

# GHANA

## SUN Country Summary | September 2012

### Ghana joined the SUN Movement March 2011

*"As we scale up nutrition actions with emphasis on the first 1000 days window of opportunity, let us rise with the SUN and unite to end hunger and malnutrition"*

**-Dr Ernestina Naadu Mills, First Lady of Ghana, December 2011**

### MEASURING PROGRESS IN GHANA

	Indicator 1	Indicator 2	Indicator 3	Indicator 4
GHANA				

#### **Indicator 1:** Bringing people into a shared space for action (the multi-stakeholder platform)

**The National Development Planning Commission under the Office of the President convenes the Cross-Sectoral Planning Group (CSPG)**, which engages various line Ministries (agriculture, health, employment and social welfare, women and children, and Ghana Aids Commission), and all Regional Coordinating Councils and District Assemblies through their Planning Units. It includes non-governmental representatives from public sector institutions, private for profit and non-profit organizations, academia, civil society and eminent individuals with known expertise in the area of nutrition. There is a separate inter-ministerial platform for nutrition partners coordinated by the Nutrition Department of the Ghana Health Service. Some of the partners are members of the CSPG on nutrition.

**The SUN Focal Point is the Vice Chairperson of the National Development Planning Commission** and there are three **SUN Technical Specialists** from the Ghana Health Service and University of Ghana.

**The Donor Convener is USAID.** Donors are harmonizing their support to (draft) national plans using country systems. They are members of the Cross Sector I Planning Group have no separate donor platform. However, when the need arises, the Convener calls for special meetings to discuss specific donor-issues or to gather specific information.

**A UN REACH Facilitator has recently been engaged** to support efforts to accelerate the scale-up of food and nutrition interventions in Ghana. REACH support will target four areas: increased awareness of nutrition problems and solutions; strengthened national policies and programmes; capacity development at all levels; increased efficiency and accountability. UN agencies harmonise their efforts through alignment with the Ghana UNDAF (2012-2016), especially Thematic Area 1: "Food Security and Nutrition", which includes the development of a National Nutrition Policy, implementation of a strengthened and expanded on-going food security and nutrition monitoring system, technical training to enhance capacity and resource mobilization of scaling-up a package of nutrition and food security interventions. UN representatives participate in the CSPG.

**Civil Society Organizations (CSO) have their own separate platform** coordinated by the Hunger Alliance of Ghana which includes grassroots organizations such as farmer- and community-based organizations. CSOs are represented on the CSPG. CSOs have developed and shared a proposal with members of the CSPG and will work through the channels created by Government to develop a CSO action plan consistent with the National Result Framework.

The **Private Sector has had limited involvement with scaling up nutrition** and is not yet represented on the CSPG. The private sector was previously involved in the Food Fortification Alliance. There is currently no mechanism/framework to deal with principled engagement of the private sector. Individuals from the University of Ghana are active in the SUN Movement both nationally and globally.

The CSPG is in its early stages and is currently deliberating on nutrition issues including the SUN. It has working groups which are working towards the basic requirements for scaling up – finalization of the Nutrition Policy, finalization of the SUN Country Framework, development of a results matrix aligning sector objectives for nutrition, mainstreaming nutrition across sectors and districts, Establishment of trends in resource allocation and expenditure tracking for nutrition, a monitoring and evaluation framework. A capacity building working group is also under consideration. The CSPG is working with UN REACH to facilitate the work of the CSPG working groups.

### **Indicator 1 Status: 3**

#### **Indicator 2: Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework**

**The Ghana National Nutrition Policy is in draft form** though there are a number of current strategies concerning nutrition-specific interventions including infant and child feeding, salt iodisation and nutrition guidelines for people living with HIV/AIDs.

**Policies in key nutrition-related sectors** cover agriculture (Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy 2009-2015), development (Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda 2010-2013), a number of health policies (Health Sector Medium Term Development Plan 2010; National Health Policy: Creating Wealth through Health 2007; Child Health Policy 2007), and social protection (National Social Protection Strategy 2007).

**National legislation is in place** regulating the use of breast milk substitutes through the Code of the Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes. The Maternity Protection Law passed in 2003 allows for 12 weeks maternity leave which is 2 weeks less than the 14 weeks stipulated by the ILO. Food fortification laws only relate to the iodisation of salt.

### **Indicator 2 Status: 3**

#### **Indicator 3: Aligning programmes around a Common Results Framework**

Under Ghana's Multi-donor budget system, there is a health sector working group which operates around a results framework on health including nutrition indicators. Development Partners align their work towards national priorities through the results framework of the health sector working group. There is however the need for a results framework around nutrition to foster more involvement from other sectors.

A draft SUN Country framework has been developed as a first step towards the development of a results framework around which sector and donor alignment will be secured.

**Indicator 3 Status: 1**

**Indicator 4: Financial tracking and resource mobilization around a Common Results Framework**

Anecdotal evidence suggests that donor funding for nutrition far outstrips Government funding. There are difficulties in ascertaining exact resource allocation and expenditures around nutrition. The CSPG working group on Resource allocation has been tasked to establish a baseline and trends in nutrition financing going forward.

**Indicator 4 Status: 1**