



Burkina Faso's
Common Nutrition
Narrative emblematic of
new climate for increased
harmonization of
UN support



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Burkina Faso has taken great strides to address malnutrition in the country. Not only has it reached a number of nutrition governance milestones, it has reduced child stunting from 35 percent in 2010 (Demographic and Health Survey) to 21 percent in 2017 (National Nutrition Survey). This makes Burkina Faso one of the success stories, where the UN Network has played a critical role in building the collective nutrition agenda.

Since 2014, the UN Network, through its intensive arm, REACH, has worked closely with the SUN Government Focal Point and other authorities to employ a participatory approach that has mobilized multiple sectors whose work supports nutrition outcomes. Today, roughly eight ministries (Agriculture, Education, Health, Local Governance, National and Women's Solidarity, Research, Social Protection, Trade and WASH) are engaged to fight malnutrition in full force. This UN Network (UNN) support has also been instrumental in galvanizing stakeholders from the other SUN networks. Many actors, including the UNRC, recognize that UNN's neutral facilitation and analytics have served as door openers, bridges and anchors to establish a common language and ground multi-sectoral/stakeholder nutrition action.

The [Common Narrative on Nutrition](#)¹ joins the country's list of achievements and efforts to step up collective action on nutrition. While the document was developed by UNN, it takes into account the greater SUN Movement architecture and processes. It was conceptualized to serve as a catalyst for discussions with government and other partners about successive SUN activity at national and sub-national levels to nurture the collective spirit of the SUN Movement. A set of recommendations are articulated for each of the six SUN networks active in-country, including the UNN, as well as for the SUN Government Focal Point,

1 Visit: <https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/sites/default/files/documents/files/Common%20UNN%20Narrative-Burkina%20Faso-18Apr2019%20%28Final%29.pdf>.

key ministries and decentralized government authorities, showcasing the UN’s unique multilateral role. The document is the fruit of various consultations with SUN stakeholders, and an outgrowth of a joint UN nutrition agenda² that was formulated in 2017, when the UN came together to formulate a UN joint vision on nutrition. Officially launched in late 2018, during an event that was covered by national television and newspapers, the common narrative was later revised in light of those wider stakeholder discussions. This enabled the process to be even more inclusive.



Cover of Burkina Faso’s Common Narrative on Nutrition



Local newspaper coverage of nutrition stakeholders workshop

2 Visit: <https://scalingupnutrition.org/news/un-network-for-sun-bands-together-in-burkina-faso-to-formulate-a-un-nutrition-agenda-in-pursuit-of-nutrition-gains/>.

The narrative is based on an analysis of the nutrition situation and the challenges faced by stakeholders in the country, drawing upon UNN analytics. These include the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview dashboards,³ Policy and Plan Overviews,⁴ Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping,⁵ UN Nutrition Inventory and Nutrition Capacity Assessment,⁶ which all SUN stakeholders can benefit from and use. This data-driven approach has been crucial for making the narrative action-oriented as well as recapping priorities and the evolution of Burkina Faso’s SUN Movement. Among other aspects, the narrative outlines the measures being taken by FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to improve nutrition and includes specific nutrition targets to help keep these efforts on track.

The UNRC, Ms. Metsi Makhetha, a coordination champion in her own right, seized the opportunity to engage in the process, share her strategic insights and inspire humanitarian and development colleagues to look through the same lens. In an interview with the UNN Secretariat, Ms. Makhetha speaks of her commitment “to create a space where people could understand we’re all in the same boat. We’re all concerned for the welfare of the people. Let’s get together... UNN-REACH provided the platform for the UN to stay connected to the rest of the actors, with the SDGs as a collective goal.” The common narrative has since been widely disseminated with a view to triggering increased partnership and investment for nutrition action in the country.

3 Visit: https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/sites/default/files/2018-06/Burkina%20Faso%20MNO%20dashboards_0.pdf

4 Visit: <https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/sites/default/files/2018-12/Policy%20Overview%20-%20Burkina%20Faso.pdf>

5 Visit: https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/sites/default/files/2018-06/Burkina%20Faso%20Mapping%20-%20National_0.pdf

6 Visit: <https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/sites/default/files/2018-12/Burkina%20Faso%20Nutrition%20Capacity%20Assessment%20%26%20Plan.pdf>

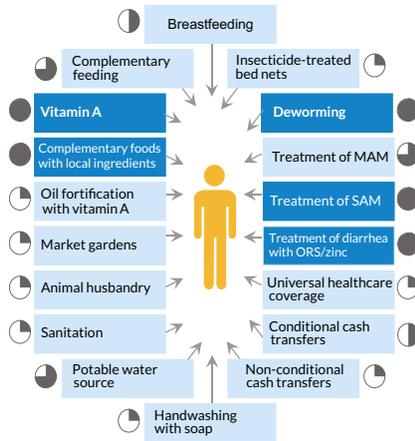
FIGURE 2.

Excerpt from the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping (2015) conducted through UNN-REACH

While most nutrition actions are implemented in all regions of the country, many actions only reach a few children

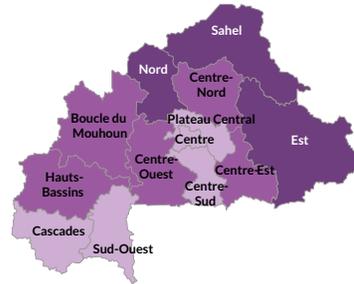


A typical child in Burkina Faso received only ~5 nutrition actions¹ that he/she may need



% of target group covered
 ◐ ≤25% ◑ >25% to 50% ◒ >50% to 75% ◓ >75%

On average children in the Nord, Sahel and Est regions received more nutrition interventions than elsewhere



of child-centered actions reaching at least 75% of target population
 ◐ 1-3 actions
 ◑ 4-6 actions
 ◒ 7-9 actions

¹ The nutrition actions depicted on this page refer to a subset of the core nutrition actions in Burkina Faso.

The UNN Secretariat is increasingly stepping up its outreach to UNRCs to engage them in the nutrition agenda at country level. A growing list of UNRCs have been mobilized from Burkina Faso to Bolivia, the Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe.