



Zambia

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 DECEMBER 2010**
- **UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+ SCORE (2019): 10/10**
- **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 Zambia

Zambia's UN Network (UNN) 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 World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The member agencies have opted to pursue a co-chairing system, with UNICEF and WFP dually fulfilling that role. In 2018–19, the collective nutrition agenda was sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, helping to attract the attention of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC). This has directly contributed to making the UNRC become nutrition savvy and recognizing the potential of nutrition to drive sustainable development.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the UNN collaborated with the SUN Donor Network (SDN) to strengthen government coordination capacity for nutrition. This also facilitated the provision of technical and financial support to the SUN Government Focal Point in various programme areas, from home-grown school feeding to food fortification, the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative and the management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), helping to bolster multi-sectoral nutrition actions in the country.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

At national level, the UNN provided regular progress updates to the nutrition multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) and was instrumental in helping to foster increased alignment between the SUN networks and the MSP. Combined with the UNN's support to the SUN Government Focal Point, who is based at the National Food and Nutrition Commission under the Ministry of Health, these efforts have enriched Zambia's multi-sectoral approach to nutrition. The United Nations agencies have also been supporting the expansion of SUN coordination structures to districts through local partnerships. This involved providing capacity strengthening support for multi-sectoral nutrition planning, implementation, coordination and M&E at the district level.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

In Zambia, the United Nations agencies carried out joint programming on nutrition in pursuit of shared goals. These include supplementary and school feeding enhancement, supported by WFP and WHO, and another joint programme on micronutrient fortification and supplementation which consolidated technical assistance from UNICEF and WHO. The latter even involved conducting an assessment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, to ascertain the capacity of laboratories to analyse fortified food samples. A third example of UN joint programming documented through the 2019 UNN reporting exercise focused on the promotion of affordable, adequate, safe and diverse foods and household food security, which was supported by all five UNN members agencies.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Overall, UNN support in Zambia has been well-aligned to country's nutrition agenda thanks in large part to the articulation of a common UNN strategy, which was linked to the nutrition priorities outlined in the 7th National Development Plan. This enabled the country UNN to contribute to milestones, such as setting up and strengthening nutrition coordination mechanisms and advancing nutrition-smart national policy and legal frameworks. Other joint UN efforts aimed to improve the enabling environment and encompassed: (1) the promotion of research, development and evidence generation (e.g. support for the Cost of Hunger analysis); (2) advocacy; (3) nutrition information system development; as well as (4) technical assistance for the development of guidelines on the management of SAM and nutrition-sensitive social protection, respectively.
- Efforts to strengthen budget tracking mechanisms were identified as a priority for the next reporting cycle.

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