

SUN Movement Meeting of the Network of Country Focal Points: Report of the 15th Meeting- 1st to 5th of September 2014 –



The 15th meeting of the SUN Movement Network of Country Focal Points took place between September 1st and 5th 2014. The meeting involved 9 two-hour sessions by teleconference: five in English, three in French and one in Spanish.

In all there were 252 participants in the meeting from 45 countries [Bangladesh; Benin; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cambodia; Cameroon; Chad; Comoros; Costa Rica; Cote d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of the Congo; El Salvador; Gambia; Ghana; Guatemala; Guinea Bissau; Guinea Conakry; Indonesia; Kenya; Kyrgyz Republic; Lao PDR; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali ; Mauritania ; Mozambique ; Namibia ; Nepal ; Niger; Pakistan; Peru; Philippines; Rwanda; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Somalia; South Sudan; Sri Lanka; Swaziland; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Togo; Uganda; Zambia; Participants from Congo-Brazzaville, Ethiopia, Haiti, Liberia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe and the state of Maharashtra were not able to join. 45 % of the participants were employed by their national governments, 29% came from United Nations entities, 16 % from civil society organizations and academia and 4% were from bilateral donors agencies.

The Meeting agenda was as follows: 1) thematic discussion: Strengths and challenges of the SUN monitoring and evaluation framework and the self-assessment workshops; 2) Important communications of the SMS to countries: state of play of the SUN Movement Annual progress report 2013-2014; update on the preparation of the 2014 SUN Movement Global Gathering; ICN2.

1) Thematic discussion: Strengths and challenges of the SUN monitoring and evaluation framework and the self-assessment workshops:

The 2014 Monitoring Exercise builds on the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the SUN Movement, published in 2013. For the first time, 37 SUN countries conducted self-assessments using the guidance material provided by the Secretariat and completed a summary table of their progress. The results were collated and used to develop the 2014 Compendium of Country Profiles of the SUN Movement Annual Progress Report (each country has been sent its own profile along with a complete methodological note).

Participants in the next meeting of the Network of SUN countries were invited to reflect on the relevance of this exercise and its appropriateness to assess the functioning of the multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) in their country. The aim of the discussion was to inform and adapt the monitoring system of the SUN Movement in 2015 to make it more reflective of the progress, challenges and expectations of SUN countries as they progress towards the four SUN strategic objectives.

Participants in the meeting were invited to consider the following questions during the meeting:

1. What do you think about the format of the meeting of the MSP to undertake the self-assessment, the report, and the clarity of tools used to guide your team during the meeting (facilitator notes, posters, group instructions and the final format for reporting)?

2. Do all the 21 progress markers seem relevant and useful to assess the existence of elements, the functioning and the activities of the platform? Is their definition and language clear? Is there any other important indicator that is missing?
3. Is the rating scale of 0-4 (0 (not applicable) 1 (started) 2 (on-going) 3 (nearly completed) 4 (completed)) appropriate for your situation and does it allow to measure progress under the different markers?
4. Would you like to prioritize 4-5 progress markers for which you would like to progress ahead next year and on which your country is ready to focus its efforts?
5. Which progress would you like to highlight in the four SUN strategic processes since your self-assessment workshop?

Overview of feedback from countries during the SUN Country Network call:

- Countries are finding the **framework useful and relevant**.
- Countries felt the **review meeting format was useful** and that meetings went well. The process **helped bring more members into multisectoral platforms**, encouraged the formation of network/stakeholder group and identify joint priorities.
- Countries suggested that **Networks could take some time to prepare by reviewing their own performance in advance** of the main meeting.
- Countries **found the twenty-one progress markers relevant**; however, the 'later' progress markers could be better explained. **All progress markers could benefit from more simple definitions**.
- Some countries would like to **extend/add progress markers to assess capacity and capacity building and on implementation and operationalisation**.
- **More clarity on the rating scale** needed. Some countries noted an **additional 'sustaining' level could be useful** to ensure continuous action.
- **Countries saw this as a baseline year** as it was the first time they had undertaken the assessment in country.
- **Countries noted a wide range of priorities amongst the Progress Markers**. SMS has presented them in a matrix joined to this summary. Priorities of countries seems to focus on:
 - Process 1 (bringing people in the same space) and more specifically on Progress markers (1.1) Select/Develop coordinating mechanisms and (1.2) coordinate internally and broaden membership.
 - Process 3 (Common Results framework for National Nutrition Plan) and more specifically on Progress markers (3.2) Translate policy/legal framework in Common Results Framework (CRF) to maximize nutrition impact; (3.3) Organise implementation of CRF and (3.4) Manage and monitor implementation of CRF.
 - Process 4 (Financial tracking and resource mobilisation) and more specifically on Progress markers (4.1) Assess financial feasibility; (4.2) Track and transparently account for spending and (4.3) Scale up and align resources (including addressing shortfalls).

This matrix should help you to keep memory of your own priorities and to inform the SUN Movement about them. You will be invited to report regularly on them and to share your progress with other countries within the Movement.

- The SUN Secretariat will take on board this feedback and **undertake a review of the documents in the coming month**. Of particular importance will be clarifying the language.

Progress made by countries

Countries provided quick updates on progress experienced during the last two months with regard to the 4 SUN Movement processes.

PROCESS 1

- **Launch of SUN or high-level event emphasizing nutrition:**

In *Chad*, a national nutrition forum is currently being organized. In *Burkina Faso*, a large multi-stakeholder workshop took place a week after the self-assessment, sponsored by the Prime Minister with all the representatives of key ministers in chronic malnutrition in order to identify priority interventions in each sector, and results. *Bangladesh* launched the National Nutrition Policy and the Action Plan Country investment plan and celebrated the breastfeeding week celebrated at sub national level, national; A vitamins A-Plus campaign was also undertaken; *Indonesia* organised a food fortification event at the end of August 2014, which involved all stakeholders including the private sector as well as a high level workshop on food. The government of *Cambodia* prepares for the Cambodian National Nutrition Day next 6 November and for ICN2 (prepared national report on Food Security and Nutrition).

- **UN Network, REACH Initiative:**

In *Mauritania*, revitalization of activities with the appointment of a new REACH facilitator (from UNICEF). In *Senegal*, the Prime Minister agreed to the adherence of Senegal to the REACH initiative. REACH is being implemented in *Guinee Conakry* – a facilitator is expected.

- **Commitment of civil society in multi-actor SUN platforms:**

In *Côte d'Ivoire*, a donor network has been set up, and includes international NGOs (ACF, HKI). In *Burkina Faso* the Donor Network for nutrition exists (with donors and other partners) but will be divided by creating a network of donors and a network of civil society with the support of ACF. In *Guinee-Conakry*; establishment of the network of civil society during the first meeting held at CNOSC; Definition of management tools for common project. In *Sierra Leone*, Civil Society Platform established districts networks. In *Togo*, the establishment of a Civil Society Network is a priority.

- **Private-sector commitment to multi-stakeholder platforms:**

- In *Mauritania*, participation of the private sector in the meetings of the platform (started with the self-assessment workshop). In *Burkina Faso*, a group with the private sector exists but is not formalized in a network. In *Tanzania* the Business platform is still being organized. *Zambia* will get guidance from the Business Network on how to engage with the Private Sector. After first participation in the self-assessment workshop, companies in *Guinee-Conakry* are thinking to organize themselves in a network.

- **Commitment of the academic sector in multi-actor platforms:**

In *DRC* a scientific network has been launched. In *Burkina Faso*, a Network of academia is considered but is more complicated to implement. In *Kenya*, Academia network has held one meeting so far.

- **Commitment of parliamentarians in multi-actor platforms:**

In the *Democratic Republic of Congo*, a parliamentarian network has been set up;

- **Bringing all sectors into the multi-stakeholder platform and reinforcing bodies in charge of coordinating national efforts to boost nutrition:**

- In *Côte d'Ivoire*, a decree has formalized the platform as a National Nutrition Council validated by the Prime Minister. *Niger* organised a large multisectoral meeting (under the 3N) of the steering committee of the strategic program of all stakeholders. During the meeting, all aspects, guidelines have been developed to integrate nutrition activities to other sectors. Advocacy by a group for nutrition were conducted to scaling nutrition; End of August, *Cameroon* has set up a multisectoral committee for fighting against malnutrition, which is within the Prime Minister. A roadmap has been validated. *Guinee-Bissau* organised 3 meetings in 6 months. *Burundi* established a technical working group with various representatives from agriculture, health, education, local development, solidarity, and environment ... Formalization of the working groups (including technicians, partners and NGOs) was established by Decree. In *Chad*, the CNTA became an inter-ministerial Direction. In *Burkina Faso*, the MSP, the National Consultation Council on Nutrition met for the 1st time (MSP meets twice a year) to define the future. *Pakistan* has created a core group that goes beyond donors to include iNGOs and UN agencies. *Cambodia* which has just joined the Movement established a Technical Working Group with line ministries and development partners; Ministry of Health in *Somalia* is trying to get other Ministries involved. There is high commitment from the office of the Prime Minister. Priority is the establishment a Multistakeholder platform; aiming at having a first meeting at the end of the month. In *Lesotho*, there is an existing food and nutrition coordination office under the Prime Minister's Office; Position is made stronger with the structure in place – National Technical Advisory Group with lots of line Ministries involved; There are Taskforces for Micronutrients and breastfeeding; looking forward to aligning these groups.

- **Improving donor coordination and alignment:**

In *Côte d'Ivoire*, a donor network has been set up, and includes international NGOs (ACF, HKI). UNICEF is the Donor Convener. In *DRC* a donor Network has been launched. In *Mauritania*, first meeting to identify a donor convener (15th of September). In *Burkina Faso* the Donor Network for nutrition exists (with donors and other partners) but will be divided by creating a network of donors and a network of civil society with the support of ACF. *Swaziland* would like to receive guidance on how to select a donor convener.

PROCESS 2

- **Assessment of nutrition legislation and national assets:**

- In *Cote d'Ivoire* a situation analysis and preparation of the Action Plan process was initiated; In *Niger*, a quadripartite order (4 Ministries) securing the production, marketing and import of iodized salt has been adopted. Awareness and dissemination of this policy (aimed at both consumers and producers). In *Cameroon*, the new roadmap foresees the development of a national nutrition policy by the end of the year, and a national strategy for food and nutrition by the month of November. *Senegal* currently mobilized on the analysis of trends of malnutrition during the lean season (volatile situations in certain areas); In *Guinée-Bissau*, many decrees on Nutrition date from the colonial period but Guinee will take inventory and update: Several draft decrees will go to the minister's signature in the next 3 months, including: the National Nutrition Policy; guidelines for the integration of nutrition in other sectors; for the creation of the National fortification Alliance. An update of the decree for the transportation and marketing of food will be done. A

bill on the marketing of breast milk substitutes, salt and iodine fortification, quality control and use of water has been done. Nutrition is integrated into the national agricultural investment program and in the letter for agriculture and livestock development. All political and legal instruments should consider nutrition. *Burkina Faso* is working on: a National Nutrition Survey in order to know the prevalence of malnutrition in its various angles; a survey on iodine deficiency and anemia. *Guinee-Conakry* is being established a code of marketing of breast milk substitutes. Development of the protocol to strengthen nutrition in the continuum of the general health system and care. Terre Des Hommes started this week a situation analysis on the level of capacity needed in key ministries (trade, health, agriculture, industry, environment, finance). In *Namibia*, SUN Plan was launched by MoH with Child Survival Strategy A Promised Renewed helped to highlight what has been done and what needs to be done. Development of communications strategy for open defecation – part of approach to reduce stunting. Includes a number of different animations, for health workers, TV, any media channel. In *Tanzania*, the 1st review of national nutrition strategy was done; the review manages to bring together all stakeholders; Realized the need for a CRF; Currently reviewing food and nutrition policy to be followed by CRF and accountability matrix. Immediate emphasis on a national advocacy strategy and a workshop on Social Mobilisation, Advocacy and Communication in mid-September. *Mozambique* is reviewing most of the policy and legal framework. *Zambia* is reviewing Food and Nutrition Act; Document should be ready by end of next year. Capacity Enhancement of human resources amongst 5 line ministries, capacity needs assessment has been undertaken. *Indonesia* has just completed a study on nutrition to inform the integration of nutrition in the next Millennium Development plan (5 years medium term development plan) so as to make it a cross sectoral issue; *Bangladesh* launched the National Nutrition Policy and the Action Plan Country investment plan and celebrated the breastfeeding week celebrated at sub national level, national; A vitamins A-Plus campaign was also undertaken; *Somalia* has a National Nutrition Policy in place since the last two years; they developed a plan of action by the Ministry of Health and Partners. *Swaziland* is developing behavior change communication strategy; Want to finalize nutrition policy and making strategy action plans and M&E. In *Lesotho* a draft national Nutrition Policy in place and is yet to be sent to parliament. There is a results framework; will need to integrate the CRF

PROCESS 3

- **Information systems:**

Namibia: Monitoring & evaluation on implementation plan, only a three year plan finishing end of next year with effort needed to look at continue monitoring and evaluating. *Sierra Leone* developed an M&E tool, tested in provinces and waiting for results. Been difficult to go get results from Ebola effected provinces; 6 Ministries of *Nepal* will start implementing the nutrition Program in 6 districts. M&E systems in different sectors are being revised so that all the multisectoral activities are synchronized. *Somalia* has a common M&E for health and nutrition. They are looking forward to a dash board a national information system

- **Development of Joint Results Frameworks:**

In *Cote d'Ivoire* a situation analysis and preparation of the Action Plan process was initiated. In *Guinea Conakry*, the multi-sector nutrition policy and action plan are being finalized. In *Mauritania*, update of the PAIN will be completed before the SUN Global Gathering. *Kirgiz Republic* indicated the endorsement of Food Security & Nutrition programmes would be broad – they are working with parliamentarians to achieve it- and multi-sectoral programmes would cover 2014 – 2017 period once the funding gaps are resolved. *Laos* officially brought the interventions contained in the convergent action plan into the health sector

budget although it needs to look for mobilizing funds. *Bangladesh* organised nutrition training for midwives as part of the international day for midwives; *The Philippines* indicated that they are about to finalize the nutrition plan 2015-2016 and they are implementing activities related to the 1000 days.

- **Decentralization of national plans to provincial level:**

- In *Kenya*, nutrition coordination offices have been set up in a number of regional districts and their personnel has been certified after joint training with the Agriculture and Health Ministries (14 regions have yet to be set up). MSP brought together, agriculture, fisheries, livestock, civil societies doing specific nutrition on the group and county governments, hoping for 6 more counties in September and October. In *Namibia*: Focusing on WASH as open defecation remains high in the country and believed as a main contributor to stunting. More of a focus rather than other sectors working for MoA and MoH&S to work on implementing community led approach to sanitation. Sectors jointly agreed to use the same indicators to measure success. Starting in 2 or 3 regions of the 14 regions in Namibia – will share results. Building capacity of CSO to implement nutrition specific and sensitive actions, aim to improve community based wash and livelihood initiatives. Through education working with MoE and UN colleagues to promote young and teens to stay in school, reducing teenage pregnancies which will have impact on breastfeeding rates etc.

- **Budgeting**

In *Mali*, launch of the multisectoral nutrition action plan budgeted; future actions will concern the publication of this document. In *Cameroon*, once the national strategy developed, the costing of the CRF will start.

PROCESS 4

- **Financial monitoring and mobilization of resources:**

Financial monitoring and advocacy

Burundi has strategies to mobilize funding for activities (WFP Funds for a sensitization workshop for all partners, for officially launching the Technical Working Group on Capacity Building; Launch of the activities and key initiatives adopted by the government; Establishment of Kitchen Gardens for every household across the country; Training of Trainers (agronomists and managers of national health) on techniques to operationalize the key actions of the government.) *Ghana* is setting up a system of financial tracking. In *Sierra Leone* a stakeholder mapping has been established. A database of organizations and resources is being developed. They are encouraging donors to align with nutrition specific line, can use Ebola opportunity to build specific line for nutrition and attract resources. In *Tanzania* a Public expenditure review has been undertaken. In *Zambia*: Costing has been completed; Gap analysis will begin and support will be sort from the Ministry of Finance; financial tracking system is being looked; Presidential Special Committee; Government wants each Ministry to create budget line for nutrition; will share with Secretariat. The Donor network in *Pakistan* has finished the assessment of the tracking nutrition resources which identified gaps in donor funding. Thanks to the identification of funding during the last National Nutrition Coordination Meeting in *Nepal*, implementation of the multisectoral nutrition program is starting. *Lesotho* is looking for funds to address stunting; receiving support from Irish aid

2) Important communications of the SMS to countries:

- **State of play of the SUN Movement Annual progress report 2013-2014** (*please refer to the Talking Points sent before the calls*)
- **Update on the preparation of the 2014 SUN Movement Global Gathering** (*please refer to the Talking Points sent before the calls*)
- **Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2):**

Much information is available on the website of CIN2:

<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/icn2/information/participants/fr/>

For example, each country will have 3 seats in the room. The delegation may be larger, but not more than 3 people will be able to stay in the room. Yesterday, the missions of the member states had a briefing on logistics (attached PPT presentation in English).

As much as possible the appointment of the delegation should be done on the website

<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/icn2/information/registration/fr/> through country missions in Rome. In the case that the country has no representation in Rome, thank you to write to ICN2-Registration@fao.org

In order to attend the ICN2, the government officials have to be nominated by the country and be on the official list of the delegation. Observers are non-state actors, the UN and intergovernmental agencies. There are also mechanisms for registration for these players (information also available on the page: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/icn2/information/registration/nsa/en/> .

For any other needed information, a message may be sent to: icn2consultation@who.int