



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

STRENGTHENING UNITED NATIONS COORDINATION FOR ENHANCED NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

The project was developed to address the critical issue of malnutrition, a significant barrier to achieving the SDGs. Nutrition is embedded across all SDGs, serving both as an input and an output of sustainable development, with healthy diets and sustainable food systems playing a major role in preventing malnutrition. Addressing malnutrition in all its forms requires a cross-sectoral approach, collaboration among diverse stakeholders and the integration of nutrition into relevant policies, supported by coherent United Nations (UN) efforts. In some countries, progress has been impeded by coordination challenges, arising from differing working practices, multiple administrative layers and competition among UN agencies for the nutrition lead. The project, implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, built on the successes of the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) approach and previous support to the UN Network for SUN, with the aim to strengthen UN leadership on nutrition, focusing on aligned advocacy, policy coherence, strategic coordination, knowledge management and the translation of global guidance into country-level actions.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project supported nine countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Liberia, Myanmar, the Niger, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe), selected based on their engagement in prior initiatives and the extent to which nutrition was integrated into their UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). It contributed to strengthening national capacities for nutrition governance, including through support for effective engagement in multistakeholder processes and platforms, as well as UN joint planning and programming for nutrition.

As part of Outcome 1, the project conducted a stocktaking exercise to assess achievements and challenges in Lesotho, Liberia and Sierra Leone, informing the reorientation of the project towards new programming priorities. Knowledge management activities, including regional webinars and global articles, were also undertaken. Outcome 2 involved capacity-building efforts through analytical tools, such as the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping exercise, aimed at supporting effective policy design and implementation by governments and partners. Under Outcome 3, the project supported the development of UN-Nutrition Inventories, advocacy messaging on nutrition action, and a UN-Nutrition country survey to assess the functionality of UN-Nutrition coordination mechanisms at country level. It also facilitated joint nutrition-sensitive programming with a common narrative. This included programmes contributing to the UNSDCF pillars and supporting the development of national food systems transformation pathways following the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget

USD 2 157 620

Duration

March 2022-June 2024

Resource Partner

Government of Ireland

Partners

Burkina Faso: Secrétariat permanent de l'Initiative présidentielle «Assurer à chaque enfant en âge scolaire au moins un repas équilibré par jour»; **Burundi:** Secrétariat Exécutif Permanent de la Plateforme Multisectorielle de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutrition; **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Programme National de Nutrition, Ministry of Health (MoH); **Lesotho:** MoA; **Liberia:** National Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Secretariat, Office of the Vice President; **Myanmar:** MoA, MoH; **Niger:** High Commission for the 3N Programme (Les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens); **Sierra Leone:** National SUN Movement Secretariat, Office of the Vice President; **Zimbabwe:** Food and Nutrition Council, Office of the President and Cabinet

Beneficiaries

Government nutrition entities, initiatives and programmes

IMPACT

The project contributed to the achievement of several SDGs, particularly SDG 2, 3, 12 and 17. Through strengthened UN coordination and enhanced national capacity for nutrition planning and programming, the project facilitated multisectoral engagement, improving knowledge sharing and advocating for effective nutrition policies. By addressing gaps in nutrition governance and supporting nutrition-sensitive initiatives across sectors, the project directly advanced efforts towards food security, health and sustainable agriculture.



ACTIVITIES

- Conducted a stocktaking exercise to capture lessons from past REACH countries, generating insights and recommendations for future UN-Nutrition governance support.
- Integrated the UN-Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping tool into the national Health Management Information System, documenting good practices in multi-sectoral nutrition coordination.
- Conducted technical needs assessments and hired national UN-Nutrition facilitators for UN coordination activities including capacity building towards enhanced national nutrition governance and policy integration;
- Contributed to SUN multi-stakeholder platform national processes and plans.
- Developed and disseminated national nutrition advocacy and communication tools and supported the creation of national nutrition-sensitive guidance materials.
- Facilitated UN joint nutrition programming and donor roundtable discussions, supporting international nutrition forums and developing nutrition investment cases.



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Project Title

Fostering “One UN” through UN-Nutrition Country Support

Project Code

FAO: GCP/GLO/1051/IRE

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