Concurrent Workshop sessions - Title and abstract

November 8, 2017, Session Time - 11:00 hrs – 12:30 hrs

1. How can food systems be transformed for improved nutrition and sustainability?

In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the Malabo Declaration, governments and development partners are increasing their commitment to make agriculture and food system policies and programmes “nutrition-sensitive”. A prominent challenge for transforming this commitment into action is the limited focus, capacity and resources to design, implement and monitor nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture policies and programmes.

Through the sharing of country-level experiences, participants will consider how nutrition-sensitive food systems can promote and support healthy diets, while – at the same time - addressing the challenges associated with the multiple burdens of malnutrition. Particular attention will be given to the tools, entry points and policy levers within the food system that can help ensure inclusive policies and programmes deliver sustainable, nutrition-sensitive food production that supports diets which are balanced, diverse, safe, accessible, nutritious and desirable.

2. How can nutrition champions help to boost the salience of nutrition?

Nutrition champions are integral to building and sustaining political commitment for nutrition. In 26 SUN Countries, high profile individuals are doing their utmost to make nutrition matter for everyone, everywhere.

This session will examine practically, how to identify, engage, support and sustain the efforts of nutrition champions. It will illuminate the efforts of ‘unsung heroes’, showcasing the efforts of individual working level champions from government, civil society, private sector, academia, media and how they have moved the nutrition agenda forward in their country. It will also highlight the contributions of high level political and social champions for nutrition and focus on how they came to be a champion, their engagement over time and tactics for recruiting such influential leaders. Finally, the session will draw on country experiences of how to incentivize nutrition commitment and leadership. It will also explore how nutrition champions can be better networked in the SUN Movement.
3. How can SUN Countries achieve results and impact through the alignment of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene policies with policies and plans for good nutrition?

Multi-sectoral action is fundamental to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Both Nutrition and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) have a role to play in the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And in particular, SDG2, to end malnutrition, will not be achieved without inter-connected action to achieve SDG 6 (universal access to WASH).

In response to this, SUN Countries are increasing their collaboration across government ministries and with non-governmental partners in the development and alignment of WASH and nutrition policies and plans. Like SUN, Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) is a global multi-stakeholder partnership. It encourages the achievement of sanitation, water and hygiene for all people. SUN and SWA Focal Points, along with in-country partners, are key actors in the partnership as they ensure a continued country-led focus when understanding the successes and challenges of linking WASH and Nutrition actions at country and community levels.

This session will encourage nutrition actors to take a lead role in engaging colleagues working in the WASH sector to integrate nutrition actions within their policies and plans, emphasizing that there is a strong investment case for combining WASH and nutrition actions. Members of the nutrition community will hear from WASH actors (and the other way round) on how to better engage, and how to include WASH impact into both the nutrition discourse and implementation.

4. How can nutrition modeling tools be used most effectively to inform nutrition advocacy, programming and costing?

A range of innovative modeling tools exist to help in setting nutrition goals and targets, establishing dietary recommendations, programming micronutrient interventions, planning effective policy and advocacy strategies as well as costing nutrition programs. This session will provide participants with an overview of the main nutrition modeling tools available, the functionality associated with each tool, and how to select a particular tool for a specific need. They will also have the opportunity to discuss their own country situation and to identify the best uses they can make of those technical resources.

Most of the session will be devoted to collecting input from SUN countries that wish to obtain support or that are ready to discuss the role that modeling tools can play in setting their diverse priorities; and to network with other countries that have used those tools. The session will also seek to identify a future modality, whether a global consortium or hub, that can help share knowledge, methods, and experiences on modelling tools.
5. What does scaling up nutrition look like in practice? Sharing Stories of Change and Improvement in Nutrition

Many member countries of the SUN Movement are making significant strides in reducing undernutrition, though there is a need to look closely at what is supporting such improvements and mobilise that information for other countries to learn from these experiences.

Launched in 2016, Nourishing Millions, spearheaded by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), has been a formidable effort to lift up the practice behind the process to demonstrate country examples where change is occurring. Other Knowledge Management actors, such as the Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN), the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Secure Nutrition and the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI) are also working to elevate experiences to inform implementation in SUN member countries.

This session will be based on country experiences – it will draw on them to demonstrate how and why progress is occurring and what have been the key factors which have enabled impact. It will also focus on the importance of sharing experiences as a way to reflect on challenges and experiences. It will demonstrate how such sharing can help stakeholders from different countries to find solutions to their nutrition challenges.

6. How can different stakeholders in nutrition develop impact and trust by working together?

The scale and complexity of the challenge of addressing malnutrition requires governments, private sector, civil society, development partners and United Nations actors to work together. Actors are increasingly coming together in multi-stakeholder platforms to share information, work together for better impact, learn from each other and take decisions.

This session will focus on global and country opportunities, challenges, benefits, and means of engaging diverse actors in the fight against malnutrition, share good practice and discuss principles of engagement and accountability. It will examine steps required to build effective partnerships, develop trust and deliver impact in SUN countries. The session aims to contribute to the acknowledgement that trust is needed between all stakeholder groups central to the SUN Movement, and that building trust is a long-term process. Speakers will draw on good practices of multi-stakeholder engagement to identify, with the audience, mechanisms that should, over the long-run, contribute to building effective partnerships across the Movement. Examples will illustrate opportunities for better collaboration between private sector and government or civil society, including challenges and how to deal with those.