

Action brief

# A unified and operational alliance of the SUN Civil Society Network

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**Country:** Peru

**Topics:** Coordination of action through improved functional capacities

**Sub-topics:** Strengthening capacity to better coordinate with sectors or groups

**Date:** September 2023



## Overview



PERUSAN, the Alliance of the SUN Civil Society Network in Peru, has positioned itself as a food and nutrition security benchmark with government authorities, holding dialogues with ministerial managers and receiving public recognition from the Zero Hunger Commission of the Peruvian Congress.



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## Period covered

Advocacy activities began in July 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are ongoing.



## Objectives of the action brief

This action brief aims to underline the importance of:

- Having a united and organized civil society as a partner with a voice and technical capacity in relation to state authorities
- Generating food and nutrition security analyses and data on the ground to shape state policymaking decisions



## Organization

- Institutions and civil society organizations that are linked to food and nutrition security in the country and that have a track record in analysis, proposals and influence regarding this issue are eligible to participate.
- Membership is also open to specialists, civil society activists and other individuals who can analyse, propose and influence food and nutrition issues.



## What action was taken?

PERUSAN has created a **broad platform of various networks**, including trade unions, assistance networks and other organizations and institutions linked to food and nutrition security.

As an initiative group, PERUSAN promotes and coordinates a platform of dialogues for 19 broad-reaching networks on issues related to food and nutrition, such as organic farming, fishing, markets, food consumption, healthy food and food assistance. Grassroots social organizations – such as the networks of food banks and soup kitchens – are included, as are the nutrition departments of two national universities and seven additional experts.

The programme has laid the foundations for a **common civil society agenda** for scaling up advocacy on food and nutrition security and established **regular examples of dialogue and joint decision-making** among members.

PERUSAN has organized **monthly dialogues** and conferences for taking stock of the components of food and nutrition security – food production and marketing, nutritional guidelines and practices, and food assistance

strategies – all with extensive public participation. Upcoming dialogues will focus on food marketing, state food purchasing, protecting local and small-scale producers and fishers, and boosting their resilience to climate change. These dialogues are a starting point for the improvement of nutrition and food security among a population suffering from anaemia, chronic malnutrition, overweight and obesity.

The strength of the alliance, which boasts 45 organizations, is the link it has established among food and local producers in the agricultural and fishing industry to ensure that food is healthy, sufficient and sustainable. PERUSAN has formed a **solid platform for sharing good practices**, with short- and medium-term work plans.



PERUSAN and its partners have **developed four advocacy priorities:**

- Mitigate the effects of the ongoing food crisis.
- Protect and ensure local food production among farmers and fishers.
- Employ sustainability measures.
- Engage in far-reaching consultations with civil society members for a new national food and nutrition security policy.

**Lessons learned:**

- Given the political polarization and instability in the country (there were six heads of state in six years,

while political parties went bankrupt and political representation in congress was fragmented), it is necessary that civil society have a more important forum to contribute to the effectiveness and continuity of policies.

- For civil society to help overcome malnutrition in the country, it is necessary to focus on stakeholders within the food system (production, distribution and use of food) and governance among the various stakeholders involved.
- The various alliances of the SUN Movement in the country (cooperation of government bodies and civil society) and the SUN Government Focal Point have played important roles in keeping food and nutrition security on the political agenda.





## What would the country do differently?

Several things could have been done differently:

- Set a more precise common goal and enhance collaboration to take further steps.
- Invite more members.
- Set a minimum budget (the alliance works without financial resources).
- Forge closer alliances with the round tables on poverty reduction and children's health to link child malnutrition with other issues.
- Promote working groups with short-term objectives to carry out proposed priorities related to agriculture, fishing, state purchases, and short food supply chains.



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## Adaptation and applicability

To successfully implement this good practice in other areas, it will be important to:

- **Map stakeholders for the formation of the platform by identifying and engaging institutions and experts interested in food and nutrition security acting in various areas (production, distribution, consumption).**
- **Develop strategies for communicating and building trust among the stakeholders involved by identifying information, problems, experiences, and possible common strategies and actions.**
- **Focus on the population's right to good food and nutrition in the medium and long term, considering external factors within the framework of food systems.**
- **Design and test flexible forms of organization according to the characteristics of the stakeholders involved.**
- **Plan analysis and advocacy work to set priorities.**
- **Maintain good collaboration with the SUN Government Focal Point and state institutions.**



## Next steps

PERUSAN is currently seeking funding to establish a monitoring and data-gathering centre (an observatory) that will play a key role in overseeing the implementation of the **United Nations Food Systems Summit road map**.

This Good Practice was developed in collaboration with the SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN). For more information about the SUN CSN, please visit their website: <https://www.suncivilsociety.com/>

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