

Learning from SUN supporters

Unpacking Innovative Finances for Nutrition

The 2016-2020 Strategy and Roadmap of the SUN Movement calls for improved access and use of financial resources for nutrition. This is in response to the wide recognition that current levels of financing for nutrition are gravely inadequate. Part of the challenge also lies in the inherent fragmentation and complexity in the nutrition aid architecture.²²

As a first step towards the SUN Movement's pursuit of this objective, a "mapping" of

multilateral external (i.e. non-domestic) sources of nutrition financing has been initiated. The work has been overseen by the SUN Donor Network, with the assistance of an independent consultant and the financial support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. One of the main objectives of this exercise is to improve awareness and understanding of nutrition funding sources and how to access them.

Key findings

- Over the past year, **three new financing mechanisms have been launched** with a significant nutrition focus, Power of Nutrition, UNITLIFE and the Global Financing Facility (GFF). Each have the potential to unlock significant nutrition-specific financing.
- **There is a lack of predictability of funding opportunities.** Currently, neither of the new nutrition funds (Power of Nutrition, UNITLIFE), nor the GFF, nor Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) have fixed schedules for upcoming funding opportunities.
- **The fragmented nutrition architecture and planning can be challenging in countries,** in terms of coordination, programmatic coherence, and administrative and reporting workload. To manage the different funding streams, countries such as Tanzania, have relied on having robust and coordinated multi-sectoral planning for nutrition which has helped ensure donor support is aligned behind national plans.
- **There are opportunities to build linkages across complementary initiatives,** such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, the Global Partnership for Education along with Every Woman, Every Child through their Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.²³ The SUN Movement can optimise its own work by leveraging such relations to achieve all Sustainable Development Goals.
- In relation to **humanitarian funding**, two OCHA-managed trust funds profiled in the funding mapping exercise (Central Emergency Response Fund, or CERF; and Country-Based Pooled Funds, or CBPFs) represent useful entry points for the SUN Movement to explore, as it identifies ways to improve its support to countries in humanitarian situations.
- This mapping exercise profiled one funding mechanism that provides **financing for gender issues** - the Global Fund for Women. Along with Mama Cash, the African Women's Development Fund, the Central American Women's Fund and the Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, there are opportunities to secure small and flexible grants.

Recommendations for the SUN Movement's work in 2016-2020

Based on the findings noted above, the SUN Movement will:

- Maintain the funding mapping over time and keep track of the countries benefiting from these new funds (and of those that are not). This will involve compiling and disseminating information regarding upcoming funding opportunities.
- Explore opportunities to use the outcomes and success stories of the new funding mechanisms supporting nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive activities and share those experiences country to country.
- Explore how to maximise synergies with the Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health community including with the sources of funding (e.g. the GFF), and its partnership, coordination and accountability mechanisms (e.g. The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH), Every Woman, Every Child and the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, among other initiatives highlighted throughout the mapping.

²² As elaborated upon, for example, in Nutrition Aid Architecture, Results UK 2014.

²³ Please see: <http://www.everywomaneverychild.org/global-strategy-2>.