



# The Gambia

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 2011**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL (HIGH)**

<b>UNN Reporting Exercise Completed</b>	<b>Chair(s) Nominated</b>	<b>Focal Points from 3+ UN Agencies</b>	<b>UNN Strategy/Agenda in Place</b>	<b>UNN Workplan Developed</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>UNN's Collective Agenda tabled at UNCT</b>	<b>UNN Engagement in MSP</b>	<b>Develop/Update Nutrition Content of Joint UN Frameworks</b>	<b>Technical Support to SUN Focal Point or other Government Authorities</b>	<b>Nutrition Joint Programmes or Programming</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Overview of the UN Network in The Gambia

The UN Network (UNN) in the Gambia is comprised of five agencies, namely: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which chairs the platform; the World Food Programme (WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO). According to the findings of the UNN reporting exercise, the collective nutrition agenda was frequently tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19, which possibly helped to engage other agencies in related UN joint programming (the United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA] and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS [UNAIDS]).

## Collaboration with other SUN Networks

During the reporting period, the SUN networks came together at key moments, such as the UN Assistant Secretary-General/SUN Coordinator's visit, after which follow-up meetings were conducted among the United Nations agencies, leading to accelerated commitments in terms of joint programming. An annual joint self-assessment was completed, that engaged the SUN Government Focal Point and the SUN networks, with the support of coordination structures such as the Nutrition Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) and the National Alliance for Food Fortification (NAFF). In addition, WFP led efforts to establish of the SUN Business Network (SBN), officially launched in November 2019.

## Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

At the national level, NTAC and NAFF meetings were convened as well as "Zero Hunger" meetings, bringing together multiple stakeholders. All five UNN agencies are active in the NTAC and committed to helping the government improve the coordination of nutrition services across different sectors and institutions.

## UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In 2018–19, the United Nations agencies partook in various joint programmes that encompassed a range of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions, such as: (1) the integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM), involving both UNICEF and WFP; (2) support on maternal, newborn and child nutrition in selected regions to promote recommended breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, which stitched together the efforts of six agencies (FAO, UNAIDS UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO); (3) social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) on health and hygiene, infant and young child feeding (IYCF), dietary diversity and healthy diets, including the consumption of local nutritious varieties, pursued by FAO, UNICEF and WFP; and (4) social assistance through school feeding programmes, cash transfers and WASH programmes, jointly supported by UNICEF and WFP.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Some of the top UNN achievements in the Gambia during the reporting period include: (1) the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) roadmap for the remaining period of the country's UNDAF (2017–2021); (2) the maintenance of a strong technical working group on nutrition; (3) the mainstreaming of nutrition in the Zero-Hunger technical working group; (4) creating an enabling environment for and supporting food fortification, jointly supported by FAO, UNICEF and WFP; and (5) support on national surveys, such as Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), the 2018 Gambia National Micronutrient Survey (GMNS), SMART surveys and the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study led by the African Union, African Economic Community, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and WFP, to be officially launched in 2020.
- Despite having gained notable momentum on nutrition, there are many coordination issues in part due to the plethora of related platforms. This underscores the relevance of the Nutrition Stakeholder and Actions Mapping, completed in 2017, with support from the UNN Secretariat, and presents opportunities to leverage those findings to achieve increased synergies and minimize duplication of efforts.

With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



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