



Lesotho

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 JULY 2014**
- **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 Lesotho

The UN Network (UNN) in Lesotho has a total of seven member organizations, making it one of the countries with the largest UNN membership base. While the country UNN was co-chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) during the reporting period, chairmanship is rotated on an annual basis. The Network also galvanizes the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the UNN-REACH Facilitator, the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO). UNN analytical exercises such as the UN Nutrition Inventory and the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping, both completed in 2019, have helped the Network gain momentum and attract new members (e.g. UNAIDS, UNFPA, World Bank). The UNN's intensive support arm, UNN-REACH,¹ has been another contributing factor to the Network's growing membership and helped to demystify what multi-sectoral nutrition entails. Similarly, the presence of the facilitator has prompted actors to regularly table the collective nutrition agenda at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, Lesotho's UNN, including through UNN-REACH, provided considerable support to revitalize the SUN Business Network (SBN) from the completion of a stock-taking exercise of private sector activity to the development of an SBN action plan. It also collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) on nutrition advocacy to keep nutrition high on the political agenda, likewise, drawing upon the UNN-REACH mechanism.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

In spite of these developments, there is no formal multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) for nutrition in the country. The UNN does provide direct coaching support, through UNN-REACH, to the SUN Government Focal Point and other staff in the Food and Nutrition Coordination Office. Lesotho's UNN has also been actively engaged in the formulation of several inter-sectoral plans, including the national Food and Nutrition Strategy and Costed Action Plan (2019–2023), which involved the participation of diverse actors.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

The UNN in Lesotho has proactively provided technical support to joint UN nutrition initiatives, including joint programming. In 2018–19, Lesotho's UNN also worked together on the formulation of two multi-sectoral joint programs that include a mix of nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions, to be supported by UNICEF and WFP.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- A number of milestones were reached by the UNN in Lesotho during the reporting period. These include: (1) the launch of the Zero Hunger Strategic Review Report by His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho and contributions to the development of the corresponding roadmap; (2) intensified advocacy, which leveraged King Letsie III as a nutrition champion; (3) district nutrition awareness campaigns that underscore the importance of multi-stakeholder coordination (UNN-REACH and WFP); (4) the World Bank Forum on Early Childhood Nutrition co-organized with UNICEF; (5) mainstreaming nutrition into the National Strategic Development Plan II; (6) the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action mapping, which engaged all UNN member agencies plus other stakeholders, illustrating the scale of nutrition interventions in the country; and (7) expanded UN joint programming with the backing of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.
- Challenges remain concerning resource mobilization for the country's new Food and Nutrition Action Plan in order to take Lesotho's nutrition agenda to the next level.
- Looking ahead, the establishment of the National Steering Committee and the need to operationalize and empower dynamic SUN networks will be prioritized.

1. REACH stands for the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition partnership.

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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