

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SUN Movement Network of Country Focal Points took place between March 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> 2014. The meeting involved nine two-hour teleconferences: five in English, three in French and one in Spanish.

There were 221 participants from 40 countries [Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Congo (DRC), Costa Rica, Cote D'Ivoire, El Salvador, Guatemala, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe]. There was also participation from the State of Maharashtra in India. Participants from Comoros, Ethiopia, Gambia, Liberia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Yemen were not able to join.

40 % of the 221 participants were from government bodies, 37% from United Nations entities, 16% from civil society (several of who were academics) and 5% were from bilateral donors

The Meeting agenda was as follows: 1) Discussion on *Social Mobilization, Communications and Advocacy for Scaling up Nutrition*; 2) Update by SUN countries of progress with regard to the four processes of institutional change, and 3) Exchange of views on major priorities for the SUN Movement Secretariat in 2014. This record of the Meeting synthesizes the proceedings of all nine teleconferences.

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## **1) COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY FOR SCALING UP NUTRITION**

The theme for this meeting was “Communications and Advocacy for Scaling Up Nutrition”. SUN country Focal Points, and other participants from national multi-stakeholder platforms, were invited to consider the following questions:

1. Is there a national nutrition Communications and Advocacy (C&A) strategy in place? Does it cover the same issues as are in the national nutrition plans?
2. What are the major priorities for Nutrition C&A at national and sub-national level? What actions are being prioritized? What are the major achievements? How are these contributing to scaling up nutrition?
3. What are the major challenges that you face as you pursue national priorities for Nutrition C&A?
4. How are you dealing with these challenges? Have you accessed external support for your C&A work?

### **Summary of discussion**

- *Development of National Strategies for Communication and Advocacy*

1. Countries are taking a strategic approach when building commitment for scaling up nutrition, as well as when sharing their progress and the lessons they have learnt;
2. The approach usually combines: Societal Mobilization, Advocacy and Communication (SMAC);

3. The approach differentiates the interests of various groups:
  - (a) Mobilizing societies for nutrition with a common narrative that encourages people to take ownership of the issue, and that encourages them to be responsible, take action and contribute to their own nutrition;
  - (b) Encouraging new ways of working for nutrition within Government based on four processes<sup>1</sup> of institutional change;
  - (c) Stimulating the involvement of multiple stakeholders to support implementation of national plans for people's good nutrition;
  - (d) Advocating – with identified decision makers - for specific policy changes that contribute to advancing institutional changes, to synergy of implementation by different stakeholders and to the demonstration of results.
4. SUN countries use different means for advocacy, though generally tend to focus on:
  - a) Creating a positive political environment for nutrition, with strong in-country leadership, and shared spaces (the multi-stakeholder platforms) where stakeholders can debate priorities, align actions and take joint responsibility for impact;
  - b) Agreeing on how best to support scale up of interventions that have proved to be effective: this will include adopting policies, passing laws, ensuring implementation and accounting for achievements;
  - c) Agreeing priorities and aligning actions around comprehensive, costed national plans for scaling up nutrition, with an agreed results framework;
  - d) Increasing the availability of resources for effective implementation, tracking their use and demonstrating achievements.

4. The approach pursued by SUN Countries emphasizes the need for involving all within the Movement in implementing SMAC strategies. Involvement means (a) sharing their experiences, (b) communicating the lessons they have learnt, (c) supporting each other as they advance the Movement's strategy and (d) collectively demonstrating the impact being achieved: this is best achieved by facilitated learning - both within and between countries.

- ***Analysis of SUN Movement countries' strategies for societal mobilization, advocacy and communication***

6 The majority of SUN countries have developed, or are developing, communications strategies for nutrition. They vary in scope and detail. The current trend is to use the SMAC strategy development process to

- i. Align SMAC efforts with priorities in national nutrition plans;
- ii. Map activities of different stakeholders and to harmonize disparate activities;
- iii. Help different stakeholders to integrate their efforts in order to achieve best effect;
- iv. Encourage focus on specific priorities that need focused attention (e.g. breast-feeding).

7 SMAC Strategies have been developed and are aligned with national nutrition plans in 12 countries (Benin, Ethiopia, Haiti, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, The Gambia, Vietnam, and Yemen). 20 countries are revising and/or updating their strategies to be more comprehensive and aligned with national nutrition plans.

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<sup>1</sup> See details of the 4 SUN processes in annex

8 In several SUN countries the development of comprehensive SMAC strategies has helped with mapping the activities of different stakeholders, focusing on identified priorities and harmonizing their disparate activities. Several countries emphasized the importance of one harmonized strategy as a critical starting point (e.g. Uganda want one ‘social change’ strategy that encompasses advocacy, behavior change communication – BCC - and social mobilization).

9 Comprehensive SMAC strategies are being used to help align the efforts of multiple stakeholders and to better establish the roles and responsibilities of different groups in realizing the strategies.

10 SMAC strategies help in-country stakeholders to focus on Specific Priorities: The strategies of many countries highlight specific components of national nutrition plans and activities, in particular focusing on infant and young child feeding and behavior change and communication (BCC)

- ***Experience with implementing SMAC strategies: key ingredients***

11 Common messages, single voice: SMAC strategies are particularly useful when stakeholders have recognized importance of speaking with one voice on nutrition. This is most likely to happen when the national multi-stakeholder platform is working and its members want to develop common messages and to articulate them clearly. While each country will frame the ‘nutrition story’ differently, in ways that reflect the specific context and priorities, several shared lessons have emerged.

12 Start with the case for investing in good nutrition: Valuable material is now becoming available on the economic and societal costs associated with malnutrition and the benefits associated with people being well-nourished. Sources include

- a) Cost of Hunger in Africa studies (completed or underway in 11 countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Senegal, Swaziland, Uganda, Zimbabwe)
- b) Profiles methodology (in 7 countries: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania, Vietnam)
- c) The Renew multimedia presentation (in 2 countries: Nigeria, Kenya)
- d) Country-specific methods (e.g. Tajikistan situational analysis report with World Bank and UNICEF support)

13 Share nutrition statistics from different districts: The reporting of standardized nutrition data from different districts can encourage comparisons between and competition amongst different states, provinces, departments and districts;

14 Use multi-media tools to help relevant stakeholders analyze risks to nutrition in different livelihood groups, to appreciate the interplay of underlying causes in these groups and to work out solutions appropriate for different settings. These tools are being successfully used to advocate for greater political commitment, resources and attention to nutrition in SUN countries. They are being used at both national and local level.

15 Consider Identifying and promoting Nutrition Champions: In many SUN Countries Nutrition Champions are the primary advocates. Champions have been identified in 15 countries (Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and The Gambia) and efforts are underway to identify champions in 10 additional countries. There is growing recognition that strong leadership for nutrition is an essential element for garnering the support and understanding required to achieve impact. Champions give nutrition a human face: the identification of nutrition champions was mentioned by many countries as a useful support for SMAC.

16 Three types of nutrition champions were distinguished:

- a) Politicians and parliamentarians who take a particular interest in nutrition and look for opportunities to support the scaling up efforts. Several countries (in West Africa) have formed networks of parliamentarians to strive for better nutrition.
- b) High profile personalities such as sporting figures who revered – particularly by young people.
- c) Nominated individuals who are recognized through public channels as having played an outstanding role in promoting nutrition.

• ***SMAC strategies in support of Community Mobilization and de-centralized action by Government:***

17 Leaders of SUN Countries have made high-level political commitments for nutrition and are intensifying the implementation of scaled up actions in communities. The focus of Social Mobilization, Advocacy and Communication is increasingly directed to sub-national levels (districts and provinces). Actors at provincial, district and local level were viewed by many countries as the primary group to be mobilized – so as to raise awareness and increase intensity of action that will result in improved nutrition. The purpose of community-level mobilization influences the means used to make it happen. Possible purposes include: to change a specific behavior; to raise awareness of an issue; to advocate for a particular action; or to seek accountability. The means also depend on the in-country context. A variety of different means are being used in SUN countries:

- a) Campaigns such as child health days are often used by countries to highlight nutrition and promote behavioral change.
- b) Media channels have cooperated in some countries to spread messages and knowledge about nutrition, though this method can be expensive.
- c) Songs, dances, video, animation and other multi-media methods have been adopted in some countries.
- d) Membership organizations – such as farmer groups, the Red Cross, consumer bodies and professional societies – can play a crucial role in mobilizing communities. Government focal points emphasized that the engagement of civil society can provide significant support to their mobilization efforts.

• ***Priorities for SUN countries as they develop SMAC strategies: how can the Movement help?***

18 SUN countries identified the following challenges with implementation of strategies for social mobilization, advocacy and communication:

- a) Funding limitations - especially for expensive components such as media campaigns
- b) Shortage of people with expertise: capacity limitations may make it difficult to move from the strategy to implementation.
- c) Lack of good evidence on which to base advocacy messages.
  - i. Collection of evidence is hampered by diversity of languages and cultures which means that materials and approaches have to be translated into multiple languages and tailored to be appropriate for different cultural groups
  - ii. Choice of strategies is hampered by lack of information on the impact of SMAC

19 SUN countries are at different stages with the development and implementation of their SMAC strategies. A number of shared priorities were identified:

- a) Develop one comprehensive and harmonized strategy that is aligned to national nutrition plans and is supported by multiple stakeholders;
- b) Raise awareness about nutrition across sectors and ministries;
- c) Mobilize resources – personnel and finance – so as to accelerate the development of SMAC strategies for scaling up nutrition;
- d) Develop robust means for measuring the impact of SMAC.

20 The discussions in this 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SUN Movement’s networks of country focal points have clarified the importance of SMAC within national efforts to scale up nutrition, and indicated approaches to SMAC that have, up to now, yielded the best results in-country.

21 One key contribution of the Movement is to help link together SMAC efforts between countries and to ensure the collation of useful experiences that can help countries both to be more effective and to achieve maximum impact.

22 In 2014 the Secretariat is encouraging the formation of a Community of Practice (COP) on Social Mobilization, Advocacy and Communications. This COP brings together Focal Points and members of multi-stakeholder platforms from SUN countries, as well as their supporters from the SUN Movement Networks. It encourages the sharing of experiences and expertise, as well as the collective assessment of how best to ensure that SMAC efforts achieve their greatest and most durable impact.

## 2) PROGRESS MADE BY COUNTRY:

Countries provided quick updates on progress experienced during the last two months with regard to the 4 SUN Movement processes: these were entered into the Secretariat’s tracking matrix, and the indicators. Focal points were selective and concise in their responses, highlighting one main progress recently achieved. See country tables and minutes for details.

### PROCESS 1

- **Launch of SUN or high-level event emphasizing nutrition:**

In *Tajikistan*, preparations for the official launch of the SUN Movement in May 2014 are underway. In *Chad*, a national nutrition forum is currently being organized. In *Kenya*, a nutrition forum chaired by the Prime Minister will set out the contribution of each sector in the area of nutrition. In *Sierra Leone*, the Deputy Speaker of parliament and donors organized a day of reflection on how to push forward nutrition and food security implementation plans. In *Guinea Conakry*, the States General of Health are under preparation and nutrition has been included in various related technical committees. In *Niger*, a conference on managing acute malnutrition is planned.

- **UN Network, REACH Initiative:**

In *Mauritania*, a national REACH facilitator has been recruited. In *Niger*, REACH conveners have been put in place at regional level.

- **Commitment of civil society in multi-actor SUN platforms:**

- In *Mali*, the civil society platform has just been launched. In *Cameroon*, the terms of reference for the civil society platform chaired by Helen Keller International have been validated and it is now working on

the monitoring and evaluation framework and its work program.

- In *Laos, Sri Lanka, El Salvador and Peru*, civil society alliances (ASC) are currently being drawn up. In *Nepal*, the terms of reference of the ASC, which includes 9 NGOs have been completed and it is now working on its action plan. In *Kenya*, the ASC has set up a steering committee comprising 3 out of 7 national NGOs, which is to recruit a convener to map out civil society stakeholders and actions at different levels. In *Zimbabwe*, the ASC has also set up its management committee, comprising 8 national and international NGOs, which is working on the action plan and is to recruit a convener;

- *Bangladesh* intends to open up participation in the civil society platform to human rights associations and academic groups.

- **Private-sector commitment to multi-stakeholder platforms:**

- In *Madagascar*, the business platform is currently being set up: relevant contacts have been made and the chamber of commerce has been identified as a potential focal point. In *Niger*, the business platform is brainstorming, making contact with future members and identifying a potential leader (Société de Transformation Alimentaire). In *Nepal*, the business platform is currently being set up. In *Malawi*, a meeting is planned in late March to discuss the arrangements for setting up a business network. *Mozambique* was approached by the private sector with a view to taking part in the platform's technical groups and is working with GAIN on this. In *Senegal*, UNICEF is helping establish a platform for businesses.

- In *Sri Lanka*, collaboration with the private sector is being sought, initially setting aside companies active in nutrition (companies specializing in telecommunications are favored).

- In *Kyrgyzstan*, a meeting with iodized salt producers took place in early March. The Indian state of *Maharashtra* held a meeting with the Obstetric and Gynecological Society.

- **Commitment of the academic sector in multi-actor platforms:**

- In *Nepal*, the academic platform is currently being set up. In *Malawi*, a meeting is planned in late March to discuss the arrangements for setting up an academic network. In *Senegal*, the terms of reference for the creation of two platforms (of technicians and scientists) are currently being drafted. In *Niger*, the formalized academic platform has started work and is keen to exchange with other platforms in other countries. 4 Masters focusing on nutrition have also been created;

- In *Ghana*, the academic network has provided training on collecting nutrition evidence.

- The Indian state of *Maharashtra* is liaising with universities and colleges. NB: Harvard University has carried out a case study on Maharashtra and nutrition.

- **Commitment of parliamentarians in multi-actor platforms:**

- In *Chad*, the parliamentarian network has been formally recognized by the President and continues to carry out awareness-raising campaigns in a number of regions. In *Benin*, the Speaker of the National Assembly has approved the creation of a parliamentary group focused on nutrition, which has yet to be finalized. In the *Democratic Republic of Congo*, World Vision supports the creation of a parliamentarian network;

- **Bringing all sectors into the multi-stakeholder platform and reinforcing bodies in charge of coordinating national efforts to boost nutrition:**

- In *Côte d'Ivoire*, a decree has formalized the platform as a National Nutrition Council validated by the Prime Minister. In *Burundi*, the legal framework of the multi-stakeholder platform has been finalized and forwarded to the Council of Ministers and 10 technical working groups have been set up with focal points.

In *Indonesia*, 6 working groups have been set up within the technical group. *Bangladesh* has drawn up the terms of reference for a steering committee chaired by the Minister for Health and is drawing up terms of reference for other ministries concerned. A technical focal point has also been appointed. In *Nepal*, the food security and nutrition coordination committee met on 20 April to discuss its future. In *Zambia*, the national food and nutrition committee voted to approve the principle of revising its act of incorporation inter alia to step up effective coordination. In *Mali*, nutrition policy bodies are being set up (national nutrition council, inter-ministerial technical committee, permanent secretariat). In *Chad*, the decree formalizing the multi-stakeholder platform in a National Nutrition and Food Council was presented to the government.

- In *Congo-Brazzaville*, the governmental platform is currently being drawn up and involves new ministries with competence on nutritional issues. In *Mauritania*, the number of sectors taking part in the National Nutrition Council is to be reduced from 18 to 5 to revitalize its operations. In *Haiti*, new stakeholders have been included in the multi-stakeholder platform. In *Burkina Faso*, a national workshop on chronic malnutrition is planned for early May at which the question of setting up a new platform will be discussed. In *Laos*, one of the priorities for 2014 is to step up coordination. In *Kenya*, a top-level meeting will take place to study the arrangements for coordinating SUN networks active at national level (donors, civil society and the UN).

- In *Madagascar*, members of the platform have received training. *Ghana* is planning a learning tour to Rwanda in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April to strengthen nutrition in the agricultural sector, followed by a refresher workshop for civil society supported by REACH. In *Namibia*, a workshop on community hygiene will show the links between nutrition and hygiene.

- **Improving donor coordination and alignment:**

- In *Congo-Brazzaville*, the current drafting of the United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF) will include nutrition and align stakeholders around these specific targets. The planning unit which comprises civil society, the government and the UN within the Planning Ministry is very useful for aligning stakeholders. In *Senegal*, an initial meeting between donors and the UN took place on 6 March to discuss the terms of reference of a joint platform and common objectives. In *Laos*, a donor network has been set up, formed from the main development donor group. In *Burundi*, a group of 6 UN agencies has been set up to coordinate their actions.

- In *Chad*, AGIR is taking shape and is to set up an action committee to manage food security and catastrophes. In *Mali*, an inclusive dialogue committee has been set up between the SUN teams and the AGIR teams to identify synergies in projects.

- **Decentralizing platforms:**

In *Sierra Leone*, focal points have been identified at district level for the civil society platform. In *Namibia*, development coordination committees at regional level (under the responsibility of governors) are planning nutrition-related events. In *Zambia*, nutrition coordination committees have been set up in some districts and provinces with the rest to be set up in the second half of 2014.

## PROCESS 2

- **Assessment of nutrition legislation and national assets:**

- In *Tanzania*, the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the national nutrition policy has been presented to stakeholders for comments and will serve as a basis for reviewing the national nutrition strategy and its implementation. In *Kenya*, the 2013-2014 healthcare development plan now includes nutrition. In *Sierra Leone*, the conclusions of the review of national nutrition and food security plans will be compiled in April and forwarded to the

Presidency's steering committee for action. In *Zimbabwe*, the review of the national nutrition monitoring policy aims to include a multi-sector approach. In *Kyrgyzstan*, the national food security program prepared by the Minister for Health is to be submitted to the government. Food security and nutrition programs will be combined to fully incorporate nutrition. In *Cameroon*, the national nutrition strategy will be drafted in the 1st week of May. In *Senegal*, the nutrition policy review note has been validated and it is to be implemented by the relevant Ministry. In *Laos*, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Save the Children have supported the review of nutrition legislation and the definition of areas requiring additional support. The food security policy review is a window of opportunity for raising nutrition awareness. In *Zambia*, the Minister for Agriculture, who is currently overseeing the review of agricultural policies has been briefed on the need for these to incorporate nutrition and all government plans are being realigned in accordance with food and nutrition policies. In *Pakistan*, the national nutrition program includes indirect interventions focused on nutrition and is financed by the World Bank and the government. Similarly, the agricultural program includes indirect interventions focused on nutrition and is 70% financed. In *Tajikistan*, a joint program of the Health and Agriculture Ministries has been approved by the government. In *Vietnam*, a five-year national nutrition plan and its corresponding action plan have been approved by the government. Child malnutrition is an important indicator for economic development plans at provincial and regional level. In *Bangladesh*, the national nutrition strategy has been shared with MSP members and their comments will be incorporated into the 1<sup>st</sup> draft within the next month. In *Côte d'Ivoire*, the terms of reference of the National Nutrition Policy have been shared with partners and the SUN Movement Secretariat and are to be discussed on 22 April next.

- In *Zimbabwe*, the law on improving food for babies and young children has been submitted to the authorities for approval; food fortification policies are currently being drafted; In *Kyrgyzstan*, a law on fortifying flour will be submitted in April. In *Guinea Conakry*, a bill on the marketing of breast milk substitutes will be tabled in April. In *Vietnam*, a law on protecting breast-feeding including a section regulating product advertising and another on maternal leave is currently being prepared. In the *Democratic Republic of Congo*, UNICEF is drawing up a strategy for school feeding which includes nutrition. Nutrition has also been included in HIV and TB programs (2014-2017); In *Cameroon* the Ministers for Agriculture and Education have promised to include nutrition in school feeding and agricultural sectors. In *Haiti*, a consultant hired by SPRING is to work on increasing national output and including nutrition in social programs. In *Zambia*, thanks to the work of parliamentarians, legislation on social rights is currently being updated to include nutrition. In *Niger*, the support plan for vulnerable populations which includes nutrition was validated in February 2014; With WHO support, *Laos* is working on nutrition to prevent and treat non-transmittable diseases (solving the dual burden of malnutrition). The National Council on Food and Nutrition Security in *El Salvador* is working with the Territorial Development Secretariat to develop a joint strategy. In *Vietnam*, child malnutrition is an important indicator for economic development plans at provincial and regional level.

### PROCESS 3

- **Information systems:**

- In *Chad*, an information system on food security harmonizing collection tools has been set up and the Health Ministry has proposed performing regular nutritional mapping to avert crises. In *Burundi*, discussions are underway to improve data collection and analysis on food security and nutrition. In *Nepal*, the monitoring and evaluation framework of the multi-sector nutrition plan is currently being reviewed to prioritize indicators. In *Sri Lanka*, ministries now have joint monitoring and evaluation indicators to facilitate joint analysis of the information gathered. The UNICEF project on the monitoring and evaluation system in two districts is to be extended to all districts because of the positive results achieved so far. In

*Mozambique*, inter-sectoral indicators are collected to measure what each sector contributes to nutrition, which will inform the drafting of the framework for monitoring the implementation of the plan, with REACH support.

- In *Benin*, the results of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) have been disseminated and the results of the multiple indicator survey (MICS) are in the process of being disseminated. In *Haiti*, nutrition indicators have been incorporated into the Health Ministry's monitoring and evaluation package and 2 nutritional surveys are to be carried out shortly. In *Zimbabwe*, 4 provinces and their districts have received training on how to use the SMART methodology before conducting their own mini survey on nutrition.

- **Development of Joint Results Frameworks:**

- In *Burkina Faso*, a national workshop on chronic malnutrition is being organized in early May to draw up a joint results framework. In *Zambia*, a consultant is working on developing a global strategic plan for monitoring and evaluating food and nutrition. In *Guinea Conakry*, the multi-sector nutrition policy and action plan are being finalized. In *Burundi*, the revised multi-sector nutrition plan has been finalized. In *Congo-Brazzaville*, the multi-sector malnutrition plan has been validated and the strategic plan is to be operationalized. In *Mauritania*, the inter-sectoral nutrition plan and upscaling schedule are currently being drafted. In *Senegal*, UNICEF is recruiting a consultant to draw up the strategic nutrition plan with joint results; In *Sri Lanka*, the multi-sector nutrition plan has been launched. UNICEF has recruited a consultant to draw up the strategic nutrition plan;

- In *Laos*, meetings with stakeholders have been organized to rationalize and operationalize national nutrition and food security plans. A national convergence action plan is currently being drafted (with the UN offering technical assistance) which proposes mapping various stakeholders in charge of implementing it. *Nepal* is mapping stakeholders and nutrition interventions at district level.

- **Decentralization of national plans to provincial level:**

- In *Guinea Conakry*, the terms of reference are currently being drafted to decentralize nutrition groups to regions and local authorities. In *Nepal*, 6 multi-sector district plans, to which civil society and development partners contributed, are ready. In *Laos*, the action plan has been implemented at sub-national level.

- In *Kenya*, nutrition coordination offices have been set up in a number of regional districts and their personnel has been certified after joint training with the Agriculture and Health Ministries (14 regions have yet to be set up). In *Madagascar*, technical and financial committees and nutrition committees have been set up at central and regional level and regional monitoring and evaluation groups are to be set up.

- In *Tajikistan*, a joint program of the Health and Agriculture Ministries will be implemented in 14 districts from May 2014. In *Haiti*, a new project by ACF, USAID, CARE and the WFP on reducing food insecurity and poverty has a significant nutrition section.

- The Indian state of *Maharashtra* is to organize training for Agriculture Ministry officials via video-conferencing to brief them on preparing nutrition plans for villages. Maharashtra is also seeking a model to better organize groups of effective women at village level. In *Haiti*, a training workshop on nutrition focal points of departments has taken place.

- In *Guinea Conakry*, the WFP has recruited a consultant for the Health Ministry, who will finalize the plan implementation program in April. In *Haiti*, a second baby-friendly hospital has been certified and the first cohort of babies is expected in April. *El Salvador* is implementing the Operational Plan for departmental plans with a multi-sector approach.

- **Budgeting**

- In *Senegal*, the cost of interventions planned by the strategic nutrition plan will be finalized shortly. In *Zambia*, the World Bank and the Food and Nutrition Committee are working on a budgeting plan to be finalized in June. In *Mali*, budgeting will be discussed with the relevant ministries in early April to result in a government budget line. In *Ghana*, the academic network is organizing a conference in July, comparing national nutrition objectives and allocated budgets.

In *Laos*, the national convergence action plan will be budgeted and presented to the round table for mobilizing funds in November. In *Chad*, MQSUN responded to the request for support in budgeting for the nutrition plan. In *Cameroon*, MQSUN's proposal in response to the budgeting request was well received. A workshop is to be organized to assess the cost of upscaling communications on breast-feeding, zinc and vitamin A deficiencies. *Mauritania* has favorably received the proposal in response to its budgeting assistance request. *Guatemala* is currently allocating financial resources for prioritized interventions under the Zero Hunger program, with contributions from the secretariats of various ministries of Health, Agriculture, Development, etc. *Laos* is mapping existing projects and activities to estimate the budgets allocated and remaining financing requirements.

- **Advocacy and communication actions**

In *Cameroon*, the awareness-raising caravan has won support from a number of stakeholders (a detailed document is to be shared with SUN); In *Sri Lanka*, the Health Ministry has launched a nutrition month in June. A mass campaign will bring together the government and at least two media families to be organized in the near future. In *Guinea-Conakry*, a project conducted with the WFP on the first 1000 days is taking place within the framework of chronic malnutrition.

## PROCESS 4

- **Financial monitoring and mobilization of resources:**

### *Financial monitoring and advocacy*

- In *Bangladesh*, health ministries and the nutrition sector development program have robust mechanisms for monitoring investments. The Food Ministry has a mechanism for monitoring the investment plan including tracking expenditure. In *Tanzania*, the public expenditure review to enable a policy note and an action plan is almost complete. In *Côte d'Ivoire*, a joint project between the government and the WHO is planned to conduct national nutrition surveys.

- In *Senegal*, a series of economic studies and financial analyses on nutrition will be used to create a database. In *Zimbabwe*, the UN Network is evaluating the economic impact of malnutrition (the WFP is supporting a study on the cost of hunger in 2014) and is developing a system for monitoring financing.

- In *Burundi*, donors have been categorized into 5 groups, to be used in an advocacy workshop in late April.

- In *Sierra Leone*, for the first time, the Health and Agriculture Ministries have national guidelines dedicated to nutrition. In *Guinea Conakry*, mission statements from each competent ministry include setting up a budget line dedicated to nutrition and the EU has opened up a line of nutrition funding in its programs to tackle food insecurity. In *Niger*, the government's budget line for nutrition has risen from FCFA 500 million in 2013 to FCFA 580 million in 2014 (for the purchase of medical equipment). In *Laos*, the Health Ministry has revised its budget to deploy resources for nutrition in 2014. In *Zambia*, the nutrition fund is operational: Next month, 4 line ministries and the NFCN are to sign loans for line ministries; In May, grant applications

filed by 9 NGOs will be allocated if approved. In *Sri Lanka*, the ministries concerned by the multi-sector nutrition plan have all been allocated specific budget lines thanks to a pooling of resources (public-private partnerships, allocations from provincial funds, etc.). In *Cameroon*, parliamentarians are lobbying for the addition of a dedicated budget line in response to the government's promise to Philippe Douste-Blazy during his last trip. A response from the Presidency's secretariat is expected following the report detailing priority actions and mobilizing resources submitted last week. *Guatemala* has developed a financial monitoring system which tracks the financial execution of interventions under the Zero Hunger program and identifies failings on a monthly basis. The system tracks contributions from governmental institutions, lenders and UN agencies.

### *New external financing*

The Indian state of *Maharashtra* favored the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the private sector and the government to dedicate specific nutrition resources. Companies have adopted tribal communities and have promised financing plans over 5 years. The Ministry for Tribal Communities was also contacted to allocate resources. Allocation applications have also been made for particularly vulnerable districts. In *Kyrgyzstan*, UNICEF, the FAO and the WFP have agreed to finance the national food security program. A roadmap with financial gaps will be presented to lenders. In *Madagascar*, Japan has agreed to provide two million dollars to finance drainage basins and irrigation works. 65 million dollars in loans obtained from the World Bank for food security and social protection. In *Haiti*, UNICEF funding has been used to increase the output of iodized salt and its availability. In *Benin*, the national assembly has approved a loan of FCFA 10 million from the World Bank; In *Laos*, donors and NGOs have responded to government requests and are extending their support to new districts. In *Tajikistan*, a joint program of the Health and Agriculture Ministries is being financed by Japan and the World Bank. In *Pakistan*, the agricultural program includes indirect interventions focused on nutrition and is 70% financed.

### **3) 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 complete, 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>

The Secretariat will distribute a note on the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the 2014 SUN Movement Global Gathering shortly: it will include 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.

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## **ANNEX: the 4 strategic processes of the SUN movement**

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During conference calls, Government Focal Points share their experience in advancing nutrition efforts at country level, reviewing the four SUN processes defined in the SUN Strategy to Scale Up Nutrition which indicate the stage of a country's preparedness. These four processes have been translated into four indicators agreed upon with the SUN Movement Secretariat, which are:

### **Process One: Bringing people into a shared space for action:**

This process describes the progressive changes needed to bring stakeholders into a Multi- Stakeholder Platform (MSP) in order for them to align activities behind country-led policies and plans and to take joint decisions for action. The MSP is convened by a government body with a multi-sectoral mandate able to engage relevant line Ministries and key partners from civil society, donors, business, UN system organisations and universities.

### **Process Two: Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework**

This process describes the progressive changes needed to create a legal and policy environment where nutrition action is prioritized and enabled. Such a legal environment is created by the existence of legislation related to nutrition. In addition, an enabling environment for nutrition is created through the existence of nutrition-specific policies, strategies and plans, as well as updated nutrition-sensitive policies in areas such as agriculture, education, social protection and others.

### **Process Three: Aligning around a Common Results Framework**

This process contains a description of the progressive alignment of programs around shared goals captured in a Common Results Framework (CRF), for both nutrition-specific interventions and for nutrition-sensitive programs in other sectors. The CRF is based on consensus across the Government and non-Government partners (bilateral Donors, UN, civil society organisations, etc.) on the contribution that each stakeholder can bring to improved nutrition outcomes. The CRF helps to align existing strategies and programs and draws on relevant targets, indicators and means of verification.

### **Process Four: Financial Tracking and Resource Mobilization**

This process focuses on the progressive changes needed to ensure programs are clearly costed, gaps are identified and domestic and external resources are mobilized and tracked.