

SUMMARY BRIEF

REACH WITHIN THE UN AND THE SUN MOVEMENT

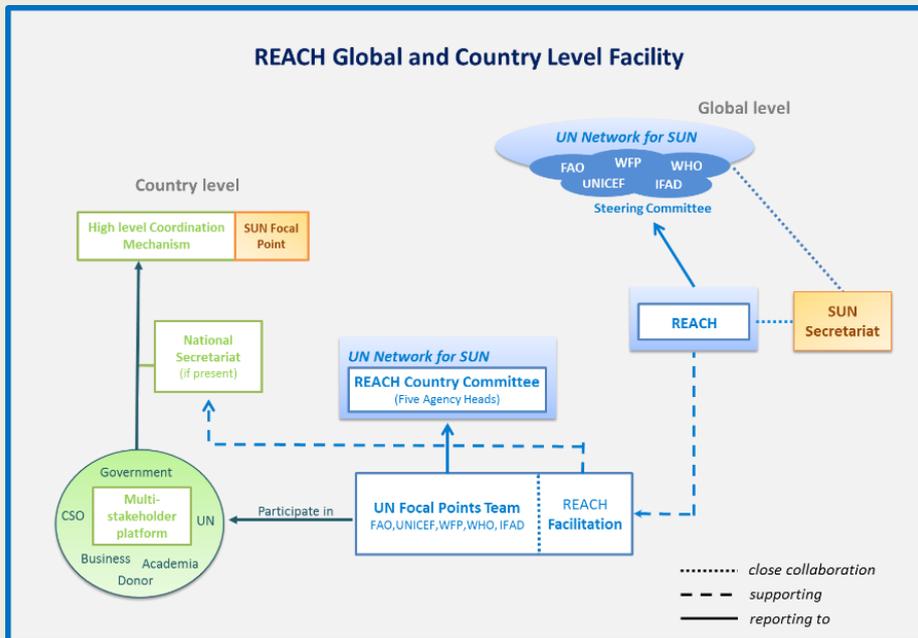
Initiated in 2008 by FAO, WHO, UNICEF and WFP, REACH is an essential component of the UN Network for SUN and plays a prominent role in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. **REACH is a neutral facility offered by the UN Network for SUN to support SUN processes and provide facilitation, coordination, analytical and capacity development support for country-led nutrition responses.**

At global level, REACH, based at the UN Network for SUN Secretariat (hosted by WFP in Rome), works within the SUN

Movement with global stakeholders to articulate the global nutrition agenda in response to country demand. This includes matching supply of global expertise with country demand for capacities in national multi-sectoral governance, supporting south-south learning and knowledge sharing.

At country level, REACH deploys tailored facilitation and analytical support in response to requests from national governments and the UN Network in countries.

It provides facilitation, coordination and analytical support to build the capacity of national governments to support nutrition scale-up.



WHY REACH?

At country level, a common approach in dealing with problems of malnutrition is often lacking. There is frequently a lack of coordination and capacity to develop a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach. Hence, nutrition activities can remain fragmented and uncoordinated, thus resulting in limited impact and sustainability.

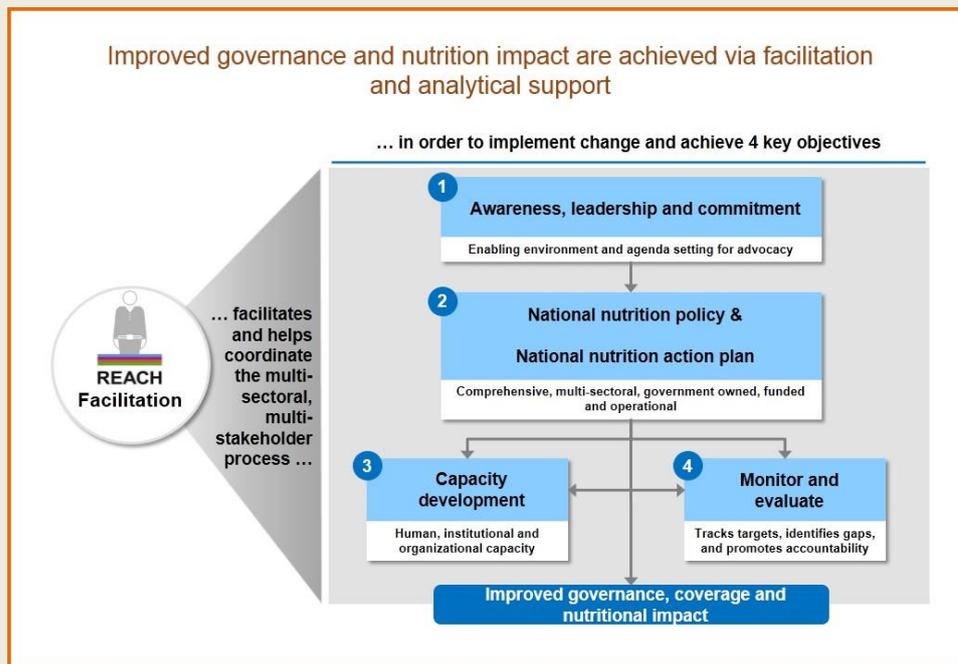
In response, **REACH offers a neutral and unique catalytic support at country level to stimulate the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach to nutrition.** These have shown¹ to successfully contribute to greater stakeholder engagement, greater progress in the level of commitment to nutrition, more effective priority setting and capacity building. Advances in the capacity to deliver nutrition responses have been notable in countries where REACH is present. REACH also makes a significant contribution to enhancing monitoring and accountability mechanisms, including the establishment of nutrition information platforms, through use of quality analytical tools and instruments.

REACH's results have been achieved thanks to its neutrality, its flexibility and ability to adapt to country context; its strong dialogue and ability to bring stakeholders and sectors together; and a focus on processes as well as results, which has led to effective support for furthering the SUN movement.

REACH's strategic and privileged positioning within the UN Network for SUN allows REACH facilitation to leverage country, regional and global UN expertise and experience and strengthen the UN coherence at global and country level in terms of quality programmes (nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive) implemented at scale.

¹Preliminary findings from the Joint Evaluation of the REACH initiative (Renewed Effort Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition) 2011-2015

Acknowledging that each country is different, REACH support is adapted to country needs and context. This may include multi-annual facilitation services provided by international and/or national staff, tailored provision of specific short-term facilitation and related services or remote support from the Rome-based REACH facility.



REACH is supporting countries to achieve four key objectives:

1. Increase awareness of nutrition problems and their solutions.

Policy-makers often have a partial picture of the nutrition situation, and consequently a limited understanding of undernutrition and its irreversible consequences on child development and on a nation's economy. REACH works to increase awareness, promoting investments in nutrition as investments in future generations. REACH supports national governments by conducting in-depth scoping and analysis which bring a comprehensive agreed upon snapshot of the country's nutrition situation and identifies which actions should be prioritized and brought to scale.

2. Strengthen national nutrition policies and programmes.

REACH brings an inter-sectoral approach, ensuring nutrition is integrated into policy documents and plans at the government level. REACH supports governments to provide multi-sector responses to address the immediate and root causes of undernutrition, bringing together stakeholders from different sectors to have a common vision.

3. Increase capacity at all levels.

Once policies and plans are in place, the capacity to implement these actions must be ensured. REACH, in coordination with other UN and development partners, helps governments to establish the multi-sectoral coordination structures that are required to increase coherence in existing programs and optimize best use of resources. REACH helps assess capacity to act in nutrition at the individual, organisational and systemic levels to effectively manage nutrition actions and build sustainable capacity both multi-sectorally and at sectoral level.

4. Increase efficiency and accountability.

One important aspect of the REACH approach is to ensure progress and impact are achieved at the country level. REACH brings information system experts from all nutrition-relevant sectors to build sustainable national nutrition information platforms based on latest technologies that allow evidence-based decision making.

REACH COUNTRIES

Strong country presence is a key strength of REACH. Embedding support directly into country mechanisms increases capacity building. As part of the UN Network for SUN, REACH also helps leverage the expertise and experience of the UN in support of national nutrition efforts.

The REACH facilitation support is being provided in 17 countries through 19 national and international facilitators. The countries are Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda. Many other countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia have expressed interest in joining. REACH has transitioned out of intensive support in Lao PDR, Mauritania and Sierra Leone, which now receive support from local structures, and remote support from REACH.

Currently, direct REACH funding is provided by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development DFATD (12 countries) and the European Union (1 country). The other 4 countries with facilitators receive funding from the country-level UN Network for SUN. Countries are funded for an initial two years, with the option of continued support based upon individual need. The recent evaluation¹ has recommended to extend REACH presence in countries where already present to consolidate gains and move towards sustainability, and expand in other SUN countries. Further REACH expansion to support all interested SUN countries is dependent upon additional funding.