



Zimbabwe

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 JUNE 2011**
- **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 Zimbabwe

The UN Network (UNN) in Zimbabwe has as many as eight members, namely: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Food Programme (WFP); the World Health Organization (WHO); as well as the World Bank. Co-chaired by UNICEF and WFP, its composition reflects a mix of big nutrition players and organizations that have traditionally been less involved in the area, and yet play an important role in contributing to positive nutrition outcomes. The country UNN has also benefitted from the support of a UNN-REACH facilitator since 2017, who is a core member of the Network and fostered efforts to double its membership base in March 2019. While the collective nutrition agenda was only sometimes tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings during the reporting period, this will likely change as the Network continues to gain momentum with new members, particularly since the decision to expand UNN membership was endorsed by the UNCT.

Collaboration with other SUN Networks

In 2018–19, the UNN worked closely with other SUN networks in the country. One example is the technical and financial support UNN provided to establish the SUN Research and Academic Platform (SUNRAP). The UNN-REACH Facilitator was called upon to liaise with other UNN colleagues and compile inputs that helped to define a priority research agenda for nutrition and identify capacity gaps, guiding the work of SUNRAP. Furthermore, the UNN considers the Zimbabwe Civil Society Network (ZCSOSUNA) a priority partner, and thus embedded measures to support it in the 2018–19 UNN workplan.

Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder/Sectoral Platforms

Zimbabwe's UNN supported multi-sectoral platforms (MSPs) from national to local levels, including efforts to increase interactions between them. The presence of a UNN-REACH facilitator was an asset in that it enabled the UNN to provide daily support to the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) and the SUN Government Focal Point for coordinating efforts across stakeholders and sectors. In particular, the role of data in coordination was acknowledged as an enabler from the FNC, where the SUN Focal Point is based, to district food and nutrition committees to coordination platforms for the Multi-sectoral Community Based Model (MCBM) for stunting reduction. The UNN's Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping proved to be a critical input and catalyst for improving information systems and data flows between national and sub-national levels. After seeing the potential of the exercise, a decision was made to scale it up to nineteen districts, thanks to supplemental funding provided by UNICEF. A process was also initiated, with UNN-REACH support, for teleconferencing between national and sub-national governance bodies as part of strengthening feedback mechanisms and providing timely supportive supervision.

UN Joint Programmes/Programming for Nutrition

During the reporting cycle, the country UNN pursued joint programming in the march towards increased nutritional impact. This included accelerated community actions for stunting reduction in four districts, conducted by FAO and UNICEF, and the MCBM after a successful pilot in the Mutasa district. The latter blended livelihoods support, food and agricultural assistance, WASH interventions, behaviour change communication with capacity strengthening, M&E and supply chain management support, jointly provided by FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. Lastly, nutrition components featured in a joint emergency response to cyclone Idai that engaged five UNN agencies as well as a host of others.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- As highlighted above, the UNN in Zimbabwe increased its membership twofold and completed a sweeping mapping exercise (June 2018), being the first country to use the web-based version of the UNN tool and prompting systemic change in how data is managed. It also conducted the UN Nutrition Inventory in 2018 to inform UN strategic planning and help align behind government priorities. Finally, the United Nations Resident Coordinator became increasingly engaged in the national nutrition agenda, triggered in part by the UNN Director/Global Coordinator's mission (February 2019), which drew connections between nutrition and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Looking forward, resource mobilization for a joint programme to support national stunting reduction efforts and the further strengthening of national nutrition information systems (including surveillance) will be priorities for the UNN.

With contributions to the UN Network Secretariat from:



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