

SUMMARY NOTE

Round 11 of SUN Country Conference Calls
6th – 11th November 2013

The eleventh meeting of SUN Movement countries was held November 6th – 11th 2013. For reasons of logistics and time zones, eight calls were planned for countries in the following geographical areas: Anglophone Asia I, Anglophone Asia II, Anglophone Africa I, Anglophone Africa II, Anglophone Africa III, Francophone I, Francophone II, Hispanophone I.

Each teleconference followed the same agenda. The present note is a synthesis of all teleconferences.

PARTICIPANTS: Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Congo DR, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, , The Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Conakry, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda (as listener), Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Indian State Maharashtra, Emorn Wasantwisut, N. K. Sethi, Bibi Giyose, SCN, REACH, SUN Movement Secretariat.

Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan, Yemen, Zimbabwe were not able to participate.

AGENDA: The latest round of calls were the first since the Global Gathering event, the three areas for discussion were; 1) a thematic discussion of Multi-Stakeholder Platforms 2) an update on country progress with regard to the four processes, and 3) take outs from the Global Gathering.

1) THEMATIC DISCUSSION Multi-Stakeholder Platforms

With an increasing desire to share and learn, this teleconference was the first opportunity to introduce specific thematic discussions between countries. The thematic for this call was “Functioning of national and local multi-stakeholder platforms for scaling up nutrition”. Country Teams were asked to respond to the following questions:

Establishment and/or strengthening of Multi-Stakeholder Platform’s (MSP’s)

- What are the key steps for establishing a functional and active MSP (both at national and sub-national level)?
- At what levels are MSPs operating in your country (national? provincial? district? community?)
- What mechanisms have been set up and what actions have been implemented in your country to ensure a proper coordination and alignment between local and national MSPs?

Active engagement of different stakeholders in MSPs:

- Which of the following groups of stakeholders are more difficult to engage in your country and why: ministries / civil society / private sector / parliamentarians / local governments /

academia? What is being done to improve their engagement and to align their interventions to a commonly agreed scaling up nutrition plan?

- Are roles and responsibilities clearly defined for each actor?

Establishing MSPs is key to sustaining scaling up nutrition in countries, particularly in engaging high level politicians. The following are the country insights from the latest thematic discussion.

Synthesis of the discussion points:

When/Why does a MSP work?

- **Broad participation and frequent interaction** are important for good coordination. MSPs **facilitate increased sharing and engagement among different groups of stakeholders**. **Transparency and cooperation** are required to move from planning to implementation. It is useful to have MSP meetings prior to SUN country calls to prepare reports.
- **MSPs housed in multi-sectoral or higher level offices of government** are able to coordinate sectors more easily than when an MSP is hosted by a sectoral ministry. **High-level political support** from Heads of State Prime Ministers, Presidents, Ministers of Planning or Finance is key.
- **UN agencies and donors are helping to improve alignment behind the common results framework**.
- **Formalization of MSPs** through the adoption of a legal or political endorsement is important.
- **Defining the role of MSPs** is essential. It is often helpful to identify **sub groups** (e.g. for resource mobilization; planning and policy; communication and advocacy; capacity development; monitoring and evaluation) or **thematic areas** (e.g. micronutrients, infant and young child feeding, therapeutic care etc.)

What are the main challenges?

- **Heavy workloads, political instability and logistics** can make it difficult to get people together for meetings. .
- **Accessing and sharing nutrition information equitably and transparently** can be problematic.
- **Some stakeholder groups still have limited participation in MSPs:**
 - **Private sector** engagement is still limited in many countries due to (i) lack of clear guidance on how to engage and the role of private sector in MSPs (ii) concern to avoid conflict of interest (CoI).
 - **Academics** also need to be more engaged.
 - **High level government** engagement is desirable but difficult to maintain.
- **Link with stakeholders concerned with nutrition-sensitive approaches** needs to be improved e.g. linking with CSOs in agriculture, gender etc. It is critical to convince others of the importance of nutrition and how nutrition impacts on their work.
- **Defining the mandate and securing leadership** of MSPs is still a challenge
- **Strengthening capacities of institutions and members of MSPs**

- **Defining in a clear manner roles & responsibilities** of different stakeholders participating in platforms, and of the platforms in each administrative level

Are there functioning MSPs at sub-national level?

- **The involvement of Minister of Home Affairs or Interior** is important to mobilise local government authorities.
- In some countries, **big campaigns to roll out SUN to decentralized levels** were organised—improving coordination particularly during planning process and other stakeholders to ensure district councils are engaged, important to involve district councils from early stages so they can champion ongoing.
- **Need to train people at different levels** in support of capacity building for focal points. Need to explain philosophy behind SUN and the national MSP.
- In some countries, **action plans, databases and monitoring guidance being developed to monitor district level activity** and aid implementation of activities.

2) COUNTRY PROGRESS:

A quick update on progresses experienced by countries during the last two months with regard to the 4 processes: focal points were selective and concise in their responses, highlighting one main progress recently achieved. See country tables and minutes for details.

PROCESS INDICATOR 1

- **SUN launches or high level events with emphasis on nutrition:** *Haiti* have planned a Sun launch on next January 24. *Côte d'Ivoire* is preparing its Sun launch which will take place in early 2014. In *Indonesia*, all stakeholders from government, civil society and academia at provincial and district level met in advance and held a workshop on 28th October to discuss increasing commitment and how to accelerate the first 1,000 Days Movement. Discussed advocacy, communication and implementation. *Pakistan* is planning a SUN launch in mid-December. UN, donors, civil society, private sectors are meeting every week to establish links in advance of the launching ceremony. Otherwise, scaling Up Nutrition was one of the strongest recommendations of the International Conference on Nutrition and Food Safety held last month. *Uganda* is planning to organize a high level nutrition forum hosted by the Prime Minister possibly in the first week of December on Scaling Up Nutrition using a multi-sectoral approach. Nutrition will be given high priority in the celebration of the Farmers Day the 1st Friday of December in *Ghana*.
- **REACH Initiative:** *Guinea* is discussing to set up the REACH Initiative this year. An explanatory delegation visited the country from November 18 to 20. In *Chad*, a regional delegation of REACH helped for high-level advocacy to the Minister of Health and the Presidency in order to also focus on chronic malnutrition and not only on acute malnutrition. An international REACH Facilitator is now active in *Burundi* and the recruitment of a national facilitator is on-going.
- **Civil society engagement in the SUN multi-stakeholder platforms:** *Guinea* is working to the sensitization of the CSOs with the role of nutrition in Development. In *Bangladesh*, two civil society alliances are already in place but need more work to ensure complementarity of their work. *Kenya* has established a Civil Society Alliance which focuses its action on holding Government into account and is involving CSOs working on nutrition-sensitive approaches.
- **Bringing the private sector into the multi-stakeholder platforms:** *DRC* asked some support to set up the Private sector platform. Challenges of working with private sector in *Indonesia* due to perception of conflict of interest (CoI). *Pakistan* started collaboration with private sector

organisations. The business community in *Kenya* is expanding its scope beyond food fortification. Engagement of business in food fortification is strong in *Tanzania*.

- **Improved Donor coordination and alignment:** *DRC* confirmed that the WB has committed to be the Donor Convener in the country. *Myanmar and Tajikistan* request support to identify a Donor Convener. *Uganda* anticipates transition from USAID to a new donor convenor. Increased number of INGOs (Save the Children, HKI, Care) are getting behind the National Nutrition Strategy in *Tanzania*. In *Kenya* the sector wide approach code of conduct requires donors to agree not to fund any actor that is not aligned behind common framework.
- **Bringing all the sectors into the multi-stakeholder platforms:** In *Sri Lanka*, Focal Points for 16 Ministries have been identified. They each have incorporated nutrition into their action plans. Focal Points planning to meet monthly. *Kenya* is willing to engage the Ministry of Finance into the MSP. In *Uganda*, the objectives of the national Nutrition Action Plan are very important in guiding work and ensure those with appropriate mandates are involved. *The Gambia* is targeting Sanitation and Water Departments to get more involved in the MSP.
- **Clarify the role of all the stakeholders' networks:** *Burundi* is finalizing the ToRs of the different networks. *Ghana* has made progress in defining tasks of its MSP and is working on the definition of its mandate and trying to secure leadership. Its MSP has put in place different sub-groups (resource mobilization, policy, communication and advocacy, capacity development, planning). The Gambia's main platform at central level is establishing sub-groups (maternal and child (youth) health nutrition; micronutrient; information, education and communication; monitoring and evaluation; resource mobilization). Roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders engaged in promoting food security and nutrition are stated by law in *Guatemala*.
- **Strengthening bodies in charge of support to coordination of national scaling up nutrition efforts:** the multi-stakeholders platform in *Indonesia* is formalized and Presidential decree 43 endorsed and launched by the President on 31st October with more than 3,000 stakeholders from different Ministries and groups. National Food Security Council exists under the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in *Tajikistan*. Discussions continue about whether this could be extended to act as the convening body for nutrition. *Nepal* needs to define appropriate architecture for multi-sector and multi-stakeholder platforms. *The Gambia* plans to extend coordination mechanisms at the regional involving the representatives of the President in each region who can potentially play a role in coordinating nutrition at regional level. *Sierra Leone* is working on rolling out MSPs to districts by engaging councils. The Department of Nutrition and HIV/AIDS in the Office of President and Cabinet in *Malawi* has deployed nutrition officers in key ministries to make sure they take part of decisions taken in the ministry. It has set up committees from national to community level to help ensure multi-stakeholder approach across the country. *Zambia* is engaging the World Bank to ensure National Food and Nutrition Steering Commission is strong enough to function appropriately, and is looking at gaps in capacity in terms of human resource at district and central levels (for technical, managerial and advocacy skills). *Guatemala* and *Peru* have already established MSPs at community, municipal and departmental (apart from central) level, and have both put in place mechanisms that facilitate alignment between platforms at the different administrative levels. *El Salvador* is in the process of decentralizing nutrition governance.

PROCESS INDICATOR 2

- **Taking stock of national nutritional legislation and assets:** *Guinea* is reviewing its Policy and its multi-sectoral action Plan. A political dialogue will take place in early December for one day and then then one week will serve to review the policy and develop the draft plan of action (1 to 15 December 2013), with the support of a WHO consultant. *Chad* validated the National Nutrition Policy. *DRC* validated its national nutrition policy. The document had been handed by the Minister of Education in the NY SUN GG. *Burkina Faso* validated its new Policy for Food security and Nutrition. They are

developing a strategic plan to implement this policy. *Uganda* is reviewing its anemia policy. *Ghana* has finalized its National Nutrition Policy which has been submitted to Parliament for approval. The Food Security and Nutrition been is being revised for final endorsement in *El Salvador*. *Guatemala* has developed a number of multi-sectoral action protocols that integrate operational aspects.

PROCESS INDICATOR 3

- **Development of Common Results Frameworks:** *Mali* is in the process to develop a Nutrition National Action plan. The team is working with ICF on costing and WB is interested to be associated. In *DRC* the WB is in the process to recruit a consultant to support the development of the multi-sectoral nutrition Plan. *Cote d'Ivoire* is updating its action plan for scaling up and is searching financing for the recruitment of a consultant. Planning Commission in *Pakistan* is holding on November 22, a conference to develop 5 Year National Plan - submissions made to include direct and indirect interventions will be made. *Ghana* is development its national nutrition action plan. The Ministry of Public Health of *Peru* has developed a plan to combat chronic malnutrition and anemia, which universalizes micronutrient supplementation in children under 3. The plan aims to achieve a 20% reduction in the rate of infant anemia in 2026, and has a budget of USD 4 million.
- **Decentralization of national plans at provincial level:** *DRC* is implementing projects in primary and secondary schools to train the pupils with nutrition and to set up school feeding. Would like to visit Côte d'Ivoire on these aspects. 66% of counties in *Kenya* have developed nutrition action plans. ***** more information on this issue within the Annex*****

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

- The visit of a regional delegation (WFP, FAO, and UNICEF) in *DRC* allowed an advocacy at high level. *Burundi* has developed some SUN-REACH leaflets. In 2014, *Myanmar* will assume chairmanship of ASEAN so this will hopefully lead to stronger relationship, better communication and cooperation between ASEAN countries on nutrition. *Nepal* organized internal informal meetings on specific areas: capacity building, communication & advocacy, M&E, information system for planning. *Uganda* has finalized its Advocacy & Communications Strategy.

PROCESS INDICATOR 4

- **Financial tracking and resource mobilization:** *Guinea* is advocating for obtaining a budget line for nutrition and *Burundi* organized an advocacy session on October 29, 2013 in margin of the donor sectoral meeting in Bujumbura. Benin finalized negotiation with the WB for a cross-sectoral project on food, health, nutrition (amount of 28 M\$). A pooled fund, which will be channeled directly to district, has been established in *Malawi* with funds from WB and CIDA. *Zambia* has developed a pooled fund which will be able to support innovative approaches to scaling up nutrition. *Guatemala* counts with a national integrated budgetary accounting system (SICOIN, hosted by the Ministry of Finance) which allows the tracking of budget execution

3) GLOBAL GATHERING:

The Global Gathering event marked a new phase in the SUN Movement, where countries and networks of supporters came together with positive energy. Participants shared their difficulties, established new ways to work together and built links on which they will draw in the coming months and years. No task seemed too difficult, but all agree that the challenges are substantial and require concerted responses. Country teams were asked to expose their impressions and takings of the event with particular emphasis placed on how to follow up on the event at the country level. General

reflections included overwhelmingly positive feedback from country calls and through the evaluation forms about the opportunity to share and learn from one another, many mentioned more time was needed for discussion.

During these series of country calls a lot of countries highlighted the following points:

- SUN GG was useful to observe progress in other countries, was a unique opportunity to learn from other countries and to show commitment and country ownership.
- SUN GG allowed to imbibe the philosophy and the involvement of partners. It reinforces the visibility of the political commitment, of accountability, of alignment around common objectives.
- SUN GG allowed to gather different stakeholders but the non-attendance of the Academic sector has been highlighted.
- The presence of the DG of WHO has been welcomed.
- The role of regional organizations should be improved to arrange further consultation at this level.
- Thematic discussions in working group have been much appreciated.
- Address from the Lead Group was very motivational; their commitments (First Lady of Peru) provides insight as to how to identify and secure champions of this level in own country.
- How often? Once a year meeting of all countries is very useful and should continue.
- SMS has agreed that there will be increased preparation by the SMS and acknowledge the problems with interpretation – particularly as over one third of participants are non-English speaking.
- The Focal Point and Minister of Agriculture from *Kenya* found their take home message was that the key role for civil society is to take its position of empowering communities, building a movement of citizens who can demand services and keeping the government on their toes in terms of delivering on the commitments made through the National Nutrition Action Plan and Food Security Policy. *Nancy Walters* added that it was also important to keep UN Systems and other development partners on their toes.
- High level representation from *Tanzania* (Presidents Advisor, MP) was a reflection of how important Nutrition is and participation helped inspire a push for sustained political commitment - a meeting organised to build political commitment at regional and district levels, chaired by the President who has also expressed interest in engaging the education sector.
- Advocacy and Communications opportunities were inspired with *Tanzania* looking across Ministries for sector leads
- *Uganda, Chad* went back with a renewed energy to revitalise national platforms, in particular academia.
- *Ghana, DRC, Côte d'Ivoire, Nepal* and *Sri Lanka* found the gathering a great opportunity to show commitment to each other.
- *Gambia* found examples from both *Peru* and *Ethiopia* to be very useful and *Sierra Leone* described the sharing helped make it clear that the movement is “everyone’s movement: with everyone on the same platform working toward common goals. Similarly, *Indonesia* is particularly interesting in learning from *Peru* given their current challenges with costing nutrition plans.

- Where? SUN Country *Tanzania* suggested engaging with the host country MSP to understand their achievements and challenges and *Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire* see's potential for pre-summit meetings to help better prepare for participation.

ANNEX

Uganda MSP convening body: Food and Nutrition Council under the Prime Minister's Office.

- Representatives from different platforms input to planning and tracking processes
- **Meetings** help ensure everyone is 'in the know' and have opportunity to align at key moments in planning cycle
- **Objectives** of national Nutrition Action Plan are very important in guiding work and ensure those with appropriate mandates are involved
 - Advocacy objectives tend to go to civil society;
 - Nutrition-specific interventions goes to health sector;
- **Challenges**
 - accessing, sharing and availing nutrition information as equitably and transparently as possible
 - Number of people and organizations working on nutrition is still small relative to ambition – tasks are growing but the size of the team is not
- **Is it working?** Still early – just started the MSP in June last year; it is working. Platforms are sharing with each other and involving others – no one appears to be working on their own. There is real progress.
- **One sector cannot oversee another!** It is much easier if the SUN FP and MSP is housed in multi-sectoral or higher level of government.

Kenya MSP convening body: Nutrition Interagency Coordinating Committee (NICC) under the Ministry of Health and under Local Government at county level.

- Coordination is moving into **Office of President** which will help smooth some of the coordination issues
- Prior to SUN had embraced the 'sector-wide' approach with government in lead and partners supporting so joining SUN, Kenya further strengthened ways of working – broader participation and more frequent interaction.
- The enabling environment meant UN agencies and Donors have helped more: **sector wide approach code of conduct requires donors to agree not to fund any actor that is not aligned behind the common framework.**
- **Challenges**
 - Link to nutrition-sensitive needs to be improved – linking with CSOs in agriculture, gender etc
- Reviewing need for separate **UN Network** as they are already very involved with PANITA.WFP, UNICEF, FAO and WHO will together review thematic areas and identify gaps in support and will also consider roles of other UN agencies.
- **Bibi** experience from CAADP's work on nutrition shows that in order to ensure effectiveness, participants need not just to attend but to share very clearly what they are doing and planning; key is to ensure that coordinator/focal point is fostering regular contact and communication from all participants. Bibi can try to help through the CAADP focal point to help Terri create link with MoA in Kenya

Ghana MSP convening body: Cross Sectoral Planning Group under the Vice President's Office.

- Have made progress in defining tasks of platform, put in place sub groups (resource mobilization, policy, communication and advocacy, capacity development, planning)
- **Finalized National Nutrition Policy** and have submitted to Parliament for approval.
- **Action plan** is being developed; will need support to cost and also require support for tracking financing
- **Chairman of Commission** will convene meeting at ministerial level to discuss ways that nutrition can be integrated within their respective sectors
- Focusing on making an **investment case for nutrition** (demonstrating what inaction on nutrition is costing the government)
- **Challenges**
 - Defining the mandate and securing leadership is still a challenge
 - Staff in the NPC are very busy in regular coordination role
 - Challenge to get platform functioning and everyone participating
 - Competing interest; conflict of interest
- **Rolling out** 14-16 CS went 'up-country' to share information with other CSOs in northern part of country about scaling up nutrition (include the validated nutrition policy)
- UNICEF, WFP and others have helped to create a SUN song– Now on the SUN website
- Responding to a **question from Gambia**: the FP advised that the coordination group is functioning well but servicing this platform is quite difficult. Discussing options for creating a secretariat as a possible solution.
- How can they use programs like Cost of Hunger to show government – mobilising local and global resources to do this – REACH involved. There is effort being made to ensure you can access costing expertise.

Nigeria MSP convening body: Nutrition Partners Forum under the Department of Family Health in the Federal Ministry of Health

- Believe **President's involvement is key** – would like him to take part in national launch of SUN
- MSP in agriculture and gender sectors
- Everyone wants to run programmes in parallel – by establishing **key roles of different actors**, Nigeria hopes to improve coherency
- **Challenges**
 - struggling to work across sectors; working with MoA to get nutrition better integrated into agriculture sector
 - try to meet as regularly as possible to share information and challenges; but heavy workloads and logistics of getting everyone together is difficult

The Gambia MSP convening body: Cross Sectoral Planning Group under the Vice President's Office.

- Include participants from a broad range of sectors and stakeholders; going forward will try to **coincide meetings of MSP with SUN country calls**
- Must convince others of importance of nutrition and how it impacts on their work; targeting Sanitation and Water Department to get more involved
- **Rolling out**: district level may be too difficult to consider at this stage as no structure is in place but plan next month to go to 7 administrative regions of the Gambia; there are representatives of the President in each region who can potentially play a role in coordinating nutrition at regional

level – plan to now sensitive regional actors on their role. Plan to explain philosophy behind SUN and the national MSP.

- Would like help to get **CS** involved (participation and capacity for nutrition is weak)
- Approach **President of association of NGOs** to discuss ways to engage more (planning to apply for MPTF funding)
- Main platform at central level is **establishing sub-groups**
 - Maternal and child (youth) health nutrition
 - Micronutrient
 - Information, education and communication
 - Monitoring and evaluation
 - Plan to have one on resource mobilization
- Do not yet **have donor convener**; UNICEF agreed to take on this role temporarily but need a permanent arrangement

Sierra Leone MSP convening body: Food and Nutrition Security Steering Committee under the Vice President's Office.

- Office of **President is linking with Office of Vice President** to provide support for SUN
- Requires **transparency and cooperation** to move from planning to implementation
- **Rolling out**: working on roll out to districts but structures are not yet all in place
- Plans from the office of the President, looking at setting vision for environment, science, technology and innovation in promoting agriculture, fisheries and industrial development. Can show **high level engagement** of government in the area of food and nutrition security
- **Roll Out**: Big campaign to roll out SUN to district – improving coordination particularly during planning process and other stakeholders to ensure district councils are engaged, important to involve district councils from early stages so they can champion ongoing
- **CS platform** is up and running – has prepared proposal and developed strategic plan; intend to set up secretariat with SMS help. Involving grass roots, national and international NGOs is really important for advocacy efforts
- **Challenges**:
 - Private sector is still a challenge: requires guidance – particularly on establishing linkages between agriculture and nutrition – how can this help solve the problems for malnutrition.
 - getting platforms to advance at required speed with buy-in from everyone
 - work underway to develop supplementary food using local materials and need to understand seasonality of ill health which influences seasonal variations in nutrition indicators (how to incorporate into programming)

Myanmar MSP convening body: National Nutrition Centre (NNC) under the Ministry of Health

- **Donor Convener** – looking to work with AUSAID.
- Good relations with **UN system**, specifically UNICEF and WHO
- Myanmar linking with other **ASEAN** countries, assuming chairmanship of ASEAN, welcoming the opportunity to work further with David and Emorn within ASEAN region
- Have had a meeting with development partners

Bangladesh MSP convening body: National Multi-Sectoral Steering Committee under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

- Focal point is in MoH. Would be better to have FP in Office of the Prime Minister. Other Ministries are partially involved (e.g. Ministry of Women's and Child Welfare) but need greater

involvement. **Greater commitment from high level government officials needed.** But it is proving difficult to get higher level political buy in.

- **Two civil society alliances** already in place but need more work to ensure complementarity of their work. Work of civil society is key and very helpful that the government is leaving space for different civil society organisations to play a role.
- **Business, donor and UN support** are fully engaged in Nutrition Working Group. Academics also need greater engagement.
- **Political situation** and disruptions are preventing the NWG from meeting. Election in January 2014 expected.
- **Rolling Out:** At district and divisional level – little has occurred in setting up MSPs formally. There is multi-stakeholder work for nutrition going on but it is not structured. There is no mechanism for regular communication at local level. **REACH** is doing a pilot of catalysing a multi-sectoral platform for scaling up nutrition in one District, Satkhira. District level meeting – easier to form MSP at local level than at national level.
- All sorts of ways that people come together around nutrition – it doesn't need to always fall under the SUN Movement – but other ways of expressing multi-stakeholder engagement around a common aim may be used.

Indonesia MSP convening body: Coordinating Ministry for Peoples Welfare (CMPW) under the President's Office

- **All stakeholders** from government, civil society and academia at provincial and district level met in advance and held a workshop on 28th October to discuss increasing commitment and how to accelerate the first 1,000 Days Movement. Discussed advocacy, communication and implementation.
- Minister of Home Affairs is Chair of the Task Force and has **power to mobilise local government authorities.**
- **Development partners** are working to harmonise in line with priority interventions. They are bringing in technical assistance in support of 1,000 Days Movement. **UN providing good support.**
- Challenges of working with **private sector** due to perception of **conflict of interest (CoI)**. SMS is developing a reference document on CoI which may be of help of national governments to set up arrangements to deal with CoI. David has pulled together specific language included in the Strategy and Roadmap on CoI which has been approved by the Lead Group. This language on CoI will be made available to SUN countries.

Pakistan MSP convening body: Pakistan Nutrition Development Partners Group

- Focal point in Pakistan is in Ministry of Planning and Development. Have started to have brainstorming sessions at **provincial level**. Different sectors were included from planning and development, health, education, WASH, women's development, food and others participated. Guidance notes have been developed and submitted plans at provincial level. Indirect interventions are being prepared later on.
- **Technical Working Groups and Standing Committees** continue to work to include SUN at provincial level in 3 Provinces. Committees in Federally administered provinces are re-establishing coordination mechanisms.
- At **Federal Level**, Nutrition Task Force will be represented by Provinces.
- Pakistan is one of 7 countries involved in the One UN pilot planning process. In second phase of One UN. Food and nutrition security is priority area. UN Nutrition Network formed and aligning

support to government in provinces. **One UN Steering Committee** being formed at provincial level and TOR will include food and nutrition security.

- **Donor and UN agencies are supporting** MSPs, but SUN Secretariat needs further strengthening.
- Planning SUN launch in mid-December. **UN, donors, civil society, private sectors are meeting every week to establish links in advance of the launching ceremony.**
- Report on SUN board submitted providing guidance to partners on monitoring and coordination systems in Pakistan.
- Started collaboration with **private sector** organisations.

Nepal MSP convening body: Food and Nutrition Security Steering Committee in the National Planning Commission (NPC) under the Planning Commission (Ministry of Finance)

- At national level, MSPs are high level **Food and Nutrition Security Steering Committee** in the National Planning Commission (NPC) and **Nutrition and Food Security Coordination Committee** which is below the Steering Committee which brings high level government officials from different Ministries together, academia, civil society and external development partners. They are well established in Nepal and **meet monthly** but not held in last few months.
- At **district level**, Food and Nutrition Security Steering Committee also multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder involves line ministries, civil society and external development partners. In addition, there is Nepal Nutrition Group, a forum of external development partners. Training of trainers course will be held in next few months at central and district levels in support of capacity building for sector focal points.
- NPC is trying to involve the **private sector and civil society** more fully in these platforms.
- **REACH** support to NPC to review the funding modality.
- Need to define appropriate **architecture for multi-sector and multi-stakeholder platforms**. May need support for Secretariat. Good progress over 6 months but it won't be a speedy process and requires energy and patience.

Sri Lanka MSP convening body: National Nutrition Steering Committee under the President's Office.

- **Rolling Out:** District level committees in 2 provinces and after launch this will be expanded to all 9 provinces. Don't have provincial level committees currently. Databases being developed to monitor district level activity.
- **Focal Points** for 16 Ministries have been identified. They each have incorporated nutrition into their action plans. Focal Points planning to meet monthly. No training necessary as they have produced plans. Need to train people at community level.
- Monitoring guidance has been developed to aid implementation of activities at **district level**.
- National Nutrition Committee and Council chaired by Focal Point.
- **Private sector** not very involved.

Maharashtra MSP convening body: Steering Committee

- Number of MSPs at various levels. **Steering Committee under Chief Minister**. Nutrition Mission set up in 2005 has inter-sectoral convergence platform among government sectors.
- Number of **Committees in Supreme Court** at Chief Secretary level,
- **CSOs** meet from time to time plus academia (doctors), professionals.

- **Rolling out:** At district level a lot of community involvement. Initiatives being taken at village and block level by officials who have mobilized community to come together – raised support in cash and kind – from trusts, individuals etc.
- Chief Minister is organizing multi-stakeholder consultation on 16th November on how to address malnutrition. **First time inviting private sector involvement.** Good platform for taking corporate social responsibility (CSR) forward.
- Nation-wide move to make it mandatory for PS under CSR to provide **2% of profits for social causes – the companies act 2013**
- Chief Minister **taking precautions to ensure CoIs are avoided.** Not involving certain groups like biscuit manufacturers. First time that there will be a conversation with corporates.
- Two large groups have already started working in tribal areas of the State. In a couple of years, it will be clearer and progress can be tracked.
- **Academic partnerships, social psychologists partnering on BCC** to alter practices, Indian Institute of Technology partnering on new communication technologies, hospitals to partner on medical nutrition therapy, and local community (village pre-school support anundari). Involvement of companies such as mining and other industries.
- Developing videos – looking for help to get videos dubbed in local languages to illustrate behaviour change. **Looking for partnerships** and hopeful that they will soon happen.

Tajikistan MSP convening body: National Food Security Council under the Deputy Prime Minister's Office TBC

- Useful for Tajikistan to listen to the teleconference as **new to the Movement.**
- Presidential **elections have just taken place** so there is a change in the Government.
- No MSP yet but many discussions. National Food Security Council exists under the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Discussions continue about whether this could be extended to act as the convening body for nutrition. Under the Council there is already a National Nutrition and Food Safety Strategy Committee. Strategy has been drafted.
- **Donor community** very respected and encouraging. Need to identify a donor/development partner convener. Would be best if it is a bi-lateral donor. Development Coordination Council exists through which partners support the Government on national food security and nutrition initiatives.
- **NGOs** not yet involved – not in position to submit proposal to MPTF but will consider when platform is established.

Emorn: Huge variety of Multi-stakeholder platform (MSP). Most SUN countries have MSPs at national level. About half are under the Office of the President, Prime Minister, Vice leaders, First Lady, Planning Commission. This provides legitimacy to convene across sectors. In other cases, the MSP is within Ministries – usually the MoH. One sixth of countries have established decentralized MSPs in districts and regions. These are proving important in building up local support and administration for nutrition. 6 MSPs are involving Parliamentarians. 12 MSPs are involving Civil Society groups. 6 MSPs are involving academia. Few MSPs are including private sector organisations. Governments are finding it difficult because of conflicts of interest (CoI). Process under-way to produce reference documents and service to support countries to address CoI arising in MSPs. Importance of MSPs at community level – this is key.

El Salvador MSP convening body – National Council on Food and Nutrition Security (CONASAN)

- The platform is multi-sectoral. Started the process to develop the platform at decentralized levels (departments and municipalities), first through the dissemination of the strategic plan (beginning of year)

and then setting up departmental committees (responsible of the formulation and monitoring of the implementation of multi-sectoral plans, along with CONASAN) (next week the first departmental platform will be established)

- Great support of the United Nations system to the creation of the platform
- Steps to strengthen the PMS through participatory formulation of the multi-sectoral plan:
 1. diagnosis of the situation (analysis of problems and causes of food insecurity);
 2. Sensitization of stakeholders for a comprehensive approach to nutrition (which improves impact and effectiveness);
 3. Participatory design of the plan (objectives, action lines, activities, inputs) - a common view is created based on dialogue;
 4. Capacity building of institutions, with the support of the UN (Diploma) - development of a common conceptual framework and commitment

Departmental Level:

- broadcast made in all departments ;
- definition of roles of multi-stakeholder departmental committees: development of departmental plans, monitoring implementation of the plan , surveillance;
- engagement of departmental governors, along with actors involved on FSN in the territory , including councils of mayors

Municipal level:

- mayors involved
- commissions dedicated to promoting nutrition and addressing the various determinants of FSN

Challenges to improve the functioning of the PMS:

- Capacity development: a 8-month Diploma has been strengthen capacities of members of the MSP nationwide in areas such as M&E, project formulation, and on an integrated approach to nutrition.
- It is important to define the roles of the different actors
- Participation of civil society (involvement easy but it is a very large and diverse group, currently working on the establishment of the SC Alliance) and private sector (not used to engage in this type of development areas)

Guatemala MSP convening body – Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SESAN)

The National Food Security System establishes which stakeholders are involved in FSN and at which levels.

National level:

- The national platform engages government, civil society and international cooperation
- Different mechanisms for law enforcement have been identified: the **Interagency Technical Committee** (which brings together representatives at the central level of those institutions that make up the system; the civil society as well as private sector, academia participates through INCOPAS (Instance for Consultation and Social Participation)

Departmental Level: there are Departmental Committees on FSN:

- participating actors contributing to Zero Hunger plan , monthly meetings, the agenda is set , governor of the department convenes and conducts the meeting

- Based on the national decentralization process , there are Development Councils at the following levels:

Department: CODERE - development council

Municipality (COMODE)

Community (COCODE)

These councils establish FSN Commissions: CODESAN, COMUSAN and COCOSAN

Municipal level:

Community level: in the process of formation of **FSN Community Committees**

The Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security has representatives at the departmental and municipal levels

- Alignment of the action of local platforms to the national platform: technical committees that transfer information from the central to the local level have been established (departmental and local leaders are invited to this committees). The Secretariat has conformed FSN teams that provide technical assistance and training at the different levels
- Information systems have to include different levels - should continue to work on a common system of nutritional information (technical discussion tables + support teams)

Peru MSP convening body – Ministry for Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS)

There are the following **coordination mechanisms at MIDIS:**

- Inter-sectoral Committee on Social Affairs (MIDIS counts with the Technical Secretariat): 14 ministers involved (70% of all sectors engaged)
- Inter-sectoral Commitment to promote early development as a priority in public policy: includes 4 ministries (Health, Inclusion, Women and Housing) as well as the National Assembly and the Network of Regional Governments and of Municipalities

There are mechanisms in place that encourage expenditure execution by regional and local governments according to national goals (levels of government in Peru are autonomous). Example: Joint Nutrition Plan: sets goals locally, funding based on results

Mechanisms for local-national articulation:

- Associations of local governments: consist of 3 regional governments; they are executing units; there are also associations made up of 8 districts which work on specific topics, led by local government platforms
- provincial and local operational plans agendas ; their programs are aligned to the Articulated Nutrition Plan.

Roundtable for Poverty Reduction: gather different levels of government, civil society and international cooperation at different levels

Challenges:

There is a multitude of consensus-building spaces and there are not many actors involved; it could be more effective to reduce the number of spaces but strengthen public spaces

- need to develop mechanisms (legal, administrative, etc.) that allow every committee to act
- Alignment needs to exist not only for goals but also for outcomes and outputs

MALI:

- **Coordination: Secretariat at the Ministry of Health.** The President has authorized the Ministry of Health to take the lead on nutrition. 6 key Ministries, the private sector, civil society, the REACH technical committee and the Donors are participating. Existence of a civil society platform. The private sector is not always present, but has taken part in the process through the presence of manufacturers (large mills; federation of processors). Does not have own platform at the moment.
- Even if the Ministry of Health succeeds in mobilizing all the stakeholders, the fact is that this commitment by itself is not satisfactory. The level of commitment must be raised.

- **The National Nutrition Council (cross-sector platform) is in the process of being set up.** The restricted technical secretariat will consider implementing other bodies.
- **The process of decentralizing the SUN is difficult to contemplate given the political situation in the country.**

COTE D'IVOIRE:

- The meeting in New York was useful to establish what was taking place in Côte d'Ivoire. **Platform being implemented at Prime Ministerial level** based on a decree for formalizing the platform taken by the Council of Ministers. This decree has already been formulated and should be signed before the end of the year. It should also set out the principle of platforms at local level.
- Subsequent need to assess the situation in the regions to adapt the implementation of cross-sector platforms.
- **A multi-disciplinary collegiate Secretariat** will be established and coordinated by the Ministry of Health for the technical aspects. The Ministry will prepare the bases of the discussions for the platform, already on a cross-sector basis.
- Successfully overcoming the challenge is due to **good coordination**. Excellent synergy with the Donors: WFP, Unicef, WHO. The Prime Minister has written to all the **Donors** and each one has designated its own focal point. In order to prevent conflicts of interest with the **private sector**, a dialogue will be initiated with the organizations rather than with individual entities. In addition to the employers, there are organizations at the sectoral levels. The government wishes to establish parity between the state and civil society, academics, the private sector and the Donors. **Thematic meetings with the various stakeholders to exchange ideas will be organized.** ToRs on how to operate and the role of the stakeholders will be produced.

HAITI:

- **The national platform has been set up (COLFAM, national level commission)** under the chairmanship of the First Lady. **The Executive Secretariat** of Colfam, chaired by JR Brutus. The **private sector** is involved through the Moulins of Haiti, who are participating in fortifying wheat flour and making a qualitative improvement to the diet. The **Ministry of Agriculture** is responsible for national coordination of food security and plays a part in analyzing and measuring consumption. Good relationship also with the **United Nations agencies**. The President appointed the Ministry of Health to act as leader of the SUN.
- **Decentralization** at departmental level: the departmental nutrition platforms in each of the 10 departments need to be strengthened. The educational and agricultural sectors are involved but an effort is still required to integrate the CSOs and the members of the private sector. Haiti (Ministry of Health) is working to the ToRs to distribute them at departmental level to support the establishment of departmental platforms. **Ask to receive examples of ToRs from other countries.**

GUINEA:

- **A technical group is functioning** like in Mali. Will review the ToRs of the group to extend it to civil society and to manufacturers as well.

BENIN:

- **Key stages to activate the cross-sector platform:** Organization of a national consensus workshop with all the stakeholders involved in nutrition (Government, academic world, local governments, civil society, private sector, Donors): November 2007. Has served as basis for the series of reforms that followed. Establishment of the **National Nutrition Council** which brings all the stakeholders

together under the authority of the Head of State. Is supported by a **Permanent Secretariat**, operational arm of the Council. The **Donors' platform** exists (UNICEF lead agency);

- **Decentralization:** at test stage. Implementation of an educational project in the 10 most vulnerable communes to establish platforms with all the stakeholders involved (with the support of the WB and UNICEF). Commune or municipal order will enable nutrition focal points to be established in the 77 communes of Benin. They will have to produce the nutritional profile of the commune, the common Outcome Framework, annual response plans and programs. No official terms of reference.

BURKINA FASO:

- **National Council for Nutrition Coordination (CNCN)** established in 2007 following advocacy to the Ministry of Health and top level authorities by ministerial decree. The Council tries to meet every six months (June and December) but this is not always possible for administrative reasons. **Council chaired by the Ministry of Health** with three vice-chairs of agriculture and food security, social action, the economy and finance. All ministerial sectors are involved (water purification, environment, animal resources, women's development, etc.) and the Donors and civil society. **The private sector and the academic sector** are not very well catered for in the platform.
- **Platforms decentralized in the 13 health regions (CRCN);** meet more frequently. Chaired by the governors of the regions (with the High Commissioners of the provinces, the mayors and local partners (CSOs, etc.). A meeting of all these platforms is planned at national level.
- **Village Development Committees** which deal with all sectors (national development).
- **Will work on the direct link between the platforms between the national and local levels.**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC):

- The presence of the Minister of Education at the SUN Movement Global Gathering confirms the multi-sector nature of the DRC.
- **Process implemented to establish and strengthen national platforms:** establish informal then formal contacts with the members of the platform; next, establish ToRs of the platform; call a meeting of platform stakeholders to talk about the SUN based on the ToRs produced; meeting to officially implement the platform. Following implementation, monitor the activities while ensuring technical support in terms of advice and assessment of the work. Capitalize on existing thematic groups (agriculture; health inter-donors, acceleration of MDGs 4 and 5). **National cross-sector nutrition committee will be based at prime ministerial level.**
- **Operational level of the platforms only at national level for the time being;** but because the problem of nutrition is at base level, there will be platforms at provincial, district and community levels.
- **Two mechanisms for implementing actions for good coordination and alignment:** (i) intra-platform meetings consisting of the stakeholders of each of the platforms (discussion of several problems of national policy -i.e. alignment at common framework of results); the meetings will take place once per quarter; (ii) meetings of the platforms with the Chairman of the National Cross-sector Nutrition Committee, the Prime Minister or his representative (Jaques Bonyoma, socio-cultural advisor to the PM and SUN focal point). Meetings for exchanging information on accountability once every six months; each platform must be well-informed about what is happening in the committee and vice versa. The effectiveness of these mechanisms will be assessed as they are implemented.

- **Active involvement in the multi-stakeholder platform:** ministries, civil society, donors. The donors' platform (lead agency: World Bank) and that of civil society exist. The scientists' platform is being set up.
- **Advocacy and sensitization** to associate other stakeholders. **Private sector** difficult to organize because consists of numerous stakeholders who are often not sensitized to nutritional issues. **Would like to have access to examples from other countries.** **Members of Parliament** are less difficult than the private sector to involve because they are already sensitized.

David Nabarro:

- International union of parliamentarians. Meeting about nutrition in June 2014. High level of sensitization in Africa.
- Commitment of the private sector in several of the countries. Let's try to share the experience of the other countries and of the global network of the private sector.

BURUNDI

- **Cross-sector platform not yet operational.** Legal framework sent to Council of Ministers. 1st level: Steering Committee chaired by the 2nd vice president and including the Ministers of the Interior (who is in favor of working with local government), Finance, Communications, Environment, Water and purification, Communal development, Commerce and Solidarity ... and representatives of civil society, UN agencies and donors. 2nd level: SUN Secretariat with the SUN focal point, the Reach facilitators, the Reach secretary, the consultant for resource mobilization projects. Based at the 2nd vice-presidency. 3rd level: technical committee of the platform consisting of the SUN Secretariat, the focal points of the above-mentioned ministries and the focal points of the five UN agencies, the donors, civil society and the private sector. **There will be networks** of the parliamentarians, the UN agencies, the academic sector, the donors, civil society, the private sector, the government, the media, religious institutions, ministry technicians and other government structures.
- **Identification of stakeholders:** donors, the academic sector, the government; the private sector, civil society and the media. Meetings to **sensitize the networks being established. ToRs being established to define roles and responsibilities.**
- **Identification of correspondents at decentralized level**

CHAD:

- **Very active platform** with a restricted mission until now: to support the production of national policy and organize a national forum. Is made up of various ministries, civil society (Association of Chad consumers). It is a question today of **extending it to other members and creating a permanent technical committee for nutrition and food.** There is a technical committee in operation based in the Ministry of Public Health.
- **The National Nutrition Security Policy has just been validated and requires a National Food Security and Nutrition Council to be implemented at Prime Minister's office level.** Discussion with the other ministries with the assistance of REACH. **2 ministries with responsibility: Public Health and Agriculture.** Will try to implement a joint platform with regard to nutrition and food security.

- **Want to set up regional committees for nutrition and food.** There is already a decentralized coordination system at regional level under the framework of the eradication of poliomyelitis. They will try to base this on what already exists.