

Costa Rica



Joined Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement: May 2014

National multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition: SUN Team Costa Rica

SUN government focal point/country coordinator: Ms. Cecilia Gamboa Cerda, Coordinator of the Secretariat of the National Food and Nutrition Policy, Ministry of Health

COUNTRY NUTRITION STATUS

→ Annual country nutrition indicators from the Global Nutrition Report:

<https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/latin-america-and-caribbean/central-america/costa-rica>

● National multi-stakeholder platform (MSP)

Date established: 2014

● MSP annual action plan exists

<https://scalingupnutrition.org/resource-library/national-multi-stakeholder-platform-costa-rica>

● Subnational nutrition coordination mechanism

● Subnational MSPs exist

● Subnational MSPs have annual action plans

●●● National nutrition plan

The plan is currently in development but will cover 2022–2025

● Advocacy and communications framework/plan

SUN networks in-country presence

● SUN Civil Society Network

● SUN Business Network

● UN Nutrition

● SUN Academia Network

● SUN Donor Network

● Others: e.g. youth, parliamentarian, media

Finance for nutrition

● Resource mobilization strategy exists

● Budget tracking exercise done this year

● Funding gaps identified this year

● Domestic expenditures on nutrition tracked

● Yes ● In process ● No ● Costed ● M&E framework

COUNTRY PRIORITIES 2022

- Developing food-based dietary guidelines from a food systems-based approach for the population over 2 years of age and producing a food and nutrition communication strategy.
- Finalizing the Nutrition Action Plan and incorporating the costs of the activities included to seek possible local and external funding.
- Strengthening the SUN Civil Society Network's role in the multisectoral platform, including academia.

2021 SHARED COUNTRY GOOD PRACTICE

Topic: Nutrition coordination

Title: SUN Platform Nutrition Action Plan

About: Three United Nations organizations (the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), FAO and PAHO) that form part of Costa Rica's SUN Team have helped develop the Nutrition Action Plan together with the platform's social actors.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUN 3.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (SO)

→ SO.1 Strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy environments

Costa Rica has prepared the first draft of its National Health Policy and drafted a methodological document for producing a plan. This document is currently pending official approval. The Strengthening Food and Nutrition with an Emphasis on Costa Rica's Mother-and-Child Population project has been completed, the outputs of which include food guides for the first 1,000 days of a child's life, a Breastfeeding Promotion Strategy for the municipality of Santa Ana and an exchange of experiences with countries in the region on food guides.

→ SO.2 Develop and align shared country priorities for action

The SUN Costa Rica platform has an action plan for 2022–2025 comprising the activities and objectives of the institutions that form part of the platform. The inclusion of the Costa Rican Gastronomy Foundation (FUCOGA) as a representative of the SUN Civil Society Network has strengthened the platform. The Letter of Intent for a Comprehensive Approach to Overweight and Obesity in Children and Adolescents, signed by 10 ministers, the subregional coordinator for Mesoamerica of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) representative for Costa Rica and the President of the Republic as an honorary witness, is now in force. Costa Rica made national commitments at the Nutrition for Growth Summit.

→ SO.3 Build and strengthen country capacity

Costa Rica has a series of food guides that are available to the population and institutions covering the first 1,000 days of a child's life and has begun to disseminate educational messages to improve the nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 2 years of age. Costa Rica has also completed a food and nutrition situation analysis for the first 1,000 days of life (June 2021) and a food and nutrition situation analysis with a focus on food systems for the population over 2 years of age (to be published in 2022). These tools have made it possible to standardize the information provided to the general population.

→ SO.4 Ensure governance of SUN that promotes country leadership and responsibilities of government, aligns the resources of all SUN Movement stakeholders behind country priorities and strengthens 360 mutual accountability

The Ministry of Health, the highest authority on health and nutrition, is responsible for nutrition governance in Costa Rica. A framework law for the promotion of food and nutrition security is currently under consultation with the purpose of improving the country's nutrition governance. Promotional strategies need to be designed so that food and nutrition issues are considered at the highest levels, especially in terms of budget allocations and the recruitment of human resources to implement actions included in the country's health and nutrition plans.