



UN Network

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REPORT**

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Foreword

It is a privilege and honour for me to present this final UN Network annual report. Many people would probably agree that 2020 has been a year of the unexpected. In a year like no other, we have seen partnerships for nutrition grow stronger in the face of a common invisible enemy: the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The value of pulling together at all levels across disciplines is now unquestionable. The need to join forces to keep nutrition on the political agenda, to optimize resources and to ensure the most vulnerable are reached is more important than ever. So too, are efforts that safeguard nutrition and its enablers, such as healthy diets and good hygiene, as a first defense from disease. The COVID-19 crisis has also helped to shine a light on the need to strengthen the nexus between emergency response and development assistance, underscoring the value of effective leadership, coherence and unity.

As part of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's enhanced role and the renewed drive for collaboration, they are recognizing and utilizing the Network more and more as leverage for collective action. The centrality of nutrition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is increasingly clear along with the call for a greater systems focus. The UNN in its varying forms has provided that outlet, served as a forum for convergence, and thus provided a platform for multi-sectoral/stakeholder dialogue that culminates in joint action for shared goals and results.

The 2020 UNN reporting exercise highlights how the Network has gained momentum in recent years and how it is fortifying the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement at country level. As the reporting data shows, the UNN – including its intensive support arm 'REACH' – has been a pivotal technical assistance provider for government, including SUN Focal Points and government-led nutrition coordination structures, aligning behind country priorities. The testimonials featured in this report make that readily apparent, backed by the positive trends disclosed.

As we transition to UN Nutrition in 2021, we can learn and build upon these past experiences, both our successes and challenges. The UN's role in continuing to empower the country-led, country-owned approach will be crucial moving forward to further protect and consolidate nutrition gains against the backdrop of the COVID-19 recovery and for the time that remains of the 2030 Agenda.

Dr. Purnima Kashyap

UN Network Director/Global Coordinator



Acronyms and abbreviations

ART	Antiretroviral therapy
CAR	Central African Republic
CMAM	Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
DNTA	National Nutrition and Food Directorate (<i>Direction de la Nutrition et de la Technologie Alimentaire</i>)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCAS	Fragile and conflict-affected states
HDN	Humanitarian-development nexus
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IYCF	Infant and young child feeding
KML	Knowledge management and learning
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MSG	Mother support group
MSP	Multi-stakeholder platform
NIPN	National Information Platform for Nutrition
PAINA	Inter-sectoral Food and Nutrition Plan, 2017–2021 (<i>Plan d'action intersectoriel pour la nutrition et l'alimentation</i>)
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PPO	Policy and Plan Overview
RCCE	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
SBCC	Social and behaviour change communication

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOP	Standard operating procedure
SRH	Sexual reproductive health
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition Movement
TB	Tuberculosis
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNN	UN Network
UNN-REACH	UNN’s Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNSCN	United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Background



INTRODUCTION

2020 will go down in history for various reasons, most notably the stain that COVID-19 left on the world. Not only did the global pandemic accentuate perennial inequities, it also brought a host of other challenges as subsequent lockdowns impeded income-generating activities and access to basic commodities, such as food.

It was, likewise, a year of transition. UN colleagues crafted new architecture for inter-agency collaboration on nutrition, reflecting on the experiences of both the UN Network for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN). They also took into account current demands to help pave the way for the new entity – UN Nutrition – come 1 January 2021. Similarly, actors from the wider nutrition community came together to lay the foundation of the third phase of the SUN Movement, with a renewed commitment to place countries at the centre of the Movement. 2020 also marked the midpoint of the United Nations Decade of Action for Nutrition (2016–2025), providing the opportunity to take stock of its achievements to date and refine its focus for the remaining term.

In spite of the shifting ground, the UN Network (herein UNN) stood strong, consolidating gains made in previous years. This report highlights progress made between May 2019 and April 2020 in the 61 SUN countries while also depicting UNN’s performance over time. Where comparable data was available, the report tracks progress made during the SUN 2.0 period (2016–2020) in preparation for the next phase of the Movement. Furthermore, it includes insights about how UN actors banded together in the wake of COVID-19 to keep nutrition on the political agenda as countries articulated their response plans. It also highlights how the United Nations agencies supported their operationalization and worked to issue new guidelines adapted to the COVID-19 context. Finally, recurring challenges, as reported by the country UNNs, are discussed with view to shedding additional light on the United Nations’ next nutrition chapter in history, including its future engagement in the SUN Movement.

As this report shows, it is becoming increasingly clear that we are better together and we are continuing to learn and grow.

FIGURE 1. UNN results cube: A glimpse at key achievements during SUN 2.0



METHODOLOGY

The 2020 UNN reporting exercise was administered through an online questionnaire that was made available to SUN countries in three languages: English, French and Spanish. A concerted effort was made to keep this year's survey brief so as to not overburden the UN colleagues at the country level, who were contending with emerging issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on top of their regular demanding workloads. The final version of the survey included a total of fifteen questions with metrics to ascertain UNN functionality, its involvement in the national COVID-19 response as well as the Network's overarching challenges and achievements. All the SUN countries (N=61) participated in this year's reporting, equating to a response rate of 100 percent for the second consecutive year and far exceeding 75 percent recorded back in 2018.

One minor change was made to the UNN functionality+ index, learning from the experiences of previous reporting cycles. Essentially, two indicators were combined to reduce redundancy, namely: the existence of a UNN strategy/agenda and the development of a UNN workplan/articulation of priorities in support of national nutrition efforts. The overarching logic was that it is important for UN actors at the country level to have a joint plan or strategy in place to guide their collective efforts, but that the specific form it takes is less relevant.

As a result, the index was condensed into one based on nine indicators, whereby the maximum potential score was 9. A country UNN with an overall score between 7 and 9 was classified as being highly functional (high), between 4 and 6 was considered moderately functional (medium) while an overall score below 4 constituted low functionality (low). In order to enable comparisons over time, UNN functionality data from previous years was adjusted accordingly.

FIGURE 2. A breakdown of the UNN functionality index+

Nine indicators factor into the full index that gauges UNN functionality at country level

Indicators

- 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 **UNN strategy/agenda or workplan** in place to support national nutrition efforts
- 5 Frequency with which the **UN collective nutrition agenda is tabled at UNCT** meetings
- 6 **UNN engagement in MSPs**
- 7 Provision of **technical support to the SUN Government Focal Point** or other government authorities
- 8 UNN efforts to develop or update **nutrition content of joint UN frameworks**, reflecting a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition
- 9 Implementation of **UN joint programming** on nutrition

UNN Functionality Index+

Scoring categories:

High: 7–9

Medium: 4–6

Low: <4

*Note: For example the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) or the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).



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Furthermore, the 2020 results on UNN functionality fed into this year's SUN Joint Assessment, thereby reducing the reporting burden on countries. This

was one measure the UNN took to foster mutual accountability within the greater SUN community.

UNN functionality at country level



BIG PICTURE TRENDS

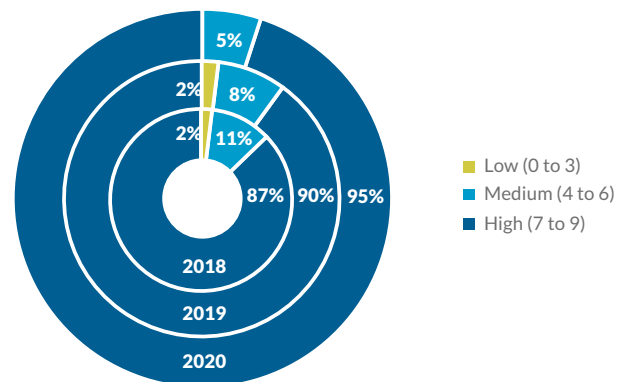
The UNN takes various forms with many countries (44 percent) having a distinct group that is explicitly referred to as the ‘UN Network’. In other cases (56 percent), the United Nations agencies collaborate on nutrition through preexisting development partners forums, nutrition working groups or combined UN-Donor Networks. This demonstrates that there is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ model and that UN nutrition coordination is ingrained in non-SUN architecture, which may be more sustainable over time.

Irrespective of the given institutional arrangements, functionality gains were observed in terms of how the UN is joining forces on nutrition at the country level, with the overwhelming majority (95 percent) of country UNNs being classified as highly functional in 2020 according to the nine-indicator index. This illustrates a continual upward trend from 2018 when 87 percent of country UNNs were reported as being highly functional, later superseded by 90 percent in 2019. Furthermore, twenty-two countries obtained a higher score than last year, and for the first time, no country UNN had low functionality. This clearly signals progress and the UN is keen to continue along this positive trajectory.

In 2020, the average UNN functionality score was 8.41 (‘high’) and slightly higher in countries benefitting from UNN-REACH support² (8.71). This is intuitive in that ‘REACH’ is the intensive support arm of UNN’s multi-sectoral technical assistance facility. It is also consistent with the findings from the 2019 reporting exercise, again, suggesting that the in-country neutral facilitation service can enhance UNN performance. The full set of 2020 scores, by country, are disclosed in Annex A.

Among the many recent achievements in UN coordination, a new UN Network was established in Honduras, after joining the SUN Movement in 2019. UNN support has also been instrumental in establishing and revitalizing other SUN networks, such as the SUN Business Network in **Nepal** and the Youth Nutrition Champions network in **Cambodia**. “The support from the UNN for other networks like the SUN Civil Society Network has been very useful,” says Salma Alawad, SUN Government Focal Point in the **Sudan**.

FIGURE 3. Overall UNN functionality index scores at country level since 2018¹



UN Network

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Irish Aid



1. 2020 (N=61 countries), 2019 (N=60 countries) and 2018 (N=45 countries).

2. During the reporting period, these countries include: Chad, Lesotho, Liberia, Myanmar, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

UNPACKING UNN PERFORMANCE IN SUN COUNTRIES

REPRESENTATION IN THE UNN: WHO ARE THE MEMBERS?

Membership

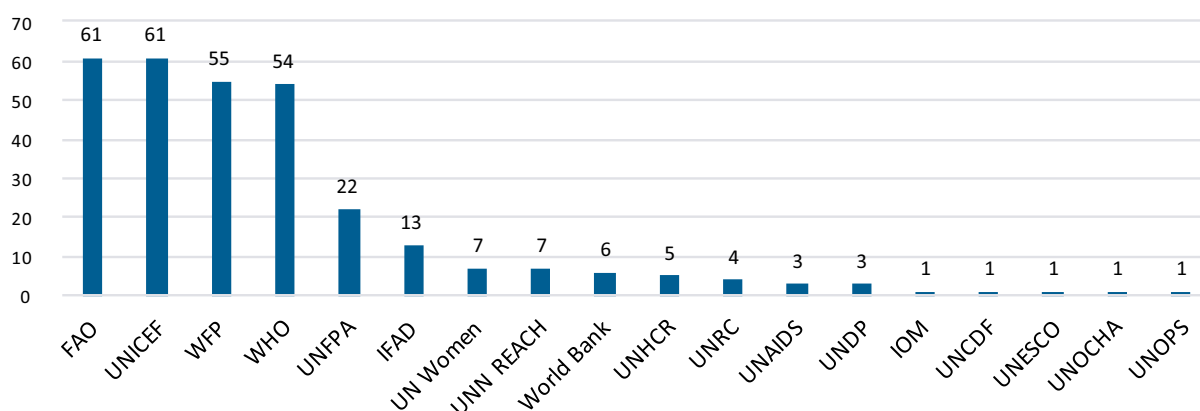
As many as sixteen agencies are engaged in the UNN at the country level this year (2020), compared to five when the Network was founded in 2013. Membership is determined at the country level and open to all United Nations agencies whose work contributes to positive nutrition outcomes. These agencies currently include the:

- *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*³ (FAO);
- *International Fund for Agricultural Development* (IFAD);
- International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);
- United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF);
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- *United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF);
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA);
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS);
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN);
- *World Food Programme* (WFP);
- *World Health Organization* (WHO); and
- *The World Bank*

Not only does the Network engage United Nations agencies, it also includes the United Nations Resident Coordinators (UNRCs) in four countries (Congo, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras) and UNN-REACH facilitators⁴ where they are present. The UNN has the potential to branch out to the World Bank, as exhibited by the following six countries: **Benin; Kyrgyzstan; Lesotho; Madagascar; Myanmar; and Sri Lanka**. Irrespective of the network composition, nearly all the SUN countries have nutrition focal points from three or more United Nations agencies (98 percent), largely consistent with the data from the previous reporting cycle (97 percent) in 2019 and baseline assessment (95 percent), conducted in 2016.

FIGURE 4. Representation of United Nations agencies in country UNNs (2020)



With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



3. The agencies marked in italics are the five founding members.

4. As previously mentioned, UNN-REACH facilitators are present in seven SUN countries, namely: Chad; Lesotho; Liberia; Myanmar; Senegal; Sierra Leone; and Zimbabwe. In Senegal, the title was rebranded as MSP coach, and is funded through the SUN Pooled Fund. The UNN has also recruited assistants to the SUN Government Focal Point in Mauritania and South Sudan, who carry out the same facilitation role albeit without the UNN-REACH facilitator title.

In spite of the UNN's increasing ability to attract new members, a considerable proportion (44 percent) of the country UNNs are comprised of four or less United Nations agencies, most frequently being FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. Five countries (8 percent) – Botswana, Central African Republic, Haiti, Nigeria and Somalia – have less than four members. This underscores the need to continue reaching out to United Nations agencies, who have not traditionally been involved in the nutrition arena (e.g. IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UN WOMEN), and encourage them to join the Network. Similar measures are helpful in sustaining their engagement in the nutrition arena over time, taking into consideration staff turnover. Typically, these efforts are most effective when then are accompanied with measures that sensitize colleagues on how their work can positively impact nutrition and how good nutrition can, in turn, enable better



results in their core work. UNN analytics, such as the UN Nutrition Inventory⁵ and Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping⁶ exercises have also proved to be vehicles for broadening membership and raising awareness about the respective roles of the United Nations agencies in nutrition, including their complementarities. UNFPA continues to be the most frequent newcomer, participating in approximately one-third (22 countries) of the UNNs.

A detailed breakdown of UNN membership, by country, is provided in Annex D.

BOX 1. Window for learning

Neutral in-country facilitators prove useful in broadening UNN membership to harness the potential of the UN System

Where UNN-REACH facilitators are engaged in the Network, there tends to be a greater number of agencies participating in the collective nutrition agenda, (6.4 United Nations agencies on average) compared to the overall average of all SUN countries (5 United Nations agencies). This, in turn, affirms that the facilitators are well-positioned to rally UN actors at the country level and inspire them to become members. For example, the UNN-REACH Facilitator is taking measures to reengage agencies, such as IOM and World Bank, which were actively engaged in Zimbabwe's UNN in the past. He is also liaising with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNESCO and UN WOMEN to encourage them to join the seven agencies that are currently participating in the Network.

The experience in Haiti demonstrates that these efforts need to be sustained over time, perhaps looking to the UNRC office and/or the UNN chair to carry on this outreach once UNN-REACH facilitation support has concluded. While UNN-REACH was operational in Haiti,* it managed to engage eight United Nations agencies (2017) plus the UNRC, yet currently membership has fallen to three members (FAO, UNICEF and WFP) according to the findings of the 2020 UNN reporting exercise.

* **Note:** The UNN-REACH engagement in Haiti straddled a 3-year period from 2015 to 2018 thanks to generous funding from Global Affairs Canada.



5. For further information about the UN Nutrition Inventory exercise, please refer to Annex B and visit <https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/tools/un-nutrition-inventory>.

6. For further information about the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping tool, please refer to Annex B and visit <https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/tools/nutrition-stakeholder-action-mapping>.

Stewardship

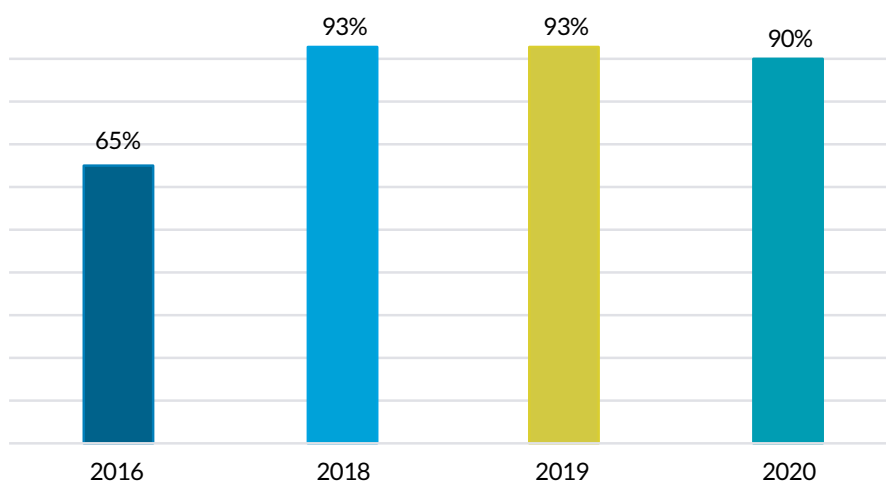
The member agencies nominate chairs to lead the Network at the country level. Most countries (90 percent) have a chair or co-chairs in place, often senior leadership such as Resident Representatives of the United Nations agencies or their deputies, which helps to enable multi-sectoral action. While this is consistent with the data reported in the last two reporting cycles (93 percent in 2018 and 2019), it is a marked increase with respect to the 2016 baseline (65 percent). This affirms that the Network gained momentum among UN country leadership during the second phase of the SUN Movement. It may have also been a contributing factor for the improved performance in other indicators included in the UNN functionality index+ over the course of SUN 2.0.

In some countries (21 percent), the UNN has adopted co-chairing arrangements and/or rotational chair terms to foster equity among the agencies and instill ownership in the network approach. Various agencies are currently carrying out this role although

it is most frequently performed by UNICEF (69 percent of SUN countries) followed by WFP (36 percent of SUN countries). Furthermore, the World Bank has assumed a leading role in the UNN in half of the countries where it is part of the Network (Benin, Sri Lanka and Kyrgyzstan) by serving as the chair or co-chair.

Chairmanship is also open to the non-traditional agencies with **Papua New Guinea** (PNG) exemplifying this trend. In this case, a unique chairing arrangement is pursued, whereby two chairs and one co-chair are in place, building on the country's results groups as articulated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) – People and Prosperity. UNCDF⁷ chairs the Prosperity group while UNICEF chairs the People contingency and is supported by WHO as a co-chair. The arrangement enables the country UNN to simultaneously address the economic and social dimensions associated with malnutrition. Furthermore, the UNRC heads Network in **Congo**, capitalizing on his convening power at the country level.

FIGURE 5. Trends in UNN chairmanship between 2016 and 2020

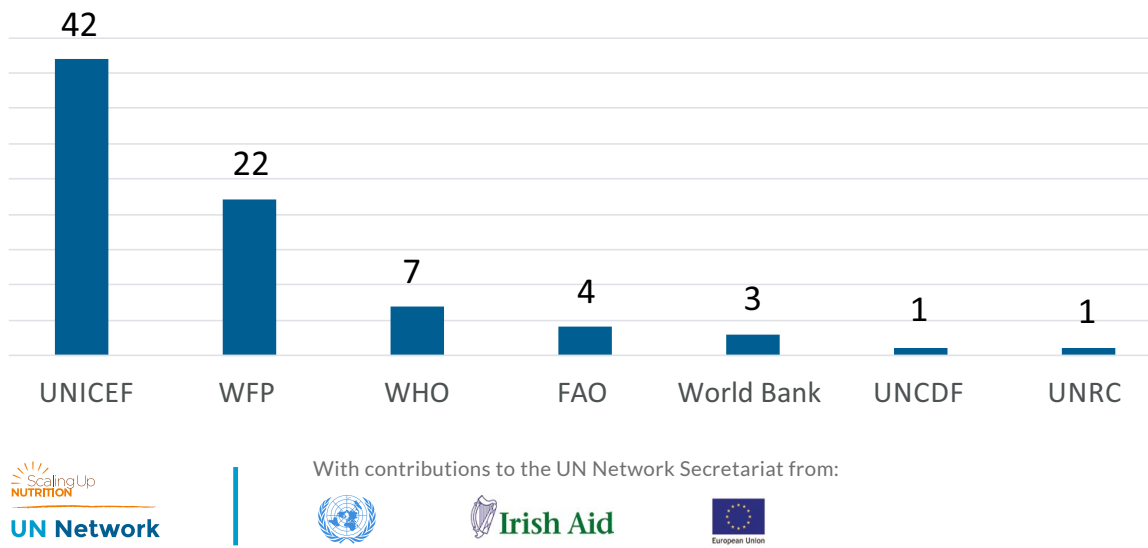


With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



7. UNCDF is considered a 'non-traditional agency' in that it has usually not been involved in the nutrition agenda.

FIGURE 6. Number of country UNN chairs/co-chairs, by United Nations agency (2020)

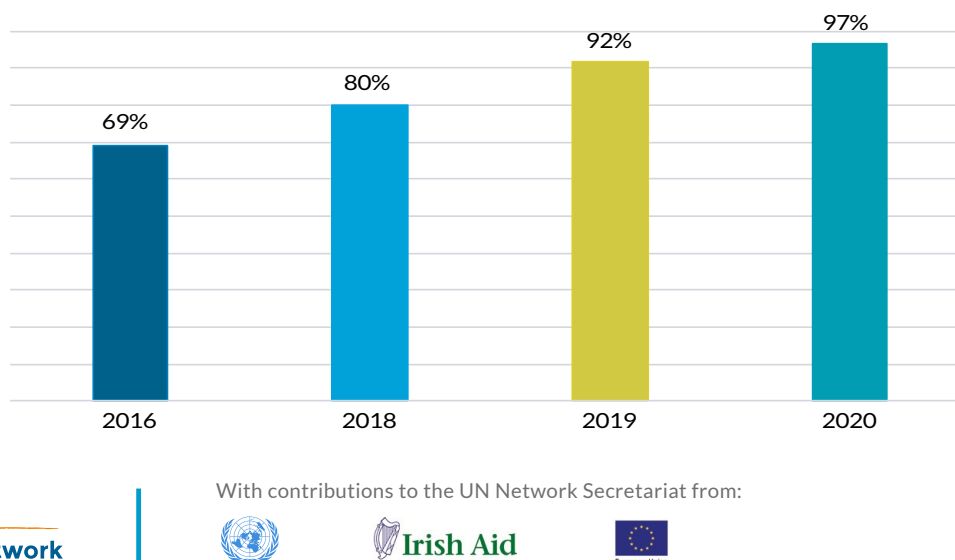


JOINT NUTRITION PLANNING: A BLUEPRINT FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

The 2020 reporting data shows that the United Nations agencies undertake joint planning for nutrition to a large extent. All country UNNs reportedly have a UNN strategy, agenda or workplan in place as observed in the 2019 reporting exercise. In addition, nearly all the UNNs (97 percent) have

developed or updated nutrition content for wider joint UN frameworks (e.g. the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework [UNSDCF], formerly UNDAF, and Humanitarian Response Plans [HRPs]) so as to reflect a multi-sectoral approach. This is crucial for embedding nutrition in related sectors and systems, such as agriculture/food, education, health and social protection, among others. These measures also provide a basis for joint action, and thus are instrumental for achieving increased coherence, convergence and efficiency within the UN family.

FIGURE 7. Steady rise in developing or updating multi-sectoral nutrition content of joint UN frameworks throughout the second phase of the SUN Movement



Since 2016, the UNN has increasingly worked to articulate a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition in joint UN frameworks (see Figure 7). This corresponds to the period of SUN 2.0 and attests the UNN's efforts to mainstream nutrition across the United Nation's development and humanitarian assistance portfolios. The continuous upward trend was probably driven by a confluence of factors, including the advocacy undertaken in recent years to position nutrition as a driver for sustainable development, by the Assistant Secretary-General/SUN Movement Coordinator, the United Nations agencies and the UNN Secretariat. The availability of new guidance issued by the individual agencies, particularly on nutrition-sensitive approaches, may have also contributed to this phenomenon. For example, FAO has developed Nutrition and Food Systems e-Learning modules and a Compendium of indicators for nutrition-sensitive agriculture, UNICEF prepared resources on Food Systems for Children and Adolescents, WFP issued guidance for nutrition-sensitive programming, and many more. Joint guidance, such as the Home Grown School Feeding Resource Framework, developed by the Rome-based agencies, and the UNDAF guidance note, developed by UNSCN, may have also been contributing factors. In addition, a UNN infographic illustrates the links between nutrition and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and has been used when supporting country UN Networks, including outreach to UNRCs.



BOX 2. Window for learning

UNN analytics support the integration of multi-sectoral nutrition in UNSDCFs



In **Rwanda**, findings from the UN Nutrition Inventory (2016–17) fed into the formulation of the Second United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II), now known as the Cooperation Framework, which covers the period from 2018 to 2023. Nutrition is an important part of the UNDAP II, which is aligned with the national development strategy (2017–2024).

Nutrition is incorporated in two ways. First, the UNDAP II has an outcome directly linked to nutrition ([outcome 3: “By 2023, People in Rwanda, particularly the most vulnerable, enjoy increased and equitable access to quality education, health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services”). Secondly, it has mainstreamed nutrition in the other pillars, such as economic transformation and transformational governance.

Five countries exhibited improvement in this area, namely: Botswana; the Central African Republic (CAR); El Salvador; Guatemala; and Nepal. In several countries, the COVID-19 crisis gave impetus to these initiatives. For example, UN colleagues collectively worked to develop nutrition components of the HRP in **Botswana** to enable a robust response to the pandemic, making sure that the health, food security and social protection interventions were nutrition-sensitive. In **El Salvador**, the UNN also worked to reflect nutrition in the UN COVID-19 response plan so that social protection measures are taken to reduce the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic and related containment measures on poor households, while ensuring support for an early and sustainable recovery. Similarly, the UN colleagues are working together to integrate nutrition into the UNSDCF, applying a lifecycle approach with special emphasis on vulnerable groups, such as pregnant and lactating women. In **Nepal**, UNICEF and WFP are taking the next step and jointly lobbying donors for resources to support the nutrition-specific actions outlined in the UN COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP).

BOX 3. *Window for learning*

Policy and Plan Overview in Liberia leads to lightbulb moments and provides a vehicle for mainstreaming nutrition in sector-specific policies and plans



UNN analytics, such as the Policy and Plan Overview (PPO), continued to provide strategic direction for embedding nutrition into sector policies, strategies and plans. The tool is designed to: (1) take stock of nutrition-related governance frameworks; (2) ascertain the extent to which nutrition is captured in them and identify forthcoming revisions through which nutrition content could be incorporated or strengthened; and (3) review the national nutrition plan to determine which country-specific 'core nutrition actions' are included. Essentially, a mapping of policies and plans, the tool directly complements the UNN's well-known Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping, which focuses on intervention coverage (see Box 5 and Annex B).

Stakeholders in Liberia embarked upon the PPO in May 2019, building on political momentum from initial engagement with parliamentarians in April and May 2019.⁸ Over twenty national policies and strategies were reviewed as well as some seventeen supporting plans through the UNN-REACH country engagement, funded by Irish Aid. Staff in the relevant ministries as well as the United Nations agencies were engaged, providing opportunities to sensitize government staff on the links between their direct work and positive nutrition outcomes. This awareness-building component to the exercise was also a door-opener for subsequent conversations and building a rapport with both leadership in the ministries as well as the corresponding technical practitioners.

Overall, the review found that there was scope to better integrate nutrition across the relevant sectors. Interesting, sometimes unexpected, insights emerged from the analysis. Going into the PPO, many stakeholders had the perception that nutrition was well-reflected in health frameworks and less so in the other sectors. These myths were debunked as nutrition was nowhere to be seen in the National Human Resources Policy and Plan for Health and Social Welfare, the Accelerated Action Plan to Reduce Maternal and New-born Mortality and the Liberia Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan, despite known linkages to nutrition. Others, including the National Health Communication Strategy, the National Community Health Services Policy and the National Malaria Strategic Plan, fared better but have ample room for improvement (e.g. the inclusion of nutrition objectives or indicators) to ensure that nutrition is integrated within health services.

The PPO also illustrated that nutrition is well-articulated in broad agriculture and food security strategies, yet virtually absent in the supporting sub-sector strategies, such as fisheries and aquaculture, land rights and climate change. Education policies and strategies encompass relevant nutrition actions to varying degrees with the Early Child Development Policy and School Feeding Policy being the most comprehensive. However, the Social Protection Policy and Strategy does not reflect nutrition at all, even if this sector has a big role to play in safeguarding good nutrition among the most vulnerable. Many of these findings were mirrored when the parallel planning stream was analysed, making it difficult to expect that these sectors are implementing nutrition-sensitive actions or direct nutrition interventions through their delivery platforms, such as schools.

Finally, a series of recommendations were put forth to support mainstreaming nutrition in sector-specific policies, strategies and plans, providing a compass for follow-up. Since the PPO was completed, the UNN-REACH Facilitator has shared the results with members of the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) and worked with her counterparts in FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to better reflect multisectorality in the new national nutrition strategic plan currently under development. Additional measures were being taken to better position nutrition in the other sectors when COVID-19 hit, forcing government institutions to refocus efforts to prevent the spread of the virus and address new related vulnerabilities that could result in further increases in malnutrition. Developing adapted messages for mothers and caregivers of children under two years old on the prevention of malnutrition in the context of COVID-19 was one of these unforeseen measures.

8. For further information, visit related article in *Tales Be Told, Series 1* available at <https://bit.ly/3pWz5pS>.

SECURING NUTRITION A SPOT ON THE UNCT AGENDA

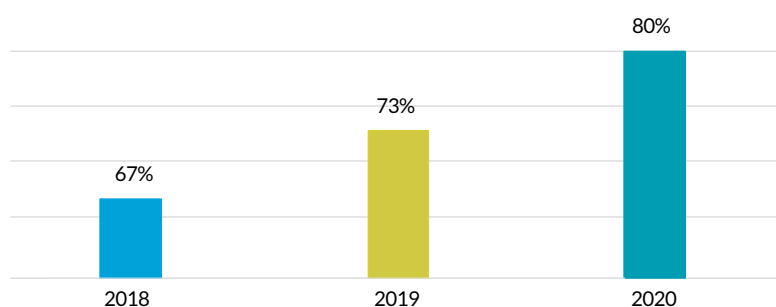
The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) forum is the highest-level forum for internal decision-making at the country level. It is led by the UNRC to whom additional authority was delegated through UN reform and brings together the Representatives of the resident United Nations agencies in a given country. As highlighted in the 2019 UNN annual report,⁹ the UNRCs have become increasingly engaged in the national nutrition agenda and savvy on the topic, recognizing nutrition's potential to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

The findings from this year's UNN reporting exercise indicate that nutrition is becoming more frequently discussed at this strategic venue compared to previous reporting cycles. In 2020, 80 percent of countries reported nutrition was either sometimes, often or always tabled at UNCT meetings up from 73 percent in 2019 and 67 percent in 2018. This drops to approximately half (30 countries) when only the often and always response categories are considered, yet still represents a sizable proportion of countries that are regularly discussing nutrition issues at this forum. The upward trend may have been influenced by the increased engagement of UNRCs in the Network as elucidated by the 2019 UNN reporting exercise.

Furthermore, ten countries improved their performance on this indicator in the current reporting cycle, contributing to overall gains in UNN functionality. These countries came from a mix of regions and include: Afghanistan; Botswana; Burundi; Costa Rica; Guatemala; Mauritania; Niger; PNG; Senegal; and Yemen. As a result, this demonstrates that nutrition can and does take centre stage in various contexts, including fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS).

These efforts likely enabled the member agencies to undertake collective bargaining to keep nutrition on the political agenda when COVID-19 emerged, thereby mitigating the extent to which governments and donors divert resources. For example, a UN joint statement on Food Security and Nutrition in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic was prepared by the six United Nations agencies participating in **Indonesia's** combined UN-Donor Network. Moreover, the statement was issued by the UNRC, helping to attract additional attention. The document is essentially a call to action and highlights how "measures needed to slow the transmission of the disease are resulting in hardship for many vulnerable families," which could impact the nutritional status of these populations. It also outlines recommendations for policy guidance as well as a prioritized set of actions to safeguard nutrition in the context of COVID-19, covering six domains: (1) healthy diets; (2) maternal, infant and young child nutrition; (3) management of wasting; (4) micronutrient supplementation; (5) school feeding and nutrition; and (6) nutrition surveillance.

FIGURE 8. Incremental improvement in the frequency with which nutrition is tabled at UNCT meetings



With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



9. UN Network Secretariat, hosted by the World Food Programme. 2020. UN Network Annual Report, 2019. Rome. Available at <https://bit.ly/31NWMa0>.

In 58 out of 61 countries, the UNN contributed to advocacy that underscored the linkages between COVID-19 and nutrition, helping to maintain nutrition as a priority amidst the pandemic.



In other countries, such as **Mali**, the United Nations agencies (e.g. UNICEF, WFP and others) jointly carried out vulnerability assessments and analyses on the socioeconomic impacts of the crises, which informed both advocacy and resource mobilization activities to support the national COVID-19 response plan. These efforts helped to ensure that undernutrition was prioritized in **Guatemala's** government response, not just food security.

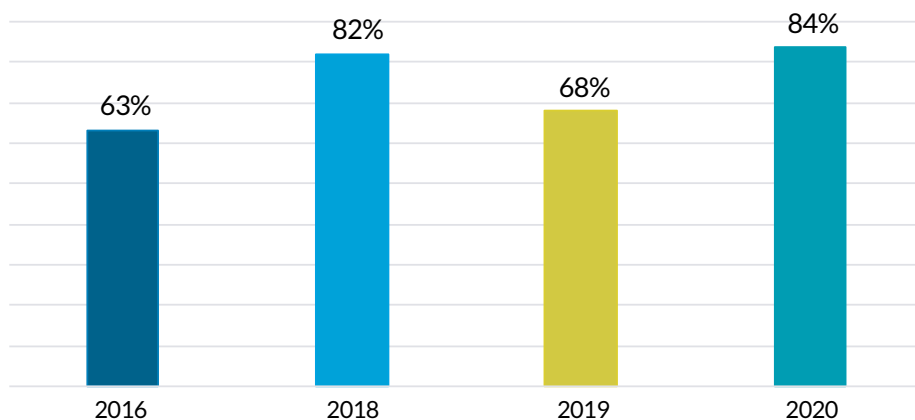
UN JOINT PROGRAMMING: WALKING THE TALK

Joint programming is the ultimate manifestation of collective UN action to combat malnutrition. While joint programming statistics have fluctuated over the years, the latest reporting data indicates that nutrition-related UN joint programming is on the rise. As many as 84 percent of the country UNNs reported these types of joint programmes, constituting a marked increase (16 percentage points) compared to last year (68 percent). Most often, these joint projects clustered around promoting and supporting food consumption

practices for healthy diets, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and the management of acute malnutrition. A few thematic areas, such as nutrition-sensitive social assistance and disease prevention and management, were cited more in the 2020 reporting exercise than in the past. Likewise, an increase was observed in joint programming devoted to humanitarian assistance (33 percent in 2020 up from 21 percent in 2019). In both cases, these trends were likely influenced by the COVID-19 crisis and efforts to mitigate the adverse effects on nutritional status in vulnerable populations, including new groups (e.g. daily wage earners in urban areas).

With that said, the bulk of nutrition-related joint programming (49 percent) continued to be focused on development in 2020. The proportion of joint programmes containing both development and emergency components remained virtually unchanged, approximately 18 percent in 2020, compared to 17 percent in 2019. This type of integrated programming across the emergency-development continuum is one concrete measure that can be taken to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus (HDN).

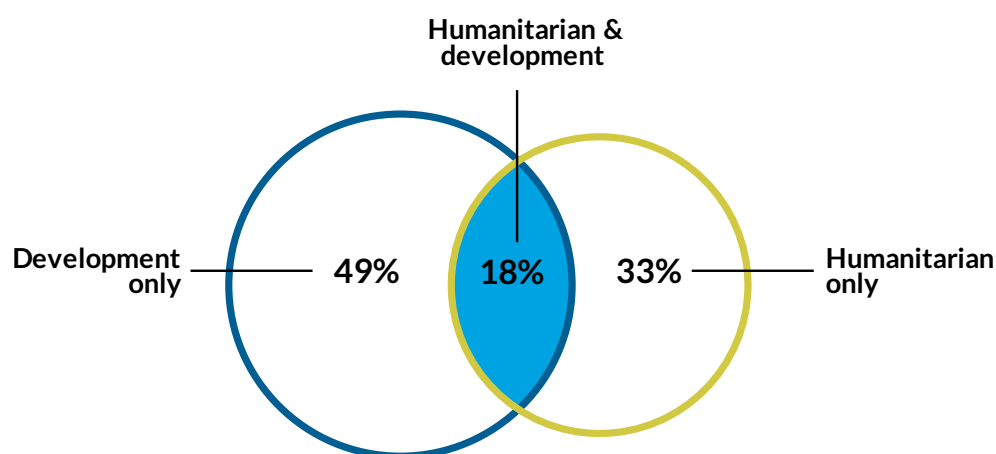
FIGURE 9. UN joint programming is increasingly being pursued in SUN countries



With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



FIGURE 10. Joint programming embraces development and emergency response activities, sometimes both concurrently (2020)



With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



Several country UNNs mentioned the development of joint nutrition programmes as a priority for 2021, with UN colleagues increasingly seeing the value of joining forces on this front. However, more efforts are needed to consolidate these gains, including capacity strengthening for joint implementation, as identified through the previous UNN reporting exercise. Knowledge management, particularly peer learning, can be an effective mechanism for sharing experiences not just about what works but how country actors pursue actions, the pitfalls and any tools/factors that enabled them to work well together. This is instrumental for replicating good practices in other countries and taking the Network to the next level. Series 2 of the UNN’s flagship publication *Tales Be Told*¹⁰ features a number of examples of UN joint programming on nutrition, which can in turn, inspire others to follow suit.

10. UN Network Secretariat, hosted by the World Food Programme. 2020. *Tales Be Told, Series 2*. Rome. Available at <https://bit.ly/3qV5Vbm>.

BOX 4. Window for learning**Joint nutrition programming promotes a people-centred approach and extends to a variety of related topics****Eswatini: Nutrition and HIV**

The Kingdom of Eswatini has a high prevalence of food insecurity as a result of pervasive poverty, with 59 percent of the population living below the national poverty line.¹¹ In addition, poverty and food insecurity have been linked to an increased risk of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, decreased adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) and high levels of malnutrition. While adherence to ART is central to achieving viral suppression, compliance remains a challenge.

Four United Nations agencies (UNAIDS, UNFPA, WFP and WHO) joined forces, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, to develop and implement a community-based, integrated nutrition, sexual reproductive health (SRH), ART and tuberculosis (TB) treatment literacy programme in Eswatini. The project aims to increase viral suppression through better nutrition, adherence to medication regimens and uptake of SRH services among people 15–49 years old, who are living with the infection. These efforts are building confidence among HIV patients to adhere to treatment as well as explaining the integral role between good nutrition and ART effectiveness, specific nutrient requirements for this demographic and food-medicine interactions. The programme also provides counselling on infant feeding for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Over 170,000 adolescents, men and women were reached with key messages through a dedicated social media platform, Tune Me (*Mobisite*) and approximately 1,500 others through community sensitization workshops. The aim is that these individuals will amplify key messages and be motivated to seek treatment and adopt good nutrition practices.

Malawi: Nutrition and COVID-19

While Malawi is making steady progress in reducing child malnutrition, stunting remains high (approximately 31.4 percent), even before the COVID-19 crisis hit. Trends analysis also shows that overweight and obesity are on the rise among adolescents and adults, in both cases disproportionately affecting women and girls.¹² UN colleagues in-country quickly recognized that COVID-19 would be an aggravating factor, and thus teamed up to prevent the situation from deteriorating and support programming adaptations, as needed.

The joint project is a cocktail of needed supplies, tweaks in logistics and messaging as well as governance provisions. UNICEF developed jingles with key messages on the prevention of COVID-19 that are being used by WFP and other partners to strengthen social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) and other awareness activities across different programmes. The two agencies are also providing joint support (technical and financial) to the government for district teams on ensuing programmatic adaptations from the use of personal protective equipment to revisiting the frequency of distributions to curtail contagion.

As part of these efforts, UNICEF and WFP supported the revision of the national standard operating procedure (SOP) on managing acute malnutrition in the context of COVID-19, and subsequently, the implementation of its life-saving activities. These measures built on a solid history of inter-agency collaboration in support of the national nutrition emergency response from October 2015 to June 2017, suggesting that collaboration may be easier to execute where there is already a precedent.

Sri Lanka: Nutrition and Gender

Sri Lanka continues to contend with gender inequities and a series of nutrition issues, including elevated levels of under-5 wasting and rising levels of adult overweight/obesity.¹³ Nutrition interventions can serve as an entry point for addressing sensitive issues around gender, which in turn, can support mutually reinforcing gains on both fronts. UNFPA and WFP teamed up in Sri Lanka to strengthen community-based platforms for nutrition and SRH of women and adolescent girls through a joint project, called CHANGE.¹⁴ The program seeks to promote women's empowerment through improved nutrition, food security, SRH and access to health services in six districts.

The project is multi-faceted and targets mother support groups (MSG), youth and their greater communities in order to bring about the desired transformative change. It leverages technology and SBCC, through life skills videos for 9th-graders and a mobile phone application (app) for participating MSGs to support experience sharing. The app also helps to monitor participation and the topics (e.g. food taboos, SRH, gender-based violence) covered at meetings in as many as 1250 MSGs.

These efforts were complemented by others, such as advocacy messages for primary health care workers and awareness-raising sessions conducted at the village level to promote healthy diets. Cooking demonstrations incorporated local nutritious foods and were linked to home gardening to maximize uptake and prospects for sustainability.

Lakmini Perera, a Programme Officer at WFP, explains that one of the project's main achievements was collaboration, presenting opportunities for a multiplier effect.

To learn more about the CHANGE programme in Sri Lanka:

- Read more at <https://bit.ly/38IY3RR>; or
- Watch a brief video at <https://youtu.be/cQGn1ENE1LA>.

11. Eswatini Central Statistical Office. 2018. *2016/2017 Eswatini Household Income and Expenditure Survey (EHIES): Key findings report*. Mbabane.

12. Development Initiatives Poverty Research Ltd. 2019. *Global Nutrition Report; Malawi country profile*. Available at <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/africa/eastern-africa/malawi/>.

13. Development Initiatives Poverty Research Ltd. 2019. *Global Nutrition Report; Sri Lanka country profile*. Available at <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/asia/southern-asia/sri-lanka/>.

14. Stands for Community Health Advanced through Nutrition and Gender Equality.

ENHANCING COUNTRY-LEVEL NUTRITION COORDINATION ARCHITECTURE

Support to SUN Focal Points or other government authorities

In addition, the Network provides a platform for UN actors to align their support to government-led nutrition coordination mechanisms and SUN Focal Points, who often head these structures. For the first time, 100 percent of country UNNs provided technical support to the SUN Focal Point or other government authorities during the reporting period. This was a notable increase (8 percentage points) with respect to 2019, even if UNN support has been consistently high in recent years (Figure 12).

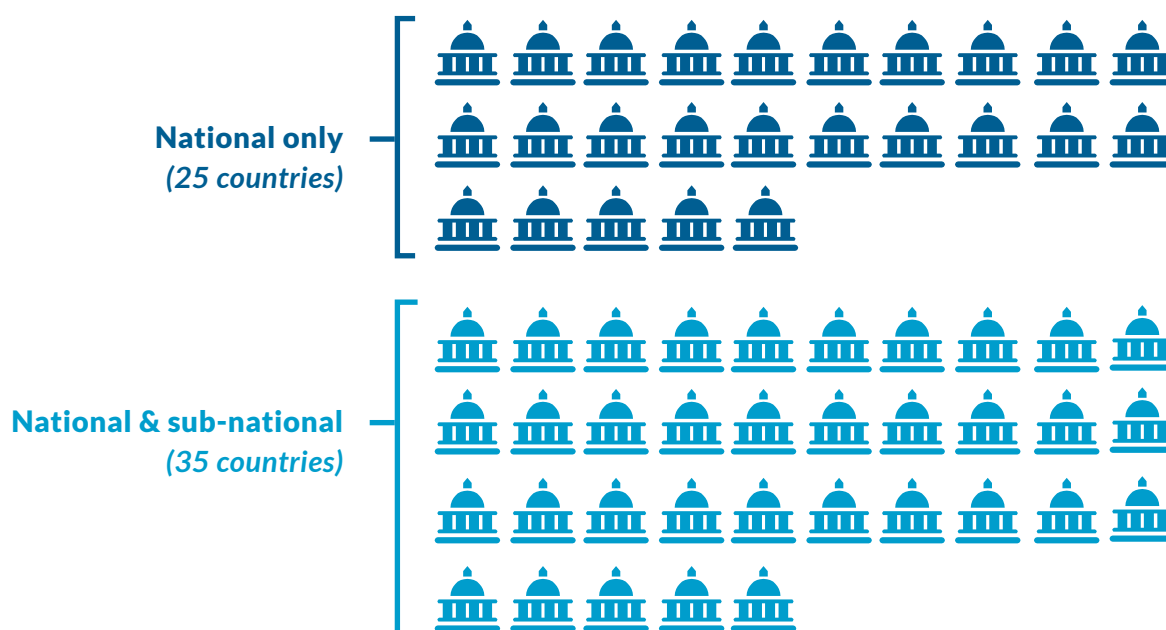
Furthermore, this type of assistance was extended at both the national and sub-national levels in the majority of countries (57 percent), consistent with findings from the previous year. In **Kenya**, the UNN, co-chaired by UNICEF and WFP, supported authorities in the development of county nutrition action plans as well as nutrition advocacy. **Indonesia**'s combined UN-Donor



The UNN provided technical support to SUN Government Focal Points or other authorities in all 61 countries.

Network, known as the Donor and UN Country Network on Nutrition (DUNCNN) sensitized district authorities on nutrition, helping to promote the multi-sectoral approach. In **Tanzania**, the UNN supported the 2019 Joint Multisectoral Nutrition Review, an annual exercise that brings actors together to reflect on the implementation status of the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP) and share best practices among regions and councils. Furthermore, the UNN supported nutrition planning and budgeting sessions for the 2020/21 fiscal year in all twenty-six regions and 184 councils.

FIGURE 11. UNN support extended to the SUN Government Focal Point or other nutrition authorities at national and sub-national levels (2020)



With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:

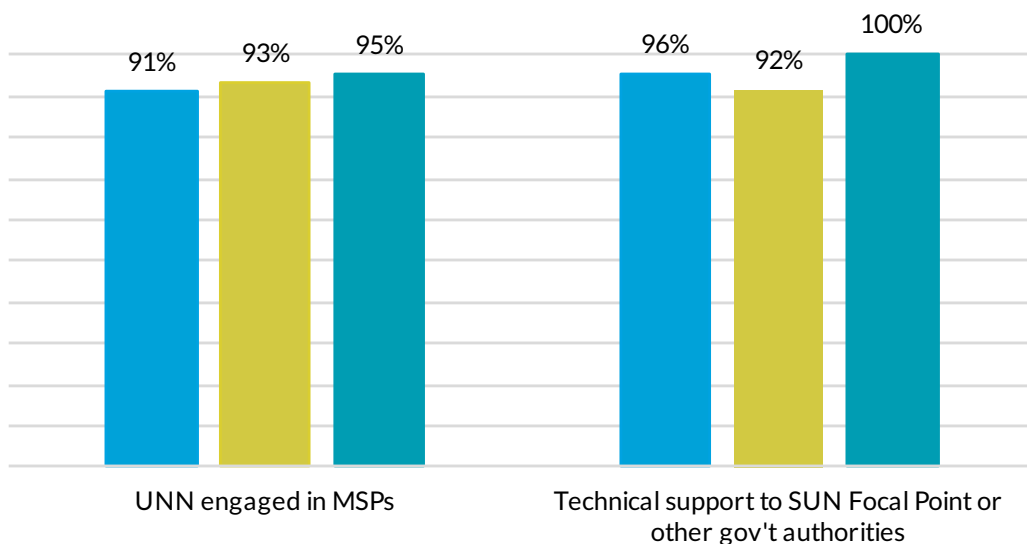


Supporting multi-stakeholder platforms

The UNN is engaged in the vast majority of MSPs in SUN countries, with a gradual increase observed in recent years (95 percent in 2020 up from 93 percent in 2019). UNN’s MSP activity in **Afghanistan** takes place at both the central and provincial level. The three member agencies have worked to strengthen the capacity of the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition (AFSeN) secretariat and “backed up the AFSeN focal point in all provinces where one or all agencies have a presence, resulting in stronger and functional provincial committees in several locations,” explain Said Shamsul Islam Shams, the coordinator of the AFSeN Technical Secretariat, and UN colleagues from FAO, UNICEF and WFP.¹⁵ In **Chad**, the UNN continued to support the Permanent Technical

Committee on Food and Nutrition (CTPNA), including the preparations for its monthly meetings. It has in large part drawn upon the UNN-REACH facilitators for coaching on multi-sectoral nutrition governance, including the capacity development of this coordination mechanism. With UNN support, the CTPNA treated key issues such as the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, which was adopted in 2019 through a three-stage process, first by the Council of Ministers, then by the National Assembly, and ultimately, by the President. UNN-REACH has also assisted the newly established sub-national food and nutrition committees, which coordinate nutrition actions at the provincial level (see Box 5). Furthermore, the formulation of those provincial committees has expanded from five to eleven regions, with plans to further expand to others.

FIGURE 12. UNN plays a key role in country-level nutrition coordination architecture



With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



15. UN Network Secretariat, hosted by the World Food Programme. 2020. *Tales Be Told, Series 2*. Rome. Available at <https://bit.ly/3qV5Vbm>.

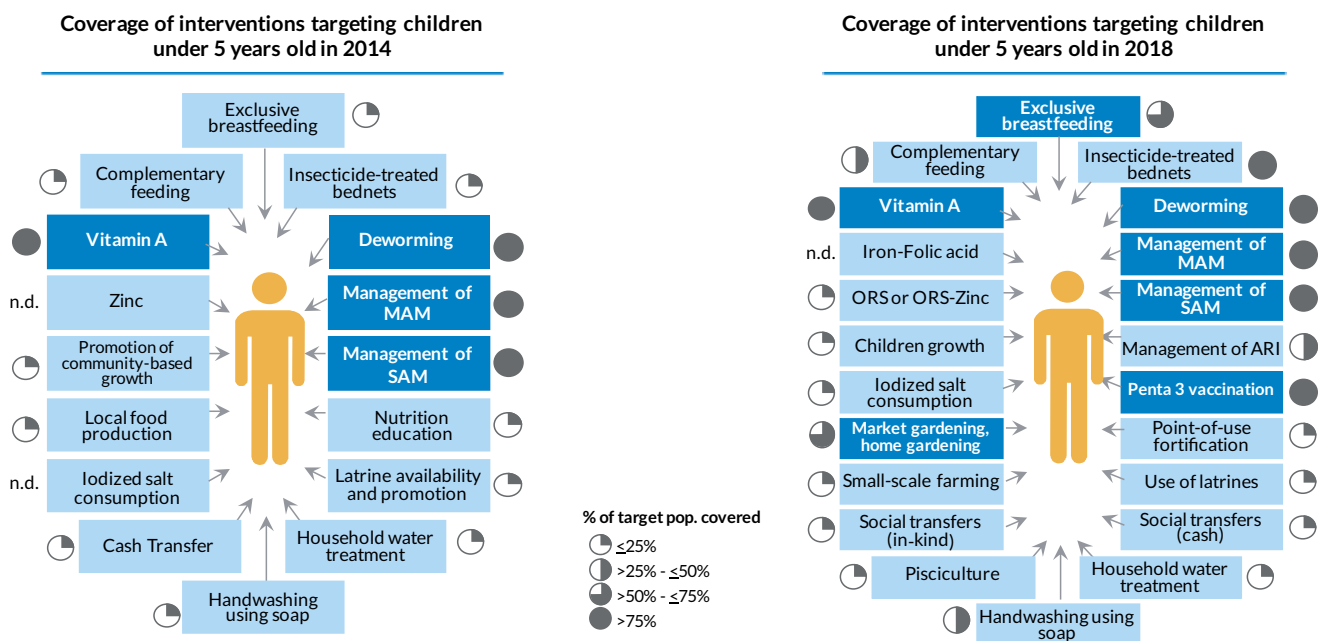
Pakistan's UNN has provided continued technical assistance to the SUN secretariats at both the federal and provincial levels to bolster political commitment for nutrition scale up and enhance coordination. In some cases, the United Nations agencies have deployed technical staff to the provincial SUN secretariats to strengthen coordination capacity. Similar efforts were carried out in **Zambia**. The UNN, through WFP, provided both technical and financial assistance to establish nutrition coordination committees in twelve districts and support the implementation of their respective plans. Among other actions, these bodies coordinated the multi-sectoral 1000 Most Critical Day Programme with assistance from UNICEF.

The UNN's Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping tool continued to rally diverse actors at the country level, provide outlets for action-oriented information sharing and empower government staff to better coordinate what are otherwise often disparate efforts. During the reporting period, the mapping was initiated in three countries: Madagascar, Peru and The Sudan.

It was also successfully completed in Chad and Niger, where it generated valuable inputs for their respective MSPs and related decision-making. In both cases, the exercise was led by government structures, instilling government ownership and providing an avenue to build capacity in data management for improved multi-sectoral/stakeholder coordination. The exercise in **Niger** stands out from other experiences for two main reasons. First, it constituted a second round of mapping, requested by the Office of the High Commissioner for the country's Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens (3N) Initiative, to track progress since the initial mapping was conducted in 2014. Secondly, it catalysed efforts to integrate subsequent intervention coverage data into the EU-funded data management initiative, National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) – a first-ever. Government actors looked to the mapping as a means to fortify nutrition coordination mechanisms – national and sub-national – and to promote mutual accountability among stakeholders in an effort to reduce soaring levels of child stunting and wasting.

FIGURE 13. Excerpt from the Nutrition Action and Stakeholder Mapping in Niger (2018–19)

Niger: Comparative analysis of the coverage of key interventions for a child at the national level



With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



Learning from the initial mapping, the second wave expanded the scope to the ‘commune’ or municipality level, involving as many as 265 municipalities. This would enable corrective action to be taken at a more local level with the aim to reduce time lags and better serve vulnerable populations. The mapping cast a light on encouraging signs in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, with more attention afforded to these actions, including

additional stakeholder involvement, compared to 2014 in concert with climate change mitigation and its consequences on nutrition. It also demonstrated the work still to be done to augment coverage, identifying concrete areas for improvement in terms of geographic and population reach.¹⁶ **Mali** and **Senegal** will soon follow suit in replicating the exercise, further positioning the popular UNN tool as an effective operational tool.

BOX 5. Window for learning

Chad mapping serves as a powerful tool to inform practical decision-making on the ground



In recent years, Chad has made remarkable process in nutrition governance, setting-up and operationalizing nutrition coordination structures at national and sub-national levels, sensitizing government officials on the multidimensional nature of nutrition and how it can drive sustainable development, updating nutrition governance frameworks (e.g. policies and plans) that call for an integrated multi-sectoral approach and carrying out a sweeping Nutrition Capacity Assessment that focused on coordination. Nevertheless, levels of malnutrition, most notably stunting, have stagnated, calling for additional diagnostics to pinpoint where to take corrective action and how to optimize support provided by the multitude of actors present in the country.

Led by the National Nutrition and Food Directorate (*Direction de la Nutrition et de la Technologie Alimentaire*, DNTA) with support from the UNN Secretariat, the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping (2019) in Chad examined twenty-three priority actions and found significant gaps in their coverage after aggregating across the 90 participating stakeholders.¹⁷ Actions were generally concentrated in the provinces most adversely affected by stunting, such as Lac, Wadi Fira and Ouaddaï, although geographic coverage was scant. Likewise, the number of target groups reached. A mere eleven actions (just under half) were implemented on average in each province. Furthermore, the coverage of most of them was below 50 percent, meaning that a large number of children under 5 years old are not receiving the full package of interventions necessary for their development.

The majority of actions were delivered through health centres, hindering the ability to fully operationalize the multi-sectoral approach, articulated by Chad’s policy and planning frameworks. IYCF actions and others linked to infant and maternal health typically covered a larger proportion of provinces, however, notable variances were observed even among the health actions. Only a few routine and mass campaign interventions, such as Vitamin A supplementation among children 6–59 months old and deworming among children 12–59 months of age, have satisfactory coverage.

The mapping also proved useful in elucidating the multifactorial causes of stunting by showing diverging trends. For example, Wadi Fira reported one of the highest exclusive breastfeeding rates (50.6 percent) and yet is among the provinces with the highest prevalence of stunting (41.2 percent). Later in the mapping report the province is revealed to have pervasive levels of food insecurity, with over 90 percent of households characterized as having poor food consumption. This underscores the need to intensify the non-health related nutrition actions, such as general food distributions, cash transfers, provision of small livestock and training and inputs for family farming, to ensure that all factors contributing to malnutrition in Chad are addressed simultaneously.

Not only has the mapping helped the United Nations agencies better understand how their individual efforts were adding up to a greater whole, the other stakeholders in Chad’s nutrition landscape have equally benefitted, including the government’s coordination structures. “The mapping made it possible to identify the different actors and their areas of coverage in the field of nutrition. It also made it possible to improve the planning and coordination of activities,” says Mahamat Bechir, SUN Government Focal Point. In addition, country actors have indicated that the findings have guided successive resource mobilization activities and identified data gaps. The mapping has also prompted actors to revisit targeting schemes and adjust, as needed. For example, Alerte Santé, a non-governmental organization, has used the results in their targeting strategies and in various project documents for funding-raising. Furthermore, the results from the mapping will guide the forthcoming revision of the Inter-sectoral Food and Nutrition Plan, 2017–2021 (*Plan d’action intersectoriel pour la nutrition et l’alimentation*, PAINA), which is due to expire next year.¹⁸

16. To learn more about the Niger Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping, visit <https://bit.ly/34VkJDpn> or consult the mapping report available at <https://bit.ly/3kY5zMM>.

17. Seven ministries, fifteen catalysts, 41 implementers and twenty-seven donors support these nutrition actions in some capacity.

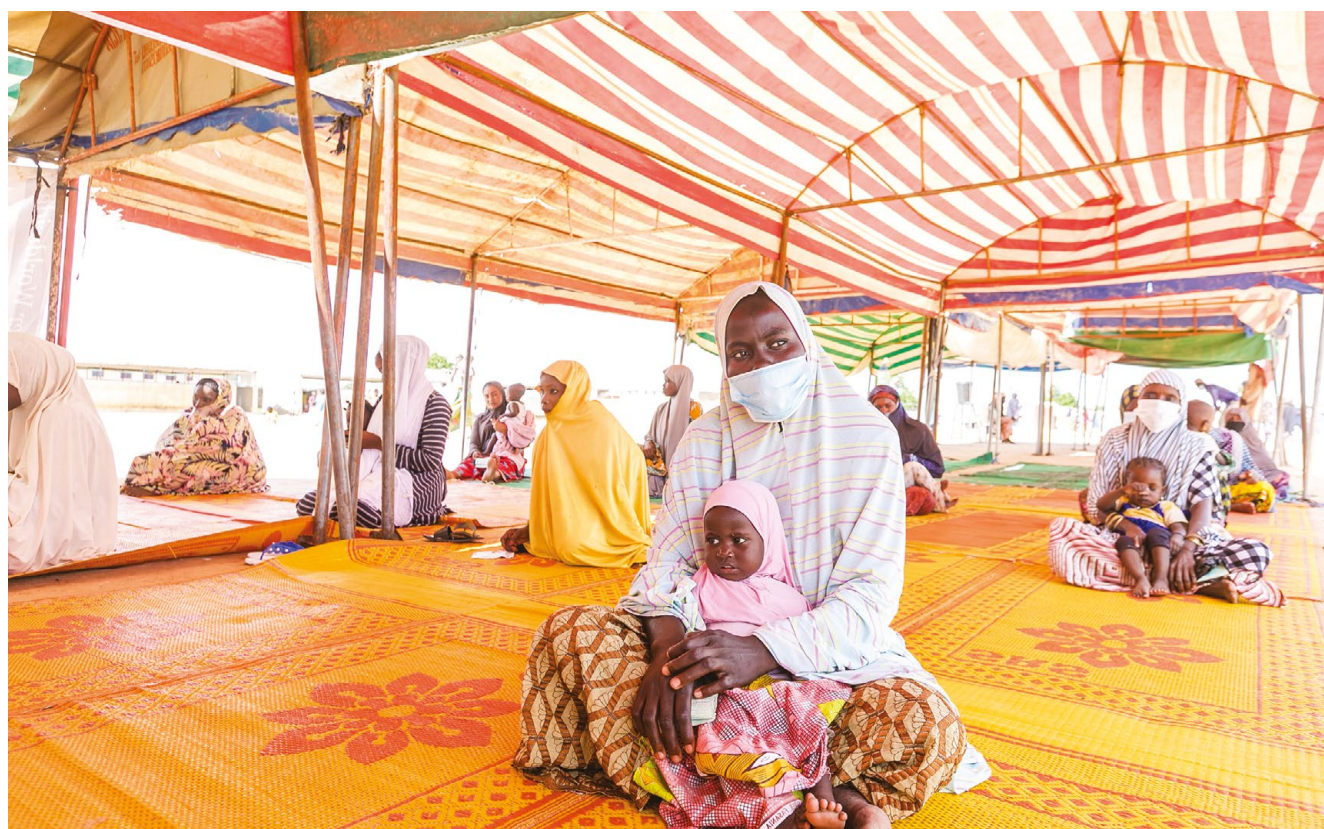
18. To access the Chad mapping report, visit <https://bit.ly/3kR1aLG>.

The 2020 UNN reporting data also illustrates that the UN collectively supported governments with respect to the nutrition aspects of the COVID-19 response in multiple countries. These efforts encompassed a range of activities from mainstreaming nutrition into national COVID-19 response plans, supporting the development of nutrition response plans, developing shock-response, nutrition-sensitive social protection models, procuring personal protective equipment for essential nutrition services, conducting advocacy and adapting nutrition messages to the COVID-19 context as well as supporting a coordinated response, including via the Nutrition Cluster.

In collaboration with partners, the United Nations supported the **Government of Tanzania** to develop a Business Continuity Plan with the following priorities:

- Promote consumption of diversified and healthy diets;
- Promote processing and consumption of biofortified foods;
- Disseminate key messages on COVID-19 prevention and measures to stay safe, including safe hygiene, leveraging innovative communication channels such as social media;
- Protect, promote and support adequate IYCF practices in the COVID-19 context;
- Develop online nutrition and COVID-19 training for nutrition and other sector officers;
- Train health workers, traditional healers, community health workers and caregivers on IYCF amid COVID-19;
- Train health workers on the management of acute malnutrition in the context of COVID-19; and
- Provide one-on-one screening and detection of malnutrition, ensuring early referral to services, where needed.

The United Nations agencies undertook joint efforts for nutrition efforts for nutrition in response to COVID-19 in 57 out of 61 countries.





BOX 6. *Window for learning*

Supporting the design of Pakistan's COVID-19 response plans and helping nutrition coordination mechanisms bring them to life

In Pakistan, the UN Nutrition Network actively engaged with nutrition working groups at the national and provincial levels to plan and support a coordinated, nutrition-smart response to the COVID-19 crisis. Starting with the identification of the most vulnerable groups, these efforts later encompassed those to devise a package of interventions and draft the Humanitarian Sector Response Plan for Nutrition (over USD 25 million) that was subsequently approved. The working groups were able to resume weekly coordination meetings in March 2020 and propel into motion the provisions of the response plan.

In addition, the UNN worked with stakeholders to revise existing guidelines on Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition in Emergencies in light of COVID-19 in order to support the safe provision of nutrition services for clients and caregivers alike. All possible advocacy means were utilized to reach donors and local populations with appropriate communications. Moreover, the UNN extended considerable support to the Government of Pakistan and provincial authorities to reach out to the wider population, district and provincial administrations, health authorities and the media to protect and promote optimal IYCF practices during these challenging times.

As of August 2020, more than 3,000 health facilities were providing life-saving nutrition services with COVID-19 mitigation measures in spite of lockdowns and access issues. More than 200,000 mothers and caregivers had been reached with IYCF, health and hygiene messages through these facilities whereas more than 3.5 million individuals were reached with Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)-approved messages, including through social media.

The following collection of quotes from various members of government provide further testament to the utility of the collective UN support being provided

on nutrition in SUN countries. Many expressed words of gratitude and hope for sustained intensity in the future.

FIGURE 14. Government authorities speak to the value of UNN support in their countries along the journey to scale up

The UN agencies' support in establishment and sustaining the AFSeN-A has been instrumental. We would like to thank and appreciate the support of the UN without which AFSeN-A would have not travelled thus far.

Nasrullah Arsalai, SUN Government Focal Point, Afghanistan

UN Network made us feel that we are being supported as we lead our country to focus on our priority nutrition actions to achieve nutrition targets.

Azucena Dayanghirang, Executive Director of the National Nutrition Council & SUN Government Focal Point, The Philippines

The UN's role has been crucial in terms of technical and financial support. Joint proposal writing has been instrumental in ensuring programmes are converging for improved outcomes.

George Kembo, SUN Government Focal Point, Zimbabwe

I present compliments and write to express appreciation to United Nations Network and REACH for the support to the Nutrition Division/Ministry of Health in the revision of the exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding messages in relation to [the] COVID-19 outbreak and the production of these messages into posters and jingles.

Annette Brima-Davis, Director of Nutrition, Ministry of Health, Liberia

The support provided by the UN Network in scaling-up nutrition interventions and to the SUN movement in Rwanda in general is of utmost importance.

Alexis Mucumbitsi, SUN Government Focal Point, Rwanda

We are appreciating the efforts of the UNN on the evidence generation and mapping of nutrition interventions in Sudan, which is areas where the Ministry needed support.

Huda Kambal, Director of the National Nutrition Programme, The Sudan



UN Network

The support of the UN Network has been indispensable in terms of technical and financial cooperation in the articulation of food and nutrition projects, which enabled progress to be made on many of the country's priority issues.

Cecilia Gamboa, SUN Government Focal Point, Costa Rica

I would like to take this opportunity to thank, once again, the UN Network, which has continued to make significant efforts to support the Government. Let us all hope, with the support of this network, that we will be up to the task entrusted to us of improving the nutrition of the Malian people.

Djibril Bagayoko, SUN Government Focal Point, Mali

The year 2019–2020 was the inception phase for the MS-NPAN. Agencies from the SUN United Nations Network (UNN) provided Technical Assistance required for the implementation of the inception phase activities. The SUN UNN is also supportive to us for facilitating the engagement of other stakeholders for promoting nutrition.

Lwin Mar Hlaing, Acting Director, National Nutrition Center & SUN Movement Secretariat, Myanmar

On behalf of the Government, I reiterate its thanks to the United Nations agencies that have effectively contributed to the elaboration and validation of the PNSAN.

Simplice Mathieu Sarandji, Prime Minister/Head of State, CAR

The Evaluation and Monitoring Directorate of the MIDIS, the designated government focal point for SUN, has agreed to and appreciated the support of the UN Network in coordinating actions, preparing the mapping and its participation in the meetings also convened by the Civil Society Network.

Evaluation and Monitoring Directorate, Ministry of Development & Social Inclusion, Peru

The Technical and Financial support of the UN REACH has in diverse ways improved and strengthened the coordination, collaboration and synergy among government and non-government stakeholders of the SUN Movement in Sierra Leone, in order to scale up nutrition actions for improved outcomes.

Nenebah Jalloh, National Coordinator, SUN Secretariat, Sierra Leone

With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from



Discussion



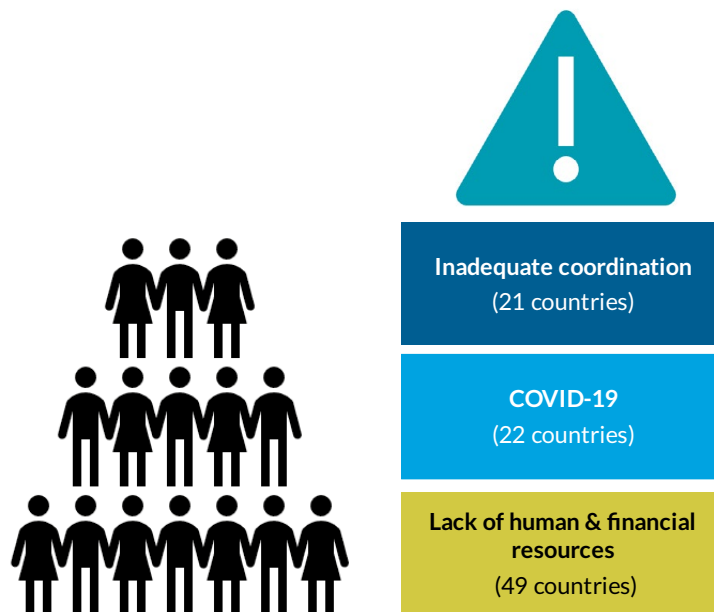
RECURRING CHALLENGES AT COUNTRY LEVEL

While high performance was sustained across the indicators in the UNN functionality index+ and positive trends were exhibited in most cases by the 2019–20 reporting data, countries are grappling with barriers – new and old – that can and do hinder progress. For the third consecutive year, the most frequent challenge cited by country UNNs was an overt **lack of human and financial resources** (49 countries). The concern is not unique to the UN Network, but rather is a reality for the nutrition community at large despite skilled advocacy undertaken through the greater SUN Movement and the compelling USD 16 return on investment for every dollar spent on nutrition.¹⁹ Moreover, the situation is particularly acute this

year, as the current COVID-19 pandemic is putting additional pressure on available resources.

Just over one-third of the UNNs (22 countries) reported **COVID-19** as one of the main challenges. The COVID-19 crisis required the adaptation of nutrition services, related guidance as well as the UNN's *modus operandi* virtually overnight, diverting time and resources from other planned joint activities. Since the essence of UNN's work is about nurturing the collective space – both within the UN System and helping the government to convene and coordinate the wider nutrition landscape of actors – there were vast repercussions on the ability of actors to meet physically and even communicate, where connectivity was poor and digital equipment limited. The latter was particularly an issue when liaising with government staff, who in normal circumstances sometimes already contend with these types of constraints and found that COVID-19 exacerbated them.

FIGURE 15. Top three challenges of country UNNs (2020)



19. 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/>.

The third most commonly reported challenge was **inadequate coordination** (21 countries), signaling not just the difficulty that UN colleagues still face despite advancements in recent years, but the complexity of working across institutions. High staff turnover factors into the equation, sometimes, disrupting dynamics and momentum. In other cases, personalities and different funding schemes are bottlenecks, pointing to the continued relevance of support mechanisms, such as UNN-REACH, that broker neutral conversations among the agencies to help establish common ground and empower collaboration. In addition, the UNN analytics are tools that can help by catalysing data- and solutions-oriented dialogue that leads to joint action. As outlined earlier in this report, UNRCs are strategic figures that can be called upon to foster increased collaboration among the United Nations agencies at the country level. Measures must be taken to make these valuable services available to more countries and further engage UNRCs in the national nutrition agenda to help tackle these challenges. The success of SUN 3.0 is contingent upon this.

CONCLUSION

The 2020 UNN reporting exercise primarily measured UNN functionality at the country level, overall illustrating strong performance and continuous improvement. An impressive 95 percent of country UNNs were classified as highly functional in 2020 up from 87 percent in 2018. A similar, but not directly comparable, UNN assessment deemed 25 percent of country UNNs to be in an advanced stage of their formation in 2016. Clearly, the Network has come a long way in four years.

These gains were in large part driven by the increasing number of country UNNs that: (1) tabled the UN collective nutrition agenda at UNCT meetings; (2) incorporated nutrition in joint UN frameworks; and (3) carried out UN joint programming, combining nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions in various cases. With that said, there is still room for improvement with respect to increasing the frequency with which the collective nutrition agenda is discussed at the UNCT forum and scope



for more joint programming, including projects that combine humanitarian and development assistance to strengthen the HDN. This is particularly relevant in the context of COVID-19, as countries shift from emergency response to recovery.

This year's reporting cycle also presented an opportunity to explore how collective UN support was being mobilized to safeguard nutrition in light of the unfolding COVID-19 crisis. In many cases, this encompassed advocacy and technical assistance to mainstream nutrition in COVID-19 responses. The findings from the reporting exercise show that the vast majority of countries were already pursuing joint efforts in the planning and programming domains, yet the pandemic gave further impetus to joint action through the formulation of HRPs and related joint programming.

Furthermore, the reporting exercise documented the main challenges that country UNNs are facing, such as COVID-19, so that efforts can be taken to address them through both the United Nations' new nutrition coordination platform, UN Nutrition, and the next phase of the SUN Movement. Where challenges present, so do opportunities, including 'to build back better together'. A number of country Networks indicated joint programming as a priority for the future, indicative of a renewed willingness to collaborate.

The COVID-19 pandemic has sometimes been – and is still potentially – an opportunity for nutrition stakeholders to: (1) mobilize resources for nutrition-sensitive initiatives, recognizing that many donor calls have emerged for the response; (2) sensitize the international community on the importance of maintaining and sustaining nutrition in the latter; and (3) coordinate with humanitarian actors, such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) clusters, among others. UNN-REACH facilitators have played an important role through nutrition advocacy and facilitating multi-sectoral/stakeholder coordination for the formulation and implementation of joint COVID-19 responses. In other words, the pandemic has, to a certain extent, helped development stakeholders realize the importance of coordination for nutrition. Looking ahead, it will be more important than ever to put minds together, combine efforts and leverage

innovations, cognizant that needs are rising and financial resources diminishing. This will also provide a push for increased coherence and convergence among the member agencies. It will, furthermore, be crucial to continue engaging additional United Nations agencies, including non-traditional players, cognizant that outreach is also needed to sustain their participation over time. The SUN Movement is counting on UN Nutrition to extend close support and is keen to reap the benefits of the new entity's feedback mechanisms to place country needs at the centre.

Knowledge management, including peer learning within and between countries as well as regions, will be prominently featured in UN Nutrition's plan of work. There is much potential for consolidating UN thought leadership in nutrition and knowledge management can potentially play a major role in proliferating good practices. This will be a key ingredient for accelerating progress towards national nutrition targets and the SDGs as well as for optimizing scarce resources. Moreover, the UNN analytics and UNN-REACH have continued to acquire increased recognition by the greater nutrition community, most recently documented in the SUN Knowledge Management and Learning (KML) assessment, where they are acknowledged as sources for strengthening national KML systems.²⁰ "The KML role of the REACH coordinators has in some instances been the basis for multisectoral nutrition plans, e.g. in Myanmar, or led to the establishment of KML portals as in Nepal. The role has generally been instrumental in strengthening country data management and knowledge brokering."²¹

Ultimately, it boils down to changing mindsets so that collaboration is perceived as an integral part of the core work carried out by UN staff, even in other sectors. Good leadership, data and mediators are levers for change, and will help to ensure that the Network can rise to the challenges ahead and adjust to the 'new normal'. The backing of UNRCs and Heads of Agencies helps set a positive tone and in reiterating the importance of partnership to address inequities, injustice and violence. It is also central to positioning nutrition not only as a foundation for good health, wellbeing and prosperity, but also for peace and stability. The rest of the UN family shall be empowered to follow suit so that together it can help countries make ending malnutrition a reality.

20. N4D. 2020. *A Knowledge Management and Learning System: SUN Movement Phase 3.0*.

21. *Ibid.*

Annexes



ANNEX A. UNN functionality index+ results, by country (2020)

UNN functionality index+ results, by country (2020)												
(n = 61 countries)												
Country	Overall score	Reporting exercise completed	Chair(s) nominated	Focal Points from 3+ United Nations agencies	UNN Strategy/ Agenda/ Workplan	UNN's collective agenda tabled at 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 joint nutrition programming implemented		
Afghanistan	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Bangladesh	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Benin	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Botswana	6	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1		
BurkinaFaso	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Burundi	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Cambodia	7	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0		
Cameroon	7	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1		
CAR	7	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1		
Chad	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
The Comoros	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Congo	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Costa Rica	7	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0		
Cote D'Ivoire	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0		
DRC	8	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1		
El Salvador	7	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1		
Eswatini	7	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1		
Ethiopia	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Gabon	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
The Gambia	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Ghana	8	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1		

Denotes countries that received UNN-REACH support during the 2019-20 reporting period.

(continued...)

<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">(n = 61 countries)</div>												
Country	Overall score	Reporting exercise completed	Chair(s) nominated	Focal Points from 3+ United Nations agencies	UNN Strategy/ Agenda/ Workplan	UNN's collective agenda tabled at 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 joint nutrition programming implemented		
Guatemala	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Guinea	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0		
Guinea-Bissau	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Haiti	7	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1		
Honduras	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Indonesia	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Kenya	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Kyrgyzstan	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0		
Lao PDR	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Lesotho	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Liberia	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0		
Madagascar	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Malawi	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Mali	8	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1		
Mauritania	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Mozambique	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Myanmar	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Namibia	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Nepal	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Niger	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Nigeria	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Pakistan	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		

(continued...)

Denotes countries that received UNN-REACH support during the 2019-20 reporting period.

(... 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/ Workplan	UNN's collective agenda tabled at 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 joint nutrition programming implemented
PNG	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Peru	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
The Philippines	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rwanda	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Senegal	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sierra Leone	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Somalia	8	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
South Sudan	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sri Lanka	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
The Sudan	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tajikistan	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tanzania	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Togo	6	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Uganda	8	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Viet Nam	6	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Yemen	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Zambia	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Zimbabwe	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Denotes countries that received UNN-REACH support during the 2019-20 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 26 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 Overview** (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 such legislation, 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 20 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 (2009–2020)

UNN ANALYTICS COVERAGE (n = 34 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 (22 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
Costa Rica	–	–	–	–	2018*
Côte d'Ivoire	2017 (<i>Dashboard only</i>)	2017	–	–	–
DRC	2017 (<i>Dashboard only</i>)	2017–18	–	–	2016–17
Eswatini	–	–	–	–	2019
Ethiopia	2013	2013	–	–	2013
The Gambia	2017 (<i>Dashboard only</i>)	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, 2020 (<i>Dashboard only</i>)	2019	–	2017–18	2017–19
Liberia	2019	2020 (<i>ongoing</i>)	2019	–	–
Madagascar	–	2020	–	–	–
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 (<i>partially completed</i>)	–	2015–16
Nepal	2013	2014–15	2014	2015	–
Niger	2013, 2016	2014–15, 2018–19	2015	2015	–
Peru	–	2020	–	–	–
The Philippines	–	–	–	–	2016
Rwanda	2015	2015	–	–	2016–17
Senegal	2015, 2017	2015, 2018	2015	2016	2016
Sierra Leone	2011, 2017–18, 2020 (<i>Dashboard only</i>)	2011–12, 2018–19	2017–18	–	2017–18
The Sudan	2019	2020 (<i>ongoing</i>)	–	–	–
Tanzania	2013, 2015–16	2013, 2014, 2016	2016	–	2016
Togo	–	2020 (<i>ongoing</i>)	–	–	–
Uganda	2013	2014–15	2013 (<i>partially completed</i>)	–	–
Zimbabwe	2017 (<i>Dashboard only</i>)	2017–18	–	–	2018

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

ANNEX D. A breakdown of UNN membership, by country (2020)

SUN Countries	Members	No. of members
Afghanistan	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Bangladesh	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Benin	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO & the World Bank	6
Botswana	FAO & UNICEF	2
Burkina Faso	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
Burundi	FAO, IFAD, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO & UN WOMEN	8
Cambodia	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Cameroon	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
CAR	FAO, UNICEF & WFP	3
Chad	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO & UNN-REACH	6
The Comoros	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF & WHO	4
Congo	FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO & UNRC	5
Costa Rica	FAO, UNICEF, WHO & UNRC	4
Côte d'Ivoire	FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
DRC	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
El Salvador	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Eswatini	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Ethiopia	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Gabon	FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF & WHO	4
The Gambia	FAO, IOM, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
Ghana	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Guatemala	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, WFP, WHO & UNRC	7
Guinea	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Guinea-Bissau	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
Haiti	FAO, UNICEF & WFP	3
Honduras	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO & UNRC	6
Indonesia	FAO, IFAD, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	6
Kenya	FAO, IFAD, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	7
Kyrgyzstan	FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO & the World Bank	5
Lao PDR	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
Lesotho	FAO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, the World Bank & UNN-REACH	8
Liberia	FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO & UNN-REACH	5
Madagascar	FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO & the World Bank	5

Denotes countries that received UNN-REACH support during the 2019–20 reporting period.

(continued...)

(... continued)

SUN Countries	Members	No. of members
Malawi	FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
Mali	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, WFP & WHO	6
Mauritania	FAO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	6
Mozambique	FAO, IFAD, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	6
Myanmar	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN WOMEN, WFP, WHO, the World Bank & UNN-REACH	9
Namibia	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Nepal	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Niger	FAO, IFAD, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	9
Nigeria	FAO, UNICEF & WFP	3
Pakistan	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
PNG	FAO, UNCDF, UNDP, UNICEF & WHO	5
Peru	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF & WFP	4
The Philippines	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Rwanda	FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
Senegal*	FAO, IFAD, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UN WOMEN, WFP, WHO & UNN-REACH	9
Sierra Leone	FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, WFP, WHO & UNN-REACH	7
Somalia	FAO, UNICEF & WFP	3
South Sudan	FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
Sri Lanka	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & the World Bank	4
The Sudan	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
Tajikistan	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Tanzania	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Togo	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Uganda	FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
Viet Nam	FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, UN WOMEN & WHO	5
Yemen	FAO, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	4
Zambia	FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	5
Zimbabwe	FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO & UNN-REACH	8
Average		5

 Denotes countries that received UNN-REACH support during the 2019–20 reporting period.

* **Note:** In Senegal, the presence of the facilitator supported through the Multi-stakeholder Coaching Project, awarded to WFP through the SUN Pooled Fund.

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