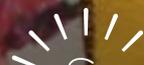


# SCALING UP NUTRITION AROUND THE WORLD IN 2017-2018

 Scaling Up  
**NUTRITION**

ENGAGE • INSPIRE • INVEST

Latin America and the Caribbean



# Scaling up nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean

## INTRODUCTION

4 countries in Latin America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru) and 1 in the Caribbean (Haiti) are members of the SUN Movement. The region's commitment to scaling up nutrition is clear, with Guatemala and Peru being two of the SUN Movement's 'earliest risers', with the other 3 following suit between 2011 and 2014.<sup>1</sup>

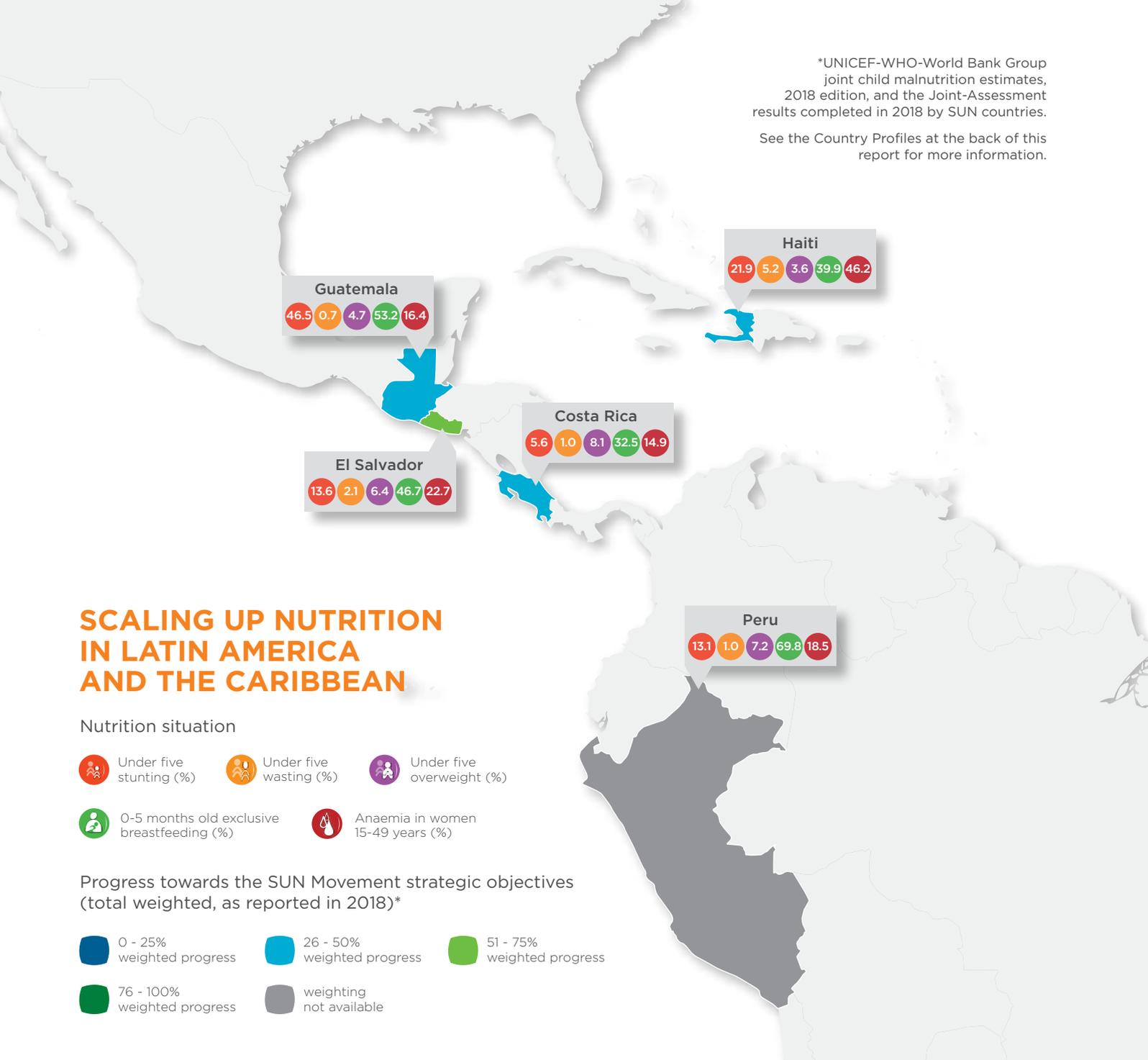
These 5 countries are diverse in terms of their historical, geographical and economic contexts. They range from low-income to upper middle-income countries and are at various levels of risk vis-à-vis humanitarian crises disasters, ranging from low to very high risk. However, what unites this region is their efforts to reduce malnutrition, in all its forms, through multi-sectoral approaches. All countries in the region have established a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) – with 4 out of 5 countries having undertaken their SUN Movement Joint-Assessment in 2018.<sup>2</sup> Progress towards the SUN Movement strategic objectives has been maintained since 2016.

<sup>1</sup> Unless cited otherwise, data presented in this section are from the SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) database. These data have been compiled from various sources, as listed in the SUN MEAL Framework Baseline Document, which is available at: <https://scalingupnutrition.org/progress-impact/monitoring-evaluation-accountability-and-learning-meal/>.

<sup>2</sup> In 2018, all countries in the region except Peru undertook the SUN Joint-Assessment.

\*UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Group joint child malnutrition estimates, 2018 edition, and the Joint-Assessment results completed in 2018 by SUN countries.

See the Country Profiles at the back of this report for more information.



## SCALING UP NUTRITION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Nutrition situation

- Under five stunting (%)
- Under five wasting (%)
- Under five overweight (%)
- 0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding (%)
- Anaemia in women 15-49 years (%)

### Progress towards the SUN Movement strategic objectives (total weighted, as reported in 2018)\*

- 0 - 25% weighted progress
- 26 - 50% weighted progress
- 51 - 75% weighted progress
- 76 - 100% weighted progress
- weighting not available

Looking ahead, accelerated action will be needed to curb overweight, obesity and undernutrition, alike, and ensure a healthy, nutritious future for all women, men and their families.



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## A SNAPSHOT OF NUTRITION AND DIETS ACROSS THE LIFECYCLE

Although trends vary greatly from country to country in this region, certain parallels can be drawn vis-à-vis malnutrition and food security trends.



Girls' and boys' nutrition status under five years old varies from country to country in Latin America and the Caribbean. Stunting levels are some of the lowest across the SUN Movement in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Peru (lower than 15 per cent), but high in Haiti (at 22 per cent) and very high in Guatemala (46 per cent of children).

**EL SALVADOR AND PERU ARE 2 OF ONLY 7 SUN COUNTRIES ON TRACK TO MEET GLOBAL TARGETS FOR BOTH STUNTING AND WASTING**



Low levels of wasting in children is seen across this region, with Costa Rica, Guatemala and Peru having a prevalence of wasted girls and boys that stands at 1 per cent, or below. Wasting is more prevalent in El Salvador and Haiti – which today is at 2.1 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively. Both El Salvador and Peru, however, are on track to meet World Health Assembly targets for both stunting and wasting.



A unique feature of this region is the notable increase in children who are overweight – with Haiti being a regional outlier with undernutrition still being the main concern. In the Latin American countries, the percentage of overweight girls and boys ranges between 5 and 8 per cent, exceeding the WHA 2030 target of reducing and maintaining childhood overweight to less than 3 per cent.

**“WHILE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS UNDERNUTRITION [IN LATIN AMERICA] HAVE MADE MARKED IMPROVEMENTS, CHILDHOOD OBESITY IS ON THE RISE AS A RESULT OF DIETS THAT FAVOUR ENERGY-DENSE, NUTRIENT-POOR FOODS AND THE ADOPTION OF A SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE.”<sup>2</sup>**



Close to half of infants 0-5 months of age are exclusively breastfed (with a median of 47 per cent). Peru is the region's highest performer, with an exclusive breastfeeding rate of 69.8 per cent,<sup>4</sup> followed by Guatemala (at 53.2 per cent) and El Salvador (at 46.7 per cent). Haiti and Costa Rica's exclusive breastfeeding rates are at 39.9 and 32.5 per cent, respectively – which means that promoting breastfeeding of infants should be prioritised in these countries, in particular. About half (median 55 per cent) of infants are breastfed within an hour after delivery (with a range of 42 to 63 per cent) – although children from the richest households and those in urban areas are less likely to initiate breastfeeding early. SUN countries in this region are also doing well in terms of continued breastfeeding until a girl or boy reaches 1 year. Guatemala performs exceptionally well – with a rate that stands at 85.3 per cent, followed by Peru (at 79.6 per cent) and Haiti (at 76.9 per cent).

<sup>3</sup> Corvalan et al., (2017). “Nutrition status of children in Latin America” Obesity Reviews 18 (Suppl. 2), pp. 7–18.

<sup>4</sup> WHO, (2018). Enabling women to breastfeed through better policies and programmes: Global breastfeeding scorecard 2018. Available at: <http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/global-bf-scorecard-2018/en/> [accessed November 2018].



All countries share the problem of anaemia in women, affecting a median of 26 per cent of pregnant and 18 per cent of non-pregnant women. Haiti bears the highest burden, with anaemia affecting 65 per cent of children under five, 56 per cent of adolescent girls between 15 and 19 years old, and 46 per cent of women. Efforts to address high levels of anaemia among women include the promotion of iron supplements for women during pregnancy. Peru, Guatemala and Haiti are reaching over 70 per cent of women with at least some iron supplements during pregnancy.



Overweight and obesity in adults has also become an important health issue for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the region having the highest prevalence of overweight and obesity across the SUN Movement. The prevalence of overweight and obesity is greater than 60 per cent among adult women in every country. Prevalence among adult men and adolescent girls and boys is also very high. The increasing levels of overweight and obesity reflect improvements in socio-economic conditions, increases in women's employment, rapid urbanisation, changes in the food system and increased use of private transportation that interact in complex ways and influence diet and activity patterns.<sup>5</sup> Along with the increase in overweight and obesity comes an increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – diabetes is estimated to affect an average of 10 per cent of men and women in the region and all 5 countries are off track to achieve the NCD target for reducing diabetes.



Infant and young child feeding practices are important contributors to child malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. A high proportion of children 6-23 months of age in Latin American SUN countries receive a minimum acceptable diet and minimum diet diversity (with a range between 52 and 65 per cent for minimum acceptable diet and minimum diet diversity rates between 59 to 78 per cent). The picture is different for children in Haiti, however, where only 14 per cent receive a minimum acceptable diet and 23 per cent receive minimum diet diversity, similar to most other countries across the Movement.



Iodised salt is another important action to improve micronutrient status of children and their families. The coverage of iodised salt is high (above 85 per cent) in Peru and Guatemala but very low in Haiti (at 16 per cent).



In comparison to other SUN Movement countries, the Latin America and Caribbean region has the lowest prevalence of undernourishment. However, undernourishment levels and food insecurity are closely associated with levels of humanitarian risk in this region. The prevalence of undernourishment in 2016 was the highest in Haiti (46 per cent), a very high-risk context, in contrast to Costa Rica (4 per cent), a low risk context. Food insecurity remains a concern in Haiti where most households depend on home production for food consumption, and agriculture is slowly recovering from Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and the year-long drought in 2015-2016. Peru and El Salvador are considered as medium humanitarian risk contexts – the latest data available for El Salvador suggest that 12 per cent of the population experienced severe food insecurity in 2016. Also considered at a high risk of humanitarian crises and disasters, Guatemala faces serious challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 on Zero Hunger, which includes the elimination of all forms of malnutrition by 2030. Almost half the population cannot afford the cost of the basic food basket – resulting in one of the highest prevalence of stunting in girls and boys under 5 in the world – and the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean.

<sup>5</sup> Supra note 3.



## PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGs: MAKERS AND MARKERS OF GOOD NUTRITION

Many Latin American and Caribbean countries are making significant strides toward achieving the SDGs and can lead the way towards better nutrition, also through South-South Cooperation. The 4 Latin American countries are SUN Movement leaders in their efforts to eradicate extreme poverty, end preventable deaths of children under five years and reduce premature mortality from NCDs.

Less than 10 per cent of the population lives below the international poverty line in the 4 Latin American countries.<sup>6</sup> These countries are at the forefront of developing countries' efforts to ensure the social protection of women, men and their families – by implementing various types of transfers, such as conditional cash transfer programmes and social pensions, and expanding health protection. Social assistance programmes cover a large proportion of vulnerable populations in these countries (median 59 per cent coverage overall, with 78 per cent coverage of the poorest households). In contrast, in Haiti, the level of poverty is much higher (25 per cent in 2012) and there are no social assistance programmes to protect poor households.

While social protection programmes have played an important role in addressing poverty and proved essential to decrease undernutrition, there is, however, a concern that these programmes will need to be adapted to avoid an inadvertent contribution towards the risk of overweight. The presence of a double – or multiple – burden of malnutrition requires designing policies and programmes to address nutrition status at both ends of the spectrum – from undernutrition to overweight. Presently, in some countries, there are efforts to address the growing obesity epidemic by modifying social and nutrition programmes or improving public school environments in general. However, in other countries such as Guatemala and Peru, social programmes are still mainly oriented to fighting undernutrition.<sup>7</sup>

In terms of SDG drivers of nutrition, the 4 Latin American countries are also leaders in ensuring a high proportion of their population have access to basic water services, in contrast to Haiti where 64 per cent of households have access to these services.

As is the case of every SUN region, Latin America also sees great disparity between the 'haves' and 'have nots'. Considering this region has a high percentage of indigenous women, men and children (estimated at 13 per cent), addressing indigenous peoples' equal rights, socio-economic development and access to food and nutrition is key to ensure improvements in nutrition in all countries, overall and leave no one behind.

Girls and women in Latin America and the Caribbean often enjoy more equality than elsewhere in the SUN Movement. This region has the highest proportion of girls enrolled in secondary school (median 88 per cent versus 44 per cent for SUN countries), a low proportion of girls married by the age of 18 (regional median 22 per cent versus 31 per cent for SUN countries) and low adolescent fertility rate (median 63 births per 1,000 women 15-19 years, versus 87 for SUN countries). Interestingly, however, no SUN country in Latin America or the Caribbean region is placed in the top 20 positions of the 2017 World Economic Forum Gender Gap ranking – Costa Rica is placed in the 41st position, with Peru finding itself placed 48th, and is the highest climber since the last ranking. El Salvador is placed in the 68th position, with Guatemala having been placed in the 110th position in 2017 – lower than many SUN countries and the lowest ranked in the region.<sup>8</sup>



<sup>6</sup> World Bank, (2018). Poverty and Equity Database. Available at: <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/poverty-and-equity-database> [accessed March 2018].

<sup>7</sup> Supra note 3.

<sup>8</sup> World Economic Forum, (2017). The Global Gender Gap Report 2017. Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-gender-gap-report-2017> [accessed November 2018].

## REACHING THE SUN MOVEMENT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In 2018, 4 out of 5 countries in the region undertook the Joint-Assessment, where, across the board, the overall scores have been sustained at similar levels since 2016.



### EXPAND AND SUSTAIN AN ENABLING POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

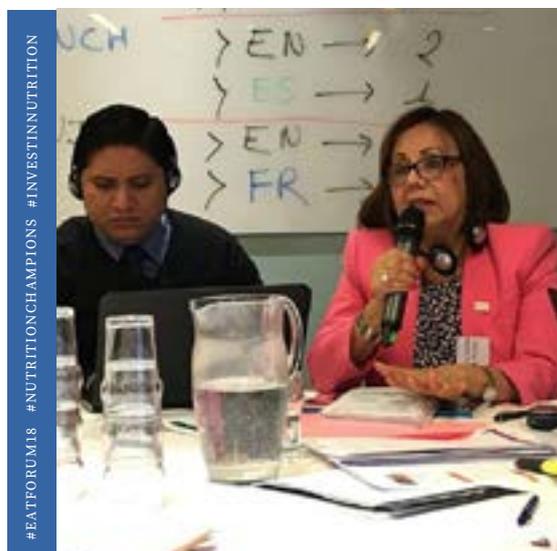
SUN countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are progressing in the creation of an enabling environment for nutrition. 3 countries have a functioning multi-stakeholder platform (MSP), with Costa Rica and Haiti having an interim MSP today. In El Salvador and Guatemala, the MSP also exists at the decentralised level.

In 3 of 5 countries, the SUN Focal Point is positioned within the Ministry of Health (Costa Rica, El Salvador and Haiti), while the Peruvian Focal Point is placed in the Ministry of Social Development. In Guatemala, the Focal Point can be found within the President's Office – which strengthens their ability to convene the nutrition community in the country.

All SUN countries have ensured the right stakeholders take part in nutrition actions. All countries have a UN Network and the functionality of these Networks has improved since 2016 (when first assessed). Guatemala and Haiti report working with the private sector on an informal basis. Based on data from 2017, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru have well-functioning Civil Society Networks. Only Guatemala has a donor convenor today.

When it comes to rallying high-level advocates for nutrition, 3 countries report having mobilised at least two of the three types (the media, parliamentarians and nutrition champions) in 2018. A key result from the reporting period, Haiti now harnesses the media – for the first time. Most countries are collaborating with academia as well, with 4 out of 5 countries reporting working with academics in 2018, which is key to equip nutrition decision-makers with the evidence they need to make informed policy choices at the national level.

The 2017 SUN Movement Global Gathering, held in Abidjan in November, brought together a range of high-level advocates for nutrition, also from the Latin America and the Caribbean. The First Lady of Haiti, H.E. Martine Moïse attended this Global Gathering and committed to ensuring nutrition and gender equality remain high on the political agenda in her country. The SUN Movement also recognised 9 Scaling Up Nutrition Champions, at an official Award Ceremony during the Global Gathering. Ms. Ana Josefa Blanco Noyola from El Salvador, Executive Director of CALMA – a breastfeeding support centre – is one of our eminent ambassadors for nutrition. Ms. Blanco Noyola has worked tirelessly to support the right to breastfeed and has been an important player in developing a normative framework for breastfeeding in El Salvador.



"Language cannot be a barrier. We have to put in place the necessary mechanisms to collaborate among #NutritionChampions to share experiences and knowledge to achieve our objectives."

**ANA JOSEFA BLANCO NOYOLA**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT CENTRE, CALMA, EL SALVADOR



## PRIORITISING AND INSTITUTIONALISING EFFECTIVE ACTIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD NUTRITION

Government policies, legislation and actions play a key role in reducing undernourishment. They are also essential to curb the trend of increasing overweight and obesity and improving nutrition outcomes. The Latin America and Caribbean region appears to be progressing well in ensuring a coherent and consistent policy and legal framework, across the board.



Costa Rica, Guatemala and Haiti have explicit constitutional protection of the right to adequate food, while the Constitutions of both El Salvador and Peru implicitly guarantee the right to adequate food through broader human rights.



Guatemala has given significant attention to nutrition in its most recent national multi-year development policy, *Política General de Gobierno 2016-2020*.<sup>9</sup> However, Peru's recent national development plan, *Plan Bicentenario: El Perú Hacia el 2021*, scored much lower in terms of the extent to which nutrition was featured. Based on an earlier assessment,<sup>10</sup> all countries in the region need to scale up the integration of overweight and obesity in national development plans in order to achieve the global targets.

**IN THE 2017 HANCI ASSESSMENT OVER GOVERNMENTAL COMMITMENT TO TACKLING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION, GUATEMALA IS RANKED 1<sup>ST</sup> WITH PERU BEING PLACED 3<sup>RD</sup>**



Legislation for the promotion and protection of breastfeeding needs to be strengthened, to give girls and boys the best possible start in life. Only Costa Rica and Peru have maternity protection laws in place, while the other 3 have partial protection. In May 2016, Peru ratified the ILO Maternity Protection Convention (No. 183), 2000, the only country in the region to do so, and now women workers have 14 weeks' maternity leave (49 days of prenatal leave and 49 days postnatal leave.) The use of breast-milk substitutes is common in this region, with many infants who only receive substitutes.<sup>11</sup> While 4 countries in the region have many (El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru and Costa Rica) legal measures in place to protect people from aggressive marketing of breast-milk substitutes, through the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, Haiti has none. Implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative is important for ensuring that health facilities promote, protect and support breastfeeding. Costa Rica leads the region in its coverage for baby-friendly-certified health facilities (at 44 per cent), but the other 2 countries with data report only 4-5 per cent in this key area.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>9</sup> IDS, (2017). Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index 2017. Available at: <http://www.hancindex.org/> [accessed November 2018].

<sup>10</sup> IDS, (2015). As reported in the Global Nutrition Report 2017.

<sup>11</sup> UNICEF, (2016) From the First Hour of Life: Making the case for improved infant and young child feeding everywhere. New York: UNICEF.

<sup>12</sup> WHO, (2017). National Implementation of the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative, 2017. Geneva: World Health Organization. Available at: <http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/bfhi-national-implementation2017/en/> [accessed November 2018].



Countries have also demonstrated their commitment to address micronutrient deficiencies through progressive fortification legislation. All 5 countries in this region have mandatory food fortification legislation in place for wheat and salt. Three also have mandatory fortification legislation for maize, with Haiti also having put in place fortification legislation for oil.

## HAITI HAS PUT IN PLACE FORTIFICATION LEGISLATION FOR OIL

Advertising strongly influences consumer choices and plays a role in changing diets in Latin America and the Caribbean, including for children. Although no country in the region has, fully, put in place healthy diet policies, Peru is the only country in this region to have put in place so-called healthy policies to reduce the impact on children of marketing of foods and beverages high in saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, free sugars or salt. Costa Rica has policies in place to reduce salt/sodium consumption and both Peru and Costa Rica have policies to limit saturated fats and eliminate trans-fats in the food supply.



## IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE ACTIONS ALIGNED WITH COMMON RESULTS

Agreeing on common results is key to ensure nutrition results for all women, men and their families, and all countries in Latin America have put in place a Common Results Framework (CRF). The Latin American countries have agreed and aligned their common nutrition goals across ministries and sectors – with high-level political support palpable in all cases. Impressively, the CRFs in Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica include both nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific goals and targets and are accompanied by both action plans and monitoring and evaluation plans.

National nutrition information systems are essential to assess the status quo and measure changes in the nutritional status of women, men and their families – but also to track progress and prioritise actions going forward. The Latin American countries also stand out with regards to information systems, as they all have put in place these systems or are, currently, in the process of developing them.

Priority actions at the national level are also drilled down to the local level in Latin America, in particular, with strategic and operational plans of multi-sectoral policies existing at the sub-national level in Guatemala, El Salvador and Peru, including monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Peru continues to be a SUN Movement leader in generating real-time reports on progress of multi-sectoral programmes for improved nutrition. Their *REDinforma* website continues to be an inspiration and model for how to create dashboards with up-to-date information on the current status of programmes, based on logical, evidence-based models.





## EFFECTIVELY USING AND SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR NUTRITION

Many countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region are scaling up nutrition investments, although only Peru's Common Results Framework (CRF) is costed today. The 4 Latin American countries have conducted a national budget analysis of spending for nutrition. Among those countries, the level of budget spending for nutrition-specific interventions ranges widely (from USD 6.50 to USD 244.80 per child under five). However, the median for this region, at USD 81.50 per girl or boy under five, is the highest in the SUN Movement today. Guatemala conducted a budget analysis in 2018 for the third time.

Based on the latest analysis of donor funding for nutrition in SUN countries (from 2015, with no data for Costa Rica), donor spending for nutrition varies widely, from country to country. In 3 of the 4 countries with data, donor spending for nutrition exceeds USD 10 per stunted child under five. Haiti is exceptional in this regard, where donors spend USD 12.28 per child under five, with donor spending on high-impact nutrition-specific interventions being estimated at less than USD 1.00 per child under five in the other countries. The percentage of donor disbursements for nutrition-specific versus nutrition-sensitive spending ranges widely across the region, from 5 per cent in Peru and 28 per cent in Haiti to 68 per cent in El Salvador and 93 per cent in Guatemala.

It is necessary to strengthen administrative and financial institutions' capacities for action and to analyse gaps to better implement programmes in this region. Scaling up high-level political support for nutrition is therefore needed to ensure more and better used financial resources.



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## THE WAY FORWARD: ACCELERATING PROGRESS

Across the Latin America and Caribbean region, much work has gone into fighting undernutrition. As the history and economies of these 5 countries vary widely, the fight is not over in Guatemala and Haiti particular, with regards to curbing stunting in both countries and wasting of young Haitian girls and boys, with accelerated action needed. Furthermore, given the sharp increases seen across most of the Latin American countries, fighting overweight and obesity must form an integral part of scaling up nutrition and social protection efforts going forward. Much more can be done to transform agriculture and food production into sustainable, nutrition-sensitive food systems – also in the face of increasing climate change and climate-related shocks frequently seen across this region. By promoting exclusive breastfeeding for infant girls and boys and diverse, nutrient-rich diets for young children, their nutritional status can set them off on a virtuous trajectory that could last a lifetime. As food preferences are often set from an early age, taking steps to limit the marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages to children is also recommended. Making sure that all members of the population have equal access to and can afford healthy, nutritious food, including indigenous populations, will be essential to ensure a Latin America and Caribbean region free from all forms of malnutrition looking ahead.

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## SCALING UP NUTRITION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: STORIES OF CHANGE

### **COSTA RICA FLIES THE FLAG FOR HEALTHY EATING HABITS**

On 16 October 2018, as part of World Food Day celebrations, the Government of Costa Rica announced that they are implementing a series of measures to promote healthy eating habits and combat the epidemic of overweight and obesity.

A letter of commitment to comprehensively address overweight and obesity in girls, boys and adolescents of Costa Rica was signed in the Government Council by 10 ministers, witnessed by the President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, the FAO Coordinator for the Mesoamerican Sub-region, Mr. Tito Díaz Muñoz, and the Costa Rica Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) representative, Ms. María Dolores Pérez. Furthermore, the Government issued an Executive Decree declaring community and workplace interventions for public benefit – with the objective of promoting individual and collective health. A Presidential Directive was issued the same day, for employees of public institutions to work with occupational health managers to develop plans to gradually improve food services, be they in-house or provided by third parties, and to develop health-promotion strategies. These actions will be coordinated by the Ministry of Health, categorised as the “Environmental Blue Flag Programme for Community Health”.





### **WEIGHT DIVIDED BY HEIGHT WITH GREAT SUCCESS IN EL SALVADOR**

In 2016, the 4th national height census and the 1st national weight census were carried out for first-grade school children in all public and private schools in El Salvador – coordinated by the National Committee of Nutrition and Food Security (CONASAN). This census revealed that wasting has decreased from 15.5 per cent in 2007 to 9.0 per cent in 2016. However, the census also revealed a high prevalence of overweight and obesity is a problem in this key group of girls and boys.

The Government has taken measures, at the national level, to continue to reduce wasting through policies and programmes, and, at the same time, scale up efforts to combat overweight and obesity – which can only be described as an epidemic. To promote food security and nutrition in vulnerable municipalities, the President of the Republic, H.E. Salvador Sánchez Cerén, alongside the Minister of Health, Dr. Violeta Menjivar, participated at the launch of the Departmental Committee of Food Security and Nutrition (CODESAN) of Ahuachapán, in June 2018. This initiative is estimated to benefit more than 23,000 inhabitants in 8 at risk municipalities. Several good practices can be drawn from the implementation at the decentralised level and the formation of the second CODESAN at the national level: 1) How to design an optimal operational plan, with a fit-for-purpose monitoring and evaluation system; 2) the importance of implementing registry and information systems at the local level; 3) how multi-sectoral design and participation can work if regulated properly; 4) and, lastly, the effectiveness of estimating responsibly the investments needed for both development and sustainability.

## STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF FARMERS IN THE DRY CORRIDOR OF GUATEMALA

Central America is one of the regions most vulnerable to disaster risks, due to its geographical location, high climate variability, exposure to extreme hazards and institutional and socio-economic vulnerabilities. The 'Dry Corridor', is one of the areas most affected by extreme hazards, in particular natural hazards, which defines a group of ecosystems in the eco-region of dry tropical forests in Central America. This area covers most of central pre-mountain region of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guanacaste in Costa Rica and Panama's Arco Seco area.

In 2018, the authorities of the Secretariat of Food and Nutrition Security of Guatemala (SESAN) have coordinated the development of a Plan to strengthen the resilience of small farmers of this 'Dry Corridor'. Considering Guatemala is ranked fourth in the world with regards to vulnerability to natural disasters, and that recurrent droughts cause atrocious losses in grain crops, SESAN has developed a comprehensive Plan, alongside a long-term initiative to strengthen capacities and support small farmers to become resilient – through diversification of their crops and livelihoods.

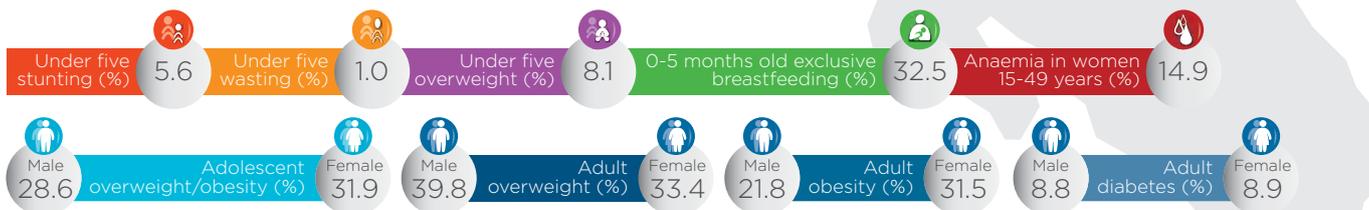


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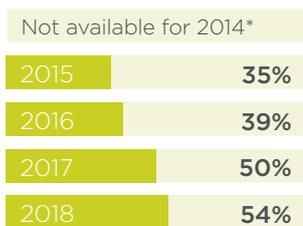


Joined: March 2014  
Population: 4.91 million

# Costa Rica



## Institutional transformations in 2017-2018



### Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) has been strengthened and now includes more sectors, including social security and health. UN agencies (FAO, UNOPS, UNRCO) continue to support SUN. A multi-sectoral team from the Ministries of Health and Public Education, the Social Security Fund, and the National Directorate of Education and Nutrition Centres

and Children's Centres for Comprehensive Care (CEN CINAI) have prioritised defining health and nutrition priorities for school children. The National Obesity Prevention Plan for children and adolescents was launched in 2017 and is being implemented. Efforts are underway to include civil society organisations in the MSP.



### Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The Ministry of Health, as the leading entity for health and nutrition, has promoted the full compliance of legal and regulatory frameworks relevant to nutrition. Multi-sectoral committees have been set up to monitor compliance with the legal framework - including the

National Committees for Breastfeeding and Micronutrients. The monitoring and evaluation of laws and policies is in its early stages in Costa Rica and is undertaken by the Ministry of Planning, which cooperates, when necessary, with nutrition-focused institutions.



### Aligning actions around common results

The National Obesity Prevention Plan for Children and Adolescents, launched in 2017, aims to "contribute to stopping the increase in overweight and obesity in children and adolescents, through coordinated multi-sectoral actions with public institutions, academia and the private

sector". The Ministry of Health is implementing the plan, alongside 12 participating institutions. The National Information System for Food and Nutritional Security (SINSAN) is maintained, enabling the monitoring of nutrition achievements.



### Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

In Costa Rica, the budget law provides for a separate budget for food services. This includes large-scale investments in education and communication, by the Social Security Fund. New job opportunities have been created for nutrition experts, health promoters and physical

educators for community health promotion programmes. The Government has asked UN agencies to scale up development cooperation for nutrition-relevant areas, with FAO and UNOPS having mobilised resources, to this end.



## 2018-2019 PRIORITIES

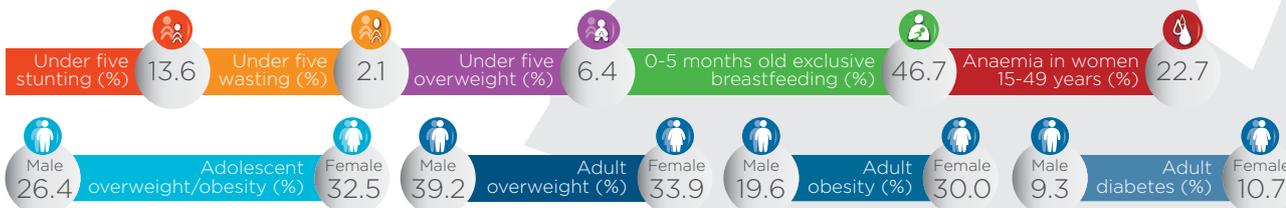
[SCALINGUPNUTRITION.ORG/COSTA-RICA](http://SCALINGUPNUTRITION.ORG/COSTA-RICA)

- Ensure and sustain the active commitment of institutions and UN agencies;
- Strengthen the MSP, with participation by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF;
- Map civil society organisations who should be included in the MSP;
- Undertake dialogue to ensure nutrition actions are prioritised.

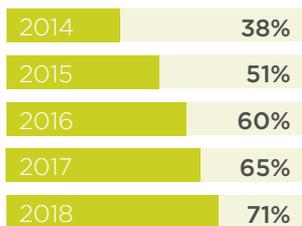


Joined: September 2012  
Population: 6.38 million

# El Salvador



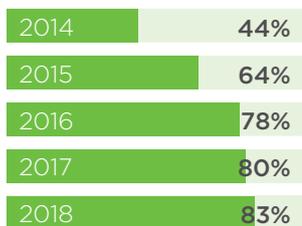
## Institutional transformations in 2017-2018



### Bringing people together into a shared space for action

El Salvador has, in 2017-2018, expanded the governance model to implement the National Food and Nutritional Security Policy (SAN) – by including new departmental and municipal committees in territories with the highest rates of chronic malnutrition and obesity. The monitoring of food security and nutrition indicators,

through the food and nutritional security observatory (OBSAN), is ongoing, aiming to strengthen decision-making in the design and monitoring of public policies. Dialogue and awareness-raising with the private sector has continued, by sharing the results of the recent national height and weight census.



### Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

In the past year, the SAN was updated after extensive consultations with various sectors, territories, indigenous people and women's groups. CONASAN, civil society organisations and FAO advocated for the approval of the Law on Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security, which is

still pending approval. Raising awareness among stakeholder of the importance of food security and nutrition is still needed, as is the case for ensuring a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach – especially among new legislators, municipal governments and presidential candidates.



### Aligning actions around common results

Initiatives – across Governmental bodies and sectors – are aligned with national goals, as per policies and agreements. Progress has been made in expanding the food security and nutrition policies to priority territories – based on the results of the national height and weight census. The National Council for Food

and Nutritional Security (CONASAN) and development cooperation agencies work hand-in-hand to implement strategies in line with the country's overall goals. Capacity strengthening is needed to better manage indicators and monitor food security and nutrition actions across territories.



### Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Development cooperation agencies and civil society have joined forces with the Government to implement national food security and nutrition goals. Technical and financial support has also helped to promote nutrition in the public agenda, develop skills and raise awareness, at various levels. Coordination resources

have been managed for relevant food and nutritional security actions. The institutional, administrative and financial capacities of CONASAN must be strengthened, its scope extended, and the analysis of budget gaps completed to implement the new policy.



## 2018-2019 PRIORITIES

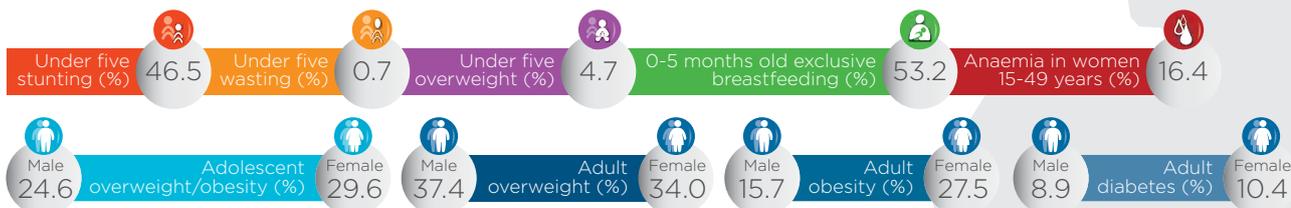
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- Raise awareness of the National Food and Nutritional Security Plan and design new Strategic Plan;
- Expand the policy governance model;
- Raise awareness of food security and nutrition among legislators and presidential candidates;
- Continue to monitor food security and nutrition and strengthen data collection, analysis and usage;
- Continue to implement the Education and Social Communication Strategy to change feeding behaviours;
- Advocate for the approval of laws, including the Law on Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security.

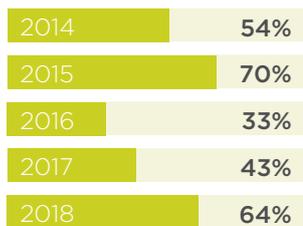


Joined: December 2010  
Population: 16.91 million

# Guatemala



## Institutional transformations in 2017-2018



### Bringing people together into a shared space for action

In Guatemala, nutrition is a priority, which also rings true for sectors in the National Food and Nutritional Security System (SINASAN). Local participation varies between towns, and coordination amongst them works well - led by municipal authorities - where compliance with strategic plans is monitored

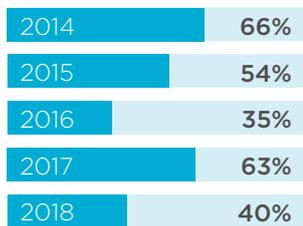
and inter-institutional coordination is strengthened. Sharing of experiences, where possible, for replication in other towns needs scaling up. Also, the internal coordination must be strengthened to be effective locally, and spaces for coordination should be boosted.



### Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

One of the main achievements in the reporting period was the approval of the Law on School Feeding. Government institutions and the private sector have created breastfeeding-friendly spaces. The response plan for seasonal hunger has been approved in 2018. Other areas high

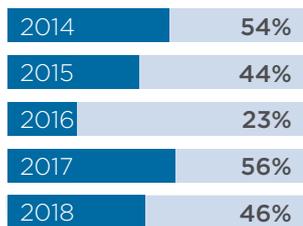
on the political agenda includes: food labelling, food donations, family farming and water bills, and a reform of the Law on the National Food and Nutritional Security System. Monitoring of the legal framework must be strengthened, alongside multi-sectoral analysis.



### Aligning actions around common results

The food and nutritional security policy, law and regulations promote and form the common results framework (CRF) in Guatemala. Results management is crucial for implementing public sector actions. Based on the evaluation of programmes and capacity for implementation, there is

insufficient progress in monitoring policies and the legal framework, in general, in terms of food security and nutrition. Developing measurement standards for evaluations remains a challenge. Other challenges include setting up a CRF and a lacking permanent monitoring system.



### Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

There are attempts to mobilise resources in Guatemala - using loans approved by Congress to implement policies, programmes, projects and strategies aimed at improving nutrition. Although financial gaps have been identified, the

national budget has not been approved, leaving programmes underfunded. This makes it difficult to coordinate interventions and ensure they reach the most vulnerable areas.



## 2018-2019 PRIORITIES

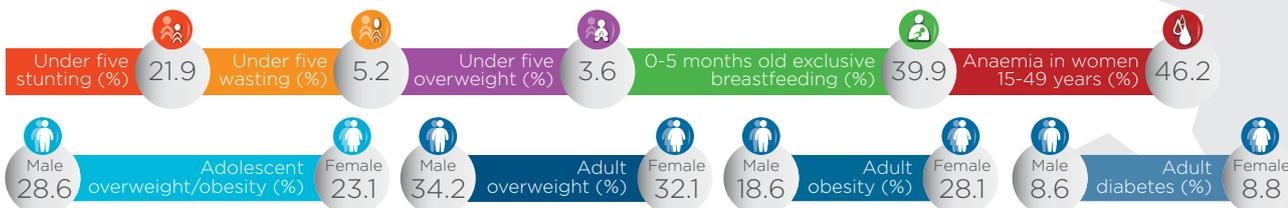
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- Better integrate the multi-stakeholder platform and promote alignment with SINASAN;
- Organise a high-level event on nutrition on the margins of the Ibero-American Summit in November 2018;
- Assess the design of the National Food and Nutritional Security Policy;
- Include food security and nutrition in presidential campaigns;
- Increase high-level political commitment to nutrition and leveraging the visit of the SUN Movement Coordinator.



Joined: June 2012  
Population: 10.98 million

# Haiti



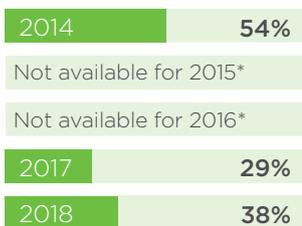
## Institutional transformations in 2017-2018



### Bringing people together into a shared space for action

In Haiti, there are various platforms where stakeholders focus on strengthening nutrition, such as the Technical Committee on Nutrition, the Working Group on Food Fortification, the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group and the National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Furthermore, the

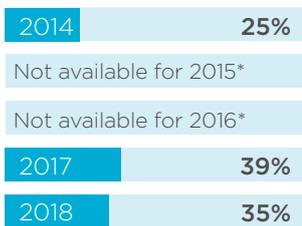
participation in these by sectoral ministries and their ownership of the SUN approach is an asset, aiding the effective implementation of interventions. However, multi-sectoral relationships between academia, the private sector and the policy-making level of the Haitian Government need to be strengthened.



### Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

A policy on the prohibition of the marketing of breast-milk substitutes during natural disasters was created in order to reduce the risk of diseases being contracted. The adoption of orders implementing the Law on the Fortification of Foods with Micronutrients, the National Nutrition Policy and the National

Nutrition Strategy will help ensure the adequate implementation of activities, despite there being certain difficulties regarding their enforcement. Haiti has no nutrition advocacy policy, but a nutrition communication plan and a breastfeeding communication plan exist.



### Aligning actions around common results

The joint monitoring of priority actions is sectoral, despite the lack of a Common Results Framework (CRF). A stakeholder mapping has been conducted, to ensure decisions regarding the geographical coverage of interventions are well informed, and that interventions meet the identified needs and target groups.

Despite the existence of objectives, there is a lack of coherence between objectives and the strategies chosen to implement them. The Technical Committee on Nutrition facilitates the review and analysis of the outcomes of various stakeholders' actions, based on individual reports.



### Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Although interventions to tackle malnutrition are costed, this is not standardised. The Governmental allocation for nutrition is unknown, and it is difficult to review spending because of a lacking common system. While there is external funding, this funding is inadequate, because

disbursements are not channelled through existing mechanisms. In addition, planning depends on project cycles and is rather short-term. Advocacy is needed in order to push for the replenishment of the national nutrition budget line.



## 2018-2019 PRIORITIES

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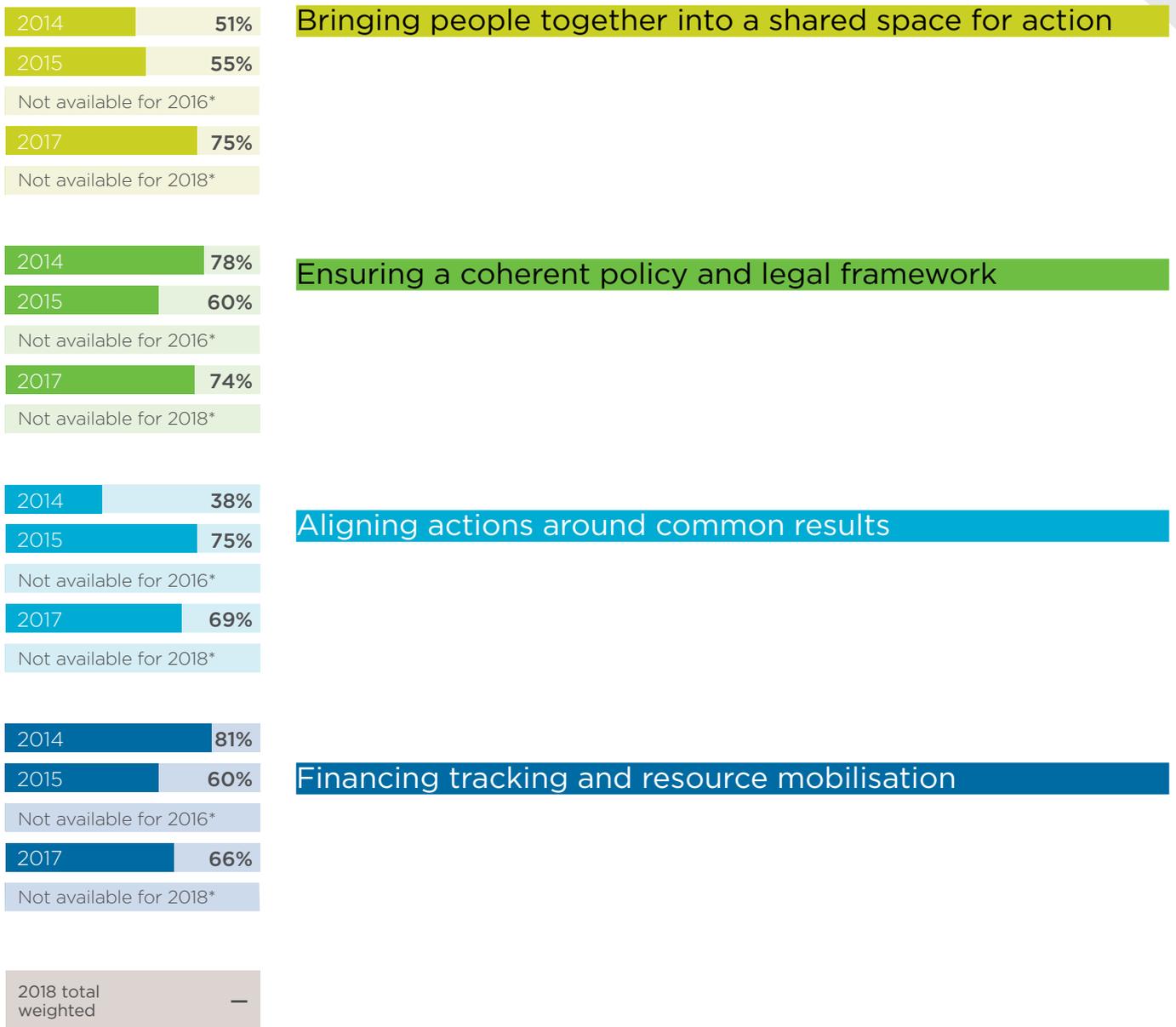


Joined: November 2010  
Population: 32.17 million

# Peru



## Institutional transformations in 2017-2018



## 2018-2019 PRIORITIES

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All information in this report was collected, reviewed and collated by the SUN Movement Secretariat during June, July and August 2017. The SUN Movement Secretariat is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. Human resource capacity, reporting directly to the SUN Movement Director, has been made available by France and the World Food Programme. The activity plan and budget of the SUN Movement Secretariat supports the implementation of the revised SUN Movement Strategy and the priorities identified by SUN countries in the context of the SUN Movement Roadmap 2016-2020.

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