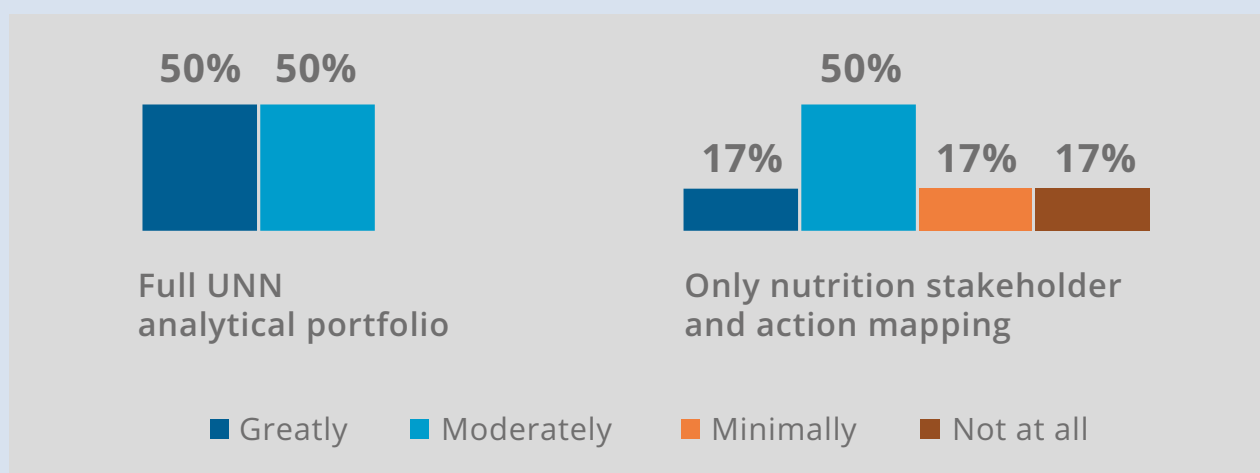
## BOX 11. Window for learning

### UNN analytics generate incisive inputs for advocacy at country level

The UNN analytical tools<sup>42</sup> have captured the attention of decision-makers and have raised awareness about the social and economic consequences of malnutrition. They have also identified population groups and geographic areas most adversely affected within a given country, thereby bringing inequities into focus. Results from the recently conducted impact assessment revealed that findings generated by the analytics have assisted efforts to **advocate for increased budgetary allocations to nutrition** by governments and/or donors, among other uses. The tools had also reportedly enriched efforts to ensure that nutrition benefits from alternative and/or innovative financing, especially in emergency contexts where funding sources are most expedient.

In Ghana, the findings played a significant role in the development of a common analysis of ongoing investments in nutrition as well as in identifying investment gaps. The analytics have also played a critical role in positioning nutrition as a multi-sectoral issue and inspiring new actors to enter the nutrition arena, as observed in Myanmar. Visual outputs from the analyses were also used to sensitize high-ranking government officials in the country, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and ministers, to bolster political support. In particular, the findings from the mapping exercise were instrumental in identifying gaps in intervention coverage. This, in turn, generated demand for the development of a new national nutrition plan that was grounded in context-specific data and launched in July 2018.

**FIGURE 22. Impact assessment shows the degree to which UNN tools guided nutrition advocacy at country level**



There are also examples of how the collective Network supported nutrition advocacy outside the UNN-REACH mechanism. In Nigeria, the UNN supported nutrition advocacy efforts which led to the development and dissemination of national guidelines on community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and the government's zero-water campaign (on exclusive

breastfeeding). Other advocacy efforts undertaken by the United Nations agencies in Nigeria prompted government to allocate USD 6.7 million in domestic resources to nutrition. Vietnam's UNN worked, through UNICEF and WHO, to develop key messages on nutrition with a view to raising public awareness on breastfeeding and proper care for newborns during World Breastfeeding Week (2018).

42. Further information about the impact assessment is highlighted in section 4 on the UNN analytics.

## PROMOTING MULTI-SECTORAL/STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN NUTRITION

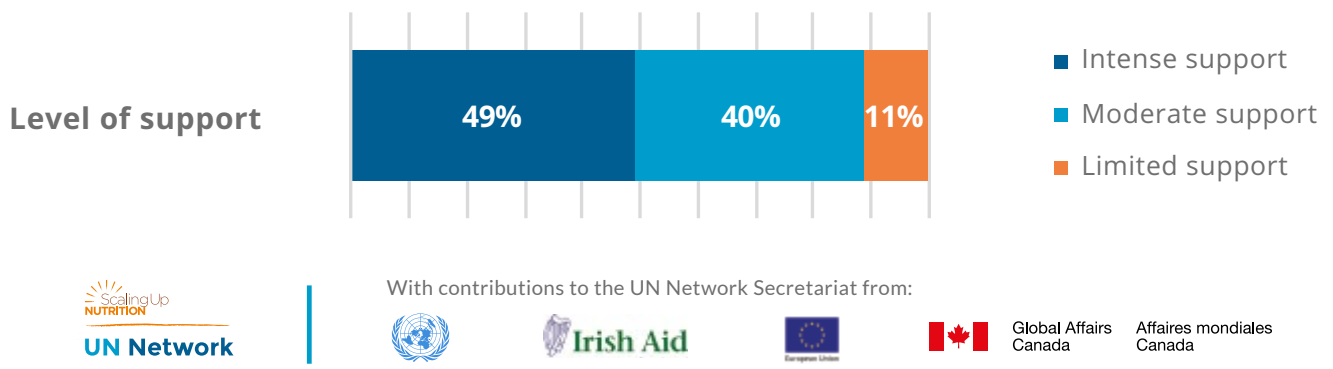
As previously discussed, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement plays an important role in gathering various actors, resources and ideas to tackle the multiple dimensions of malnutrition. In 2019, nearly all country UNNs (90 percent) reported having provided support to either establish or strengthen effective MSPs for nutrition, both at national and sub-national levels. Approximately half (49 percent)

of the countries described the extent of support provided as ‘intense’, while 40 percent qualified it as ‘moderate’, indicating that country UNNs had devoted considerable human and financial resources to ensure the establishment and effective functioning of MSPs.<sup>43</sup> Country UNNs have also engaged in the activities of the MSPs, with 93 percent of countries reporting participation.<sup>44</sup> In some countries, such as **Pakistan**, the UNN’s engagement has contributed to building capacity of decentralized MSPs, called provincial SUN secretariats.

**The UNN provided support to establish/strengthen effective functional MSPs in 54 out of 60 countries.**



**FIGURE 23. Extent of UNN support provided to establish/strengthen MSPs (2019)**



Additionally, 88 percent of the Networks documented efforts to support the SUN Government Focal Point, who is often directly responsible for establishing and facilitating the activities of MSPs. This support focused mainly on strengthening the capacity of the

SUN Government Focal Point to convene different stakeholders in a common nutrition working space. As depicted in Figure 24, most of the efforts undertaken by country UNNs in this regard encompassed both national and sub-national levels.

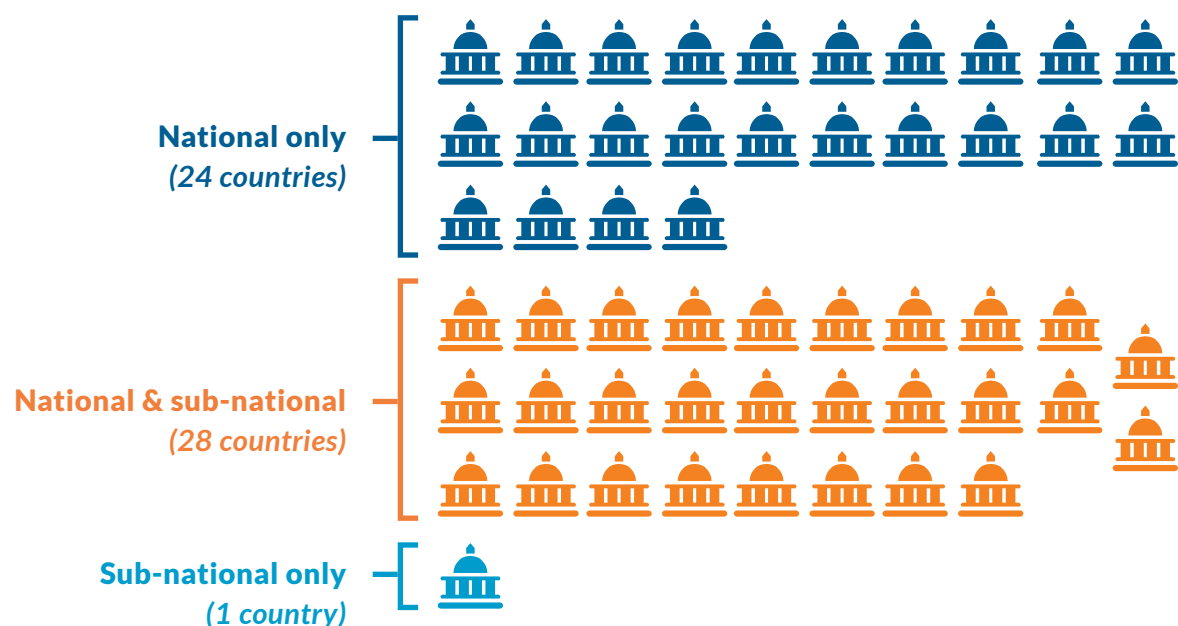
**The UNN supported SUN Government Focal Points or other nutrition authorities and empowered them to bring different stakeholders into a common space in 53 out of 60 countries.**



43. 53 out of 60 country UNNs had qualified the level of collective UN support to MSPs in their responses.

44. Further insights provided in section 3 under the subsection on Engagement in MSPs.

**FIGURE 24. UNN support extended to SUN Government Focal Points and other nutrition authorities at national and sub-national levels (2019)**



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## BOX 12. Window for learning

### UNN analytics are a means for enhancing multi-sectoral/stakeholder coordination

The 2019 impact assessment on the use of the UNN tools revealed that countries, where all five tools had been utilized, had exhibited notable improvements in multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder coordination for nutrition than in countries where only one tool had been deployed. All countries in the former category reported a shift from moderate to great improvement in multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination, as compared to the 80 percent of countries, who reported such impact by utilizing the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping tool alone.

**In Myanmar**, the full set of tools was deployed, motivating additional sectors and stakeholders to engage in nutrition and resulting in enhanced collaboration among them from government ministries to United Nations agencies and CSOs. The analytical exercises were spearheaded by the country's nutrition committee (the NNC) with close support from both the UNN-REACH facilitators and the UNN Secretariat. In many ways, the analytical exercises provided an entry point for multi-sectoral/stakeholder discussions and powered the nutrition coordination engine. This helped to operationalize a well-functioning NNC as well as the Nutrition Sector Coordination Group<sup>45</sup> established in 2017. In addition, the findings from these analytics served as key inputs for the development of the country's first Multi-sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS-NPAN), formulated through a stepwise participatory process led by NNC, engaging this wide group of nutrition stakeholders. The new nutrition plan includes a stream on nutrition coordination and governance, among the document's three streams, with a view to supporting continued improvement in this area. See Box 3, Window for learning for further information about how the UNN supported these efforts in Myanmar.

45. The Nutrition Sector Coordination Group is overseen by the Development Assistance Coordinating Unit under the Ministry of Planning and Finance. Chaired by the Ministry of Health and Sports, the group involves three other ministries vested in nutrition (Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Education; and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement). This arrangement fosters multi-sectoral engagement while leveraging the Ministry of Health and Sports' nutrition capacity, where the National Nutrition Committee (NNC) is housed.

## STRENGTHENING CAPACITY TO FORMULATE MULTI-SECTORAL NUTRITION POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PLANS

In addition to active engagement in MSPs, 97 percent of country UNNs reported efforts to support the development of multi-sectoral nutrition policies, strategies or plans, leveraging the technical expertise of two or more United Nations agencies. This represents a slight increase from figures recorded in 2016, whereby 94 percent of the countries had reported undertaking such efforts.<sup>46</sup> Additional information about the nutrition governance

frameworks supported by the country UNNs during the 2018-19 UNN reporting period is outlined in Table 3. In some cases (Eswatini, Guinea, Madagascar and Malawi), the UNN support entailed a mix of both technical and financial assistance. Other SUN countries (Guatemala and Peru) benefitted from receiving UNN support for nutrition planning at decentralized levels. In Guatemala, the UNN assisted the development of municipal plans to address acute malnutrition in various regions of the country, while in Peru, the United Nations agencies collectively helped to strengthen nutrition plans in several provinces and districts.



**In 58 of 60 countries, the UNN supported the development of multi-sectoral nutrition policies and/or plans.**



<sup>46</sup> Only 47 countries responded to this question in 2016. As a result, the 94 percent noted here represents 44 out of 47 countries.

**TABLE 3. Examples of efforts undertaken by country UNNs to develop multi-sectoral nutrition governance frameworks**

Country	Multi-sectoral nutrition policies, strategies and plans developed with UNN support (2018–19)
Eswatini	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition Strategy
Ethiopia	National Food and Nutrition Policy and Strategy
Guatemala	Response Plan for the Fuego Volcano Emergency, with an emphasis on food security and nutrition Municipal plans to address acute malnutrition in multiple regions
Guinea	National Nutrition Policy Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan on Nutrition
Lesotho	Food and Nutrition Strategy and costed action plan with M&E framework
Madagascar	A costed implementation plan and a corresponding M&E plan to complement the National Nutrition Action Plan (PNAN-III)
Malawi	National Nutrition Multi-Sectoral Policy and Strategic Plan (2018–2022)
Mauritania	Regulatory text/provisions for implementing the Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes
Mozambique	Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (2018–2025) National Strategy on IYCF
Myanmar	Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition, 2018–2022 (MS-NPAN) <sup>47</sup>
Peru	Multi-sectoral plan for addressing anaemia Provincial and district nutrition plans
The Philippines	<p><i>National policies, plans and guidelines on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition for Women of Reproductive Age</li> <li>• Micronutrient Supplementation</li> <li>• Guidelines on Dietary Supplementation</li> <li>• Strategic Plan for IYCF</li> </ul> <p><i>Various legislation and regulations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Nutrition of the Mother and Child Act regarding the first 1000 days and accompanying regulations</li> <li>• Universal Health Care Law/Policy</li> <li>• Maternity Protection Law</li> <li>• National Feeding Law</li> <li>• Tax on Sweetened Beverages</li> </ul>
Rwanda	Early Childhood Development National Strategic Plan (2018–2024) National Nutrition Policy National Social Behaviour Change Communication Strategy for Integrated Early Childhood Development Nutrition and WASH (2018–2024)

47. Further insights about how the UNN supported the development of this plan are reported in Boxes 3 and 12.



**BOX 13. Window for learning****UNN's multi-sectoral TA facility advances efforts to foster policy coherence in Liberia**

As mentioned in Section 4, UNN-REACH supported the initial preparations for the MNO and PPO in Liberia (April 2019) just as the 2019 reporting cycle was coming to a close. While the full MNO results became available at a later stage, a preliminary situation analysis dashboard was prepared, which repackaged existing nutrition data in a more comprehensive, yet summarized format. Actors also set out to take stock of the country's nutrition-related policies, strategies and plans through the PPO. These tools helped provide a clearer picture of Liberia's nutrition landscape, including how it is reflected in various governance frameworks, thus creating fertile ground for increased policy coherence and subsequent parliamentary engagement.

Additionally, the above efforts helped build momentum for a review of the National Nutrition Policy undertaken by the government. The review drew upon UNN-REACH's neutral facilitation services and technical support from the United Nations agencies, involving the Ministers of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Education and Health, among others. The outcomes of the review inspired various ministries to commit to multi-sectoral approaches which give due consideration to nutrition.

## 5.4. IMPROVING NUTRITION CAPACITY WITHIN UN ENTITIES

### UN JOINT PROGRAMMING TO ACHIEVE INCREASED CONVERGENCE ON NUTRITION

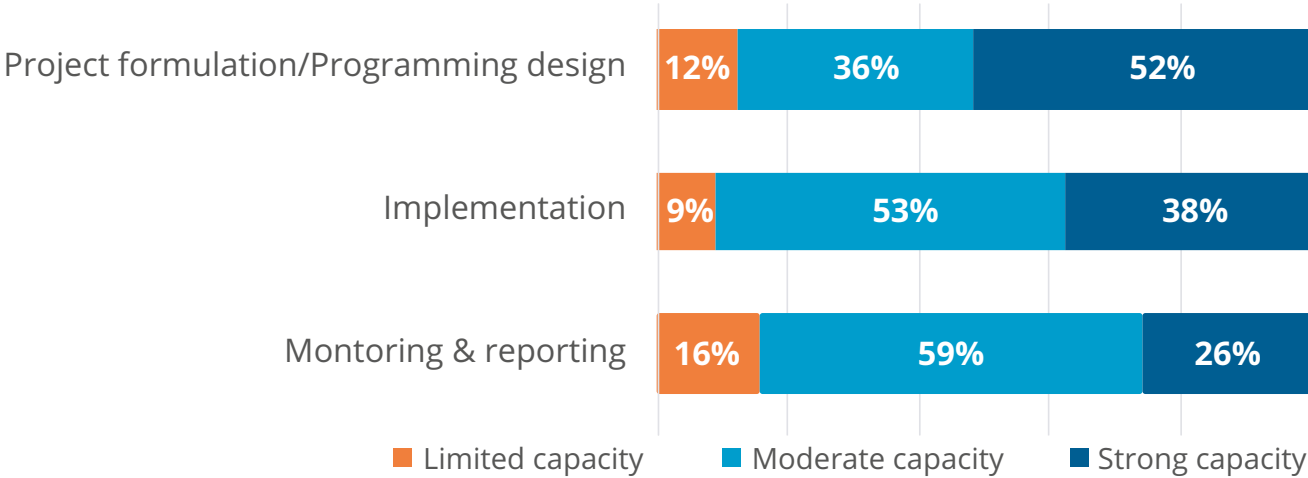
UN joint programming on nutrition, including UN Joint Programmes, brings different United Nations agencies together to execute projects that address malnutrition. The 2019 reporting exercise asked country UNNs to assess UN capacity to pursue joint programming along different phases of the programme cycle, namely: project formulation; implementation; and monitoring and reporting.

As illustrated in Figure 25, more than half of country UNNs (52 percent) declared having 'strong capacity' to design joint nutrition projects/programmes. Most networks also specified that they had drawn on a broad range of tools and/or resources to catalyse these efforts, such as the UNSDCF, CAN, IPC as well as results generated from the UNN analytical tools, such as the UN Nutrition Inventory and the Nutrition

Stakeholder and Action Mapping. With that said, joint programming capacity was notably weaker for the other two phases, with 'strong capacity' dropping to 38 percent and 26 percent in implementation and monitoring/reporting, respectively. Many country UNNs reportedly had 'moderate capacity' for these latter two programming phases.

Together, these results show that while most country UNNs are well-equipped to align nutrition programme priorities at the formulation phase, there may be a shortfall in capacity (or other impediments) with regard to joint implementation and monitoring. This suggests that there is scope for joint implementation and monitoring/reporting to be encouraged and perhaps incentivized, with UN leadership playing a key role in such. It also indicates that UNCTs would benefit from further measures to strengthen capacity for joint programming in these phases across United Nations agencies in the coming year. In addition to proving useful in expanding UNN membership, the UN Nutrition Inventory tool identifies gaps and overlaps in UN nutrition support, highlighting concrete opportunities for increased synergies. This has the potential to spark UN joint programming on nutrition, as demonstrated in some countries during prior reporting cycles (e.g. Burkina Faso, Mali, Rwanda).

**FIGURE 25. Capacity of United Nations agencies to pursue joint programming on nutrition (2019)<sup>48</sup>**



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48. Of the 60-participating country UNNs, fifty-eight responded to this question in the 2019 UNN reporting questionnaire.

## BOX 14. *Window for learning*

### Joint UN nutrition project helps secure a healthy future for mothers and children in Madagascar

Following the El Niño crisis in 2016, Madagascar experienced a three-year drought, which led to a rise in malnutrition levels. The country recorded an annual loss of up to USD 1.53 billion in GDP as a result of child malnutrition, with 45 percent of its children under two years old afflicted by stunting and 8.2 percent from wasting.<sup>49</sup> In both cases, these levels exceeded prevailing WHO thresholds, indicating a problem of public health significance. This prompted the United Nations agencies involved in Madagascar's UNN, including FAO, UNFPA, WFP and WHO, to pilot a joint project, named the *Miaro Demonstration Model for Stunting Prevention*. The project aimed at providing TA to the government in tackling widespread malnutrition among mothers and children, particularly focusing on the first 1,000 days from conception to a child's second birthday as well as on lactating women.

The project combined livelihoods support with comprehensive nutrition and health packages for these target groups in view of their physiological and social vulnerabilities. Essentially, the United Nations agencies worked together to promote breastfeeding and other care practices such as good hygiene behaviours, improvements in water and sanitation, adequate health services, nutrition-sensitive agricultural development and nutrition capacity strengthening for government departments. Every month, women and children received specialized foods (e.g. Nutributter, Super Cereal) to improve their nutritional status. The Project also successfully trained over 200 community workers on growth monitoring, nutrition counselling, home visits and cooking demonstrations on a monthly basis to support sustained nutrition gains. Not only did pregnant and lactating women have the chance to benefit from nutrition counselling, which highlighted the importance of a diverse diet and adequate IYCF practices, but so did men. This helped to support behaviour change in the wider community. Furthermore, the project included measures to safeguard the productive assets of communities, while also contributing to the diversification of their food sources. Through the Miaro project, support was provided to approximately 13,000 children and 7,500 pregnant and lactating women.



Mothers sit under a tamarind tree waiting for nutrition and health care services provided through the Miaro project.



Mothers receive Nutributter, a lipid-based supplementary feeding product provided by the Miaro project in Southern Madagascar.

The effects of the project were felt in Fotadrevo a small town in southwestern Madagascar. According to findings from an impact evaluation, the project had supported a slight reduction in stunting (approximately 3 percentage points) over a two-year period. The evaluation also revealed improvements in dietary diversity and in the number of women who gave birth in health facilities, the latter up from 17 percent in 2014 to 26 percent in 2016. Inspired by these promising results, the United Nations agencies signed an agreement with Madagascar's National Nutrition Office (ONN) and Ministry of Health to scale-up the Miaro project in other areas of southern Madagascar from 2017 to 2019. The results of the Miaro project have also since contributed to the formulation of a national stunting prevention approach, which will be included in the next phase of the country's nutrition action plan. This will help to achieve further improvements in dietary diversity, health-seeking behaviours, etc. to support further declines in stunting and economic prosperity for the island nation.

49. The statistics presented here are those submitted by UN colleagues in the country case study as part of the 2019 UNN reporting exercise.

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## ENGAGING THE UNRC AND THE UNCT IN THE NATIONAL NUTRITION AGENDA

Recent calls for stronger UN ‘delivery as one’ have led to the elevation of the UNRC’s role through UN reform, which went into effect in early 2019. As the official representative of the UN Secretary-General in each country, the UNRC is responsible for coordinating the operational activities of the United Nations development system in support of national efforts towards realizing the 2030 Agenda. The UNRC provides leadership and creates an environment where inter-agency collaboration is valued within the UNCT. This makes the UNRC uniquely positioned to champion collective UN action on nutrition, as embodied by the UNN platform.

It is also vital for ensuring that the big nutrition players within the United Nations System harmonize their work with other United Nations agencies and work in partnership. Similarly, it is important in that the UNRC is a lever for promoting the participation of other United Nations agencies in the country UNN, and thus in the national nutrition agenda. In addition, the UNRC can advocate for the inclusion of nutrition in the political agenda among the highest-serving members of government, while supporting its visibility within the UNSDCF to enable a holistic approach to nutrition. These efforts help to ensure that nutrition spans across sectors, the portfolio of work of different United Nations agencies and the humanitarian-development continuum, leveraging the UNRC’s capacity as Humanitarian Coordinator in many countries.

The UNN Secretariat has, therefore, stepped up its outreach to UNRCs, helping to mobilize a growing list of them and make them nutrition savvy,

as discussed in section 3. Fourteen countries are benefitting from strong UNRC engagement in UNN activities, including: Bolivia; Burkina Faso; Burundi; the Comoros; Indonesia; Lesotho; Liberia; Mali; Nepal; Nigeria; the Philippines; Sierra Leone; Zambia; and Zimbabwe. The efforts are starting to bear fruit with a sizable proportion of country UNNs (70 percent) noting that they had taken measures to engage the UNRC in the nutrition agenda. In addition to UNRCs being formal members of the Network (e.g. **Congo, Costa Rica**), other countries have different ways of involving this pivotal UN figure. **In the Comoros**, the UNRC’s Office hosts the UNN-REACH facilitator, who leads the Network. Other tactics adopted have been to systematically include nutrition considerations in the UNRC’s talking points for meetings with high-level government officials as pursued in **Lao PDR. Rwanda’s** UNN, including the chair and the other agency representatives, had regular encounters with the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator about nutrition issues, which culminated in the development of a UN Joint Programme.

These developments are encouraging not only from a strategic perspective but also from a results-based standpoint. Further analysis of the 2019 UNN reporting data illustrated that UNRC engagement in the Network had a positive effect on UNN functionality at the country level. This was exhibited when comparing the average overall UNN functionality index+ score of countries with UNRC engagement (9.5) to the average of those countries without UNRC engagement (8.4). While this did not necessarily alter the category of UNN performance, which was high in both cases, the analysis did indicate the difference was statistically significant.

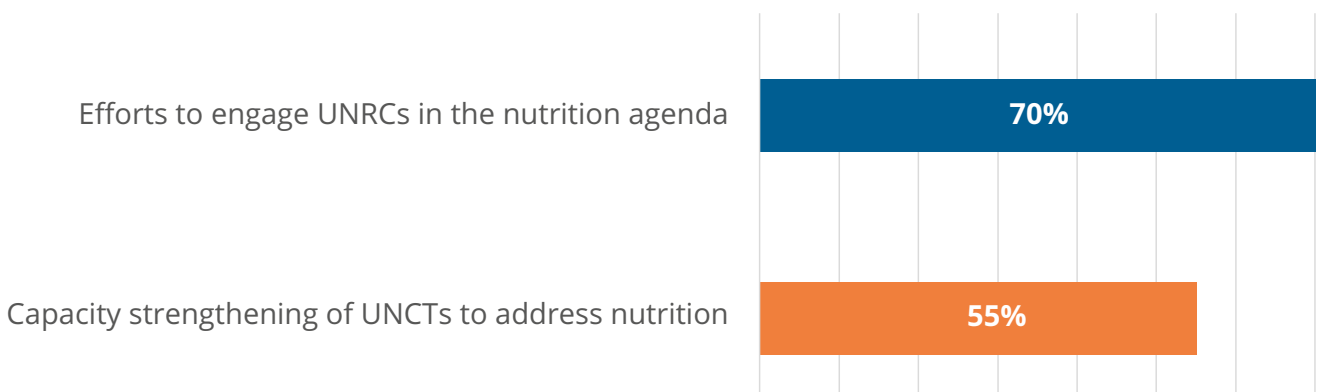
**BOX 15. Window for learning****UNRC in Burkina Faso waves the nutrition flag and embraces UNN-REACH support in promoting collective action**

The UNRC in Burkina Faso, Ms. Metsi Makhetha, is hailed as a UNN champion thanks to her efforts to create a common space and her commitment to joint action on nutrition. In an exclusive interview with the UNN Secretariat,<sup>50</sup> Ms. Makhetha underscored the need to transcend traditional ways of working in order to achieve shared results. She oversaw the nominations of the UNN chair and vice-chair in the country and validated the UNN workplan, soliciting regular updates on its implementation. She also acknowledged how “UNN-REACH provided the platform for the UN to stay connected to the rest of the actors, with the SDGs as a collective goal.”

In addition, Ms. Makhetha actively partook in the process to develop a Common Narrative on Nutrition, developed under the auspices of UNN-REACH. The narrative covered six SUN networks and largely drew upon UNN-REACH analytics and insights to frame joint approaches. Her engagement undoubtedly helped bring momentum to the process, through which the actions being undertaken by the five UNN member agencies in-country (FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) were articulated along with specific nutrition targets.

She is also deeply committed to building bridges between humanitarian and development actors/assistance. Later in the interview, she went on to say that, “In the context of connected outcomes, we need to meet others halfway. It could be that you are seeing the gap in infrastructure for WASH [water, sanitation and hygiene]. Can you reach out to a partner on the development side?” Cognizant of the challenges, she realizes that incentives are needed, but also that collective action calls for increased flexibility in resourcing, including finances. Aspiring to the day when “resources should not be looked at from an agency perspective but guided by what results or outcomes they will contribute towards,” she is skilfully doing her bit in creating a climate for more collaborative action, seizing the UNN platform as a means to that end.

**FIGURE 26. UNN leverages the UNRC and UNCT to advance the nutrition agenda (2019)**



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50. The full interview was recently published in the UNN's Tale Be Told, Series 1 (2019), which is available at <https://bit.ly/36BUNGn>.

Led by the UNRC, the UNCT is another leverage point for building robust nutrition capacity within the United Nations System, understanding that it is the primary inter-agency mechanism for UN coordination and decision-making at the country level. In 2019, 55 percent of country UNNs had reportedly undertaken efforts to strengthen the capacity of the UNCT to address the nutrition agenda or challenges in the country. As previously discussed, the UNN in **Burundi** supported the development of a UN Nutrition Agenda for the 2019–2023 period, which encompasses as many as eleven agencies in the UNCT.<sup>51</sup> Another example is **Costa Rica**, where the country UNN has engaged the UNCT by promoting joint activities on nutrition through joint meetings and joint planning. In **El Salvador**, the country UNN sensitized the UNCT on the impact of drought on the nutritional status of smallholder farmers to capture the attention of

non-traditional UN actors. **Namibia**'s approach is most impressive in that nutrition is a standing agenda item for UNCT meetings for which technical staff are required to provide updates. As part of the North East Emergency Response in **Nigeria**, the UNCT is regularly updated on the nutrition situation in the region, particularly noting challenges and resource gaps.

Together, the engagement of the UNRC and the UNCT in nutrition are crucial for attracting increased attention to nutrition, including the integration of nutrition indicators in joint UN frameworks, such as the UNSDCF, as well as within the individual programme documents of agencies. The UNN Secretariat will continue to encourage UNRC engagement in nutrition, while working towards expanded UNN membership in more countries in order to harness the full potential of the UNCT.



51. These United Nations agencies include: FAO, IFAD, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, WFP and WHO.

## 6. Discussion



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## 6.1. MAIN CHALLENGES AT COUNTRY LEVEL

As captured in the earlier sections of this report, the UNN demonstrated strong performance during the 2018–19 reporting period. From the Network’s functionality to its analytical services and nutrition capacity strengthening, it made concerted efforts to deliver on its overarching objective and boost collective action towards shared nutrition results. Challenges, however, remain that influence the rate of progress.

Nearly all the country UNNs surveyed (57 out of 60) shared information about the main challenges they faced as a network. Although specific dynamics vary from country to country, recurring challenges are highlighted below in an effort to discern patterns and inform follow-up. The lack of sufficient human and financial resources was by far the most frequent barrier cited (39 countries) with regard to advancing the nutrition agenda over the course of the reporting cycle. This is very much consistent with the challenges discussed within the wider nutrition community. It is also likely linked to the limited capacity of implementing partners reported by some of the countries (9 countries), further underscoring the need to strengthen implementation capacity in order to achieve results at scale.

Other challenges concerned stakeholder dynamics, such as inadequate coordination among United Nations agencies and other actors (14 countries or nearly 25 percent) and competing priorities between humanitarian and development agendas (9 countries). Moving forward, increased UNRC engagement in nutrition and expanded UNN-REACH support are two ways to address these bottlenecks. Low government commitment to nutrition was also cited as a challenge, a striking finding given the considerable efforts undertaken by country UNNs to place and sustain nutrition on the political agenda, including the

sensitization of parliamentarians and mobilization of senior UN leadership at the country level. Additional countries may benefit from similar and/or intensified support in the future. To a lesser extent, country UNNs reported a lack of up-to-date nutrition data and the limited availability of nutrition (UNN) focal points as main challenges encountered during the reporting period. The UNN-supported mapping exercise is helping to address data gaps in intervention coverage, as more and more countries look to the Network for these types of action-oriented, decision-making tools. As the UNN continues to gain recognition and the UN reform gains traction, UN nutrition focal points may be more apt to allocate time to the collective UN nutrition agenda, particularly where improved results can be directly attributed to increased UN collaboration. The UNN Secretariat is committed to addressing this knowledge gap to help impart learning and replicate good practices in other countries, including those who have not joined the SUN Movement.

## 6.2. CONCLUSION

The 2019 UNN reporting exercise measured the functionality of country UNNs. It also was an opportunity to document UNN collaboration with other SUN networks as well as the collective efforts of United Nations agencies to strengthen capacities for nutrition-relevant governance processes, frameworks and actions within Government and the UN System. The overall results from the UNN functionality index+ illustrated that 90 percent of the 60 country UNNs were highly functional in 2019 up from 82 percent in the previous year. This improved performance indicates that United Nations agencies are paying more attention to nutrition at the country level and working more collaboratively in this area. The results also show that United Nations agencies and entities are progressively utilizing the UNN as a mechanism for increasing UN coordination and convergence on nutrition.



In addition, the reporting exercise revealed that there are different forms of the UNN beyond formal 'country UN [nutrition] Networks'. Alternative arrangements frequently took the form of Development Partners Groups or nutrition working groups, which in many cases, constituted either a combined UN-Donor Network or a rallying together of technical experts from different institutions on the nutrition agenda. This suggests that a one-size-fits-all approach is not feasible or necessary in order to carry out collective UN action on nutrition. These findings are consistent with those of the SUN Strategic Review, which noted that "Given that the SUN Movement is time limited, and given the importance of country ownership and sustainability of nutrition action, merging SUN structures into country structures is essential."<sup>52</sup> Furthermore, these other arrangements can also be useful for expanding multi-sectoral/stakeholder engagement in nutrition, serving as a platform to engage other key stakeholders beyond the United Nations agencies.

Other impressive findings from the 2019 reporting exercise include the UNN's increasing levels of engagement with UNRCs (70 percent) and United Nations agencies (e.g. FAO, IAEA, IFAD, IOM, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN WOMEN, WFP, WHO and the World Bank), who have become members, sometimes even chairs, of the country UNNs. The UNN analytical tools, particularly the UN Nutrition Inventory, have catalysed this expanded membership (e.g. Burundi, Myanmar), helping to unpack the full spectrum of the nutrition actions. The broader suite of analytics has proved to be effective for enhancing UNN functionality – beyond increasing its membership base – and collective action on nutrition, in general. As in previous years, the UNN analytics and their visuals outputs are continuing to help countries

get a grip on multi-sectoral nutrition action in the complicated, crowded and competitive nutrition landscape. Government-led MSPs and SUN Focal Points continue to request this analytical support to inform decision-making and improve coordination across sectors and institutions. Similarly, countries are also continuing to request support from the UNN Secretariat and UNN-REACH to coach them through participatory nutrition processes.

The functionality gains of country UNNs has also likely transpired into the observed rise in collaborative UN measures for nutrition capacity strengthening, targeting both government staff and institutions as well as UN colleagues. This support ranged from financial to technical and catalytic actions. The 2019 reporting data also illustrated that, in many cases, these efforts are reaching sub-national areas closer to the people who need nutrition support most. This is in line with the SUN Movement's interest in promoting decentralized action. It will also be critical for translating advocacy, policy and planning milestones into concrete actions and results. To this end, more efforts are required to strengthen capacity on the implementation of joint UN nutrition programming and the engagement of UNRCs. This will leverage their influence to help ensure that nutrition is a political priority and encourage domestic investment.

In conclusion, the 2019 UNN reporting exercise has demonstrated that country UNNs are generally on track with promoting a systems approach and ensuring increased multi-sectoral/stakeholder engagement for better nutrition outcomes. It also affirms the UNN's commitment to partnership with other SUN networks in pursuit of shared results as well as the need to be flexible to ensure that countries get the support they need.

52. Independent Expert Team. 2020. Strategic Review of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, 2019-2020. Final report. Available at [https://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SUN-Strategic-Review-Final-Report\\_ENG.pdf](https://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SUN-Strategic-Review-Final-Report_ENG.pdf).

## 6.3. THE WAY FORWARD

In 2020 and beyond, the UNN will:

- Intensify engagement with UN leadership at the country level, including UNRCs, with the aim of bolstering political support for nutrition and enabling integrated action and partnerships in line with the SDGs and UN reform.
- Increase participation of non-traditional United Nations agencies in the UNN in more countries to strengthen multi-sectoral engagement, using a systems approach and fostering UN joint programming on nutrition.
- Increase collaboration with other SUN networks (Business, Civil Society, Donor and others) at the country level, leveraging UNN-REACH facilitators where present.
- Continue to provide support (including on UNN analytics) to countries upon request, through its multi-sectoral TA facility to strengthen nutrition governance and coordination processes and tackle all forms of malnutrition.
- Take measures to ensure that UNN analytical tools are used effectively to inform decision-making at the country level.
- Continue to support to SUN processes at global and country level, including the SUN MEAL, SUN task forces as well as SUN platforms (e.g. MSPs).
- Engage with UN regional nutrition advisors to explore pathways for enhancing inter-agency collaboration on nutrition at the regional level.
- Share global knowledge and other resources with UNN colleagues on the ground and link global issues with country experiences/applications as part of ongoing measures to enhance country– global feedback loops.



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## 7. Annexes A-D



## ANNEX A. Functionality index+ results, by country

FUNCTIONALITY INDEX + (n = 60 countries)											
Country	Overall score	Reporting exercise completed	Chair(s) nominated	Focal Points from 3+ United Nations agencies	UNN Strategy/ Agenda	UNN workplan developed/ priorities defined in support of national efforts	UNN's collective agenda tabled at the UNCT	UNN engagement in MSPs	UNN contribution to develop or update nutrition content of any joint UN frameworks	UNN technical support to SUN Focal Point or other government authorities	UN nutrition joint programmes or programming implemented by the UNN
Afghanistan	8	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Bangladesh	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Benin	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Botswana	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Burkina Faso	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Burundi	9	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Cambodia	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Cameroon	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
CAR	6	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Chad	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
The Comoros	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Congo	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Costa Rica	7	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Cote D'Ivoire	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DRC	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
El Salvador	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Eswatini	7	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Ethiopia	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gabon	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
The Gambia	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ghana	8	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1

Denotes countries that received UNN-REACH support during the 2018-19 reporting period.

(continued...)

(... continued)

## FUNCTIONALITY INDEX + (n = 60 countries)

Country	Overall score	Reporting exercise completed	Chair(s) nominated	Focal Points from 3+ United Nations agencies	UNN Strategy/ Agenda	UNN workplan developed/ priorities defined in support of national efforts	UNN's collective agenda tabled at the UNCT	UNN engagement in MSPs	UNN contribution to develop or update nutrition content of any joint UN frameworks	UNN technical support to SUN Focal Point or other government authorities	UN nutrition joint programmes or programming implemented by the UNN
Guatemala	7	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Guinea	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Guinea-Bissau	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Haiti	8	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Indonesia	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Kenya	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kyrgyzstan	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lao PDR	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesotho	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Liberia	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Madagascar	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malawi	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mali	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mauritania	9	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Mozambique	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Myanmar	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Namibia	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Nepal	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Niger	7	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
Nigeria	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pakistan	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

(continued...)

(... continued)

FUNCTIONALITY INDEX + (n = 60 countries)											
Country	Overall score	Reporting exercise completed	Chair(s) nominated	Focal Points from 3+ United Nations agencies	UNN Strategy/ Agenda	UNN workplan developed/ priorities defined in support of national efforts	UNN's collective agenda tabled at the UNCT	UNN engagement in MSPs	UNN contribution to develop or update nutrition content of any joint UN frameworks	UNN technical support to SUN Focal Point or other government authorities	UN nutrition joint programmes or programming implemented by the UNN
Papua New Guinea	8	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Peru	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
The Philippines	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rwanda	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Senegal	8	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Sierra Leone	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Somalia	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
South Sudan	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sri Lanka	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
The Sudan	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tajikistan	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Tanzania	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Togo	8	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Uganda	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Viet Nam	9	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Yemen	9	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Zambia	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Zimbabwe	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Denotes countries that received UNN-REACH support during the 2018-19 reporting period.

## ANNEX B. Menu of UNN analytical tools



### MULTI-SECTORAL NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview (MNO) compiles and synthesizes available data to identify trends, gaps and key messages on the nutrition situation in a given country. It compares data over time and across different geographic levels, bringing into focus inequities and other areas that warrant increased attention. Building on existing public health thresholds, it utilizes visual aids to depict the severity and magnitude of the nutrition situation, helping stakeholders reach a consensus on the specific nutrition challenges faced in the country and their multifaceted causes. The findings of this exercise can subsequently inform the prioritization and implementation of both prevention and response actions. To date, the MNO has been deployed in 27 countries.

The results are validated through multi-sectoral workshops that bring together government, civil society, donors, private sector and United Nations agencies with a role to play in nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific actions. To optimize the utility of the mapping exercise, it is best conducted just prior to or in conjunction with the review or development of a national nutrition plan and/or annual reviews so that key findings can guide future action. The mapping can even be utilized as part of emergency preparedness and contingency and response planning. In addition, the mapping feeds into the SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system, providing action-oriented data about multi-sectoral engagement and intervention coverage. To date, the mapping has been completed in 25 countries with others underway.



### NUTRITION STAKEHOLDER AND ACTION MAPPING

The Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping tool collects data from both government and development partners to provide a comprehensive overview of all actors contributing to the nationally defined core nutrition actions. The mapping also illustrates where each action is taking place and the number of beneficiaries being reached, thereby identifying gaps in implementation at both national and sub-national levels. This helps nutrition coordination mechanisms see where actions need to be scaled up and who they can look to for support. Using the District Health Information Software, Version 2 (DHIS2), the tool also helps countries improve coordination by clarifying the linkages across sectors and stakeholders as well as identifying opportunities for increased synergies.



### POLICY AND PLAN OVERVIEW

The Policy and Plan (PPO) enables key actors to visualize the landscape of nutrition-related sectoral and multi-sectoral policies, strategies, plans and legal frameworks in a given country. It is used by countries to assess the extent to which nutrition is reflected in these governance frameworks, providing recommendations on how nutrition can be mainstreamed into those legal frameworks, policies, strategies and plans. While the exercise is primarily oriented towards national frameworks, it has also encompassed sub-national development plans, helping both to spur action on the ground and bridge national and sub-national workstreams. It is a practical tool for fostering policy coherence and further sensitizing sectoral actors on their respective roles and responsibilities within the nutrition domain. The PPO has thus far been utilized in 15 countries.



## NUTRITION CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

The Nutrition Capacity Assessment is the latest addition to the UNN toolkit, developed in collaboration with its five founding member agencies. The tool helps countries determine capacity needs for the effective scale-up of nutrition actions, encompassing both functional and technical capacities. It provides a holistic (multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and multi-dimensional) instrument for assessing capacity at national and sub-national levels, with the objective of strengthening sustainable capacity for nutrition.

It responds to the need for a basic standardized approach, which can be adapted to the country context and requirements of the assessment. It recognizes governments as the primary stakeholders and ensures that ensuing capacity development activities are relevant. Furthermore, the tool provides a framework that helps define and operationalize capacity assessment as part of broader capacity development initiatives, culminating in a nutrition capacity development plan. In some countries, the tenets of these capacity development plans were integrated into the national nutrition plan. To date, the assessment has been undertaken in 7 countries.



## UN NUTRITION INVENTORY

The UN Nutrition Inventory provides a common, comprehensive framework and language for describing current UN nutrition actions. It allows United Nations agencies in the same country to compare the focus, magnitude and location of UN contributions to nutrition. The UN Nutrition Inventory broadly showcases the geographic concentration of those actions across a given country without generating quantitative coverage data. It, furthermore, documents existing UN joint programming and estimates the size of investments in nutrition. In addition, the Inventory explicitly assesses the alignment between UN actions and government priorities.

These findings provide a strong evidence base upon which to develop a UN vision and priorities for nutrition moving forward (i.e. key elements of a country UN Nutrition Strategy/Agenda and UNSDCF). It is also a practical way to: (a) contextualize the UN Global Nutrition Agenda (UNGNA v.1.0) to country realities; (b) facilitate the engagement of non-traditional United Nations agencies in the nutrition agenda and thus expand UNN membership; (c) foster increased joint programming; and (d) engage the leadership of United Nations agencies as well as UN Resident Coordinators in nutrition. Together with the subsequent UN Nutrition Strategy/Agenda, the Inventory provides a tool against which UN progress on stated nutrition objectives can be meaningfully reviewed. Thus far, the UN Nutrition Inventory has been conducted in 19 countries, using the tool developed by the UNN Secretariat. Two other countries opted to carry out the exercise through a different approach.



## ANNEX C. Coverage of the UNN analytics (2009–2019)

UNN ANALYTICS COVERAGE (n = 32 countries)					
SUN country	Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview (MNO) (27 countries)	Nutrition Stakeholder & Action Mapping (29 countries)	Policy & Plan Overview (PPO) (15 countries)	Nutrition Capacity Assessment (7 countries)	UN Nutrition Inventory (21 countries)
Bangladesh	2010, 2014	2010–11	2014	–	2017
Burkina Faso	2014, 2016	2015	2015–17	2018	2016
Burundi	2014–15, 2017–18	2018	–	–	2018
Cambodia	–	–	–	–	2017*
Chad	2013	2019	–	2018	2016–17
The Comoros	–	2019 (ongoing)	–	–	–
Costa Rica	–	2019 (ongoing)	–	–	2018*
Côte d'Ivoire	2017 (Dashboard only)	2017	–	–	–
DRC	2017 (Dashboard only)	2017–18	–	–	2016–17
Ethiopia	2013	2013	–	–	2013
The Gambia	2017 (Dashboard only)	2017	–	–	–
Ghana	2013, 2016	2013, 2014, 2016	2014	2014	2015
Guinea	2016	–	–	–	2017
Haiti	2016–17	2017–18	–	–	2017
Lao PDR	2009, 2015–16	2009, 2015–16	2009	–	–
Lesotho	2017	2019	–	2017–18	2017–19
Liberia	2019	–	2019 (ongoing)	–	–
Madagascar	–	2019 (ongoing)	–	–	–
Mali	2013, 2017	2016–17, 2018	2016–17, 2018	–	2017
Mauritania	2009	2009	2009	–	–
Mozambique	2013	2013–14	2015	–	2015
Myanmar	2017	2016–17	2015–16 (partially completed)	–	2015–16
Nepal	2013	2014–15	2014	2015	–
Niger	2013, 2016	2014–15, 2018–19	2015	2015	–
Peru	–	2019 (ongoing)	–	–	–
Rwanda	2015	2015	–	–	2016
Senegal	2015, 2017	2015, 2018	2015	2016	2016
Sierra Leone	2011, 2017–18	2011–12, 2018–19	2017–18	–	2017–18
The Sudan	2019	2019 (ongoing)	–	–	–
Tanzania	2013, 2015–16	2013, 2014, 2016	2016	–	2016
The Philippines	–	–	–	–	2016
Uganda	2013	2014–15	2013 (partially completed)	–	–
Zimbabwe	2017 (Dashboard only)	2017–18	–	–	2018

\* **Note:** These two countries undertook the Inventory exercise, using a different approach than that developed by the UNN Secretariat.

## ANNEX D. Coverage of UNN-REACH support (2008–2019)

UNN-REACH COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT STATUS (n = 23 countries)			
Countries	Current	Former	Engagement period
Bangladesh		✓	2010–16
Burkina Faso	✓		2014–19
Burundi		✓	2013–17
Chad	✓		2013–19 (ongoing)
Ethiopia		✓	2012–15
Ghana		✓	2012–16
Guinea		✓	2015–17
Haiti		✓	2015–18
Lao PDR		✓	2008–11
Lesotho	✓		2016–19 (ongoing)
Liberia	✓		2018–19 (ongoing)
Mali	✓		2012–19
Mauritania		✓	2008–11
Mozambique		✓	2012–16
Myanmar	✓		2015–19 (ongoing)
Nepal		✓	2012–16
Niger		✓	2012–16
Rwanda		✓	2012–16
Senegal		✓	2015–18
Sierra Leone	✓		2010–19 (ongoing)
Tanzania		✓	2012–18
Uganda		✓	2012–15
Zimbabwe	✓		2016–19 (ongoing)

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## 8. Annex E. UNN Country Profiles (2018–19)



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	83	Liberia	113
Bangladesh	84	Madagascar	114
The Republic of Benin	85	Malawi	115
Botswana	86	Mali	116
Burkina Faso	87	Mauritania	117
Burundi	88	Mozambique	118
Cambodia	89	Myanmar	119
The Republic of Cameroon	90	Namibia	120
Central African Republic	91	Nepal	121
Chad	92	Niger	122
Union of the Comoros	93	Nigeria	123
Republic of the Congo	94	Islamic Republic of Pakistan	124
Republic of Costa Rica	95	Papua New Guinea	125
The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	96	Peru	126
Democratic Republic of Congo	97	The Philippines	127
El Salvador	98	Rwanda	128
Eswatini	99	Senegal	129
Ethiopia	100	Sierra Leone	130
Gabon	101	Somalia	131
The Gambia	102	South Sudan	132
Ghana	103	Sri Lanka	133
Guatemala	104	The Sudan	134
Guinea	105	Tajikistan	135
Guinea-Bissau	106	Tanzania	136
Haiti	107	Togo	137
Indonesia	108	Uganda	138
Kenya	109	Viet Nam	139
Kyrgyzstan	110	Yemen	140
Lao PDR	111	Zambia	141
Lesotho	112	Zimbabwe	142

## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE (2018-19)



# Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2017
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 8/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	X	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
X	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Afghanistan

In the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the United Nations agencies come together through a combined UN-Donor Network. UN membership includes the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), with the latter two co-chairing the Network on a rotational basis. The UN players draw their 'UNN' strategy and annual workplan from the country's ONE UN Framework, which includes an action plan for nutrition. While the collective nutrition agenda was rarely tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period, this did not hold back UN joint programming on nutrition.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

The UNN in Afghanistan worked closely with other SUN networks during the reporting period, participating actively in the establishment of the country's SUN Business Network (SBN), liaising with the Civil Society Network (CSN) for joint nutrition assessments and co-chairing the UN-Donor Network alongside the Canadian Government. The combined network arrangement embodies partnership between the two constituencies. FAO has also recently initiated a project to engage parliamentarians in an effort to promote nutrition-sensitive and specific policies and legislation.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

During the reporting period, the UNN provided both financial and technical support towards the establishment and maintenance of the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP), facilitated by the SUN Government Focal Point. Such assistance led to an expansion of the SUN Movement to the provincial level, with 20 out of 34 provincial committees now engaged in the work of the Movement.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the country UNN reported undertaking a nutrition-specific joint programme on the management of acute malnutrition within the humanitarian context in view of the prevailing fragility. The joint programme was successfully implemented by UNICEF and WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The UNN played a pivotal role in supporting the formulation and adoption of Afghanistan's Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (AFSeN-Agenda), the National Public Nutrition Strategy and the costing exercise for nutrition-specific actions. As previously discussed, the Network also contributed to the establishment of the SBN and the country's MSP for nutrition.
- Challenges remain in relation to funding nutrition activities and the limited costing support for nutrition-sensitive actions.
- To mitigate these challenges, the UNN is encouraged to table the nutrition agenda more regularly at UNCT meetings and leverage SUN advocacy channels. This will help raise awareness on the importance of nutrition-sensitive actions among non-traditional United Nations agencies and could attract further support for costing activities as well as other nutrition-related interventions.
- The Network could explore opportunities to engage the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the national nutrition agenda, while also expanding its membership base to include agencies beyond those with a direct nutrition mandate. These efforts will foster improved multi-sectoral coordination for nutrition and make for integrated, multi-dimensional and scalable nutrition interventions.



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# Bangladesh

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2010
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Bangladesh

The UN Network (UNN) in Bangladesh is comprised of 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). The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) also participate in the Network's activities on an *ad hoc* basis. The Network utilizes a rotational chairing system that spans across all participating agencies, and is currently chaired by FAO. The country has benefitted from analytical support provided by the UNN Secretariat, utilizing its Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping tool in 2010–11, Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview in 2014, Policy and Plan Overview in 2014, the UN Nutrition Inventory tool in 2017 as well as UNN-REACH facilitation support provided from 2010–2016.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting period, the UNN collaborated with all the main networks of the SUN Movement. The Network supported the establishment of the SUN Business Network (SBN) in Bangladesh through WFP and is currently contributing to the development of its strategy. The Network also worked closely with the Civil Society Network (CSN) to operationalize the Second National Nutrition Plan of Action (NPAN2) and has actively contributed to the revitalization of the country's Donor Network.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The UNN plays an integral role in the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP), facilitated by the SUN Government Focal Point, and actively engages with multiple sectors to advance food security and nutrition policy and programming processes. As part of its engagement, the UNN has conducted trainings for government officials in order to strengthen multi-sectoral capacities for nutrition and has particularly supported efforts to strengthen the National Nutrition Council to enhance multi-sectoral coordination.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- In 2018–19, the UNN in Bangladesh contributed actively to strengthening national nutrition policies, plans and strategies. It also undertook efforts to strengthen the multi-sectoral coordination capacity of the National Nutrition Council and ensure the approval of a national school meal policy and increased advocacy for nutrition.
- In spite of these efforts, the Network faced diverse challenges in advancing the national nutrition agenda, most of which stemmed from the lack of adequate human and financial resources, limited government capacity on nutrition programme implementation and lack of coordination among sectors.
- To mitigate these challenges, the country UNN is encouraged to explore opportunities to engage United Nations agencies beyond those traditionally involved in the nutrition arena. This will help raise awareness about the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition and lead to an increase in the available (human/financial) resources for nutrition. It may also consider undertaking the Nutrition Capacity Assessment to target further capacity strengthening measures. In addition, the Network could benefit from engaging the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the national nutrition agenda to improve the coordination of nutrition actors across sectors and optimize resources.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE (2018 - 19)



# The Republic of Benin

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Benin

The UN Network (UNN) in Benin comprises the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Network has developed an annual workplan and strategy for nutrition and actively ensures that the nutrition agenda is regularly tabled at UN Country Team (UNCT) meetings.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

The UNN has collaborated with the civil society and other human rights organizations to implement nutrition-relevant projects, although examples of collaboration with the formal SUN networks were not indicated.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

In 2018–19, UNN provided technical and financial support to Benin's National Council on Food and Nutrition, which is the country's multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition, facilitated by the SUN Government Focal Point. The Network also supported the establishment of new functional multi-sectoral platforms, such as the Nutrition-Health Technical Advisory Group under the Ministry of Health as well as a multi-stakeholder committee for monitoring the Zero Hunger National Strategic Review. In addition, the UNN has also contributed to strengthening nutrition consultation frameworks at the community level.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Benin's UNN recorded notable achievements during the reporting period including: the development of the National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Policy; the evaluation of the National Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding; as well as contributions to multi-stakeholder and community level engagements for nutrition.
- In spite of efforts to coordinate different sectors under Benin's Common Results Framework for the Fight against Chronic Malnutrition (2016-2025), UNN encountered difficulties in operationalizing the framework at the community level. The country UNN has acknowledged the need for improved technical and financial support to accelerate the validation of the country's National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Policy and to update the Strategic Plan for Food and Nutrition Development (PSDAN).
- To mitigate these challenges, the UNN is encouraged to provide country partners with tools and facilitation resources. Such efforts would engage different stakeholders at various levels (national and sub-national) both to enhance understanding and awareness of the policy and to highlight the role of each stakeholder in its operationalization. The country UNN is also encouraged to explore opportunities to engage United Nations agencies beyond those traditionally involved in nutrition. This will help increase understanding of the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition and could lead to an increase in the available resources (human/financial) for nutrition.
- Similarly, engagement of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the national nutrition agenda could foster improved coordination for nutrition and make for integrated, multi-dimensional and scalable nutrition interventions in the country.



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# Botswana

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN APRIL 2015
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 3/10
- SOMEWHAT FUNCTIONAL (LOW)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	X	X	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
X	X	X	X	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Botswana

While nutrition actions were undertaken by individual United Nations agencies, the collective UN Network (UNN) in Botswana was largely inactive from May 2018 to April 2019.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

Not specified

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Not specified

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The UNN in Botswana faced operational challenges during the reporting period which hindered its participation in the 2019 reporting exercise. These challenges underscore the need for enhanced multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination for nutrition. A functional and inclusive UNN, that draws its membership from agencies even beyond those traditionally involved in nutrition, can help to improve the situation, including the state of nutrition coordination. Such engagement would increase awareness about the multi-dimensional nature of nutrition and allow stakeholders from different sectors and at various levels to understand their role in advancing the nutrition agenda.
- UNN is encouraged to undertake efforts to regularly discuss nutrition at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in order to bolster the buy-in of United Nations agencies and elevate nutrition on the development agenda.
- Efforts could also be made to actively engage the United Nations Resident Coordinator in nutrition to improve related coordination. This would facilitate better integrated and scalable nutrition interventions in the country.
- Botswana's most recent United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF), 2017–2021 considers nutrition under two of its outputs. Subsequently, there is scope for the UNN to strengthen collaboration for nutrition among the United Nations agencies (including joint programmes/programming/projects) by leveraging the provisions on nutrition in the UNSDF.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Burkina Faso

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JUNE 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Burkina Faso

The UN Network (UNN) in Burkina Faso is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2018–19, the Network was chaired by UNICEF, with WFP serving as the vice-chair. Since December 2014, Burkina Faso has benefitted from the support of UNN-REACH,<sup>1</sup> which provides on-the-ground neutral facilitation support for nutrition through designated facilitator(s).

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the UNN in Burkina Faso collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (RESONUT) to finalize a draft decree on the Marketing Code for Breast-Milk Substitutes and advocate for "Tax-Free Importation of Food Fortification Products for the Prevention and Treatment of Malnutrition", targeting parliamentarians. The UNN also collaborated with the SUN Donor Network (SDN) to develop a nutrition investment case for the Global Financing Facility, alongside donors such as the World Bank, Power of Nutrition and European Union. The Network further supported the establishment of Burkina Faso's Academia and Research Network for Nutrition (RECANUT) and assisted the Parliamentary Network in its efforts to implement the Ouagadougou commitments. Lastly, UNN-REACH helped galvanize actors to develop a common narrative, embracing the country's SUN Movement architecture, to guide collective nutrition action in the future.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

UNN has been engaged in the Technical Committee of the National Council on Food Security as well as the Technical and Financial Partners (PTF) Nutrition Group and its advocacy sub-group. The PTF Nutrition acts as a sectoral group in emergency situations within which the UNN has remained committed to enhancing nutrition coordination and technical solutions.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

The country UNN reported undertaking a joint programme on capacity building for nutrition education and food safety, which targets school teachers and rural training institutes. Another joint programme is being developed for the prevention of chronic malnutrition in four communities within Burkina Faso's Eastern region.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- During the reporting period, Burkina Faso's UNN successfully provided support: (1) for the integration of nutrition in local development plans through UNN-REACH; (2) to establish RECANUT; and (3) to finalize the Marketing Code for Breast-Milk Substitutes. The Network also contributed substantially to the development of the 2019 Food and Nutrition Crisis Response Plan, providing support to the National Food Security Council.
- The Network has, nevertheless, experienced difficulties in adopting the national nutrition policy and action plan as well as with establishing clear linkages between nutrition and other sectoral frameworks. To mitigate these challenges, the UNN could continue to draw upon the findings generated through UNN tools and UNN-REACH facilitation support to give impetus to the development, endorsement and progressive operationalization of multi-sectoral policies and plans at national and sub-national levels. Such efforts seek to engage different stakeholders and bring together humanitarian and development actors to further enhance understanding and ensure coordinated actions for nutrition.
- The Network is also encouraged to continue to work closely with the United Nations Resident Coordinator on the national nutrition agenda, while also expanding its membership base to include other United Nations agencies, who support nutrition outcomes. These efforts will foster improved multi-sectoral coordination and make for better integrated, multi-dimensional and scalable nutrition interventions.

1. REACH stands for the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition partnership.



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# Burundi

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY 2013**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

<b>UNN Reporting Exercise Completed</b>	<b>Chair(s) Nominated</b>	<b>Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies</b>	<b>UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place</b>	<b>UNN Workplan Developed</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT</b>	<b>UNN Engagement in MSP</b>	<b>Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks</b>	<b>Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities</b>	<b>Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming</b>
X	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Burundi

The UN Network (UNN) in Burundi is chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and also comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN).

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting period, UNN supported efforts to revitalize the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) and undertook several activities jointly with the SUN Business Network (SBN). The Network also reported undertaking nutrition-related activities with the academic network.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The UNN supported efforts to develop the Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (2019–2023), employing a consultative process.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the UNN undertook a joint project on Rural Community Strengthening for Food and Nutrition Security (TUBEHONEZA) to accelerate the achievement of SDG 2. It also supported efforts to formulate joint nutrition programming, such as a nutrition-sensitive project implemented in the Ngozi province as well as an EU-funded nutrition project.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The UNN in Burundi attained various results during the reporting period in advancing the country's nutrition agenda. Some of them include the implementation of the UN Nutrition Inventory, which contributed to the development of a common nutrition agenda for United Nations agencies and the expansion of UNN membership to UNFPA, UNHCR and UN WOMEN.
- The Network also supported the development of a Strategic Nutrition Plan for the Health Sector and a multi-sectoral nutrition project alongside the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.
- In spite of these achievements, the Network faced several challenges, many of which stemmed from inadequate human and financial resources as well as inadequate coordination for multi-sectoral programming.
- To mitigate these challenges, the UNN is encouraged to more regularly table nutrition at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings. This would help to foster greater buy-in from agencies beyond those traditionally engaged in nutrition and increase awareness of the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition. The Network could also benefit from engaging the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the national nutrition agenda, while further broadening its membership base to all the agencies mentioned in the common agenda. These efforts will facilitate improved coordination for nutrition and make for integrated, multi-dimensional nutrition interventions at large scale.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Cambodia

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JUNE 2014
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Cambodia

The UN Network (UNN) in Cambodia is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) acting as the chair. During the 2018–19 reporting period, the UNN contributed substantively to the development of Cambodia's new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2019–2023 (UNSDCF), where nutrition is considered under two outcomes and further highlighted as one of four accelerators required for the country to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the country UNN engaged with other SUN networks through its participation in national consultation and coordination platforms, the co-organization of nutrition-related events, the implementation of joint programmes and undertaking joint research projects. More specifically, UNN actively participated in the establishment of Cambodia's Business Network and has since worked with members of the Network to enhance their contribution to the nutrition agenda, especially in the context of salt iodization and the production of specialized nutritious foods. The UNN also worked closely with Government, the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) and the SUN Donor Network (SDN) to identify strategic priorities and formulate a new National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

During the reporting period, the UNN actively participated and contributed to several multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) for nutrition, including: the Technical Nutrition Working Group for Social Protection, Food Security and Nutrition; the Food Security Forum; the Nutrition Working Group; as well as the sub-national meetings of SUN networks held in selected provinces. A multi-stakeholder Humanitarian Response Forum was also established and includes a Food Security, Nutrition and Cash Working Group, which ensures the protection of food and nutrition security in emergency contexts.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

While the UNN pursued various joint efforts on nutrition during the reporting period, it did not undertake joint programming *per se*.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Among the achievements of Cambodia's UNN during the reporting period, it supported: (1) the formulation of an inclusive National Strategy for Food and Nutrition (2019–2023) and Cambodia's Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) Strategy; (2) the finalization of a nutrition-sensitive UNSDCF (2019–2023); and (3) the approval of joint monitoring indicators for nutrition (2019–2020). It also carried out a joint formative research project on Risk-Informed and Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems to assess the potential of such systems in ensuring access to essential needs (including nutrition) when shocks present. Furthermore, the UNN supported the development of a guideline on Growth Monitoring and Promotion.
- In spite of these achievements, the UNN faced challenges in accessing current national data for decision-making, planning and reporting. Other challenges were experienced with the private sector, particularly in the final stages of the establishment of the SUN Business Network (SBN), and in attaining effective sub-national coordination for nutrition.
- To mitigate these challenges, the UNN could consider prioritizing the improvement of national nutrition surveillance systems, while also working closely with the SUN Government Focal Point to promote the establishment of sub-national MSPs to improve coordination for nutrition at local levels.



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# The Republic of Cameroon

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY 2013
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

## Overview of the UN Network in Cameroon

The UN Network (UNN) in Cameroon is chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and is also comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). During the 2018–19 reporting cycle, the UNN made notable efforts to bring the nutrition agenda to the forefront of discussions at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the UNN supported efforts to establish the SUN Business Network (SBN) in Cameroon by engaging actively in discussions with the private sector. UNN also collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) to follow-up on the Code of Marketing for Breast-Milk Substitutes, food fortification with micronutrient powders (MNPs) as well as Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes. In collaboration with the SUN Donor Network (SDN), the UNN mobilized resources for financing nutrition-related UN programmes on the ground. It also worked with the Academic Network to undertake a review of Cameroon's nutrition training curricula.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Cameroon's UNN participated in the meetings of various nutrition coordination mechanisms, namely: (1) the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Fight against Malnutrition (CILM); (2) the Nutrition Sector Group; and (3) the Food Security Cluster.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- During the reporting period, UNN contributed to the successful validation of Cameroon's National Nutrition Policy. The Network also assisted efforts to advocate for budgetary allocations for nutrition among related ministries. Furthermore, the Network made substantive contributions to the development and integration of nutrition in Cameroon's recent United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), which covers the 2018–2020 period.
- In spite of these efforts, progress was hampered by insufficient human and financial resources as well as the irregular nature of multi-sectoral platform meetings.
- To mitigate the challenges faced, the UNN could explore opportunities to develop and implement joint programmes with United Nations agencies and other partners, helping to pool resourcing for nutrition interventions. The country UNN is also encouraged to explore opportunities to engage the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the national nutrition agenda, while expanding its membership base to include agencies beyond those with a direct nutrition mandate. These efforts will foster improved multi-sectoral coordination for nutrition and make for integrated nutrition interventions that are more conducive to delivery at scale.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE (2018 - 19)



# Central African Republic

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY 2017
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 6/10
- MODERATELY FUNCTIONAL (MEDIUM)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✗	✓	✗	✓	✗

## Overview of the UN Network in Central African Republic

The UN Network (UNN) in the Central African Republic (CAR) takes the form of a technical nutrition working group and does not have a formal chair. The group is comprised of four United Nations 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). During the 2018–19 reporting period, the collective nutrition agenda was never tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, which may have hindered joint UN action in this area.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

Some nutrition-related activities were undertaken with the country's academia and parliamentary networks although further details were not provided.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

CAR's technical nutrition working group participated actively in the meetings of the National Multi-Sectoral Technical Committee and provided technical assistance, where required. This included support to the SUN Government Focal Point with regard to the development of the 2019 Nutrition Roadmap, the Strategic Nutrition Plan and the national nutrition policy.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting period, the group undertook several projects jointly (e.g. 2019 national SMART survey), but it did not carry out UN joint programming *per se* in the area of nutrition.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The working group achieved some notable successes during the reporting period, especially in the development of national governance frameworks on nutrition, such as strategies, roadmaps and plans. For instance, the group supported efforts to develop the National Nutrition and Food Security Policy and the workplan of the National Plan for Early Recovery and Peacebuilding.
- Nevertheless, the group faced challenges in advancing the national nutrition agenda due to inadequate nutrition capacity among partners and the prioritization of emergencies in programme delivery. These challenges underline the need for better multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination for nutrition, a problem which can be mitigated by the presence of a broad-based and inclusive UNN that draws membership from agencies beyond those with a nutrition mandate. Such engagement enhances awareness on the multi-dimensional nature of nutrition and positions it as a pillar that can be leveraged for efficient interventions and positive outcomes in both development and humanitarian contexts.
- Both the appointment of a chair and the engagement of the United Nations Resident Coordinator could help the group regularly table nutrition at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in order to foster increased buy-in among other United Nations agencies and further elevate nutrition on the national development agenda. These measures would further serve to improve coordination and make for better integrated nutrition interventions with increased coverage in the country.



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# Chad

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MAY 2013
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Chad

The UN Network (UNN) in Chad, chaired by the World Food Programme (WFP), is also comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). UNN focal points also serve on a technical nutrition working group, which ensures that the national nutrition agenda is tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings. Since 2013, Chad has benefitted from hands-on neutral facilitation support for nutrition, through two UNN-REACH facilitators (one national, one international).

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting period, UNN helped rally the eight SUN networks to develop annual joint workplans. UNN-REACH has also played a pivotal role in leading and supporting the SUN Chad Alliance, a coordination mechanism bringing together nutrition actors from different SUN Networks (UN, Parliamentarian, Scientific, Champion's, Civil Society and Journalists).

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

During the reporting cycle, UNN supported the Permanent Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition (CTPNA) in the development of an annual workplan and the establishment of nutrition coordination mechanisms at national and sub-national levels. The UNN has also strengthened the National Nutrition Council (CNNA). Moreover, in-country UNN-REACH facilitators have been effective change agents with the SUN Government Focal Point for aligning the nutrition agenda and joint programming, resource mobilization, advocacy plans and evidence generation through the UNN's portfolio of analytical tools. In addition, the UNN mobilized resources for strengthening sub-national nutrition governance through setting-up ten provincial committees that serve as nutrition coordination mechanisms.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

The country UNN reported undertaking a joint programme, FORMANUT, on local production of fortified foods in the area of infant and young child feeding (IYCF), alongside national and international NGOs, members of the academic community and the Chadian government.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- UNN-REACH, the main driver of the SUN Alliance, has fuelled the momentum of different stakeholders to work together effectively on achieving nutrition goals by showcasing the contributions of different sectors to nutrition and the importance of joint work. In 2019, the UNN Secretariat supported the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping exercise, which equipped national stakeholders with a solid data repository that is used for advocacy and programmatic purposes. The UNN achievements also included positioning the National Council on Food and Nutrition at the Presidential level and contributions to the development of a nutrition advocacy strategy.
- The main priorities raised by the country UNN are the following: (1) to foster more predictable joint nutrition funding; (2) to operationalize the Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Action Plan; and (3) to help bridge humanitarian and development interventions.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Union of the Comoros

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER 2013**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Comoros

The UN Network (UNN) in the Comoros is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). UNICEF and WHO co-chair the Network, which uses a rotational chairing system. The country UNN has made regular efforts to table the nutrition agenda at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting cycle and plans to conduct the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping exercise, supported by the UNN Secretariat at the beginning of 2020.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

While the SUN Donor Network (SDN) and SUN Business Network (SBN) are yet to be established in the Comoros, the UNN played an active role in setting up the country's SUN Civil Society Network (CSN), which was founded on 31 August 2018.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

No explicit information was reported on multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs), yet the Network has supported civil society engagement in the coordination and implementation of nutrition actions. The UNN has also been continuously supporting the SUN Government Focal Point by providing advisory services on annual planning for nutrition and facilitating the completion of the SUN Annual Joint Assessment.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting period, UNN has fostered the implementation of joint programmes on nutrition, including a project involving all four agencies in the Network (FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO). The project was primarily aimed at: (1) strengthening good food and nutrition practices; (2) strengthening services for the prevention and management of acute malnutrition; and (3) improving nutrition governance.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Some of the top UNN achievements in the Comoros during the reporting period include the implementation of joint nutrition programming as well as other efforts, such as a joint project carried out by FAO and UNICEF focused on the development of a dietary guidelines to promote good nutrition in households and the activation of a Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Action Plan in relation to Tropical Cyclone Kenneth in 2019.
- Despite its high score on the functionality index, the country UNN has been facing challenges in sustaining momentum for the national nutrition agenda.
- The main priorities for the next reporting cycle can be summarized as follows:
  - 1) The establishment of a functional MSP;
  - 2) A resource mobilization plan; and
  - 3) Strengthened and tailored national management capacity for nutrition.



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# Republic of the Congo

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN OCTOBER 2013
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	X	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Congo

The UN Network (UNN) in Congo is co-chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Additional members include: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO).

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting period, Congo's UNN worked with civil society organizations (CSOs) in an effort to provide humanitarian support in certain provinces. The CSOs were particularly engaged in the establishment of decentralized nutrition coordination mechanisms in these provinces. In Congo, the UNN also worked with the SUN Donor Network (SDN) to develop a publication on the role of parliamentarians in the fight against malnutrition. The two networks co-organized a parliamentary briefing on nutrition, helping to enhance the functionality of the country's Parliamentary Agency for Food and Nutrition.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Not specified

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the country UNN provided joint support for a nutrition-sensitive School Feeding Programme.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The country UNN actively contributed to the development of strategic nutrition documents, such as the National Nutrition and Food Security Policy and the Operational Plan for Fighting Malnutrition.
- While no particular challenges were highlighted by Congo's UNN in the 2019 reporting exercise, the findings highlight a lack of engagement in multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs).
- To this effect, it is proposed that the Network support the SUN Government Focal Point in efforts to establish an MSP, if non-existent, and to participate more actively in such platforms. MSPs play an integral role in heightening awareness on the multi-dimensional nature of nutrition among various stakeholders and sectors. Similarly, they help foster partnerships that enhance collective action for improved nutrition impact and broader development.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Republic of Costa Rica

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MARCH 2014**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 7/10**
- **MODERATELY FUNCTIONAL (MEDIUM)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✗	✓	✓	✓	✗

## Overview of the UN Network in Costa Rica

The UN Network (UNN) in Costa Rica is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, the Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO) actively participates in the Network's activities, helping to cultivate a climate for inter-agency collaboration. The collective nutrition agenda was, nevertheless, rarely discussed at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings. Costa Rica is preparing for a Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping with support from the UNN Secretariat, which will take place in 2020 and may help to engage other United Nations agencies.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting period, the UNN engaged with civil society organisations (CSOs) to expand and strengthen the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN). The UNN plans to further identify and engage other CSOs that play a key role in food security and nutrition, leveraging the results of the mapping. Efforts are also underway to outline areas of possible collaboration between UNN and other SUN networks. In the meantime, Costa Rica's UNN has continued to work with other groups, such as the Parliamentary Front against Hunger and Malnutrition and similar groups within the legislative assembly to bolster political support.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The agencies involved in the UNN worked together to consolidate and strengthen the country's SUN Movement Platform, alongside partners such as the Centre for Education and Nutrition and Children's Centre for Comprehensive Care (CEN-CINAI) and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS). In 2018–19, the country UNN provided technical assistance to the SUN Government Focal Point in her efforts to secure high-level commitment from the Government for tackling child and adolescent overweight and obesity.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Various joint efforts were pursued by the constituent members of the UNN in Costa Rica although not joint programming on nutrition.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The country UNN achievements within the reporting year include: (1) positioning nutrition at the highest political level; (2) evidence generation to strengthen national nutrition surveillance; and (3) the articulation of a strategic plan for nutrition actions across United Nations agencies and other partners. The UNN also worked jointly to contribute to the development of the National Development and Public Investment Plan (2019–2022), ensuring that nutrition was well-reflected.
- Priorities of the UNN for the next reporting period are: (1) mobilizing joint resources for nutrition; and (2) strengthening inter-agency coordination to leverage synergies.



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# The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JUNE 2013
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Côte d'Ivoire

The UN Network (UNN) in Côte d'Ivoire is chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and also comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Network was one of the countries that often tabled the collective nutrition agenda at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, which likely served to enhance the functionality of the UNN.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the country UNN worked closely with the other main SUN networks. For example, UNN collaborated with the SUN Business Network (SBN) to facilitate the evaluation of the Private Sector Engagement Strategy. The UNN also supported sub-national workstreams, such as the implementation of the Community Multi-sectoral Strategy for Nutrition in collaboration with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN). Furthermore, UNN worked in partnership with the World Bank and African Development Bank (both members of the SUN Donor Network [SDN]), to implement nutrition and early childhood development projects in support of nutrition gains.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The national council for nutrition, food and early child development (CONNAPE) avails its coordination bodies to the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM), based in Abidjan. While primarily purposed as a knowledge management repository, the CERFAM also acts as a multi-sectoral/stakeholder platform (MSP) that fosters South-South Cooperation for tackling hunger and malnutrition in the region. The UNN, through WFP, has played an active role in both the establishment and effectiveness of the Centre. During the 2018–19 reporting period, the UNN has also supported coordination efforts regarding the implementation of the country's National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan (2016–2020).

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Côte d'Ivoire's UNN reported undertaking a joint campaign on Vitamin A supplementation in 2018–19.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The UNN in Côte d'Ivoire achieved several milestones in 2018–19, including: (1) building government capacity on South-South Cooperation for nutrition; (2) community assessments towards the development of a Community Multi-sectoral Strategy for Nutrition; (3) the development of norms and procedures for baby-health facilities in the country; and (4) the establishment of a National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Information Platform (PNMIN) to better track progress on scaling up nutrition actions.
- The country UNN has faced some challenges and identified the following priorities moving forward: (1) strengthening multi-stakeholder coordination; and (2) increasing investment to support the government's efforts to advance the nutrition agenda.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Democratic Republic of the Congo

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MAY 2013**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Democratic Republic of Congo

The UN Network (UNN) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is chaired by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and is also comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The UNN also interacted with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Nutrition Cluster, where United Nations agencies engage in joint discussions with other partners to discuss ways of scaling up nutrition actions in both humanitarian and development contexts.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, UNN supported efforts to revitalize the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) as well as to establish the SUN Business Network (SBN). The country UNN also participates in the activities of the Donor Network (GIBNUT) and has made efforts to rally parliamentarians in the nutrition agenda by organizing nutrition sensitization workshops. In addition, UNN engaged the media in order to foster common nutrition messaging and enhance advocacy for nutrition.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

During the reporting cycle, UNN actively participated in multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) at sub-national level, with the support of FAO, UNICEF and WFP.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, DRC's UNN reported undertaking and/or formulating joint nutrition programming, through: (1) a multi-sectoral project on the prevention of chronic malnutrition, including in the South Kivu province, funded by the Swiss Cooperation; (2) a project on resilience; (3) a country-wide HIV project; and (4) two pilot nexus programmes in the Kasai and Tanganyika provinces. Three of the programmes utilized a humanitarian-development nexus approach and covered several thematic areas, such as nutrition, food security, WASH, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, HIV and health.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The country UNN was reported to be an important broker for the DRC's Humanitarian Response Plan (2018) and for revitalizing the SUN networks as well as pursuing considerable UN joint programming. In addition, the pilot humanitarian-development nexus programmes can be considered as important nutrition achievements, informed by the UN Nutrition Inventory conducted in 2017.
- The main challenges and priorities include resource mobilization, implementation of accountability mechanisms and capacity building at national/provincial levels in terms of coordination and communication.



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# El Salvador

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2012
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 8/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✗	✓	✗

## Overview of the UN Network in El Salvador

The UN Network (UNN) in El Salvador is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), and is co-chaired by FAO and WFP. According to the findings from the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, nutrition was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the country UNN engaged with the Academia and Parliamentarian Networks, sensitizing parliamentarians on nutrition-sensitive food systems. The UNN also supported the establishment of the SUN Business Network (SBN) in El Salvador.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

At national level, the United Nations agencies engaged with the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) and contributed to the process of updating the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security and its corresponding Strategic Plan. This involved supporting the SUN Government Focal Point and holding national and local consultations, where multiple actors participated. In addition, El Salvador's UNN provided technical support to the Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee for Breastfeeding as part of efforts to protect and promote optimal breastfeeding practices for good nutrition.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Among its accomplishments, the UNN in El Salvador: (1) implemented the emergency assessment and response to the 2018 drought in a timely and coordinated manner; (2) supported the Government in generating evidence in food security and breastfeeding, thereby strengthening data-based decision-making processes; and (3) carried out various advocacy activities with the private sector to establish the SBN and invite it to join the MSP. Furthermore, the UNN supported the SUN Government Focal Point on other nutrition-sensitive plans and standards. The country UNN also encouraged nutrition to be placed on the national and territorial political agendas as an essential element for development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- El Salvador's UNN cited strengthening collaboration with other SUN networks as a priority for 2020.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Eswatini

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER 2013
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 7/10
- MODERATELY FUNCTIONAL (MEDIUM)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✗	✓	✓	✓	✗

## Overview of the UN Network in Eswatini

The UN Network (UNN) in Eswatini is composed of 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). This membership is impressive, considering the size of the country and the UN presence there. During the 2018–19 reporting period, the collective nutrition agenda was rarely tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings although there is inter-agency dialogue on nutrition at the technical level.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

The other SUN networks (Business, Civil Society and Donor) have yet to be established in Eswatini.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

There was also a lack of a SUN Government Focal Point during reporting period. As a result, UN colleagues, including the United Nations Resident Coordinator, advocated for the Government to identify a replacement, eventually leading to a formal commitment by the Ministry of Health (July 2019) to fast-track these efforts. This will help to regain momentum for multi-stakeholder/sectoral coordination on nutrition.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Despite limited presence of other SUN actors in the country, Eswatini's UNN fostered: (1) the successful integration of nutrition into the health data collection system; (2) evidence generation for nutrition advocacy; and (3) effective nutrition mainstreaming into the broader strategy on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition. The UNN also provided financial and technical assistance to conduct a study on the relationships between HIV and tuberculous treatment and nutrition outcomes as well as a rapid assessment on the readiness of health facilities to manage malnutrition during periods of drought.
- As main priorities, the UN Nutrition Inventory is planned for early 2020 to take stock of nutrition actions supported by the United Nations in the country and to ascertain the extent to which those are aligned with national priorities. The plans foresee the participation of the four member agencies (FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) as well as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The latter two United Nations agencies also make meaningful contributions to nutrition outcomes and may be motivated to formally join the UNN after having completed the Inventory exercise.



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# Ethiopia

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2012
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Ethiopia

Ethiopia's UN Network (UNN) is comprised of 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). The UN and Donor Networks function as a single entity, called the Nutrition Development Partner Forum (NDPF), which meets monthly and is currently chaired by UNICEF. The collective nutrition agenda has been tabled several times at UNCT meetings in 2018–19, helping to positively reinforce the multi-sectoral approach to nutrition.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

The NDPF convenes with the other existing SUN networks (Business, Civil Society and Academia) in the country on a monthly basis. UNN has been supporting the government by seconding technical staff for overall guidance, preparing agendas and minutes as well as facilitating other meeting logistics and follow-up on meetings.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The country UNN is strongly engaged in the national nutrition coordination bodies, including the National Nutrition Technical Committee in charge of the management and implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Policy, the National Nutrition Plan and the National Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Strategy. The UNN also worked with the government to draft a proclamation for the establishment of the Food and Nutrition Council to be led by the Prime Minister. The proclamation was first sent to the Federal Attorney General for review, and then to Parliament, helping to bolster political support for nutrition. In addition, the Network contributed to the development of a multi-sectoral scorecard, a tool designed to monitor the status of multi-sectoral interventions at community level.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

There are many examples of UN joint programmes in Ethiopia. These include an UNICEF/FAO programme, called *Integrated Nutrition Services: Multisectoral interventions to improve nutrition security and enhance resilience* (EU-funded) and an FAO/UNIDO programme on the *Nutrition-sensitive moringa value chain* (funded by the Government of Italy). Both aim to build the resilience of health systems for nutrition emergencies.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- As highlighted above, Ethiopia reached many milestones during the reporting cycle, thanks to valuable support from the UNN. Other achievements include the development, endorsement and launch of the first-ever Food and Nutrition Policy as well as initiating the formulation of its ensuing strategy. These efforts will help to enhance multi-sectoral coordination, and ultimately, ensure accountability.
- Challenges & priorities: Capacity building and coordination at the regional level.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE (2018 - 19)



# Gabon

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER 2016**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Gabon

The UN Network (UNN) in Gabon is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and takes the form of a technical nutrition working group. Chaired by FAO, the Office of the Resident Coordinator is also engaged in the network, helping to strengthen inter-agency dialogue and collaboration. According to the findings from the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting cycle, the UNN collaborated with all SUN networks. Some examples of collaboration include: (1) support to the SUN Business Network (SBN) through the SEQUA project on strengthening food security to improve livelihoods in Gabon; (2) support to the SUN Donor Network (SDN), which fostered the implementation of a project for regulating the bushmeat sector; (3) the establishment of the Parliamentarian Alliance, with UNN's support, to increase the engagement of parliamentary deputies and senators in nutrition as well as the organization of a related sensitization workshop; and (4) support to the Civil Society Network (CSN), which is strongly involved in food safety issues, through its participation in the Codex Committee.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

A multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) for nutrition exists and is active in Gabon. UNN is member of the platform and coordinates the respective nutrition actions of the United Nations agencies at the national level through it. These efforts are part of a greater project on sustainable development that promotes good practices. In addition, UNN has contributed to: (1) the establishment of a national coordination mechanism within the MSP; (2) the elaboration and implementation of the integrated Reproductive, Mother, Infant, Adolescent Health and Nutrition Plan, 2019–2023; and (3) the development of national food-based dietary guidelines (ongoing in 2018–19). Both the integrated plan and the dietary guidelines were discussed within the MSP forum, capitalizing on the expertise of its members.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Gabon's UNN reported various examples of UN joint programming for the reporting cycle. These include a nutrition-sensitive programme on education and the promotion of good practices for sustainable development as well as an FAO/UNESCO initiative which shares best practices on school gardens for improved school and family nutrition. The country UNN also developed a nutrition-sensitive joint programme, which will involve FAO, WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- In addition to the above achievements the UNN in Gabon reported fruitful collaboration between the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the Coordinator of the FAO Office for Central Africa, the Nutrition Champion in Parliament, the SUN Government Focal Point and the President of the National Assembly.
- Resource mobilization for nutrition was challenging, as Gabon is a middle-income country for which UN nutrition budgets are low. Other challenges were related to inter-agency dynamics, such as unequal involvement and leadership of the United Nations agencies in joint nutrition initiatives.
- Among the priorities for 2020, Gabon plans to conduct a Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping exercise, focused on the triple burden of malnutrition and supported by the UNN Secretariat.



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# The Gambia

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JULY 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in The Gambia

The UN Network (UNN) in the Gambia is comprised of five agencies, namely: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which chairs the platform; the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). According to the findings of the UNN reporting exercise, the collective nutrition agenda was frequently tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, which possibly helped to engage other agencies in related UN joint programming (the United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA] and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS [UNAIDS]).

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting period, the SUN networks came together at key moments, such as the UN Assistant Secretary-General/SUN Coordinator's visit, after which follow-up meetings were conducted among the United Nations agencies, leading to accelerated commitments in terms of joint programming. An annual joint self-assessment was completed, that engaged the SUN Government Focal Point and the SUN networks, with the support of coordination structures such as the Nutrition Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) and the National Alliance for Food Fortification (NAFF). In addition, WFP led efforts to establish of the SUN Business Network (SBN), officially launched in November 2019.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

At the national level, NTAC and NAFF meetings were convened as well as "Zero Hunger" meetings, bringing together multiple stakeholders. All five UNN agencies are active in the NTAC and committed to helping the government improve the coordination of nutrition services across different sectors and institutions.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the United Nations agencies partook in various joint programmes that encompassed a range of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions, such as: (1) the integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM), involving both UNICEF and WFP; (2) support on maternal, newborn and child nutrition in selected regions to promote recommended breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, which stitched together the efforts of six agencies (FAO, UNAIDS UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO); (3) social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) on health and hygiene, infant and young child feeding (IYCF), dietary diversity and healthy diets, including the consumption of local nutritious varieties, pursued by FAO, UNICEF and WFP; and (4) social assistance through school feeding programmes, cash transfers and WASH programmes, jointly supported by UNICEF and WFP.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Some of the top UNN achievements in the Gambia during the reporting period include: (1) the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) roadmap for the remaining period of the country's UNDAF (2017–2021); (2) the maintenance of a strong technical working group on nutrition; (3) the mainstreaming of nutrition in the Zero-Hunger technical working group; (4) creating an enabling environment for and supporting food fortification, jointly supported by FAO, UNICEF and WFP; and (5) support on national surveys, such as Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), the 2018 Gambia National Micronutrient Survey (GMNS), SMART surveys and the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study led by the African Union, African Economic Community, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and WFP, to be officially launched in 2020.
- Despite having gained notable momentum on nutrition, there are many coordination issues in part due to the plethora of related platforms. This underscores the relevance of the Nutrition Stakeholder and Actions Mapping, completed in 2017, with support from the UNN Secretariat, and presents opportunities to leverage those findings to achieve increased synergies and minimize duplication of efforts.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE (2018-19)



# Ghana

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MARCH 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 8/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✗	✓	✓	✗	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Ghana

The UN Network (UNN) in Ghana takes the form of a combined UN-Donor Network and is co-chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). UN membership also includes the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP). While the collective nutrition agenda was rarely tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period, UN colleagues working at the technical level met more frequently to address nutrition issues.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, Ghana's UN-Donor Network worked in close collaboration with academia and the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN). For instance, the UN-Donor Network supported the Academia platform in generating evidence for nutrition advocacy materials.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

During the reporting cycle, the United Nations agencies and other development partners supported the Ministry of Health in hosting the first and second high-level meetings on maternal, child and adolescent health and nutrition. The meetings were attended by the First Lady of Ghana, a proclaimed nutrition champion by the African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative. At sub-national level (Northern region), the combined UN-Donor Network participated in quarterly partners' fora, organized by the Regional Director of Health Services, where UN support along with that of other development partners was discussed as part of efforts to improve coordination and promote nutrition scale-up.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In Ghana, a joint UN programme on adolescent nutrition and health was undertaken by UNFPA and UNICEF during the reporting period, which targeted adolescent girls. This highlights scope for more joint nutrition programming in the future, particularly among the UNN member agencies.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The main achievements of Ghana's UN-Donor Network within the reporting cycle include: (1) addressing all forms of malnutrition through knowledge management and advocacy; (2) capacity building of some executives in government and NGO staff; and (3) supporting service delivery to improve nutrition and food security through home-grown approaches and increased awareness among adolescents, both those who attend and do not attend school.
- Moving forward, more attention is needed to address the double burden of malnutrition in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). There is also room to increase the combined Network's outreach to the UNCT to bolster collective action within the nutrition arena, capitalizing on the window of opportunity that UN reform presents.



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# Guatemala

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER 2010
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 7/10
- MODERATELY FUNCTIONAL (MEDIUM)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
X	X	X	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Guatemala

The UN Network (UNN) in Guatemala is comprised of six agencies, namely: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN); the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Network is co-chaired by FAO and UNICEF and meets on a regular basis. Nevertheless, the collective nutrition agenda was rarely tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

Not specified

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Not specified

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the 2018–19 reporting period, Guatemala's UNN fostered the implementation of multiple, nutrition-sensitive joint programmes, including one that linked family farmers with the school feeding programme, drawing upon assistance from FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP. A different project, primarily aimed at the economic empowerment of rural women, consolidated support from FAO, IFAD, UN WOMEN and WFP and included nutrition components, such as nutrition education with an emphasis on dietary diversification and the consumption of local crops (e.g. sweet potato, gandul beans). As part of the response to the 'fuego volcano' emergency, UNICEF, WFP and WHO undertook joint programming to safeguard infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices as well as those related to good water, sanitation and hygiene.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The UNN in Guatemala achieved several milestones in 2018–19, including: (1) the mobilization of technical and financial resources to support the implementation of the school feeding law; (2) a food security and nutrition assessment at national level, thus supporting evidence-based, decision-making processes; and (3) the development of the Civil Society Strategic Plan on Food Security and Nutrition with key contributions from the UN.
- Challenges & priorities: *Not specified*



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Guinea

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MAY 2013
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Guinea

The UN Network (UNN) in Guinea is comprised of 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), with UNICEF and WFP co-chairing the platform. During the 2018–19 reporting period, the collective nutrition agenda was often tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, helping to promote the multi-sectoral approach and foster UN collaboration.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the UNN collaborated with all the SUN networks active in the country. Some noteworthy examples of inter-network collaboration include: (1) technical assistance to the SUN Business Network (SBN) for the development of a food production plant as a means to safeguard micronutrient intake; (2) the development of factsheets on the nutrition situation of Guinean women and children which were used by the SUN Donor Network (SDN) in an effort to attract increased investment in nutrition; (3) support for the SUN Civil Society Network's (CSN) participation at international events as well as the elaboration of joint proposals; and (4) raising awareness among parliamentarians about the multi-sectoral dimensions of nutrition as well as how they can take action.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

UNN members have technically and financially supported the establishment and functioning of several multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) in Guinea at both the national and sub-national levels. These include the national multi-sectoral nutrition committee, the technical nutrition group (national), regional health and nutrition committees and decentralized prefectural committees that address technical subjects, such as nutrition. In addition, the country UNN supported the SUN Government Focal Point on the organization of a high-level meeting in 2018, paving the way for the adoption of the national nutrition policy and its supporting multi-sectoral nutrition plan. This meeting was attended by prominent figures, such as the Prime Minister, the First Lady, various ministers, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General/Coordinator of the SUN Movement, the United Nations Resident Coordinator *ad interim* and Country Representative of UNICEF, the Country Representatives of FAO and WHO and ambassadors, helping to elevate nutrition on the political agenda and accelerate the next steps.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting cycle, the United Nations agencies have been engaged in multiple joint initiatives, encompassing both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions. Joint programming examples include: (1) the management of acute malnutrition, supported by UNICEF, WFP and WHO; (2) stunting prevention activities, which targeted the critical first 1000 days of life and mobilized support from UNICEF, WFP and WHO; and (3) school feeding, jointly supported by FAO and WFP.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Among the main UNN achievements in Guinea within the reporting period are: (1) substantial contributions to the updated the nutrition policy and the multi-sectoral plan, 2019–2024; (2) the establishment of the national multi-sectoral nutrition committee as part of UNN's efforts to strengthen the enabling environment, including coordination and public-private partnerships for nutrition (e.g. between public services and private food producers); (3) support to the country's SUN Movement Secretariat for the elaboration of a nutrition advocacy and communication strategy; (4) the national survey on food and nutritional vulnerability, leveraging collective technical assistance from the UNN agencies; and (5) capacity strengthening on the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition.
- Challenges & priorities: *Not specified*



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# Guinea-Bissau

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MARCH 2014
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Guinea-Bissau

The UN Network (UNN) in Guinea-Bissau is comprised of four United Nations agencies, namely: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and the World Food Programme (WFP). The Network is chaired by WFP, who has helped raise awareness about the role of nutrition-sensitive actions in tackling Guinea-Bissau's malnutrition burden as part of the collective nutrition agenda. To help further engage UN leadership and promote a multi-sectoral approach, nutrition was reportedly sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, UNN collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) on advocacy activities in an effort to attract increased investment for nutrition, including domestic resources. As highlighted in the box below, the UNN also took measures to mobilize parliamentarians, including in the National Nutrition Day, working in concert with the country's Parliamentarian Network.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

*Not specified*

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the 2018–19 reporting cycle, UNN fostered the implementation of multiple nutrition-sensitive joint UN programming on nutrition, encompassing: (1) the screening and treatment of acute malnutrition; (2) the prevention of stunting; and (3) school nutrition.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The UNN in Guinea-Bissau achieved several milestones in 2018–19, bringing together various facets of nutrition work carried out by the participating United Nations agencies. First, the country UNN supported the government with the organization of National Nutrition Day, where free nutrition consultations were held. The event attracted technical actors, such as members of the National Association of Nutritionists and Dietitians, the Cuban Medical Brigade, medical school students as well as policymakers, thereby helping to strengthen the country's nutrition agenda. Secondly, the UNN supported the first coordination meeting with regional nutrition focal points to improve multi-sectoral nutrition programming at sub-national levels. Thirdly, the UNN fostered the implementation of a Knowledge Attitudes and Practice (KAP) survey, covering nutrition issues such as the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding and how to recognize signs and symptoms of acute malnutrition. Fourthly, the UNN also conducted the first round of a vitamin A supplementation campaign in collaboration with community health workers and integrated it as a routine activity of health services.
- Challenges & priorities: *Not specified*



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Haiti

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JUNE 2012
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 8/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
X	✓	✓	✓	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Haiti

The UN Network (UNN) in Haiti is co-chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) also serving as a member. In the past, other United Nations agencies have engaged in activities facilitated by the UNN, particularly when UNN-REACH was operational, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. The country UNN reported that the collective nutrition agenda was rarely tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, indicating that there is scope to reinvigorate engagement with other United Nations agencies, including UN leadership.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

While specific activities were not highlighted in terms of collaboration with other SUN networks, the country UNN did report having monthly meetings with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) during the 2018–19 reporting period. This regular interaction may lay the groundwork for future collaboration.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

In 2018–19, the Network participated regularly in the meetings and workshops of the national multi-stakeholder platform (MSP), including the participative proceedings undertaken in relation to the country's SUN Joint Annual Assessment. The workshop gathered members of civil society, including several international non-governmental organizations operational in the country, as well as public and private stakeholders intervening in food and nutrition, including representatives from government and the United Nations agencies (FAO, UNICEF and WHO). The Nutrition Directorate within the Ministry of Health drew upon UN technical and financial assistance to organize, facilitate and report on the workshop, as part of efforts to cultivate constructive multi-stakeholder dialogue.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

While the three UNN agencies teamed up in Haiti to develop a joint advocacy note on nutrition and food security, the Network did not mention examples of UN joint programming on nutrition *per se*.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Some of the top UNN achievements in Haiti during the reporting period include: (1) supporting the nutrition and food security survey in 2018; and (2) the elaboration of the above-mentioned joint advocacy note on nutrition and food security.
- Limited government capacity was cited as a main challenge, substantiating the need for capacity strengthening along the country's path to nutrition scale-up.



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# Indonesia

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER 2011**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

<b>UNN Reporting Exercise Completed</b>	<b>Chair(s) Nominated</b>	<b>Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies</b>	<b>UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place</b>	<b>UNN Workplan Developed</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT</b>	<b>UNN Engagement in MSP</b>	<b>Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks</b>	<b>Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities</b>	<b>Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Indonesia

In Indonesia, UN colleagues and members of the donor community align their nutrition efforts through a combined UN-Donor Network, called the Donor and UN Country Network on Nutrition (DUNCNN). UN representation includes the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as the World Bank. The Network, co-chaired by UNICEF and the World Bank, is among the top performing country Networks, indicating that alternative arrangements can be successful. Nevertheless, the country Network reported that the collective nutrition agenda was only sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, which shows that there is scope for further improvement.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

The combined Network arrangement, DUNCNN, exemplifies full partnership among the UN and donor constituencies. This set-up may help achieve increased synergies and efficiencies to help the country's SUN Movement combat malnutrition in all its forms.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The UNN actively participates in the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP), convened by the Ministry of National Planning for Food Security. Not only does it bring technical expertise, the country UNN also assists the government in mobilizing other stakeholders across the vast nutrition landscape.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the United Nations agencies have participated in several joint activities although these fell outside the realm of programming (see box below).

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- During the reporting period, some of the top UNN achievements in Indonesia included contributions to: (1) the Nutrition Sector Review, which fed into the national mid-term development plan (2020–2024); (2) the food security component of the national mid-term development plan 2020–2024; and (3) advocacy efforts on nutrition and food security carried out at the sub-national level. The member agencies also jointly pursued follow-up regarding the national food control system assessment, strengthened the food systems policy, contributed to the food security monitoring bulletin, supported modelling of future Indonesian food consumption and developed a nutrition module for primary school children. These efforts help to employ a holistic approach to nutrition in pursuit of achieving results at scale.
- Main challenges & priorities: *Not specified*



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Kenya

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN AUGUST 2012
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Kenya

The UN Network (UNN) in Kenya is comprised of six agencies, namely: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). The platform is co-chaired by UNICEF and WFP, who bring together the constituent members to foster harmonized UN support, both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive. According to the findings from the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19. This, in turn, helps to put nutrition on the radar of other United Nations agencies as well as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and to reinforce the need for joint action.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting cycle, Kenya's UNN worked closely with the SUN Business Network (SBN) and the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN), known in-country as the Civil Society Alliance. Its collaboration with the Civil Society Alliance extended to implementation, with the UNN providing technical support for national nutrition programmes.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The country UNN has conducted continuous advocacy for the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) and the engagement of government at the highest level. This culminated in the establishment of five MSPs at sub-national level during the reporting period. The UNN also supported the National Nutrition Information working group, which provides inputs for coordinating action among diverse actors in Kenya's vibrant nutrition community. In addition, the SUN Government Focal Point regularly received technical and financial support from the UNN for various SUN-related activities.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the following joint UN programming on nutrition was undertaken in Kenya: (1) implementation support for emergency nutrition interventions; and (2) support to nutrition-sensitive programming, linking nutrition and livelihoods as part of efforts to address underlying factors that contribute to malnutrition in the country.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The UNN in Kenya achieved several milestones in 2018–19. For example, it supported the completion of SMART surveys, biannual food and nutrition security assessments, a Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study and a related investment case for Kenya, which generated evidence for advocacy purposes. It also supported the development of the Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP) 2018–2022 as well as resource mobilization activities to enable the operationalization of the plan. Furthermore, the country UNN supported drought-related emergency planning, resourcing and implementation as part of measures to safeguard the nutrition of vulnerable groups.
- Looking ahead, the main priority of the UNN in Kenya is to strengthen the MSPs, including those at sub-national levels.



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# Kyrgyzstan

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Kyrgyzstan

The UN Network (UNN) in Kyrgyzstan is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children Fund's (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Network has adopted a co-chairing arrangement, with FAO and WFP in the lead. In addition, the UNN reported that the collective nutrition agenda was often tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting period, Kyrgyzstan's UNN has collaborated with other SUN networks in various ways. For example, the UNN joined forces with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) to sensitize parliamentarians with regard to the development of a 2019 joint action plan focused on vulnerable populations. UNN collaboration with the CSN also extended to the revision of school meals legislation and the development of a national school meals programme and its corresponding action plan for 2018–19. Furthermore, the UNN and CSN jointly supported evidence generation and analyses, which informed policy advice provided to the Government via the SUN Government Focal Point. This, in turn, was leveraged in the formulation of a national development strategy and programme on healthcare as well as a labour and social protection strategy (2019–23).

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

During the reporting cycle, the country UNN continuously mobilized to strengthen multi-sectoral nutrition governance, stressing the need for adequate links to the SUN multi-stakeholder platform (MSP). The country's coordinated, consolidated, multi-stakeholder efforts provided a source of inspiration for other countries, prompting the Tajikistan Inter-sectoral Coordination Council to travel to Kyrgyzstan for a study visit at the end of 2018. Both the UNN and Donor Networks significantly contributed to the organization of the exchange to support experience sharing and help replicate good practices in other countries.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Kyrgyzstan's UNN reported undertaking six joint programmes related to food processing (including fortification), food storage and infant and young child feeding in 2018–19.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Various achievements were supported by Kyrgyzstan's UNN within the reporting period. These include: (1) the endorsement of the Food Security and Nutrition Programme (2019–2023); (2) successful advocacy that translated internationally agreed targets for improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition into national targets and helped establish the new Food Security and Nutrition Programme; and (3) the official launch of the Regional Nutrition Capacity Development and Partnership platform in Ashgabat. Among other actors, the UNN-supported advocacy efforts, targeting influential government officials, including the Prime Minister's Office and parliamentarians, to further support transformational change.
- Main challenges & priorities: *Not specified*



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE (2018 - 19)



# Lao PDR

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN APRIL 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Lao PDR

The UN Network (UNN) in Lao PDR is composed of the following five United Nations agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which chairs the Network; the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). The collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, helping to raise awareness about nutrition issues within the wider UN family.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting cycle, the UNN collaborated with the other SUN networks in the country (Business, Civil Society and Donor). For example, the UNN supported to the establishment of the SUN Business Network (SBN) as well as the development of its 2018–2022 strategy, leveraging capacity within UNICEF and WFP. The latter chairs the SBN and is working to translate the tenets of the document into action.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Member agencies provided technical and financial support to the National Nutrition Committee (NNC), led by the SUN Government Focal Point, as well as its Secretariat. The country UNN supported the SUN Government Focal Point in a range of capacities. Furthermore, the Development Partners Group (DPG) for Food Security and Nutrition supports multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) in Lao PDR at both national and sub-national levels. The UNN agencies are also represented, among other stakeholders in the DPG. At the national level, the DPG participated in the NNC Secretariat's biannual meetings, including the annual national nutrition forum. The group also supported sub-national MSPs, including provincial nutrition committees in all eighteen provinces as well as those operating at the district level.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting period, the United Nations agencies participated in joint nutrition programming under the auspices of the Agriculture for Nutrition programme, supported by FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Some of the top UNN achievements in Lao PDR during the reporting period include: (1) the design of the nutrition surveillance system to help monitor the country's nutrition situation and address data gaps; (2) substantial contributions to the mid-term review of the national nutrition plan (2016–2020), which examined progress made and areas for growth; and (3) effective advocacy leading to the adoption of national legislation regarding the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.
- Looking forward, the country Network plans to conduct a second wave of mapping in the first quarter of 2020, using the UNN's Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping tool with support from the UNN Secretariat. This will help the government and other SUN stakeholders ascertain the current levels of nutrition intervention coverage and inform subsequent decision-making.



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# Lesotho

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JULY 2014
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Lesotho

The UN Network (UNN) in Lesotho has a total of seven member organizations, making it one of the countries with the largest UNN membership base. While the country UNN was co-chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) during the reporting period, chairmanship is rotated on an annual basis. The Network also galvanizes the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the UNN-REACH Facilitator, the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO). UNN analytical exercises such as the UN Nutrition Inventory and the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping, both completed in 2019, have helped the Network gain momentum and attract new members (e.g. UNAIDS, UNFPA, World Bank). The UNN's intensive support arm, UNN-REACH,<sup>1</sup> has been another contributing factor to the Network's growing membership and helped to demystify what multi-sectoral nutrition entails. Similarly, the presence of the facilitator has prompted actors to regularly table the collective nutrition agenda at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, Lesotho's UNN, including through UNN-REACH, provided considerable support to revitalize the SUN Business Network (SBN) from the completion of a stock-taking exercise of private sector activity to the development of an SBN action plan. It also collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) on nutrition advocacy to keep nutrition high on the political agenda, likewise, drawing upon the UNN-REACH mechanism.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

In spite of these developments, there is no formal multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) for nutrition in the country. The UNN does provide direct coaching support, through UNN-REACH, to the SUN Government Focal Point and other staff in the Food and Nutrition Coordination Office. Lesotho's UNN has also been actively engaged in the formulation of several inter-sectoral plans, including the national Food and Nutrition Strategy and Costed Action Plan (2019–2023), which involved the participation of diverse actors.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

The UNN in Lesotho has proactively provided technical support to joint UN nutrition initiatives, including joint programming. In 2018–19, Lesotho's UNN also worked together on the formulation of two multi-sectoral joint programs that include a mix of nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions, to be supported by UNICEF and WFP.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- A number of milestones were reached by the UNN in Lesotho during the reporting period. These include: (1) the launch of the Zero Hunger Strategic Review Report by His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho and contributions to the development of the corresponding roadmap; (2) intensified advocacy, which leveraged King Letsie III as a nutrition champion; (3) district nutrition awareness campaigns that underscore the importance of multi-stakeholder coordination (UNN-REACH and WFP); (4) the World Bank Forum on Early Childhood Nutrition co-organized with UNICEF; (5) mainstreaming nutrition into the National Strategic Development Plan II; (6) the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action mapping, which engaged all UNN member agencies plus other stakeholders, illustrating the scale of nutrition interventions in the country; and (7) expanded UN joint programming with the backing of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.
- Challenges remain concerning resource mobilization for the country's new Food and Nutrition Action Plan in order to take Lesotho's nutrition agenda to the next level.
- Looking ahead, the establishment of the National Steering Committee and the need to operationalize and empower dynamic SUN networks will be prioritized.

1. REACH stands for the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition partnership.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Liberia

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY 2014
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Liberia

The UN Network (UNN) in Liberia is composed of 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), with WFP serving as the chair. The UNN-REACH<sup>1</sup> Facilitator is also an active member of the Network, liaising across the different agencies to cultivate a collaborative environment and consolidate UN nutrition efforts. According to the 2019 UNN reporting data, the Network sometimes tabled the collective nutrition agenda at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, underscoring the multi-sectoral facets of nutrition and helping to position it as a broader outcome of development. UNN analytics also provided an entry point to mobilize a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition, both within and outside the United Nations System.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the country UNN collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN), particularly in the area of advocacy, which paved the way for the effective engagement of the Speaker of the House and a sensitization workshop with parliamentarians that took place shortly after the reporting period. UNN-CSN collaboration also enabled the establishment of the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP).

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Liberia's UNN fostered the progressive functionality of the MSP at national level, leveraging the presence of the UNN-REACH Facilitator to catalyse these efforts.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- UNN Liberia has spurred increased engagement of the United Nations agencies in nutrition, even among some that are not part of the Network (e.g. UNAIDS, UNFPA and UN WOMEN). This was reflected in their participation at planning meetings as well as the review and validation of the new nutrition policy and national Public Health Law, both milestones for the country.
- UNN analytics, such as the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview (MNO) and Policy and Plan Overview (PPO), were conducted in 2019, which helped sensitize actors from other sectors on their respective roles in nutrition. The MNO was also pivotal in helping to establish a common understanding of the country's nutrition challenges and the factors driving them to inform nutrition advocacy, policy-making and subsequent action.
- As part of the preparations for UNN-REACH, the UN Country Representatives of the member agencies together with the leadership of the UNN Secretariat and Irish Aid advocated for the formalization of the SUN Focal Point position within government, which materialized later in 2019. The institutionalization of the country's SUN Secretariat has proved to be more challenging.
- Moving forward, there are plans to develop a strategic plan to be incorporated into the national nutrition strategy as well as to carry out a sweeping mapping exercise in early 2020 with support from the UNN Secretariat. These concrete measures will, in turn, guide nutrition scale-up.

1. REACH stands for the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition initiative, which is the intensive support arm of the UNN's multi-sectoral technical assistance facility.



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# Madagascar

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY 2012**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Madagascar

The UN Network (UNN) in Madagascar is composed of 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). The Network has adopted a co-chairing arrangement, whereby UNICEF serves as the chair and WFP co-chairs. Other United Nations agencies are informally engaged through United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, where the collective nutrition agenda was always tabled in 2018–19. In addition, the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping is ongoing, using the UNN tool with support from the UNN Secretariat, to guide future decision-making.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting period, the UNN collaborated with all of the SUN networks in the country, including the Academia and the SUN Business Networks (SBN). For example, UNN supported efforts to start-up the SBN, such as the development of the business network strategy and its operationalization. In addition, joint advocacy was pursued with the SUN Government Focal Point, aiming to maintain nutrition as a national priority in the new government's agenda.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The country UNN has taken considerable measures to enhance the functionality of Madagascar's multi-stakeholder platform (MSP), starting with the provision of practical support to the SUN Government Focal Point. Not only did this help bolster her participation in the MSP meetings, it also helped to progressively operationalize the platform, including the engagement of new members (e.g. SBN).

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the United Nations agencies participated in various joint programmes, such as: (1) the management of acute malnutrition; (2) the Miaro project on maternal health and nutrition which also integrated livelihoods support;<sup>1</sup> and (3) the Gari project on the promotion of fortified cassava flour and capacity strengthening to support its local production.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The UNN in Madagascar achieved several milestones in 2018–19, including: (1) the preparation of key elements of the National Nutrition Action Plan (e.g. its workplan, monitoring and evaluation plan and costing); (2) advocacy targeting the government to ensure that nutrition is prioritized; and (3) support to SUN networks, especially the SBN.
- One of the main priorities of Madagascar's UNN is the finalization of the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping, cognisant that it is a critical input for both determining and tracking progress along the path to scale-up.

1. Further information highlighted in Box 14 of the 2019 UN Network Annual Report.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Malawi

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MARCH 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Malawi

Three United Nations agencies comprise the UN Network (UNN) in Malawi. These include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), with the latter two co-chairing the platform. The collective nutrition agenda was reportedly sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings over the course of the reporting period, helping to put nutrition on the radar of other United Nations agencies.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, Malawi's UNN collaborated with the other SUN networks in the country (Civil Society and Business). Examples of this collaboration include: (1) contributions to revitalize the SUN Business Network (SBN) and support its progressive operationalization; and (2) the development of key messages with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) for advocacy purposes.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

UNN support also enabled the country's multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) to carry out consultations regarding the review of several nutrition-related governance frameworks, such as: (1) the 2018–2022 National Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy (NECS II); (2) the 2018–2022 National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan; (3) the Multi-sector Maternal and IYCF Strategy; (4) the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy; and (5) the agriculture sector's Food and Nutrition Strategy. In addition, the United Nations agencies supported the development of integrated workplans for district nutrition coordination committees to ensure alignment around common results and guide actions taken at the sub-national level.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting period, joint nutrition programming in Malawi has focused on high-impact nutrition-specific interventions and nutrition-sensitive approaches. These include: (1) community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) supported by UNICEF and WFP; (2) nutrition programming as part of emergency response (FAO, UNICEF and WFP); (3) complementary feeding support through point-of-use fortification (UNICEF and WFP); and nutrition-sensitive components to promote girls education (UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP).

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Among its achievements, the UNN in Malawi actively collaborated with the SUN Government Focal Point and contributed to: (1) the finalization and launch of the new national nutrition policy and strategy; (2) the endorsement of the National Adolescent Multi-sector Nutrition Strategy and its implementation in six districts; (3) the development of various other nutrition-related policies and strategies mentioned above; (4) the launch of the SBN and its strategy; (5) the revamping of the nutrition-led agriculture technical working group; and (6) overall improvements in nutrition resilience programming at national and community levels. The United Nations agencies have also jointly supported capacity building, enhanced coordination and resource mobilization for nutrition as well as the integration of nutrition in the 2019–2023 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and its alignment with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Moving forward, one of the priorities for UNN Malawi is to support the implementation of the SBN strategy.



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# Mali

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MARCH 2011**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Mali

The UN Network (UNN) in Mali is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). UNICEF and WFP co-chair the platform. In addition, the UNN's intensive facilitation support service, known as REACH<sup>1</sup>, was operational in the country, strengthening the functionality of the UNN coordination mechanism. The country UNN reported that the collective nutrition agenda was often tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, which has further helped to galvanize the agencies in this crucial area of development.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

Collaboration with the other SUN networks during the 2018–19 reporting period included: (1) the operationalization of the technical committee on food fortification with the SUN Business Network; (2) capacity strengthening of the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN); and (3) nutrition advocacy jointly carried out with the SUN Donor Network (SDN). The country UNN also collaborated regarding the development of the UN common nutrition agenda, articulating joint priorities to improve impact thanks to support from both the UNN-REACH Facilitator and UNN Secretariat.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Mali's UNN provided technical and financial support at national level to the Nutrition Intersectoral Technical Council and the Nutrition Coordination Cell (*Cellule de Coordination*), where the SUN Government Focal Point is based, with substantial contributions from UNN-REACH. It also supported nutrition MSP meetings at the sub-national level.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, UNN Mali fostered the implementation of various joint programmes on nutrition, including a project on micronutrient supplementation and a nutrition and resilience project, among others.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- During the reporting cycle, the UNN provided substantial support to nutrition MSPs at both national and sub-national levels, as highlighted above.
- Nutrition-related surveys (e.g. SMART surveys) were another important national milestone, sustained by the Network. The UNN also supported the SUN Government Focal Point with the elaboration of a strategy on the accessibility of inputs for the management of severe and moderate acute malnutrition (SAM and MAM).
- Some of the other top UNN achievements in Mali are linked to the UNN-REACH engagement, including the generation of evidence through UNN analytics, such as the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview (MNO) and Policy and Plan Overview (PPO). An initial wave of Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping was conducted in 2018, while the MNO was updated (2018–19) and the PPO followed (2018–19), helping to guide decision-making on nutrition.

1. REACH stands for Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Mauritania

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MAY 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✗	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Mauritania

The following United Nations agencies are participating in Mauritania's UN Network (UNN): the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who chairs the platform; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2018–19, the country UNN reported that the collective nutrition agenda was rarely tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, a strategic forum that could be leveraged to mainstream nutrition across sectors.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting cycle, Mauritania's UNN effectively collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN), and to some extent, with the Academia and Parliamentarian Networks. For example, UNN contributed to advocacy efforts geared towards female parliamentarians with a view to increasing budgetary allocations for nutrition. It also supported the development of a nutrition advocacy action plan in collaboration with CSN.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

At the national level, UNICEF leads the Nutrition Group, working closely with the Ministry of Health, while FAO and WFP support the Food Security Commission through the Food Security Sector Group. Financial support was provided by UNICEF for regional sectoral meetings on emergency nutrition through the Regional Directorates of Health and Social Action. Furthermore, UNHCR supports the health, nutrition and food security working group, hosting the Malian refugee camp in Bassiknou. The UNN also assisted the SUN Government Focal Point in undertaking the Joint Assessment to measure progress on the strategic objectives of the SUN Movement. In addition, UNN financed an exchange visit between Mauritania and Senegal through which the SUN Government Focal Point learned about Senegal's multi-sectoral nutrition coordination architecture and processes.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Mauritania's UNN reported undertaking a UN joint programme on the implementation of the nutrition emergency response plan via the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- During the reporting period, the UNN's main achievements in Mauritania include: (1) a budget analysis for nutrition which informed advocacy efforts; (2) the development of regulatory legislation, pertaining to the marketing of breastmilk substitutes to safeguard optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices; and (3) regional consultations to support the implementation of nutrition-specific interventions through the health system.
- Limited human resources is one of the main challenges in Mauritania.
- Looking ahead, discussions are underway about activating UNN-REACH support in the Sahel region, which would help build nutrition capacity for nutrition governance. The SUN Government Focal Point and UNN are also exploring prospects for updating the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping which would involve a multitude of actors from different stakeholder groups, and likewise, enrich multi-sectoral/stakeholder coordination in the country.



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# Mozambique

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN AUGUST 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Mozambique

The UN Network (UNN) in Mozambique takes the form of a combined UN-Donor Network, that engages six United Nations agencies. These include: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Food Programme (WFP), which co-chairs the platform; and the World Health Organization (WHO). According to the 2019 UNN reporting data, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, helping to reinforce nutrition's multi-sectoral roots and promote collective action.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting period, Mozambique's UNN collaborated with the SUN Business Network (SBN) and the Civil Society Network (CSN). For example, the United Nations agencies helped generate data (e.g. Cost of Hunger study with WFP support) that was used in visibility materials, developed by the CSN, to raise awareness about the importance of investing in nutrition. The UN also collaborated with the CSN on social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) as part of efforts to strengthen nutrition interventions carried out at the community level. Furthermore, the combined UN-Donor Network architecture exemplifies full partnership between the two stakeholder constituencies within the context of SUN. This joint support enabled the provision of direct assistance to the country's high-level nutrition coordination mechanism, the National Council for Nutrition and Food Security (CONSAN), as well as to the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN).

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

As outlined above, the combined network provided support for improving nutrition coordination capacity in Mozambique from convening diverse actors to multi-sectoral planning and the monitoring of subsequent action. This also extended to the provincial and district levels, targeting SETSAN's decentralized secretariats. In addition, the United Nations agencies undertook capacity strengthening for other national, provincial and district directorates through nutrition-sensitive projects. Furthermore, the members of the UN-Donor Network engaged in the wider Nutrition Partners Forum, where the government (including the SUN Government Focal Point), SBN, CSN and other interested partners come together.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Mozambique's UNN reported joint work on accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first programme engaged FAO, IFAD and WFP and was primarily oriented towards food-based approaches from nutrition-sensitive agriculture to fortification, promoting recommended food consumption practices and infant and young child feeding (IYCF), while the second engaged UNICEF and WFP and was tailored to the integrated management of acute malnutrition.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The UNN in Mozambique achieved several milestones in 2018–19, including the formalization of CONSAN, the institutional capacity assessment of SETSAN and the development of the new national Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (ESAN III).
- Coordination of nutrition stakeholders at all levels continues to be a challenge, underscoring the relevance of the UN-supported capacity assessment and capacity strengthening activities mentioned above.
- Looking ahead, the United Nations agencies will support the development of an integrated multi-sectoral nutrition information system, starting with a scoping exercise conducted by WFP.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Myanmar

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN APRIL 2013**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Myanmar

The UN Network (UNN) in Myanmar has eight members, making it one of the three countries with the largest membership base. This includes: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS); the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN); the World Food Programme (WFP); the World Health Organization (WHO); and the World Bank. Chaired by WFP, the Network has also benefitted from the support of UNN-REACH<sup>1</sup> since 2014, with the designated facilitator being a core component of the country UNN. In addition to this rich set-up, the collective nutrition agenda was often tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, helping the multi-sectoral approach gain more traction.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

There were various episodes of collaboration with the other SUN networks during the reporting cycle. For instance, the UNN actively contributed to the stakeholders consultation on the establishment of the SUN Business Network (SBN), which remains ongoing. The country UNN also provided considerable support, through UNN-REACH, to the National Nutrition Centre for rolling out a participatory process for developing Myanmar's Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition, 2018–2022 (MS-NPAN), which among others, engaged the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) and SUN Donor Network (SDN). Since then, the UNN has been helping to coordinate diverse stakeholders with regard to the operationalization of the plan.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Throughout the reporting period, Myanmar's UNN has supported both the Nutrition Sector Coordination Group, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, and the National Nutrition Committee, housed by the Ministry of Health and Sports. UNN analytics proved to be critical inputs for rallying representatives from five ministries and the different SUN networks, including the members of UNN, within the context of the new national nutrition plan. In addition, UNN-REACH supported a Nutrition Capacity Assessment, initiated during the second semester of 2018, starting at the national level and later developing a roadmap to guide the exercise in the states and regions (2019). The assessment focused on nutrition coordination and governance, one of the three main streams of the country's new nutrition plan.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the UNN in Myanmar reported two joint UN nutrition initiatives, yet in both cases, these were outside the scope of programming.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The top achievements of Myanmar's UNN in 2018–19 were: (1) contributions to the development/implementation of the costed MS-NPAN and a roadmap of activities for its inception year, which strengthened the multi-stakeholder platforms; (2) resource mobilization to support the full implementation of the plan; (3) the Nutrition Capacity Assessment; and (4) nutrition surveys, such as a micronutrient survey and another on urban nutrition.
- *Priorities:* To assist the SUN Government Focal Point with updating of the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping in order to ascertain the current levels of intervention coverage and inform scale-up.

1. REACH stands for Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition, which is the intensive support arm of the UNN multi-sectoral technical assistance facility.



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# Namibia

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2011**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Namibia

The UN Network (UNN) in Namibia is composed of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which chairs the platform, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, the collective nutrition agenda was always tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period. This is one strategic measure that is helping UN colleagues to frame nutrition as a multi-sectoral issue and thus reinforce the need for collective UN action. It may also help to attract additional members in the future, further bolstering UN contributions to national nutrition targets.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, Namibia's UNN collaborated with the Parliamentarian Network. UNICEF mobilized UN support and worked with the NGO Synergos on a nutrition workshop for parliamentarians that culminated in a Nutrition Manifesto. Parliamentarians signed the manifesto at the workshop, pledging their support to scale up nutrition activities in the country along the path to sustainable development.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

During the reporting cycle, UNICEF, WFP and WHO actively supported the establishment of the National Council for Nutrition under the Office of the Prime Minister as well as the ongoing work of the Namibia Alliance for Improved Nutrition, both national platforms. WFP also seconded a nutritionist to the Ministry of Health and Social Services, who works alongside the SUN Government Focal Point on technical matters, helping to further strengthen nutrition capacity. In addition, Namibia's UNN helped the Government Focal Point bring the SUN community together to undertake the SUN Joint Assessment, where diverse stakeholders reflected on progress made and future priorities.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Some of the top UNN achievements in Namibia within the reporting period include: (1) coordinated joint support for the development of the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Implementation Action Plan; (2) the development of a joint proposal focusing on a nutrition response to the national drought emergency; and (3) engagement with parliamentarians, who committed to scale up nutrition action and requested their involvement in the National Council for Nutrition.
- In Namibia, some UNN priorities include support on operationalizing sub-national coordination structures and nutrition surveillance systems.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE (2018 - 19)



# Nepal

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MAY 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	X	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Nepal

The UN Network (UNN) in Nepal is comprised of 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). Chaired by UNICEF, the Network reported having sometimes tabled the collective nutrition agenda at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19. This, in part, has helped to engage the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC), who has advocated for nutrition among high-ranking government officials, underscoring that it is a human rights issue.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting period, Nepal's UNN collaborated extensively with other SUN networks (Academia, Civil Society and Donor). This collaboration primarily manifested through UNN support to the National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS) and SUN Government Focal Point as part of efforts to accelerate the implementation of the country's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan II (MSNP II), 2018–2022.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

With the launch of the second phase of the MSNP and the Government's determination to scale up activity at sub-national levels, implementation has reached the majority of districts (61 out of 77). UNN support has been pivotal for the establishment, capacity strengthening and operationalization of decentralized coordination mechanisms, which are overseeing the MSNP activities on the ground.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, there were various examples of joint UN initiatives in Nepal, which encompassed nutrition. These include the implementation of the MSNP as highlighted above, integrated management of moderate acute malnutrition (IMAM) associated with the flood emergency response (UNICEF and WFP) as well as a joint project on the economic empowerment of rural women (RWEE), involving FAO, UN WOMEN and WFP. Among other objectives, the latter aimed to improve food and nutrition security and provided tips on kitchen gardening along with agriculture inputs and support to develop nurseries. This helped vulnerable women to promote commercialized kitchen gardens as a source of income and exercise their decision-making skills. The project also provided nutrition education to encourage dietary diversity and optimal breastfeeding practices.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The main achievements reported by the country UNN in 2018–19 was the integration of nutrition into the 15th National Development Plan (2019–20) and support to the Government for putting in place platforms at sub-national levels to coordinate multi-sectoral nutrition actions, as stipulated by the national nutrition plan.
- Looking ahead, two priorities for Nepal's UNN will be: (1) to strengthen the capacity of newly elected officials and nutrition coordination mechanisms, working at sub-national levels; and (2) to improve related monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices in order to better track the MSNP's implementation status and guide decision-making.



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# Niger

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 7/10
- MODERATELY FUNCTIONAL (MEDIUM)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
X	X	✓	X	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Niger

The UN Network (UNN) is not formally established in the country. With that said, there is a technical [partners] working group on nutrition (TWG) in which multiple United Nations agencies engage, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The collective nutrition agenda was rarely tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period, although this did not hinder joint programming.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

Not specified

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The technical working group is not engaged in the country's multi-stakeholder/sectoral platform (MSP), which is exclusively comprised of government actors. With that said, a second round of the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping was conducted (2019), with the support of the UNN Secretariat, involving 62 institutions from multiple stakeholder groups. This not only served as a rallying point to bring diverse actors in Niger's nutrition community together, but also a means to understand who was doing what, where and to identify coverage levels of key nutrition actions.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting period, the United Nations agencies partook in various joint programmes, including: (1) resilience building projects primarily aimed at improving farmers' resilience in the pastoral zone of Tillabery; (2) a programme supporting the empowerment of rural women; and (3) the management of acute malnutrition.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Some of the top UNN achievements in Niger during the reporting cycle include: (1) technical and financial support to the government with the preparation of the action plan for the national nutrition security policy (2017–2019); (2) the implementation of nutrition-specific actions at decentralized levels; (3) capacity building for nutrition staff within the government; and (4) the completion of a SMART survey.
- Priorities for 2020 include the dissemination of the mapping results, including at the regional level, which will be pursued as part of greater efforts to circulate the new National Nutrition Security Policy (*la Politique Nationale de Sécurité Nutritionnelle*). The formalization of the UNN in Niger is another priority, and thus UN colleagues are working to review the applicable Terms of Reference to facilitate the next steps.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Nigeria

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN NOVEMBER 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Nigeria

In Nigeria, the United Nations agencies come together to address nutrition issues through a pre-existing Development Partners Network. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) participate in the group alongside members of the donor community. During the 2018–19 reporting period, UNICEF co-chaired the platform with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). The collective nutrition agenda was also sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, helping to raise awareness among other agencies and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. In both cases, nutrition was discussed within the context of broader development, providing an opportunity to reinforce its links to other technical areas. The Nigeria example demonstrates that cohesive UN action on nutrition right down to joint programming can be achieved in the absence of a stand-alone UN Network (UNN).

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting cycle, the country 'UNN' collaborated with the other networks, such as the SUN Business Network (SBN) and SUN Civil Society Network (CSN). Its collaboration with SBN is helping small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to understand their role in addressing malnutrition and make subsequent commitments. From the UN side, UNICEF has teamed up with the SBN to support basic nutrition and food safety training. The partnership is also helping to strengthen platforms for regular engagement between public and private sector stakeholders. In addition, the joint network arrangements between the United Nations agencies and donors is further testament to the close collaboration between these two constituencies in Nigeria.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

In 2018–19, the United Nations agencies provided technical and financial support to the National Committee on Food and Nutrition as part of measures to enhance coordination across the nutrition landscape. The United Nations agencies also supported the Inter-Ministerial Agriculture Nutrition Working Group on Nutrition and equipped the SUN Government Focal Point with tools to better manage nutrition coordination mechanisms in the country. They also supported the organization of nutrition *fora*, where multiple stakeholders gathered, and the SUN Focal Point's participation at a leadership course in South Africa. Finally, UN support enabled the government to cascade federal coordination mechanisms to sub-national levels. For instance, food and nutrition committees are now functional in at least 21 out of 36 states, under the leadership of the ministries of Budget and Planning.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

The member agencies in Nigeria partook in a number of joint programming activities across the humanitarian-development continuum, including two joint programmes carried out for the emergency response in the North East. One of these concentrated on nutrition-sensitive agriculture (FAO and WFP), helping to protect nutritional status while building resilience. The second joint programme focused on maternal health and nutrition (UNFPA and WFP) in Jere and Konduga. Joint support was also extended for a multi-sectoral nutrition project, targeting the critical 1,000 days period. WFP provided cash transfers to pregnant and lactating women or other caregivers of children 6–23 months conditional on enrolment in the UNICEF-supported SAM treatment, ante/postnatal care and immunization services.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Other UNN achievements in Nigeria within the reporting period include the development of nutrition curricula/modules for basic schooling to promote healthy eating habits (FAO and UNICEF). In addition, the UN promoted learning on nutrition-sensitive interventions through the Zero Hunger Review and the National Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods. It also supported the formulation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) and the development of a costed strategic plan for the National Food and Nutrition Policy. Finally, the United Nations agencies advocated for the allocation of USD 6.7 million of domestic resources to nutrition in 2018.
- Main challenges & priorities: *Not specified*



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# Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JANUARY 2013
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Pakistan

The UN Network (UNN) in Pakistan is comprised of 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). Chaired by WFP, the Network reported having sometimes tabled the collective nutrition agenda at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period. These efforts have helped to position nutrition as a 'maker and marker' of sustainable development within the UN community in-country. Overall, the UNN has been a key player contributing to Pakistan's vibrant SUN Movement, both at national and sub-national levels.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the UNN collaborated with all the other SUN networks present in the country, including efforts to start up three of them (Academia, Civil Society and Parliamentarian). The UNN in Pakistan also supported the SUN Government Focal Point's collaboration with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN), bringing additional dynamism to SUN processes.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Pakistan's UNN provided technical and financial support to the national SUN Government Focal Point to enhance nutrition coordination capacity. It has also participated in the nutrition multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) and supported the provincial SUN Secretariats, further helping to animate the multi-sectoral approach. Insights about the country's multiple-tier nutrition coordination architecture were captured in a [short video](#), supported by WFP in its capacity as the Network chair, which was presented at a CFS side event in October 2018 co-organized by the UNN/UNSCN<sup>1</sup> secretariats. Among other initiatives, this UNN support enabled the MSPs to contribute to the development of Pakistan's new multi-sectoral nutrition strategy and national nutrition plan.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting cycle, the United Nations agencies engaged in joint nutrition programming on the community management of acute malnutrition (UNICEF, WFP and WHO) and stunting prevention (UNICEF and WFP).

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- In addition to the achievements highlighted above, the UNN in Pakistan supported the following milestones within the reporting period: (1) mainstreaming nutrition into provincial inter-sectoral strategies and costed action plans at varying degrees; (2) breastfeeding laws in all provinces and the adoption of related monitoring tools; (3) the progressive endorsement of fortification strategies and government tax exemption for fortificants; (4) a feasibility study on wheat flour fortification to initiate a pilot; and (5) the generation of evidence through a study on dietary risk factors in Pakistan, a national nutrition survey (MICS) and operational research on stunting prevention, which has informed decision-making processes for policymakers.
- Challenges & priorities: *Not specified*

1. Refers to the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE (2018-19)



# Papua New Guinea

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN APRIL 2016**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 8/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✗	✓	✓	✓	✗

## Overview of the UN Network in Papua New Guinea

The UN Network (UNN) in Papua New Guinea stands out for two reasons. First, its membership base is a mix of the 'big players' and other United Nations agencies who are new to the nutrition scene. It includes: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and the World Health Organization (WHO). Secondly, the platform has adopted a unique chairing arrangement, with two chairs and two co-chairs, building on the country's UNDAF results groups– People and Prosperity. UNICEF serves as the chair and WHO the co-chair from the People contingency, which concentrates on social development, whereas UNCDF (chair) and UNDP (co-chair) reflect the Prosperity group, which looks through the economic lens. This not only helps secure buy-in for the Network among UN leadership, but also strengthens the link between the UNDAF and UNN. In spite of the multi-agency chairing set-up, the collective nutrition agenda was rarely tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period. This indicates that further efforts are needed to fully embrace the joint spirit of the UNN and mobilize multi-sectoral action within the United Nations community in-country for achieving positive nutrition outcomes.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, Papua New Guinea's UNN collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) on advocacy, motivating the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Planning and Monitoring to come forward as nutrition champions. The UNN provided technical support to Save the Children, the CSN convenor, and also liaised with academia for nutrition-related research activities that fed into advocacy. Together, these efforts helped nutrition secure a prominent place on the political agenda and ignite the Prime Minister's call to action to rise up against malnutrition one household at a time.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

In the absence of a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) for nutrition, the UNN supported the SUN Government Focal Point in rallying diverse actors for the finalization of the costed National Nutrition Strategic Action Plan 2018–2022 and its submission for government approval. It also provided technical assistance to the Nutrition Programme Management Unit in the Department for National Planning and Monitoring to coordinate multi-sectoral nutrition interventions. Furthermore, the country UNN was involved in two multi-sectoral roundtable discussions on nutrition to help attract investment for operationalizing the new plan. The United Nations agencies also jointly provided technical support for sub-national nutrition coordination during the reporting period.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

While the UNN members jointly supported nutrition governance actions from advocacy to coordination, they did not undertake joint programming in 2018–19.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Further to the achievements highlighted above, UNN-supported advocacy and technical assistance resulted in increased awareness of the country's nutrition situation, which in turn, led to the inclusion of nutrition as one of the goals to steer sustainable social development in the 2018–2022 Medium-Term Development Plan III (MTDP III). The UNN in Papua New Guinea also encouraged the MTDP III's alignment with national Sustainable Development Goals as well as the alignment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) with the Government's planning cycle.
- Looking forward, the establishment of a functional national MSP is one of the main priorities for UNN.



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# Peru

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN NOVEMBER 2010
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 8/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	X	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Peru

In Peru, UN colleagues utilize the nutrition working group to harmonize their efforts and exchange related information and experiences. The group is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), with the latter taking the lead. According to the results of the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, helping to frame nutrition within the broader context of development and acknowledge its multi-sectoral roots.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

Not specified

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

During the reporting period, the United Nations agencies actively participated in the Roundtable for the Fight against Poverty (MCLCP<sup>1</sup>), a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral government-led platform, where anti-poverty measures and related issues, such as nutrition, are vetted.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

While the United Nations agencies undertook various joint initiatives on nutrition, these did not take the form of UN joint programming (see box below).

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Collective UN support to the MCLCP was among the principal achievements reported, which helped to mobilize a diversity of actors and call attention to the country's triple burden of malnutrition. The United Nations agencies also jointly supported the multi-sectoral plan to address the country's pervasive anaemia challenges as well as the elaboration of training tools for practitioners and the implementation of regional plans that call for integrated action. Furthermore, the member agencies pursued: (1) a partnership between the Rome-based Agencies (FAO, IFAD and WFP), civil society, the private sector and academia on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 as part of the government's Peru 2021 Programme; (2) a systematized review of successful experiences undertaken in the country to reduce anaemia with the aim of replicating good practices for increased impact; and (3) contributions to national advocacy efforts that promote healthy eating habits, which triggered the elaboration of a proposal for coordinating UN support on school-based approaches.
- The most important challenge raised by the UN nutrition working group is resource mobilization to strengthen household anaemia management and to address rising levels of overweight and obesity and related non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
- The Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping was identified as one of the main activities to be conducted under the Peru 2021 Programme during the Zero Hunger roundtable (*Mesa Hambre Zero*), led by the Vice President. The exercise is being conducted using the UNN tool, with support from the UNN Secretariat, and its finalization is a priority for 2020.

1. MCLCP stands for *Mesa de Concertación para la Lucha Contra La Pobreza* in Spanish.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE (2018-19)



# The Philippines

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MARCH 2014
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in The Philippines

The UN Network (UNN) in the Philippines is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) who serves as the chair, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period, helping to position nutrition as a multi-sectoral issue. This also was a way of keeping other United Nations agencies abreast related developments.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the UNN worked with the National Nutrition Council (NNC) focal point to support the establishment of the SUN Business Network (SBN) and sponsored NNC's participation in the SBN regional workshop in Japan. During the reporting period, the UNN regularly collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) as well. The UNN-CSN collaboration encompassed a range of activities, including nutrition advocacy and grassroots actions. With UNICEF support, joint advocacy activities were carried out during Nutrition and Breastfeeding Month and events were organized to sensitize legislators on the economic consequences of undernutrition and the measures being taken under the auspices of the national nutrition plan. Others, such as the Nutrition Research Forum and World Food Day, were supported by the collective UNN in collaboration with the CSN.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The country UNN provided technical assistance to the SUN Government Focal Point, supporting her participation in multi-stakeholder meetings, organized by the SUN Secretariat, to enhance the roll-out of the Philippines Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) at the national and sub-national levels. A series of technical consultations were held as part of the process, helping to define recommendations for better programming. In addition, the UNN was actively engaged in *fora* regarding Nutrition Cluster Information Management, food security and Local Government Unit Mobilization, where various SUN networks discussed recommendations for scaling up nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions in an integrated manner.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting period, the United Nations agencies have been engaged in multiple joint programming actions on nutrition, such as: (1) the roll-out of the Regional Plan of Action for Nutrition and sub-national nutrition plans in the Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur provinces; (2) UN programming support to deliver essential health and nutrition services on the ground in response to the Marawi conflict; and (3) capacity strengthening on the management of acute malnutrition.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Among the main UNN achievements reported in the Philippines are: (1) convening 36 priority provinces and supporting the cascading PPAN activities down to the smallest localities; (2) technical support for the PPAN common results framework; (3) advocacy for nutrition-sensitive social protection safety nets; (4) evidence generation through the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis, jointly conducted by UNICEF and WFP; (5) a SAM bottleneck analysis; and (6) the development of legislation about the first 1000 days and related regulations (e.g. extended maternity leave) as well as a multi-pronged national feeding programme for undernourished children in the country. The latter integrates supplementary feeding, micronutrient supplementation, school feeding, health examinations, WASH support, promotion of vegetable gardens and social and behaviour change communications, exemplifying a holistic approach to child malnutrition. Finally, the United Nations agencies supported the implementation of the Health and Nutrition of the Mother and Child Act, helping to institutionalize key integrated services for reducing stunting and other forms of malnutrition.
- Challenges & priorities: *Not specified*



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# Rwanda

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Rwanda

The UN Network (UNN) in Rwanda is chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and also composed of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). While the Network formally engages these four agencies as members, the collective nutrition agenda was also sometimes tabled among a wider group of United Nations agencies, through United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings. This helps the multi-sectoral nutrition approach get more traction and may even motivate other agencies to join the UNN in the future.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2019–20 reporting period, Rwanda's UNN collaborated with various other SUN networks active in the country. It provided technical and financial support to the University of Rwanda, through the Academic Network, for nutrition research. It also continued to collaborate with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) on range of advocacy activities to raise awareness about malnutrition in all its forms, including talk shows, radio messaging, scroll messages as well as coverage in the national newspapers. In addition, the UNN regularly participated in the SUN Donor Network (SDN) meetings and contributed to the preparation of the SDN's annual workplan, helping to foster increased complementarity and alignment between the efforts of both networks.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The UNN is a member of the National Food, Nutrition and WASH Technical Working Group that is led by the National Early Child Development Programme. In 2018–19, the UNN regularly supported the Government in organizing these meetings at the national level, hosting some of them as well as assisting with the documentation of their ensuing outcomes.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the four UNN member agencies worked on phase II of the joint nutrition project, *Effectively fighting chronic malnutrition in Rwanda*. The project design was in part guided by the findings of the UN Nutrition Inventory exercise (2016), supported by the UNN Secretariat, which identified gaps and areas for increased synergy among the United Nations agencies.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Among UNN's top achievements in Rwanda are its notable contributions to: (1) enhanced supply chain management of nutrition commodities; (2) the curriculum for community health workers; (3) the development of national food-based dietary guidelines; and (4) the development of a national social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) strategy for integrated early child development, nutrition and WASH (2018–2024).
- Moving forward, the development of a new national nutrition strategic plan was cited as a priority.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Senegal

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JUNE 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 8/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
X	✓	✓	✓	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Senegal

The UN Network (UNN) in Senegal takes the form of a combined UN-Donor platform, which is co-chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Canadian development cooperation (Global Affairs Canada). It also includes participation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Four of these United Nations agencies (IFAD, UNFPA, UNOCHA and UN WOMEN) were inspired to join the Network following a strategic UN retreat on nutrition in late 2018, facilitated by the UNN-REACH Regional Facilitator, where the results from the UN Nutrition Inventory exercise were presented. Despite this increased momentum and extensive following, the collective nutrition agenda was rarely tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings. This indicates that further measures are needed to operationalize a collective UN approach to nutrition in the country.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting period, the UN-Donor platform collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) and also supported the elaboration of a nutrition guide for the Parliamentarian Network. The combined UN-Donor Network arrangement adopted in Senegal is also testament to the strong partnership between the United Nations agencies and donors. In addition, the UNN Secretariat provided coordination tools, such as the UN Nutrition Inventory, and knowledge sharing support to ensure the country's multi-sectoral/stakeholder approach thrived, consolidating gains made through UNN-REACH, which concluded just prior to the UNN reporting exercise.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

At the national level, the United Nations agencies supported the *Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition* (CLM), including its National Coordinator, who duals as the SUN Government Focal Point. The CLM is the government's well-established coordination mechanism for nutrition, which values UN support in mobilizing twelve nutrition-related ministries in line with the national nutrition plan. UN colleagues also engaged with the Senegalese Committee for the Micronutrient Fortification of Foods (COSFAM), where other stakeholders are also active to help ensure a robust approach to fortification. Among other actors, these include millers and flour, oil and salt producers from the private sector who are directly involved in operationalizing mandatory fortification policies in Senegal.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Among the main achievements for the established period was the more than doubling of the UN membership base in the combined UN-Donor platform, including those agencies which have not traditionally been involved in nutrition. The expansion was also in part triggered by the UNN Director/Global Coordinator's mission (July 2018), who highlighted that this is a first step for making UN support more nutrition-smart, with the potential to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Priorities include the Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) coaching project planned for 2020, financed through the SUN Pooled Fund, which will provide expert facilitation support coupled with action-oriented analytics to strengthen coordination capacity at both national and sub-national levels.



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# Sierra Leone

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JANUARY 2012
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

## Overview of the UN Network in Sierra Leone

The UN Network (UNN) in Sierra Leone is composed of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), with UNICEF serving as the chair.<sup>1</sup> The UNN-REACH<sup>2</sup> Facilitator is also an active member of the Network, capitalizing on his neutrality to bring these United Nations Agencies together and foster increased cohesiveness among them. The UNN reported that the collective nutrition agenda was often tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the reporting period. In addition, the United Nations Resident Coordinator is highly engaged in nutrition, helping to reinforce the virtues of collective action. Four of the five UNN analytical exercises were conducted in Sierra Leone, helping the member agencies (and other nutrition stakeholders) to establish a common language on nutrition. While the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping was completed, validated and widely disseminated in March 2019, the other analytics (UN Nutrition Inventory, Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview and Policy and Plan Overview) were conducted during the previous reporting cycle.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, Sierra Leone's UNN worked closely with three other SUN networks (Civil Society, Donor and Parliamentarian). For instance, UNN supported the establishment of the SUN Business Network (SBN) by playing a significant role in the development of SBN's Terms of Reference, where its roles and responsibilities are outlined. UNN also has good dialogue with the Parliamentarian Health Committee as well as with majority and minority leaders to bolster political commitment for nutrition interventions. In addition, the UNN-REACH Facilitator has been central to the above inter-network collaboration. The UNN-supported mapping exercise served also as a valuable rallying point for diverse stakeholders, including government and the above-mentioned SUN networks, helping to identify gaps and overlaps, and thus opportunities for increased synergies.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The UNN in Sierra Leone provided support to the country's SUN Secretariat for organizing district-level multi-sectoral coordination meetings. Furthermore, UNN organized field visits to inform the review of the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) as part of greater efforts to enhance its functionality.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In spite of other joint work undertaken on nutrition during the reporting period, the UNN agencies did not undertake joint programming in this area.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The UNN supported the successful development and roll out of the Multi-Sector Strategic Plan to Reduce Malnutrition in Sierra Leone (2019–2025), securing high-level political support, including from the Vice President. Many have acknowledged the key role that UNN-REACH played in these achievements.
- Among the country UNN's priorities reported are the need: (1) to develop a common UN nutrition agenda; (2) expand its membership; and (3) increase joint nutrition programming. The UNN may also foster national fundraising to support the implementation of the new national nutrition plan, mindful that there are few donors in-country that embrace the nutrition agenda and limited government resources.

1. At the time the 2019 UN Network Annual Report was published, WFP had taken over the role of UNN chair in-country following the departure of the UNICEF Country Representative.  
 2. REACH refers to the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition initiative, the intensive support arm of UNN's multi-sectoral technical assistance facility.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Somalia

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MAY 2014
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Somalia

The UN Network (UNN) in Somalia is comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Participating agencies have opted for a co-chairing arrangement with UNICEF and WFP in the lead. In addition, the collective nutrition agenda was often tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 period, which has helped to reinforce cohesive action and complementarity among the United Nations agencies in the country.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

Not specified

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The complexity and fragility of the Somali context are like few others. Coordination is mostly centred around humanitarian assistance through the vibrant Nutrition Cluster, which engages the government, United Nations agencies, the SUN Civil Society Network and donors. As the country continues to grapple with underlying governance challenges, it has nevertheless charged forward to set in place a foundation for multi-sectoral nutrition action. The UNN worked closely with the SUN Government Focal Point on the development of the Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy and its common results framework (CFR) during the reporting period, participating in a series of related multi-stakeholder consultations as well as the final validation workshop. Somalia's UNN also provided inputs to a roadmap for the Mutual Accountability Framework, which is linked to the National Development Plan, where nutrition targets are included. While the country lacks a 'long-term' multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) for nutrition, it has instituted reporting flows between line ministries and the Office of the Prime Minister to monitor progress towards the targets. The United Nations agencies have also supported capacity strengthening on this front, helping the government find practical ways to bolster the multi-sectoral approach and bridge the humanitarian-development divide.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Led by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and WFP teamed up along with other stakeholders (e.g. the Nutrition Cluster and non-governmental organizations) to support the integrated management of acute malnutrition, as part of efforts to address the country's recurrent high levels of wasting that often exceed the emergency threshold.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Some of the top UNN achievements reported in Somalia for the reporting period include the measures taken to support: (1) government endorsement of the new nutrition strategy and finalization of the CRF to guide multi-sectoral action and improvements in nutrition programmes; (2) the finalization of the national fortification strategy; and (3) the initiation of a comprehensive review and rationalization of the national nutrition information system, merging it with those of the health sector.
- One of the main challenges that continues to hamper progress in Somalia is the focus on short-term humanitarian funding for nutrition. With that said, there has been an increased appetite among donors for resilience-building initiatives and development assistance, which will help to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus.



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# South Sudan

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JUNE 2013**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

<b>UNN Reporting Exercise Completed</b>	<b>Chair(s) Nominated</b>	<b>Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies</b>	<b>UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place</b>	<b>UNN Workplan Developed</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT</b>	<b>UNN Engagement in MSP</b>	<b>Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks</b>	<b>Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities</b>	<b>Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in South Sudan

A total of five United Nations agencies comprise the UN Network (UNN) in South Sudan. These include: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which chairs the platform; the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). Furthermore, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period, which proved to be essential in increasing buy-in among UN leadership. This, in turn, helped to incentivize collaboration among the member United Nations agencies to work towards shared nutrition goals.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting cycle, the country UNN collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Alliance Network. Together with the Ministry of Health, the two networks jointly organized an advocacy workshop in February 2019, which was instrumental in revitalizing the SUN Movement in South Sudan. It also planted the seeds for increased parliamentary engagement in nutrition. The country UNN, including Heads of Agencies, played an active role in sensitizing parliamentarians, helping them understand that good nutrition not only helps children grow strong but also their communities and countries. Furthermore, UN expertise was availed to illustrate how sectors benefit from making their efforts nutrition-sensitive, which helped parliamentarians appropriate funds for nutrition.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

In 2018–19, the UNN worked closely with the SUN Government Focal Point and the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) to improve nutrition coordination. Several stakeholder meetings were held regarding the development of a roadmap for the Multisectoral Nutrition Costed Strategy, which outlined the next steps, budget and timeline. In addition, the UNN was also very active in the South Sudan Nutrition Cluster, helping to align nutrition-related humanitarian assistance with support for development.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

The United Nations agencies participated in multiple joint programmes on nutrition during the reporting period, including: (1) the collocation of SAM and MAM<sup>1</sup> treatment (UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO), enabling seamless referral and a continuum of care; (2) a prevention programme that focused on maternal, infant and young child nutrition (UNICEF and WFP); (3) the promotion of kitchen gardens to improve the dietary diversity of complementary feeding among children who are weaning (FAO and UNICEF); and (4) joint programming on vitamin A supplementation and deworming (UNICEF and WHO).

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Further to the achievements highlighted above, the UNN in South Sudan: (1) improved UNN reporting and data quality; (2) carried out joint food security and nutrition assessments; (3) provided catalytic facilitation support to initiate the development of the multi-sectoral nutrition strategic plan under the leadership of the Ministry of Health; and (4) improved coverage of nutrition treatment facilities and the collocation of SAM and MAM treatment services.

1. SAM refers to severe acute malnutrition while MAM stands for moderate acute malnutrition.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE (2018-19)



# Sri Lanka

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN OCTOBER 2012**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, United Nations agencies have united with members of the donor community, culminating in the establishment of the SUN Development Partners Network in 2018. UN membership includes: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which co-chairs the platform with the World Bank (WB); the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). Furthermore, the UN members sometimes highlighted collective nutrition issues at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, including at a strategic retreat that was held within the 2018–19 reporting period. "According to the UNCT members, [the] nutrition agenda has been thoroughly discussed" states Safina Abdulloeva from UNICEF, helping it gain further momentum.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting period, Sri Lanka's UNN collaborated with other SUN networks, including the SUN Business Network (SBN) and the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN). In 2018, all member United Nations agencies participated in the launch of the SBN as well as its subsequent quarterly meetings and provided inputs for SBN newsletters. The United Nations agencies have also worked with the CSN on different initiatives, such as the 2018 World Food Day Celebration (FAO and WFP). Furthermore, UN-CSN collaboration will be expanded to support community nutrition in selected districts thanks to an agreement signed by WFP and CSN in 2019.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The United Nations agencies helped the Nutrition Secretariat roll out a highly consultative process to develop the Multi-Sector Action Plan for Nutrition (MSAPN) 2018–2025, coordinating inputs across seventeen ministries. The Secretariat serves as the national-level coordination authority for nutrition and is located under the President's Office. Additionally, support was provided to the SUN Government Focal Point in completing the SUN Joint Annual Assessment, which involved different government offices as well as the SUN stakeholder networks.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the United Nations agencies carried out joint programming on nutrition, including the Community Health Advanced through Nutrition and Gender Equality (CHANGE) project, supported by UNFPA and WFP. Brenda Barton, WFP Representative, speaks about the project explaining that, "fostering social and economic empowerment among Sri Lanka's women will help break the vicious intergenerational cycle of malnutrition." Another joint activity involving FAO and WFP centred around South-South cooperation for food processing and storage. The 2019 UNN reporting exercise also prompted the United Nations colleagues to reflect collectively on UN nutrition support, which set the groundwork for further UN collaboration in this area.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Among the main UNN achievements in Sri Lanka during the reporting period are: (1) its active involvement in the development and finalization of the new national nutrition plan (approval was still pending in 2019); (2) contributions to the National Food Safety Policy; and (3) the establishment of working group on Outcome 3 in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), specifically to join efforts to advance the nutrition agenda via the United Nations agencies.
- One of the main priorities in Sri Lanka for the SUN Development Partners Network is to assist the Government in the implementation of the new nation nutrition plan, including the development of its M&E plan and district action plans.



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# The Sudan

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN OCTOBER 2015**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

<b>UNN Reporting Exercise Completed</b>	<b>Chair(s) Nominated</b>	<b>Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies</b>	<b>UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place</b>	<b>UNN Workplan Developed</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT</b>	<b>UNN Engagement in MSP</b>	<b>Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks</b>	<b>Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities</b>	<b>Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in The Sudan

The UN Network (UNN) in the Sudan brings together five United Nations agencies, namely: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). It applies a co-chairing system whereby WFP serves as the chair and WHO the co-chair. In addition, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings over the course of the reporting period, helping to further sensitize UN leadership on nutrition issues.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting cycle, the United Nations agencies collaborated extensively with all SUN networks in the Sudan, employing a 'division of labour' approach. Essentially, one agency engaged with a given network, keeping the other United Nations agencies abreast related developments to ensure active UN participation in each of them. For example, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to establish the Academic Network, whereas WFP supported the SUN Business Network (SBN) in a range of activities. This included support with nutrition orientation workshops for the Sudanese Chamber of Industries, where some small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were active as well as the initiation of an industry mapping exercise of flour and oil companies within the context of fortification. WHO took the lead in UN collaboration with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN), helping to establish its management structure in the Sudan. It also facilitated CSN proposal submissions to the SUN Pooled Fund of which two were accepted to support nutrition advocacy. Furthermore, the country UNN acted hand in hand with the SUN Donor Network (SDN) and provided technical briefings at SDN meetings. Among other examples of inter-network activity, the UNN advocated for the Donor Network to contribute funds to the simple spatial surveying method (S3M) II nutrition survey, leading to a contribution from DFID.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The UNN has actively participated in all SUN Country Network meetings at the national level, where the other networks were also present. In addition, the UNN, represented by the Heads of Agencies, participated in the various meetings and discussions regarding the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), further helping to align the efforts of the UNN members behind national nutrition priorities.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, FAO, WFP and WHO worked jointly to enable inclusive and sustainable value chains, food fortification and micronutrient supplementation.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Among the main UNN achievements in the Sudan during the reporting period are: (1) the initiation of the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping to ascertain intervention coverage and identify gaps and overlaps; (2) the development of a common UN nutrition strategy and workplan for the Sudan to promote increased synergies among member agencies; and (3) joint effort to strengthen legislation and policy to support positive nutrition outcomes.
- Priorities for 2020 include the finalization of the mapping exercise, which will inform the development of the national multi-sector nutrition plan and help to identify overall resource needs for nutrition.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Tajikistan

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2013
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✗	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Tajikistan

The UN Network (UNN) in Tajikistan is comprised of 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). Chaired by UNICEF, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, helping to raise awareness among a wider group of UN leadership.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting cycle, the UNN in Tajikistan collaborated with both the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) and the SUN Donor Network (SDN). Its engagement with the former started with UNN efforts to advocate for the establishment of the CSN in the country and the subsequent development of its *modus operandi*. The country UNN was also closely engaged with the SDN within the Donor Coordination Council regarding food security and nutrition issues. This helps foster alignment among the constituent parts of the country's Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The multi-sectoral coordination council (MSCC) for SUN includes the UNN and has been working on the development and costing of the multi-sectoral national nutrition plan. The member United Nations agencies supported the organization of various such meetings, held at the national level with multiple stakeholders. They also supported the MSCC with the establishment of regional and district-level coordination councils for the country's school meal programme.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the United Nations agencies carried out two joint programmes on nutrition. One programme was dedicated to the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (UNICEF, WFP and WHO) from service delivery to enabling environment-related matters. The other was a nutrition-sensitive school meals programme through which FAO and WFP collaborated along with the government and other development partners.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- As highlighted above, the United Nations agencies provided technical support to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSPP) to update the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) protocol. Over 647 health staff were trained on the revised IMAM guideline. Improved capacity of health workers and active case finding resulted in a 51 percent increase in admissions of severely acute malnourished children in 2018. Furthermore, over 8,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were enrolled in treatment through the integrated approach. The formulation of sub-national coordination councils was another important milestone, with scope to further improve nutrition-sensitive programming within the context of schools.
- Main challenges & priorities: The UNN continues to work with the government and other stakeholders towards the finalization of the new national nutrition plan, which will shape the next chapter of the country's SUN Movement.



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# Tanzania

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JUNE 2011**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

<b>UNN Reporting Exercise Completed</b>	<b>Chair(s) Nominated</b>	<b>Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies</b>	<b>UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place</b>	<b>UNN Workplan Developed</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT</b>	<b>UNN Engagement in MSP</b>	<b>Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks</b>	<b>Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities</b>	<b>Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Tanzania

A total of five United Nations agencies are part of the UN Network (UNN) platform in Tanzania, attesting their commitment to work more collaboratively to support national efforts that address malnutrition in all its forms. These include: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Network is chaired by UNICEF and is one of the few to have always tabled the collective nutrition agenda at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19. This is yet another indication of the cohesive approach being undertaken in Tanzania.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting period, the UNN collaborated with all the SUN networks (Business, Civil Society, Donor and Parliamentarian) on what was a string of complementary activities in many cases. Its work with the Civil Society Network, known as PANITA in Tanzania, supported a nutrition expenditure analysis (UNICEF), which was shared with parliamentarians along with key recommendations. This fed into the Joint Multi-sectoral Nutrition Review in 2018, attended by hundreds working in nutrition from national to district level. Not only did the country UNN support parliamentarian engagement in the review, it also lobbied the Parliamentarian Network to secure domestic funding. The UNN, through FAO, also worked with the SUN Government Focal Point and parliamentarians to support the organization of the first Annual Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, convened in Tanzania, where members of the alliance committed to leveraging their influence in the fight against malnutrition. Both UNICEF and WFP worked with the SUN Business Network (SBN), with the latter serving as the Network's co-convenor in-country. This contributed to dialogue with private sector actors (e.g. Tanzania Salt Producers Association, salt producers and investors) and innovation contests. Finally, the country UNN collaborated with the SUN Donor Network (SDN), through the Development Partners Group on nutrition, to develop and launch (April 2019) the Mid-term Review of the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP).

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The UNN participated in the national High-Level Steering Committee on Nutrition meeting held in July 2018, which discussed key issues, including the Food and Nutrition Policy, nutrition financing and dedicated human resources. In addition, the UNN is a key member of the national bi-annual multi-sectoral nutrition working group and provides technical support to the NMNAP thematic working groups that meet quarterly. Furthermore, the UNN fostered the operationalization of twenty-six multi-sectoral nutrition steering committees operating within sub-national councils through the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG).

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

The strong inter-agency dynamics in Tanzania also manifested in joint programming on nutrition during the established period. Three United Nations agencies were taking measures to kick-off a joint programme for host communities around the refugee camps in the Kigoma region (UNICEF, WFP, WHO) that integrated nutrition-specific actions with health services. This joint programme would complement an existing nutrition-sensitive agriculture programme supported by six United Nations agencies, two of which are UNN members (FAO and WFP).

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Some of the top UNN achievements in Tanzania include: (1) the implementation of the nutrition compact between the PORALG and twenty-six regions which catalysed a minimal budgetary allocation to nutrition for each child under five years old; (2) the implementation of the 2018 national nutrition survey to guide decision-making; and (3) successive rounds of mapping key nutrition actions to help track the implementation of the national nutrition plan, using a slightly adapted version of the UNN tool.
- Moving forward, continued capacity building of nutrition stakeholders on nutrition data management was one of the identified priorities.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Togo

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MARCH 2014
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 8/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
X	✓	✓	✓	X

## Overview of the UN Network in Togo

In Togo, the United Nations agencies come together to discuss nutrition issues and exchange related information through an informal UN-Donor platform. Four United Nations agencies are involved, 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). UNICEF leads the group and put aside partial funding to support the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping – using the UNN tool – after it was presented to country stakeholders by members of the UNN Secretariat in February 2019. The exercise was embraced as means to infuse energy into the nutrition scene, better understand gaps, identify opportunities for increased synergies and fuel advocacy for attracting investment in nutrition. According to the findings from the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, the collective nutrition agenda was not tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, which could be linked to the lack of a formalized network for the UN constituency within Togo's SUN Movement.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting period, the participating United Nations agencies supported the establishment of the Civil Society Network (CSN). The combined UN-Donor Network arrangement, even if informal, exemplifies the close collaboration on nutrition between United Nations actors and the donor community in Togo.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The above-mentioned United Nations agencies actively participated in the national Multi-sectoral Nutrition Platform, which is also comprised of relevant ministries, local non-governmental organizations, universities, donors and the private sector. Members of the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) were eager to proceed with the mapping, as they see it as a tool to operationalize the newly approved National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan. They also recognize that the mapping will provide valuable inputs to develop its corresponding M&E plan. In addition, the 'UNN' provided financial support to the SUN Government Focal Point for various in-country activities to strengthen nutrition coordination across sectors and institutions.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- One of the top UNN achievements in Togo during the reporting period was the elaboration of the 2019 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) operational plan, led by UNICEF and WFP, which was used to determine budgetary allocations to nutrition.
- Looking ahead, the main priorities are to plug the funding shortfall in order to complete the mapping exercise, following an official request from the government. One objective of the mapping is to inform the development of a roadmap for nutrition actors and interventions, planned for the first quarter in 2020.



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# Uganda

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN MARCH 2011
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
X	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Uganda

The UN Network (UNN) in Uganda is composed of 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). It applies a co-chairing system, with UNICEF and WFP in the lead. In addition, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, helping to raise awareness among UN leadership in the other resident agencies in Uganda.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting period, the country UNN collaborated with the SUN Business Network (SBN), the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) and the SUN Donor Network (SDN). For instance, the UNN supported efforts to revitalize the SBN in the country, such as the completion of a desk review and a mapping of business presence to strategically orient SBN's future activity. UNN-SDN collaboration went to the next level, with the two networks devising a joint workplan on key areas to support in 2019.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Uganda's UNN worked with the SUN Government Focal Point with a view to better integrating multi-sectoral nutrition actions at both national and sub-national levels. The UNN is an affiliate of the national multi-sectoral coordination committee, chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister, which serves as the country's multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) and discusses implementation progress of core nutrition interventions. The committee is also comprised of the key government ministries involved in nutrition (e.g. Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; Education; Health; and Gender, Labour and Social Development), the CSN and other development partners. In addition, different United Nations agencies are represented in nutrition coordination committees at the district level. The UNN supported the establishment and activation of some of them during the reporting period to further advance the country's nutrition agenda and achieve results at scale.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the United Nations agencies carried out joint programming on nutrition. UNICEF and WFP teamed up for the joint Karamoja Nutrition Programme, funded by DFID, on the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM). As many as seven United Nations agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, WFP and WHO) – including all of the UNN member agencies – were involved in a joint programme (JUPSA), funded by Irish Aid, to address nutritional vulnerabilities of people living with HIV/AIDS and maximize the effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The main UNN achievements in Uganda include: (1) the formulation of the new nutrition policy and its submission to the Cabinet; (2) the review and finalization of the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan II (UNAP II) and Health Management Information System; and (3) support to the government for the review and implementation of the IMAM guidelines.
- Looking ahead, the priorities for the UNN in the next reporting cycle will be to conduct a second round of mapping and a capacity assessment for UNAP II along with the formulation of a subsequent capacity development plan. In both cases, UNN analytical tools will be used for these comprehensive exercises.



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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Viet Nam

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JANUARY 2014**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✗	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Viet Nam

The United Nations agencies rally for nutrition through Viet Nam's Technical Working Group (TWG), also referred to as the Nutrition Cluster. UN participation includes the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) although other stakeholders, such as the government, the World Bank and civil society organizations, are also involved (further information reported below). The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is a key component of the TWG's programme of work, providing an example of how nutrition workstreams can be consolidated at the country level. Strong inter-agency dynamics are nourished by active UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) engagement and innovative office space arrangements, whereby United Nations staff sit together in common premises, grouped not by agency, but by the pillars of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). With that said, Viet Nam is one of the few countries, where the collective nutrition agenda was never tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19. This could, in part, be due to the lack of a discrete network for the UN constituency.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the United Nations agencies collaborated with the nascent SUN Civil Society and Business Networks. Regular interaction with the former was achieved in view of the joint participation in the country Nutrition Cluster whereas collaboration with the latter largely centred around preparations for establishing the country's SBN.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The United Nations agencies supported the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), which hosts the TWG on nutrition and the SUN Government Focal Point. UNICEF co-chairs the working group with NIN, attesting the UN's active role in the platform. Furthermore, the United Nations agencies are helping the NIN to progressively reach out to other sectors beyond the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Health to accelerate progress towards nutrition targets.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In Viet Nam, the unique office arrangements and UNRC initiative facilitate the pursuit of joint programmes between agencies. UNICEF and WHO carried out joint programming in diverse facets of nutrition, from the promotion of integrated management of severe acute malnutrition to the prevention of child overweight and obesity. Additional United Nations agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNIDO) joined efforts to support the implementation of the National Action Plan for Zero Hunger (NAP-ZH), 2018–2025, particularly actions intended to improve food consumption practices and promote healthy diets.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Collective UN nutrition activity in Viet Nam was fruitful during the reporting cycle, encompassing: (1) support to the government for formulating and launching the NAP-ZH (endorsed in 2018); (2) regular support to the SUN processes; (3) technical assistance to the government for the General Nutrition Survey (2019); and (4) support on the evaluation of the National Nutrition Strategy, which expires in 2020, to guide the next steps of nutrition scale-up.
- The United Nations members have identified multiple priorities to build on the momentum. These include: (1) engaging additional agencies (e.g. ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO, UN WOMEN) in nutrition; (2) making nutrition a standing agenda item in the UNCT, understanding that it reflects and drives the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals; (3) continued support to the government for engaging other sectors in the NIN; and (4) technical assistance to undertake studies on the economic impact of hunger and overweight/obesity and non-communicable diseases.



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# Yemen

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN NOVEMBER 2012
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
X	✓	✓	✓	✓

## 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;<sup>1</sup> (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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## UN NETWORK COUNTRY PROFILE ( 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 )



# Zambia

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER 2010
- UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10
- HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT	UNN Engagement in MSP	Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks	Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities	Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Zambia

Zambia's UN Network (UNN) is composed of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The member agencies have opted to pursue a co-chairing system, with UNICEF and WFP dually fulfilling that role. In 2018–19, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, helping to attract the attention of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC). This has directly contributed to making the UNRC become nutrition savvy and recognizing the potential of nutrition to drive sustainable development.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the UNN collaborated with the SUN Donor Network (SDN) to strengthen government coordination capacity for nutrition. This also facilitated the provision of technical and financial support to the SUN Government Focal Point in various programme areas, from home-grown school feeding to food fortification, the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative and the management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), helping to bolster multi-sectoral nutrition actions in the country.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

At national level, the UNN provided regular progress updates to the nutrition multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) and was instrumental in helping to foster increased alignment between the SUN networks and the MSP. Combined with the UNN's support to the SUN Government Focal Point, who is based at the National Food and Nutrition Commission under the Ministry of Health, these efforts have enriched Zambia's multi-sectoral approach to nutrition. The United Nations agencies have also been supporting the expansion of SUN coordination structures to districts through local partnerships. This involved providing capacity strengthening support for multi-sectoral nutrition planning, implementation, coordination and M&E at the district level.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In Zambia, the United Nations agencies carried out joint programming on nutrition in pursuit of shared goals. These include supplementary and school feeding enhancement, supported by WFP and WHO, and another joint programme on micronutrient fortification and supplementation which consolidated technical assistance from UNICEF and WHO. The latter even involved conducting an assessment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, to ascertain the capacity of laboratories to analyse fortified food samples. A third example of UN joint programming documented through the 2019 UNN reporting exercise focused on the promotion of affordable, adequate, safe and diverse foods and household food security, which was supported by all five UNN members agencies.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Overall, UNN support in Zambia has been well-aligned to country's nutrition agenda thanks in large part to the articulation of a common UNN strategy, which was linked to the nutrition priorities outlined in the 7th National Development Plan. This enabled the country UNN to contribute to milestones, such as setting up and strengthening nutrition coordination mechanisms and advancing nutrition-smart national policy and legal frameworks. Other joint UN efforts aimed to improve the enabling environment and encompassed: (1) the promotion of research, development and evidence generation (e.g. support for the Cost of Hunger analysis); (2) advocacy; (3) nutrition information system development; as well as (4) technical assistance for the development of guidelines on the management of SAM and nutrition-sensitive social protection, respectively.
- Efforts to strengthen budget tracking mechanisms were identified as a priority for the next reporting cycle.



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# Zimbabwe

The information presented in this brief is mainly based on the country's submissions to the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, covering the May 2018–April 2019 period.

- **JOINED THE SUN MOVEMENT IN JUNE 2011**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

<b>UNN Reporting Exercise Completed</b>	<b>Chair(s) Nominated</b>	<b>Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies</b>	<b>UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place</b>	<b>UNN Workplan Developed</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT</b>	<b>UNN Engagement in MSP</b>	<b>Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks</b>	<b>Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities</b>	<b>Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Zimbabwe

The UN Network (UNN) in Zimbabwe has as many as eight members, namely: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Food Programme (WFP); the World Health Organization (WHO); as well as the World Bank. Co-chaired by UNICEF and WFP, its composition reflects a mix of big nutrition players and organizations that have traditionally been less involved in the area, and yet play an important role in contributing to positive nutrition outcomes. The country UNN has also benefitted from the support of a UNN-REACH facilitator since 2017, who is a core member of the Network and fostered efforts to double its membership base in March 2019. While the collective nutrition agenda was only sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the reporting period, this will likely change as the Network continues to gain momentum with new members, particularly since the decision to expand UNN membership was endorsed by the UNCT.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the UNN worked closely with other SUN networks in the country. One example is the technical and financial support UNN provided to establish the SUN Research and Academic Platform (SUNRAP). The UNN-REACH Facilitator was called upon to liaise with other UNN colleagues and compile inputs that helped to define a priority research agenda for nutrition and identify capacity gaps, guiding the work of SUNRAP. Furthermore, the UNN considers the Zimbabwe Civil Society Network (ZCSOSUNA) a priority partner, and thus embedded measures to support it in the 2018–19 UNN workplan.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Zimbabwe's UNN supported multi-sectoral platforms (MSPs) from national to local levels, including efforts to increase interactions between them. The presence of a UNN-REACH facilitator was an asset in that it enabled the UNN to provide daily support to the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) and the SUN Government Focal Point for coordinating efforts across stakeholders and sectors. In particular, the role of data in coordination was acknowledged as an enabler from the FNC, where the SUN Focal Point is based, to district food and nutrition committees to coordination platforms for the Multi-sectoral Community Based Model (MCBM) for stunting reduction. The UNN's Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping proved to be a critical input and catalyst for improving information systems and data flows between national and sub-national levels. After seeing the potential of the exercise, a decision was made to scale it up to nineteen districts, thanks to supplemental funding provided by UNICEF. A process was also initiated, with UNN-REACH support, for teleconferencing between national and sub-national governance bodies as part of strengthening feedback mechanisms and providing timely supportive supervision.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting cycle, the country UNN pursued joint programming in the march towards increased nutritional impact. This included accelerated community actions for stunting reduction in four districts, conducted by FAO and UNICEF, and the MCBM after a successful pilot in the Mutasa district. The latter blended livelihoods support, food and agricultural assistance, WASH interventions, behaviour change communication with capacity strengthening, M&E and supply chain management support, jointly provided by FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. Lastly, nutrition components featured in a joint emergency response to cyclone Idai that engaged five UNN agencies as well as a host of others.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- As highlighted above, the UNN in Zimbabwe increased its membership twofold and completed a sweeping mapping exercise (June 2018), being the first country to use the web-based version of the UNN tool and prompting systemic change in how data is managed. It also conducted the UN Nutrition Inventory in 2018 to inform UN strategic planning and help align behind government priorities. Finally, the United Nations Resident Coordinator became increasingly engaged in the national nutrition agenda, triggered in part by the UNN Director/Global Coordinator's mission (February 2019), which drew connections between nutrition and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Looking forward, resource mobilization for a joint programme to support national stunting reduction efforts and the further strengthening of national nutrition information systems (including surveillance) will be priorities for the UNN.



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# Glossary

**Country UN Network (UNN)** refers to the UNN in a given country, which is comprised of nutrition focal points from the member United Nations agencies and the chair/co-chairs. While UNN focal points are usually programme staff (technical level), the chair/co-chairs are often high-level UN representatives, such as the Country Representative or deputy of a resident United Nations agency. UN Networks are expected to be established in every SUN country, and also encouraged in other countries.

**Development Partners Groups** refer to bodies in which United Nations agencies work together with other partners (e.g. donors, civil society) on nutrition-related inputs for the broader development agenda. In some cases, a Development Partners Group may be a combined UN-Donor Network.

**Non-traditional United Nations agencies:** For the purpose of this report, non-traditional United Nations agencies refer to those agencies without an explicit mandate on nutrition, and yet whose engagement in the nutrition agenda can play a pivotal role in achieving positive nutrition outcomes, especially through nutrition-sensitive dialogue, programmes and projects.

**Reporting year/period/cycle** refers to the period between May 2018–April 2019 for which the 2019 UN Network reporting exercise was conducted, unless otherwise stated (e.g. *where reference is made to the 2016 reporting cycle*).

**Nutrition working groups** refer to a country-level mechanism/platform where United Nations agencies engage in joint technical discussions to foster the achievement of national nutrition objectives.

**UN Network analytics** refer to the comprehensive analytical tools/exercises developed by and carried out through the UNN Secretariat. These include: the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview (MNO); the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping; the Policy and Plan Overview (PPO); the Nutrition Capacity Assessment; and the UN Nutrition Inventory. Where the full set of the tools are discussed, they are referred to as the “UN Network toolkit or UNN toolkit”.

**UN Network reporting exercise:** is an annual exercise undertaken by the UNN Secretariat to monitor and report on progress made towards the achievement of harmonized and coordinated UN efforts for nutrition in SUN countries. This UNN reporting can, in turn, help country UNNs prepare for the SUN Joint Assessment, which encompasses the greater SUN community in a given country.

**UN Network chair:** The country UN Network is usually convened by a chair/co-chairs, nominated by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). The role of the chair/co-chairs is to promote collective UN action and cohesiveness regarding the nutrition agenda, helping to increase the efficiency of UN support to national efforts for reducing malnutrition.

**UN [nutrition] Network Secretariat** is hosted by the World Food Programme in Rome, Italy. It provides advisory services, analytical support and promotes knowledge sharing regarding country-led nutrition processes. The Secretariat carries out activities to support the achievement of UNN goals and objectives as outlined in annual workplans.

**UNN-REACH** refers to the intensive-support arm of the UNN’s multi-sectoral technical assistance facility. REACH was established in 2008 as a partnership between FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, later joined by IFAD. In 2015, the functions of REACH were absorbed under the broader UN Network.



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The time is now. The **UN Network** is calling upon all United Nations agencies to engage in nutrition at country level as part of efforts to bolster integrated action, leveraging nutrition as an enabler to achieve the SDGs.

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