

SCALING UP NUTRITION (SUN) CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK (CSN)

AN OVERVIEW



Civil Society
Network

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
What is SUN?	3
SUN movement overview	4
SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN)	5
SUN CSN Purpose	5
SUN CSN Coordinator and Secretariat hosting	5
SUN CSN Steering Group	5
SUN CSN membership	8
SUN CSAs	8
SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) within the SUN movement	9
SUN CSN Strategy & Objectives	10
SUN CSN Strategic approach	10
Strategic objectives of the SUN movement	10
SUN CSN specific objectives	10
Principles of Engagement	11
A re-affirmed commitment	11
SUN CSN priority areas of action as identified June 2013	12
SUN CSN activities (July – December 2013)	13
SUN CSN information and contact	13

What is SUN?

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) is a unique Movement founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. It unites people from governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and researchers in a collective effort to improve nutrition.

The SUN Movement is led by countries. Scaling up nutrition relies on national leaders taking ownership and responsibility for delivering sustainable solutions to improve nutrition in their countries. As such, within the SUN Movement, national leaders are prioritising efforts to address malnutrition. Countries are putting the right policies in place, collaborating with partners to implement programs with shared nutrition goals, and mobilising resources to effectively scale up nutrition, with a core focus on empowering women.

With a shared understanding that many factors impact nutrition and that malnutrition has multiple causes, we all need to work together, across issues and sectors, to put nutrition into all development efforts. Each of us has a unique contribution to make. Together we are achieving what none of us can do alone.

The causes of malnutrition (see below figure 1) include several factors that most people would generally associate with nutrition such as lack of food suboptimal caring and feeding practices and lack of access to health services, as well as factors that affect the broader context of life and health. Recognizing this, the SUN Movement looks to implement both specific nutrition interventions and nutrition-sensitive approaches.

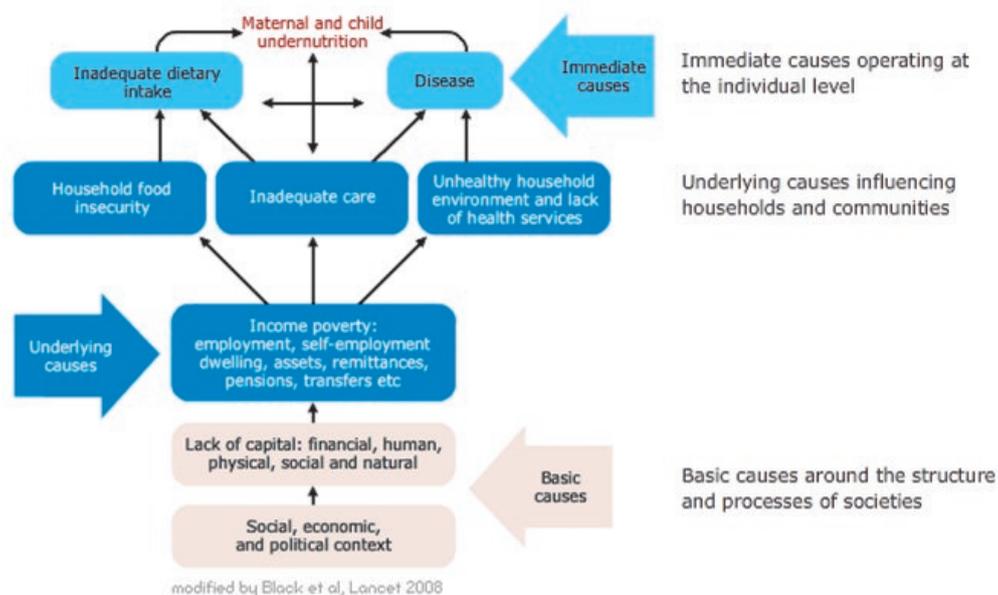


Figure 1 – UNICEF conceptual framework (taken from <http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/training/2.5/4.html> last accessed on August 23rd, 2013)

The vision of SUN is a world without hunger and malnutrition, and the mission is to bring people together to support countries in reaching this goal.

SUN movement overview

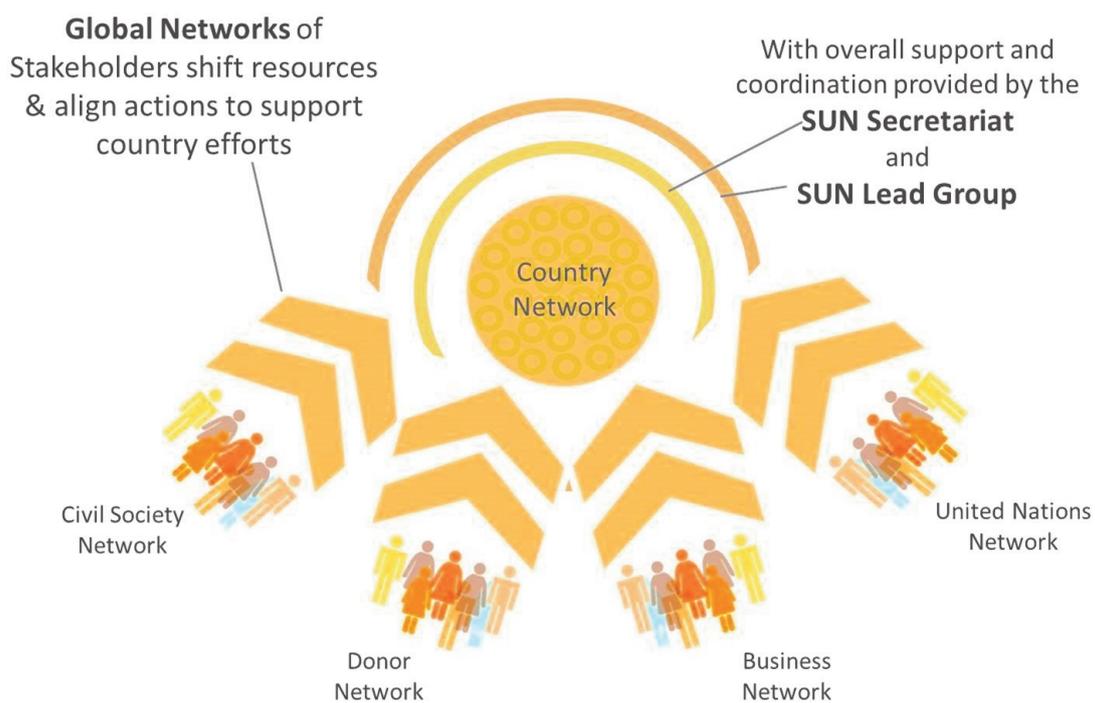


Figure 2 – SUN Movement overview



SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN)

Civil society organizations collectively have a very powerful voice and can provide grass-roots / community-driven support for scaling up nutrition locally.

At the global level, the SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) has been established to support the formation and evolution of Civil Society Alliances in SUN countries, as well as facilitate communication and coordination across SUN CSAs, and with the broader SUN Movement. The Network is chaired by Brendan Cox, Save the Children, and has a small elected Steering Group for the CSN. The SUN Civil Society Network was inaugurated at a meeting that took place on June 11, 2013, during which Civil Society Representatives agreed upon a declaration stating how they would support the aims of the SUN Movement.

SUN CSN Purpose

The primary purpose of the SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) is to encourage the alignment of Civil Society Organisations' (CSO) strategies, programmes and resources with country plans for scaling up nutrition. The CSN aims to achieve this through strengthening the support available for and capacity of, national Civil Society Alliances (CSA). It is responsible for encouraging effective engagement from civil society in the SUN process at national and global levels and supports CSAs in SUN countries to advocate for the development of ambitious plans. It also contributes to the implementation and rolling out of national costed plans and the monitoring of the delivery of those plans.

SUN CSN Coordinator and Secretariat hosting

The Network Coordinator and SUN CSN Secretariat are currently hosted and chaired by Save the Children in the United Kingdom. Hosting and chairing roles rotate every 2 years.

SUN CSN Steering Group

The Civil Society Network Steering Group is responsible for encouraging effective engagement from civil society in the SUN process at national and global level. The Steering Group has been elected and is tasked with developing and driving a strategy for the SUN CSN.

The Steering Group is tasked with:

- Supporting National Civil Society Alliances (CSAs) in advocating for the establishment of (or in countries which already have them, the strengthening and expansion of) a multi-stakeholder platform (including CSOs, the relevant line ministries, the private sector and academia):
- Supporting each country's CSA to develop/be developing a strategy for the alliance defining the role and activities of the CSA towards achieving the following key objectives:
 - Reaching agreed national level stunting targets
 - Reaching agreed wasting targets
 - Developing national costed plans
 - Ensuring nutrition sensitive approaches to agriculture, education, health, WASH and social protection
 - Ensuring that NGO programmatic activities are aligned with the SUN country plan
- Encouraging and supporting SUN CSAs within countries to advocate for the Government Focal Point to sit in the office of the Head of Government, in order to encourage an overview and

mainstreaming of nutrition, as well as to prevent it being a silo in the Ministry of Health, as is often the case.

- Facilitating the coordination of civil society actors, the formation of new Civil Society Alliances and any eventual applications for multi-partner trust fund (MPTF) funding, as well as other potential parallel applications directly to donors (by organisations in the Steering Group assuming responsibility for specific countries).
- Supporting the development of strategies, linking to best practice of other Alliances of civil societies in SUN countries and coordinating efforts around key international or regional moments, as well as facilitating cross-learning.
- Providing access to existing resources and developing new resources when needed (advocacy tool kits, training materials, existing SUN CSA documents from other countries and guidance notes on a number of areas in response to needs expressed by the SUN CSAs themselves).
- Providing one on one strategic support from buddy Steering Group members / other experts to country SUN CSAs.
- Fostering language specific dialogues / exchange forums, and eventually, region-specific dialogues as the SUN CSN builds its internal capacity.

The SUN CSN is also leading on the development and continuous improvement of a capacity building strategy which is designed to respond and address specific needs as they are expressed by SUN CSAs.

The steering group has regular calls among its own members every six weeks, ongoing electronic communications and an annual face-to-face meeting during a global convening moment such as the UNGA. Agenda for these calls are informed by issues raised by SUN CSAs and outcomes of discussions shared back to the SUN CSN membership.

SUN CSN Steering group membership:

The steering group membership in numbers (as of August, 2013):

- **Geographical:** North America (3); Africa (3); Europe (4); Asia (2), Latin America (1)
- **Gender:** Female (7); Male (6)
- **Cross-sectoral:** The following sectors are included within the membership: food security, agriculture, health and academia/research.
- **Type of CSO:** The membership comprises representatives from different CSO constituencies including farmer's organisations, national and international INGOs, networks and academic associations.

Role	Name	Position and Institution
Chair	Brendan Cox	Director of Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns, Save the Children UK
Steering Group members	Alangeh R. Che	Chairman of the non-state actors coordination team of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)
	Asma Lateef	Director, Bread for the World Institute
	Bourima Allaye Toure	President of national civil society council, Mali & Secretary General of OMAES, a Malian health and development NGO
	Carolyn MacDonald	Nutrition Director, World Vision International
	Elisa Pozzi	Asia Representative, Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition
	Elise Rodriguez	Senior Advocacy Adviser, ACF, France
	Francis Zotor	President, African Nutrition Society
	Jennifer Thompson	Hunger Advocacy Officer, Concern Worldwide
	Michael Krawinkel	Chair of the nutrition working group, International Paediatric Association, Germany
	Milo Stanojevich	National Director, CARE Peru
	Sultana Khanum	International Public Health Consultant, Bangladesh
	Victoria Quinn	Senior Vice President Programmes, Helen Keller International,
	Dr V Prakash	Council Member, International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS), India

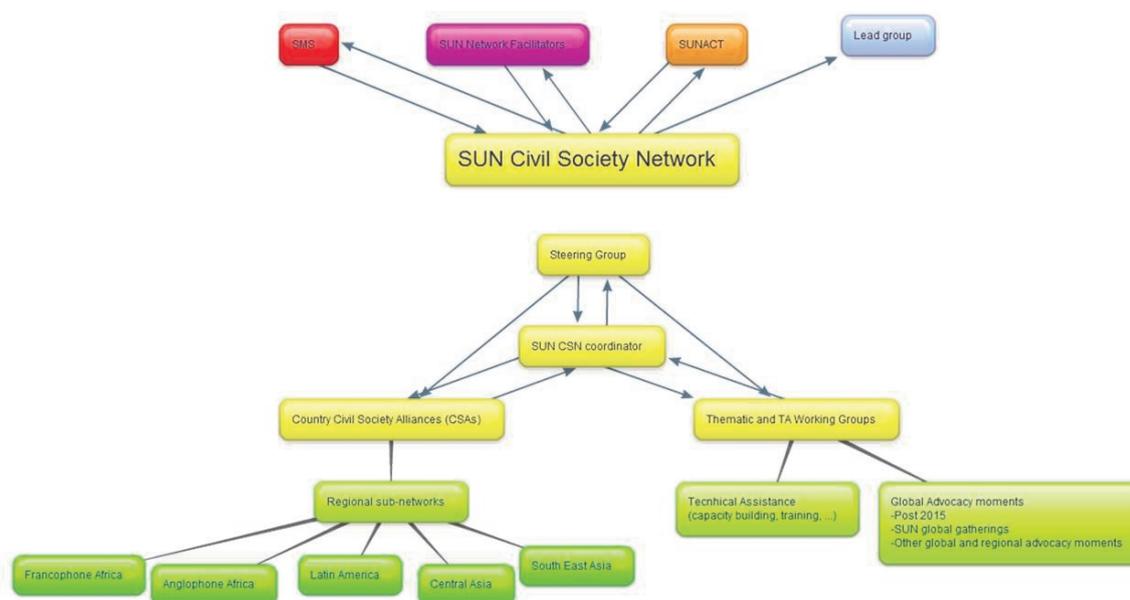


Figure 3 – SUN CSN governance structure

SUN CSN membership

The Civil Society Network is made up of representatives from each of the active SUN National CSAs facilitated by a Steering Group and Network Coordinator. National SUN CSAs represent several hundreds of national, regional and international organisations and networks working in various areas including: small-hold farmers, fisherfolk, human rights defenders, women’s groups, humanitarian and aid assistance agencies, advocacy and research entities, consumer groups, trade unions and many others, actively engaged in scaling up nutrition in their countries.. Organisations within the Network are working together to build capacity and maximise resources to ensure the greatest impact on nutrition.

SUN CSAs

The intention is that SUN national Civil Society Alliances, which whenever possible build on pre-existing arrangements, existing networks or CSO platforms for co-ordinating civil society within each country, advocate for an increased focus on nutritional outcome in national policies and programmes, as well as work to ensure that Civil Society efforts to tackle malnutrition are aligned with national plans. Each CSA comprises a number of CSO members, with the aim to amplify the voices of communities affected by the double burden of malnutrition and focus on the need for greater accountability to them. CSAs comprise international and in-country CSOs who are actively engaged in scaling up nutrition at country level.

SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) within the SUN movement

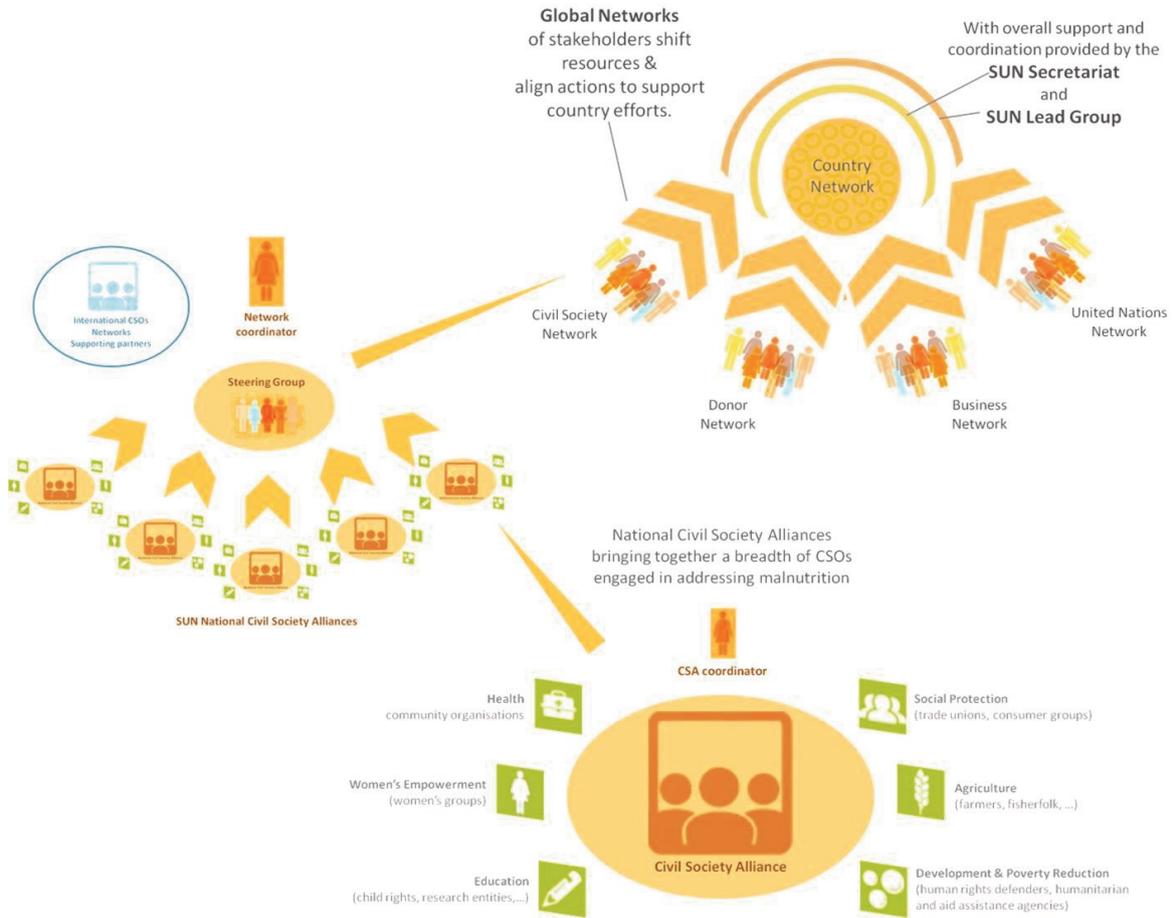


Figure 4 – How SUN Civil Society Network fits into SUN movement?

SUN CSN Strategy & Objectives

SUN CSN Strategic approach

2013 is a critical year for securing breakthrough progress in tackling chronic malnutrition at the international level, including the 1000 days initiative, the Irish EU presidency, the G8 and Hunger Summit, as well as the Post 2015 debates. Within a country, civil society engagement is crucial to ensure robust country plans, which are costed, resourced and delivered. The SUN Movement cuts across all of these processes, stakeholders and objectives.

By supporting national partnerships and relationships with local CSOs, strengthening advocacy capacity and impact in key countries the network will build an approach centred on progress at the national level, which reinforces and supports global advocacy.

Strategic objectives of the SUN movement

Four strategic objectives have been identified as priorities for the Movement toward the end of 2015:

- 1) **The creation of an enabling political environment**, with strong in-country leadership, and a shared space (multi-stakeholder platforms) where stakeholders align their activities and take joint responsibility for scaling up nutrition;
- 2) **The establishment of best practice** for scaling up proven interventions, including the adoption of effective laws and policies;
- 3) **The alignment of actions** around high quality and well-costed country plans, with an agreed results frameworks and mutual accountability;
- 4) **An increase in resources**, directed towards coherent, aligned approaches.

SUN CSN specific objectives

To contribute to the achievement of the SUN movement four strategic objectives, the SUN CSN has defined a set of network-specific objectives:

Building the network:

- Membership of the network is expanded and establishment of active Civil Society Alliances and multi-stakeholder platforms in as many SUN countries as possible, starting with support for approximately 20 countries.
- Functioning institutional arrangements are established, including Secretariat function and improved communications across the network.

Supporting advocacy and implementation efforts at the national level:

- Development of, and civil society engagement with, effective nutrition plans in priority SUN countries are facilitated, which include:
 - ⇒ National and district/county approaches
 - ⇒ Targets and milestones to which government can be held account
 - ⇒ Details of financing and capacity to deliver resources
 - ⇒ Increased political prioritisation of nutrition
 - ⇒ Rolling out of national plans and programmes to the district and communities

Harmonising global advocacy and messages for breakthrough moments

- The network monitors the implementation of the Nutrition for Growth funding commitments for nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions in SUN countries and amongst all Networks
- Relationships with key members of the Lead Group strengthened, improving access to high level international advocacy targets
- The network galvanises civil society engagement in global process with nutrition outcomes
- The network successfully builds common set of standards and ensures the consistency and quality of nutrition plans
- The network facilitates cross-learning and connections towards harmonized messaging at country, regional and global levels.

Aligning Civil Society Actions with SUN plans

- Civil Society Organisations in SUN countries will ensure that their own actions, including programmatic actions, are aligned with and contribute to the fulfilment of SUN national plans.

.....

The vision of SUN CSN is a world where multiple stakeholders, including civil society, work together in a constructive and co-beneficial manner towards eradicating malnutrition.

.....

Principles of Engagement

The SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) fully embraces and is driven by the SUN principle of engagement ensuring we remain flexible and are able to effectively scale up nutrition, while maintaining a common purpose and mutual accountability.

The SUN CSN and all its members and partners commit to being transparent, inclusive, rights-based, willing to negotiate, mutually accountable, cost-effective and continuously communicative and driven by integrity.

A re-affirmed commitment

On the 11th June 2013, over 66 representatives from SUN countries national civil society, SUN civil society alliances, SUN countries focal points and international civil society organisations from over 32 countries re-affirmed their:

- commitment as civil society made in 2011 to working together to support, to encourage and to mobilize robust action and necessary resources to scale up nutrition and
- call for all people, governments, private sector institutions, the UN system, non-governmental organisations and civil society to continue to work together to end under nutrition and malnutrition, save millions of lives, and contribute to putting an end to extreme poverty.

The complete declaration is available from the SUN CSN website in French, English and Spanish - <http://scalingupnutrition.org/the-sun-network/civil-society-network>.

SUN CSN priority areas of action as identified June 2013

Strengthening national CS efforts (advocacy, implementation and monitoring),

1. Conducting a CSN level mapping exercise and supporting CSAs in national mapping efforts to better understand the Civil Society landscape in SUN countries and identify gaps, needs and assets to inform a SUN CSN capacity building strategy. This will also ensure the network's efforts and future work are shaped from the bottom up.
2. Developing and implementing a strategy to support capacity building of CSAs.
3. Implementing and strengthening a buddy system for one on one coaching of established CSAs.
4. Supporting the establishment of civil society alliances in countries where they do not exist yet with an aim to have CSA established in at least 20 SUN countries by the end of 2014.
5. Developing and providing guidelines to support CS throughout the Movement, starting with a step by step guide to establishing and strengthening a CSA in SUN countries informed by experiences so far.
6. Developing, in collaboration with the SUN Advocacy and Communications Team (SUNACT) an "advocacy tool kit" with key messages to enable us all to "sing the same song".
7. Supporting effective multi-sectorial partnerships (including guidance on how to engage with private sector, farmers group, etc.; facilitating connections when possible; and connecting with broader SUN efforts).
8. Playing an evaluation role through systematised regular reporting in line with SUN monitoring and evaluation framework.
9. Channelling opportunities for funding toward countries in need.
10. Supporting actors throughout the Network to mobilise citizens and get grassroots organisations involved in SUN, working towards a groundswell of grassroots support for nutrition and SUN.

Facilitating cross-learning and exchange of knowledge, expertise and experiences

1. Developing and implementing a communications strategy aimed at
 - a. Ensuring adequate flow of information within and among countries and within and amongst networks and other SUN actors,
 - b. fostering cross-learning and exchange of knowledge, experiences, processes, and evidence between SUN countries,
 - c. supporting the establishment of regional sub-groups of the network for Asia, Francophone Africa, Anglophone Africa and Latin America,
 - d. facilitating capacity building strategy implementation,
 - e. ensuring dissemination of SUN experiences within the network, within SUN and more broadly to the general public and other key stakeholders in the field,
 - f. ensuring equitable availability, access and use of information in French, English and Spanish,
 - g. raising and capitalising on opportunities for raised visibility and advocacy.
2. Providing support for effective and co-beneficial multi-sectorial partnerships (including guidance on how to engage with private sector, farmers group, etc.; facilitating connections when possible; connecting with broader SUN efforts and dialogue on public-private partnership).

Ensuring that national level advocacy and implementation efforts at the national level translate to global leadership

1. Facilitating a reporting process that captures progress of vital CS advocacy and implementation efforts in SUN countries around the 4 SUN processes:
 - a. Bringing people together
 - b. Coherent policy and legal framework
 - c. Common results framework
 - d. Financial tracking and resources mobilisation
2. Capturing lessons learnt in a manner that will be available and relevant to the global arena,
3. Advocating – influencing country and donor policies and priorities, specific policy changes and integration of nutrition in global policies.

SUN CSN activities (July – December 2013)

The following areas will be the main focus of the Steering Group's work in the immediate term (July through December 2013):

- Undertake more accurate mapping to provide a clear idea of existing relevant CS organisations and networks in 41 SUN countries, starting with a few MPTF and non-MPTF funded countries.
- Identify and plan for key milestones we should all agree to be working towards, so that as a Network we can effectively develop strategic plans towards them.
- Strengthen ourselves as a group in terms of representation and capacity.
- Strengthen our communications as a network and externally to show who we are.
- Support capacity building in SUN countries' CSAs.
- Using the September 2013 SUN Movement Global Gathering to advance SUN CSN efforts and ensure alignment with SUN Movement efforts more broadly

SUN CSN information and contact

For more information on and access to SUN CSN resources, please visit the website at <http://scalingupnutrition.org/the-sun-network/civil-society-network> or contact the SUN CSN coordinator Claire Blanchard at sun.csnetwork@savethechildren.org.uk

