



Sierra Leone

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 JANUARY 2012**
- **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 Sierra Leone

The UN Network (UNN) in Sierra Leone is composed of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), with UNICEF serving as the chair.¹ The UNN-REACH² Facilitator is also an active member of the Network, capitalizing on his neutrality to bring these United Nations Agencies together and foster increased cohesiveness among them. The UNN reported that the collective nutrition agenda was often tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the reporting period. In addition, the United Nations Resident Coordinator is highly engaged in nutrition, helping to reinforce the virtues of collective action. Four of the five UNN analytical exercises were conducted in Sierra Leone, helping the member agencies (and other nutrition stakeholders) to establish a common language on nutrition. While the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping was completed, validated and widely disseminated in March 2019, the other analytics (UN Nutrition Inventory, Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview and Policy and Plan Overview) were conducted during the previous reporting cycle.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, Sierra Leone's UNN worked closely with three other SUN networks (Civil Society, Donor and Parliamentarian). For instance, UNN supported the establishment of the SUN Business Network (SBN) by playing a significant role in the development of SBN's Terms of Reference, where its roles and responsibilities are outlined. UNN also has good dialogue with the Parliamentarian Health Committee as well as with majority and minority leaders to bolster political commitment for nutrition interventions. In addition, the UNN-REACH Facilitator has been central to the above inter-network collaboration. The UNN-supported mapping exercise served also as a valuable rallying point for diverse stakeholders, including government and the above-mentioned SUN networks, helping to identify gaps and overlaps, and thus opportunities for increased synergies.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The UNN in Sierra Leone provided support to the country's SUN Secretariat for organizing district-level multi-sectoral coordination meetings. Furthermore, UNN organized field visits to inform the review of the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) as part of greater efforts to enhance its functionality.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In spite of other joint work undertaken on nutrition during the reporting period, the UNN agencies did not undertake joint programming in this area.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- The UNN supported the successful development and roll out of the Multi-Sector Strategic Plan to Reduce Malnutrition in Sierra Leone (2019–2025), securing high-level political support, including from the Vice President. Many have acknowledged the key role that UNN-REACH played in these achievements.
- Among the country UNN's priorities reported are the need: (1) to develop a common UN nutrition agenda; (2) expand its membership; and (3) increase joint nutrition programming. The UNN may also foster national fundraising to support the implementation of the new national nutrition plan, mindful that there are few donors in-country that embrace the nutrition agenda and limited government resources.

1. At the time the 2019 UN Network Annual Report was published, WFP had taken over the role of UNN chair in-country following the departure of the UNICEF Country Representative.
2. REACH refers to the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition initiative, the intensive support arm of UNN's multi-sectoral technical assistance facility.

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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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