Overview of the UN Network in Myanmar

The UN Network (UNN) in Myanmar has eight members, making it one of the three countries with the largest membership base. This includes: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS); the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN); the World Food Programme (WFP); the World Health Organization (WHO); and the World Bank. Chaired by WFP, the Network has also benefitted from the support of UNN-REACH since 2014, with the designated facilitator being a core component of the country UNN. In addition to this rich set-up, the collective nutrition agenda was often tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018−19, helping the multi-sectoral approach gain more traction.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

There were various episodes of collaboration with the other SUN networks during the reporting cycle. For instance, the UNN actively contributed to the stakeholders consultation on the establishment of the SUN Business Network (SBN), which remains ongoing. The country UNN also provided considerable support, through UNN-REACH, to the National Nutrition Centre for rolling out a participatory process for developing Myanmar’s Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition, 2018−2022 (MS-NPAN), which among others, engaged the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) and SUN Donor Network (SDN). Since then, the UNN has been helping to coordinate diverse stakeholders with regard to the operationalization of the plan.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Throughout the reporting period, Myanmar’s UNN has supported both the Nutrition Sector Coordination Group, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, and the National Nutrition Committee, housed by the Ministry of Health and Sports. UNN analytics proved to be critical inputs for rallying representatives from five ministries and the different SUN networks, including the members of UNN, within the context of the new national nutrition plan. In addition, UNN-REACH supported a Nutrition Capacity Assessment, initiated during the second semester of 2018, starting at the national level and later developing a roadmap to guide the exercise in the states and regions (2019). The assessment focused on nutrition coordination and governance, one of the three main streams of the country’s new nutrition plan.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018−19, the UNN in Myanmar reported two joint UN nutrition initiatives, yet in both cases, these were outside the scope of programming.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The top achievements of Myanmar’s UNN in 2018−19 were: (1) contributions to the development/implementation of the costed MS-NPAN and a roadmap of activities for its inception year, which strengthened the multi-stakeholder platforms; (2) resource mobilization to support the full implementation of the plan; (3) the Nutrition Capacity Assessment; and (4) nutrition surveys, such as a micronutrient survey and another on urban nutrition.
- Priorities: To assist the SUN Government Focal Point with updating of the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping in order to ascertain the current levels of intervention coverage and inform scale-up.

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

With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:

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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