

Independent Evaluation of the Multi Partner Trust Fund of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement

Briefing Note, 12th October 2015
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Introduction

This note provides brief information on the process and approach of the Independent Evaluation of the SUN Movement Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and a summary of priority questions which arose during the Inception Phase of the evaluation. It is intended to inform discussions on the MPTF and future SUN Movement funding needs and mechanisms during the SUN Movement Global Gathering in Milan from 20th-22nd October. Please feel free to contact the evaluation team if you wish to share your views with them. Contact details during the Global Gathering: chrisleather@hotmail.com. Tel. +39 33 1998 3078. Room number: Private Meeting Room 2.

Background

The SUN Movement MPTF was set up in 2012 as a last resort source of funds for catalytic actions to enable, initiate or develop SUN Movement activity at country or regional level, and provide appropriate global-level support¹. The Management Committee of the SUN Movement MPTF commissioned an evaluation of the MPTF to provide both an assessment of the current MPTF as well as a set of forward-looking recommendations. These recommendations will inform the Management Committee decisions in designing the forthcoming (if any) funding mechanism for the SUN Movement and to strengthen the role this mechanism could have in contributing to the new strategy of the SUN Movement (2016-2020).

Evaluation objectives

In summary the objectives of the evaluation are:

- *To assess the performance of the MPTF in contributing to the four Strategic Objectives of the SUN Movement.*
- *To assess the need for, and propose options for, any future catalytic, last resort fund at global level.*

Evaluation approach

In order to achieve these objectives, the team members are undertaking the following activities:

Project reviews: Desk based evaluation of the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of all 28 funded projects and determinants of success.

In depth case studies: (including country visits) of 4 out of the 24 Civil Society Alliances funded by the MPTF. The evaluation team has proposed Guatemala, Laos, Mali and

¹ For further information about the SUN Movement MPTF please refer to the SUN Movement website: <http://scalingupnutrition.org/about/how-is-the-movement-supported/sun-mptf>

Zimbabwe². The Laos country visit has already taken place. The others are subject to confirmation with in-country stakeholders.

Governance and administrative analysis: including the role and work of the Management Committee, the SUN Movement Secretariat, the MPTF Office, Participating United Nations Organization (PUNOs) and other global level structures (e.g. SUN Networks)

Future needs analysis: assessing the need and options for any future catalytic, last resort fund.

Evaluation organisation and timing

During the Inception Phase from 4th – 20th September, the evaluation team conducted a review of the most important literature, held Skype interviews with members of the Evaluation Steering Group and undertook a brief stakeholder analysis. These activities informed the prioritisation of evaluation questions and the finalisation of the methodology, including stakeholder mapping, in-depth case studies and the potential survey³.

The data collection phase is now well underway with a country visit to Laos already undertaken and reviews of the 28 MPTF funded projects on-going. The Global Gathering provides a critical opportunity to conduct face-to-face interviews and group discussions with key stakeholders. An Interim Report presenting key preliminary findings will be produced by 9th November. The Final Report will be presented to the MPTF Management Committee at the end of January 2016.

Priority issues arising during the Inception Phase

During the Inception Phase the following were identified as priority questions during the review of literature and interviews with key informants. They are listed here to stimulate discussion during the SUN Movement Global Gathering. However, it should be noted that the scope of the evaluation is not limited to these questions. For a comprehensive list of evaluation questions please see the Inception Report, Annex F.

- Have Civil Society Alliances and other funded projects contributed to increased political commitment and improved policies and actions for nutrition?
- Were there missed opportunities to fund other types of activity?
- What factors influenced the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of funded projects? (e.g. What added value was provided by PUNOs? What constraints did they experience?)
- What types of country or regional level activities would benefit from small grant funding in the period 2016 – 2020?
- What is the likelihood of such activities being funded at regional and country levels?
- Are there other existing global funding mechanisms that could fund such activities (if necessary) more effectively, efficiently etc. than the MPTF?

² The selection criteria included: geographical distribution, at least 1 country with a fragile political environment, timing of funding decision, a range of Participating UN Organizations, at least one country with REACH presence, a range of Implementing Partners, at least one project with a grant of >US\$400k.

³ The Inception Report can be found on the SUN Movement website at the following link: http://scalingupnutrition.org/news/evaluation-of-the-sun-movement-mptf-inception-report#.Vht6_vmqqko