

Accelerate country efforts to report on nutrition-relevant budget allocations

Introduction

This note outlines a “**call of interest**” for countries to accelerate their efforts to report on nutrition-relevant budget allocations, looking at historical changes over time. Participating countries will be able to share and discuss their findings during regional workshops organized in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Validated figures and trends, shared by the SUN Focal Points on behalf of the country participants, will feed into the 2015 SUN Movement Annual Progress Report and into the 2015 Global Nutrition Report (possibly including progress on N4G¹ financial commitments). Kindly note that figures will be only comparable within countries (e.g. showing changes over time) and not across countries. For the purpose of transparency and replicability, all countries will be asked to provide an accurate overview of the methodology, the parameters and the data-sources.

Framing

Participating SUN countries will receive remote support from the SUN Movement Secretariat and the Community of Practice 1 “Planning, costing, implementing and financing multi-sectoral actions for improved nutrition” as they undertake basic data-gathering exercises on nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive budget allocations across relevant sectors using a methodology based on nationally agreed parameters and informed by global recommendations.² The regional workshops will provide a platform where these countries can present, discuss and validate data in relation to national budget allocations (and spending) for nutrition. Countries with available data will be able to show case at major events during 2015 such as the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, July 2015) or the fall meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (Lima, November 2015).

Timeline

All data will need to be validated and reported by the end of April 2015. Regional workshops will take place between mid-March and Mid-April. By that time, participating countries would have already gathered substantial data on nutrition-relevant budget allocations that they can share and validate during the workshops.

Next steps

To facilitate the process, we would like to hear from you where you are at with the gathering and reporting data on nutrition-relevant budget allocations.

1. **Your country has already data and trends on budget allocations and spending:**
We would like to learn from your experience as well as get a better understanding of the methodology and the data source.
2. **Your country is already in the middle of a data gathering exercise:**
We would like to understand if you think that the exercise will be completed by the end of April and also how we can support the process.
3. **Your country is interested but has not started yet:**

¹ Nutrition for Growth

² For nutrition-specific interventions (10 high-impact interventions): use of the National Health Accounts (or an expanded version); for nutrition-sensitive approaches use of a three-step approach to identify, classify and weight budget allocations in the national budgets (methodology aligned with the one developed by the Donor Network).

We would like to work with you using a 3-step approach to identify, classify and weight allocations in the national budgets. ³ This methodology is aligned with the one developed by the Donor Network.

Interested countries are kindly invited to send their expression of interest to patrizia.fracassi@undp.org and delphine.babin-pelliard@undp.org

Process outline:

Phase	Lead	Timeframe	Comments
Interested countries reply	SUN Country Government Focal Point or her/his appointed representative	Till end of January 2015	Preparing to publish budgetary figures. This may imply that countries share already published data using a specified methodology OR that countries use the 3 step approach to do the exercise.
Country-level work begins – Step One of ‘3 Step Approach’	SUN Countries lead. SMS facilitates links between participating country teams and provides remote support where needed	February 2015 and early March 2015	Step One: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country teams agree parameters of their desk-review (i.e. choice of key words for search) Country teams begin to gathering data (populate excel tables)
County level consultation takes place Step Two of ‘3 Step Approach’	SUN Countries lead.	Mid to End of March 2015	Step Two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country teams do a preliminary validation with relevant ministries on what is included and excluded (including the identification of budget allocations that have been missed out)
Regional Workshops to present and validate findings Step Three of ‘3 Step Approach’	Supported by SUN Networks and SMS	Mid-March 2015 to Mid-April 2015	Step Three: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries present and discuss their findings. In particular decisions are taken on the weighting of the identified budget allocations to come up with the final figure.

³ The 3-step approach will provide an estimate that is not comparable across countries, as in-country participants will have decided on their key words and their weighting. In many cases, the 3-step approach will only provide an estimate on budget allocation, unless the country publishes actual expenditure. In many countries, actual expenditure differs significantly with budget allocations. The identification of the budget allocations will however provide an entry point to track actual expenditures having identified the programme and implementing agency. The document presenting the 3-step approach is available at http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/140703_EN_SUMMARY-3-STEP-APPROACH_Tracking_Domestic_Investments_for_Nutrition.pdf