

Participants

UN System Network	Donor Network	SUN Movement Secretariat
- Nicolas BIDAULT - Lina MAHY	- Maren LIEBERUM - Ben SIDDLE	- Christine CAMPEAU (CC) - Fanny GRANCHAMP - Alam KHATTAK - Raquel FERNANDES
CSO Network	Business Network	
- Claire BLANCHARD - Cara FLOWERS	- Kristina SPIEGEL	

The Chair (CC) welcomed all and reviewed the agenda.

1. Brief introduction on the newest SUN Countries - Botswana and Sudan by Fanny Granchamp and Alam Khattak, SUN Movement Secretariat Country Liaison Team

Botswana – SUN Movement member as of April 2015

Particularities of Botswana as a SUN Country:

- **An upper middle income country:** The government of Botswana funds the bulk of the nutrition interventions and programs in general. There are very few donors currently active in the country and the local private sector is not involved in nutrition. Provisions from the UN agencies are available in the form of technical assistance and the civil society present is not very developed and works mainly on HIV/AIDS related issues.
- **Strong policy on the marketing of breastmilk substitutes:** The idea of joining the SUN Movement initially created some anxiety among the stakeholders who were concerned that this action could open the door to violators of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. This tension was appeased upon review of the key SUN Principles of Engagement and with encouraging words from the Minister of Health.
- **Major nutrition concerns:**
 - HIV/AIDS (25.2% of adults infected)
 - Double burden of malnutrition and raising obesity rates (9% of boys and 14% of girls are overweight: 6% of boys and 4% of girls are obese)
 - Climate change and its impact as the country is increasingly drought prone
- **Well connected to regional initiatives:** Botswana hosts the headquarters of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and was one of the few countries in which Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) workshops took place in 2013.

The SUN Movement Secretariat attended the first nutrition conference organized in the country, entitled ‘Nutrition partnerships and investments: an imperative towards sustainable development’ from 24-26 November 2015 in Botswana.

The conference was organized around a series of high level advocacy, with presence of the Vice-President, the Ministers of Health and Agriculture, SUN Movement Lead Group member Nahas Angola, the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Social

Protection. Speeches revealed the high level of commitment to a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition, recognition of nutrition as a key economic investment and the centrality of women and gender issues. Time was dedicated to take stock of the on-going activities and to discuss the way forward in terms of coordination arrangements and possibilities to strengthen nutrition sensitive programming, suggested actions to be brought before the Permanent Secretaries of Ministries in the coming week.

Way forward:

Areas of specific interest and required assistance:

- Accompany high level individuals in their advocacy efforts to bring nutrition into the public debate and convince a critical mass that nutrition is central. Currently very low rates of exclusive breastfeeding so there is a general recognition of the need for stronger Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) communication, education and awareness effort for breastfeeding.
- Coordination arrangements between the ministries needs further attention.
- Potential to increase the nutrition sensitivity of the social protection scheme, which accounts for 4.4% of GDP. This could be facilitated through financial tracking and monitoring and evaluation systems which currently are limited in terms of policy or system.
- Help to bridge the gap between national and local level to ensure that the strong national policies are communicated and implemented locally.

Feedback from those on the call:

- Botswana's baseline assessment was completed in 2015 and the country will undertake the self-assessment exercise in 2016 – two valuable tools to help to set the country's progress markers.
- A process to engage the private sector needs to be made available for new SUN Countries who require it.
- Once the government nominates a SUN Government Focal Point, the other constituencies will come together to create the multi-stakeholder platform.
- Botswana is currently drafting its medium and long term development plans and it was felt that advocacy on the importance of nutrition was necessary to make sure it was included
- Botswana wanted to have visibility after joining the SUN Movement, which it achieved as it is one of the only countries of SADC not showing progress in stunting rates.
- In terms of what the SUN Movement can bring to middle income countries and vice-versa, the platform for sharing and learning is part of the ongoing reflection in the finalisation of the SUN Movement Strategy and Roadmap and will be made clearer in the coming months.

Sudan – SUN Movement member as of October 2015

Sudan joined SUN Movement on 14 October 2015 through an application from the Federal Minister of Health with an expressed aim to learn from other SUN Countries on how they scaled up relevant programs.

Particularities of Sudan as a SUN Country:

- Key Nutrition Statistics: Stunting (percentage of children under 5): 38.2% in 2014; low birth weight: 32.3%; anemia (percentage of children under 5): 38.4% and 14% of pregnant mother are severally anemic
- Steps taken to institutionalize Multi-Stakeholder Platform and the SUN processes include i) National Council of Food Security and Nutrition has been recently endorsed; ii) National Situation analysis for nutrition is ongoing; iii) initial discussion held between the SUN Movement

Secretariat and Sudan on SUN processes and Principles of Engagement and iv) participation in the January SUN Movement Country Network Meeting confirmed.

- National Nutrition Strategy and key strategies (2009) and Nutrition Policy Brief (2013) have been endorsed.
- UNICEF and WFP are working with the Government on their Nutrition Investment Case plan, to be launched in 2016, to highlight the benefits of scaling up an integrated package of nutrition, health, water and sanitation, and livelihood interventions and reach 90% of Sudan on the 2015-2019 period.

Over the last three years, there has been significant progress in the government's recognition of malnutrition as a key public health challenge with a massive scale up in treatment. However the need for a preventive approach is crucial, especially in the most affected states namely North Darfur, Red Sea, Kassala, South Darfur and Khartoum states. Reducing chronic undernutrition, anemia and low birth weight among vulnerable population remains a challenge.

Policies and programs as noted in the joining letter:

- National Nutrition Plan under development, which will encompass direct and sensitive interventions for nutrition.
- Mother and child health (MCH) acceleration plan 2013-2015 exists, developed in response to the lack of cross-sectoral interaction among stakeholders.
- Mention progress in Salt and flour fortification and micronutrient supplementation (Vitamin A and micronutrient powders for children under 5).

Way forward:

Areas of specific interest and required assistance:

- Sudan is yet to appoint a SUN Government Focal Point, which should take place shortly.
- It is unclear at this stage whether the National Situation analysis for nutrition is ongoing or finished but an update will be shared as soon as it is available.

Feedback from those on the call:

- Network Facilitators keen to review Sudan's baseline assessment to better understand the immediate needs and potential offer support.
- SDN: Requested further information on how Sudan focuses on chronic malnutrition and the links to the humanitarian situation in country.
- SUN Donor Network interested in Sudan's focus on chronic malnutrition and on the link to the humanitarian assistance. Keen to hear more from the UN Network which has gained experience in both aspects.
- SUN Business Network to note the country's progress in flour fortification and salt iodization.

2. CSN Regional updates from the SUNGG15 (Claire Blanchard, Civil Society Network Secretariat)

The following is built on discussions that took place at the SUN Movement Global Gathering in Milan in 2015. Four regional groups of nutrition civil society alliances (CSAs) with a focus on advocacy for regional efforts, cross-country learning and regional fundraising for nutrition were established.

Latest status of the four regional groupings of CSAs:

- a) Latin America: Discussions already well underway. The Coordinator of the SUN CSN Secretariat will visit the region in February 2016 with the aim of further amplifying their efforts. A regional Webex will take place. SUN CSN Secretariat Lead: Claire Blanchard. Working language: Spanish
- b) West Africa (+ Madagascar for language issues at his stage): Positive momentum happening with two meetings already taken place. The strategy is to start small and build from the energy and existing resources, such as the Action Contre la Faim Nutrition Champions Network. Fund raising efforts are underway to support a full time regional coordinator. Keen to align with SUN Strategy and Roadmap. SUN CSN Secretariat Lead: Claire Blanchard. Working language: French and English
- c) East and Southern Africa: Two meetings completed with active support from ACTION & Graca Machel Trust actively supporting. SUN CSN Secretariat Lead: Cara Flowers. Working language: English
- d) Asia: One meeting completed with expressed interest to meet again around key events. Learning Routes likely to be opportunity to impulse these at present. Strong support from SUN CSN Steering Group and SUN CSN Operational Oversight Committee members. SUN CSN Secretariat Lead: Cara. Working language: English

Feedback from those on the call:

All networks are pleased to see concrete regional approaches taking shape to encourage cross-learning and investment. Efforts to increase this are being undertaken by networks.

3. Outcomes of the SBN Asia Regional Workshop (Kristina Spiegel, SBN Secretariat)

- 133 participants including representatives from 13 SUN Countries and 18 representatives from private sector.
- Hosted by Indofood and Government of Indonesian Jakarta, led by Axton Salim, SBN Advisory Group Co-chair
- Opening remarks from SUN Lead Group member Ibu Nina and Indonesia SUN Government Focal Point Dr Subandi; Marc Van Ameringen, Executive Director, GAIN and SUN Movement Executive Committee member; and Axton Salim, SBN Advisory Group co-chair and SUN Movement Executive Committee member
- Presentations from the Government of Japan on Nutrition Japan
- Overall positive feedback from all participants (as per the evaluation/feedback forms), particularly appreciating the mix of panel discussions and presentations, and diversity of examples provided by the speakers.

Focus areas:

- *Agriculture, Business and Nutrition* focused on post-harvest loss and the role of the private sector to bring in knowledge, technology and capacity
- *Scaling Up Food Fortification* focused on pricing and on improving oversight and enforcement of fortification regulations, including the need for mandatory fortification for greatest impact and partnerships to facilitate this and the need for links between government and businesses. Feedback from SUN Countries indicated that SBN should provide knowledge, financial and technical resources and advocacy for private sector to support national fortification plans.
- *Consumer Focused Approaches to Scaling Up Nutrition* was very interactive and key lessons emerging included the need to attract consumers through emotional motives and messages that are personally relevant; creating consumer demand; using data and working in partnership.
- *Strengthening Nutrition in the Workplace* included examples from various sectors and focused on enabling environment, partnership opportunities and return on investment.
- *Building a Private Sector Engagement Strategy* revealed commitment from all to create or strengthen an existing network, including Philippines and Cambodia wanting to focus on

fortification (Cambodia on condiments specifically); Sri Lanka want to scale up nutrition within its tea industry as well as interest from Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to set up SUN Business Networks.

Feedback from those on the call:

General encouragement to collaborate across networks when organising meetings to increase cross-fertilization and increase the diversity of representation.

4. Presentation and recommendations of CSN Alignment (Claire Blanchard, CSN Secretariat)

CC welcomed the report and commended the concrete models suggested as they provide very practical actions that members can take. SUN CSN is also addressing the recommendations through their expected contributions to the SUN Movement Roadmap.

The report [Civil society alignment in multi-stakeholder efforts to scale up nutrition](#) presents the findings of a research study commissioned by the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Civil Society Network (CSN) Secretariat. The research was carried out between April – July 2015.

The aims were to:

- Develop an understanding of CSO advocacy and programme alignment with national nutrition policies, plans and implementation
- Analyze existing practice
- Identify the factors influencing alignment in different country contexts
- Make evidence based recommendations for improvement.

Specific recommendations to Civil Society Alliances and to the Civil Society Network as a whole are available in the report.

Feedback from those on the call:

Networks welcomed the report and called for an additional call to be set up to focus further on the specific alignment actions that each network should consider.

5. General discussion on the process of finalising the SUN Movement Roadmap 2016-2020

Informal working group meetings held in 2015:

Capability 1: Continuous improvements in the policy and budget cycle management - from planning to accounting for results

- Consultation by Email until December 15. Facilitated by Patrizia Fracassi

Capability 2: Advocacy, communication and social mobilisation to sustain political commitment, support multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches and to tell an impactful nutrition story at all levels

- Consultation: Teleconference on Tuesday 15 December. Facilitated by Edwyn Shieff

Capability 3: Coordination of relevant action across sectors, among stakeholders, and between levels of government through improved functional capacities

- Consultation: Teleconference on Thursday 17 December. Facilitated by Sergio Teixeira

Quite a portion of feedback was received - during the teleconference, during bilateral calls and in writing, especially at the output level and in relation to roles and responsibilities. This feedback has been captured and we will revisit it in further detail in January.

A bridged version of the 3 Capabilities and a note presenting the process and summarizing the 2020 outcomes will be sent to the SUN Country Network later this month (once translated in French and Spanish) in advance of the SUN Country Network meetings scheduled for the week of the 25-29 January 2016.

Prior to this, we will facilitate one call to focus further on outputs for Capability 2, likely to be the **week starting January 18** and will launch the other groups (capability 4, accountability). The working group for Capabilities 3 will reconvene after the SUN Country Network meetings and I will confirm shortly the next steps for working group 1.

Upcoming deadlines:

February 8 is the deadline for the all working groups to have detailed the activities envisaged in 2016-2017 and have provided some indication of the opportunities arising and block of activities to consider for the period 2018-2020. This includes an indication of roles and responsibilities.

It is still envisaged that a face-to-face Network Facilitator meeting in Geneva will be held on **February 12** to discuss respective work plans, resource requirements and detail the flows of information and working relations needed to support effective implementation of the Roadmap.

The final document should have agreed outcomes and outputs that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART outputs). The aim is to **complete a draft by February 2016**.

Feedback from those on the call:

Very challenging timeline but general sense that all networks are adequately represented in the working groups. Transparency and collaborative spirit very welcomed.

Important to have outcome indicators for networks and to further reflect on the theory of change.

6. A.O.B.

- SUN Civil Society meeting on *Developing the resourcing strategy for the SUN Civil Society contribution to the SUN Roadmap* will take place in London on 14-15 January 2016.
- SUN Donor Network Retreat was held in London in December – detailed overview will be shared with the group shortly.

The next meeting of the SUN Network Facilitators is scheduled for Thursday 21 January 2016.