

5th meeting of the SUN Lead Group | April 15th 2014
State of the SUN Movement – Progress Report
Prepared by the SUN Movement Secretariat | April 9th 2014

Summary:

- I. As the SUN Movement enters its fourth year, 50 countries with significant levels of malnutrition have now joined the Movement.** Thousands of organisations continue to support their efforts through the Movement's networks. The Country Network is the main mechanism through which communications between SUN countries are sustained.
- II. Stakeholders in the SUN Movement have continued to support the development of countries' capacity to scale up nutrition and deliver results.** There are now multi-stakeholder platforms functioning in 35 SUN countries. Six out of 29 SUN countries have assessed themselves as having advanced in their preparations to scale up nutrition in the past year. Fifteen of 29 SUN countries report that they are ready to accelerate scale-up. As results of the 2014 routine monitoring of progress in SUN countries come through it is likely that this number will increase. Several SUN countries report increased domestic budgets for nutrition and donor partners are increasing their commitments. New mechanisms for catalytic support to countries are being considered by donor partners.
- III. The overall Average Annual Rate of Reduction (AARR) of stunting prevalence in SUN countries is 1.49%,** although this masks significant differences between countries. Analysis of available data reveals that 21 SUN countries have an AARR greater than 2% - this should be enough to enable these countries to experience year-by-year declines in the numbers of children who are stunted. The World Health Assembly (WHA) target is 3.9%. SUN Movement countries continue to seek international support to help them accelerate improvements in people's nutrition.
- IV. Since 2011, the focus of the Movement has been on increasing impact of national efforts for nutrition within SUN countries** through more effective design and implementation of multi-sectoral actions by national governments, better alignment of support for governments by in-country stakeholders at district and national levels and more effective support for countries through the SUN Movement's networks of regional and global international organisations, civil society groups, donors agencies, foundations and development banks, scientists and businesses.
- V. The Movement's strategy was established by the Lead Group in 2012. It focuses first on supporting national officials – SUN government focal points – as they establish in-country platforms of multiple stakeholders working for nutrition.** A second focus is to support countries as they establish their national nutrition policies and plans. The third focus is to assist countries with the delicate task of securing agreement for and then pursuing multi-sectoral strategies for scaling up nutrition at national and local levels. This involves identifying, negotiating and agreeing the results they would together expect to pursue, expressed as Common Results Frameworks (CRFs). The fourth focus is to help countries use their CRFs as the basis of efforts to mobilise additional in-country and external resources for scaling up nutrition; to track the use of these resources, to monitor progress with implementation and to demonstrate the results that are achieved.

- VI. During 2013 several international events led to increased commitments for nutrition from at least 16 SUN Movement countries. Since September 2013, high-level events designed to create awareness and widen responsibility for nutrition have been reported in eleven SUN countries.** More national and regional events are planned for the remainder of 2014. National efforts are being complemented by continued global processes and these contribute to an enabling environment for good nutrition. During 2014 the International Conference for Nutrition (ICN2) will be a critical moment for taking stock and agreeing future priorities.
- VII. During 2014 the intensity of work underway in the Movement - both within countries and globally - has increased sharply in response to the needs expressed by participants in the 2013 Global Gathering.** They stated that the increased political attention to nutrition, especially within the growing number of SUN countries, leads them to seek help with building national and local capacities to deliver sustainable results. This means that the Secretariat is increasingly focused on actively encouraging productive links among SUN countries, between countries and the networks, and across all parts of the Movement and the Lead Group.
- VIII. The Movement is evolving rapidly in 2014. SUN Movement countries want to make the institutional changes and mobilise resources they need to fulfil their commitments.** The stakeholders who support them are working hard to respond to needs expressed by SUN Country Focal Points and the Multi-Stakeholder Platforms. The Secretariat is exploring ways in which the Movement can establish and finance **Communities of Practice (COPs)**. These combine those who request support from within individual countries with experts drawn from other SUN countries and from across the SUN Movement networks. When established the COPs will cover the following areas:
- a) Planning, costing, implementing and financing of scaled-up multi-sectoral actions that contribute to people's nutrition [being established now: strong in Africa already];
 - b) Effective communication and advocacy at local and national levels [being established in first half of 2014];
 - c) The reliable monitoring of progress, evaluation of outcomes and demonstration of results [being supported through a consortium of donor partners – see below]; and
 - d) Functional cross-government capacities for managing the effective implementation of actions by multiple stakeholders [supported through the UN Network, especially the REACH partnership, as well as by initiatives such as SPRING, FANTA and European Nutrition Advisory Service (NAS)].
- This development of Communities of Practice is all part of the Movement's support for transformations in the way the collective of stakeholders active in SUN countries approaches nutritional challenges and engages with the international community as they seek support for their efforts.
- IX. The COP on planning, costing, implementing and financing was initiated in 2013.** Focal Points from within SUN countries are enabled to benefit from international expertise to reinforce capacities for planning and costing, and to strengthen implementation capacities at national and local level. Since November 2013 an Africa-region Community of Practice has been established with support from the donor partner and UN networks. It engages practitioners from 18 countries and more than 10 external entities. In 2014 it will explore options for improving the implementation of multi-sectoral actions for scaling up nutrition by multiple stakeholders.

- X. Development of the COP on Communication, Advocacy and Social Mobilisation is progressing in stages.** At this time the Secretariat is working with SUN countries to better appreciate their requests for help with systems for communicating information about nutrition to different in-country groups; for advocacy with leaders in relation to specific issues where change is needed; and for social mobilisation among varied audiences that include: communities threatened by poor nutrition; programme managers from different sectors in government; political leaders and parliamentarians at local and national levels; all the different stakeholders supporting implementation of government plans; international organisations seeking ways to best assist SUN countries efforts for scaling up nutrition. The COP will be designed to enable the adjustment of support to the specific needs of SUN countries.
- XI. Development of the COP on the reliable monitoring of progress, evaluation of outcomes and demonstration of results is underway.** Its focus is on the systematic strengthening of existing National Information Systems for Nutrition. In Brussels, in March 2014, members of the SUN Movement donor and UN networks agreed to establish a coalition of supporters to assist countries as they improve systems that enable decision makers to access the information they need on nutrition (referred to as National Evaluation Platforms for Nutrition). A multi-stakeholder group from SUN Movement countries and networks is now exploring how best to link robust nutrition information provided by all countries to the production of a new Global Nutrition Report – an agreed outcome of the June 2013 Nutrition for Growth event. The SUN Movement will contribute actively to this important initiative.
- XII. To build the COP on Functional Cross-government Capacities to Manage Implementation of actions for Nutrition, the following priorities are being pursued in 2014:**
- a) ***Getting clarity on what is (and is not) nutrition-sensitive:*** SUN countries are giving greater attention to nutrition-sensitive strategies in all sectors, with a special focus on the empowerment of women so they are enabled to focus more on their own and their children's nutrition. Within the different networks, and in several scientific consortia, work is underway now to improve the design of "nutrition sensitive" strategies within different sectoral programmes – especially those outside the health sector. The conceptual basis of this work has been advanced by a team from Columbia University. Though the design of nutrition sensitive strategies is situation specific, the SUN countries that are working on this challenge are now starting to establish some principles which will be helpful across the Movement as a whole. This is highly relevant to the issues being discussed in the run up to the International Conference on Nutrition in November 2014;
 - b) ***The sharing of experiences with managing implementation among SUN countries and between SUN countries and their networks:*** SUN countries continue to update their nutrition policies and share their experiences with scaling-up. The Secretariat is facilitating exchanges of experience and lessons learned between SUN countries through a system of structured inter-country exchanges that enable the acquisition of expertise through prescribed "learning routes". The Movement's website is being newly managed, upgraded and made multi-lingual so that it better reflects what is happening within SUN countries, the networks and Movement as a whole. The Secretariat is producing a series of written briefs in multiple languages which highlight country experiences with the institutional processes relevant to scaling up nutrition;
 - c) ***Support for SUN countries as they seek effective ways to Manage Conflicts of Interest within multi-stakeholder platforms:*** An initiative by the Global Social Observatory to better enable focal points and multi-stakeholder platforms within SUN countries to anticipate and manage conflicts of interest in national multi-stakeholder platforms is underway. The reference material has been

developed through consultations, has been subjected to independent reviews and is now being examined by focal points within SUN countries;

- d) ***Monitoring (and quantifying) progress with implementation; identifying (and responding to) implementation challenges:*** The Secretariat has worked with SUN countries as they seek to quantify the institutional changes which are taking place (in line with the four processes identified above) as a basis for movement-wide progress monitoring. The first results of this monitoring exercise were reported in the September 2013 progress report: more detailed information will be presented in September 2014.

XIII To encourage more effective working across the Movement there have been concerted efforts, since September 2013, to strengthen capacities in the SUN Movement's Networks: The networks have accelerated the development of strategies, work plans and operating procedures. They are now focused on responding to the increasing demand, ambition and urgency of requests from SUN countries. This is an area of emphasis in 2014 so as to enable SUN countries to access the support they need for the full effectiveness of their nutrition efforts. The Secretariat has increased its own capacity to help SUN countries access the support they need from within and beyond the networks: it will continue to do so in response to need.

- a) ***Strengthening the Civil Society Network to support global advocacy and effective in-country alliances:*** the alliances have been supported through bilateral programmes of development partners and a "last resort" multi-partner trust fund that has in 2013, provided grants for 11 national civil society alliances within SUN countries. A further 15 will access support from 2014. In several instances the impact of the alliances on advocacy, involvement and accountability has already been dramatic;
- b) ***Maximizing the impact of the SUN Movement Business network:*** The business network has stepped up its support for Governments of SUN countries as they explore options for engaging with business to scale up nutrition: it is now being supported by a high level advisory group, and is developing a plan for increased support capacity in response to specific country needs;
- c) ***Constructing the UN system Network for Nutrition:*** The heads of 5 UN system entities (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) undertook to establish this network at the Nutrition for Growth Summit in June 2013. The design and building of the network is being informed by a study of the potential UN system contribution to scaling up nutrition (completed in March 2014 and discussed by the entities in the following month. They will establish a UN system network for nutrition that is fit for purpose both at country level and globally: it could build on the experiences of the REACH partnership and the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition;
- d) ***The SUN Movement Network of Donor Partners: tracking the use of resources for nutrition and strengthening national capacities for information management:*** The ability to demonstrate any increase in resources for nutrition, and to assess the extent to which they contribute to coherent and effective action, is important if SUN countries are to mobilise funding, highlight gaps and incentivise the kinds of sectoral investments that have an impact on nutrition. Resource tracking is a critical element of accountability, but also (when linked to information systems) plays a major role in implementation - helping decision makers identify actions that contribute the best value for money. While much more work is needed in establishing feasible systems to track domestic investments, the donor network has taken the lead in developing a common methodology for the tracking of external development assistance resources for nutrition. This is a major achievement!

XIV An Independent Comprehensive Evaluation of the SUN Movement will be undertaken in 2014:

The Lead Group has requested a detailed examination of the SUN Movement to explore whether, as currently configured, the present structure, functions and stewardship arrangements in the Movement are indeed fit for this purpose. The Lead Group has commissioned an independent comprehensive evaluation over the course of 2014: a subsequent visioning exercise will be designed to ensure that the Movement – or its successor – is able to sustain political attention, encourage effective policies, stimulate the mobilisation of extra resources and catalyse the achievement of significant improvements in people's nutrition.

Potential Areas of Focus for the SUN Movement Lead Group:

- A. Encourage the Movement to respond to requests from SUN countries in ways that help them to strengthen their capability to scale up nutrition in a sustainable manner.** Predictable systems for facilitating support that enable governments and their partners to advance the scaling up of nutrition at local, national, regional and global levels are needed if the SUN Movement is to deliver on its potential. The SUN networks should ensure that Governments are able to access expertise with: Communications and advocacy; planning, costing, implementing, tracking use of funds and mobilising resources; monitoring implementation and evaluating impact; as well as managing and coordinating implementation systems (including the management of Conflicts of Interest within national SUN platforms).
- B. Reinforce the potential of the four stakeholder networks (donors, UN, civil society, business) to respond to requests for support from within SUN countries,** through the Capacity to Deliver Framework by ensuring that all those participating in the Movement understand the need to institutionalise the SUN approach of aligning with and actively contributing to the delivery of country priorities.
- C. Encourage fulfilment of commitments that will yield major improvements in outcomes and support institutional change:** by advocating for national political leaders to reinforce commitments to nutrition through effective functioning of national multi-stakeholder platforms and encouraging multi-stakeholder actions for nutrition in communities and districts. Support to national governments as they foster their own national Movements for nutrition is essential for the sustainability of the Movement.
- D. Establish a sustainable basis for stewardship of the SUN Movement by ensuring that the SUN Movement Independent Comprehensive Evaluation** and the subsequent visioning exercise are carried out effectively, and both are completed by the end of March 2015, so setting the stage for a renewed strategic vision – both for the Lead Group and the Movement as a whole.

In order to ensure that the Movement supports the delivery of results, it is recommended that the SUN Lead Group members requests all in the SUN Movement to intensify and align responses to country requests and feedback on progress achieved, via the Secretariat, by September 2014.

Section 1: Progress in SUN countries

- 1) **There are now 50 SUN countries in the Movement.** Nine countries have committed to scale up nutrition since September 2013¹. These countries are home to almost 83m stunted children – half the world's total. Indeed, countries in the SUN Movement now include 27 out of the 36 'high-burden' countries, up from 25 countries in September 2013. The Movement is on track to include countries home to more than 75% of the world's malnourished women and children by the end of 2015.
- 2) **The overall Average Annual Rate of Reduction (AARR) in SUN countries is 1.49% compared to the World Health Assembly (WHA) target of 3.9%.** The SUN Movement uses stunting as an indicator to measure the impact of efforts to reduce under-nutrition. AARR is a measure of the trend. This has not changed since the September 2013 Progress Report as the data points are collected infrequently. Twenty-one SUN countries have an AARR greater than 2% and are likely to experience yearly declines in the numbers of stunted children, whilst 27 countries have an AARR below 2% and are likely to face an increase in the numbers of stunted children, especially if their average population growth is also above 2%. Thirteen SUN countries have projected stunting prevalence of above 40%.
- 3) **Six out of 29 SUN countries included in the 2013 baseline have assessed themselves as having advanced in their preparations to scale up nutrition in the past year².** Progress markers used by countries and their partners enable an appreciation of transformations underway in SUN countries. Advancing requires changes in ways of working and behaviour in the four process indicators that evidence suggests can contribute to better implementation and improved nutrition outcomes. These changes are usually not immediate, and countries can demonstrate progress for some indicators but stay at the same stage of preparedness. Twenty-three countries reported being at the same stage of preparedness as the previous year. Fifteen countries are ready to scale up nutrition (stage 3) and seven are almost ready; six are adapting their systems of work (stage 2). One country reports being almost ready to adapt their systems for improved nutritional outcomes.
- 4) **Routine monitoring is being undertaken by the Secretariat to ensure a continuous assessment of progress against the four SUN processes,** and enable the tracking of transformations across all SUN stakeholder groups – governments, civil society, business and donors – as they seek to accelerate progress towards improved nutrition outcomes. This year, it is expected that in-country multi-stakeholder platforms, led by the SUN government focal point, will undertake a self-assessment exercise to discuss their progress and identify challenges in relation to the four processes. This monitoring utilises the SUN M&E Framework developed in 2012 and baseline data from the same year. Data collection tools and supporting documents have been developed and were tested through pilot workshops in **Rwanda** and **Burkina Faso**. Updated tools have been shared with all SUN countries and the data collection process is ongoing. Analyses will be provided in the September 2014 annual report.

¹ Congo, Brazzaville; Swaziland; Comoros; Vietnam; Liberia; Togo; Guinea-Bissau and Costa Rica.

Section 2: Demonstrating results: Progress against the SUN Movement's strategic objectives

Strategic Objective 1: Create an enabling environment, with strong in-country leadership, and a shared space where stakeholders align their activities and take joint responsibility for scaling up nutrition.

- 5) **Since September 2013, high-level events designed to create awareness and join responsibility for nutrition have been reported from eleven SUN countries.** These include:
- **Ghana:** Raising popular awareness for the 1,000 Days of the Child campaign in Ghana through a song "Save a Child Today" by Noble Nketia, a Ghanaian gospel artiste, produced by the Ghana Coalition of Civil Society Organisations for Scaling up Nutrition (November 2013).
 - **Haiti:** Launch of a network of journalists in health nutrition with the participation of Brazil, WHO and UNICEF (September 2013).
 - **Indonesia:** Presidential Decree 43 endorsed and launched by the President with more than 3,000 stakeholders from different Ministries and groups (October 2013).
 - **Madagascar:** Civil society platform launched (November 2013) and private sector platform is being established.
 - **Myanmar:** High-Level launch of the SUN Movement in Myanmar. Ministries, donors, UN, NGO, plus other countries and ASEAN Secretariat and media were invited (February 2014).
 - **Pakistan:** SUN Movement launched and road map developed (December 2013).
 - **Sierra Leone:** Is in the process of rolling out of SUN Movement at the regional (district) level.
 - **Sri Lanka:** Launch of the country's first-ever Multi-sectoral Action Plan to reduce maternal and child malnutrition, attended by government, development partners and the speaker of the Parliament (January 2014).
 - **Tanzania:** the government launched a major advocacy campaign in collaboration with PANITA, a network of NGOs and members of parliament (December 2013).
 - **Zambia:** The CSO-SUN Alliance held an awards event for nutrition champions in Lusaka. The Vice President, the First Lady, five parliamentarians, and the media were all recognised for their contribution to nutrition progress in Zambia (December 2013).
- 6) **Multi-stakeholder platforms (MSP) are functioning in 35 SUN countries** while five additional countries are in the process of setting up their MSP's. The remaining are new countries. Membership of the platforms are being broadened with increased participation of different ministries, donors, civil-society and UN agencies. Engagement of business and academia in the platforms is still quite limited.
- 7) **Global processes continue to contribute to creating an enabling environment for scaling up nutrition in SUN countries.** Whilst fragmentation in the global nutrition systems still exist, stakeholders are beginning to coalesce around a shared vision of ensuring the Right to Good Nutrition. Some of these processes include:
- a) The UN Secretary General's **Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC)**. This continues to generate interest and momentum. Launched in June 2012, the ZHC combines sustainable agriculture and food systems in the quest to end hunger and malnutrition. Its goal is to ensure: zero stunted children less than 2 years; 100% access to adequate food all year round; all food systems are sustainable; 100% increase in smallholder productivity and income; and zero loss or waste of food.

- b) One commitment at the **Nutrition for Growth** meeting in London in June 2013 was to publish a **Global Nutrition Report**. This is now expected in November 2014. The report aims to sustain and increase the global commitment to malnutrition reduction by providing a comprehensive view of the status of nutrition globally and at country level, with a review and analysis of data to interpret progress towards malnutrition reduction and towards agreed targets.
- c) The **WHO Executive Board** recommended that WHO be requested to move forward work on (i) the development of the core set of indicators to monitor the comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition and (ii) on risk assessment and management tools for conflicts of interest in nutrition.

8) **The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)**³ will discuss how to address major nutrition challenges over the coming decades. The ICN2 provides an opportunity for actors in the SUN Movement to contribute to national and global public policy priorities, and for participants at the ICN2 to learn more about the progress and approach to scaling up nutrition in countries and how their support can accelerate progress. The meeting will bring together member-states, with the expected participation of Heads of State and Government.

9) **Update on the work on Conflict of Interest.** SUN countries have regularly identified conflict of interest as an area where guidance would be useful – until such guidance has been developed by the WHO as per the request from the World Health Assembly (WHA65.6). Since April 2013, the Global Social Observatory (GSO), a Geneva-based non-governmental organisation, which provides a neutral space for multi-stakeholder dialogue, has explored the issue of preventing and managing conflict of interest within the context of the SUN Movement⁴.

- a) GSO has now completed undertaken a mapping of stakeholders and key issues, and has convened a series of consultation meetings involving representatives from SUN countries and all SUN Networks.
- b) A Reference Note on *‘Engaging in the SUN Movement: Preventing and Managing Conflicts of Interest’* has been finalised, following an expert review. The note is supplemented by a *‘SUN Movement Toolkit for Preventing and Managing Conflict of Interest’*.
- c) The Reference Note is non-binding and recognises that national governments have the primary responsibility for establishing policies and procedures to manage conflict of interest. It is intended as a source of information and guidance for governments that have joined the SUN Movement. It sets out key principles of engagement for all those engaging with the Movement and suggests a framework for preventing and managing conflict of interest within multi-stakeholder mechanisms. It will evolve in the light of experience. Four enhanced learning exercises are planned for 2014 to verify the practical application of the Reference Note and Toolkit for SUN countries⁵.

Decision Points: The Lead Group is asked to:

- a) Take note of the *Reference Note on Engaging in the SUN Movement: Preventing and Managing Conflicts of Interest* and accompanying documentation, and request the SUN Secretariat to consider next steps, including the development, in close consultation with the Chair of the Lead

³ Rome 19th to 21st November 2014

⁴ Funding is provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

⁵ These are planned for Ghana (late March), Kenya (May), El Salvador (July) and Southeast Asia (TBC -October), to be followed by a concluding global conference in early 2015 in Geneva.

Group, of a concise *Scaling Up Nutrition Movement Policy on Conflicts of Interest*, which would draw on the principles outlined in the documents;

- b) Engage actively, through their constituencies, on the preparations for the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2);

Strategic Objective 2: Establish best practices for scaling up proven interventions, including the adoption of effective laws and policies.

10) SUN countries continue to update their nutrition policies, integrating nutrition outcomes into sectoral policies, passing nutrition and food security laws, and institutionalising structures to coordinate multi-sectoral action for scaling up nutrition. Examples include:

- **Burundi:** formalised the technical groups of the multi- sectoral platform on nutrition
- **Burkina Faso:** has validated its new Policy for Food security and Nutrition;
- **Côte d'Ivoire:** is developing a decree to establish the National Nutrition Council;
- **DR Congo:** has validated and disseminated its national nutrition policy;
- **El Salvador:** The Food Security and Nutrition been is being revised for final endorsement;
- **Ghana:** has completed its nutrition policy;
- **Indonesia:** The Presidential Decree was endorsed by the president on 31st October at a launched attended by more than 3,000 stakeholders from different ministries and organisations;
- **Kyrgyz Republic:** is developing food security and nutrition strategies across sectors;
- **Madagascar:** is reviewing its National Nutrition Policy;
- **Mali:** adopted a decree on the establishment of multi- sectoral nutrition bodies;
- **Swaziland:** is in the process of finalising its food and nutrition policy and its public health bill;
- **Uganda:** The school health policy and school feeding guidelines now in place;
- **Zambia:** is developing a social protection policy with nutrition outcomes;

11) Learning routes are being established between SUN countries. The Secretariat is working with the NGO PROCASUR Corporation and SUN countries to institutionalise knowledge across the multi-stakeholder platforms of each participating country and share best practice across the Movement. Government representation ranges from the offices of the president, vice president, national planning authorities as well as ministries of health and agriculture. Almost every participating country has included civil society in their teams. Most teams have been supported by SUN MPTF funding. The approach combines both meetings and web-based learning exercises:

- a) In May 2014, **Senegal** will host teams from **Benin, Burundi, Niger, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone** and **Peru**.
- b) In August 2014, **Peru** will host **Guatemala, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Madagascar** and **Senegal**.

12) Women and mothers have a central role to play in ensuring nutrition justice for all. More attention to the impact of gender equality policies in nutrition outcomes is required, and needs to be integrated into planning if the reduction in under nutrition rates are to be accelerated. There are some examples of steps towards this coming from SUN countries: **Kenya** is engaging the Ministry of Women's Affairs in the national multi-stakeholder Platform; **Ethiopia** is engaging the Women's Army in the implementation of nutrition policies; and **Madagascar** has a Network of Women Parliamentarians for nutrition and is working with the Ministry of Population on women's empowerment.

Decision Points: The Lead Group is asked to:

- Encourage peer-review mechanisms to review the national nutrition policies and other political and legal frameworks;
- Encourage further analysis and attention to the impact of gender equality policies in nutrition outcomes, and encourage their integration into national plans.

Strategic Objective 3: Align actions around high quality and well-costed country plans, with an agreed results framework and mutual accountability.

- 13) SUN countries have identified a number of priorities that will enable them strengthen their capacity to deliver sustainable results** by implementing effective actions to scale up nutrition through their national multi-stakeholder platforms stakeholders. They are seeking to accelerate these actions by matching their defined needs with additional resources leveraged through the SUN Networks and external sources. Requirements for support include: advocacy and communication; planning, costing, implementing, tracking use of funds and mobilising resources; monitoring implementation and evaluating impact and; managing and co-ordinating implementation.
- 14) The Secretariat is facilitating communities of practice that bring together country requests that cannot be met at country level with specialists from the SUN Movement networks to provide technical support.** The approach is being systematised according to the principles that: a) national governments determine the support they need; b) support is first requested in each SUN country through dialogue within national multi-stakeholder nutrition platforms; and c) support is provided in a way that helps the development of sustainable in-country capacity.
- 15) Communications and Advocacy (C&A).** SUN government focal points and their country teams see C&A as essential to: (a) help secure political commitment to the four strategic processes in the SUN Movement; (b) achieve changes in people's behaviour that enable them to enjoy good nutrition, and (c) enable different stakeholders to share experiences and learn from each other. C&A priorities, strategies and actions of SUN countries are currently being mapped. Specific requests for support have been received from a sub-set of countries (**Benin, El Salvador, Haiti, Indonesia, Mozambique and Yemen**). A meeting is planned in the latter half of 2014 for multi-stakeholders from around 10 SUN countries to come together to share experiences, identify gaps where support is required, and interact with specialist technical agencies who can respond with appropriate support. **Benin, El Salvador and Haiti** have already received support from agencies (Alive & Thrive and SPRING respectively).
- 16) Planning, costing, tracking use of funds and mobilising resources.** The production of country plans is proceeding at pace and the Secretariat is tracking progress, gathering requests for technical assistance and facilitating responses.
- a)** In April 2014, half of all SUN countries have plans in place that have been costed. Twenty country plans⁶ had been reviewed by MQSUN⁷, and a further eleven requests to help develop or

⁶ Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Yemen

⁷ 'Maximising Quality of Scaling Up Nutrition' - a consortium of organisations funded by UKAid. Upon request from countries, they work to strengthen capacity of the SUN Government Focal Points and members of the existing multi-stakeholder platforms in policies and legislation, and review planning, costing, management of

finalise costing plans are ongoing⁸. As countries review, finalise plans for scaling up nutrition, they are posted on the SUN Movement website.

- b)** SUN Focal Points are looking to refine their national plans with a view to: 1) attracting external investors; 2) advocating with the Ministry of Finance to include costing nutrition interventions in the Government budget; 3) guiding sub-national authorities to budget for nutrition in their annual plans; and 4) coordinating with multiple stakeholders to align their actions with national and sub-national priorities. Eighteen countries met at a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, during November 2013 to discuss the challenges with producing meaningful multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder plans. This technical discussion was complemented by the analyses of senior officials from the donor network at a meeting in Lusaka, Zambia.

17) Monitoring, evaluating and demonstrating results. Strengthened national information systems for nutrition help ensure a better understanding of needs and enable informed allocation of finite resources.

- a)** The majority of SUN countries report difficulties with utilising the available information in a meaningful way.
- b)** Consensus is emerging around immediate priorities: a) Reach consensus on a common results framework to facilitate monitoring and evaluation across sectors and inform decision making at different levels; b) harmonise the time and scale of data sources from key sectors to ensure that findings can be analysed against nutrition outcomes with sensitivity to seasonality, climate and agro-ecological factors and; c) decentralise capacity to collect, collate and analyse data especially at community and district level.
- c)** SUN countries are involved in three key global initiatives, namely: a) the development of the WHA Global Monitoring Framework for Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition; b) the strengthening of country information systems through national evaluation platforms and global links through a networked information system (led by the European Commission); and c) the preparation of a Global Accountability Report on Nutrition.

18) Strengthening functional capacity: SUN countries are increasingly expressing the need to optimise the functioning of their multi-stakeholder mechanisms for scaling up nutrition so that they work more effectively in ways that make the best use of available resources. A mechanism is being set up to strengthen managerial and functional capacities of these platforms, and of the institutions and individuals that make part of them through: a) strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) and mechanisms, especially broadening membership of and decentralising MSPs; c) anticipating, preventing and managing conflicts of interests; and d) reinforcing the skills and 'know-how' of individuals and institutions.

Decision Points: The Lead Group is asked to:

- Encourage the Movement's stakeholders to strengthen mechanisms of support for the national multi- sectoral platforms.
- Champion greater coherence and harmonisation between national and global communications in order to harness the full potential of the SUN Movement's collective voice.

implementation, financial tracking, and resource mobilisation. At a global level they are engaged in innovation, documentation of lessons learnt.

⁸ Ghana, Chad, Mali, Burundi, Indonesia, South Sudan, Malawi, Yemen, Nepal, Cameroon and Mauritania.

Strategic Objective 4: Increase resources directed towards coherent aligned approaches.

- 19) The Secretariat does not have any update on the financial commitments from SUN countries** since the September 2013 report. However, the Secretariat continues to facilitate work on establishing feasible systems to track domestic investments based on their public finance management capacity and external investments by donors, NGOs and private sector based on the agreement of a common classification language.
- 20) A common methodology to increase accountability and improve the tracking of external development assistance resources has been agreed** by senior donor officials. Improved tracking of donor spending on nutrition helps mobilise resources, highlights gaps and incentivises changes to investments in other sectors that have an impact on nutrition. The agreed methodology tracks both nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions and is currently using the methodology to track spending in 2010 and 2012. A pilot study to track external investments at country level is being planned. It is hoped that this common methodology will inspire other constituencies to develop approaches to track their own nutrition investments.
- 21) There has been no reported update on the work of a catalytic financing facility for nutrition,** though consultations were held with SUN government focal points at their Global Gathering in New York in September 2013.

Decision Points: The Lead Group is asked to:

- Actively encourage SUN Movement stakeholders to develop approaches to track their own nutrition investments in a way that is transparent and contributes to creating a clearer picture of funding flows at the global and country level.

Section 3: Progress in SUN Movement arrangements

- 22) SUN government focal points network:** This network is the beating heart of the SUN Movement. It has now met 13 times, and its meetings span several continents, time-zones and languages. Each meeting that now involves over 200 persons in multiple teleconferences. In 2014, governments of countries and multi-stakeholder platforms in the SUN Movement are focusing on the need to strengthen in-country capacities to scale up nutrition. The willingness of all those participating in the Movement to align activities behind country needs and to ensure that providing support to countries is seen as an organisational priority and essential for the success of the Movement.
- a) SUN government focal points regularly interact through two-monthly calls and an annual Global Gathering where they update their peers on progress and share experiences.
 - b) They are increasingly bringing together members of their multi-stakeholder platforms to participate in the calls. The calls help identify countries that are already well advanced in their own efforts to scale up nutrition and could provide country-to-country support.
 - c) Key outcomes are shared with SUN Networks to match their defined needs with additional resources leveraged through the SUN Networks and external sources. This mechanism aims to build the capacity to deliver in countries and acts only where in-country or existing sources of support are absent or inaccessible.
- 23) Donor Network:** The network met at the senior level in September 2013 in New York and in Zambia in December 2013. They agreed to:

- a) Decide on a methodology to increase accountability and improve the tracking of external development assistance resources aimed at addressing under nutrition, which is now being rolled out for the years 2010 and 2012.
- b) Prioritise increasing the number of donor convenors, which remains a challenge as the number of SUN countries continues to increase.
- c) Increase its collective capacity to respond to country requests for support. Considerable support on costing of national nutrition plans has already been provided through the MQSUN mechanism.
- d) Support SUN countries establish National Evaluation Platforms for Nutrition, as requested, to ensure better and timelier data and outcome indicators
- e) Increase the profile of nutrition at key political opportunities in 2014.

24) Civil Society Network: The network continues to pursue an ambitious work plan and used the opportunity of the SUN Global Gathering to discuss with national civil society alliances (CSAs) about its priorities.

- a) A primary focus of the network remains supporting country level CSAs to actively engage in multi-stakeholder processes. There are SUN Civil Society Alliances in place or getting organized in 29 SUN countries, engaging over 800 CSOs. 24 alliances have received funding from the SUN Multi-Partner Trust Fund while three are funded through bi-lateral donor support. The Network has established a membership strategy and this will contribute to an effort to map its membership.
- b) Another priority area is on advocacy and accountability for nutrition at country level, and ensuring that national voices are heard in global processes. It has established working groups on the post-2015 Development Agenda, 2014 Global Day of Action, and the Road to Rio (Nutrition for Growth follow-up).
- c) The network will support the Capacity to Deliver framework through the mapping of civil society activities, implementation coverage and finance, and tracking of CSO spending on nutrition off-budget. It will also support efforts to establish and strengthen national information systems for nutrition and will support the establishment of a community of practice for communications and advocacy.

25) Business Network: The network aims to serve as the global coordinated platform for business commitments to under nutrition, and is in the process of integrating the business commitments to the 2013 Nutrition for Growth event. Additionally:

- a) The network has set a target of 99 companies engaged through the network by 2015.
- b) Over 60 leaders from civil society, government, and the UN system joined business leaders at the World Economic Forum in January 2014 to recommend ways to engage more businesses in supporting SUN countries.
- c) An Advisory Group of private sector leaders for the SUN Business Network has been established and had its first meeting on 28th March. It will meet twice a year and will provide strategic input, and work towards expanding the network.
- d) The network has been working with governments in Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania to bring together stakeholders around how business can engage in nutrition.
- e) Support will be offered to other SUN countries seeking to integrate business into their nutrition strategies. This process will involve mapping entry points for business and using the findings for a multi-stakeholder convening.

- f) The network's dedicated website provides a Global Platform for Business Commitments to under nutrition⁹. Commitments will be tracked annually and reported in the Global Nutrition Report. The network will provide support for all SUN countries through a *Framework for Engaging Business in Scaling Up Nutrition*. It is in the process of updating its partnerships toolkit.

26) UN system Network: The UN Network is building upon its first formal meeting in Nairobi in August 2013 and its subsequent 2014 work plan. Its technical group is meeting in Rome in early April 2014 to operationalise the work plan. It will have a central role in supporting countries through the capacity to deliver framework.

- a) The UN system agreed on a common understanding of the role of the UN Network at country level, interagency collaboration, and systems to respond to country needs. They agreed a stronger emphasis on the provision of technical support, increased joint planning and programming and on the role of the UN as an advocate for nutrition.
- b) In Nairobi, the UN system representatives committed to: (a) consolidate the REACH platform; (b) consolidate and expand the UNSCN for policy harmonisation; (c) develop accountability within the UN Nutrition Network; and (d) promote and expand joint UN programming.
- c) The REACH partnership continues to provide support to SUN countries. At present, REACH operates in 14 countries at varying degrees of intensity and is exploring options for expansion.

27) SUN Movement Secretariat: Since September 2013, the Secretariat has strengthened its capacity to adapt to the growing size and complexity of the SUN Movement.

- a) The Secretariat's primary focus is on facilitating a process to ensure that timely and high quality support is provided to reinforce the four areas of 'capacity to deliver' scaling up nutrition in SUN countries through members of the SUN networks or other specialist consortia.
- b) It is also facilitating work on conflicts of interest, monitoring and evaluation, strengthening the Movement's identity through its website, and supporting the Lead Group initiate and lead an independent comprehensive evaluation of the SUN Movement.
- c) As of April 2014, the Secretariat includes a total of 13 full-time staff members. Five additional staff will be recruited before September 2014 to further strengthen the capacity to track progress in SUN countries. Staffing is now at the levels recommended by the 2011 stewardship study, though this study envisioned around 30 SUN countries and work that would predominately catalyse political and financial support for nutrition.
- d) The 2014-2015 budget has been revised to include provisions for additional staff, travel, and support to the reinforcement of capacity to deliver scaling up nutrition in countries. It stands at is \$14.5 million and is totally funded for 2014 and 80% funded for 2015. The Secretariat will not raise additional funds before decisions are made by the Lead Group on the future configuration of the Movement and its Secretariat.

28) SUN Movement Lead Group:

- a) The UN Secretary-General has requested that Lead Group members extend their participation for an additional two years, until the end of 2015, so as to guide the SUN Movement into the next stage of its evolution. The UN Secretary-General has invited the CEO of CIFF to join the Lead Group.
- b) The Visioning Sub Group (VSG) of the Lead Group is overseeing the independent comprehensive evaluation of the Movement's progress to enable a longer-term vision to be developed for the Movement's future. It has met to decide the parameters of the evaluation, which will focus on

⁹ <http://sunbusinessnetwork.org/>

the Movement's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability in delivering results. The Terms of Reference are currently being developed. A call for proposals will be issued to suitable companies to undertake the evaluation, and a small group of individual independent experts, or Quality Assurance Advisers are being hired to assist the VSG to assure the independence, adequacy, methodological soundness and overall quality of the evaluation. It is anticipated that the evaluation will commence in May, with an interim report available for the Lead Group in September and a final report due in December 2014.

Mechanisms available to support the Lead Group's Strategic Objectives:

- 29) Website and Social Media:** The SUN Movement website serves as a central platform for communications for the SUN Movement; it has expanded in both size and effectiveness and continues to grow as a portal for sharing progress and resources for scaling up nutrition.
- a) Following the 2013 SUN Movement Global Gathering, traffic increased by 55% with over 30,000 site visits. Its continued growth illustrates the importance of the website as a key point of access for the SUN Movement community.
 - b) The SUN twitter account has gained traction, increased over 50% since September 2013: it now has over 2,600 followers. The SUN Facebook page is also developing with an increase in "likes" of 23%. Both the Civil Society and Business networks have developed twitter accounts and are highly engaged with discussion in this fast moving forum. Increasingly, national SUN civil society alliances are asking for advice about, and joining social media channels.
- 30) The SUN Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF):** To date the SUN MPTF has disbursed \$8.3m for 23 approved projects. An additional \$0.88m will soon be disbursed to support a further four civil society mobilisation projects. The SUN MPTF has three funding windows: 1) supports initial actions within SUN countries; 2) provides support for civil society mobilisation in SUN countries; and 3) is dedicated to the development and outsourcing of strategic pieces of work.
- a) DFID, Irish Aid and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation have contributed over \$9.8 million across the three windows since March 2012.
 - b) Window I, has been utilised to support a pilot project led by PROCASUR to improve sharing and learning initiatives between national SUN multi-stakeholder platforms.
 - c) Window II, is providing financial support to civil society actors in 24 countries across Africa, Asian and Latin America. Grants to each civil society group range between \$200,000 and \$535,000 and cover project cycles of 18 to 33 months. Support has also been granted to the SUN Civil Society Network's secretariat.
 - d) Window III has been used to support the development of the SUN Movement M&E Framework.
 - e) As of end of March 2014, approximately \$600,000 remains available in the MPTF. The Management Committee of the MPTF agreed to consider allocating some of this remaining funding to support civil society mobilisation in Ethiopia, and is considering the future focus and replenishment of the MPTF within the broader context of evaluation.

Section 4: Challenges and Risks to the Movement

- 31) Risks to the effective functioning of the SUN Movement continue to exist.** These include:
- a) The Movement now includes 50 SUN countries: the Movement must ensure that its member countries receive the support they need through the Capacity to Deliver Framework to further mobilise domestic political and financial support;

- b) The independent comprehensive evaluation is a vital process for understanding the effective functioning of the Movement and enabling the Lead Group to vision its future. The evaluation must not distract from the vital work underway, and planning for the future must be decisive. This includes timely funding for the Secretariat to enable it to support the growing needs and expectations of its members.
- c) A number of SUN countries are highlighting the need to address the double-burden of malnutrition in their scale-up plans. Whilst the Movement has focussed primarily on under-nutrition, thought will have to be given as to whether it has the wherewithal to expand this focus to include obesity.

Section 5: Conclusion

- 32) The SUN Movement has raised the international profile of under-nutrition and enabled policy and political commitments to become established. Stakeholders across several sectors are aligning their efforts behind national plans and priorities, and financial resources started to be committed.
- 33) However, we have more to do to ensure countries are supported in further improving the nutritional status of their citizens. The focus of the SUN Movement is now shifting to strengthening capacities to deliver results.
- 34) The independent comprehensive evaluation will be critical to assess the functioning of the Movement. Its results will enable the Lead Group, in consultation with SUN countries and stakeholder groups to chart the most appropriate way forward. In the meantime, there must be no let-up in our collective efforts to support the transformations in the way countries address malnutrition and the way the international community align to support these efforts.