

SUN Business Network (SBN) Eastern & Southern Workshop, June 10-11, Nairobi

During the meeting of the SUN country network held by teleconferences with 47 countries in March 2015, SUN Countries requested further information on how to engage business in the following areas: agriculture, large scale fortification, mobile technology, workforce nutrition and developing national business engagement strategies. SBN's first workshop addressed these areas through bringing together companies from the network with key stakeholders from 20 governments in the Eastern & Southern Africa region and discussing the partnerships, frameworks and strategies for encouraging further engagement with business in scaling up nutrition.

Key highlights:

- There are a growing number of alliances with business within development in Africa
- SUN Business Network is growing
- Business can support scaling up nutrition across the agriculture value chain: small-holder and small scale partnerships,
- The private sector is the driving force in food fortification, many opportunities exist across East & Southern Africa to fortify salt, grains, edible oils, condiments – but enforcement and compliance need to be addressed
- Business can lead innovative local solutions to scaling up nutrition, engaging national companies
- *Complete point on session 3*

SBN and SUN Country follow up:

(Note to explain country feedback)

Industries/sectors identified as priority areas for business engagements by SUN Countries	Number of Countries
Agriculture	10
Fortification	9
Mining/Extractive	2
Telecom/mobile	7
Finance	5
Nutrition research/ technology	4
Media/marketing/behaviour change	4
Workplace/breastfeeding	1

The following areas were identified as requiring further support at country level to strengthen business engagement	Number of Countries
Clear standards and guidelines for private sector engagement	7
Resources and capacity, and need for alignment between sectors and stakeholders	10

Building Trust between actors	5
High-level government leadership	5
Information sharing	8
Sensitize business (particularly local business) to the importance of nutrition and value of the SUN platform	10
Better understanding of business perspective and incentives and demonstrate business case	11
Promote business engagement and engage in advocacy (including with business leaders)	6

Setting the scene for engaging business:

Werner Schultink, Director of Nutrition, UNICEF, highlighted the progress in reducing the rates of stunting across SUN Countries in Africa but overall the numbers of stunted children had increased. Improvements were being driven by reducing stunting in higher income groups. Werner welcomed the progress of the business network and highlighted the need to explore more opportunities with the private sector, for example in large scale fortification efforts such as salt iodisation.

Florence Lasbennes, Head of SUN Movement Secretariat opened the workshop outlining the ambition of the SUN Movement to engage all stakeholders while acknowledging the sensitivities around working with the private sector in scaling up nutrition. Within the SUN Movement, controversy does not mean exclusion – however to ensure transparent engagement with business, Florence emphasised the importance of SUN Movement’s key principles of engagement and SUN Movement’s work in identifying conflict of interest and the need to build trust behind stakeholders.

Jonathan Tench, SUN Business Network, provided up update on the progress of the SUN Business Network to date: with over 120 companies committed to scaling up nutrition, and nine countries are building business engagement strategies.

- In developing country strategies, SBN ensures business engagement is led by SUN country governments and is planned to *support* national nutrition strategies. SBN does not engage with companies that violate the International Code on Breast Milk Substitutes.

the network has been able to respond to SUN country requests for more information around

Agriculture, Business and Nutrition

Mawuli Sablah, FAO Chief Technical Advisor, CAADP Nutrition provided an overview of the challenges in scaling up nutrition across Eastern & Southern Africa:

- Rapid urbanisation, which is leading to more consumption of processed foods: energy dense, high in sugar, fat, salt
- Shrinking dietary diversity due to decline in local foods and traditional protein sources including legumes
- The food system, includes the entire range of activities from agricultural inputs and productions, through processing, marketing and retailing to consumption. Food systems also involve the people and institutions ...and technological environment in which these activities. Within the food system, business has a role in to play in positive outcomes for

- Increase output and farm incomes
- Promote value chains for enhanced nutrition, improved processing, storage and preservation while expanding market access
- Increase access to micronutrient rich foods; large scale fortification and bio-fortified food products
- Diversify household food production and consumption through food-based approaches including animal source foods
- Promote Nutrition Research and Information systems
- Promoting healthy diet to farming communities; Promote Nutrition Education, BCC & Advocacy for accountable food business operations

Morgan Tinnberg, Tetra Laval, outlined how companies can engage small-holder farmers in **supply chains to improve farmer incomes and improve nutrition**. Tetra's dairy hub model supports local dairy processors by improving technical assistance and services to farmers. In Bangladesh the model has proven to increase small-holder farmer incomes by increasing the average milk yield. This results in more milk for on-farm consumption, production of affordable UHT milk cartons, improved nutrition education to farming communities and the launch of UHT milk provision for the workforce.

Ruth Kinoti, a farmer from Kenya, outlined the role of agribusiness clusters in small holder farmers Strengthening the capacity of farmer groups in producing sorghum. Improving processing and marketing techniques improved farmer incomes. Ruth emphasised that farmers are also consumers and do not always eat what they produce <need to add more detail>

Joyceline Kaganda, Director, Tanzania Food & Nutrition Centre (TFNC), highlighted the success Tanzania has had salt iodisation through working with business and TFNC. In agriculture, TFNC, Tanzania's SUN Business Network were working through existing private sector alliances to scale up nutrition in agriculture. Through looking at the entire agriculture value chain, there are opportunities such as biofortified seeds, nutrition education to outgrowers, developing affordable nutritious foods and improving post-harvest storage facilities, where business can play a role.

Please see FAO and Tetra Laval presentations online: xxx

Group discussions?

Scaling Up Food Fortification

Greg Garrett, Director, Food Fortification, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) provided an overview of large scale fortification

- Salt iodization in 150 countries has improved iodine nutrition. **Across Africa, increased consumption of processed foods and condiments increases the opportunity to eliminate IDD primarily through the salt industry.**
- **82 countries mandate fortification of wheat, maize flour and/or rice.** However, quality and coverage issues adversely influence impact. Increased attention needed to improve standards and compliance.
- **20 countries mandate fortification of edible oils.** Edible oil, especially imports from Malaysia & Indonesia, represents a major opportunity but needs more attention.

- Several countries in Africa and Asia have significant condiment fortification programs (excluding salt). **Condiments are still largely untapped as a vehicle for fortification.**
- **Private sector is the driving force for fortification** but enforcement and compliance generally needs strengthening.
- Food fortification can provide industry with an opportunity to demonstrate corporate social responsibility. **Fortification can provide industry a competitive edge.**
- Cargill paved the way to changes in strategy and process throughout its business in order to fortify edible oils in India. The company realised it had the opportunity to fight malnutrition as part of its core business. Cargill's oil products reached 25 million people in 2011 with improved Vitamin A and D intakes, estimates suggest it reaches over 70 million today.

Highlights from panel discussion

- Dr Eduarda Mungoi, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Mozambique
 - James Mathange, World Vision Tanzania
 - Nick Hutchinson, UNGA
 - Diana Wangari, BASF
- Fortification offers an opportunity for business to differentiate from competitors
 - Businesses have taken the lead in fortification, recognising their
 - Particular challenge remains for small scale producers without access to finance, technology for fortification - partnerships can support this, such as World Vision and DSM's partnership to improve fortification with small scale millers in Tanzania
 - Key challenge is low consumer awareness; more research is needed to address consumer education and the effect of logos. In West Africa – a regional logo for fortification has been launched 'enrichi' which helps business to reduce on-package costs when exporting

Innovations & Local Solutions for Scaling Up Nutrition

Session notes from Pia

- Kelly Aburi (Children's Investment Fund Foundation): CIFF: How to engage business in SUN country National Nutrition Strategies
- Erwan Chapuis (PlumpyField Network): Local Solutions to Fight Malnutrition
- Marti Van Liere (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition): Infant and Young Child Feeding
- Heidi Lee Robertson (DSM): Micronutrient Powders

Session 5: Strengthening Nutrition in the Workplace

Kristina Spiegel, Corporate Engagement, SUN Business Network, provided an overview of global business commitments to workforce nutrition, including how and why companies are improving nutrition for their workforce:

- 29 companies signed on to improve the nutrition of over 927,000 workforce members in more than 80 countries, as part of their commitment to the Nutrition for Growth Compact of the 2013 G8 Summit. The SUN Business Network is supporting and tracking those commitments.

- Companies are investing in nutrition for their workforce because they view it as a strategic investment with high returns in increased worker health and productivity.
- The workplace is an ideal setting for providing and encouraging good nutrition for workers with similar educational background and health concerns, leveraging existing infrastructure with low-cost but effective interventions.
- Companies are exploring a range of interventions tailored to their workforce needs, including maternity protection and breastfeeding support, canteens and kitchens, vouchers, nutrition education (including WASH practices), and supplementation programs.

Roger Mathisen, Regional Technical Specialist, Alive & Thrive provided an overview of Alive and Thrive’s partnership model in support of companies providing workplace lactation programs to female workers in Vietnam. As part of the model:

- A&T provides technical assistance and financial aid to help companies to set up lactation rooms, conduct breastfeeding trainings, and develop educational materials on breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding practices.
- Companies organize orientations on breastfeeding for female workers, provide space for lactation rooms, and allow 2-3 short breaks for breastmilk expression.
- Ministry of Labor coordinates implementation of workplace lactation programs and advocates for replication with local authorities and employers

Laura Kiige, Infant Feeding Specialist, UNICEF Kenya outlined the collective commitment by the private sector, Ministry of Health (MOH) and UNICEF to strengthen workplace support for breastfeeding mothers in Kenya. To support the development and adoption of effective programs, UNICEF:

- Supports the Ministry of Health in championing Child Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) as part of advocacy and partnerships strategy
- Advocates with Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) – an umbrella body for all private sector entities in Kenya and the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE). At UNICEF’s urging, KEPSA has provided support to companies through capacity assessments followed by enhancement, financial support to sensitize the private sector, and development of a minimum package for the promotion of workplace support for breastfeeding. These efforts have resulted in some organizations voluntarily providing breastfeeding facilities and even childcare spaces.

Lauren Shields, HERproject, BSR spoke about the business case for empowering women workers in global supply chains through improved health, nutrition and access to finance. The HERproject approaches this work by designing a specific strategy to engage business and interventions tailored to a business setting. The HERproject nutrition model:

- Highlights workplaces as transformative, often underutilized, spaces to achieve development objectives
- Provides trainings to improve nutrition knowledge and behavior by:
 - working closely with international companies and suppliers, and
 - designing to maximize impact with minimum effect on production

HERproject has begun a pilot project with GAIN in Bangladesh RMG sector to improve dietary intake and nutrition behavior. The pilot began with a situational analysis to engage factory management preferences and priorities and builds on hot food provision in the factories and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices.

Session 6: Engagement with the Private Sector – key considerations

Presentations from:

(Session notes from JT)

- **Emily Henegan, SUN Business Network Zambia**
- **Enock Musinguzi, SUN Business Network Tanzania**
- **Filippo D'Ibari, SUN Business Network Mozambique**
- **Rolf Campbell, SUN Business Network Kenya, co-chair of Advisory Group (representing private sector)**
- **Jonathan Tench, SUN Business Network Manager**