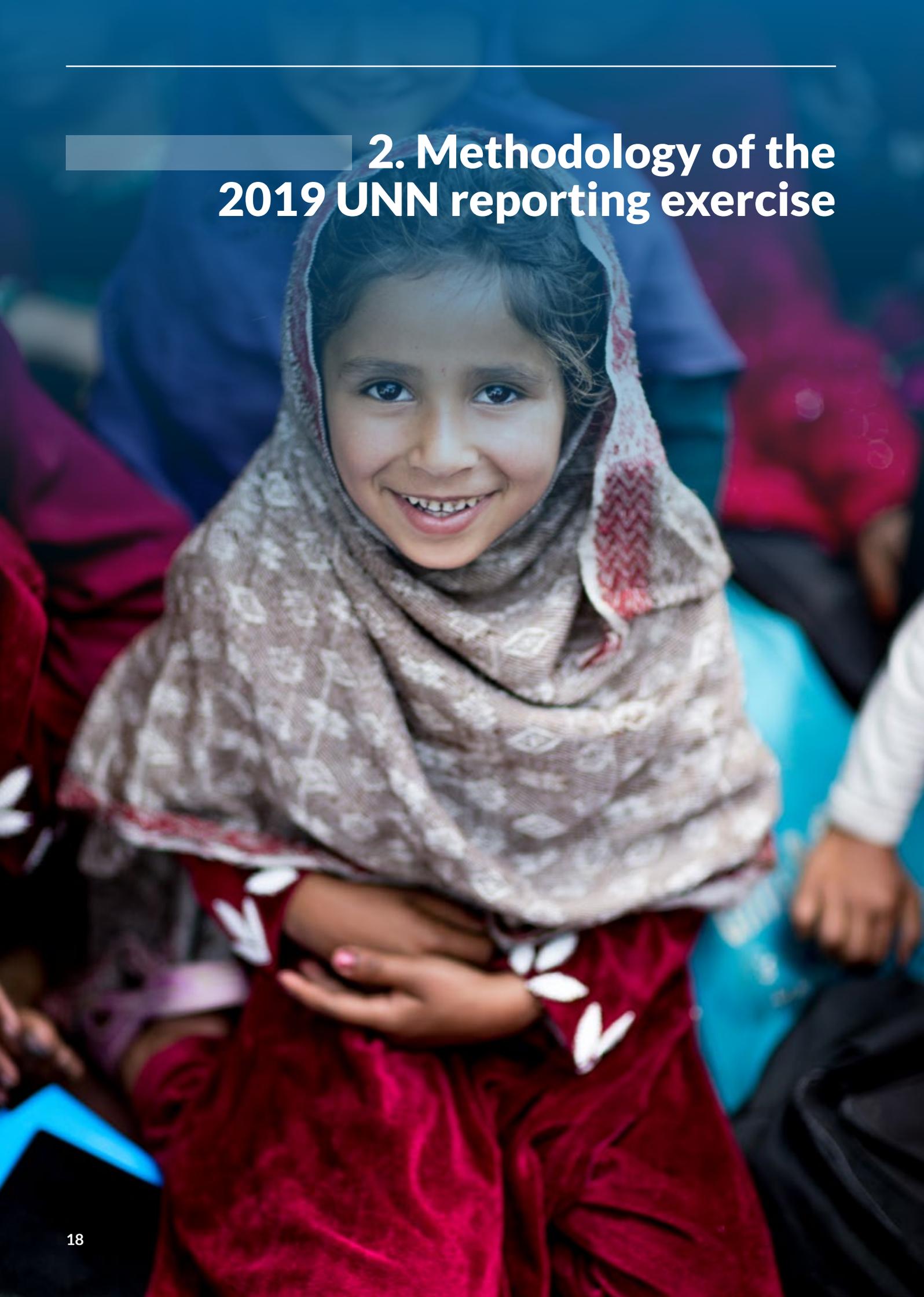

2. Methodology of the 2019 UNN reporting exercise



2.1. MONITORING HARMONIZED AND COORDINATED UN EFFORTS IN NUTRITION

The first UNN annual reporting exercise was conducted in 2016, providing a baseline against which to plot future progress. It has since served as a mechanism for monitoring and reporting on collective UN activity and gains in nutrition. The UNN Secretariat has continued to administer the process and prepare annual reports that highlight key trends. The following subsections outline the methodology employed in the 2019 exercise and provide insight on compliance.

The 2019 UNN reporting exercise was undertaken through a combination of online surveys and an offline case study template, pursued at two levels: country and regional. A detailed questionnaire for country UNNs was uploaded in English, French and Spanish to the designated UNN reporting portal, where colleagues could directly enter their responses. The country-level questionnaire included four domains: one on the respective components of the UNN functionality index+; a second on inter-network collaboration; a third on joint UN efforts for nutrition capacity strengthening; and a summary section on the main achievements and challenges faced by the country UNN. The third section, devoted to capacity strengthening, covered outputs for UNN outcome 3, such as identifying nutrition capacity needs, developing a plan to address those needs, strengthening capacity in service delivery and programme implementation of both nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions and establishing functional MSPs both at the national and/or sub-national level. The UNN Secretariat contacted UN colleagues in 60 countries engaged in the SUN Movement, flagging

new features and providing guidance on how to complete the exercise. Honduras and the four Indian States were not approached, understanding that the former had joined the SUN Movement after the reporting period and that efforts carried out in the latter were not directly comparable to those of SUN countries.

The United Nations agencies and entities involved in a given country's UNN were encouraged to discuss their responses as a group and ensure that such responses reflect the joint vision of the Network (or UN agencies/entities engaged under the common nutrition agenda). *Sixty countries participated in the exercise, constituting a record compliance rate of 100 percent.* This was a 33 percent increase in participation compared to the 45 countries (75 percent response rate) in the 2018 reporting cycle.

An inaugural UNN regional reporting exercise, consisting of a seven-question Google survey and a case study template, was disseminated among UN Regional Nutrition Advisors. The regional reporting stream aimed to document regional activities that had fostered a harmonized approach on nutrition among the United Nations agencies. Unlike the country questionnaire, each United Nations agency was invited to complete one survey per region in an effort to explore the respective agency perspectives. A total of ten UN Regional Nutrition Advisors from FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO participated in the exercise. Since the regional questionnaire was largely exploratory and the response rate was low, this report focuses on the country-level findings of the 2019 UNN reporting exercise. With that said, the engagement of these regional colleagues was also leveraged to identify good practices for the case studies, providing a robust outlook on the state of convergence for nutrition among United Nations agencies at the country level.

2.2. UNN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX+

The UNN functionality index+ constitutes a core part of the annual reporting exercise. Designed to review the alignment of United Nations agencies under a common nutrition agenda at country level, the index assigns an overall score to countries based on the ten indicators below.

1. Completion of the *UNN annual reporting exercise*
2. Nomination of a *chair/co-chair(s)* to spearhead *collective UN nutrition efforts*
3. Appointment of *nutrition focal points* from 3+ United Nations agencies
4. Establishment of a *UNN strategy/agenda*
5. Development of a *UNN workplan/Priorities defined* in support of national nutrition efforts
6. Frequency with which the *UN collective agenda is tabled at UNCT meetings*
7. *UNN engagement in MSPs*
8. Provision of *technical support to the SUN Government Focal Point* or other government authorities
9. UNN efforts to develop or update *nutrition content of joint UN frameworks* (e.g. UNDAF, UNSDCF), reflecting a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition
10. Implementation of *UN Joint Programmes/programming on nutrition*

The guiding premise is that these indicators reflect the degree of UN harmonization and collaboration on nutrition as well as the UN's collective contribution to a country's nutrition coordination architecture. Furthermore, country UNNs with an overall index score between 0 and 4 were classified as having low functionality (low). Those falling between 5 and 7 were characterized as being moderately functional (medium). Finally, country UNNs that scored between 8 and 10 on the index were deemed to be highly functional (high).

Functionality index + score categories

High (8-10)

Medium (5-7)

Low (0-4)

The 2019 UNN functionality index+ differs slightly from that applied in the 2018 reporting cycle. Essentially, two indicators were dropped from the index in 2019, leveraging learning from the previous reporting exercise. Since the other indicators were unchanged, it was possible to deduce trends for the individual components of the index between years. It was also possible to make comparisons between the overall country functionality scores after adjusting the 2018 data, whereby the two additional indicators were removed.

2.3. TAKING STOCK OF JOINT UN EFFORTS FOR NUTRITION CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

The information gathered on capacity strengthening was intended both to capture the state of collective UN nutrition capacity strengthening activities carried out at the country level and to guide future efforts so that countries (government and the UNCT) are better equipped and empowered to scale up nutrition actions across sectors and stakeholder networks.

When taking stock of these capacity strengthening efforts, the country UNNs were asked to qualify whether the support provided could be categorized as limited, moderate or intense, with consideration to the below criteria (see Table 2). In addition, the country UNNs were required to articulate the contributions of each United Nations agency/entity¹⁶ to the specified activity.

The following sections of the report provide a detailed analysis of the data garnered from the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, making comparisons, where possible, with results recorded in previous reporting cycles in order to reflect progress made.

TABLE 2. Levels of United Nations agency/entity support in nutrition capacity strengthening activities

Limited support	Moderate support	Intense support
<p>When minimal resources (financial and human) are deployed by the UNN/ United Nations agencies and entities engaged in the common nutrition agenda.</p> <p><i>An example of limited support may include attending a meeting/event on behalf of the UNN with no or little additional support.</i></p>	<p>When discreet resources (financial and human) are deployed by the UNN/ United Nations agencies and entities engaged in the common nutrition agenda.</p> <p><i>An example of moderate support may include partially funding an activity, engaging in planning as well as participating in a meeting/event with a defined role and defined expected outputs.</i></p>	<p>When significant action is taken and/ or significant resources (financial and human) are provided on the part of the UNN/United Nations agencies and entities engaged in the common nutrition agenda.</p> <p><i>An example of intense support may be hosting as well as chiefly funding a meeting/event. Intense support defines a leading/driving role by the UNN/United Nations agencies and entities engaged in the common nutrition agenda.</i></p>

16. Efforts of relevant UN entities, such as UNN-REACH were taken into account.