

Scaling up Nutrition Movement Priorities and Key Milestones for 2015

Including Updates 12 May 2015

In summary

In 2015, several global processes present significant opportunities to firmly cement nutrition in the development agenda for decades to come – these include the post 2015 development agenda and the follow up from the International Conference on Nutrition 2 (ICN2). Further details are presented in the section **Global Context** section of this note.

Within the SUN Movement, efforts to strengthen in-country capacity to deliver and accelerate actions to scale up nutrition will be pursued. 2015 will be a year where countries can leverage the vast knowledge and expertise shared across the SUN movement and better access support for their specific contexts. Priorities and milestones of the work organized along the four themes of the emerging communities of practice are presented in the second section of this note.

In parallel, 2015 will be the year when the future of the Movement will be built, based on the recommendations of the Independent Comprehensive Evaluation (ICE). The **main milestones** of the process are presented in the third section of this note.

I. The Global Context

The Post 2015 Development Agenda

- The global context for nutrition in 2015 is marked by the **negotiation of the post 2015 development agenda**, which will culminate in a UN Summit in New York from 25-27 September. Paving the way to the Summit are a series of negotiations in New York which will be an important opportunity for SUN Government focal points to engage with their liaisons to their country permanent representatives in New York. Through these channels, high level advocacy can be undertaken to strengthen the focus on nutrition in the agenda.
- Looking beyond the specific goals and targets of the post 2015 development agenda, the ‘means of implementation’ for the goals are essential and will be subject to negotiation. **The International Conference on Financing for Development** from July 13-16 in Addis Ababa will be an important precursor to the political discussions and negotiations in New York.

*The SUN Newsletter includes a section detailing **post-2015 agenda news**, where updates and specific contributions from the SUN Networks will be profiled. To subscribe, [click here](#).*

Follow-up to ICN2

- There will be follow up to the ICN2 with further discussions through the WHO Executive Board Meeting, the Committee on World Food Security and via the committees linked to the UN General Assembly. These interactions will help to define accountability mechanisms and support the implementation of key decisions that are defined in the Rome declaration.

Update – 12 May 2015

Update on Post ICN2 (The Second International Conference on Nutrition): *In New York, member states held informal discussions on draft resolution A/69/L.50 entitled “Improving Nutrition” submitted to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) through an introductory statement presented by Ecuador on behalf of the G77.*

The resolution welcomes the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, as well as the Framework for Action, which provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for use by Governments, as appropriate, adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), held in Rome, from 19 to 21 November 2014. The draft resolution has been agreed but not yet formally adopted by the UNGA.

*As part of the follow up to the ICN2, **the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** is looking more closely at nutrition issues. The 42nd CFS plenary in October will discuss in its Coordination and Linkages session two nutrition-related themes:*

- *Regional theme: Enhancing regional food supply systems and processes to improve nutrition*
- *National theme: National multistakeholder approaches and experiences to improve nutrition*

To facilitate the open-floor discussion during the regional and national segments, which will take place on 13 and 14 October 2015, the CFS Secretariat made a call to share examples of initiatives linked to the agreed themes. Inputs are welcome by 31 May.

Countries who are interested to share their experience in this context are encouraged to get in touch with their UN permanent representation in Rome and the SMS. There are templates that will guide the inputs and that the SMS can share upon request.

II. Supporting the SUN Movement to deliver results

The Movement will continue to accelerate the pace and scale of support to reinforce SUN countries capacity to deliver effective nutrition results on the ground.

Resource mobilization is a major theme in 2015. If countries are equipped with costed plans and have the ability to track nutrition investments, this will help ensure **more money for nutrition** and **more nutrition for money**. This is essential for governments, donors, civil society and the private sector.

Throughout 2015, the SUN Movement Secretariat will continue **harnessing lessons, sharing experiences** and **building evidence** based on country experience through:

- The **self-assessment exercise**, where multistakeholder platforms come together to review progress. The exercise concludes 15 June 2015.
- A series of **In Practice Briefs**, highlighting country case studies and practical experiences in scaling up nutrition, including focuses on - Agriculture and Social Protection, Preventing and Managing Conflict of Interest, In-Country Access to Science for Nutrition and others to follow.
- Further shaping of the **Communities of Practice**, which will include a series of workshops that will create opportunities to share and learn and identify what support is needed.

The Communities of Practice

Throughout 2015, the SMS will seek to better share best practices, facilitate knowledge sharing and help SUN Countries access technical assistance through four *Communities of Practice (CoP)*. Joining these thematic communities are voluntary and they exist purely to promote learning and sharing in key areas for scaling up nutrition actions.

1. Planning, costing, implementing and financing multisectoral actions for improved nutrition

Priorities include:

- Tracking of nutrition relevant budget allocations:

- Regional workshops have now taken place in Thailand, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire and Guatemala, with 32 participating countries.
- The budget analysis efforts of countries across the SUN Movement will be featured in the 2015 [Global Nutrition Report \(GNR\)](#), representing a major step in building the investment case in these countries.

Update 12 May 2015

- *Following the call for interest launched in January 2015 and the preparatory work undertaken by 30 countries, four workshops took place in May, in Bangkok (15-16), Entebbe (21-22), Abidjan (27-28) and Guatemala City (28-30). They gathered participants from Government, UN Agencies and few CSOs, businesses, parliamentarians and journalists.*

The objectives of the workshops were to discuss and finalise the budget allocations identified by each country across several sectors and agree on their categorisation into nutrition-specific or sensitive nature, which enabled to pursue and enhance dialogue between various sectors. A review process – external but in consultation with countries – is envisaged in order to examine the country budget analyses towards greater harmonization of criteria/definitions.

- *A specific time was allocated to discuss how this could feed into advocacy and communication efforts and 20 countries are ready to feature their preliminary results in the Global Nutrition Report.*
- *The SUN Secretariat will follow up the meetings by sending a short report and some pictures of the meetings.*
- *We also would be happy to know what countries envisage to do (or have already done) with the results of this exercise.*

Further updates to follow as SUN Countries continue to analyse their national budgets. For information about the exercise and news from the workshops, [click here](#)

- Focus on providing clear guidance to countries around nutrition-sensitive actions. More information to follow.

2. Social mobilization, advocacy and communication (SMAC) for scaling up nutrition

Priorities include:

- development of shared principles for SMAC for nutrition across the SUN Movement
- development and strengthening of an online repository of SMAC resources and tools, showcasing and sharing tried and tested approaches
- create a process to help countries discuss and articulate their needs
- strengthening of the SMAC support mechanisms
- use of existing opportunities to bring together practitioners to share knowledge and lessons learned.

To view a summary of the next steps forward for the SMAC community [click here](#) and share with colleagues interested in sharing and learning effective SMAC experiences across the SUN Movement.

Update 12 May 2015

The SMS is formalizing a Community dedicated to effective Social Mobilization, Advocacy and Communication (SMAC) efforts for improved nutrition. This Community will aim to better share

country success stories, best practices, tools and strategies; and to better provide timely support to help sustain enthusiasm, knowledge and political will for improved nutrition. The Community will unite country champions at the forefront of advocating for nutrition and technical providers with the tools and knowledge to support country efforts.

Over the next 6 months, the SMS will work with countries across the Movement to:

1. Develop a knowledge/ resource portal to host and promote Movement wide SMAC tools and experiences
2. Respond efficiently to SMAC requests and help identify support for your efforts
3. Establish SMAC capacity building opportunities along with technical partners across the Movement, such as webinars.

Start by sharing your advocacy tools, communication strategies, songs, videos with the SMS; share this update with nutrition advocates; and contact us to be involved in shaping this Community on SMAC. More information can be found in the Introductory Note (please see attachment).

3. Reliable monitoring of progress, evaluation of outcomes and demonstration of nutrition results

Priorities include:

- **Data for decision-making and accountability:**
 - *Synergy with the Global Nutrition Report:* work on prioritization of key data gaps, availability and access of coverage data for nutrition-specific interventions, analysis of food systems, accountability mechanisms, share and amplify country stories of change.
 - *Synergy with National Information Platforms for Nutrition:* work on selected opportunities to improve data quality and to build analytical capacity.
 - *Synergy with WHO/UNICEF Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition Monitoring:* identify key gaps that require guidance and norms
- the SUN Movement Secretariat will provide guidance on developing useful **Common Results Frameworks**
- continue to work with mechanisms such as MQSUN to ensure that countries get access to support that is tailored to their specific needs.

4. Functional capacities for coordinated and effective scaling up nutrition in action

Priorities include:

- support countries in their understanding and management of conflict of interest through dissemination of the GSO/SUN Reference Note and Toolkit on *Engaging in the SUN Movement, Preventing and managing Conflicts of Interest* and development of an **IN Practice brief**
- provide guidance to SUN countries in the area of functional capacities to scale up nutrition in action. **This will be supported through a functional capacity workshop in Nairobi, 10-12 June 2015 for the Anglophone countries of East and Southern Africa.** Lessons will be shared with countries and opportunities for replicating the exercise will be sought for.
- Identifying resources to support functional capacity gaps within countries is an ongoing process.

Update 12 May 2015

Workshop on Strengthening Effective Engagement for Scaling-Up-Nutrition: SUN Business Network Workshop (Day 1) & Functional Capacities for Scaling-Up-Nutrition (Days 2 and 3) in the East and Southern Africa Region, Nairobi, 10-12 June 2015

*UNICEF East and Southern Africa Region and SUN Business Network, with the support of the SUN Movement Secretariat, are coming together to organise a three day workshop examining the role of functional capacities to scale up nutrition and engaging with business as part of multistakeholder plans in the East and Southern Africa countries. We hope, by bringing these 2 events together, to enable greater debate, convenience and thus participation from countries. Participants will include **country representatives** (3 persons per country), the SUN Focal Point or another government representative, a representative from the civil society, academia or development partners and a SUN Business Network representative.*

*Substantive **resource persons** drawn from SUN UN Network agencies, SUN Civil Society Network, SUN Business Network, Regional Economic and Health Communities, foundations, research centers, academia and other partners are also expected to attend. A further Francophone workshop may be organised later in the year but will be confirmed following the completion of this workshop.*

The Networks

Update 12 May 2015

SUN Global Civil Society Network (CSN)

- *2099 Civil Society Organisations are engaged through the 31 national Civil Society Alliances*
- *The SUN CSN and Save the Children have secured funding from the Children's Investment Fund Foundation for a series of learning routes and knowledge exchange between civil society alliances and other stakeholders, which will be organized in 2016.*
- *The CSN Secretariat have produced guidelines for measuring impact. It essentially looks at ways to examine how civil society activities have resulted in a direct impact on nutrition policies and practices.*

SUN UN Global Network

- *The UN will finalize the Global Nutrition Agenda in May 2015. The framework will guide the UN Nutrition work for the next five years.*
- *The UN seeks to accelerate support for all SUN countries by undertaking a mapping exercise to identify UN Network Focal Points in all the SUN countries. Accountability systems, including dashboards, will be used to monitor the ongoing country activities and those incorporated in the UN Network work plan.*
- *UN Regional workshop in Asia – 29th – 30th June in Bangkok*
- *IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) is currently preparing a new inter-regional project on 'Contributing to the evidence base to improve stunting reduction programmes' covering Africa, Asia and Latin America. In the context of the evaluation of large scale nutritional programs, the IAEA is aiming to contribute its expertise in the use of stable isotopes to add value to current evaluation programs in low and middle income countries where children under 5 years of age suffer from stunting and its harmful long-term effects at the household, community and country levels. More details of the project are included in a brief available on the SUN website, where it is explained the inclusion criteria for countries. 15 countries (Burkina Faso; Benin; Madagascar; Malawi; Senegal; Mauritania; Tanzania; Vietnam; Myanmar; Philippines; Indonesia; Nepal; Guatemala; Peru; El Salvador) are already part of the project with either Ministry of Health representatives and/or research institutions.*

SUN Global Donor Network

- *The current priority is on improving donor accountability by focusing on financial tracking at the country level and strengthening donor alignment.*

- *Following the research done on the role of donor conveners in countries, the Donor Network is assessing the possibility of organising a regional workshop for conveners to share experiences.*

SUN Global Business Network (SBN)

- *SBN continues to manage commitments from the 2013 Nutrition 4 Growth Summit which created the first global platform for business commitments. 123 companies have publicly committed to scaling up nutrition - 38 companies with global commitments, 85 companies pledged to developing commitments at national level in SUN countries.*
- *Nine countries (Tanzania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Mozambique, Zambia, Kenya, Indonesia, Cameroon, and Guatemala) have established Business Platforms. Guidelines for Business Engagement (<http://sunbusinessnetwork.org/sun-resources/sun-toolkit-on-private-sector-engagement/>) in countries have been developed by the Network.*
- *Based on the SUN Country Calls of March 2015, 11 countries requested SBN to support them to create a network. An additional 18 countries asked for support to strengthen business engagement through existing platforms, such as National Fortification Alliances.*
- *SBN is planning two regional workshops to support SUN countries develop their business engagement strategies. The first one will be in Kenya (alongside the COP4 workshop, 10-12th June) and the other one in November in Asia.*

Monitoring Progress

Update 12 May 2015

The deadline for submission is 15th of May. For countries that are unable to conduct the exercise before the deadline, kindly inform the Secretariat on the preparation so that an appropriate extension can be made. The SUN Movement Secretariat remains available to provide any clarification on the monitoring process and documents.

III. Shaping the future of the SUN Movement

- **January-March 2015: Movement wide response to the Independent Comprehensive Evaluation (ICE) of the SUN movement**
- **March-May 2015: Visioning Sub-group will help determine priorities for a renewed SUN Strategy**
- **May 5: the Lead Group meets to decide upon the visioning of the Movement**

Update 12 May 2015

The Lead Group received the Independent Comprehensive Evaluation, the Movement's response and the recommendations from the Visioning Sub Group. They noted that there is good evidence that the transformations that the SUN Movement is advocating for are feasible and can have lasting benefits. However, they recognised that weaknesses highlighted in the evaluation require immediate attention if the momentum towards results is to be maintained. The Lead Group thanked SUN country government focal points and their partners in the multi-stakeholder platforms, as well the partners in the Movement's networks, for their feedback on the evaluation and their role in shaping the recommendations. They urged the Movement to continue to build upon the successes and preserve its unique qualities, so that it continues to be country led, multi stakeholder, multi sectoral, and catalytic, and that it continue to acknowledge the unique role of empowered women, a changing climate and the ongoing struggle for equity'.

The Lead Group endorsed the 18 recommendations made by the Visioning Sub Group. These fell under three areas: stewardship of the Movement, strategic priorities and operational modalities. On stewardship of the

Movement the Lead Group decided that: a) the UN Secretary General be requested to appoint a new Lead Group of Champions; b) an Executive Committee be appointed to oversee the practical functioning of the Movement; and c) that the recruitment of a new SUN Movement Coordinator, appointed by the UN Secretary General, be prioritised. On strategic approaches and priorities, the Lead Group decided that the strategy for 2016 to 2020: a) prioritise advocacy, coordination, accountability, capacity strengthening, and resource mobilisation; b) that the Movement build upon its successes and unique qualities and strengthen its Principles of Engagement; and c) take account of the wider political landscape for nutrition. On operational modalities the Lead Group decided that: a) The Networks and the SUN Movement Secretariat be reinforced with adequate human and financial capacity; and b) The Communities of Practice- that are linking the requests for support from SUN countries with expertise throughout the networks, be professionalised- again with adequate resourcing. The Lead Group acknowledged that the issue of conflicts of interest was integral to the broader work of building functioning multi-stakeholder platforms and, as such, welcomed the report by GSO (Global Social Observatory) and the recommendations by the Secretariat. Finally, the Lead Group urged that the updated strategy be developed in the spirit of collaboration, consultation and transparency and – of vital importance during this transitional period – that efforts to deliver results do not stall. The Secretariat will share a time-frame and work plan for the process shortly.

More information is available on the SUN Website front page.

- May-September 2015: the renewed strategy and support structures are determined
- September-December 2015: the revised SUN roadmap is finalized
- *To find related updates in the lead up to the development of the new SUN Movement Strategy, visit www.scalingupnutrition.org*

SAVE THE DATE:

The SUN Movement Global Gathering will take place in Milano, **20-22 October**, back to back with EXPO 2015 (The 2015 Universal Exposition will be held in Milano from May 1st to October 31st with a focus on food security issues “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”)