

**Ms. Mridula Sinha, IAS**  
**Director General,**  
**Jharkhand State Nutrition Mission,**  
**Government of Jharkhand,**  
**India**

Geneva, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Ms. Mridula Sinha,

On behalf of the Chair of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Lead Group, Anthony Lake, I write to thank you for your letter (ref. number 269) dated 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016, indicating the intention of the Government of Jharkhand to join the SUN Movement. Along with the 57 countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Indian States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh currently driving the SUN Movement, we warmly welcome the Indian State of Jharkhand as its newest member.

We greatly appreciate the Government of Jharkhand's high level political commitment to set up the State Nutrition Mission as a convergent programme between different departments bringing together key partners under the leadership of the Honorable Chief Minister. We have also had the opportunity to learn more about the progress of the Mission's activities from your UNICEF colleagues when they visited Bangkok in April 2016 for the *Workshop on Public Finance for Nutrition in Asia*. I am impressed to read that the State of Jharkhand has made progress on many of the nutrition indicators for children, yet, the Government recognizes the need to strengthen implementation and convergence between flagship programmes with a multi-sectoral approach to contribute towards improved nutrition outcomes of the State.

We will do all we can to ensure that the State's membership in the SUN Movement helps enhance the impact of these ongoing efforts to contribute to the Honorable Chief Minister's ambitious vision of making the State of Jharkhand '*Kuposhan Mukh*' (*free of malnutrition*) within the next 10 years as envisaged under the Jharkhand State Nutrition Mission. In turn – given the specific nutritional, demographic, socio-economic and institutional conditions in the State, the Government of Jharkhand's engagement in the SUN Movement will be of great value for other SUN Countries and organisations active in the Movement, who seek to learn innovative ways to scale up nutrition.

The Governments of countries engaged in the SUN Movement have committed to acting in ways that will enable their people to enjoy better nutrition. They are supported by networks of donors, United Nations Agencies, civil society groups and private enterprises. Members of the networks are active within countries (at the state or provincial level as well as nationally), within regions and globally. To deliver on their nutritional objectives, local and national governments that are engaged in the Movement are defining their requirements in terms of political leadership, institutional transformations, programme development and implementation, and mobilisation of human and financial resources.

Many SUN Countries have formed a national multi-stakeholder platform, comprised of key actors they feel are best positioned to take the actions needed in their national contexts and aligned with the State's nutrition priorities. We understand that the Jharkhand State Nutrition Mission has been envisioned as an autonomous body to improve nutrition governance and to bring together technical agencies, civil society organisations, the media, and the academia, to strengthen the partnerships for nutrition. This existing momentum for collaboration is encouraging and I suggest you consider how best to convene these stakeholders along with development partners and local business representatives as structural partners of the State Nutrition Mission to strengthen alignment and support behind the State's nutrition priorities.

To help coordinate these stakeholders and to sustain a strong agenda for nutrition, I encourage you to consider nominating a SUN Government Focal Point. Many SUN Countries have SUN Government Focal Points who are the leaders in challenging cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder environments. They are often at the forefront of elevating nutrition up the national agenda. In the Movement's experience, SUN Government Focal Points who occupy senior positions in coordinating offices are well placed to convene the actors of other sectors as well as from different stakeholders who are crucial for improving nutrition. I encourage your Government to consider nominating an individual who is best placed to unite the nutrition community in the State.

Our experience has shown that coordinating the efforts of bilateral donor agencies, foundations, as well as funds and programmes of UN Agencies, is best supported if there is a leading donor partner. I encourage the Government to work with in-country development partners to nominate a donor organisation as the SUN Donor Convenor that can bring these important actors together in an effective, results-oriented way.

The Government Focal Points from all SUN Countries come together in the SUN Movement's Country Network. It is a forum for sharing country experiences, lessons and informing the Movement's different networks about country progress. The Country Network meets by teleconference every twelve weeks. Given that the State of Jharkhand is now a member of the SUN Movement, we will warmly welcome the nominated SUN Government Focal Point and the country team to participate in these teleconferences.

I would be delighted if we can arrange a discussion, at a date of your team's convenience, to go more in depth and to ensure that the State of Jharkhand can benefit from the collective knowledge and experience of the SUN Movement.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerda Verburg', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gerda Verburg

United Nations Assistant Secretary General  
SUN Movement Coordinator