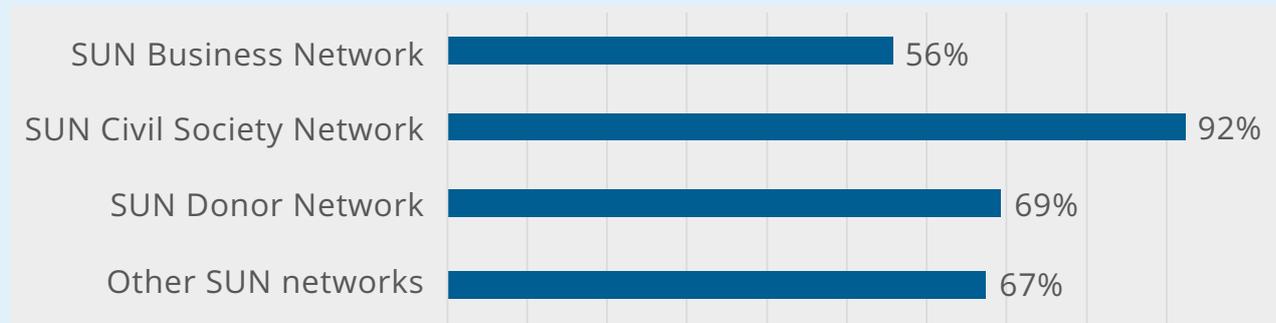


Special feature: Celebrating partnership

UNN as a key collaborator within the SUN Movement

While inter-network collaboration is not captured in the UNN functionality index+ *per se*, the UNN values partnership with the other SUN networks in the march towards increased nutrition impact. For this reason, a series of questions were included in the 2019 UNN reporting questionnaire to document how the Network was interacting with the other SUN networks on the ground. According to the findings of the 2019 UNN reporting exercise, many UNNs collaborated with other SUN networks at country level.²⁶ Close collaboration was particularly pronounced with the Civil Society Network (CSN), as depicted in Figure 15. The following sections provide insight into the UNN's interactions with the CSN, the SUN Donor Network (SDN), the SUN Business Network (SBN) as well as other forms of networks engaged in the SUN Movement.²⁷ In Chad, the UNN-REACH facilitators continued to support collaboration across the SUN networks, helping actors come together to develop inter-network annual workplans.

FIGURE 15. The degree to which the UNN collaborated with other SUN networks (2018-19)



Collaboration with the SUN Business Network

The SBN is a platform that engages businesses in the nutrition arena by encouraging them to invest, innovate and pursue sustainable actions for good nutrition. The UNN has been actively involved in efforts to establish and reactivate the SBN at country level over the years. This held true in countries such as Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Myanmar, Uganda and Zimbabwe during the 2018-19 reporting period. While collaboration with the SBN was the lowest among the other SUN entities, this is likely due to the limited number of SUN countries that had a Business Network at the time.²⁸

More specifically, the SBN was revitalized in **Lesotho** with UNN's assistance, including that of UNN-REACH. This support contributed to the achievement of several milestones, including: the development of a nutrition stakeholder list; a desk study and mapping exercise of private sector activity; and the preparation of an action plan for the Business Network. Similarly, UNN-REACH worked to reactivate **Zimbabwe's** SBN by supporting efforts to develop a strategy for engaging the private sector in food and nutrition. In **Ethiopia**, the SBN representative is an active member of the Nutrition Development Partners Forum, where the constituent members of the UNN also engage, and nutrition issues are jointly discussed with a range of other stakeholders. **Sierra Leone's** UNN, including its neutral UNN-REACH Facilitator, worked with the SBN to develop the multi-sectoral plan for the reduction of malnutrition in the country.

(continued...)

26. Of the 60 participating SUN countries, only 52 responded to this question in the 2019 UNN reporting questionnaire.

27. In view of the extensive data compiled through the 2019 reporting exercise on how the UNN is collaborating with the other SUN networks and the increased attention to inter-network collaboration over the last year, the UNN Secretariat is looking to develop a separate publication with further details.

28. When this report went to print, there were fourteen SUN countries with an established Business Network according to the SBN Secretariat.

(... continued)

Collaboration with the SUN Civil Society Network

The CSN brings together various CSOs from multiple sectors at the country level, with the aim of scaling up actions for nutrition. In **Lao PDR**, the Development Partners Group for Food Security and Nutrition consists of the UNN, the Civil Society Alliance, SBN and SDN. The group meets on a quarterly basis to discuss nutrition issues and to determine next steps with regard to the implementation of the national nutrition strategy. **Cambodia's** UNN worked closely with the Government, CSN and SDN to identify strategic priorities and to formulate the new National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition. The Network also collaborated with CSN to develop draft guidance to support the integration of food security and nutrition into community plans and budgets. Furthermore, Cambodia's UNN worked with CSN to align actions carried out by both networks, especially those pertaining to nutrition mapping exercises and collecting nutrition data.

Collaboration with the SUN Donor Network

The SDN functions to improve transparency and coordination between donors and foundations to ensure that efforts are aligned with the national nutrition agenda. Countries such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Sri Lanka reported the presence of combined UN-Donor Networks, exemplifying full partnership. As previously stated, these consolidated arrangements sometimes leveraged pre-existing Development Partners Groups rather than establishing new structures. Nevertheless, this joint engagement helps draw attention to the need for nutrition-specific and sensitive investments, capitalizing on the UN's technical expertise.

Other examples of fruitful collaboration between the UNN and SDN include the UNN's persuasive advocacy in **Sudan**, which attracted funds from the SDN for conducting the largescale S3M II Nutrition Survey. In **Uganda**, the UNN worked with SDN to formulate a joint annual workplan (2019) that identified areas where further support is required for nutrition. Additionally, **Gabon's** UNN worked with SDN to ensure the implementation of the country's draft regulation on bush meat, the extension of its GRAINE (*Gabonaise des Réalisations Agricoles et des Initiatives des Nationaux Engagés*²⁹) Programme as well as the implementation of other nutrition-relevant projects.

Collaboration with other SUN networks

The UNN has also collaborated with other networks beyond the three mentioned above. In **Kyrgyzstan**, a Parliamentarian Network has been established to promote nutrition within parliamentary proceedings. For the first time, parliamentarians were sensitized and engaged by the country UNN, culminating in the development of a joint action plan for 2019. Its activities are centred around the formulation and adoption of nutrition-related policies and legislation, with consideration to vulnerable population groups. The UNN in **Namibia** co-organized a nutrition workshop where parliamentarians signed a "Nutrition Manifesto" to pledge their support for scaling-up nutrition actions in the country. In **Tanzania**, the UNN worked with parliamentarians to advocate for prioritizing nutrition funding within available domestic resources. Similarly, **South Sudan's** UNN held an initial nutrition advocacy workshop, sensitizing parliamentarians (and other key stakeholders) on nutrition to ensure that it is prioritized at all levels from lawmakers to local communities. The workshop was also an opportunity to urge participants to agree on priority issues that, in turn, fed into government planning, budgeting and monitoring activities. In **Sierra Leone**, there was good dialogue between the UNN and the Parliamentarian Health Committee, helping to support nutrition interventions in their respective constituencies.

In other cases, the UNN collaborated with SUN Academic Networks, particularly helping to improve the evidence base for programming and/or enrich nutrition advocacy. For example, the **Zimbabwe** UNN supported the establishment and initial functionality of the SUN Research and Academic Platform (SUNRAP) by providing technical and financial support. The UNN-REACH Facilitator liaised across the UNN agencies to compile related inputs and spearhead related action. As part of these efforts, a priority research agenda for food and nutrition was developed to guide the work of SUNRAP and to identify capacity gaps that academic institutions can help address.

29. This refers to the Gabonese Initiative for Achieving Agricultural Outcomes with Engaged Citizenry.

BOX 4. Window for learning**Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping bolsters joint action in Sierra Leone**

In early 2019, a Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping was completed in Sierra Leone, using the UNN tool, to enhance the coordination of multi-sectoral nutrition actions. The exercise was government-led and supported by the neutral UNN-REACH Facilitator and the UNN Secretariat, which helped to ensure robust results and leverage learnings from other countries. Overall, the mapping indicated that less than half of the country's core nutrition actions (ten out of twenty-five) were being implemented in all provinces. The exercise also included an analysis of the delivery mechanisms utilized by key actors and found that, on average, more than 40 percent of the nutrition actions mapped were delivered by Community Health Workers at district level. These findings have since informed sectoral planning, including the development of the National Plan on Community Health Workers, with a view to supporting increased intervention coverage.

The process and results of the mapping have also served as a basis for bolstering joint action among SUN networks in the country, presenting a clear picture of gaps and opportunities for increased synergies. As many as eight sectors and three different SUN networks (UN, civil society and donor) and parliamentarians partook in the exercise, which covered a total of 149 stakeholders and twenty-five actions. Increased collaboration was particularly observed between the UNN and civil society partners, undertaking nutrition-sensitive programmes, such as scaling-up orange flesh sweet potato production. The exercise also sparked joint advocacy efforts at the Annual Nutrition Fair and National Breastfeeding Week as well as joint proposal writing to address imminent funding shortfalls. In addition, the exercise prompted additional stakeholders and sectors to engage in SUN coordination platforms, thereby increasing communication and collaboration, including with non-traditional stakeholders. Actors on the ground have hailed the tool as a practical resource for helping them work towards achieving shared nutrition goals. Magnus S. Conteh from Marie Stopes International, found the "mapping is very useful to spot areas that need more attention and subsequently, spread out partners equally across districts and regions, avoiding duplications." Further information about the UNN analytical tools and how they have been applied in countries is highlighted in the next section.

