

# SUN Movement Meeting of the Network of Country Focal Points: Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting-16 to 23<sup>th</sup> June 2014 –

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SUN Movement Network of Country Focal Points took place between June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014. The meeting involved ten two-hour sessions by teleconference: five in English, four in French and one in Spanish.

In all there were 336 participants in the meeting from 48 countries [Bangladesh; Benin; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Chad; Comoros; Republic of Congo; Costa Rica; Cote d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of the Congo; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Gambia; Ghana; Guatemala; Guinea Bissau; Guinea Conakry; Indonesia; Kenya; Kyrgyz Republic; Lao PDR; Liberia; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali ; Mauritania ; Mozambique ; Myanmar ; Namibia ; Nepal ; Niger; Nigeria; Pakistan; Peru; Philippines; Rwanda; Senegal; Sierra Leone; South Sudan; Swaziland; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Togo; Uganda; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe ] and the State of Maharashtra (India). Participants from Haiti, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam were not able to join. 48 % of the participants were employed by their national governments, 27% came from United Nations entities, 12 % from civil society organizations and academia and 3% were from bilateral donors agencies.

The Meeting agenda was as follows: 1) Discussion on the Contribution of agriculture, food systems and social protection to Scaling up Nutrition; and 2) Exchange of views on major priorities for the SUN Movement Secretariat in 2014. This record of the Meeting synthesizes the proceedings of all ten sessions of the meeting.

## **1) CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SYSTEMS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION TO SCALING UP NUTRITION**

The theme for this Meeting was “Contribution of agriculture, food systems and social protection to Scaling up Nutrition”. SUN country Focal Points, and other participants from national multi-stakeholder platforms, were invited to consider the following questions:

1. Engagement: How are food & agriculture and social protection stakeholders engaged in nutrition coordination mechanisms/SUN Multi-stakeholder platforms? Has this engagement changed/ increased in the last year?
2. Common planning and results: How are food & agriculture and social protection issues addressed in nutrition planning processes? Do you use a single set of expected results for Nutrition which is used by the food & agriculture and social protection sectors? Have they identified specific targets and are these targets reflected into the national nutrition action plan/SUN common results framework?
3. Example: Can you give one example on how food & agriculture and/or social protection are working together with other sectors to achieve nutrition results, either at the policy level and/or at the decentralized level? (These examples can be relevant for the preparation of ICN2)
4. Challenges: Which are the main challenges your country faces in terms of improved coordination between agriculture, social protection and health sectors' on nutrition? Are there any opportunities that can be seized to overcome these challenges?

The background to the meeting was as follows: Multi-sectoral approaches that aim to address underlying causes of malnutrition involve integrated action which engages several sectors, including food and agriculture, social protection, women's affairs and health.

Ensuring that women have access to productive resources, income opportunities, extension services and information, credit, labor and time-saving technologies, and at the same time are supported in their roles as mothers and caretakers, is a fundamental element of maximizing the contribution of food systems, agriculture and social protection to improved nutrition.

The sectors responsible for food and agriculture are expected to enable people to access the foods that they need to ensure their good nutrition, while - at the same time - contributing to the economic growth of societies. This means ensuring that diverse, safe, and nutritious foods are available for people to consume throughout the year, at a price that the most people can easily afford, and that they can access these foods when they need them. They are also expected to mitigate negative effects that some agriculture and food related policies and interventions can have on nutrition.

Long term food security and nutrition can be ensured through encouraging the efficient use of natural resources in food production systems – so as to ensure that food and agriculture systems are both sustainable and impact positively on people's food security and their nutrition.

Food and agriculture policies and programmes can be made sensitive to people's nutritional needs by promoting the production of nutrient-rich foods (e.g. fruits, horticultural products, legumes, livestock and fish): this may involve the promotion of diversified products, including some underutilized and (perhaps) forgotten nutritious foods. It may also include increased production of crops biofortified with nutrients.

Food and agriculture policies and programmes may also encourage systems of processing (including preservation of energy and nutrient-rich products, and products fortified with nutrients), as well as systems for storing food that reduce losses, maintain nutritional value and reduce contamination with pathogens (such as Aflatoxins). Storage systems can also diminish the impact of seasonal variations on people's ability to access the nutritious foods they need. Processing systems can also contribute to making healthy foods more convenient and less time-consuming to prepare - while ensuring the safety of food products.

As people become wealthier their demands for energy and nutrient- dense foods tend to increase: this dietary transition also creates new markets for new processed and specialized food products: the market demand contributes to the transformation of food systems. Typically, this transformation is associated with two challenges. First, some people will eat excess amounts of foods that are energy dense (containing high levels of sugars and fats) and become overweight or even obese: obesity at all ages, but particularly in childhood, is on the increase and has major health disadvantages that stretch into adulthood. Second, some people (especially those with low incomes) will be unable to access the energy and nutrients they need for good nutrition: social marketing or other specially designed initiatives may be needed to improve markets and market access for vulnerable groups, particularly enabling them to access nutritious, affordable and locally produced foods or food products.

Social protection is one of the key domains that can influence the well-being of people and can help ensure improved nutrition. One of its principal functions is to ensure that those who have limited means are able to access essential foods and to avoid hunger and malnutrition. Social protection programmes combine instruments that protect vulnerable population from risks and shocks while promoting more

resilient livelihoods. Social protection policies – if coordinated with those including food and agriculture systems - can help increase the impact of food and agriculture systems on nutrition. They enable vulnerable people to access food assistance during crises, through offering social safety nets (which include access to in-kind or cash transfers and development of national public work programmes), through upgraded school feeding activities, through insurance schemes for small-scale farmers to protect them from crises, and through extended maternity protection that contributes to opportunities for breast feeding.

## Summary of discussion

### WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

- **Planning and monitoring**

Out of the 48 country focal points who participated in the meeting, about half of them reported that their ministry of agriculture and a quarter of them that their ministry of social protection are participating in their SUN multi-stakeholder platforms. Ministries of Agriculture and of Social Protection in most of the countries are implementing programmes that contribute to scaling up nutrition by themselves. Three quarters of the participating focal points said that their countries are implementing joint inter-ministerial programmes that combine food security, social protection, sometimes education and also nutrition-specific interventions. It seems that Governments of SUN countries are increasingly adopting this type of inter-sectoral approaches, although capacity development is needed to promote inter-sectoral coordination and integrated planning, monitoring and evaluation.

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) encourages sectors to align plans against the CAADP results framework which aims at achieving food and nutrition security. This initiative enhances coordination.

Social protection is complex and multi-sectoral by its nature: more and more countries are developing or reviewing policy or strategy for social protection in ways that include nutritional aspects. Nutrition indicators are increasingly being integrated in social protection results frameworks.

- **Examples**

**Agriculture and social protection interventions are often integrated** through insurance schemes offered to smallholders, distribution of agricultural assets –including seeds and fertilizers- to vulnerable rural families. Indeed, in many countries, most of people vulnerable to malnutrition live in rural areas. They are the designated beneficiaries of social protection programmes. These generally include components aiming at generating income through enhanced agricultural productivity. Many countries have devised programmes to help improve agricultural productivity which are also designed to help alleviate poverty and improve poor people’s access to nutritious food. The activities they support include (a) linking increases in smallholder farmer productivity to school feeding programs (school gardening and school canteens – often in collaboration with Ministries of Education); (b) encouraging production of dairy products by linking milk producers to processing plants and markets, often through co-operatives, or (c) improving the employment of vulnerable groups (often through employment schemes that are designed to be accessible to women from poorer households).

**Social protection** programmes tend to include cash transfers for those who need support because they have lost assets or income, or both; and improved access to essential services (credit, health care or legal support). In the different sessions of the meeting, there were only a few references to the relation between gender, labor and nutrition. Much of the discussion on social protection has referred to conditionality of cash transfers.

**On agricultural aspects**, participants in the different sessions of the meeting considered the promotion of the diversification of production and diet is one of the main outputs through which agriculture contributes to nutrition. This was the case even if there was also mention of food fortification or bio-fortification. Promotion of local agricultural practices and products is also a priority for several countries. Some participants highlighted the important roles played by rural extension workers in promoting behavioral change among smallholders.

## WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE

- **Coordination**

Several countries mentioned the necessity of ensuring coordination between different initiatives for Food security, nutrition and/or social protection. One example, in West Africa, is the importance of coordination between AGIR (the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative), regional projects (such as projects implemented through CILSS (Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel) and specific projects funded by one or another donor.

- **Planning and monitoring**

The majority of countries indicated that they want to be in a position to integrate nutrition indicators within their agricultural investment plans. But more needs to be done in defining nutrition-sensitive – what it is, what is required to plan for it, and how nutrition-sensitive programmes can best be implemented. The degree of emphasis on food production systems in nutrition plans and programmes should be increased, and different links between production and consumption should receive greater attention. Interventions for food systems should also pay attention to the challenges of ensuring food safety.

It was felt that the gender perspective was not always considered in agricultural investments or in employment guarantee programmes. Agricultural activities often require intensive manual work which is sometimes incompatible with child care practices. This is especially the case during seasons when demands on women's time are highest, energy and nutrient dense food is hard to obtain, and children are particularly at risk of infectious diseases (the three co-exist frequently in rural areas).

- **Implementation**

Some countries underlined the fact that growth in agricultural production does not translate into growth of nutrition, and expressed that some programmes are focusing too much on production, but not enough on promoting quality and diversified production and behavioral change among consumers.

Some participants highlighted the necessity of having a compendium of success stories for the coming nutrition international events.

## WHAT IS DIFFICULT?

- **Coordination:**

The existence of clear arrangements and coordination frameworks that allow ministries of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, gender, women and children's affairs or of social welfare to agree on common goals and targets, prioritize actions, and monitor and evaluate implementation in synergy, helps governments maximize impact.

Improving inter-sectoral coordination has been identified as a key challenge. The extent of collaboration varies from country to country. It was noted that the high level of interactions that is needed between sectors is very time-consuming, even more as health, agriculture and social protection can have competing concerns which may hinder cooperation. In this light, participation of key officials was critical for the success and sustainability of the process.

- **Planning and monitoring**

Countries insist on the importance of developing a Common Results Framework to strengthen linkages between different sectors that contribute to nutrition, and of having integrated M&E frameworks in place. However, very few countries have set up common M&E committees or working groups.

- **Implementation**

It was noted that despite the existence of common plans, the lack of human capacities and of resources to implement them is an important constraint.

## **DETAILS OF DISCUSSION**

- **Engagement of agriculture and social protection in nutrition multi-stakeholder platforms**

In [Nigeria](#) collaboration between the Ministries of Health and of Agriculture exist at the very high level and has improved in the last months. A UN platform in [Mozambique](#) helps coordinate efforts for food security and nutrition. Ministries of Health and Agriculture are working together in [Rwanda](#) to improve food accessibility especially of people living with HIV, and providing support to local governments for improved programme implementation. Government leadership and development partners' involvement in food security and nutrition is increasing in [Swaziland](#), but mapping who is doing what is a major concern. [Zambia](#) developed national plan for nutrition with the involvement of five key ministries, two of which have signed a MOU. In Zambia an Agricultural Policy is in draft, with the civil society involved in its review. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) are members of the Cross-sectoral Planning Group in [Ghana](#).

[Zimbabwe](#) is resuscitating district level food and nutrition security committees, which are chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and usually include social services, the Ministry of Health, the UN and other development partners. After the participation of [Sierra Leone](#) in the learning route in Senegal, the government is working with partners (FAO) and donors (Germany) to mainstream nutrition indicators into different plans, including agriculture, and new staff is being recruited in the Ministry of Agriculture to focus on nutrition. The Food Security and Nutrition Department of the Ministry of Agriculture in [Liberia](#) is member of the National Nutrition Coordination Committee. In [Malawi](#) the Ministry of Agriculture is fully engaged in all SUN activities at community level, while the Ministry of Gender, responsible for social protection, is not involved yet especially at the district level. The Cornell University

is supporting the Office of the Prime Minister in [Uganda](#) in the facilitation of a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition which brings partners together and agrees on systems to be put in place. The Nutrition Inter-agency Coordination Teams in [Kenya](#) mainly focus on food security but are trying to include nutrition.

A technical working group on stunting has been formed in [South Sudan](#), and it is formed by the government and food security and nutrition partners. The Ministry of Agriculture is being encouraged to join. In [Niger](#), besides the Interdepartmental Steering Committee of the 3N Initiative, there are 3 main coordination frameworks which include social protection, agriculture and social protection: the 3N program (aiming at diversifying agro-pastoral and fisheries production), Program 4 (aiming at improving the nutritional status), and Program 5 which coordinated the 3N and 4 programmes). In [Guinea Conakry](#), the Ministry of Health has participated in the development of the Agricultural Investment and Food Security Plan which integrates nutrition. Similarly, the development of National Nutrition Policy associated the Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Planning.

In [Burkina Faso](#), the National Council for Nutrition Consultations (SUN platform) includes agriculture, food security and social protection. It is expected that the new president and government in [Guinea Bissau](#) will keep high commitment to nutrition. The expected review of the food security program should lead to the creation of a coordinating mechanism for food security at the national level. Although social protection and agriculture sectors are not part of the SUN multi-sectoral platform in [Mali](#), the National Nutrition Policy and the Multi-sectoral Action Plan recently launched has associates departments from these two sectors from the beginning, which are part of the coordinating committee. In [Benin](#), the National Food and Nutrition Council brings together different ministries (health, agriculture, industry, finance, education) and civil society and promote coordinated multi-sectoral action. A multi-sectoral committee to monitor the implementation of the Agricultural Development Plan has been set up in [Burundi](#), as well as a technical committee, which involves the ministries of health, agriculture, education and community development, FAO, WFP and World Vision.

The Government of [Comoros](#) has established a provisional nutrition committee that will prepare the setting up and implementation of a multi-sectoral platform and the launch of the SUN Movement. The *Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition* in [Senegal](#) is composed of all sectors covered in this conference and civil society and the private sector are also represented. The [Mauritanian](#) Permanent Technical Council at national level, which includes different governmental bodies and civil society, is responsible for coordinating national efforts for scaling up nutrition. Stakeholders from food and agriculture sectors in [Pakistan](#) are engaged in nutrition at state and provincial levels, where they are involved in steering committees and working groups constituted over the last year. The Prime Minister's Office in the [Kyrgyz Republic](#) created the Inter-sectoral Working Group for nutrition, which brings together health, social protection, agriculture, finance, trade and education ministers, as well as academic groups. The Ministries of Agriculture and of Social Protection are members of the Nutrition and Food Security High Level Steering Committee of [Nepal](#). The Ministry of Agriculture participates to the multi-stakeholder platform in [Tajikistan](#).

[Bangladesh](#) has recently drafted TORs for the multi-sectoral steering committee with involvement of 7 ministries including social protection and agriculture. The [Maharashtra Mission](#) has recently started to work with the Agriculture Department at the state level and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) on issues related to the linkage between nutrition and agriculture. Presidential Decree set up the SUN

policy framework in [Indonesia](#) engaging 13 ministries, with Ministries of Agriculture, of Social Affairs, and of Marine and Fisheries. The Ministries of Agriculture and of Social Protection are members of the Food and Nutrition High Level Coordination Body and the Food security Working Group in [Myanmar](#). [Peru](#) established in 2012 the Inter-sectoral Committee on Food and Nutrition Security, which includes the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation, Fisheries, Development and Social Inclusion, Health, and representatives of regional and local governments, as well as a Temporary Multi-sectoral Commission to Support Family Farming, which is working on the development of a strategic plan to foster a competitive family farming.

- **Multi-sector Integrated planning:**

Indicators for food and nutrition have been integrated in the [Rwandan](#) Agricultural Investment Plans. The country is now moving towards improved monitoring and tracking of nutrition related issues, particularly in the second phase of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. A draft Agricultural Policy with a focus on nutrition has been developed in [Swaziland](#). That country has identified harmonization of sectoral plans as a priority. Nutrition, especially for vulnerable people, is fully mainstreamed in the Agricultural policy in [Zambia](#). A common results matrix is being elaborated in [Ghana](#) and will include an M&E framework with agreed objectives, indicators and targets for agriculture and social protection. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture in [Ghana](#) has conducted a multi-assessment led to determine capacities to deliver nutrition within the agriculture sector, which will be followed by mainstreaming nutrition into the country investment plan that runs across different sectors.

The [Zimbabwe](#) Agriculture Investment Plan (ZAIP) is sensitive to nutrition, gender and climate-smart agriculture, which are all reflected in the objectives of the plan. [Zimbabwe](#) is developing a proposal for inclusion of biofortified crops and livestock into the social protection programme, and is updating a labor regulation with a view to relocate maternity protection with the Ministry of Health. The President's Office's Comprehensive Programme to enhance Food, & Nutrition Security through agriculture, agroindustry and fisheries in [Sierra Leone](#) looks at availability, accessibility, income, roads, markets, utilization, health, post-harvest, economy and soil conservation. The Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP) is the investment program drawn from CADDP in [Liberia](#) which includes food and nutrition security as a priority area.

[The Gambia](#) has included nutrition objectives in its Agriculture Investment Plan and in other plans and is reflecting on which indicators to use. [Malawi](#) has developed an Agriculture Sector Wide Approach, which has three pillars, all of which are geared towards nutrition. The National Agriculture Development Programme in [Cote d'Ivoire](#) as such does not mention nutrition but often refers to the nutrition policy and this element is widely present in the coordination meetings. When the Common Results Framework will be implemented, nutrition will be effectively integrated. In [Niger](#), the 3N Initiative is the main document for coordination of interventions in relation to food, nutrition and social protection. It includes a set of common objectives. Nutrition is integrated into the policy and strategic plan of the Ministry of Health of [Togo](#). Food and nutrition security is taken into consideration in the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) in [Cameroun](#).

The REACH partnership is supporting the development of a nutrition multi-sectoral plan in [Mali](#) through a process in which different ministries have been involved. A harmonized framework of shared outcomes between food security and nutrition, with agreed indicators, has been developed in [Chad](#). Food, agriculture, water supply and social protection sectors all involved in multi-sectoral policy guidance note for provinces and regions developed in [Pakistan](#). Agreed targets have been included in

the agriculture section of the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan in [Yemen](#). In [Lao PDR](#) the Multi-sectoral Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Security (Convergence Plan) is the common results framework and prioritizes interventions from different sectors, including agriculture, social protection and water and sanitation. The National Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition 2011-2015 and related plans at provincial and district level in [Indonesia](#) include indicators of stunting and food consumption. The agriculture and social protection sectors participated actively in the preparation of the National Action Plan for Food and Nutrition to 2011-2015 in [Myanmar](#).

Social protection and agriculture sectors have been engaged in the elaboration of the Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition of [El Salvador](#). The Ministry of Agriculture of [Peru](#), with the support of other ministries (such as MIDIS) and of the civil society, has led the development of the National Food Security Strategy, which aims at ensuring that population meets at all times its nutritional requirements. Nutrition is key to this strategy, which focuses on food and people and adopts a value chain approach. The plan intends to link traditional and industrial agriculture.

- **Collaboration between agriculture, social protection and health sectors in implementation:**

Collaboration between agriculture and health ministries in [Nigeria](#) focuses on increasing consumption of high energy foods, and promotion of micronutrient and biofortification initiatives. The national policy led by the Ministry of Health in [Ghana](#) includes strong inputs in areas of agriculture and food security. [Zimbabwe](#) is implementing harmonized cash transfers -which include nutrition indicators and objectives- to the most vulnerable. [Sierra Leone](#) is developing food education guidelines to help increase the demand for local food in the country and stimulate highly nutritious production. In [Liberia](#) the Ministries of Agriculture and Health are training extension workers in the field to deliver essential nutrition messages and are establishing backyard gardens in malnutrition treatment centres.

[Uganda](#) is undertaking a multi-sectoral initiative between the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Education, which are working together to focus on producing food and encouraging consumption of nutritious foods in primary schools, and are also working with local farmers to produce nutrient-dense foods and promote better consumption practices. Food security, social protection and focus on 1000 days is being targeted together in [Ethiopia](#). The Ministry of Agriculture in [Kenya](#) is targeting poor people with grants to farmer's groups and schools to improve production.

The AGIR Initiative –which aims at promoting resilience- is ongoing in countries like [Guinea Conakry](#) and [Burkina Faso](#), where it is promoting the setting up of a multi-sectoral platform, with a national roadmap. In [Guinea Bissau](#), the Food Security Strategic Plan (2015-2019) is under development and will promote availability and consumption and nutritious food, as well as improved household income. Competent political and administrative authorities in [Benin](#) are leading the implementation of nutrition education for women, culinary demonstrations, home visits for malnourished children, and promotion of foods with high nutritional value. In that country, the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Health Nutrition Project provides a framework for cooperation between the agriculture, health and social affairs sectors, producers and NGOs, under the auspices of the mayor. In [Senegal](#) social protection for farmers is in a pilot phase in two regions. A Common Results Framework exists in [Madagascar](#), as well as the national monitoring and evaluation plan.

Devolution of agriculture, education and health at province levels in [Pakistan](#) provide an opportunity for sharing and learning across ministries. In [Nepal](#), staff specialized in water & sanitation, children,

agriculture and health, meet regularly at district level to discuss the plans, share implementation feedback and plan actions jointly. Donors and the Government of [Tajikistan](#) have developed a joint initiative on food security and nutrition which is based on four pillars including one on food security. There is a need to further consider food accessibility, price stability and nutrition. In [Bangladesh](#) the social protection and agriculture sectors are working together to monitor, coordinate and implement the National Food Policy plan of action and Country Investment Plan. In the Indian State of [Maharashtra](#), extra meals are distributed to pregnant women during the last trimester of pregnancy and government schemes are looking at their expansion, and community kitchens are set up to provide low cost food to women and children, which leaves room for CSO engagement and business sector willing to finance it.

[Guatemala](#) has finalized the evaluation of the impact of the implementation of the Zero Hunger Plan. The results of this evaluation will be made public soon.

- **Nutrition-sensitive agriculture:**

Public extension services in [Mozambique](#) use a booklet to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture, interact with farmer field schools and assist women in reducing postharvest losses. [Rwanda](#) is implementing kitchen gardens programmes, producing biofortified crops and promoting iron fortified beans and potatoes; especially for the most vulnerable. FAO is supporting production and nutrition related projects in [Swaziland](#) which target specific groups like children, pregnant woman people affected by HIV. [Ghana](#) is compiling information on indigenous food composition at directorate level, has developed and circulated materials to enhance capacities at the district levels to promote nutrition food safety, and conducted a survey on dietary diversity. An action plan for mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture in [Liberia](#) gives recommendations among which addressing stunting in 1000 Days. The National Agriculture Investment Programme in [the Gambia](#) aims at enhancing food and nutrition security by increasing production and productivity and improving nutritional outcomes of vulnerable groups.

[Tanzania](#) is preparing its agriculture plan – first draft did not cover nutrition well but now it is getting more coverage. Developing road map to engage actors in nutrition and the priority is to make agriculture investment nutrition sensitive. The National Agricultural Development Programme in the [DRC](#) has a nutrition component. It focuses on fortification of seeds and food, increasing awareness of agricultural organizations to improve household nutrition, food diversification through a trade facilitation among the different existing food systems, and climate change adaptation.

In [Benin](#), most agricultural programs implemented with donor support have focused on production, and have not given to much importance to food security and nutrition dimension. The [Chad](#) National Investment Plan for the Rural Sector is being finalized and includes a transversal program which focuses on food and nutrition security and strengthening household resilience. In the [Republic of Congo](#), the National Agriculture and Nutrition Investment Programme is being developed and it will consider various aspects of nutrition, as well as the development of fisheries, promotion of research and innovation, or national capacity development. Nutrition has been mainstreamed in the national Agriculture Investment Plan in [Burundi](#), which includes interventions such as promotion of household gardening. The implementation of this plan has resulted in an increase of food production in the period 2011-2013, which has contributed to a reduction of national malnutrition rates. Sectoral programs of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing in [Madagascar](#) are aligned to CAADP and cover three objectives, one of which is nutrition and risk reduction for the most vulnerable (through the creation of agricultural and non-agricultural jobs and the development of health assistance).

Nutrition activities included in the Agriculture Plan in [Yemen](#) include production of nutrient rich crops, small scale animal husbandry, good processing storages, production diversification, home gardening, awareness program for dietary diversity, eating habits and M&E.

As a result of a cooperation between Ministries of Agriculture and Health and FAO, [El Salvador](#) and [Costa Rica](#) have developed the Family Agriculture Programme, which promotes changes in feeding habits and diversified production. [Guatemala](#) has developed a similar programme called Family Farming Programme for Rural Agriculture, which is linked to the Learning Centers for Rural Development (CADERS) and applies a comprehensive approach in coordination with the Municipal Commissions for Food and Nutritional Security. [Costa Rica](#) is trying to increase agricultural productivity, mainly of products that are part of the basic food basket, with a focus on maximizing domestic food production and reduce imports.

### **Nutrition-sensitive social protection:**

Cash transfers to vulnerable communities and the consideration of nutritional outcomes are increasingly being considered in social protection programmes in [Mozambique](#). [Rwanda](#) has developed the “One cup for one family” project linked to manure and cash for vulnerable families. A number of social protection measures targeting women and poor food crop farmers (i.e. fertilizer subsidies for poor food crop farmers, block farming with in-kind inputs such as planting seeds, extension services, guaranteed markets, etc.) are in place in [Ghana](#). The Government of [Liberia](#), with the support of UNICEF, has developed a social protection strategy targeting children, elderly and other vulnerable groups, vulnerable to shocks. In that country, a community outreach programme which includes social cash transfer activities and IYCF education has been developed. The EU is carrying out an immediate cash transfer programme in [the Gambia](#) while the WFP is working on school feeding which has nutrition component.

In [Tanzania](#), the World Bank is supporting cash transfers to poor households, while a social protection framework –which will try to have a stronger focus on nutrition- is being reviewed by Ministry of Finance. The link between social protection and nutrition is unclear in [Kenya](#) but this is being worked out. However, interesting initiatives are ongoing, such as the targeting of households, training and cooking demonstrations plus established home gardens.

The national Social Protection Strategy in [Cote d’Ivoire](#) includes a component on nutrition, particularly on strengthening school canteens. Program cash transfers to vulnerable groups (children under 5, women, and disadvantaged families), led by the Ministry of Social Affairs and implemented jointly with the Ministry of Health in [Togo](#), include nutritional indicators. The roadmap to integrate chronic malnutrition in social protection plans is being reviewed in [Cameroun](#). The Social Protection Policy is being reviewed in [Mali](#) to better integrate nutrition and food diets. Different elements of social protection and fight against malnutrition are considered in emergency programs (cash for nutrition) and will need to be integrated into the future national social protection policy in the [DRC](#).

On social protection, [Guinea Bissau](#) is providing assistance is to vulnerable households, increasing access to social services, and improving the prevention and treatment of malnutrition. The National Social Action Policy in the [Republic of Congo](#) has got an axis on social transfers, which covers the improvement of nutritional status of vulnerable populations. [Burundi](#) has distributed animals and fertilizer subsidies, and facilitated access to credit to poor families. A Food for Work Programme has been implemented in [Madagascar](#), which includes food distribution for children, lactating women and vulnerable households.

*Bangladesh* is strengthening nutrition forecast in the social protection sector incentives, through the use of universal accepted outcomes and indicators. National Community Empowerment Programme for Healthy and Smart Generations, which provides local grants, as well as a training programme to improve health and education in poor communities have contributed to reducing child underweight in *Indonesia*.

The Temporary Employment Generation Programme at the Community Level (GETCO) in *Guatemala*, which has been programmed according to an established schedule of critical climatic periods, has supported farmers affected by the coffee rust and by droughts in 2012-2013. This country has developed an information system that connects public social protection interventions and link them with Zero Hunger Plan interventions. Social security in *Costa Rica* works in the promotion of breastfeeding and the 1000 days window of opportunity, and focuses on strengthening service delivery by 25 hospitals in Costa Rican Social Security Network.

### **Challenges:**

*Nigeria, Mozambique* intends to improve coordination between agriculture, health and social protection sectors for scaling up nutrition. In *Rwanda*, despite the National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan is being implemented, challenges of inter-divisional collaboration exist. *Swaziland* has identified inclusive planning and comprehensive multi-sectoral engagement as key challenges. High level advocacy is needed in *Zimbabwe* for the agriculture, social protection and health sectors to agree on the importance of coordination. In *Malawi* there are technical working groups that focus on different areas, but there needs to be a stronger cooperation so that issues can be taken up to a higher level.

*Ethiopia* would like to develop a stronger accountability framework to show how sectors contribute to nutrition and strengthen capacities for improved multi-sectoral coordination and better communication. *Tanzania* needs to ensure that District Committees meet regularly. Coordination across sectors and between stakeholders in *South Sudan* is a challenge.

*Cote d'Ivoire* could integrate livestock and fisheries in the National Agricultural Development Plan. Coordination of interventions at sub-national and operational level is a challenge in *Niger*. In *Guinea Conakry*, many of the initiatives are proposed from the sub-regional level, while there is a national agricultural development policy under which those initiatives are conducted. Efforts should be addressed to coordination to ensure that activities are not duplicated or overlapping. Several countries, particularly in the *Sahel region*, indicate they find financial constraints and express the need to develop, together with donors, innovative strategies to ensure implementation plans over the long term. Involvement of the private sector emerges as an opportunity to initiatives in *Burkina Faso*.

Ensuring alignment of technical and financial partners in relation to national plans is also a priority in this country. *Togo* needs to put in place and integrated M&E system. In *Cameroun* the existence of parallel structures that are in competition or which conflict of interest at different levels can arise has been identified as a challenge, as well as the creation of an enabling policy environment. *Mali* aims at further coordinating with partners, including civil society, which has a major role to play in the various plans. Sustainable land management, which should result in the development of a land law that solves the problems between farmers and herders has been identified as a priority in *Guinea Bissau*.

The focal point from *Benin* reports that ministries suffer from a lack of qualified staff in sufficient quantity, mainly at decentralized level. A major challenge in *Burundi* is to turn strategies and plans into

actions. *Senegal* would like to improve M&E of deficiencies and diversification of food production and accessibility. *Madagascar* aims at developing 22 regional plans, improve coordination at the local level and develop a multi-sectoral national policy. The multi-stakeholder platform in *Mauritania* needs to be completed and there is a need to strengthen political commitment.

*Yemen* is prioritizing the provision of responses to the different causes and determinants of malnutrition, as well as awareness raising and advocacy. The country considers that strong leadership of the Multi-stakeholder Platform is critical to sustain sector engagement. *Lao PDR* indicates the lack of nutrition indicators in the agricultural strategy, the difficulty of coordination within different sectors, the lack of clear understanding (by the different sectors) of what is nutrition, and the limited existing capacity and availability of resources as its main challenges. *Myanmar* aims to strengthen government structures and the multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition and to develop operational structures within responsible sectors.

Key challenges in *El Salvador* are the sensitization of recently appointed high level officials, improving evaluation capacities and coordination between community, municipal, departmental and national multi-sectoral platforms, and approving the Law on Food and Nutrition Sovereignty and Security. *Peru* wants to further strengthen national-local articulation, particularly in a year in which there will be elections at the regional level. *Costa Rica* is working on the amendment of Article 50 of the Constitution to establish tacitly the right to food sovereignty. The country has identified the improvement of inter-sectoral coordination and of monitoring capacities as challenges.

#### **Update from SUN networks:**

- The UN Network has carried out a landscape analysis of tools and systems supporting government in nutrition systems and Boston Consulting Group found at least 86 systems. Countries interested to see the results can ask for further information.
- REACH will undertake a nutrition governance capacity assessment in 8 countries looking at multi-sectoral coordination, to be led by Focal Points. The focus will be on identifying functional capacity gaps in national multi-stakeholder platforms.
- Standing Committee on Nutrition: The High Level Panel of Experts of the Committee on World Food Security has developed a report on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition. The United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition published a synthesis report of eight Country Case Studies on the Nutrition Sensitivity of Agriculture and Food Policies. One of its conclusion is the lack of focus on overweight and obesity.
- The SUN Business Network is producing a toolkit that will showcase best practices and case studies of involvement of business sector in scaling up nutrition. Countries are invited to get in touch with the SUN business network. They can ask for contacts through the SUN Secretariat, which will liaise interested SUN countries to the Business Network.
- The Civil Society Network is trying to gather case study of contributions of civil society to nutrition, and kindly requests countries to share with them any piece of information to this regard.

#### **2) Information about priorities for the SUN Movement Secretariat in 2014:**

Priorities mentioned by the Secretariat include:

(a) The monitoring of progress within SUN Movement Countries 2013 - 14: multi-stakeholder platforms in SUN countries are requested to convene monitoring workshops during early May and to undertake structured self-assessments of progress. Reports are to be sent to the secretariat by May 16<sup>th</sup> so as to collate and incorporate them into the 2014 SUN Movement Progress Report to be completed by the end of June. It will be seen by the Lead Group in September 2014 and discussed at the November 2014 Global Gathering of the SUN Movement;

(b) Assisting SUN countries with the prevention and management of Conflicts Of Interest within multi-stakeholder platforms and during implementation: a reference note and tool-kit has been produced following consultations convened by the Global Social Observatory; this is now being assessed in country situations (Ghana completed, to be followed by Kenya, El Salvador and Indonesia);

(c) the Second International Conference on Nutrition will take place in Rome November 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> and will be preceded by the next Global Gathering of the SUN Movement (November 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>);

(d) the fifth meeting of the SUN Movement Lead Group took place on April 15<sup>th</sup> by teleconference: it supported the work of the Secretariat to establish Communities of Practice across the Movement and approved the Terms of Reference for an Independent Comprehensive Evaluation of the Movement to be completed by December 2014 and to be followed by a Visioning of the future of the Movement. The report prepared for the Lead Group [State of the SUN Movement, April 2014] is available on the SUN movement website:

<http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/140417-State-of-the-SUN-Movement-Progress-Report-ENG.pdf>

(e) The Secretariat distributed a note on the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the 2014 SUN Movement Global Gathering: it includes information about how Food and Nutrition Security is being handled in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals which is hard at work in New York and which will produce its recommendations (on goals, targets, means of implementation, verification and the roles of the UN system) for review and eventual concurrence by all Member States before the end of 2015. There will be value in ensuring that the results of ICN2 (supported by the SUN Global Gathering) feed into the work on nutrition in the post-2015 development agenda and vice versa.