



Concurrent Workshop sessions - Title and abstract

November 7, 2017, Session time - 14:00 – 15:30 hrs

1. What are the criteria and characteristics of “good” national nutrition plans? From theory to practice

In the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, many countries are updating their action plans for nutrition building on strong linkages with sectoral policies and plans and on engagement with multiple stakeholders.

In 2016, a number of partners came together to develop a [Checklist](#) on the criteria and characteristics of “good” plans. Based on this, one country will present how their national plan responds to the main criteria and explain what it takes to get there while highlighting the added value of the checklist.

The majority of the session will be devoted to an interactive game. Country teams will identify a maximum of two criteria of the Checklist where they would most like to make progress and would appreciate constructive feedback. Teams will develop a strategy to deliver on these criteria and will adjust it based on the inputs from other teams. This breakout session entails teamwork, pitching ideas and getting inputs.

2. How can SUN Countries integrate early childhood development approaches into nutrition policies, programmes and interventions?

The latest evidence estimates that about 250 million children under 5 years of age, particularly in developing countries, will not achieve their optimal development due to lack of good health, good nutrition and adequate care. In recent years, research on neuroscience has reinforced the evidence of the intrinsic link between adequate nutrition, a loving and protective family environment and brain development during the first 1000 days of life and beyond. Recognising this, early childhood development (ECD) has been integrated as an important element to the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with direct linkages to Goals 2, 4 and 16.

This workshop offers an opportunity to showcase and promote a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition that integrates care for young children and parental support. Specifically, this session will aim to highlight countries' experiences in integrating ECD into nutrition policies, programs and interventions. Participants will take stock of the evidence on approaches and programs incorporating early childhood stimulation



and parental support; discuss the programmatic implications of innovative research as well as examine challenges including cost estimation, definition and monitoring of early childhood development indicators and mobilization of human and financial resources. Finally, the participants will explore opportunities to use existing platforms, including health and nutrition, to increase investment and capacity building for the integration of nutrition with early childhood development.

3. How can the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition help to harmonise our efforts in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals?

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (hereafter Nutrition Decade), proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in April 2016, provides a time-bound cohesive framework for action based on the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). This enables all actors to better work together, mobilize action and accelerate efforts towards the elimination of hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition. The Nutrition Decade has to play a role in connecting and aligning all nutrition efforts within the shared framework of the ICN2, the 2030 Agenda for Change and its Sustainable Development Goals, and the global nutrition targets agreed at the World Health Assembly, as well as in ensuring progress is tracked and results are reported to the United Nations General Assembly.

This session will seek to clarify the added value of the Decade of Action on Nutrition in helping to bring coherence to nutrition actions at the country level.

4. Translating policy into investment and implementation for improved nutrition: what are SUN Countries main lessons from parliamentary engagement?

Parliamentary engagement in the SUN Movement is booming. 36 SUN Countries are working with Members of Parliament (MP's) to advance their national nutrition agenda – through policy, law-making, resource advocacy and constituency mobilization. This session will showcase country examples where parliamentarians have had nutrition impact (in influencing political manifestos, policy, legislation and budget increases) and inspire country delegations to employ similar tactics in their own countries. It will also seek to provide delegations with the practical tools to identify potential parliamentary champions, identifying clear roles for parliamentarian champions within national advocacy strategies and how to work with parliamentarians.

Through a mixture of good practice examples, moderated discussion and a deep dive into regional and global parliamentary platforms, stakeholders and MPs present will determine key opportunities for 2018, and define the working modalities for a SUN Community of Parliamentarians to ensure national parliamentarians can share experiences and champion nutrition.



5. Sharing knowledge, methods, and experiences on implementation: How can SUN Countries better implement priority actions?

This session will explore the knowledge and resources available to SUN countries on how to better implement their priority nutrition actions in real-world settings, as compiled by the Knowledge for Implementation and Impact Initiative (KI3). Presenters will provide an overview of implementation knowledge and share the initial results of KI3's systematic mapping of organizations and initiatives that currently provide implementation resources including tools, frameworks, guidelines, and lessons learned. Countries with active implementation research platforms will also share their experiences.

The majority of the session will be devoted to collecting input from and networking among SUN countries that need implementation support and initiatives that are ready to respond to their diverse needs and requests for knowledge assistance. The aim of the session is to identify a future modality, whether a global consortium or hub, that can best help share knowledge, methods, and experiences on implementation of nutrition actions.

6. How can small and medium enterprises be supported to help improve nutrition outcomes?

The vast majority of nutritionally vulnerable individuals procure their food in the open market, much of which is provided by small and medium enterprises (SMEs). SMEs account for >90% of private businesses in low and middle income countries and for the majority of food companies. With up to 80% of food consumed being purchased in the open market, SMEs contribute a significant amount to the total of food consumed in SUN countries.

SMEs can be leveraged at the national level to deliver innovation around nutrition, raise consumer awareness of nutrition and also create demand for nutritious foods in a responsible manner. However, the potential impact of many SMEs to address malnutrition is often limited by underdeveloped business models and low technical abilities as well as a lack of access to finance, which limits business growth and therefore market penetration and nutrition impact. As a result many SMEs are unable to fulfill their full potential in playing a role in addressing malnutrition.

This session will focus on ways in which SMEs can reach more consumers with nutritious products and provide examples of what SMEs are already doing. It will also explore ways in which SUN stakeholders and partners can better support them to scale up and deliver greater nutrition impact and present the case and opportunities for investment in SMEs to scale up nutrition.