



# Lao PDR

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 APRIL 2011**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **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
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in Lao PDR

The UN Network (UNN) in Lao PDR is composed of the following five United Nations agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which chairs the Network; the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). The collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, helping to raise awareness about nutrition issues within the wider UN family.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the 2018–19 reporting cycle, the UNN collaborated with the other SUN networks in the country (Business, Civil Society and Donor). For example, the UNN supported to the establishment of the SUN Business Network (SBN) as well as the development of its 2018–2022 strategy, leveraging capacity within UNICEF and WFP. The latter chairs the SBN and is working to translate the tenets of the document into action.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Member agencies provided technical and financial support to the National Nutrition Committee (NNC), led by the SUN Government Focal Point, as well as its Secretariat. The country UNN supported the SUN Government Focal Point in a range of capacities. Furthermore, the Development Partners Group (DPG) for Food Security and Nutrition supports multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) in Lao PDR at both national and sub-national levels. The UNN agencies are also represented, among other stakeholders in the DPG. At the national level, the DPG participated in the NNC Secretariat's biannual meetings, including the annual national nutrition forum. The group also supported sub-national MSPs, including provincial nutrition committees in all eighteen provinces as well as those operating at the district level.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting period, the United Nations agencies participated in joint nutrition programming under the auspices of the Agriculture for Nutrition programme, supported by FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Some of the top UNN achievements in Lao PDR during the reporting period include: (1) the design of the nutrition surveillance system to help monitor the country's nutrition situation and address data gaps; (2) substantial contributions to the mid-term review of the national nutrition plan (2016–2020), which examined progress made and areas for growth; and (3) effective advocacy leading to the adoption of national legislation regarding the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.
- Looking forward, the country Network plans to conduct a second wave of mapping in the first quarter of 2020, using the UNN's Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping tool with support from the UNN Secretariat. This will help the government and other SUN stakeholders ascertain the current levels of nutrition intervention coverage and inform subsequent decision-making.

With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



Global Affairs  
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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](mailto:unnetworkforsun@wfp.org)

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