

Participants

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**1. Roadmap of the SUN Movement Strategy 2016-2020: Expectations and Timeframes to be considered by Networks**

The reference document for this work is the draft SUN Movement Strategy 2016-2020. The strategic objectives of the draft SUN Movement Strategy 2016-2020 were agreed by the SUN Movement Executive Committee but the proposed indicative targets are not yet validated and require further work. The Roadmap will detail how the capabilities that are listed in the draft SUN Movement Strategy 2016-2020 can support the progress towards the achievement of the strategic objectives. The Roadmap of the SUN Movement Strategy 2016-2020 will have three chapters: one on the actions required to strengthen the capabilities, one on the Accountability Framework of the SUN Movement positioned in a wider environment but reflecting on ways to track progress and a final chapter on the resources, both financial and human, needed to support the strengthening of the capabilities at country level.

Following Movement-wide consultations at the annual Global Gathering in Milan, additional work streams have been identified, including some that were described in Chapter 4 of the draft SUN Movement Strategy 2016-2020. These are:

**a) Capability 1: Continuous improvements in the Policy Management Cycle**

*Issues that the work stream is addressing:*

- 1.1. Enhancing the utility of the country plans for scaling up nutrition impact;
- 1.2. Improving efficiency with which financial resources are used;
- 1.3. Increasing access to finance for scaling up nutrition;
- 1.4. Strengthening in-country use of data from multiple sources for better decision making and accountability; and
- 1.5. Implementing effective actions at local level.

**b) Capability 2: Advocacy and mobilization that encourages decision makers to make commitments for improved nutrition:**

*Issues that the work stream is addressing:*

- 2.1. Securing and sustaining political commitment on nutrition at global, regional and country levels;
- 2.2. Supporting effective advocacy and communication efforts to accelerate the achievement of national priorities; and
- 2.3. Effectively narration and mobilization of SUN Country progress and results.

c) **Capability 3: Coordination of relevant action across sectors, among stakeholders, and between levels of government through improved *functional capacities*.**

*Issues that the work stream is addressing:*

- 3.1. Improving capacity of individuals and institutions to collaborate effectively at all levels, especially national and sub-national levels;
- 3.2. Forging ties with stakeholders, coalitions and alliances from various disciplines to strengthen synergies that contribute to scaling up nutrition; and
- 3.3 Enabling an environment for effective delivery of results, that is true to the SUN Movement's principles and includes safeguards and means to prevent and manage conflicts of interest.

d) **Capability 4: Ensuring that the Movement offers maximum value to those that engage within it:**

*Issues that the work stream is addressing:*

- 4.1 Addressing inequity related drivers of malnutrition including gender;
- 4.2 Sharing and learning in the SUN Movement;
- 4.3 Ensuring responsive, timely and relevant technical cooperation; and
- 4.4 Providing tailored support to countries with specific contextual challenges and opportunities, especially the SUN Countries facing humanitarian crises

All the work undertaken will be reviewed through an equity lens, with a specific focus on gender. Cross-cutting elements include i) sharing and learning in the SUN Movement, ii) knowledge management, and iii) tailored support to countries with specific challenges & opportunities.

Working groups will be mobilised for each of the capabilities to discuss and agree on a number of elements per capability, such as the defined outcomes to ensure that countries can make further progress on the strategic objectives and intermediary milestones to serve as a reference point to gauge the pace of the progress.

Each of the outcomes per work stream will have to be directional and Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART). This will form a set of indicators at outcome level of the Movement that can be monitored by the SUN Movement Executive Committee to evaluate the level of progress of the Movement as a whole.

Behind the outcomes, there will be a number of outputs to reflect how the SUN Networks and others will support progress at country level with the ambition that it is providing further details to the supporters of the Movement to coordinate our actions and help us pull our acts together to respond to the needs of countries. It will also provide some material to the SUN Movement Executive Committee to dig into the mechanic of who is providing what support, especially in case of a lack in progress towards one of the outcomes. The frequency for looking at the progress towards the outcomes is yet to be defined.

Regarding the working groups, initial groups are mainly composed from the experts who have been involved in these issues so far through the Communities of Practice. SUN Networks are encouraged to nominate people to participate in the working groups, appreciating that the ambition is to deliver a full Roadmap by the end of March 2016. In order to reach this objective, a thorough draft needs to be with SUN Movement Executive Committee by mid-Feb to discuss at their retreat in February - date to be confirmed. Working groups will have a first round of conversations before the end of 2015, then follow-up in early 2016. A series of meetings of the SUN Country Network will be held mid-January for countries to react on the draft Roadmap and on whether the issues and work streams respond to their challenges.

The Accountability Framework in the Roadmap will be presented in a chapter that will outline roles and responsibilities, and detail the wider environment in terms of accountability, including a section focusing on accountability at SUN Country level and at a global level (WHA, Agenda 2030, N4G, ICN2, GNR report, etc.) to engagement and commitments.

A face-to-face meeting of the Network Facilitators will be scheduled for early February 2016.

#### **Remarks from Network Facilitators during the call:**

- Future funding of the Network Facilitators need to be discussed
- Involvement of Networks is welcomed in the composition of the working groups
- A timetable of events taking place in the first quarter of 2016 will help with planning

## **2. Latest on Regional and Country Priorities for future action in Latin American Countries**

During the SUNGG15, 20 country representatives from governments, civil society organisations, and UN agencies of Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador and Peru met twice to discuss regional priorities and to develop an annual plan. SUN Civil Society Facilitator and Co-chair were present during one of the two meetings to share their priorities and work in countries. During the last minutes of the second meeting, the REACH Deputy Coordinator and representative of the UN Network for SUN communicated the launch of the UN Network for SUN at country level and the importance to engage strategically with Latin American Countries (LAC) region in that agenda. The idea of further discussing this agenda at the next LAC call was welcome by countries.

Regional priorities include:

- Financial tracking and monitoring and evaluation of results
- Technical support in costing nutrition specific and sensitive interventions
- Strengthen social mobilisation, advocacy and communication (SMAC) capacities in the region
- Advocacy support to promote the inclusion of nutrition in the Commission of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) agenda
- Development of a conflict of interest policy
- Priority subjects – learning and advocacy

#### **Remarks from Network Facilitators during the call:**

- Regional LAC network of civil society alliances and groups is established including non-SUN countries like Ecuador and Colombia and focuses on cross learning and capacity building with regards to 5 priority areas:
  - **Double burden** – increase focus to include obesity and generate more evidence on double burden and effective interventions. Start addressing the controversial engagement of food industries in SUN;
  - **Budget tracking** – document experiences of countries in the region to share with the SUN Movement;
  - **Return on investment** – analyse the impact of investment in reduction of chronic malnutrition and good nutrition, at the local and national level. Existing studies can help in this area;
  - **Holding to account** - experiences from government at local and national level and the role of CS in promoting accountability and holding to account; and
  - **Food security** – contribution of food security to the reduction of chronic childhood malnutrition. Relationship between food security and nutrition security and how this relates to the reduction of chronic childhood malnutrition. Documenting evidence of the

role of family farming in the reduction of chronic childhood malnutrition and good nutrition.

- Expressed interest in the regionalization of SUN Networks and groupings, especially to provide learning platforms. Geographic groupings should be flexible so as to accommodate language and perhaps other considerations.

### **3. Overview of the Economic Community of West African States meeting**

The 14th Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Nutrition Forum took place from 16-18 November in Lomé, Togo, organized by West African Health Organisation (WAHO) and the Ministry of Health of Togo. The Forum, under the heading “Nutrition-related MDGs in West Africa: achievements, opportunities and way forward” brought together some 150 participants, among which representatives of the 15 ECOWAS countries included several SUN Government Focal Points and representatives from UN agencies, development banks, business, donors, civil society and academia.

The Forum focused on taking stock on the progress in nutrition-related MDGs in West Africa, namely MDG 1 on extreme poverty and hunger eradication, MDG 4 on child mortality, MDG 5 on maternal health and on MDG 8 on partnerships, which was a cross-cutting issue throughout the Forum. The presentations of the various countries showed that progress has been made but much remains to be done, especially in West Africa which is one of the regions that shows the slowest progress in attaining the goals. In terms of challenges, participants identified i) the lack of reliable and comparable data to properly assess the contribution of nutrition to these goals, and ii) the difficulty of translating the political commitment and conducive policy and legal environment at national level into implementation, with actions impacting the population at community level.

A second focus of the Forum was to update on regional nutrition initiatives. Worth highlighting is the Strategic Plan for nutrition that ECOWAS/WAHO is currently drafting, which will be finalized in 2016, and New African Union Regional Nutrition Strategy 2015-2025. In relation to the recommendation of the 13th ECOWAS Forum encouraging countries to join the SUN Movement, it was reported that 14 out of the 15 ECOWAS countries are now SUN Countries, and Cape Verde is considering joining the SUN Movement in the coming months. There was a recognition of the added value of being part of the Movement and of working under a multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder approach to nutrition.

It was agreed that the next ECOWAS Nutrition Forum will be held in Guinea Bissau in 2017.

#### **Remarks from Network Facilitators during the call:**

- SDN is putting the improvement of quality data high on their agenda as a priority for the next months/years
- Further thought needs to be given to how we define a region
- General appreciation for the overview from regional meeting and should be considered as an agenda item for future meetings
- News about upcoming meetings should be shared to increase SUN Network participation and broader representation of local actors for nutrition at these events

### **4. Presentation and recommendations of Civil Society Network Accountability Think Piece**

Accountability Think Piece was commissioned and presented by the Civil Society Network (CSN). This publication captures the civil society’s efforts to push for accountability in countries’ efforts to scale up nutrition. This document is primarily for a civil society audience and combines analytical articles and case studies from Peru, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka, though it also captures insights about nutrition accountability, more broadly. It is a concise, practical resource to inform and inspire civil society and provide examples of approaches that work. Civil society plays a crucial role in ensuring

accountability in efforts to scale up nutrition, with accountability being a strong focus of the SUN Movement Strategy 2016-2020. By sharing the learning available in the network, civil society alliances and organisations in different countries will benefit and be better equipped to hold policy makers and government departments accountable.

### **Key recommendations:**

**Recommendation 1:** Nutrition advocacy work needs to include ensuring SMART commitments on nutrition by Governments, donors and private sector, including the 2016 Rio follow-on summit on Nutrition for Growth.

**Recommendation 2:** CSAs will achieve greater impact if they work around different parts of the whole Social Accountability system, rather than just on one specific accountability tool, at one level or with one sector.

**Recommendation 3:** Nutrition accountability work needs to build consensus, be non-partisan, and bring in people from all sectors and levels, into a collective force for more effective nutrition efforts and results.

**Recommendation 4:** CSAs should apply creative communications strategies in their accountability work, to ensure consistent messaging that reaches all those you need to engage with

**Recommendation 5:** CSA advocacy is needed for greater investment in more frequent data collection on nutrition outcomes, results, service coverage, budgeting and expenditure, preferably within the framework of the systems that will be set up under the SDGs. This should include participatory data collection involving civil society actors.

**Recommendation 6:** Nutrition accountability strategies need to be adapted over time, adjusting to changes in the context and the opportunities and bottlenecks that emerge. They need to be based on deep understanding of the local context, and the power and incentives of different actors. It involves reviewing who should be accountable for what and to whom, and determining what are the most strategic opportunities for promoting greater accountability, in order to lead to improved effectiveness and outcomes in the fight against malnutrition in your particular local context.

**Recommendation 7:** CSAs will need to apply a mix of tactics in their accountability work, depending on the local context, promoting both collaboration, consensus-building and mutual accountability, but also being aware of the power of activist allies to play a more confrontational role, where significant blockages arise.

**Recommendation 8:** CSAs accountability work needs to connect with enforceability mechanisms within Government, linking civil society “voice” with the “teeth” of systems within Government (such as internal performance management systems within Ministries, cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms, audit, legal systems, etc.)

**Recommendation 9:** Ensure a specific focus on gender and nutrition in all your accountability and advocacy work.

**Recommendation 10:** CSAs need to “Walk the talk” and ensure their own accountability. CSN should promote greater sharing of experiences and tools for accountability of CSAs.

### **Next steps**

- Ensure the findings and recommendations inform the shaping of the SUN Roadmap
- Use this piece to inform cross-country learning and exchange of experiences in support of scaling up and strengthening of accountability efforts for nutrition in country, such as through a series of country

## **5. A.O.B.**

- The schedule of 2016 Network Facilitators meetings will be shared this week
- A snapshot of the two most recent members of the Movement – Botswana and Sudan – will be presented during the January call by the Country Liaison Team of the SUN Movement Secretariat
- The SUN Donor Network Retreat is scheduled for 15-16 December in London, the aim of which is to develop a work plan and draft strategy for the SDN for the period of 2016 – 2020