



Papua New Guinea

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 2016**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 8/10**
- **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 Papua New Guinea

The UN Network (UNN) in Papua New Guinea stands out for two reasons. First, its membership base is a mix of the 'big players' and other United Nations agencies who are new to the nutrition scene. It includes: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and the World Health Organization (WHO). Secondly, the platform has adopted a unique chairing arrangement, with two chairs and two co-chairs, building on the country's UNDAF results groups – People and Prosperity. UNICEF serves as the chair and WHO the co-chair from the People contingency, which concentrates on social development, whereas UNCDF (chair) and UNDP (co-chair) reflect the Prosperity group, which looks through the economic lens. This not only helps secure buy-in for the Network among UN leadership, but also strengthens the link between the UNDAF and UNN. In spite of the multi-agency chairing set-up, the collective nutrition agenda was rarely tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period. This indicates that further efforts are needed to fully embrace the joint spirit of the UNN and mobilize multi-sectoral action within the United Nations community in-country for achieving positive nutrition outcomes.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, Papua New Guinea's UNN collaborated with the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) on advocacy, motivating the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Planning and Monitoring to come forward as a nutrition champions. The UNN provided technical support to Save the Children, the CSN convenor, and also liaised with academia for nutrition-related research activities that fed into advocacy. Together, these efforts helped nutrition secure a prominent place on the political agenda and ignite the Prime Minister's call to action to rise up against malnutrition one household at a time.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

In the absence of a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) for nutrition, the UNN supported the SUN Government Focal Point in rallying diverse actors for the finalization of the costed National Nutrition Strategic Action Plan 2018–2022 and its submission for government approval. It also provided technical assistance to the Nutrition Programme Management Unit in the Department for National Planning and Monitoring to coordinate multi-sectoral nutrition interventions. Furthermore, the country UNN was involved in two multi-sectoral roundtable discussions on nutrition to help attract investment for operationalizing the new plan. The United Nations agencies also jointly provided technical support for sub-national nutrition coordination during the reporting period.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

While the UNN members jointly supported nutrition governance actions from advocacy to coordination, they did not undertake joint programming in 2018–19.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Further to the achievements highlighted above, UNN-supported advocacy and technical assistance resulted in increased awareness of the country's nutrition situation, which in turn, led to the inclusion of nutrition as one of the goals to steer sustainable social development in the 2018–2022 Medium-Term Development Plan III (MTDP III). The UNN in Papua New Guinea also encouraged the MTDP III's alignment with national Sustainable Development Goals as well as the alignment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) with the Government's planning cycle.
- Looking forward, the establishment of a functional national MSP is one of the main priorities for UNN.

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