

Special SUN Country Focal Point Meeting

19-22 June 2017

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Since the very start of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, SUN Country Network Meetings have been essential to ensure the Movement's progress and successes. As the Movement takes strides towards its new phase, as guided by the Strategy and Roadmap 2016-2020 – and in the name of continual improvement – evaluating these moments is key to ensure they adequately provide the space needed to share and learn about ending malnutrition in all its forms.

With the recognition that there is always space for growth and improvement, all SUN Government Focal Points were invited to join an interactive discussion with the SUN Movement Secretariat between **19 and 22 June 2017**, to ensure these meetings are indeed fit-for-purpose and correspond to country needs, for lasting human impact. To this end, an online survey in [EN](#), [FR](#) and [SP](#) (please also see the box on page 2 which looks at the final survey findings) was created two weeks before the meetings took place – looking at **purpose**, **content** and **process** – for members of the national Multi-Sectoral Platforms (MSPs) in addition to other partners, such as the Networks, and the SUN Government Focal Points, themselves. A graphic was also shared with Focal Points to entice concrete discussions about steps taken before, during and after each SUN Country Network Meeting.

The **18 SUN Government Focal Points**, representing **18 SUN Countries** (and other stakeholders in attendance), during **8 calls**, had a chance to share their reflections and areas for improvement for the next iterations of SUN Country Network Meetings – in 2018 and beyond. The below thus reflects concrete actions points for the road ahead, collated from these meetings and the results from the online survey.

ACTION POINTS & DECISIONS TAKEN

1. Focus and frequency of SUN Country Network Meetings

As the vast majority of survey respondents and SUN Government Focal Points view SUN Country Network Meetings as integral to their sharing and learning about topics facing many SUN countries today and to position the MSP in country, it has been recommended to continue “global” SUN Country Meetings. To this end, it has been decided – as many feel that these meetings do not lend themselves for more in-depth and operational discussions – to revisit the configuration of these meetings so that also more in-depth discussions can take place.

ACTION POINTS:

- Arranging **3 SUN Country Network Meetings per year** – **one on progress towards the four processes** to complement the annual Joint-Assessment Exercise (to be held in in December or January of each year), in addition to **two SUN Country Network Meetings on themes or topics of global interest** (to be held in March/April and September).
- Arranging **2 SUN Country Network webinars per year**, where countries can **pick topics of specific interest to them**, in a bid to offer countries the opportunity to go more in-depth on areas of specific concern. Webinars also lend themselves to invite experts and stakeholders with an expertise within the given area, to garner more detailed, operational and impact-oriented online discussions than SUN Country Network Meetings normally allow for. Webinars also require a different organisational set-up than that of Country Network Meetings.

2. Modus operandi for choosing themes for 2018 and 2019

Whereas it has usually been the remit of the SUN Movement Secretariat to pick the themes of SUN Country Network Meetings, it has been suggested to harness the 2017 Global Gathering, to be held in

November in Côte d'Ivoire, as a space where SUN Government Focal points can 'pick and mix' what themes they would like to see in 2018-2019.

ACTION POINTS:

- Set up a **stand at the 2017 SUN Global Gathering marketplace** where Focal Points can **fill in forms of a menu on offer of themes** of most pertinence. It has also been recommended to create an **online survey to be available before, during and after the Global Gathering**, and beyond, offering the same menu of topics, to ensure more respondents. **These two tools will also be announced during the workshop planned for Government Focal Points at the Global Gathering, itself.**
- Following the Global Gathering and through analysis of the online surveys, **the SUN Movement Secretariat will schedule (for the year ahead, and possibly also covering 2019)** thematic SUN Country Network Meetings, **to give adequate time for countries to prepare.**

3. Processes and steps taken before, during and after each SUN Country Network Call

As the discussions teased out some key recommendations as to what technology is of most use, what guiding materials are most valued and how to group countries, also given the updated configuration of SUN Country Network Meetings, as per the above action points.

ACTION POINTS:

- Although some countries recommended using other technologies, such as Skype, rather than telephone conferences for these meetings, it has been decided to **keep telephone conferences (then also supplemented by webinars)** as many **countries still face technical issues** in connecting during their meetings.
- Although the configuration of these meetings have shifted to better cater to specific country needs, it has been decided to **continue with the language/time zone groupings** for the three scheduled SUN Network Country Meetings, to ensure that **all have a chance to attend**. Given the global focus of the two calls, and as the third SUN Country Network Meeting will look at progress, these groupings are just as relevant.
- In lieu of drafting minutes following each call and a summary to be shared with countries within a month following the call, it has been suggested to **instead create quick summaries (containing key messages and action points), to be shared with countries within a week** after the meetings, in addition to making the **meeting recordings readily available**. A more **in-depth analysis following the SUN Network Meetings** will also be created. From each meeting, it is foreseen to have a maximum of 3-4 takeaway messages and action points, in addition to direct follow-up, either from the SMS or facilitating follow-up with service providers.
- As many countries still feel the **in-practice briefs are of use to showcase their successes**, it has also been suggested to **re-vamp these publications, to ensure they better serve this purpose and so that they are better linked** with the biannual thematic country calls. More emphasis will also be placed **on regularly communicating with countries (beyond that of the SUN Country Network Meetings)** on the **goings on in the nutrition world and within global processes**.

FINAL SURVEY RESULTS*

- More than half of respondents (53%) expect to focus on learning from few in-depth experiences with sufficient Q&A time during SUN Country Network Meetings;
- There is an increasing preference for SUN Countries to be grouped with those facing the same challenges or contexts (46%), among countries in the same region (23%), and SUN Countries that are the most advanced in terms of process or implementation (21%);
- The current frequency of the meetings (quarterly) is deemed adequate (79% of respondents);
- In terms of 2018-19 themes, having a thematic prioritisation exercise during the SUN Global Gathering (35%) and for SUN Government Focal Points to provide their top suggestions following MSP consultations (39%) has been suggested.

*Total number of responses received = 82