



Viet Nam

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 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
✗	✓	✓	✓	✓

Overview of the UN Network in Viet Nam

The United Nations agencies rally for nutrition through Viet Nam's Technical Working Group (TWG), also referred to as the Nutrition Cluster. UN participation includes the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) although other stakeholders, such as the government, the World Bank and civil society organizations, are also involved (further information reported below). The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is a key component of the TWG's programme of work, providing an example of how nutrition workstreams can be consolidated at the country level. Strong inter-agency dynamics are nourished by active UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) engagement and innovative office space arrangements, whereby United Nations staff sit together in common premises, grouped not by agency, but by the pillars of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). With that said, Viet Nam is one of the few countries, where the collective nutrition agenda was never tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings in 2018–19. This could, in part, be due to the lack of a discrete network for the UN constituency.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the United Nations agencies collaborated with the nascent SUN Civil Society and Business Networks. Regular interaction with the former was achieved in view of the joint participation in the country Nutrition Cluster whereas collaboration with the latter largely centred around preparations for establishing the country's SBN.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

The United Nations agencies supported the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), which hosts the TWG on nutrition and the SUN Government Focal Point. UNICEF co-chairs the working group with NIN, attesting the UN's active role in the platform. Furthermore, the United Nations agencies are helping the NIN to progressively reach out to other sectors beyond the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Health to accelerate progress towards nutrition targets.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In Viet Nam, the unique office arrangements and UNRC initiative facilitate the pursuit of joint programmes between agencies. UNICEF and WHO carried out joint programming in diverse facets of nutrition, from the promotion of integrated management of severe acute malnutrition to the prevention of child overweight and obesity. Additional United Nations agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNIDO) joined efforts to support the implementation of the National Action Plan for Zero Hunger (NAP-ZH), 2018–2025, particularly actions intended to improve food consumption practices and promote healthy diets.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Collective UN nutrition activity in Viet Nam was fruitful during the reporting cycle, encompassing: (1) support to the government for formulating and launching the NAP-ZH (endorsed in 2018); (2) regular support to the SUN processes; (3) technical assistance to the government for the General Nutrition Survey (2019); and (4) support on the evaluation of the National Nutrition Strategy, which expires in 2020, to guide the next steps of nutrition scale-up.
- The United Nations members have identified multiple priorities to build on the momentum. These include: (1) engaging additional agencies (e.g. ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO, UN WOMEN) in nutrition; (2) making nutrition a standing agenda item in the UNCT, understanding that it reflects and drives the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals; (3) continued support to the government for engaging other sectors in the NIN; and (4) technical assistance to undertake studies on the economic impact of hunger and overweight/obesity and non-communicable diseases.

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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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