

SUN Movement Global Gathering

23 and 24 September 2013

Opening and Closing Sessions Highlights

Welcome Remarks

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SUN Movement Coordinator



It is my privilege to welcome participants to the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement Global Gathering. It is an enormous pleasure to see so many from the Movement's 42 countries. Indeed we are growing - both in breadth and depth.

This year's Global Gathering is a workshop with space for sharing achievements, challenges and solutions and for identifying the support we all need to accelerate efforts and achieve success.

During the Global Gathering we can look back at our achievements and chart our ways forward. It is an opportunity for us in the SUN Movement's Secretariat, as well as the Lead Group (which is meeting this morning), to learn from you about your progress and the challenges you face. It will be a busy period: I hope you will enjoy it as well.

We have the opportunity to set out our collective intentions for the rest of 2013 and 2014.

Since the SUN Movement was launched in September 2010, nutrition has risen up the agenda. Governments, development agencies, foundations, civil society groups, businesses and the research community have started to prioritize nutrition – as a health, education, development, and economic issue. They want to invest in eliminating malnutrition and helping people take control of over-weight and obesity. The SUN Movement offers a platform which enables them to work better together and to handle any disagreements.

This profound change in the approach to nutrition manifests itself in four ways. There is increased political engagement, ways of working are being transformed, the focus on outcomes is enhanced, and attention is focused on the long term.

First, political engagement is increasing: Governments, development agencies, foundations, civil society groups, businesses and the research community are aligning their focus on the full spectrum of people's nutrition – bringing together all forms of malnutrition (including specific nutrient deficiencies, under-nutrition and over-weight). They recognize malnutrition as an injustice that can be eliminated through specific nutrition actions and nutrition sensitive strategies. These empower people to take better control of how they are nourished. No longer are nutrition programmes seen just as a response to people in need: they are now part of proactive support for people's equitable and inclusive economic development with an emphasis on realization of their human rights.



Second, ways of working for nutrition are being transformed: Different stakeholders are aligning their actions to support the achievement of an agreed set of results as put forth in national nutrition plans. The plans reflect the interests of people and the combined efforts of different government sectors. Plans are being developed and implemented by local authorities in provinces and districts. At the local level multiple groups are working together in multi-stakeholder platforms which support the implementation of national policies and are bounded by transparent principles. Increasingly these platforms seek to implement in synergy, monitor progress carefully, take collective credit for achievements, emphasize mutual accountability and undertake robust outcome assessments.

Third, there is enhanced focus on nutritional outcomes: Stakeholders are concentrating on making a collective impact by building on the pioneering scientific analyses, seeking to invest more and calling for greater international commitment. There is less concern with the visibility of individual stakeholders and a stronger focus on how collective actions lead to sustainable impact.

Fourth, throughout the Movement, attention is on the future, not just the present: It is recognized that the success of the Movement requires more than 10 years of effort with consistent care to ensure that all work together in a trusting and transparent way; that harmful conflicts are avoided; that networks of support work in synergy and that predictable financial and technical backing is available,

This year we also had the opportunity to benefit from a major global initiative – “Nutrition for Growth” – hosted by UK, Brazil and the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation - with its focus on a compact of commitments to work together to improve nutrition.

SUN countries want the Movement as a whole to help them develop their capacity to scale up, to build multi-stakeholder platforms that work, to better plan across sectors, to implement effectively (especially at district and community levels), to monitor results, and to advocate effectively for new resources. One innovation proposed is to enable national governments to share their plans and programmes for investor reviews – to build investor confidence and to see what reinforcement they might need.

Thanks to your efforts the SUN Movement is now respected and credible and is gaining traction. It is getting the attention of many groups working for human development who increasingly see the value of working in movements. The achievements of the Movement during the last 12 months are set out in the SUN Progress Report for 2013. It is in draft form awaiting your comments and agreement during the next two days. It will be finalized during October 2013.



I hope that your discussions over the next 2 days will be full of insights: that you will nurture ideas and that ways to overcome challenges will be identified. I encourage you to share ideas about how the Movement can strengthen the capacity of all to scale up nutrition and demonstrate credible results. I hope that after two days everyone will return feeling inspired and with a new sense of determination.

Closing Plenary

I. Consolidating Our Learning



David Nabarro, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition and SUN Movement Coordinator, opened the first segment of the closing plenary by briefly summarizing key learnings from the Global Gathering:

Countries want to scale up nutrition and are asking for help to do this. The SUN Movement Secretariat has an important role to play as ‘matchmaker’, helping countries access the know-how for defining and implementing nutrition-sensitive approaches, preparing plans, costing them and rolling them out. The SUN Movement Networks need to use performance indicators which reflect the success of this matchmaking.

Earlier in the day, *Margaret Chan, the Director-General of the World Health Organization*, and member of the UN System Network for Nutrition said that the indicators should cover the extent of high-level political commitment, the involvement of different stakeholders (such as women’s groups and farmer organizations), the engagement and contribution of businesses, success with unlocking financial pledges from domestic and external sources, as well as capacity for monitoring, sharing of experiences and learning lessons. This will only be possible if there is strong engagement of the research community to undertake operational research and to support training in multi-stakeholder efforts to implement multi-sectoral approaches.

Dr Nabarro then welcomed participants from SUN Countries and Networks to contribute to a panel discussion and share their key reflections from the Global Gathering.

Emorn Wasantwisut, *Senior Advisor, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University, Thailand* (and adviser to the SUN Movement country network), said that countries are expected to report on thousands of progress indicators: if the Movement is able to align behind countries and their priorities, it will help them succeed. The stimulus for this alignment comes from in-country high-level political commitment. To strengthen commitment and effective alignment in Southeast Asia, Ms. Wasantwisut hopes that there will be a one-day high-level meeting on nutrition at the ASEAN leaders’ meeting in Myanmar, 2014.

Professor Neeraj Kumar Sethi, *Head Planning and Evaluation, National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi* (and adviser to the SUN Movement country network), said that countries will only succeed if they are at the centre of the Movement and are supported with technical expertise and know-how from regional resource centres.

Bibi Giyose, *Senior Food and Nutrition Security Advisor, New Partnership for Africa’s Development or NEPAD*– (and adviser to the SUN Movement country network) said that countries are requesting additional financial resources but they are not interested in “throwing money” at nutrition: they

want to be sure that they have the capacity to spend it well. This means improved capability at community level through effective extension services that engage young professionals. It means encouraging sustainability and continuity of capacity wherever possible. It means building on whatever exists already and not re-inventing the wheel. It means, above all, sustaining the focus on multi-sectoral approaches even though they are complex to implement.

Sean De Cleene, *Senior Vice President, Global Initiatives, Yara International* (SUN Movement Business Network) has been participating in multi-stakeholder partnerships for food security and nutrition in the last three years. He said that several streams of work have taken off in recent months – including the SUN Movement, initiatives for climate justice (and climate-smart agriculture) and partnerships for food security, especially in Africa. The challenge is to maintain momentum by fostering inclusive community-level actions while leveraging greater political commitment from (and accountability of) leaders. He believes that perhaps this could best be done by aligning SUN with other agendas – such as Grow Africa, the African Year of Agriculture and Food Security and initiatives by civil society and farmer organizations in Africa. Can the SUN Movement create a larger virtual platform for action using modern technology? Can this focus on the entire value chain (from farm to fork) so that efforts to improve people’s access to nutritious foods go beyond bio-fortification and include improvements to infrastructure, storage and markets.

Asma Lateef, *Director of the Bread for the World Institute* (SUN Movement Civil Society Network), said that the SUN Movement has spurred collaboration among stakeholders within countries and this really was not happening before the Movement started. Civil society is seizing the opportunity to work together in support of stronger efforts in-country. The in-country transformations within SUN countries are at very different stages; there is a lot of sharing and learning happening now, and more to be done. The emphasis at the Global Gathering has been on unpacking the lessons and understanding how to unlock current processes so that transformations happen naturally. The pre-requisites for this include the establishment of strong policy frameworks at the national level (which enable alignment and coordination) and strong support for champions at community, district and national levels. Ms. Lateef believes that the Civil Society Network can support such processes at all these levels through effective advocacy.

Marie Konate, *Director, Protein Kisseè- La S.A.Cote D’Ivoire* (SUN Movement Business Network) said that the SUN Movement has helped to facilitate exchanges between actors: it has allowed businesses to have exchanges with governments on how they can support the implementation of nutrition strategies. Businesses are not villains and have roles to play in helping people to reduce their risks of becoming malnourished. The challenge for Cote d’Ivoire now is to encourage more young agribusinesses to engage in support of scaling up nutrition.

Nancy Walters, *Global Coordinator, REACH Partnership, (UN System Network for Nutrition)*, said that there is increasing respect and mutual accountability among stakeholders as they establish their different roles in advancing efforts for scaling up nutrition. Ms. Walters recounted the messages she heard from country participants over the two days. She heard country participants saying they want to do better but they don’t want others to do it for them, and that capacity building is critical. Participants from countries called on the UN



system to do better: to use its credibility and its convening power more effectively with government leadership to help raise funds and increase capacity. Country participants said it was time for the UN system to stop sowing the seeds of confusion in countries and to clarify the different mandates and roles of UN system agencies so that they speak clearly and consistently, with one voice. From her side, Ms. Walters resolved to act on these messages and ensure that the UN system is a better partner for countries.

Shawn Baker, *Director of Nutrition, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation* (SUN Movement Donor Network) said that he is pleased to hear SUN countries prioritize the need for help with capacity building (an intervention that is so often ignored). More than a decade ago worldwide support for people's responses to threats posed by HIV included a purposeful decision to invest in strengthening capacity, so as to ensure that the right people have the right skills in the right places. Mr. Baker recalled the words of Tanzania's President Kikwete who spoke of having a nutritionist in every district. Perhaps the ambition could be even bolder – strengthening the nutrition capacity of all key actors in each district! Mr Baker would like to see 2014 become the year of African Agriculture, Food Security *and Nutrition*.

Anna Taylor, *Senior Nutrition Advisor, UK Department for International Development* (SUN Movement Donor Network) said that the Global Gathering marks a new phase in the evolution of the Movement. There has been a notable increase in high-level political commitments and the challenge now is to ensure effective implementation and outcomes. It is complex: can the Movement focus on delivery which maintains the spirit of multi-stakeholder engagement and the best practices that reflect multi-sectoral approaches? We are immersed in this difficult work now, and the only way to advance is through the sharing of experiences between SUN countries. Ms. Taylor then proposed several questions: How can the Networks, SUN Movement Secretariat and Lead Group facilitate this exchange? How can the Donor Network best help to ensure that commitments are realized? She believes that there are probably several ways to do this. From her perspective, if the donors work together in support of SUN countries they can contribute enormously to effectiveness – “unlocking doors” and articulating how commitments can be turned into results. Ms. Taylor confirmed that one priority for the Donor Network is to identify donor conveners for the countries that do not have them and strengthen the capacity of donor conveners where they exist.

Participants then raised a number of issues. They pointed out that the SUN Movement is advancing quickly because there is political commitment is at a very high level. They identified specific areas in which progress could be enhanced. They requested more engagement of finance ministers given the importance of good nutrition as a contributor to national gross domestic product. Participants wanted more attention to be given to the case for investing in nutrition, with narratives that are meaningful within finance ministries. Could there be greater emphasis on nutrition at annual meetings of finance ministers?

There is a need to make nutrition relevant to a broad range of sectors so that they all consider how to contribute to nutritional outcomes. This means that nutrition must not be presented as a health issue: there are both economic and a social justice arguments for investing in people's nutrition. Nutrition consciousness should feature in different sectors so that even when resources are scarce, progress is made. The same arguments should be shared with ministers of education, trade and industry, with the UN system representatives bringing these ministries on board, not just at the national and regional levels but also in local governments.

Scaling up nutrition calls for the strengthening of in-country capabilities as it will increase the ability of countries to use investments to the best effect. In many cases action for nutrition will be decentralized to local level. This calls for an appreciation, at national level, of what is happening in communities. Parliamentarians (as elected representatives) have a key role to play and the challenge, now, is to enable that knowledge to spread between SUN countries. In next few years, the SUN Movement will continue to engage with leaders to ensure a high political profile for nutrition as a key development issue.

II. Visions for a longer-term future



Tom Arnold, *Chairman, Convention of the Irish Constitution*, quoted Sir Faizle Hasan Abed as saying that it took 30 years for child-survival efforts to realize substantial impact. They contributed to a dramatic decrease in the number of children dying each year. Mr. Arnold believes that the SUN Movement offers promise for more rapid progress through (a) the continuous reinforcement and sharing of political will; (b) good national-level policy frameworks and (c) sharing of experiences and learning about the complexities of implementation.

Werner Schultink, *Chief of Nutrition at UNICEF*, believes that over the next 5 years this effort is best taken forward through a 'movement' of stakeholders and not as a more bureaucratic programme. The Movement should encourage the societal changes that are needed to trigger transformations so that nutrition-enhancing actions, including the wide-spread breastfeeding of infants, become the norm. Werner also urged participants use new technology to make the Movement as inclusive as possible. He encouraged all in the Movement to demonstrate achievements through the systematic sharing of the ways they are reinforcing capacity and realizing results.

Keith Bezanson, who worked on the *2010 Framework for Scaling Up Nutrition and the 2012 SUN Movement Stewardship Study*, focused on the importance of encouraging the better delivery of specific interventions so that higher proportions of national populations are able to access specific nutrition interventions. Mr. Bezanson suggested that SUN Movement countries need help to reinforce capacities so that they are both durable and appropriate. Donors should set out clearly what they are able to offer and ways in which they can enable countries to better access the support they need. Monitoring results with the SUN Movement Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is priority.

Jean-Pierre Halkin, *Head of Unit, Rural Development, Food Security & Nutrition, European Union*, stressed that progress cannot be achieved through doing 'more of the same'. Mr. Halkin called for investment in strong frameworks for accountability that monitor the pursuit of policies, the realization of goals and targets, and means for accelerating progress so as to achieve impact. He stressed the need for convergence of global and regional initiatives - including the 1,000 Days Partnership, the Nutrition for Growth commitments and compact, the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. He suggested that scientific study of these initiatives should be encouraged so as to produce evidence on means through which resources can be used as effectively as possible.

Vinita Bali, *Managing Director, Britannia Industries Ltd, in India*, suggested that concerted action is needed across the SUN Movement to drive forward multi-sectoral strategies with synergized implementation, measurement of outcomes and strong advocacy to ensure that nutrition comes to the centre of the stage (and stays there).

Michael Anderson, *Chief Executive Officer of the Children's Investment Fund Foundation*, suggested that in five years' time the SUN Movement would be assessed as successful if it continues to expand but does not become a bureaucracy, if the present high level of advocacy is accompanied by ever more intensive implementation, if it continues to link country needs with those who supply technical and financial resources (with effective and swift processes), if an annual global nutrition report is established, if ways of working adapt to reflect the growth of the movement and if (above all) the interests of people (and not organizational mandates or specific agendas) are at the centre of all efforts. Mr. Anderson noted that nutrition is featuring more centrally in multiple sectors across many countries, and that programmes that have hitherto competed are now becoming more aligned and effective.

Jay Naidoo *Chairman of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)* sees the high levels of malnutrition in today's world as evidence of political temerity and structural failure rather than a demand for new food products or other technical interventions. He would like to see increased engagement of young people in efforts to reduce people's risks of being malnourished, with them taking risks and seeking to change the nutrition narrative to one of securing justice. He said the only time a movement starts to happen is when we are in the minority and we are dwarfed by it. Our role, as supporters, is to stimulate the building of unexpected alliances within the context of unusual – even surprising – partnerships. He said that all of us have a role. He identified the controversy around the private sector in nutrition action as one that must be handled, saying "Governments have a constitutional role to play. How can you build a movement for nutrition without talking to the people who make food?"

Nahas Gideon Angula, *Minister of Defence, Namibia*, urged the Movement to move beyond 'fire brigade work' and to encourage long term strategies including treatment of severe acute malnutrition, deworming, support for breastfeeding, measurement of skeletal growth. He suggested that those in the Movement should focus on reinforcing the resilience of household livelihoods, on empowering small farmers to produce and process enough food for their families, and on the realization of the right to food and achievement of food and nutrition security at household level on a sustainable basis. In this regard it is vital to focus on accessibility, affordability and utilization of nutritious foods, as well as their production and stability.

Ibu Nina Sardjunani, *Deputy Minister of Human Resources and Culture, BAPPENAS, Indonesia*, reiterated her belief that the SUN Movement needs to be sustained within in the broader agenda of national poverty reduction. She proposed that a common set of indicators be developed to better enable the Movement as a whole to measure its progress. She also called on participants to ensure that development planning agencies were brought on board to champion nutrition with their respective ministries of finance.

Participants raised a number of issues, including (a) the importance of continuing to identify familiar people who would be willing to serve as champions for the inclusion of nutrition in the post-2015 development agenda and in regional and national conferences, (b) the needs for governments to be held to account for the resources they receive and use, as well as for donors to be explicit about their commitments to the SUN Movement Secretariat and beyond.



Participants recognized the importance of ensuring that momentum is sustained, that the potential contributions of the full range of stakeholders are appreciated (including the private sector) and that countries work together and learn from each other more.

Participants identified a key role for the Movement in encouraging SUN countries to share their models for scaling up nutrition and to learn from each other's experiences. They wanted to see better linkages between national and local level and build advocacy capacity towards mid-level decision makers.



Participants also advocated for more involvement of elected leaders, especially parliamentarians while recognizing that more resources requires more budgetary oversight and adherence to legislation.

After two days of discussion, debate and reflection, one thing was very clear: all in the SUN movement would do well to remember just how things were when it started to fully appreciate the progress of the SUN Movement. The transformations undertaken through the Movement are an active signs of changing experiences of people everywhere.

The new narrative around nutrition is leading to the engagement of many stakeholders and transformations within countries that enable people to scale up their own nutrition...It is a long-term effort.

