

SUN Movement Information Note

September 2012

As evidence accumulates about the long-term impact of poor nutrition in pregnancy and early childhood, more and more countries are committing to scaling up their efforts for better nutritional outcomes. They are leading the **Scale Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement** which was initiated in September 2010. Hundreds of partners provide concerted support to SUN countries as they invest in policies and actions that will reduce hunger and the burden of under-nutrition.

Tremendous progress has been made since the SUN Movement was launched and the momentum is increasing. Heads of States from countries with high burdens of under-nutrition are committing to scale up nutrition in increasing numbers. Partners are aligning behind country-led plans and activities and committing to increase investment in nutrition.

"Through the Movement, countries work together to establish the most effective ways in which to scale up actions and yield measurable results"

Her Excellency Aja Dr Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice-President of the Gambia, July 2012

"As we scale up nutrition actions with emphasis on the first 1000 days window of opportunity, let us rise with the SUN and unite to end hunger and malnutrition"

First Lady Dr Ernestina Naadu Mills, First Lady of Ghana, December 2011

"Consensus achieved around cost-effective interventions to fight malnutrition together with the need to scale them up at national level -as promoted by SUN- has enormously benefitted the roll out of a [National] Zero Hunger Plan. The participation of Guatemala in the SUN Movement contributed to generating consensus on what needs to be done to fight child chronic malnutrition. Our challenge now is to make it happen at national level, with millions of mothers and children."

Luis Enrique Monterroso, Secretary of SESAN Guatemala, August 2012

"Indonesia is proud of its past achievements in tackling under-nutrition but our nation is aware that much more work still remains to be done. Indonesia recognizes the potential for using the SUN framework to effectively address the challenges posed by malnutrition, including its economic and development impacts".

Dr Endang Rahayu Sedyaningsih, Former Minister of Health for Indonesia, December 2011

"The central health leadership of the Kyrgyz Republic is deeply committed to scaling up nutrition investments".

Mr S.T. Abdikarimov, Deputy Minister of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, December 2011

"Nigeria has over the years recognised the role of nutrition as a development issue and has committed to addressing the unacceptably high rate of malnutrition among under-fives in the country."

Professor C.O. Onyebuchi Chukwu, Minister of Health of Nigeria, November 2011

"What we want to do is eradicate malnutrition. As a government, we are going to fight as hard as we can to eradicate it" **President Ollanta Humala of Peru, August 2012**

"Rwanda's focus today is to sustain the momentum and the downward trend of further reductions in stunting and eventually to eliminate all forms of malnutrition."

Dr Agnes Binagwaho, Minister of Health of Rwanda, December 2011

In an effort to sustain the gains made in tackling the problem of malnutrition, the Government of Sierra Leone has developed a number of policies, and designed programmes and strategies that could serve as the basis for effectively tackling the problems of food insecurity and malnutrition"

Mrs Zainab Hawa Bangura, Minister of Health and Sanitation of Sierra Leone, January 2012

The SUN Movement brings together the authorities of countries burdened by under-nutrition, a broad range of stakeholders from multiple sectors in-country and a global coalition of partners to contribute to significant and sustained reductions in under-nutrition and improvements in the health and prosperity of future generations. Today, Government leaders in 30 countries with high levels of under-nutrition have indicated that they are scaling up nutrition and many others have expressed interest.

SUN is not a new institution or fund: instead it is a Movement that increases the effectiveness of existing initiatives and programmes by supporting national leadership for nutrition; encouraging focus and alignment of this support; and enabling the participation of a wide range of stakeholders to foster broad ownership and shared responsibility for results.

The SUN Movement focuses on the 1000 day window of opportunity between pregnancy and the child's second birthday and recognizes that investing in well-tested, low-cost and effective nutrition interventions is one of the smartest ways to save lives and enhance the intellectual, physical and social growth of children. Partners in the Movement have committed to working together to create conditions in which household members – especially women – can improve their own and their children's nutrition. They are expanding the pool of resources for implementing a set of specific interventions that improve nutrition, and are incorporating gender and nutrition sensitive strategies into health, agriculture, education, employment, social welfare and development programmes.

Countries that join the SUN Movement are committed (a) to ensuring that programmes in all sectors of government are sensitive to nutrition, and (b) to increasing coverage of proven interventions that improve nutrition during the 1000 day period such as support for exclusive breastfeeding, optimal complementary feeding practices and delivery of essential vitamins and minerals. Partners support the implementation of national nutrition plans through a responsive harmonized effort that builds on results-driven leadership, political energy, high-level advocacy and catalyzing financial and technical resources around countries' priorities. Participants in the SUN Movement are guided by the **SUN Framework** (2009), which has been endorsed by more than 100 agencies and other entities, and by the **SUN Roadmap** (2010), which helps to coordinate investments and activities by outlining principles for scaling up nutrition.

- ***The SUN Movement is a collective effort*** that supports countries as they invest in policies and actions that will reduce hunger and under-nutrition. SUN is not a new initiative, institution or fund.
- ***SUN supports country-led efforts*** for nutrition and advocates for harmonized and aligned financing at country level. Committed countries are at the core of the SUN Movement.
- ***SUN is inclusive*** and brings together a broad range of in-country stakeholders and multiple partners worldwide.
- ***SUN promotes specific nutrition interventions and nutrition-sensitive strategies*** in sectors such as agriculture, water and sanitation, education, social welfare, employment and local governance.
- ***SUN emphasizes the crucial role of women's empowerment*** in policies and actions to Scale Up Nutrition.

Country Participation in the SUN Movement

Any country that is developing, updating or implementing policies, strategies and plans of action to scale up nutrition can participate in the SUN Movement. Countries that have joined the SUN Movement include: **Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.** It is anticipated that other countries will follow.

- **The SUN Movement is strongly endorsed by the United Nations (UN) Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon** but is not exclusive to the UN. It brings together stakeholders from governments, donor agencies, civil society, business, academia as well as UN agencies.
- **At country level, all stakeholders who share the common aim of improving nutrition are part of the SUN Movement.** This includes:
 - Government authorities who appoint a coordinating government focal point for SUN;
 - UN agencies who coordinate their support at a global level through the **UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN)** and at a country level through the **UN REACH** mechanism where it is active;
 - Donor groups who identify a coordinating donor convener;
 - Civil society who are forming alliances with broad membership from local and international civil society organisations;
 - Business who are members of the Chamber of Commerce, Food Fortification Alliances and other business platforms;
 - Academic institutions who support capacity development and research.

SUN countries are applying the key principles of the SUN Movement. These include:

- Developing or revising **national policies, strategies and plans of actions to scale up nutrition** that include both nutrition-specific interventions as well as nutrition-sensitive development strategies;
- Nominating a high-level **national government focal point** who is responsible for ensuring that the country's efforts engage the whole of Government and for coordinating external support. In some countries, the national focal point is supported by a **facilitator** from a development partner with technical expertise in nutrition. In several countries this role is being fulfilled through the UN REACH initiative.
- Nominating a **donor convener** who undertakes to bring the donor community together and encourage the alignment of their financial and technical assistance to national plans.
- Forming or strengthening a **multi-stakeholder platform** that includes relevant line ministries like agriculture, health, education, social welfare, women's affairs, local government and key partners including civil society, businesses, universities and research institutes, donors and the UN system. Often countries will have a steering committee and a working group.
- Undertaking regular **stocktaking** of in-country and partner capabilities in nutrition to clearly identify capacity gaps and set priorities for resource mobilization.
- Increasing numbers of SUN Governments are carefully looking at the **costing** of specific nutrition interventions and nutrition sensitive strategies as the starting point resource mobilization.

Countries signal their intention of scaling up nutrition and joining the SUN Movement by sending a **letter of commitment** from a High-Level Government official to Dr. David Nabarro, the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition, who is Coordinator of the SUN Movement.

Stewardship of the SUN Movement

New stewardship arrangements for the SUN Movement are being put in place during 2012. These arrangements are based on an independent, external study of the SUN Movement which took into account the views of a large number of key SUN stakeholders. The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General is giving strong support to the SUN Movement which is evolving into an effective collaboration between SUN countries and those aligning their support behind country scale-up plans. In April 2012, the UN Secretary General formed a **Lead Group** to improve coherence, provide strategic oversight, improve resource mobilization and ensure collective accountability.

Members of the Lead Group are high level leaders committed to equitable human development, serving for two years in the first instance. They are drawn from communities of development partners including donors, civil society, business, and the UN system. At the core of the Lead Group are leaders from SUN countries. Members of the Lead Group are responsible for providing both strategic oversight and leadership for the SUN Movement - as countries transform their political commitments into improved nutrition outcomes at scale.

Networks are being established to facilitate timely and coherent support to national efforts to scale up nutrition. Networks will encourage dialogue between stakeholders and contribute to sustained advocacy. They will catalyze coordinated support to SUN country scale up plans in a way that enhances partner responsiveness to country demands and respect assistance processes already in place.

The Country Network consists of SUN high-level Government focal points. They are responsible for ensuring that national efforts engage the whole of Government and that external support is coordinated. This Network identifies common needs and emerging issues, enables lessons to be shared and encourages best practice. It is at the heart of the SUN Movement.

Networks that are working to align their support for SUN countries represent different stakeholder groups. These Networks are in the process of developing work-plans that are reflective of, and responsive to, SUN country needs and requests. They have their own ways of working and are developing results and accountability frameworks with specific and measurable targets and milestones. These Networks include: a Donor Network; a Civil Society Network; a UN System Network; and a Business Network.

Assisting the Lead Group to deliver its objectives, and working with the Networks to align their support is a small **SUN Movement Secretariat**. The Secretariat plays a facilitation and catalytic role: it is not an operational or funding entity. It facilitates linkages between SUN country requests and SUN Networks; helps to track country processes; supports high level advocacy and resource mobilization; ensures effective communication between Networks and SUN countries and helps connect SUN countries with donors to increase their likelihood of mobilizing funds.

Launched 2 years ago the SUN Movement is still young. Yet it is growing rapidly in size and strength. The countries in the Movement know that by working together, and by engaging with hundreds of committed supporters from around the world, they will contribute to major improvements in women's and children's nutrition and to ensuring the right of all to food and nutrition security.