

**2017 SUN Movement Global Gathering
Executive Committee Meeting with SUN Donor Network
8 November 2017, 07:30-08:30
Summary Report**

Participants

SUN Donor Network (SDN)	Executive Committee (ExCom)	SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS)
Maren Lieberum, SDN Facilitator Ben Siddle, Ireland, SDN Co-Facilitator Maimouna Diop Ly, African Development Bank Heike Henn, Germany Aidan Fitzpatrick, Ireland Barbara Hughes, USA Madeleine Onclin, European Union Frits van der Walt, Netherlands Joyce Seto, Canada Aki Suzki, Japan Abigail Perry, DFID	Shawn Baker, BMGF, (Chair) Abdoulaye Ka, Senegal, (Vice Chair) Francesco Branca, WHO Lawrence Haddad, GAIN Uma Koirala, CSA Nepal Lauren Landis, WFP Daysi de Marquez, El Salvador Tumaini Mikindo, CSA Tanzania Martha Newsome, Medical Teams Intl. Felix Phiri, Malawi Aslam Shaheen, Pakistan Fokko Wientjes, DSM	Gerda Verburg, Coordinator Sergio Teixeira Marlen Schuepbach

Agenda

Ensuring sustained support for the SUN Movement and its architecture, and the role of the SDN in the implementation of the SUN Movement roadmap

- Review of SDN Strategy – achievements 2016/2017, ongoing initiatives and key priorities for 2018
- Reflections on MEAL baseline 2016 – meaning and use for the SDN
- Discussions between Executive Committee and SDN on the envisioned role of SDN

Key take-aways

- Enhance coordination and collaboration between donors and SUN Government Focal Points at country level; increase alignment and harmonization amongst in-country donors
- SDN expressed it can be difficult to demonstrate the value add of funding for activities related to ‘improving the enabling environment’
- Some SDN representatives would like more clarity on the role of the SUN Executive Committee
- Challenges of Governments in handling multiple requests for funding
- The global nutrition governance architecture is perceived as fragmented, and more clarity is needed on SUN’s leadership role therein
- The time invested by in-country staff of donor agencies in support of SUN Movement is still largely considered voluntary and not part of workplans
- SDN offered to use their voices at the policy table
- SDN expressed strong commitment to the SUN Movement

Action points

Item	Timing	Responsible
- SDN to share and discuss new study on 'Promoting the best of the SUN Movement' with ExCom	Asap	SDN Secretariat
- For ExCom retreat: How to help donors make the case for investments in enabling environment?	Retreat Jan 2018	SMS
- ExCom to encourage donor agency leadership to send a strong message to field offices that effective coordination is a non-negotiable	Asap	ExCom
- SMS to share the role and TORs of ExCom with SDN	Asap	SMS (Sergio)
- SMS to clarify the evaluation plan and timeline for current phase of the SUN Movement	Asap	SMS
- Coordinator and SDN to follow up on points from Coordinator on how SDN can better engage and contribute	Next call (tbc)	SMS (Sergio/ Coordinator)
- Arrange periodic exchanges between SDN and ExCom	Tbd	SMS
- SMS to share ExCom meeting notes	Asap	SMS (Marlen)

Notes

The Chair of the Executive Committee opened the meeting, welcoming this first opportunity for an exchange between the SUN Donor Network (SDN) and the Executive Committee.

The SDN provided an update on the progress on implementing their strategy, described briefly the main activities in 2016/2017, and highlighted challenges, most notably keeping up political momentum for nutrition, and ensuring funding for the SUN Secretariat. SDN commissioned a study on 'Promoting the best of the SUN Movement', which will be discussed with the Executive Committee in due course. SDN expressed strong commitment to the SUN Movement and commitment to play a better role.

Donors' main interest concerns what is going on in-country, and how investment in activities is progressing the agenda. Advocacy only considered as second funding priority, requiring clear documentation of impact. Donors expressed difficulty of demonstrating value-added of funding activities tied to improving the enabling environment. The Executive Committee asked whether the MEAL system can help SDN on this issue. A specific comment was made that when reviewing the MEAL system, SDN noticed an indicator was missing on how the networks are working together. Donors were interested if SUN has country-specific support strategies, tailored to progress stage?

Executive Committee members encouraged donor agencies to enhance coordination and collaboration with SUN Government Focal Points. Sometimes it would be helpful for Focal Points to get support from donors to bring attention to nutrition issues. The question came up how Governments (Ministries of Finance) should deal with the multiple, at times competing or repetitive, requests for funding they are confronted with, and how best to justify investment in nutrition as a priority. To measure policy change, donors were invited to help identify specific missing issues in policy areas.

The SUN Movement Coordinator proposed the SDN should consider the following priorities: 1) Need support from SDN to encourage national authorities for increased investment in nutrition from domestic budget. 2) SDN can provide information on rapid response at country level. 3) SDN can have a role in bringing stakeholders together at country level. 4) Involve SDN in dialogue with private sector at county level to share own experiences. 5) Make links between under- and overnutrition and share existing own experience with countries. 6) Encouraged regular strategic discussion between Coordinator and SDN.

The fragmentation of the nutrition landscape was flagged as a difficulty for governments, and lack of clarity expressed from some SDN members how all the structures come together. How does SUN relate to CFS and Decade of Action on Nutrition, etc?

SDN highlighted the issue of voluntary time that is invested by in-country donor staff and the need for motivating, stimulating and supporting those individuals in their efforts for the SUN Movement. The Executive Committee could take up this issue with agency leadership, encouraging them to send a strong message to field offices that effective coordination is a non-negotiable. Donors stressed that they can use their voices at the policy table if coordination is improved.

Some members of the SDN asked for more clarity regarding the role of the Executive Committee. Further strategic discussions between the Executive Committee and SDN were proposed.