



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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

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

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

Overview of the UN Network in Afghanistan

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

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

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

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

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

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

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

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

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

With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



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To learn more about how the **UN Network** is supporting country-level action visit <https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/> or write to unnetworkforsun@wfp.org

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