



# The Republic of Benin

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 DECEMBER 2011**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 9/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

UNN Reporting Exercise Completed	Chair(s) Nominated	Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies	UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place	UNN Workplan Developed
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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 Benin

The UN Network (UNN) in Benin comprises the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Network has developed an annual workplan and strategy for nutrition and actively ensures that the nutrition agenda is regularly tabled at UN Country Team (UNCT) meetings.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

The UNN has collaborated with the civil society and other human rights organizations to implement nutrition-relevant projects, although examples of collaboration with the formal SUN networks were not indicated.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

In 2018–19, UNN provided technical and financial support to Benin's National Council on Food and Nutrition, which is the country's multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition, facilitated by the SUN Government Focal Point. The Network also supported the establishment of new functional multi-sectoral platforms, such as the Nutrition-Health Technical Advisory Group under the Ministry of Health as well as a multi-stakeholder committee for monitoring the Zero Hunger National Strategic Review. In addition, the UNN has also contributed to strengthening nutrition consultation frameworks at the community level.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Benin's UNN recorded notable achievements during the reporting period including: the development of the National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Policy; the evaluation of the National Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding; as well as contributions to multi-stakeholder and community level engagements for nutrition.
- In spite of efforts to coordinate different sectors under Benin's Common Results Framework for the Fight against Chronic Malnutrition (2016-2025), UNN encountered difficulties in operationalizing the framework at the community level. The country UNN has acknowledged the need for improved technical and financial support to accelerate the validation of the country's National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Policy and to update the Strategic Plan for Food and Nutrition Development (PSDAN).
- To mitigate these challenges, the UNN is encouraged to provide country partners with tools and facilitation resources. Such efforts would engage different stakeholders at various levels (national and sub-national) both to enhance understanding and awareness of the policy and to highlight the role of each stakeholder in its operationalization. The country UNN is also encouraged to explore opportunities to engage United Nations agencies beyond those traditionally involved in nutrition. This will help increase understanding of the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition and could lead to an increase in the available resources (human/financial) for nutrition.
- Similarly, engagement of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the national nutrition agenda could foster improved coordination for nutrition and make for integrated, multi-dimensional and scalable nutrition interventions in the country.

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**UN Network Secretariat:** Via Cesare Giulio Viola, 68/70 - 00148 Rome, Italy