

Summary Note (draft)
SUN Country Focal Points Network
Teleconferences held 28th February – 5th March 2013

The seventh meeting of the SUN Country Network was held on the 28th February and the 5th March 2013. For reasons of logistics and time zones, five teleconferences were organized for the countries of the following regions: (i) Asia, (ii) Francophone Africa and Haiti (iv) Anglophone African countries that have developed a costed nutrition multi-sectoral plan; (v) Anglophone African countries that have not yet fully developed a costed nutrition multi-sectoral plan and (vi) Latin America. Each conference followed the same agenda. This note is a summary of all calls.

Participants:

SUN Country Focal Points and technical experts were invited to participate in all teleconferences. The full list of participants is provided in **Annex 1**.

Agenda:

The following points were discussed in the teleconferences with the SUN Country Network:

- Update on the ongoing **aggregation exercise of national costed plans** for scaling up nutrition
- Update by the SUN Secretariat on the **first teleconference involving facilitators of the Global Networks** for Scaling Up Nutrition
- **Communication and advocacy** in SUN countries - activities and needs for support: Update by SUN country Focal Points
- Briefing by countries on **progresses related to the implementation of the four processes** for scaling up nutrition, as well as of support requirements.

Discussion on the on-going aggregation exercise of national costed plans for scaling up nutrition

- SUN Countries were briefed on the progress in the implementation by the SMS and a pool of experts of an aggregation & categorization exercise of multi-sector nutrition plans of interested SUN countries, aimed at bringing together national costed national plans in order to take advantage of this year of unprecedented opportunities for resource mobilization.
- The SMS hopes that this exercise will help identify funding gaps and mobilize resources from partners including donors, development banks and others.
- Costs of plans are being collated across countries – both for specific nutrition interventions and for the implementation of nutrition-sensitive strategies. The work is based on estimates of actual costs developed by national authorities as they put together their country plans for scaling up nutrition. It involves an understanding of how the authorities costed their national nutrition plans, reinforcing the plans as necessary so that they are comparable, and then aggregating the costs of common elements across

different national plans. This is done using a framework that allows for a reframing of the costs of country plans within categories that are comparable across countries.

- In addition to presenting the aggregated costs, the SMS is also working with countries to see if it will be possible to collate shortfalls in financing by taking into account the financial commitments that have already been made by Governments and development partners in the involved countries. The Secretariat, together with interested countries, will try to reflect - as accurately as possible – what is currently happening in each SUN country in terms of the scale and coverage of interventions.
- So far 12 national costed plans have been analysed. The SMS has received another six costed plans, which will also be analysed. Other countries have also expressed an interest in participating in this exercise. Technical teams have visited, or are about to visit, six countries (Kenya, Bangladesh (to be confirmed), Mozambique, Madagascar, Nepal and Sierra Leone) for a more in-depth discussion of the costed country plans with the Government and key stakeholders. All countries participating in the country-up costing exercise will be involved in the following steps:
 - Framing the Plan (done by the technical team): All national costed plans will be entered into a framework using a standard categorization of interventions and actions
 - Feedback: Comments will be sought from each SUN Country Focal Point once the plan has been framed – where necessary requesting more information about methods and assumptions used to estimate the costs in the plan
 - Finalization: The presentation of the national costed plans will be finalized based on the feedback received through phone conversations and/or country visits.
- This exercise may allow the development of a case for resource mobilization that is stronger than ever before. The work will be presented during various international meetings in 2013 (Scaling Up Nutrition Senior Officials Meeting in Brussels, Thursday and Friday 14-15 March 2013; Pre-G8 event on food and nutrition security in UK in June).

Update by the SUN Secretariat on the first 2013 teleconference involving facilitators of the global networks for Scaling Up Nutrition

The SUN Country network was informed on the following points:

- Four global networks are already established: Donors (including foundations and World Bank); Civil Society (links national and global Civil Society); UN (including REACH, SCN and individual UN agencies) and Business (only includes businesses committed to responsible actions)
- There are on-going discussions concerning the establishment of regional hubs composed of groups with regional expertise; ASEAN does already have some capacity based out of Thailand and at much earlier stage there have been offers to establish regional hubs in New Delhi, Brazil and South Africa. This concept is still in ‘early thinking’ stage but the SMS hopes will develop to better link the research community with needs of SUN countries

- The first meeting of SUN Network Facilitators took place on 12 February by teleconference. Now that all of the SUN Networks have appointed facilitators the SMS plans to convene these calls every six weeks. The objectives of the calls are:
 - To increase Networks' awareness of country actions and needs;
 - To increase inter-network communication; and
 - To update Networks on the work of the SMS and to inform Networks of areas where their action is required in response to requests from the SUN Lead Group.

- The Secretariat presented the Network Facilitators with an overview of the areas where countries expressed a need for further support during the last SUN country Network Call. which included:
 - Development, updating or finalisation of National Nutrition Plans.
 - Development of Common Results Frameworks on the basis of existing sectoral plans and policies.
 - Development of Financial Tracking systems.
 - Development or finalisation of Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks.
 - Decentralisation of National Nutrition Plans.
 - Implementation in remote areas.
 - Sharing experiences with other countries.

- The four global Networks have established their Governance mechanisms and are now moving to being able to respond to country needs. It was agreed that over time Networks will indicate how they will respond to country requests as communicated through the six-weekly SUN Country Network Calls. As a first step, SUN UN Network undertook to share information notes and guidance on nutrition sensitive development approaches and integrating nutrition into sectors as soon as finalised.

- In order to facilitate ensure alignment of support of networks to country needs and priorities the SMS will develop a system to collate Country requests and to track Network responses with a view to having responses within six-weeks.

- The SMS understands that SUN countries will first discuss their needs for support with the representatives of the different networks at the country level and with regional actors. They are the first to be mobilized for responding to these needs. **Countries are invited to also share their needs with the SMS as fully as possible in writing an email or a letter to the SUN Secretariat. Countries may also indicate whether they have shared these needs with the country representatives of SUN networks, and also what action is being taken as a result of their request.**

Communication and advocacy in SUN countries – activities and needs of support

In opening remarks the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS) outlined:

- Responses from countries to our recent set of questions have given us a clear indication that advocacy and communication is really important. We want to know the **specific types of support** you require so we can respond to your needs.
- We will continue to make PPTs and information notes available; will have them translated
- The SMS would really appreciate feedback on the **website** to ensure this is as useful as possible for SUN Countries. The SMS would especially welcome views on special features on the website (online

discussion; ability to upload independently; twitter feeds) that could help make the site more engaging.

The main points for action and follow-up:

- **Many countries are in the process of developing advocacy and communication strategies and would very much appreciate seeing examples of strategies and materials from other countries**
- **Advocacy kits for Parliamentarian work** at district level would be very helpful
- Support for Advocacy and Communication for **decentralization purposes** would be very relevant to many of the countries (*Tanzania, Indonesia*);
- Advocacy and communication materials would be **helpful for the nutrition champions** (*Tanzania*) and *Food and Nutrition Security Committees* (*Zimbabwe*)
- Countries attach importance to the **identification of nutrition champions at the regional and sub-regional levels**
- Advocacy materials are needed to **persuade high level decision-makers or the population** of the importance of nutrition (*Mozambique, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, El Salvador*)
- Besides sharing on advocacy and communication there is also need for assistance for capacity-building – It would be good to share **toolkits, guides and information about training opportunities** (*Emorn/Thailand may have materials to share*)
- **Visits from SMS or regional nutrition champions** to advocate in favour of nutrition are asked (*Yemen for April workshop, Madagascar 8th June for nutrition national day, Benin asked for President Gomes Monteiro visit*)
- **Support for elaboration of communication or advocacy strategy/plan** (*Zimbabwe, Kyrgyz Rep, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Nigeria, Madagascar*)
- **On the SUN Web site, establish links with the relevant websites of countries and regions.** The SUN Movement's webpage is appreciated as a very good tool to advocate for nutrition and to show country progresses in implementing national nutrition processes
- REACH is working in several countries on an **Investment Case for Nutrition** that has been helpful in raising profile of nutrition– **can be made available;**
- Advocacy: REACH pulling together some **examples of advocacy strategies (Uganda Mozambique and Tanzania) as well as TOR which explains what is involved in building a comprehensive advocacy and communication strategy** including advocacy, communication, behaviour change campaigns
- **Cost of Hunger Study:** AU/NEPAD will present results of first four countries (**Ethiopia, Egypt, Uganda and Swaziland**) at next African Ministers of Finance meeting in Ivory Coast in March 2013
- **FAO has completed video on linkages between agriculture and nutrition** in 2011; this may be helpful to countries.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWluIWz1ADM&list=SP8A8F9F986F79F673&index=4>
- A new series of articles from the **Lancet** will be published 6th June. **The SMS can send materials and speaking points to help countries take advantage of these for advocacy and communications**
- It was proposed that communications and advocacy are on the **agenda of the next Network Facilitators' calls**

- SMS will discuss, particularly with colleagues in UN family, to ensure we have really easily accessible body of materials for countries to draw on (photos, slide sets; videos, graphics etc) – and share what other countries have developed as priority
- Materials should be sent to the SMS directly for anything to go on the website. Large documents can be sent through www.yousendit.com facility.

Progresses related to the implementation of the four processes for scaling-up nutrition

- Strengthening **multi-sectoral platforms at national and district level**
 - In the process of nominating **SUN Government Focal Points** (*Sri Lanka – new country*)
 - In the process of **establishing a multi-sector platform** (*Mali, Niger and Burundi have just adopted the platform, Benin has just appointed the director of the Nutrition Permanent Council, Mozambique wants to create a high level convening body for nutrition, Zimbabwe is putting in place a number of multi-sectoral structures, Sierra Leone asked for sharing experience with countries having well-designed coordination structures, El Salvador counts with a number of inter-sectoral coordination spaces at the national level and is creating these spaces at departmental and municipal levels*)
 - **Engaging other sectors** to better position nutrition in their programs (*Ghana: FAO and REACH are helping Ministry of Agriculture to integrate nutrition concerns in medium term Agriculture Investment Plan, Zambia: Food and Nutrition security is second most component in the National Agriculture Investment Plan, Sierra Leone: recent workshop on how to incorporate nutrition in agriculture organized with FAO, Rwanda: there is an increase in engagement of key Ministries and the agriculture plan has incorporated sub-program on nutrition*)
 - **Decentralising coordination** (*Nepal is implementing the multi-sectoral plan at community level in 6 districts, Sri Lanka: last year Unicef supported trial multisectoral approach in 2 districts and SL wants now to scale up, Zimbabwe: existence of intersectoral teams at district level, Malawi: a WB project was launched in 15 districts, and decentralisation of the strategy; National Government in Peru is working jointly with 25 regional Governments to estimate funding gaps and define nutrition targets at the sub-regional level, as well with municipalities in the articulation of health and water & sanitation interventions*)
 - Sustain **the highest level political commitment** around nutrition (*Haiti is planning a SUN launch, Bangladesh is planning a national SUN launch with participation from the Prime Minister in 31st March, Ghana Health Service has prioritized nutrition on agenda of the next Child Health Promotion week in May, Zambia: launch in March is waiting for confirmation from Presidential Office, Zimbabwe is preparing to launch the adopted food and nutrition security policy with high level government officials, Yemen will organize a workshop with all relevant Ministries at high level, Rwanda: launch planned, Senegal noted that a new Government has been in place since 2012 and would benefit from briefings from international partners and SUN Champions*)

- **Confirming the identified Donor Convener** (*Haiti: meeting at the beginning of March. Mauritania, Senegal*).
- Improving involvement of the **private sector**. All countries ask for support and guidance from the Business Network and others. (*Mozambique; Rwanda: study is planned on the role of the private sector in nutrition supported by the Netherlands; Peru has launched an initiative which encourages the engagement of the private sector in national efforts to reduce chronic malnutrition, though the delivery of social inclusion certificates*)
- Finalising or endorsing **national nutrition policies, strategies or action plans**:
 - Finalising national nutrition policy (*Senegal is in the process of updating its nutrition policy letter, Lao PDR is working closely with partners to come up with prioritisation of nutrition policy and strategy, Bangladesh just finalized the NNP, Nigeria is reviewing NNP*)
 - Endorsing the national nutrition plan document (*Burundi: document is in the process of being validated*)
- Strengthening **nutrition-relevant legislations**:
 - Strengthening implementation of mandatory flour fortification (*Burkina Faso, Haiti, Kyrgyz Republic: law in process of endorsement and under review of the parliamentarians, Zimbabwe: survey to inform food fortification strategy and legislation*)
- Developing an **advocacy and/or communication strategy**;
 - Developing a strategic document (*The Gambia, Yemen: communication plan in place*)
- **Finalising Common Results Framework** to improve alignment of sectors and actors:
 - Finalising a common results frameworks (*Burkina Faso: workshop financed by UNICEF, Burundi, Niger is elaborating a logframe, Bangladesh, Rwanda: joint action strategy and plan of 5 Ministries has been prepared and waiting for high level approval*).
- **Finalising costing and financial breakdowns**:
 - Requesting support to finalise costing exercises (*Mozambique needs to track external expenditure and to better align resources, Malawi: tracking of funding remain a challenge and is working on it with a consultant, Rwanda*)
- **Establishing the Monitoring & Evaluation Framework**:
 - Developing the M&E framework (*Haiti requested support, Nepal, Burundi requested support*).