

SUN Movement Global Gathering Summary Report

23rd -24th September 2013

Main Highlights

The 2013 Global Gathering of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement was designed to create a space for in-depth, structured interaction among participants from all SUN countries and their networks of supporters. Over two days, multiple workshops and plenary sessions fostered in-depth discussions between all participants.

During the opening session, reflections on progress included a review of the preliminary version of the 2012-13 Progress Report which is based on information provided by SUN Country Government Focal Points and includes an analysis of how their work has advanced during the last year. Participants noted that political will for commitments for nutrition justice are increasing and contributing to the marked progress of the Movement. They also noted that political leaders are contributing to an evolving narrative on nutrition that reflects the spectrum of malnutrition, including specific nutrient deficiencies, under-nutrition and over-weight that undermines people's abilities to achieve their potential.

Participants also recognized nutrition is increasingly seen as an injustice which reflects the inequities present in many societies. They agreed that action to scale up nutrition must involve focused efforts to address inequities, including the empowerment of women so they can nourish themselves and their children in a world beset with many challenges including the impacts of conflict and climate change.

Countries that have been in the SUN Movement for longer were highlighting how they are strengthening, coordinating and aligning the efforts of different groups, especially at district and community levels so as to encourage synergy of action and ways of working together, setting great examples for the new countries and opportunities for shared learning.

There is a renewed focus on implementing for results. The Global Gathering marked a new phase in the SUN Movement, with SUN Country governments highlighting the urgency to strengthen their capacity to deliver and scale up actions. In country resources were identified and types of support required from external systems (regional and global) are clearly being defined and recognized as critical tasks for the SUN Movement going forward.

The 4th meeting of the SUN Movement Lead Group Meeting was on the morning of 23rd September. The Lead Group met with the organizers of the Nutrition for Growth event as well as those involved in the 1,000 Days Initiative to discuss ways to work effectively together to sustain momentum for nutrition. In addressing the Global Gathering, these leaders urged the participants to ensure the Movement does not become constrained by bureaucracy and that all commit to the long term goal of institutionalizing nutrition across sectors and countries.

The Global Gathering demonstrated how the approach to nutrition by SUN countries is becoming increasingly sophisticated and multi-dimensional, with a need to identify champions at every level in order to sustain action for nutrition when governments and priorities change.

"We want our children to survive, their mothers to survive. We want our children to be well and healthier so they can be promised their tomorrow"

Nahas Angula, Minister of Defence, Namibia

The 2013 Global Gathering of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement was designed to create a space for in-depth, structured interaction among participants from all SUN countries and their networks of supporters. The 250 participants came from governments, civil society groups, donor agencies, business enterprises, the United Nations and the scientific community. This report identifies some of the many issues and opportunities that emerged during the sessions of the Global Gathering.

Purpose and Sessions

The Global Gathering of the SUN Movement took place at the Asia Society in New York over two days. The meeting brought together SUN Country Government Focal Points and their country teams with members of the SUN Lead Group and SUN Networks. Two plenary sessions were supplemented by in-depth country-led and network-led discussion sessions. The **purpose** was to enhance the Movement's impact through:

- A. Demonstrating results in SUN countries – contributing to the learning agenda by focusing on how results can best be achieved;
- B. Enabling countries to seek solutions to help them scale up nutrition from other countries and networks;
- C. Bolstering mutual accountability within the Movement – with all constituents – countries, networks, secretariat and members of the Lead Group giving accounts of their contributions; and
- D. Envisioning the Movement beyond 2015.

Country-led sessions focused on six areas which SUN countries have identified as areas that they wished to learn more about:

- Scaling up nutrition: roll-out with communities
- Costing of national nutrition plans
- Nutrition-sensitive development
- Tracking of domestic and external funding
- Monitoring progress and demonstrating results
- Advocacy for high-level attention to nutrition

Network-led sessions were facilitated by each of the four support SUN Networks:

SUN Civil Society Network

- Supporting the implementation of commitments and investments in nutrition
- Developing a multi-sectoral plan: roles of UN and CSOs working together to strengthen country plans.

SUN Business Network

- What do SUN countries need from business to scale up nutrition?
- How can SUN countries work with SUN networks to create an effective multi-stakeholder approach to scaling up nutrition?

SUN Donor Network

- How can we draw on successes and new ideas to address some of the challenges to tracking progress?
- How to access finance for scaling up nutrition?

SUN UN Systems Network

- (1) Sharing country experiences, successes, challenges and needs for improved multi-sectoral nutrition actions
- (2) How can the UN System more effectively respond to country needs and offer better support for national efforts in nutrition?

2013: A Year of Progress

“It has been an extraordinary year of progress, not only for the SUN Movement: 42 members, a State of India, and a palpable sense of momentum... but more importantly a lot of progress has been made at the country level and the local level in SUN member countries and in nutrition generally. In 15 SUN countries now, the rate of reduction in stunting is over two per cent and what that means is we know it’s doable. And if we can do it there is no excuse for not doing it.”

Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF and Lead Group Chair, 23 September 2013

Participants in the Global Gathering reviewed a preliminary version of the 2012-13 Progress Report of the SUN Movement.¹ The analysis used to produce the report draws on the Movement’s Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which was developed in 2012 and sets out the institutional changes and strengthened implementation arrangements within SUN countries. Self-assessments show measurable progress by a significant number of countries across the 4 process indicators of the Movement:

- Successfully bringing people in the same space to work together: **8 countries**
- Establishment of coherent policies and legal frameworks for nutrition: **15 countries**
- Establishment of agreed multi-sectoral common results frameworks: **11 countries**
- Strengthening systems for monitoring finance, mobilizing resources and joint implementation around these common results: **19 countries**

This is a significant change from the previous report (2011 – 12). There has been a marked increase in the number of SUN countries that have advanced their institutional arrangements in relation to the last two of these four processes. Participants agreed that this progress has been made possible by the increased political attention from national leaders in SUN countries to the importance and urgency of scaling up efforts that will enable people to improve their nutrition.

Increased Political Commitments for Nutrition Justice

“With the SUN Movement the world is changing for three reasons. The first is the political dimension - we have gone beyond the speeches to involvement of political actors in implementing processes. The second is institutional - by tackling multi-sectorality we face a governance challenge (which has) repercussions on policy design and implementation. Thirdly a conceptual change is taking place.... Nutrition is related to social inequality, so by shifting our minds to tackling social equality we mainstream nutrition.”

Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD and Lead Group Member, 23 September 2013

Participants at the Global Gathering noted that the language used by political leaders to talk about nutrition is evolving: they speak in terms of a spectrum of malnutrition, including specific nutrient deficiencies, under-nutrition and over-weight that undermine people’s abilities to achieve their potential. Nutrition is increasingly seen as an injustice which reflects the inequities present in many societies.

Participants agreed that action to scale up nutrition involves action to address these inequities, including the empowerment of women so they can nourish themselves and their children in a world beset with many challenges including the impacts of conflicts and climate change. Good nutrition is

¹ Thirteen countries joined the Movement during this period. The report collates information provided by SUN Country Government Focal Points from the other 29 SUN countries and analyzes how their work has advanced during the period.

now seen as critical for poverty reduction and societal development – it is a reflection of people’s abilities to realize their human rights.

Governments, development agencies, foundations, civil society groups, businesses and the research community are aligning their thinking around this new narrative and listening to countries to better appreciate how they are planning and acting to scale up nutrition.

An increase in political attention has also been reflected in several high-level regional and international events. At least USD23 billion of domestic and external financial resources have been committed to nutrition with the expectation that more will be available once successes are demonstrated.

There was much discussion on means to establish systems for accountability and on the roll out of plans for scaling up nutrition in ways that involve communities, civil society and parliamentarians. This requires continuing advocacy and meaningful communication to people not previously familiar with nutrition issues.

An Increase in Joint Working for People’s Nutrition

“The only time a movement starts to happen is when we, the activists or nutritionists, are the minority. That’s when we move from being an institution to building a movement... that means that we have to build the most unusual types of alliances, with the most unusual types of partners...and there is no one sitting as a gate-keeper... we all have a role in the way we build a movement.”

Jay Naidoo, Chair of the Board of Directors and the Partnership Council of GAIN and Lead Group Member, 24 September 2013

Participants from countries new to the SUN Movement were particularly keen to network with other countries and development partners during the Global Gathering. Countries that have been in the SUN Movement for longer highlighted how they are strengthening, coordinating and aligning the efforts of different groups who are implementing activities especially at district and community levels, so as to encourage synergy of action and ways of working together, particularly on how best to engage different private sector and civil society groups.

Hence, there was much interest in exchanging experiences about how best to encourage effective multi-sectoral working, including the setting of targets, the development of common results frameworks agreed between sectors and stakeholders, and the production of plans that reflect the various contributions that are being made to implementation, and cost them as comprehensively as possible.

Participants discussed the challenges they face in encouraging effective inter-sectoral coordination and ensuring that different stakeholders align their efforts. This coordination and alignment was noted to be even more complex when the government focal point is located in a sectoral ministry – such as the Ministry of Health – and not in a more central entity like the Office of the President, the Prime Minister or the Planning Commission.

None of this work is easy, and participants shared their experiences – and challenges – openly, seeking suggestions from each other about ways in which they can best be handled. The development of comprehensive plans and costing them has been an area of focus throughout the Movement in 2013, with the emphasis on the use of standardized methods that can be applied at national and sub-national levels, and on implementation systems that avoid duplication and maximize effectiveness.

A Renewed Focus on Implementing for Results

“We need to show results. The political mind has a short attention span. We will lose it if we don’t deliver, deliver, deliver.”

Keith Bezanson, President of Keith Bezanson and Associates, 24 September 2013

Several participants noted that the Global Gathering marked a new phase in the SUN Movement: a shift from an emphasis on building high-level political will and putting institutional processes in place to concern with the complexity of delivery while keeping the spirit of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approaches.

SUN Countries led breakout sessions with the aim of sharing their learning, challenges and needs in relation to six themes that were identified by countries as critical for progress.

- a. **Rolling-out scaling-up nutrition to communities:** negotiating and agreeing Common Results Frameworks at national and sub-national levels
- b. **Costing of national nutrition plans:** Reinforcing the quality of plans for enhancing nutrition within different sectors through developing, costing and budgeting these plans.
- c. **Nutrition sensitive development:** implementing the priority areas of Common Results Frameworks and national plans, to ensure that results are achieved
- d. **Tracking of domestic and external funding:** ensuring that resources are used efficiently and effectively, and linking investments made to results achieved at various levels.
- e. **Monitoring progress and demonstrating results:** contributing to global nutrition information systems with data that are credible and recognized as valid by international authorities.
- f. **Advocacy for high-level attention to nutrition:** Galvanizing leaders across all sectors to act for nutrition

These sessions demonstrated that SUN countries are leading the Movement. Countries shared lessons of success and explained ways they are tackling and overcoming obstacles. This led to frank discussions amongst participants as to the way lessons and experiences shared can inform future collective efforts of the Movement. Participants spelt out their visions for the future of the Movement and identified ways in which they can be better supported through the work of international advocates and supporters. The governments of SUN countries highlighted the urgency of strengthening their capacity to deliver and scale up actions which will lead to improvements in nutrition

Resources in-country that were identified as available included:

- The willingness of leaders to make commitments and act on them
- Funding – at central and decentralized levels
- Capacity in the private sector– so far often untapped
- Existing systems, particularly information and tracking systems, that can be strengthened
- Information sources that can be better used and shared

The types of support required from external resources were identified as:

- Regional and global systems for collation of information
- Tracking of investments and resources, experience and learning, which were easily accessible for SUN countries
- Technical assistance
- Operational research especially on nutrition-sensitive approaches
- Human resource capacity development – not only in training but also institutional strengthening and other types of support based on capacity assessments made in country

Clearly defining requirements for support, identifying sources, primarily in-country and if not available internally then externally, and matching requests with responses were recognized as critical tasks for the SUN Movement going forward. The SUN Movement Secretariat was tasked with ‘matching’ country self-assessments of support required - beyond that which can be accessed internally - with sources of external support designed to respond to country requirements.

The SUN Networks organized several sessions with a view to enhancing the dialogue with SUN countries. Networks sought to respond to the questions being posed by countries about how they can better access the additional support they need and how they can encourage networks to work together better in support of nationally led plans to scale up nutrition.

Civil Society Network

The first session run by the Civil Society Network examined how governments can be supported and assisted in their efforts to track commitments and investments for nutrition. The session drew on the experiences of Civil Society Alliances in SUN countries. The second session focused on the roles of the UN and civil society organisations in supporting government multi-sectoral nutrition plans. Civil society has a role in raising awareness of nutrition among parliamentarians and at the community level; building capacity; keeping governments on task and accountable; and helping national civil society organisations to harmonize their voices so as to more effectively engage with government.

Business Network

The Business Network explored the potential opportunities and challenges of working with business to scale up nutrition. It also examined successful multi-stakeholder partnerships involving business. It is the role of government to tell business where they want to go and business can then provide the means and intellect to get there. For business, a critical starting point is that nutrition must be an integral part of business, and not a corporate social responsibility project. There was a plea from some speakers to move beyond viewing business as a villain and instead look at opportunities to leverage shared objectives to achieve social good - delivering social, intellectual and monetary profit. Business does have a role to play in fighting malnutrition, particularly in helping to provide innovative solutions. Nevertheless there are challenges to ensure that businesses are fully aligned with government plans and that governments are in the driving seat.

Donor Network

The first session run by the Donor Network focused on the need for better data for improved decision making and increased confidence. Existing and new tracking mechanisms were presented, including a potential global networked information system for nutrition. There was discussion about how tracking

mechanisms can be better tailored to assist SUN countries. There was agreement that information collected must be linked firmly to decisions about policy, that country ownership of information was important and that information has a crucial role in learning. A successful multi-sectoral M&E framework also requires incentives for sectors to assure their involvement.

The second Donor Network session focused on addressing financing gaps in countries, introduced the proposed catalytic funding process and different mechanisms for accessing financial support, including pooled funding at country level. There was some agreement that it was not so much about new investments but more about how to shift financing flows towards nutrition. The challenge for the Donor Network is to articulate clearly the key to unlocking financial commitments. There are probably several keys and donors can get better at articulating what they are. In addition, participants highlighted the critical role that Ministers of Finance could play in increasing investment in nutrition, particularly within regional fora where they could be lobbied.

UN Network

The UN Network focused on how the UN system could more effectively respond to country needs and offer better support for national efforts in nutrition. It is essential that the UN is coordinated and aligned internally and with country priorities. There are many ways in which UN agencies can support countries through technical support, human resource capacity building, harmonizing guidelines and indicators. There was a call from countries for the UN to do better; to use its credibility convening power more effectively with government leadership to ensure prioritization of nutrition, help raise funds and increase capacity. There was also a call to stop confusing governments with complicated relationships between UN agencies with different mandates and roles. The UN needs to speak with one voice while capitalizing on individual agency strengths.

The Imperative of Demonstrating Results and Impact

“(Our) second priority is maximizing our impact by strengthening mutual accountability and ensuring that countries are equipped to monitor and assess improvements.”

Paul Rochon: Deputy Minister of International Development, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada, 23 September 2013

Many of the participants reiterated that there now needs to be a stronger focus on ensuring that actions lead to sustainable impact.

Participants from SUN countries set out the steps that they are taking to ensure delivery of results and to demonstrate impact. They highlighted that nutrition-related information needs to be firmly linked to policy. There was discussion about the importance of measuring success by outcomes and providing incentives to different sectors and stakeholders to work towards agreed outcomes.

While highlighting that it is more cost-effective to employ existing systems for tracking of investments and results, participants saw a need to harmonize tools and develop robust but simple tracking systems. It was suggested that one or two outcome indicators for nutrition impact should be agreed.

The Movement is Gearing Up for a Long Term Effort

“The more I am involved in the SUN Movement, the more I believe that the Movement needs to be eventually sustained in government programmes and to do that we need to link the Movement with poverty eradication strategies.”

Nina Sardjunani, Deputy Minister for Human Resources Development and Cultural Affairs at the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning, 24 September 2013

The Global Gathering demonstrated how the approach to nutrition by SUN countries is becoming increasingly sophisticated and multi-dimensional. Speakers in the closing session focused specifically on looking to the future. They highlighted that sustainable progress – over the next 10 to 30 years - will be key and will require sustained political commitment from SUN country governments. These speakers reiterated the need to identify champions at every level in order to sustain action for nutrition when governments and priorities change. Civil society was viewed as having an essential role to play in ensuring continuity between one government and another.

It was noted that coherent messaging about nutrition and its relevance to other sectors is important to emphasize that nutrition is neither just a health matter nor just an economic concern, but a social justice issue as well. In order to sustain the Movement over the next five years, some speakers noted that it is crucial to remain as a ‘movement’ and avoid becoming a ‘bureaucracy’ – building a grassroots movement whilst at the same time encouraging the evolution of governance structures to ensure that nutrition is institutionalized across sectors.

Ensuring that countries remain at the core of the SUN Movement was viewed by many speakers and participants as critical. SUN countries will need to continue to build credible policy frameworks at the national level in which there is shared confidence. At the same time, it is necessary to pay attention to the decentralization process and better understand what is happening in communities directly affected by malnutrition. Collective action was highlighted as essential and greater efforts to bring civil society and business to the table required. One of the most significant challenges that was identified by several speakers was increased participation of young people in the SUN Movement as well as strengthening the involvement of women and parliamentarians.

The final session highlighted the struggle that SUN Country Government Focal Points and their country teams continue to have in bringing political attention to nutrition, planning and maintaining functioning systems, supporting scaled up actions, monitoring and demonstrating results. There should be no underestimation of the task ahead. Nevertheless, there are opportunities in 2014 and beyond to keep nutrition in focus.

“We have two appointments in Brazil – 2014 and 2015 – but before that we must work even closer together to deepen our commitment to fight hunger and to have better nutrition.”

Mr. Carlos Antonio da Rocha Paranhos, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs- Brazil, 23 September 2013

Participant Evaluations of the Global Gathering

Around half of all participants completed a short survey to evaluate the Global Gathering. Over 90% of these respondents reported that their objectives in coming to the meeting were met. There was a strong call for longer group discussions on thematic issues. Respondents mostly gave positive ratings to country-led, network-led and plenary sessions. Comments on logistics were generally good though there was disappointment with some aspects including the interpretation services. With regards to a future Global Gathering, there was a significant preference for future regional summits where more in depth conversations and knowledge sharing could take place. All comments have been recorded and will help with future decisions for the Movement – thank you for your input.

Summary of SUN Lead Group Meeting

The SUN Movement Lead Group members met to review progress in SUN countries and global networks of supporters. They were joined by representatives of Nutrition for Growth and the 1000 days' partnership.

His Excellency, President Kikwete of Tanzania joined other members of the Lead Group in welcoming the tremendous efforts by SUN Country Government Focal Points and their partners in maintaining the political focus on nutrition, and on their efforts to accelerate results through the twin track strategy of scaling up specific nutrition interventions and pursuing nutrition sensitive approaches that address the underlying determinants of malnutrition. However, they noted that much more needed to be done to improve the nutritional status of all women and children and ensure nutrition justice for all.

The Lead Group highlighted importance of aligning behind nationally owned plans. They called for the strengthening of national capacities to deliver results at scale, so that difficult-to-reach and vulnerable populations are to be able to access services and entitlements. They specifically highlighted the importance of empowering women to be the key drivers of change. They sought to focus the efforts of the members of the Movement on performance, quality and results through transformations in the way governments and their supporters institutionalise nutrition in their planning, policies, budgets and targets so that results can be sustained at scale. They called for the Movement to improve the provision of technical support, skills transference, and the sharing of expertise in ways that are responsive to the needs articulated by SUN Country Government Focal Points. They considered ways to support governments prioritise actions so that specific nutrition interventions and nutrition-sensitive approaches with the greatest impact are implemented.

The Lead Group also highlighted the importance of improving the monitoring of progress and the strengthening of transparent accountability. The success of the SUN Movement is measured not by the number of countries scaling up nutrition but by results, and the demonstration of results will be a key factor in maintaining momentum. They urged work towards a standardised set of indicators, on ways to track domestic and external financial commitments, and common understanding of what investments are expected to achieve. They encouraged the continuation of work to maintain the confidence of investors in national nutrition plans, by supporting strengthened monitoring systems, improved reporting and clearer communication of results. They emphasised that quality data will increase understanding, engagement and impact. They urged the Movement to ensure that all stakeholders have a clear understanding of, and build upon, the Movement-wide Principles of Engagement and to continue the dialogue on conflict of interests. They tasked the Secretariat to contribute to a global, independent, authoritative report on malnutrition to maintain momentum and strengthen accountability, and to seek ways to encourage convergence with new and emerging initiatives on nutrition.

The Lead Group recognised that efforts to scale up nutrition will require a long-term commitment over several decades. They encouraged SUN countries and members to explore learning from countries that have successfully worked to accelerate reductions in hunger and poverty and the realisation of the right to adequate food security and nutrition. They agreed to work to ensure that the Movement is open to all stakeholders that align with the Movement's principles, and appreciated the different capacities and experiences that are brought by a wide range of stakeholders. They sought to ensure that whilst nutrition becomes institutionalised across sectors and throughout countries, the SUN Movement itself remains movement that is not constrained by bureaucracy.