2013 was an exceptional year for the SUN Movement. Political commitment intensified with an additional 13 governments committing to scale up nutrition within their countries: this brings the number of countries participating in the Movement to 46. The evidence base for investing in nutrition was strengthened with the publication of the second *Lancet* Series on Maternal and Child Nutrition in June setting out the extent of the global nutrition problem and the emerging crisis of obesity. The *Lancet* highlighted the crucial role of the SUN Movement in establishing the political and policy environment critical for improving nutrition. An unprecedented upsurge in support and investment in nutrition was pledged by global actors – government, business, scientists, the United Nations (UN) and civil society - through a series of high level events.

I sense both optimism and realism among all in the SUN Movement as we start 2014. Much has been achieved, yet significant challenges remain. My particular foci over the coming year will be – first - on ensuring that the Movement responds promptly to the needs of countries. Second, I would like to ensure that the Movement’s networks are efficient in helping strengthen countries’ capacities for scaling up nutrition. Third, I would like us to have a vision for the journey ahead so that we are all able to scale up nutrition at least to the year 2020.

**My first area of focus** will be on strengthening countries’ capacity to deliver improved nutrition in a sustainable manner. The focal points within SUN Movement countries are presenting their countries’ needs for support. The requests come in four main categories: (i) advocacy and communication; (ii) planning, costing, tracking use of funds and mobilizing resources; (iii) monitoring, implementation and evaluating impact; (iv) managing and co-ordinating implementation. ‘Communities of practice’ are evolving for each of these areas. They bring together specialists from within and beyond the SUN Movement Networks to provide technical and practical support. The SUN Movement Secretariat is systematizing an approach to ‘match’ country requests with this support.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be a particularly important ‘community of practice’ in 2013: this involves strengthening information systems in countries so that data collected can be collated into a global Networked Information System for nutrition (NISN) that can effectively demonstrate the impact of scaling up nutrition.

An exciting aspect of this effort to strengthen countries’ capacity to deliver will include country-to-country experience sharing. PROCASUR, a private not-for-profit international organisation is working with SUN countries to strengthen knowledge sharing using a ‘learning routes’ methodology. Senegal and Peru will host visits from 10 SUN countries in April and May.

**My second area of focus** will be on reinforcing the power of the four support networks. This means: helping the UN network to bring UN agencies together to work in synergy; the civil society network to continue supporting national civil society alliances in all SUN countries (they are now active in 29) and also, I would like to see more resources come in to the SUN Multi-Partner Trust Fund which is supporting many of these alliances; the business network increasingly to engage businesses in principled support for scaling up nutrition and; to see more
donors actively engage in the donor network. In addition, the SUN Advocacy and Communication Team (SUN ACT) will bring together networks and countries to communicate the progress of the Movement and advocate for improved nutrition.

**My third area of focus** will be on ‘visioning’ for the future of the SUN Movement. The visioning exercise will assess how effectively the Movement is functioning right now and consider how countries can be enabled to receive the support they need as they scale up nutrition. It will not seek to attribute impact of the SUN Movement on the nutritional status of women and children: this is a task for future research. The exercise will be carried out by a small independent ‘visioning team’, who will listen carefully to the views of governments and stakeholders from SUN countries and will be managed by a sub-group of the SUN Movement Lead Group. The ‘visioning team’ will be appointed in early 2014 and will provide a final report in September.

2014 promises to be another extraordinary year in which the progress of the SUN Movement continues to accelerate.

I wish all who are working for people’s nutrition a productive and peaceful New Year.

David Nabarro,
Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement