

Frequently Asked Questions about UN Network for SUN and REACH

Q: What is the UN Network for SUN?

A: The UN Network for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) is one of the Networks of the SUN Movement. The UN Network for SUN (UN Network) was officially established in June 2013 by the Principals of five UN agencies working in nutrition (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO). The UN Network brings together United Nations agencies at the global, regional and country levels to advance nutrition targets and objectives at all levels, and provides an entry point through which United Nations entities engage in a coordinated manner with SUN processes and efforts. UN Networks are expected to be established in all SUN countries. The UN Network supports the achievement of all SDGs and the Agenda 2030, with a specific focus on Goal 2, as endorsed by the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025). The UN Network is guided by the **UN Network for SUN strategy (2016-2020)**, which provides a guideline for United Nations actions to support countries in achieving national nutrition goals aligned with the goals and objectives of the SUN Movement. The strategy aims to strengthen national capacity for nutrition governance and scale-up nutrition actions, and increase UN Network effectiveness in support of national nutrition efforts. The **results framework** outlined in the UN Network strategy includes five outcomes against which progress on the implementation of the UN Network strategy will be measured.

Q: Which agencies are engaged in the UN Network for SUN?

A: Currently, the UN Network's **global membership** is made up of FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. **At the country level**, membership of the UN Network includes all United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other agencies and institutions active in nutrition. The UN Network encourages full participation of all United Nations entities active in nutrition in a given country as this contributes to the harmonization and effectiveness of the United Nations.

Q: Who participates from each member agency in the UN Network for SUN at country level?

A: The UN Network comprises United Nations agency nutrition focal points, usually technical and programme staff, and is led by a chair who is a senior United Nations staff member (i.e. representative or deputy), nominated by the UNCT and who serves on a rotational basis. Other United Nations agency representatives and senior staff may also participate in UN Networks at country level.

Q: How does the UN Network for SUN liaise with the other SUN Networks at country level?

A: On a day-to-day basis, it is expected that the technical members of the UN Network (including REACH where present) work closely with the SUN focal point and his/her team and SUN Networks in their role to support national SUN processes and the scale up of nutrition actions. The chair of the UN Network represents all of the UN agencies in the Network at country, regional and global SUN events and involves the representatives of the other UN agencies of the UN Network as appropriate. The chair will ensure the liaison with the SUN Focal Point as appropriate.

Q: How does the UN Network for SUN at the country level interact with the UN Network for SUN at the global level?

A: The chair of the UN Network at the country level liaises with the UN Network/REACH Secretariat to ensure that countries are supported in the most efficient way possible to undertake SUN processes by providing progress updates, and requests for technical assistance. In addition, UN Network focal points at the headquarters level, appointed by each member agency, liaise with the country focal points in the Network from their agency to provide updates, share information, and supply and/or broker technical assistance, as needed.

Q: What is the role of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) in the UN Network for SUN?

A: The UN Resident Coordinator (RC) periodically tables nutrition at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings and is informed on the progress of the UN Network vis-à-vis its commitments. The RC can help mobilize the UNCT behind national nutrition efforts, ensure nutrition is integrated into the United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) or similar frameworks, undertake high level advocacy for nutrition and provide support in resource mobilization for nutrition.

Q: How is REACH linked to the UN Network for SUN?

A: REACH is a service of the UN Network with tools, human resources (including facilitators) and experiences that can be drawn upon, for support in response to assessed needs, where funding is available. Since its establishment by FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO in 2008 (IFAD joined in 2012), REACH has been deployed in 20 countries. REACH is a country-centred, multi-sectoral approach to help strengthen national capacity for nutrition governance, which also includes support to all SUN Networks and other partner organisations to ensure effective engagement in multi-stakeholder processes and platforms. At global level, the UN Network for SUN and REACH have joined their Secretariat and Steering Committee. At country level, the degree to which REACH facilitators support the UN Network in a secretariat capacity will be context-specific and needs to be agreed by the UN Network.

Q: Is every country expected to have both a UN Network for SUN and REACH?

A: The UN Network is expected to extend its collective efforts to all SUN countries without necessarily relying on external, dedicated in-country REACH support. SUN countries have different needs with regards to multi-sectoral nutrition governance support. Some countries may require the support of dedicated REACH facilitators; other SUN countries may have existing capacity and/or have on-going support from the UN Network or other stakeholders from SUN Networks. REACH support is provided at the request of Government and the UN Network and is dependent upon the availability of funds for REACH engagement.

Q: How is the governance structure of the UN Network for SUN different from that of REACH?

A: REACH's objectives in country are defined within a Country Implementation Plan (CIP) or equivalent, developed jointly with the national government and the UN Network at country level. The CIP is operationalized through annual work plans. Governance and reporting arrangements of REACH engagement in country are likewise defined in the CIP or equivalent.