



# Liberia

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 FEBRUARY 2014**
- **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 Liberia

The UN Network (UNN) in Liberia is composed of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), with WFP serving as the chair. The UNN-REACH<sup>1</sup> Facilitator is also an active member of the Network, liaising across the different agencies to cultivate a collaborative environment and consolidate UN nutrition efforts. According to the 2019 UNN reporting data, the Network sometimes tabled the collective nutrition agenda at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, underscoring the multi-sectoral facets of nutrition and helping to position it as a broader outcome of development. UNN analytics also provided an entry point to mobilize a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition, both within and outside the United Nations System.

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the country UNN collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN), particularly in the area of advocacy, which paved the way for the effective engagement of the Speaker of the House and a sensitization workshop with parliamentarians that took place shortly after the reporting period. UNN-CSN collaboration also enabled the establishment of the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP).

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Liberia's UNN fostered the progressive functionality of the MSP at national level, leveraging the presence of the UNN-REACH Facilitator to catalyse these efforts.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

Not specified

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- UNN Liberia has spurred increased engagement of the United Nations agencies in nutrition, even among some that are not part of the Network (e.g. UNAIDS, UNFPA and UN WOMEN). This was reflected in their participation at planning meetings as well as the review and validation of the new nutrition policy and national Public Health Law, both milestones for the country.
- UNN analytics, such as the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview (MNO) and Policy and Plan Overview (PPO), were conducted in 2019, which helped sensitize actors from other sectors on their respective roles in nutrition. The MNO was also pivotal in helping to establish a common understanding of the country's nutrition challenges and the factors driving them to inform nutrition advocacy, policy-making and subsequent action.
- As part of the preparations for UNN-REACH, the UN Country Representatives of the member agencies together with the leadership of the UNN Secretariat and Irish Aid advocated for the formalization of the SUN Focal Point position within government, which materialized later in 2019. The institutionalization of the country's SUN Secretariat has proved to be more challenging.
- Moving forward, there are plans to develop a strategic plan to be incorporated into the national nutrition strategy as well as to carry out a sweeping mapping exercise in early 2020 with support from the UNN Secretariat. These concrete measures will, in turn, guide nutrition scale-up.

1. REACH stands for the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition initiative, which is the intensive support arm of the UNN's multi-sectoral technical assistance facility.

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