

**Summary**  
**10th Round of SUN Country Teleconferences**  
**2-4 September 2013**

The tenth meeting of the SUN Movement country network was held September 2-4, 2013. For reasons of logistics and time zones, seven teleconferences were held for countries in the following geographical areas: (i) Asia - Group 1, (ii) Asia - Group 2, (iii) Francophone Africa - Group 1; (iv) Francophone Africa (Group 2) and Haiti (v) Anglophone Africa - Group 1; (vi) Anglophone Africa - Group 2 and (vii) Latin America. Each teleconference followed the same agenda. The present note is a synthesis of all teleconferences.

## **Participants:**

42 countries and the State of Maharashtra in India make now part of the SUN Movement. Tajikistan has been the last country to join. 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:

- **2013 SUN Movement Annual Report**, which will be presented –as a draft- to the members of the Lead Group of the SUN Movement and to participants at the SUN Global Gathering in New York. Chapter 2 and Appendix 1 of the draft 2012-2013 Annual Report which outline progress achieved by SUN countries, as well as a note which describes indicators and markers used to assess progress in the implementation of the four processes we consider necessary to build up an enabling environment to scale up nutrition have been shared with countries
- **Preparation of the SUN Movement Global Gathering, 23-24 September, New York**, particularly the country-led sessions, and focusing on organization, goals, roles to be undertaken by countries, etc.).
- 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

## **2013 SUN Movement Annual Report**

### **1. General overview:**

The report focuses on the progress made by the 41 countries of the SUN Movement, how networks work with governments, how the movement has evolved from the experiences of countries and global networks.

**Chapter 1** presents the causes and consequences of malnutrition as well as options for a sustainable improvement of people's nutritional status. It examines trends nutritional status trends of communities in SUN countries. It describes the various determinants of malnutrition as well as approaches and direct and sectoral interventions that contribute to improving nutrition.

**Chapter 2** shows in a synthetic manner progress in SUN countries in scaling up nutrition. We will further discuss on this issue in the call today.

**Chapter 3** summarizes country readiness to scaling up nutrition and provides the basis for strengthening national capacities to increase nutrition results. We will explain at the end of conference how the SMS has used the information provided by countries to start developing a mechanism that helps develop countries' capacities in a way that responds to national needs.

**Chapter 4** examines the ways in which global and regional networks and experts are organized to support countries according to their priorities as defined in their Common Results Frameworks in a coordinated manner.

**Chapter 5** deals with the accountability of the different groups of SUN Movement vis-à-vis each other. Accountability systems must be continually strengthened in view of the growing number of domestic and foreign investors, increasing levels of investment and their requirement that results are transparent and understandable.

**Chapter 6** focuses on the areas in which the Lead Group could further encourage the impact of the movement in the SUN countries

## **2. Presentation of Chapter 2 and Annex 1**

**Annex 1 provides an update on progress, country by country, validated by each SUN focal point.** It contains: (i) a progress update page for each country against the four process indicators deemed necessary to create an enabling environment for scaling up nutrition. This is based on the data around which the report has been prepared, (ii) the introduction of this appendix provides an overview of the progress made by SUN countries under the four strategic objectives of the Movement.

**In order to refine monitoring, four objectives have been translated into tracking markers.** Each process indicator contains 4 or 5 markers. For each marker, we have indicated -based on the information provided by the one-page country progress updates validated by focal points- the level of progress: *starting phase, in progress, good progress or in place*. This allowed us to elaborate graphics and the general table showing the elements in place for each country.

**Finally, this year, progress has been assessed in terms of "quality" of the processes.** This means that, beyond the setting up of the elements necessary to scaling up nutrition in the context of the four process indicators, we are proposing to assess the degree into which and the effectiveness of the operationalization and implementation of these.

Markers of four process indicators can both measure the existence of the elements in place and the quality of their functioning and implementation. E.g. for process indicator No. 1 (bringing people to work together), the first two markers allow to estimate the existence of elements/structures in place to allow different stakeholders to work together (multi-sectoral platform, focal point, representing donors...), while the other three markers allow to better understand the quality of the performance of the multi-sectoral platform.

**Chapter 2 uses information of Appendix 1 to show in a synthetic manner progresses in terms of “quality”.**

This chapter describes the ways in which countries SUN are scaling up nutrition: transformations that are underway and progress achieved in the four processes that are essential for effective management and governance. It summarizes the results are beginning to emerge as a result of these efforts.

**Process 1:** Most countries have strengthened SUN operating mechanisms that bring different groups in the country to work together at national and local platforms: countries are studying ways to improve effectiveness of how these platforms operate at the different administrative levels.

**Process 2:** SUN countries have also made progress in developing, refining and/or updating their policy and legal frameworks for nutrition, in some cases with the explicit intention of creating an enabling environment for improved nutrition.

**Process 3:** SUN countries are increasingly focusing on the development of effective sectoral plans, aimed at achieving a single set of results that reflect the desired improvements in the nutrition of people - the common results framework (CRF) - at all administrative levels.

**Process 4:** SUN countries are developing their capacities and mobilizing additional financial resources for the implementation of interventions that allow to achieve results agreed in their CRFs.

Taken together, these four processes contribute to an enabling environment to scale up nutrition. This chapter shows how each country has progressed over the years, how the governments in SUN countries are increasingly engaging with civil society, donors, businesses, and the United Nations to advance.

## **Preparation of the SUN Movement Global Gathering, 23-24 September, New York**

1. General overview (objectives, structure, roles & responsibilities, opportunities for interaction and learning)

The **purpose** of the 2013 SUN Movement Global Gathering is **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.

The format of the gathering will optimize opportunities for inspiration, horizontal interchange of ideas, problem-solving and learning. While high-level participation is expected, particularly from members of the Lead Group, the focal points and platforms of SUN countries will be at the center of the event, as they are the center of the SUN Movement.

## **Monday 23 September**

- SUN Country Focal Points and network facilitators focus on key results achieved in the last year from which others could learn
- Lead Group meeting (Lead Group members only)
- Lead Group, N4G and 1,000 Days leaders meet
- Opening Session with members of the Lead Group, N4G and 1,000 Days leaders plus all SUN Movement participants
- **Country-led breakout sessions (2 x 90 minute sessions)**

## **Tuesday 24 September:**

### **SUN Network-led breakout sessions (2 x 90 minute sessions)**

Using the same format as the country-led breakout sessions, SUN support Networks will be invited to share with SUN Country Focal Points the kind of support they can expect from the networks in response to country needs:

- Civil Society Network
- UN Network
- Donor Network
- Business Network

### **Closing plenary – envisioning the Movement beyond 2015**

#### **2. Country-led breakout sessions**

Country-led breakout sessions (90 minute sessions): two blocks of three simultaneous 90-minute sessions focused on 6 thematic areas. These include:

- Rolling out SUN to provinces and communities so as to reach more women and children
- Advocacy to attract and maintain high-level political support for nutrition
- Tracking finances and investments in nutrition
- Encouraging nutrition-sensitive development in agriculture, education, social protection etc.
- Monitoring progress and demonstrating results
- Costed country plans for scaling up nutrition

Countries will take the lead in running and managing the 6 thematic sessions (presentation of good practices, facilitation and reporting). Each session will last for 90 minutes and will be composed of:

- presentation by two countries of successful experiences related to the theme discussed + questions from the floor (30 minutes);
- discussion in working round tables (5-6 per session) on specific questions related to the thematic issue (45 minutes)
- feedback by a member of each table based on the discussion held

## **Country progresses in scaling up nutrition**

Country teams and focal points explained progresses achieved in the last two months on national processes that contribute to creating an enabling environment for scaling up nutrition, some of which are:

- **New Focal Points were appointed** in *Burkina Faso* (Nutrition Director), in *Côte d'Ivoire* (Prime Minister counsellor and a technical focal point in the Ministry of Health).
- **REACH Initiative** has been set up in *Burundi* and an International Facilitator was appointed. The recruitment of a National Facilitator is on-going in *Burundi and in Mauritania*. *Guinea* is discussing to set up the REACH Initiative this year, as well as *the Gambia*.
- **Civil society engagement in the SUN multi-stakeholder platforms:** CSO groups have been established and started participating in policy dialogue in countries such as *Ghana and Sierra Leone*; *Kyrgyz Republic* has invited civil society to join the multi-stakeholder platform; civil society is engaged in the multi-stakeholder platform in *Yemen and El Salvador*; workshops have been conducted in *Sri Lanka* to better reach the grassroots level with the engagement of the civil society; *Guatemala's* Instance Social Consultation and Participation (INCOPAS) is a body that brings together civil society organizations and is part of the National System for Food Security and Nutrition (SINASAN); Civil Society in *Mali* organized several workshops in consultation with the Government; *Burkina Faso* will strengthen its relationship with the civil society
- **Bringing the private sector into the multi-stakeholder platforms:** while *Ghana and Sierra Leone* are activating business networks, countries like *Senegal, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and the Gambia* are requesting advice or guidelines; *Ugandan* legislation setting out fortification as a mandatory practice is contributing to strong engagement of the private sector; private sector is engaged in the multi-stakeholder platform in *Yemen* and being engaged in *El Salvador*
- **Improved UN coordination and alignment to national plans and systems:** the UN network was launched on 26-28 August in Nairobi and agreed to; consolidate and expand REACH for joint country support, UNSCN for policy harmonization and developing accountability, and promote and expand joint UN programming. The launch was followed by a REACH facilitators' workshop, allowing increased engagement with UN regional teams, and discussions on UN nutrition strategy development within context of UNDAF at country level, capacity development and South-South collaboration.
- **Improved Donor coordination and alignment:** a multipartner Committee of the donors was established in *Haiti*. *Cameroon* wants to use the donors Committee to help nutrition to be considered at a higher level.
- **SUN launches or high level events with emphasis on nutrition:** Niger organized a SUN launch on July 4. Some countries like *the Kyrgyz Republic* have organized high level development planning events in which nutrition has been included as a key development issue; *Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh* are planning to organize official launches of SUN in the following weeks; other countries like *Sierra Leone* are planning to hold regional launches of SUN Movement to maintain momentum and keep local authorities, sectors and women's groups engaged in local processes for scaling up nutrition; *Peru* will launch the new series of the Lancet on nutrition in October and *Benin and Haiti* plan to launch it.
- **Mapping of stakeholders and interventions:** some countries like *Namibia and Ghana* are finalizing the mapping of stakeholders; *Kyrgyz Republic* is planning to create a database of NGOs and convene and understand their capacity within the nutrition related field;
- **Strengthening bodies in charge of support to coordination of national scaling up nutrition efforts:** *Indonesia and Sierra Leone* have set up SUN Secretariats which are already operative, while *Zambia* is willing to establish a Coordination Committee within the Prime Minister's Office. *Lao* Prime Minister has been involved in establishment of National Nutrition Committee on 21st July with Decree No.73. In *Côte d'Ivoire*, the Prime Minister will chair the multisectoral coordination Council which will be set up very soon. *Côte d'Ivoire* is organizing consultations with the different stakeholders in order to set

- up the multisectoral platform. *Democratic Republic of Congo* is working also to involving the Prime Minister and setting the Multisectoral Committee at his level. A draft decree will be presented in late September at the Council of Ministers. *Burundi* finalized the profile of the multisectoral platform which will be set up in late September and will be expanded to the key sectoral Ministries. *Cameroon* will set up the multisectoral platform at the beginning of October. *Niger* established a multisectoral Committee for the steering of the Strategic Nutrition Program within the 3N initiative.
- **Strengthening national capacities for scaling up nutrition:** *Tanzania* is developing a training program to strengthen capacity of nutrition officers; *Nepal* will be completing a capacity development initiative within various ministries and districts in the next months
  - **Taking stock of national nutritional legislation and assets:** *South Sudan* is planning to oversee stocktaking of policies, programs and capacity in an exercise which will help set priorities. *Burkina Faso* is working on the costing of a scale-up plan on young child's nutrition. *Mali* is in the process of integrating nutrition into agricultural development policy. The *Senegalese* IYCF Policy will be validated by the end of September. There are ongoing consultations to identify key points of the agriculture role in improving nutrition in the framework of the National Agricultural Investment Plan, whilst working with the new Ministry of Planning to accelerate the planning process of the policy letter revision. *Chad* is finalising a report on the analysis of the nutrition situation and an international consultant has been hired to accelerate the development of a national nutrition policy. *DRC* plans to validate its multisectoral national policy on Sept. 18 with a pre-validation workshop with the leaders of the 11 provinces of the DRC. *Cameroon* will finalize the revision of the national nutrition policy by the month of November. *Niger* validated its strategy for the prevention of chronic malnutrition.
  - **Development of Common Results Frameworks:** development of a costed national action plan (convergence national plan), focusing on district level and prioritizing areas, is underway in *Laos*; draft action plan developed in *Yemen*; food sovereignty is being considered as an important element of the food and nutrition security multi-sectoral plan in *El Salvador*; an international consultant has been recruited in *Guatemala* to advance monitoring and evaluation of the Zero Hunger Plan implementation with respect to a baseline and to assess impact. *Guinea* is reviewing its multisectoral action plan and policy in order to include new elements, with WHO support. *Mali* is working to cost the Nutrition action Plan. *Mauritania and Chad* asks some support for the development of a Common Results Framework. *Burundi* scheduled the finalization of costing of the common results framework for mid-October.
  - **Decentralization of national plans at provincial levels:** *Mozambique* is advancing in the development of provincial action plans for the Reduction of Chronic Malnutrition a process that is strengthening coordination among different sectors and donors supporting these efforts; *Uganda* has sensitized 50% of all local governments to plan and budget for nutrition; steering committees in the provinces will be incorporated into existing multi-sectoral committees in *Pakistan*; *Nepal* is rolling out scaling up nutrition at the District level under coordination of National Planning Commission with the engagement of the Minister of Finance. UNICEF will support *Burkina Faso* for its thought on the implementation of the Common Results Framework. *Niger* has appointed coordinators for eight regions.
  - **Improving nutrition information systems:** *Zimbabwe* has established an analysis unit within the Food and Security Council; *Nigeria* plans to put in place a nutrition information system; *Kenya* is ensuring that its nutrition M&E system covers nutrition-sensitive activities; *Yemen, Pakistan and Sri Lanka* are seeking to develop a strong information system;
  - **Financial tracking and resource mobilization:** Public Expenditure Review is being conducted in *Mozambique and Tanzania*; *Pakistan* is in the process of setting up a tracking system to help mobilize more resources; *Nepal* is interested in being supported to improve its financial tracking systems of domestic and external funding; WFP has made an estimate of the cost of reducing chronic child malnutrition in Peru; 25 regional *Peruvian* governments will align their budgets to national budget

lines such as vaccines, control of growth and development, provision of micronutrients or water and sanitation. *Senegalese* Government took commitments in the long term but additional resources are vital to improve the level of coverage the next two years. *Burundi* has prepared draft ToRs for the recruitment of a consultant to support the Focal Point on resource mobilization.

- **Enhancing accountability:** *Uganda* will be organizing its Annual Nutrition Forum in November, where all stakeholders will come together to reflect on what has been done; *Guatemala* is conducting a Social and Media Audit of the 1000 Days Programme.
- **Follow up of the Nutrition for Growth event:** *Tanzania* has developed a robust work plan to translate N4G commitment into action which includes a matrix of responsibilities between now and deadline for commitments; *El Salvador* announced its will to endorse the Nutrition for Growth Global Compact and to announce specific commitments for scaling up nutrition

**Advocacy & communications:** All in the *Kenyan* nutrition sector are looking at the quality of data, so it can be used in advocacy to convince authorities of where and how to prioritize funds; *Tanzania* has launched a platform for nutrition; the Cost of Hunger Study was launched in *Uganda* in a ceremony which counted with the participation of the Prime Minister who committed to take forth recommendations of the report; *Sri Lanka* has developed a draft Communications Strategy; *Senegal* will advocate with the new Government; Joseph-Antoine Bell, a former footballer, was appointed champion for nutrition in *Cameroon*. 60 Cameroonian journalists from the private and public medias were trained to be spokesmen on nutrition; Cameroon established also an advocacy document with the support from UNICEF. *Haiti* launched also a journalists' Network for health and nutrition with support from *Brazil*, UNICEF and WHO and would like to receive selection criteria to identify their nutrition champions. *Haiti* finalized its ToRs for advocacy and organized a workshop on advocacy with the support of USAID. *Madagascar* is mobilizing the parliamentarian women network to advocate on nutrition and *Niger* established a network of Parliamentarians for nutrition and food security. *Niger* will organized an African nutrition day on next October 30.

#### **Experiences and/or materials to share:**

- Decentralization of national planning process at provincial level and launch of nutrition mapping in Mozambique
- Field reference workers' guide for the 1000 days which is being finalized and advocacy video and materials to increase awareness and political commitment of the Cabinet and at district and provincial levels in Zambia
- Training program to strengthen capacity of nutrition officers with UNICEF support in Tanzania
- Concept note for documentation of SUN and multi-sectoral process in Uganda with support by REACH and WFP
- Social and Media Audit of the 1000 Days Programme in Guatemala
- Estimation of the cost of reducing chronic child malnutrition in Peru (by WFP)
- 2013 Monitoring Report of Policies for Food Security and Nutrition produced by Bangladesh
- Guidelines for Integral Childhood Development that will be finalized by Peru in October