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**Scaling Up Nutrition Movement
Global Gathering
16 – 18 November 2014
Rome, Italy**

SUMMARY REPORT

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Overall Key Messages	4
COP1 – Planning, costing, implementing and financing multi-sectoral actions for improved nutrition.....	5
COP2 – Social mobilisation, advocacy and communication for Scaling Up Nutrition.....	5
COP3 – Reliable monitoring of progress, evaluation of outcomes and demonstration of nutrition results.....	5
COP4 – Functional capacities for coordinated and effective Scaling Up Nutrition in action	5
Community of Practice 1 – Planning, Costing, Implementing and Financing Multisectoral Actions for Improved Nutrition.....	6
Session 1 - A Common Results Framework (CRF) for nutrition to align multi-sectoral actions.....	6
Session 2: Costing actions in the Common Results Framework (CRF) based on explicit principles and assumptions.	6
Session 3: Mobilising resources from government and external budgets to implement nutrition actions.....	7
Session 4: Tracking of government and external resources for nutrition: is there a minimum agreement on what is feasible to move forward?.....	7
Community of Practice 2: Social Mobilisation, Advocacy and Communications for Scaling up Nutrition	8
Session 1: Developing and implementing effective social mobilization, advocacy and communication strategies.....	8
Session 2: Mobilising societies for nutrition awareness, action and accounting.....	8
Session 3: Developing tools to communicate with one voice about nutrition.....	9
Community of Practice 3: Reliable Monitoring of Progress, Evaluation of Outcomes and Demonstration of Nutrition Results.....	10
Session 1: Strengthening accountability around the agreed Common Results (CRF) for nutrition through stakeholder mapping & monitoring and through the use of dashboards.	10
Session 2: Timely and reliable information for nutrition through the use of mobile and database technologies including feedback loops.	10
Session 3: Success and challenges in generating actionable information at community level using the 3A approach (assess, analyse and act).	11
Session 4: National Information Platforms for Nutrition: is this a feasible approach to respond to countries’ needs?.....	11
Community of Practice 4: Functional Capacities for Coordinated and Effective Scaling Up Nutrition in Action	12
Session 1: Building trust and developing leadership.	12
Session 2: Improving stakeholder engagement and alignment.	12
Session 3: Strategic capacities for multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and decentralisation of nutrition governance.....	13
Independent Comprehensive Evaluation	14
Roundtable on the Contribution of Science to the SUN Movement.....	14
Plenary Session 1.....	15
Plenary Session 2.....	15
Plenary Session 3.....	16

Introduction

The 2014 SUN Movement Global Gathering (SUNGG) took place from 16 – 18 November 2014 at the Headquarters of the World Food Programme in Rome. The meeting brought together over 350 participants from 52 SUN countries and states and supporters from across the four SUN Networks. The meeting took place immediately before the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) (Rome, 19 – 21 November) with a view to creating positive momentum for the ICN2, which set the context in which the SUN Movement will grow and evolve. In this way, the SUNGG provided an opportunity for actors within the SUN Movement to contribute to the determination of national and global public policy priorities for the coming decade.

Objectives

The purpose of the 2014 Global Gathering was to enhance the Movement's ability to support the achievement of results by SUN countries. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- To reflect on progress for scaling up nutrition in countries;
- To consider progress and achievements in strengthening country capacity to deliver, and accelerate support in areas of identified need; and
- To contribute to the outcomes of the ICN2 through shared country experiences and approaches to scaling up nutrition.

Structure of the 2014 Global Gathering and Summary Report

The 2014 SUNGG took place over two and a half days. It was structured around the four *communities of practice*¹ (COP) that have been endorsed by the SUN Lead Group as a mechanism for ensuring that countries can access technical support more easily and that best practices can be shared. The four communities of practice are:

- COP1 on *Planning, Costing, Implementing and Financing Multisectoral Actions for Improved Nutrition.*
- COP2 on *Social Mobilisation, Advocacy and Communication for Scaling up Nutrition.*
- COP3 on *Reliable Monitoring of Progress, Evaluation of Outcomes and Demonstration of Nutrition Results.*
- COP4 on *Functional Capacities for Coordinated and Effective Scaling Up Nutrition in Action.*

The 2014 SUNGG consisted of a series of 14 parallel discussions around the four communities of practice. Two parallel sessions provided a space for consultation and evidence-gathering for the team of independent consultants undertaking the SUN Movement Independent Comprehensive Evaluation. A roundtable discussion considered the contribution of science to the SUN Movement.

In addition, three plenary sessions sought to reflect on progress, bring together the outcomes of the parallel discussions and to look at the broader issues facing the Movement going forward. The SUNGG saw a broad range of discussion, which will be captured in the ongoing work of the SUN countries and networks, and the individual communities of practice as they continue to shape their priorities based on countries' needs. This summary report seeks to capture some key messages from the SUNGG, as well as key messages from each individual parallel sessions and the science roundtable discussion.

¹ For more information on the communities of practice please see the SUN Movement Progress Report 2014 (Annex 3) http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/SUN_Progress-Report_ENG_20141024_web_pages03.pdf

Overall Key Messages

- Those involved in scaling up nutrition have created a genuine movement. Never has nutrition had such support but never have needs been so huge. The Movement continues to rally countries, civil society, the UN system, philanthropic organisations and business around a common goal to end undernutrition. Inclusiveness is a strength, as the Movement can only achieve its goal if all stakeholders act together.
- The Movement brings together 54 individual country-driven and 1 state-driven movements; who were the primary drivers of discussion during the Global Gathering. The SUN Movement helps sustain nutrition as a national priority despite changes of government.
- Tackling undernutrition is essential for sustainable development. Member-states ensure adequate attention to nutrition as a driver of economic and social development within the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including through adequately reflecting nutrition in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Delivering women's empowerment and gender equity are central to ending to undernutrition; the Movement must reflect this reality in all its work. The Movement can 'join the dots' between the interlinked challenges facing countries by better including universal human rights and climate change.
- Aligning nutrition with maternal, newborn and child health will lead to greater impact in both areas. Nutrition is central to child survival.
- Nutrition and vulnerability are inextricably linked. The effects of climate change will lead to hundreds of millions more people going hungry. How the Movement can support building resilience along the continuum from humanitarian to development should be explored further.
- Business has a role to play, but countries and businesses remain unclear as to how they can work together. Clear frameworks, outlining roles and responsibilities, can help avoid conflict of interest. All stakeholders are encouraged to recognise the potential for conflicts of interest within their work.
- Accountability to people must be at the heart of the Movement. All stakeholders have to be accountable. Civil society has a particular role to play in accountability and ensuring continuity of effort, but must also hold itself to account. Country leaders and their supporters must translate the Movement to make it relevant the community and village level.
- Academia and the scientific community are already important partners within the SUN Movement, particularly in SUN countries. Challenges remain, however. The Movement could work towards ensuring alignment between the agenda for research and the needs of policy makers. Evidence that is useful for developing policies and implementing actions can be generated and communicated with an improvement in communication between academia and scientists, and policy makers. Academia also have a key role to play in long-term capacity building. An information note for the Lead Group will present options regarding ways to better involve science and academics in the Movement to consider as part of the visioning of the future of the Movement.

COP1 – Planning, costing, implementing and financing multi-sectoral actions for improved nutrition

- It is important to take time to get the right people involved in national multi-stakeholder platforms and to start small with the Common Results Framework (CRF) and then build up activities. The Movement will work to support all newer countries to develop their CRF.
- Good examples and experience exist on how to cost nutrition-specific investments; the next stage is to identify best practice for nutrition-sensitive investments in the CRF. COP 1 will work with partners to disseminate good practice from countries on costing nutrition-specific actions; and focus on a clear "how-to" for nutrition-sensitive actions over the next 6 months.
- Countries have used different approaches to mobilise resources successfully in support of national nutrition plans. The Movement should work to mobilise new and existing resources (the "Invest" part of Engage, Inspire and Invest) from government and partners to move from planning to action in transforming lives.
- Tracking of nutrition resources in government budgets is possible: however, there is no single method. Over the next six months, COP1 will work with a group of countries to track and estimate resources, with a focus on transparency and replicability.

COP2 – Social mobilisation, advocacy and communication for Scaling Up Nutrition

- Strong, clear and coherent messages on nutrition from all stakeholders are important and should be grounded in a common strategy with long-term targets for all.
- An opportunity exists to access the untapped potential and experience of the private sector and the media as a way to reach (and mobilise) the most vulnerable and marginalised communities.
- Agreement on the technical evidence and foundations for communications is key; however, the Movement must go further and translate the technical inputs for popular and political mobilization.
- The ability to communicate effectively on a mass scale remains a significant challenge. This will require all stakeholders to take on this challenge and find a way forward.
- Strategies for social mobilisation, advocacy and communication should build on existing tools and approaches, and should not create overcomplicated structures. The Movement should look at what exists, what is working (or not working) and ensure these lessons, tools and materials are harnessed and shared.

COP3 – Reliable monitoring of progress, evaluation of outcomes and demonstration of nutrition results

- It is important to identify the relevant indicators and information needed for decision-making. If the data are used and published, a demand for high quality data will be created.
- Definition of clear nutrition sensitive outcomes and outputs will help with financial tracking.
- Good data is essential for decision-making, tracking progress and accountability. Data systems exist, but there is limited capacity to analyse the data to transform the information into actionable decisions.

COP4 – Functional capacities for coordinated and effective Scaling Up Nutrition in action

- One of the biggest sets of challenges facing countries is to make platforms function, specifically, to ensure that they can stimulate, coordinate, guide and support action around common objectives. The Movement will support countries efforts to bring together partners to support countries in their efforts to engage all stakeholders at all levels as they scale up nutrition; for example strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers and small and medium enterprises to engage in supporting national plans.
- Governments must recognise their own power to lead and should 'stick with the programme' being clear to partners where they fit in to the agreed national priorities.
- Leadership starts from where you are. Everyone has their role to play in leading for nutrition within their space.

Community of Practice 1 – Planning, Costing, Implementing and Financing Multisectoral Actions for Improved Nutrition

This community of practice focuses on the efforts being made by governments and supporting partners in the SUN Movement to cost national plans for nutrition in order to guide coordinated efforts by stakeholders and to mobilise the required resources to address gaps and sustain results.

Session 1 - A Common Results Framework (CRF) for nutrition to align multi-sectoral actions.

Moderator: Helen Connolly, Senior Economist, ICF International (MQSUN)

Agreement around a national Common Results Framework (CRF) helps to shape multi-sector and multi-stakeholder working. The process through which a CRF is developed is a ‘facilitated negotiation’ among key sectors, which results in an amalgam of agreed components from their plans. The development of a CRF proceeds more smoothly if it takes place under the authority of the highest level of government, with clear directions to all relevant stakeholders, a realistic timetable and a commitment by all to support the achievement of the agreed results as fully as they can, within their areas of responsibility.

Key Messages:

- It takes time to establish the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP). It is important to take the necessary time to get the right people involved in national multi-stakeholder platforms and to start small in the Common Results Framework (CRF) and then build up activities.
- There is a trade-off between comprehensiveness and prioritisation of interventions. Important examples of this are clear from Asian countries’ experience.
- Each stakeholder has their own agenda and will often prioritise this over the overarching common country owned agenda. Conflict of interest is a reality for all stakeholders. Where the private sector is engaged, regulation may need to be addressed and countries find this particularly challenging.
- The MSP should aim to establish shared values and individual roles. The private sector can have a particular role in water and sanitation, around infrastructure and food fortification (salt producers), depending in the country. CSOs play an important role in accountability and in reaching out to communities.
- UN system agencies and donors should not overcomplicate the CRF with excessive reporting requirements and complex indicators. Everybody needs to respect the limits of the national capacity.

Session 2: Costing actions in the Common Results Framework (CRF) based on explicit principles and assumptions.

Moderator: Sue Horton, Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) Chair in Global Health Economics, University of Waterloo

Costing needs to be undertaken in an inclusive way so that all can examine the principles and assumptions concerned and can be replicable. The most effective approach for budgeting and implementation is to identify annual costs including one-time costs and unit costs of regularly recurring inputs. When estimating costs it is essential to establish (annual) implementation targets along with proposed final target coverage. The latter implicitly brings up the need to include current coverage and spending when estimating costs. The current costing approach leads to an underestimation of the existing contributions to actions for nutrition by different sectors of Government.

Key Messages:

- Plans reflect the stakeholders involved in the discussion. Countries with more diverse stakeholder involvement have more nutrition-sensitive interventions. The involvement from other ministries in nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions varies widely from country to country.
- What belongs in the category of nutrition-sensitive interventions is still unclear. The findings from the Colombia study² have not been disseminated enough.

² <http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Introduction-to-Columbia-Study.pdf>

- Decentralisation is a growing issue. If national plans disburse funds to sub-regional governments, there needs to be accountability.
- Civil Society appears to have two roles: one on implementation of interventions and one on accountability. Involvement of civil society in costing plans can be very difficult. Activities and funding are not always clear, especially when funded by external donors. There is a need to align these activities to the government plans.

Session 3: Mobilising resources from government and external budgets to implement nutrition actions.

Moderator: Meera Shekar, Lead Health and Nutrition Specialist, World Bank

Participants discussed the economic rationale for investing in nutrition, and how estimating the costs and benefits of nutrition interventions can help with the following:

- The dialogue between implementing Ministries of Health, Agriculture, etc. with the Ministry of Finance and with donors to leverage “more money for nutrition”,
- Help countries prioritise interventions that are most cost-effective to get “more nutrition for their money”.

Key Messages:

- The national budget needs to be analysed in a structured manner, instead of just creating budget lines. Many budget lines can contribute to nutrition objectives. What can be achieved through the proposed investments must be clear.
- When seeking to mobilise internal or external resources for nutrition, it is important to speak in the language that your target audience understands.
- Leveraging resources via partnerships can be a significant source of resources. For example, consider earmarking a portion of mineral receipts as an investment. Government can consider matching funds provided by international donors. Opportunities in the private sector are still to be realised.

Session 4: Tracking of government and external resources for nutrition: is there a minimum agreement on what is feasible to move forward?

Moderator: Clara Picanyol, Senior Economist, Oxford Policy Management

The ability to track financial resource flows to nutrition actions is fundamental for improved nutrition accountability to citizens. So far, however, there is very limited practice-based experience and very few countries are able to extensively report on an annual basis. Some countries like Tanzania and Madagascar have attempted to review their spending but have encountered several challenges. This session will focus on the tracking of government and external resources.

Key Messages:

- Approaches to government and external resources for nutrition should build on what exists in country. It is important to start with something, even if not perfect.
- Identifying which interventions to classify for nutrition is difficult; further defining nutrition-sensitive is even harder. The Movement should build a consensus around how to identify nutrition-sensitive approaches, but country-specific issues and causes of malnutrition should be considered to decide what should be included and tracked in each country.
- It is possible to track nutrition spending; more than half-a-dozen countries have used a variety of methods; comparisons within countries over time are more important than cross-country comparisons
- Countries can benefit from mutual support from other countries using similar methodologies
- Work in individual countries can complement similar work by donors; research institutes can help with case studies in some contexts.

Community of Practice 2: Social Mobilisation, Advocacy and Communications for Scaling up Nutrition

This community of practice focuses on efforts being made by governments and supporting partners in the SUN Movement to mobilise societies to play their part in working together for improved nutrition, to secure and maintain high-level political commitment and to ensure that evidence and experience of best practices are shared.

Session 1: Developing and implementing effective social mobilization, advocacy and communication strategies.

Moderator: Anuradha Narayan, Director, Global Initiatives, Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING)

Countries are taking an increasingly strategic approach to nutrition social mobilization, advocacy and communication (SMAC). Dedicated SMAC strategies for nutrition are being developed in an effort to enhance coordination among relevant sectors and stakeholders. Strategies are helping to identify priorities and harmonise activities. The greatest impact is achieved when advocacy efforts are aligned to support national development plans, with a range of stakeholders being brought together under a common framework and shared messages. While different means and a variety of tactics and tools are used, the focus is on creating a positive and enabling political and policy environment in order to advance the scale up of nutrition interventions, secure resources and obtain results.

Key Messages:

- A multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to advocacy is critical, where strategies are designed to bring all stakeholders on board and to encourage and ensure the accountability of all actors.
- SUN countries recognise the untapped potential of engaging with business as long-term champions, and are ready to have a conversation about how.
- Each country within the Movement needs to develop core messages that are strong, clear and coherent enough to be adequately adapted and effectively delivered across sectors, political parties, levels of government and communities.
- Advocacy strategies should empower and enable public and stakeholders to create a demand, identify their role, mobilise their own resources, and call for accountability.

Session 2: Mobilising societies for nutrition awareness, action and accounting.

Moderator: Tina Sanghvi, Senior Technical Director, Alive and Thrive

Stakeholders at the provincial, district and local level are increasingly mobilising communities in order to raise awareness about nutrition, to advocate for a particular action, or to seek accountability. Events such as World Breast Feeding Week, health days and Vitamin A campaigns are being leveraged to highlight the issues around child nutrition and promote messaging around breastfeeding and complementary feeding and general healthy dietary practices. These are particularly significant as they centre on the participation of citizens. Media support and awareness is widely recognised as being vital in order to reach the widest number of people as possible. In addition, parliamentarians possess the power to make laws and regulations, to influence the shape of national development plans, to determine the design and allocations of national budgets, to monitor and oversee the Government's implementation of commitments and hold it to account.

Key Messages:

- Use one common strategy and framework with defined long-term targets across all stakeholders and at all levels. Develop high quality nutrition messages tailored to specific audiences using the appropriate channels. Use evidence to inform message development and for advocacy on what works.
- High-level support and commitment is key and facilitates all aspects of mobilization and awareness creation.
- Bring everyone into the nutrition fold and synergise efforts for collaborative mobilisation; all political parties, parliamentarians, religious and traditional leaders, private sector, media and civil society and create nutrition ambassadors amongst all key stakeholder groups.
- Media are key for increased public accountability by exposing extent of fulfillment of political & Government commitments, highlighting service delivery gaps.
- Learn from and empower communities to voice their needs and create demand focusing on the youth and women. Decentralise and implement strategies and legislation on nutrition.

Session 3: Developing tools to communicate with one voice about nutrition.

Moderator: Kate Goertzen, Senior Associate - Nutrition, Child Health, ACTION

Whether the main purpose is to share information and lessons, influence others, or demonstrate progress, clear and powerful communication techniques are essential to the implementation of social mobilisation, advocacy and communications' strategies. These include reports and briefing papers that make the case for investing in good nutrition, as well as a range of tools from multimedia statistical presentations, to counselling aides, to the development of 'killer facts' and trainings. Techniques are being tailored for use with different audiences (politicians, civil servants, business, organizations, traditional and religious leaders, communities and households) at national, district and community levels to help convey the risks of malnutrition and to work out solutions appropriate for different settings.

Key Messages:

- Shared objectives are key for effective communication. This may seem simple but requires a significant investment by all actors – agreeing who needs to be involved, when and how.
- Agreement on the technical evidence and foundations for communications is key; however, we must go further and translate the technical inputs in a way that allows popular and political mobilisation.
- Jargon and overcomplicated messaging are much less effective than the human story – which is often forgotten or underutilised.
- The ability to communicate effectively on a mass scale remains a significant challenge. This will require all stakeholders to take on this challenge and find a way forward.

Community of Practice 3: Reliable Monitoring of Progress, Evaluation of Outcomes and Demonstration of Nutrition Results

This community of practice aims to support the establishment and use of information platforms at national and sub-national levels. The platforms can help to monitor progress and determine associations to build plausible arguments on the (cost) effectiveness of different interventions and strengthen mutual accountability.

Session 1: Strengthening accountability around the agreed Common Results (CRF) for nutrition through stakeholder mapping & monitoring and through the use of dashboards.

Moderator: Noel Marie Zagre, Regional Nutrition Advisor, UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO)

Agreement around a national Common Results Framework (CRF) helps to shape multi-sector and multi-stakeholder working. Many countries report that they are struggling to sustain continuous engagement and coordinated efforts. Mapping of stakeholders and monitoring of actions can help not only to understand who is doing what and where but also to assess what the gaps are in terms of information. Sharing of meaningful and timely information can help stakeholders to maintain a clear direction and commitment to deliver on the agreed results.

Key Messages:

- District Mapping can help to identify where a particular stakeholder could be brought in. Countries are at different stages of mapping. Important to recognise that mapping should go beyond identifying who is doing what to include where to build synergies.
- The creation of legislation or commitments around national food and nutrition security systems, with associated monitoring systems can increase accountability. Changes in government at all levels presents a challenge in ensuring continuity of implementation. Civil society actors can play an important role in this process.
- Good practice in the development of dashboards for the communication of data to decision makers exists, but the challenge of the ensuring sustainability of such tools also exists.

Session 2: Timely and reliable information for nutrition through the use of mobile and database technologies including feedback loops.

Moderator: Lawrence Haddad, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Design fundamentals that guide data collection initiatives emphasise the importance of end-user buy-in. This implies that one should develop context appropriate solutions informed by the needs of users based on the identification of data that are useful and feasible to collect. As an example of a recent innovation in data collection, RapidSMS is able to capture, analyse, store and disseminate information in real-time using ordinary mobile phones and a webserver to support service delivery and troubleshooting in the field, and complement paper-based systems.

Key Messages:

- A number of SUN countries are already using mobile systems to collect data. This has improved the coverage, quality and timeliness of data available to decision makers.
- Multiple pilots can be taking place within the same countries, often using technologies that are not compatible. This type of fragmentation needs to be avoided by partners. Scalability should be built in from the pilot phase.
- Cost is a concern for some countries. Others have negotiated preferential tariffs with providers. There is commitment from the providers to work with the countries to provide platforms.
- Integration of data user and data collectors is important.

Session 3: Success and challenges in generating actionable information at community level using the 3A approach (assess, analyse and act).

Moderator: Njorn Linqvist, Independent Senior Nutrition Consultant

Countries report limited national capacities for cross-sectoral analysis but they especially emphasize the need to build sub-national analytical capacity to triangulate and interpret data within the specific context.

Capacity building on participatory techniques to triangulate and analyze information at the community level does not require sophisticated and expensive technology. The 3A approach (Assess, Analyze and Act) has been at the core of community-based nutrition programmes for many years.

Key Messages:

- Do not overload the system by starting big. Start small and then keep adding additional components to the programme.
- Keeping community ownership is the key for sustainability of implementation of actions.
- A key challenge is to keep the community volunteers motivated to be engaged with the programmes initiated at the community level.
- At the community level there is an increased interest and effort to include nutrition sensitive messages to improve malnutrition in addition to the nutrition specific actions.

Session 4: National Information Platforms for Nutrition: is this a feasible approach to respond to countries' needs?

Moderator: Lola Gostelow, Consultant for the Nutrition Advisory Service, European Union

As part of their efforts to provide a concerted response to countries' needs, a group of donors, UN Agencies and universities is currently developing an initiative to strengthen national information platforms for nutrition (NIPN). Users of the information will include decision makers from government, civil society, business, donors and parliamentarians. A technical team will be responsible for analyses and interpretation and different media channels will be important to share this information with the public.

Key Messages:

- Having a centralised information database is important but this should be linked to prioritisation and addressing of problems.
- National Information Platforms for nutrition (NIPN); Platform deals with data, information and analysis. Motivation has grown out of the need to make information usable and actionable
- Comprehensive approach that brings together the elements for nutrition are needed. NIPN brings together data and analytical tools to answer these questions
- There are critical gaps to knowledge and understanding for governments; the systems Funding, Programming, Reporting, Results. It is possible to pull all relevant information from multiple sectors and programmes can be populated into a central database.

Community of Practice 4: Functional Capacities for Coordinated and Effective Scaling Up Nutrition in Action

This community of practice aims to build the capacity of groups and individuals to function effectively across sectors, among multiple stakeholders and between many levels of government.

Session 1: Building trust and developing leadership.

Moderator: Joyce Njoro, Senior Programme Officer, UN REACH

Trust between the different individuals and institutions making up a multi-stakeholder platform is necessary for integrated action and achievement of sustainable results. It can be built through strong leadership, transparency, incentive mechanisms, agreement of a common vision and understanding of others' potentialities, roles & responsibilities, and it is a pre-requisite for prevention and management of conflicts of interest. Participants discussed the concepts of trust, and leadership particularly with regard to multi-stakeholder platforms. These issues

Key Messages:

- Lead from where you are. Leadership is a shared responsibility.
- A common and shared vision with clear roles and responsibilities is a prerequisite for building trust between stakeholders.
- Identify, value and respect the complementary strengths, divergent background, different mandates and group affiliation of all members; be inclusive.
- Strengthen sharing and communication at all level ensuring that all stakeholders are at the same level of awareness.
- Institutionalise leadership and trust building frameworks for continuity, and build on existing frameworks, if possible.

Session 2: Improving stakeholder engagement and alignment.

Moderator: Maureen Bakunzi, SUN Government Focal Point and Directorate of Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation, Office of the Prime Minister Uganda

Civil society, business and academia have specific experience and expertise that can benefit scaling up nutrition processes. How different stakeholder groups set up mechanisms, institutional frameworks and incentives that facilitate this engagement, understanding the roles and responsibilities of each of these stakeholders, reflecting on how they can complement the action of the government, improve harmonization and alignment to national nutrition priorities and mechanisms, can be a source of learning. Participants explored strategies for integrated stakeholder engagement for advancing the multi-sectoral nutrition agenda.

Key Messages:

- Multi-stakeholder engagement is a key aspect of the SUN Movement (including governments, civil society, businesses, academia and UN/international organizations).
- Stakeholder engagement does not mean alignment. True engagement is part of alignment. Government must be in the leadership role (government-led, government-owned) with stakeholders aligning around government plans.
- Common characteristics of effective stakeholder engagement exist:

- Transparent, inclusive, consultative processes.
 - Diversity. Different perspectives.
 - Mutual ownership and accountability.
 - Regular and timely interaction
 - Agree on roles of stakeholders
 - Participatory monitoring
- Multi-Stakeholder engagement involves a diverse range of partners. This diversity means there is a need to be pragmatic around tensions and competing approaches. We need to identify, recognise and manage these different interests.

Session 3: Strategic capacities for multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and decentralisation of nutrition governance.

Moderator: David Pelletier, Associate Professor of Nutrition Policy, Division of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University

SUN countries are increasingly adopting approaches to support coordination between all levels and sectors and decentralizing decision-making and governance mechanisms for scaling up nutrition. The participants reflected on the steps necessary to develop frameworks and mechanisms that facilitate multi-level and multi-sectoral understanding and coordination, decentralise multi-stakeholder platforms and improve local-national decision-making coherence and alignment.

Key Messages:

- Informal small groups can be the most powerful - when they come together, they can influence the overarching formal structure.
- Consensus-building processes should move both bottom-up (within small groups) and top-down (government leadership) to build coherent effective platforms at all levels
- Must not miss businesses, because the people we are targeting are consumers. Importance of tapping into business expertise, and especially linking to small-/mid-level farmers
- Importance of government leadership - to recognise its role in creating national priorities, be confident in and committed to its priorities, enabling all other partners to contribute within that framework.
- Create guidance on targets for sub-regional leadership, for business engagement, for civil society - support in mutual accountability.
- Results-based frameworks have an important role in linking finance and nutrition, creating action and promoting accountability.
- Interpretation of policy from one level to the next, ensuring appropriate stakeholders are involved and that policy is understood at all levels.

Independent Comprehensive Evaluation

Members of the Independent Comprehensive Evaluation team lead two parallel sessions within the SUN GG. The team's participation in the SUNGG was an important part of the consultation and evidence-gathering exercise that will feed into the team's report, which is due to be delivered at the end of December. The session included a brief presentation on the evaluation's progress and emerging findings followed by open discussion and feedback on issues raised in the ICE team's discussion paper on future options for the SUN Movement.

Roundtable on the Contribution of Science to the SUN Movement

Moderator: Emorn Udomkesmalee, Mahidol University, Thailand

Strengthening the links between policy-makers and nutrition science, academia and professionals so that policy-makers have access to the information they require to take decisions, and science, academia and professionals are informed by experience is critical for successful scaling up of nutrition. In addition, it is important to develop strong links within the nutrition science, academic and professional communities to avoid overlap and ensure that gaps are filled.

The contribution of nutrition science, academia and professionals potentially includes support for:

- research studies relating directly to planning and implementation;
- staff training;
- survey and study design;
- policy development and technical guidance;
- programme evaluation;
- development of appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems; and
- dissemination of knowledge both technical and experiential.

In SUN countries, at least 27 countries have academic institutions as members of the national multi-stakeholder platform but there is a need to understand better the exact contribution of academic institutions to the platforms. In addition, academic institutions, nutrition professionals and scientists are increasingly involved in the four emerging communities of practice that are strengthening the capacity of SUN countries to deliver improved nutrition.

Key messages:

- Many SUN countries have multi-stakeholder platforms that engage with academia but support tends to be on an *ad hoc* basis.
- Some countries feel that there is lack of human resources while other countries believe that a critical mass of academics and professionals exist, though there are constraints on time.
- There is a need to align the agendas of policy makers and academics. A challenge exists in effective communication between the scientific and the nutrition stakeholder community. Policy makers often have difficulties formulating questions that researchers can address, and researchers often produce information in a format that others have difficulty putting into practical use.
- Researchers need to look at issues such as sustainability and scalability.
- Research information should state clearly what is already known, be evidence based and contextualised.
- The SUN Movement Secretariat will produce a paper for the SUN Lead Group based on a series of teleconference calls with the SUN Country Network and the discussion during the Global Gathering round-table. This paper will feed into the visioning of the SUN Movement beyond 2015.

Plenary Session 1

Demonstrating progress and visioning.

Panellists from across the Movement's different stakeholder groups were asked to reflect on what they believed was the strength of the SUN Movement, and on what was their hope for its future.

Key messages:

- The strength of the SUN Movement lies in all those who are committed to working together to achieve its goals. It benefits from its diversity and inclusiveness, which lead to the opportunity for learning and sharing both in individual countries and across countries.
- Women's empowerment and gender equity are essential for an end to undernutrition; the Movement must reflect this reality in all its work. The Movement can 'join the dots' between the interlinked challenges facing countries by better including universal human rights and climate change.
- The sense of national and country ownership of the Movement is a source of strength; however, there must be policy continuity. Being part of the SUN Movement can help foster continuity across successive administrations.
- The Movement must have a consistent focus on people, be meaningful at the community and village level, and be accountable to those it serves.

Plenary Session 2

Significant points of learning from country experience and critical priorities for expansion and success in the coming year.

Moderators from the parallel sessions reported on the discussions in their communities of practice (see above). The meeting received a presentation on the Global Nutrition Report (GNR):

Key Messages (from the GNR):

- Nutrition is a foundation of the SDGs
- Malnutrition is a concern for all countries
- Multiple burdens are a "new normal"
- Progress is slow globally but there are some spectacular country advances
- We need more ambition in targets
- Scaling up of interventions and actions are possible
- Nutrition accountability needs strengthening
- There are glaring Nutrition Data Gaps in the World Health Assembly target

Plenary Session 3

What has been learnt from scaling up nutrition so far? How does the experience of scaling up nutrition inform global processes?

The closing plenary reviewed the outcomes of the parallel sessions over the two-days of the SUNGG and received a briefing from the ICE team on their discussions and next step. Two high-level panel discussions focussed on what had been learnt from scaling up nutrition to date, and how this experience could inform global processes such as the ICN2 and post-2015 development agenda.

Key messages:

- The SUN Movement has come a long way; however, movements are based on outrage and stakeholders must not become complacent. We must channel our outrage to underline that inaction is no longer an option. Poverty cannot be ended without ending hunger.
- Knowledge is necessary for success. Within the Movement countries and stakeholders must draw on all resources, from academia, business, and civil society, and by learning from each other.
- Accountability is central to the Movement's success and needs to have a greater focus. More domestic and external investment is required to scale up nutrition. Governments and development partners must deliver on their commitments. All those scaling up nutrition must be accountable for how resources are used to deliver measurable results.
- The Movement must remain a movement and not become a bureaucracy; however, it must be clear on its goals and how they will be achieved.
- Be pragmatic and unavoidable and make the business case for nutrition in post-2015.
- The experience of the SUN Movement in bringing people together, country ownership, and creating a sustainable momentum for nutrition can inform the post-2015 development agenda.
- The SUN Movement has created a framework within which different stakeholders can come together. The Movement should support the engagement of small and medium enterprises in supporting national nutrition objectives.
- Nutrition and vulnerability are inextricably linked. The effects of climate change will lead to hundreds of millions of people going hungry. How the Movement can support building resilience along the continuum from humanitarian to development should be explored further.
- Aligning nutrition with maternal, newborn and child health will lead to greater impact in both areas. Nutrition is central to child survival.