

Summary
9th Round of SUN Country Teleconferences
17-18-19 June 2013

The ninth meeting of the SUN Movement country network was held June 17-18-19, 2013. For reasons of logistics and time zones, six teleconferences were held for countries in the following geographical areas: (i) Asia (ii) Francophone Africa - Group 1; (iii) Francophone Africa (Group 2) and Haiti (iv) Anglophone Africa - Group 1; (v) Anglophone Africa - Group 2 and (vi) Latin America. Each teleconference followed the same agenda. The present note is a synthesis of all teleconferences.

Participants:

40 countries make now part of the movement. In the last two months, seven countries have joined: Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Conakry, Pakistan and Myanmar. For this round of teleconferences many national SUN Focal Points were joined by in-country technical specialists and other members of the national SUN platform – including persons from donor agencies, UN entities, civil society organizations, enterprises and academic bodies.

Agenda:

The following points were discussed:

- Exchange on **international events that have taken place recently**: Conference on Malnutrition on 14-15 May in Paris, High Level Event Nutrition for Growth on 8 June in London, launch of the new series of the Lancet on 6 June in London, 1000 Days Partnership June 10 in Washington, Civil Society Network meeting on 11 June in Washington.
- Information on **upcoming events**: SUN Movement Global Gathering to be held in NY on 23-24 September next in conjunction with the SUN Lead Group meeting; learning routes/exchanges initiative on the between countries.
- Exchange of views among members of the SUN country network on **the Organization of Conference calls**
- Briefing by SUN focal points **on the progress made by each of the countries in the context of the four processes identified as essential** for scaling up nutrition

Recently held international events

In May and June 2013, a number of international events (Nutrition for Growth in London, Conference on Malnutrition in Paris, launch of the new Lancet series...) have offered new possibilities for a coordinated support to strengthening nutritional processes. Many different organizations made public commitments to advance and support national efforts for scaling up nutrition.

Pledges at the June 8 Nutrition for Growth event in London have reached USD 4.16 billion for direct nutrition interventions for the next 6 years while USD 19 billion have been committed by donors and other actors to sensitive nutritional interventions.

19 SUN countries participated in the event. Many countries have made specific commitments through supporting the Nutrition for Growth Compact. This is still open for endorsement until September. 14 countries committed themselves to increase their domestic resources to nutrition and 13 countries to reduce their stunting rates by 2025.

Countries participating in this series of telephone conferences expressed their views on these events. They concluded that the commitments made during the events **will**:

- improve the engagement of high-level political authorities in SUN countries; Provide a basis for dialogue with the high-level representatives present at the meeting (Presidents, Prime Ministers, line ministers);
- facilitate advocacy at national and international levels;
- help to advance the engagement of multiple stakeholders by acknowledging the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition.

Some countries have emphasized the importance of translating these commitments into actions on the ground and want to know which countries will have access to funding and how.

The work of harmonization and coordination undertaken by the SUN Movement Secretariat has been appreciated: the Secretariat will continue to follow up on the event and help address some of the concerns expressed by focal points.

The launch of the new series in the Lancet has also been perceived very positively. Several SUN countries wish to benefit from the expertise of the Lancet team by: (i) organizing a national launch event of the new series (Peru, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Zambia, Benin), (ii) using material rising from the launch to support nutritional policy reviews (Senegal, Guinea Conakry) (iii) or as a support for communication with national multi-sectoral platforms (Burundi, Chad). Francophone and Latin-American countries expect to receive documents in French and Spanish, respectively. These will be sent as soon as possible.

2 Western African countries (Chad and Côte d'Ivoire) stressed the importance of having a sub-regional launch to share finding presented in the new Lancet series.

Upcoming events

Annual meeting of the SUN Movement on September 23-24 in New York (Global Gathering):

The event, which will bring together representatives from the SUN countries, the SUN networks and Lead Group will be organized around 3 sessions, of which one will be organized by the countries themselves. The other two will be organized by the SUN networks and by the main group. The format should allow interactions between the countries themselves and between countries and networks and the main group members. The draft of the 2013 SUN Movement annual report will be presented during the event.

All countries have expressed interest in participating to the event and seem especially seduced by the opportunity to engage in the session to be organized by the countries themselves.

Countries:

- Insist on the importance of considering as starting point what the countries want to share and are fully prepared to respond to a questionnaire to identify the fields on which they have developed good experiences to share and on which they intend to learn from others; some countries have already announced their will to have a leadership role in supporting and managing a specific thematic session in the event. They will confirm this desire when responding to the questionnaire.
- Wish to have time to meet cross-sectorially to discuss these topics before transmitting their response;
- Asked whether the session will be organized primarily around the offers of good experiences or around the demands for learning;
- Requested information on the financing of the participation of their delegations. It is expected that 2 to 3 representatives per country (excluding Lead Group members) will attend the event and that an e-mail message will be sent to the donor representative in each country to consider the possibility to facilitate the participation of the country delegation to the event.
- Referred to the level of representation at the event. Some countries would like to count with high-level participation.

Learning routes/exchanges initiative among countries:

The SUN Movement Secretariat will help countries identify specific areas in which they have learnt how best to scale up nutrition and to describe these as “Learning Routes” that can be shared with other SUN countries. The Secretariat will circulate a questionnaire which enables SUN countries to identify the themes on which they have good experiences to share and on which they wish to learn from others. This approach will be discussed at the Global Gathering and was welcomed by SUN country focal points.

Organizations of Conference calls

Conference calls with the SUN country network are held every six weeks to enable stocktaking of country progress, to exchange good practices, to discuss about regional and international events, to share information on the dynamics of other networks or finally to deal with issues linked to specific requests by countries.

The rapid increase in the number of countries making part of the SUN movement in recent months would perhaps require a change in the format of the conference calls, the topics covered during these and the use of the information provided by countries.

Frequency: 10 countries are satisfied with the frequency every 6 weeks because it urges the countries to work harder and helps maintain a regular exchange between the countries; 10 countries found that the organization of teleconferences every 8 (5 countries) or 12 weeks (5 countries) would be sufficient to present more advanced progress and to better mobilize teams.

Numbers of countries per teleconference: several countries ask to reduce the number of countries (to 3 to 6) per teleconference in order to give more time to each country to talk and discuss specific issues.

Content: countries are generally very attached to the exchange of information and wish to focus more on exchanging and learning from actual country experiences. They ask for facilitated discussion on specific themes. One country proposes that consideration is given to a system of peer review.

The parallel organization of **thematic conferences** is deemed necessary to capitalize the experiences, as well as the organization of **bilateral conferences with countries**.

An Asian country has requested the organization of **regional conferences**.

Documents prepared in advance (calendar, language elements, tables of progress according to the 4 processes) **and after** (progress in accordance with the 4 process tables, minutes and summary) the conferences are all considered helpful. However it is requested that these and any other document that may be useful for the conferences be sent enough time before the meeting for a better preparation of countries and to be able to focus mainly on the highlights during the teleconferences.