

# Nutrition Retreat Report

May 31, 2016



Working together as the UN Network for Nutrition and Food Security  
REACH in Myanmar is funded by Global Affairs Canada



This report summarizes the proceedings of a Nutrition Retreat held on May 31, 2016, at the Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon. The retreat was organized, funded and facilitated by UN REACH. It is the first time that so many UN agency staff have come together as part of the UN Network for Nutrition and Food Security (UNN) to learn and talk about nutrition. A short video of the day is available.



## Objectives and participants

There were three **objectives** for the day:

1. To enable a participative and fact-based dialogue among UN Network for Nutrition and Food Security stakeholders about scaling up nutrition requirements in Myanmar
2. Review and take stock of current UN agency contributions and identify gaps in support of national plans and programmes
3. Begin a joint dialogue on the UN comparative advantage and future direction for scaling up nutrition.

Nutrition retreat **participants** came from across the UN system in Myanmar: a total of 54 representatives from FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNOPS (LIFT and 3 MDG Multi-donor Trust Fund projects), WFP, World Bank, the UN Resident Coordinator's office, the UN Network at country level and the UN Network/REACH Secretariat at global level. Participants had a wide variety of sectoral expertise, with professional backgrounds including policy, nutritional science, agriculture, food security, livelihoods, education, early child development, social protection, WASH, emergency and humanitarian response and project management and coordination.

## Session summary

	Content	Agency lead	Facilitator/presenter
1	Welcome, opening remarks and introductions	UNICEF UN Network/REACH Secretariat UN Network/REACH Myanmar	<i>Shalini Bahaguna</i> <i>Tania Goossens</i>  <i>Mary Manandhar</i>
2	Undernutrition: what causes it?	WFP	<i>Janine Roelofsen</i>
3	Undernutrition: does it matter?	REACH Myanmar	<i>Mary Manandhar</i>
4	What can be done?	WFP UN Network/REACH Myanmar  UN Network/REACH Secretariat	<i>Soe Nyi Nyi</i> <i>Mary Manandhar</i> <i>Myint Lwin</i>  <i>Tania Goossens</i>
5	The nutrition situation in Myanmar	UNICEF	<i>Dr. Myo Min Lwin</i>
6	What is the UN doing? Presentation of the UN Inventory of Nutrition Actions prepared by FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, supported by REACH	UNICEF UN Network/REACH Secretariat	<i>Hedy Ip</i> <i>Tania Goossens</i>
7	Nutrition in the global UN system	UN Network/REACH Secretariat	<i>Tania Goossens</i>
8	Working together	UNFPA	<i>Yu Myat Mun</i>
9	Being accountable	FAO	<i>Sophie Lejeune</i> <i>Thin Soe</i> <i>Aye Aye Moe</i>
10	Next steps and closing remarks	UN RC's Office World Bank UN Network/REACH Secretariat	<i>Pablo Barrera</i> <i>Dr. Sundar Gopalan</i> <i>Tania Goossens</i>

Participating UN agencies were invited to set up displays, with reports and resources for sharing. **Short films** were shown to stimulate discussion and highlight global perspectives: see Table:

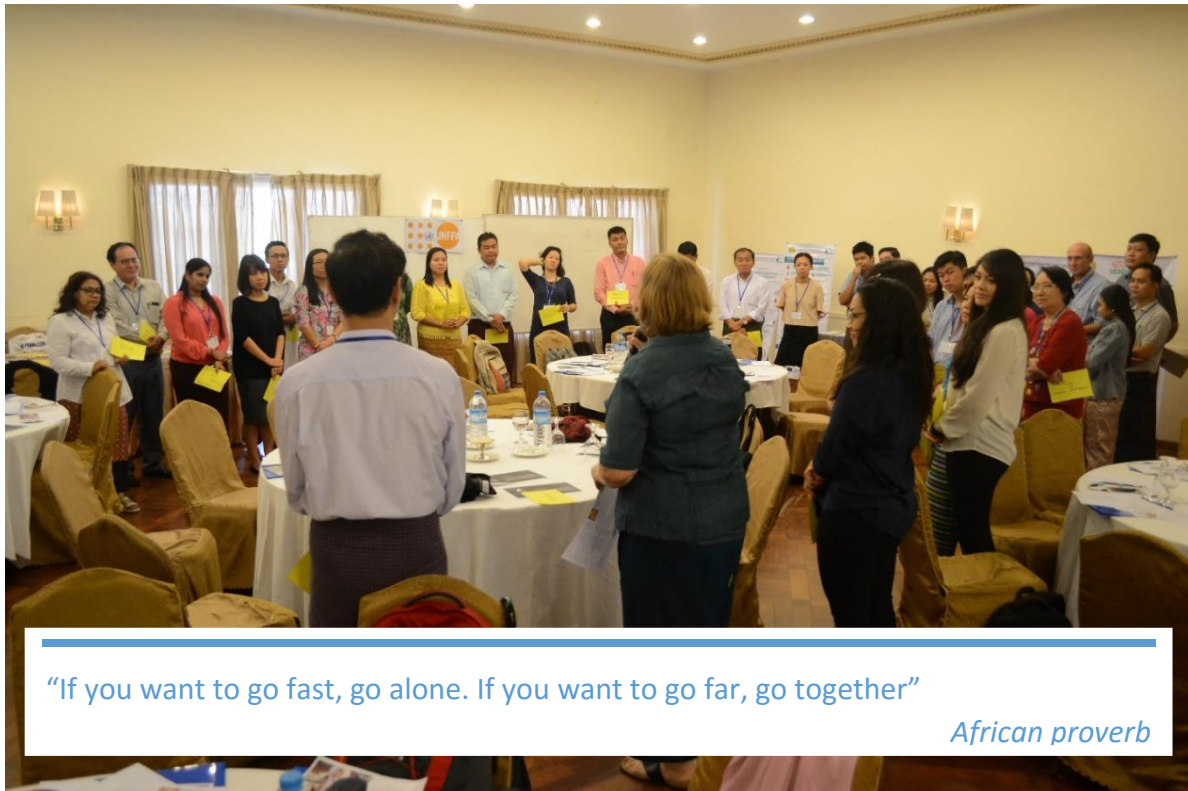
Film title and source	Link
Global Nutrition Report 2015 <i>IFPRI</i>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaU8ZCXKNpQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaU8ZCXKNpQ</a>
The First 1000 Days book <i>Roger Thurow</i>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvS6ijzfgfM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvS6ijzfgfM</a>
The importance of good nutrition in a child's first 1000 days <i>LIFT Myanmar</i>	<a href="https://youtu.be/4CWQfgk1ve0">https://youtu.be/4CWQfgk1ve0</a>
The power of nutrition <i>Alive and Thrive</i>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHIZyYAsSFY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHIZyYAsSFY</a>
Ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025 <i>IFPRI</i>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsnOhCg0SU8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsnOhCg0SU8</a>

## SESSION 1: Welcome, opening remarks and introductions

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The meeting began with welcoming remarks from Shalini Bahaguna (Deputy Representative UNICEF), Tania Goossens (Programme Officer, UN Network/REACH Secretariat), and Mary Manandhar (International Facilitator for UN REACH Myanmar).

Shalini outlined the scale of the nutrition challenge in the country, along with key indicators including child mortality and poor sanitation and hygiene coverage. She emphasized the causal linkages of malnutrition between key sectors, and called for the UN community to ensure more integrated multi-sectoral approaches to accelerate and sustain reductions in malnutrition equitably. Gradual increasing fiscal space in social sectors, and the new Government's prioritization and understanding of nutrition as a high level transformative issue, present us with new opportunities to 'walk the talk' as the UNN and as part of SUN.



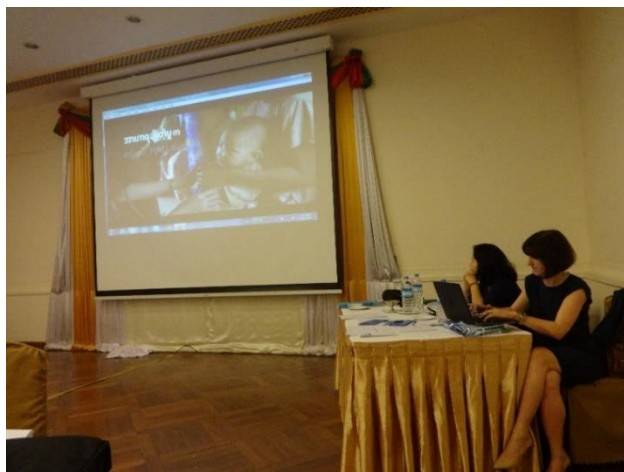
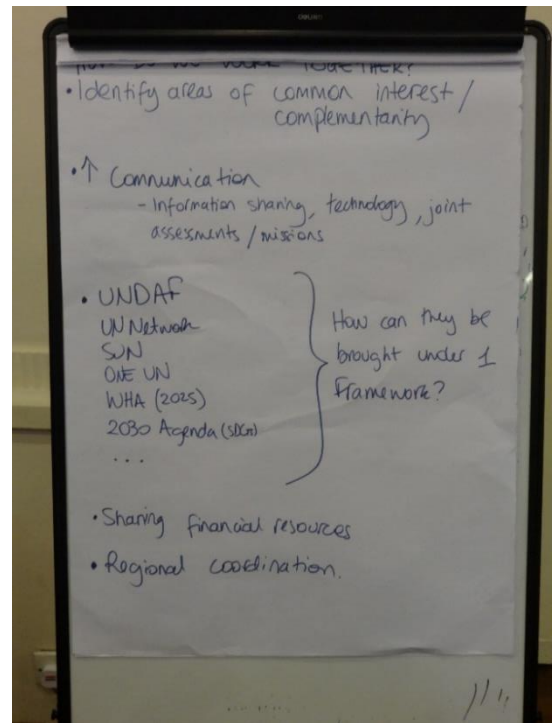
*“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”*

*African proverb*

Tania spoke about the changing global nutrition architecture and new efforts of the global UN system to come together under the SUN Movement to strengthen and support country efforts to reduce malnutrition. She reported that a new Road Map for the SUN Movement is nearing completion and will involve the UNN for SUN partnering alongside country governments as well as multiple stakeholders in civil society, donors, academia and the private sector.

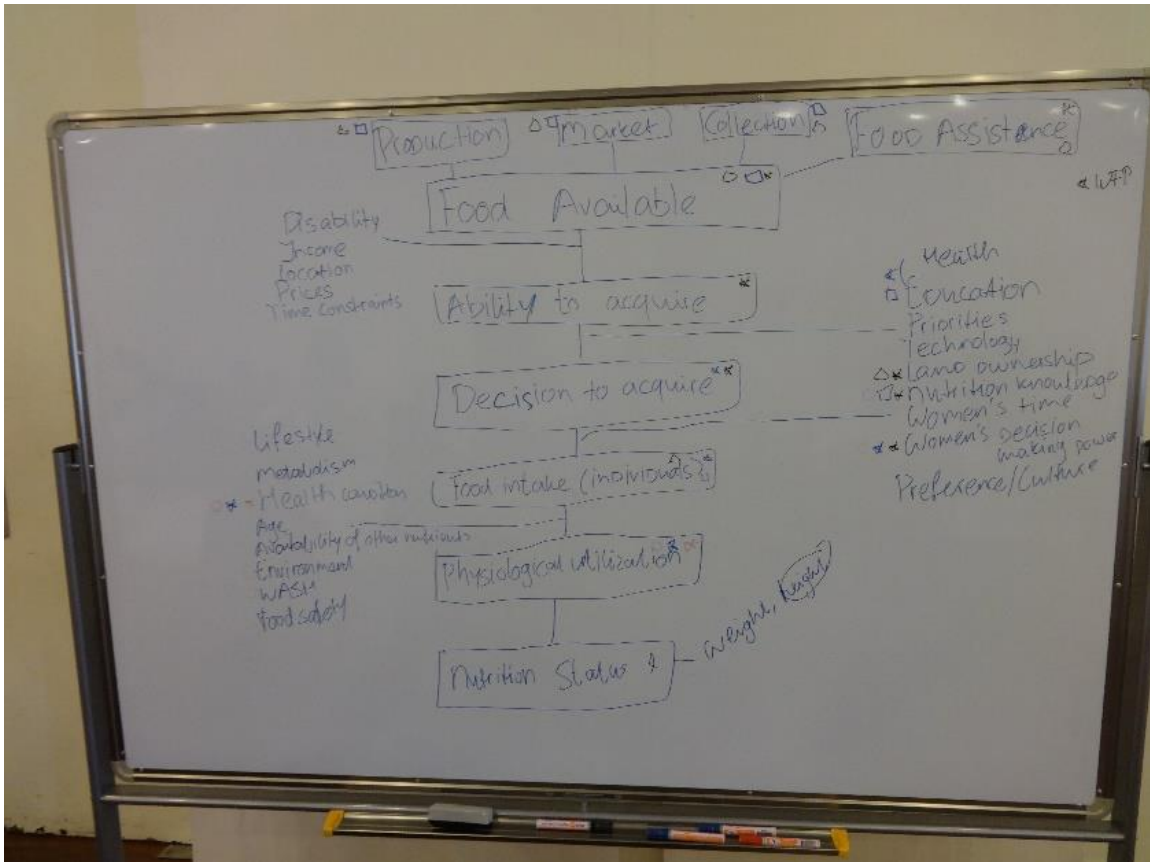


Mary spoke of the breadth of professional knowledge and expertise in the new UNN in Myanmar as demonstrated in the room. All of this will be needed in the years ahead to scale up nutrition. It is crucial that we all engage together in a new spirit of sharing and collaboration.



## SESSION 2: Undernutrition - What causes undernutrition?

This first session led participants through an interactive mapping exercise in which they identified the contributing factors for nutritional status and food insecurity. The variety of responses from representatives of different agencies helped illustrate the overarching theme that expertise from all sectors is required to improve nutrition status. The visual developed in this exercise is shown below:



Key takeaways are that the causes of undernutrition are complex and interconnected. They involve dimensions of the food system, the health care system and individual/household/community care behaviours and practices, particularly:

- Insufficient access to affordable, nutritious food, all year round
- Lack of good care for mothers and children, and support for parents and other carers on appropriate child feeding practices
- Inadequate access to health, sanitation and clean water services

All of these are, in turn, rooted in underlying determinants of the political and cultural environment, poverty and level of social protection, the status of women and their level of disempowerment, and environmental degradation. So a variety of responses, solutions and multidisciplinary professional skills are needed. This needs all agencies and sectors to contribute to addressing the multiple factors that impact nutritional status.

### SESSION 3: Undernutrition - Why does undernutrition matter?

For this session, participants were broken up into small groups combining different agencies for discussion. They were given notecards on which to write their responses to several questions, using only key words or phrases. Common responses were: increased disease burden; cyclical inter-generational cycle of undernutrition and interactions with poor health and poverty; decreased economic productivity; decreased quality of life; decreased ability to learn; and burden on women. More details below:

Category	Impact of undernutrition
<b>Disease, health and well-being</b>	Limited cognitive and physical development Low birthweight babies Increased susceptibility to disease and increased mortality Wasting and stunting Double burden (increase in non-communicable diseases) Disability, decreased life expectancy Reduced ability to play sports and compete internationally
<b>Economy and productivity</b>	Decreased performance in job → decreased income earning potential, ability to work, earn, spend and contribute to taxation Poverty which negatively affects the economy at all levels Decreased economic productivity, lower GDP Poor economic growth (individual, household, national) Slowed country development Higher cost of healthcare Food crisis
<b>Learning and education</b>	Limited ability to learn, educability Low levels of education
<b>Resilience and coping</b>	Diminished quality of life (individual and family) Increased negative coping mechanisms (migration, sale of productive assets), food crisis Social conflict and social problems (e.g. early marriage) Increased burden on women = decreased time to work, increased time spent caring for children

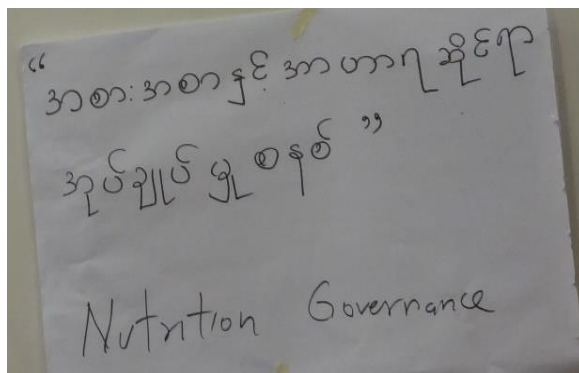


## SESSION 4: What should be done?

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The contextual causes of undernutrition are complex and interconnected, and all are rooted in the political and cultural environment, poverty, disempowerment of women and environmental degradation.

This session focused on the characterization of actions as ‘nutrition-specific’ and ‘nutrition-sensitive’, and what is meant by ‘nutrition governance’ – for which discussion resulted in a proposed Myanmar language translation, as shown here.



Nutrition-specific examples from Myanmar were identified, including the fortification of rice and salt, micronutrient supplementation (Vitamin A<sup>1</sup>, iron and folic acid for pregnant women), age-appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), treatment of severe and moderate malnutrition, and deworming.

The discussion of nutrition-sensitive actions covered agricultural interventions, preventative healthcare, social protection programming and building capacity on resilience to resist shocks, clean water and sanitation (emphasizing the importance of hand-washing behaviours), and linkages between employment, livelihoods and household assets. There was also a focus on how agriculture and nutrition-related care practices interact in a gendered framework. Providing information to women is not enough without also recognizing and addressing the differential power relations between men and women and the relative constraints that women face in terms of access, control, resources (including time), and voice and participation.

The concept of the enabling environment and nutrition governance was explained as acting as the glue between all the nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, and that supports their effective and equitable implementation. Focusing on the “big picture, the term nutrition governance is broadly taken to include: political commitment at all levels; multisectoral coordination; advocacy at all levels; multistakeholder consensus building; communication in different languages; resource mobilization and financing; service delivery capacity; and transparency and accountability to ensure the realization of the rights of citizens to food and adequate nutrition. It was noted that, in addition to government and the UNN, civil society was organizing more around the nutrition agenda, with at least two coalitions of member organisations active in the country and collaborating with government. UNN retreat participants were challenged to come up with good ways of explaining nutrition governance clearly in Myanmar – to be continued! There was agreement that coordination cannot best be done in one implementing Ministry. Evidence globally shows that coordination at a very high level of government is most effective.

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<sup>1</sup> Vitamin A supplementation began in Myanmar in 1995 using oral capsules. Current coverage is around 95%.



## SESSION 5: The nutrition situation in Myanmar

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This session was led by UNICEF Nutrition Specialist, Dr. Myo Min Lwin. He took participants through Myanmar's current nutrition profile. The analysis went beyond stunting (national prevalence, 35%)<sup>2</sup> and wasting (8%) to look at specific micronutrient deficiencies (iron deficiency anaemia in children 8-23 months was 80% in 2003; and 45% among women of reproductive age; under 5 Beri Beri related deaths are more than 10% in parts of Magway, and across Ayeyarwaddy) as well as regional disparities (stunting prevalence is highest in Chin, Rakhine, North and South Shan; wasting is highest in Rakhine and Magway). The importance of understanding and addressing nutrition-related behaviours was emphasised, particularly related to the reasons for low exclusive breastfeeding rates (as low as 20% in some states), and food-related taboos for girls and women during pregnancy and breastfeeding. It was also noted that while generally the national food supply was increasing, dietary diversity is still low.

It was noted that much of the data on nutrition indicators are quite old, coming mainly from the UNICEF 2009/10 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and a Multiple Micronutrient Survey (MoH-UNICEF 2005) and need updating. This, and other questions regarding plans for future nutrition services, led to a conversation about the anticipated national Demographic Health Survey (DHS) results later this year, followed by a national Micronutrient and Food Consumption Survey led by MOH with support from UNICEF in 2016-2017. The importance of going beyond presenting indicator prevalence to more analysis of associations between multi-dimensional determinants was discussed, for example, the possible association between school attendance of girls and the level of anaemia.

Participants received a hard copy of the two-page summary for Myanmar from the Global Nutrition Report 2015 and all presentations on a data stick.

## SESSION 6: What are the UN agencies in Myanmar doing?

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Over the past few months, five UN agencies (FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO) completed comprehensive data entry on their nutrition activities and coverage into spreadsheets developed by the REACH Secretariat. These data are compiled into the **UN Inventory of Nutrition Actions**.

Tania (UN Network/REACH Secretariat) explained that the intention of the inventory is to stimulate dialogue for more collaboration in nutrition across UN agencies and also help the UN compare its contributions to government priorities, plans and programmes. There was some discussion at this point about status of the Zero Draft of the multisectoral and prioritized Myanmar National Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Security that the UNN had provided support for during the second half of last year. Mary (REACH Myanmar) and Hedy (UNICEF) summarized the process to date, including the recent abolition of

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<sup>2</sup> Since this Retreat, new data have emerged. In October 2016, the *Myanmar Demographic Health Survey 2015-2016: Key Indicators Report* were published (Ministry of Health and Sports and ICT International, 2016). This shows a reduced prevalence of under 5 stunting (down to 29.2%) and wasting (down to 7.0%) and a substantial improvement in the proportion of 0-5 months old children exclusively breastfed (51.2%). The prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15-49 years old is 46.6%.

the central, working and state/regional committees created to support the plan development. The current situation for the UNN is described as “actively waiting” for the new government to decide the positioning of nutrition and inter-Ministerial coordination structures, and how they want to proceed with any existing or draft plans that include nutrition and food security.

In the presentation on the Inventory slides, Hedy focused on how we should reflect on its contents to stimulate discussion of *where* the UN is focusing efforts versus where the greatest need is (prevalence of malnutrition; absolute numbers of the malnourished; disparities and inequities) and the spread, and potential convergence of, UN agency coverage (of the 5 surveyed) and identifying areas of duplication as well as understanding and addressing gaps in coverage – including where there are some high burden areas that currently receive very little nutrition related program support from UN agencies. Participants were asked if the inventory adequately covered our work. Further work is probably needed to capture the contribution of UNOPS and activities of 3MDG and LIFT, as well as World Banks’ activities. There was discussion on fragmentation and duplication, and how we can achieve better synergy.

## **SESSION 7: Nutrition in the global UN system**

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This session zoomed out to consider the global level to analyse and reflection on where changes in nutrition architecture and thinking are coming from, and what they are. Tania (UN Network/REACH Secretariat) took us through a presentation that centred on the UNN as part of the SUN Movement, now facilitated globally by UN REACH, and other global initiatives like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC).



## SESSION 8: Working together

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For this participatory session, participants were divided into different groups (by birthday months) to discuss answers to the three following questions:

1. How do we work together?
2. What opportunities are there?
3. What are the challenges?

The most common responses for challenges were lack of regular communication, “actively waiting” for a clear political commitment to multisectoral nutrition coordination and prioritization from the new government, and the challenge of competing priorities between UN agencies.

<b>Working together</b>	
<b>UN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider: UNDAF, UN Network, SUN, ONE UN, WHA (2025), 2030 Agenda (SDGs) and how they can be brought under one framework</li> <li>• Advocacy: all UN agencies should jointly advocate to the newly elected government (relevant ministries and parliament) to influence the positioning of nutrition and nutrition in all relevant policies</li> <li>• Collective stock taking through nutrition inventory by REACH</li> <li>• Identify areas of common interest and complementarity</li> <li>• UN Network Head of Agencies hold quarterly meetings, and monthly technical lead/Trust Fund Manager meetings</li> <li>• Follow up with World Bank and UNDP to formally join the Network</li> <li>• Ensure regular communication with clusters</li> <li>• Regular email sharing and follow up</li> <li>• Ensure meeting timetable and reports are shared with MIMU (Myanmar Management Information Unit)</li> <li>• Catalyse knowledge sharing events</li> <li>• Ad-hoc information sharing taking strategic opportunities</li> <li>• Joint assessments (FSIN and emergency)</li> <li>• More communication and sharing with Regional Bureaux/offices</li> <li>• Influence government to consider nutrition governance, and the establishment of a nutrition coordination mechanism, as well as nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programming</li> <li>• Share financial resources</li> <li>• Increase communication: information sharing, technology, joint assessments/missions</li> </ul>
<b>With all stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings - joint planning, bilateral meetings, sectoral meetings, network meetings at different organizational levels</li> <li>• SUN-related UN, donors, and civil society meet monthly in Yangon</li> <li>• Joint monitoring and feedback</li> <li>• Coordination at all levels to avoid overlap and gaps</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programming</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination for food security - in person, quarterly meeting</li> <li>• Country Nutrition and Food Security Strategy/Policy - costing exercise</li> <li>• Emergency response - planning and implementation</li> <li>• Regional coordination</li> <li>• Collective effort to advocate to newly elected government</li> <li>• Filling in [technical] gaps</li> <li>• Establishing coordination mechanisms</li> </ul>

<b>Opportunities</b>	
<b>Global</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More agreement that nutrition is a global priority</li> <li>• International assistance (technical, financial)</li> <li>• More visibility</li> </ul>
<b>National government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting on May 11 with UNCT in which Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed knowledge of, and interest in, nutrition</li> <li>• More willingness and interest of policy makers</li> <li>• Government's engagement with ZHC, SUN, REACH and SDGs</li> <li>• New government and Parliamentarians – new opportunities to advocate collaboratively</li> </ul>
<b>Other stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing interest in, and involvement of, donors</li> <li>• Growing interest in, and involvement of, a strengthening civil society sector and their developing potential</li> <li>• Increasing private sector interest</li> <li>• Emerging UNN, formally established in January 2016, facilitated by REACH</li> <li>• UNN/REACH data analytical tools: Policy Review, Inventory, Planning and Monitoring/Stakeholder Mapping and Dashboard tools</li> <li>• UN Network's emphasis on more convergent and complementary implementation, and avoidance of overlapping programmes and beneficiaries within UN activities</li> </ul>
<b>All</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingness to engage in more strategic and collective advocacy (e.g. joint UN and Donor Advocacy brief to the new government, May 2016)</li> <li>• Information sharing platforms/meetings, learning from each other</li> <li>• Strengthening the capacity of all stakeholders</li> <li>• Analysis and action for more geographic coverage</li> </ul>



<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competing priorities of the new government</li> <li>• Lack of updated nutrition policy, plans and effective inter-ministerial coordination mechanism</li> <li>• Prioritised food and nutrition action plan not finalized (Zero Draft is being discussed by Ministry of Planning and Finance)</li> <li>• Turn-over of staff and Basic Health Services overworked with competing priorities</li> <li>• Limited capacity of staff</li> <li>• Need to establish new relationships with new people</li> <li>• Limited current data, data quality issues, knowledge gaps, lack of analysis and reporting</li> <li>• different coordination mechanisms exist in different sectors</li> <li>• Limited nutrition capacities and resources in non-health sectors</li> <li>• Prolonged conflict situations</li> <li>• Limited available funding</li> <li>• Occasional environmental disasters</li> </ul>
<b>UN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different organizational mandates and competing interests</li> <li>• The time and effort needed to participate in joint activities</li> <li>• The different technical backgrounds and perspectives</li> <li>• Lack of incentives for negotiation with others, and for coordination</li> <li>• Turn-over of staff</li> </ul>
<b>Other stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of common information sharing platform</li> <li>• Weak coordination among stakeholders</li> <li>• Existing activities are fragmented</li> <li>• Lack of donor interest and investment?</li> <li>• Business/private sector not yet engaged in nutrition dialogue beyond salt iodisation and rice fortification</li> </ul>



## SESSION 9: Being accountable

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This session built upon the discussions of the previous sessions by asking participants to consider their role personally as individuals, as well as consider the roles and responsibilities of the leaders of their organisations. These questions were posed to consider accountability and transparency in the work of the UN system and its staff as they work in all sectors and clusters relating to nutrition. Each participant responded to two questions:

- In my role in my organization, what can I do to be more accountable? (over the next 6-12 months)
- What do I want the leadership in my organization to do?

Most common responses included: sharing information with colleagues and supervisors; strengthening the relationships and communication between agencies; capacity building and resource mobilization for technical support; active engagement in the UN Network requiring sufficient time and incentives from supervisors; improving data and information exchange; and monitoring the progress of nutrition activities.

<b>In my role in my organization, what can I do to be more accountable (next 6-12 months)?</b>	
<b>Advocate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to develop joint advocacy messages. Support nutrition sensitive interventions</li> <li>• Advocate and share all the information related to nutrition</li> <li>• Advocacy and communication on preparedness and response to zoonotic avian influenza (for food security and safety).</li> <li>• Advocate scaling up nutrition with colleagues and different units in the organization (nutrition-sensitive programme among stakeholders)</li> <li>• Actively engage in the UNN and the SUN Multistakeholder Platform to advocate, review, commit and endorse the country policy and action plans</li> <li>• Convey message/knowledge of Scaling up Nutrition, SUN</li> <li>• Advocacy with all nutrition partners</li> <li>• Promote the accordance of higher priority for nutrition within the World Bank's support to Myanmar</li> </ul>
<b>Collaborate and coordinate within UN system across nutrition-specific and nutrition- sensitive actors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively reach out to colleagues at the office and in other agencies</li> <li>• Coordinate with other UN agencies in the field</li> <li>• Need to understand how our organization contributes to REACH</li> <li>• Allow and plan time for coordination and collaboration</li> <li>• More support for nutrition projects funded by my organisation</li> <li>• Strengthen the coordination on nutrition in my organization</li> <li>• I will create better relationship and communication between my agency and government and other partners.</li> <li>• Promote/initiate nutrition-sensitive livelihood activities</li> <li>• Ensure new initiatives are communicated to other agencies</li> <li>• More information sharing to my supervisor</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share this workshop information to colleagues to support to nutritional focal staff</li> <li>• Be involved in UNN meetings if invited</li> <li>• Actively participate in UNN</li> </ul>
<b>Collaborate and coordinated across with all sectors and stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build good communication with other actors</li> <li>• Coordination between partners and other actors</li> <li>• Engage with the best actors in a specific sector to ensure the best possible outcome</li> <li>• Coordinate with implementing partners and stakeholders to identify possible nutritional-sensitive interventions (for instance, to promote exclusive breast feeding)</li> <li>• Report progress /updates /constraints, take actions to mitigate</li> <li>• Coordinate between animal and human health, across eco-system</li> <li>• Share information to implementing partners about the UN Network for Nutrition and Food Security</li> <li>• Share information among staff in a training session. Highlight the nutrition session which will conduct TOT for Basic Health Services in the Ministry of Health and Sports.</li> <li>• Integrate nutrition mandate in WASH in school activities</li> <li>• Support implementing partners to meet deadlines</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthen information, data and analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing information to colleagues</li> <li>• Share information on the World Bank's support in the area of nutrition freely with the partners</li> <li>• Find out how to set/move comprehensive nutrition data to be filled in inventory</li> <li>• Sharing and update information and knowledge received from nutrition activities implemented in project area</li> <li>• Provide good analysis and information system sharing</li> <li>• Evidence generation by regular field visits and bottle neck analysis</li> <li>• Convince decision makers to build more evidence from our activities</li> <li>• Data validation → smart analysis → qualitative information</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity building and resource mobilisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit a grant management specialist providing technical assistance to implementing partners</li> <li>• Provide technical assistances to implementing partners and monitoring of implementing partner activities</li> <li>• Strengthen and support fund raising for nutrition activities</li> <li>• Verify the budget for nutrition related activities at Township level</li> <li>• Facilitate the capacity building for nutrition activity</li> <li>• Emergency preparedness – nutrition through Myanmar action plan DRR, reference hand book for disasters management</li> </ul>

**What do I want the leadership in my organization to do?**

<p><b>Lead and commit</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show clear leadership to coordinate between different agencies</li> <li>• Ensure commitment to inter-agency coordination in the Network</li> <li>• Commit more on nutrition-related programs and integrate nutrition into all our programs</li> <li>• Continually advocate for nutrition with high-level government</li> <li>• Work together with colleagues to advocate to all concerned ministries and partners</li> <li>• Give more time and space for interactions, joint activities and the necessary coordination with agencies as part of the Network – consider some incentives to work more in partnership</li> <li>• Adopt agency strategies in line with government priorities</li> <li>• Show up to UNN events (like this one!)</li> <li>• Be visible and engaged</li> <li>• Regularly table nutrition on UNCT meetings, and with the Sectoral Working Groups and DP Working Group</li> <li>• Ensure that regional office directives and plans are shared with others in the UNN, and that there are ample opportunities to jointly discuss alignment within our country context and inform the UNDAF preparations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Guide your agency staff</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership should accord a higher value for staff participation in partnership mechanisms such as UNN allow time and support for all the joint working involved</li> <li>• Supervisors to value regular contact between network members</li> <li>• Provide proper planning and guidance for Network activities</li> <li>• Adopt strategies that are in line with emerging government priorities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Coordinate better</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with all Network partners, other agencies and international organisations</li> <li>• Coordination for food security activities</li> <li>• Continual coordination of all activities related to nutrition</li> <li>• Coordinate more with nutrition and food security, and other (E.g. WASH) clusters</li> <li>• Monitor nutrition activities being implemented across agencies in project areas. Evaluate and improve the activities as necessary</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communicate and exchange</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange knowledge (global – regional - country – State/Region-field) to update nutrition status</li> <li>• To share nutrition-related information (updated) and agency activities, plans and missions</li> <li>• Build clear and effective communication channels</li> <li>• Foster more learning and sharing</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate in a regular and timely manner on the progress of the Network at country level, linked with field level activities</li> <li>• Share more knowledge with other agencies. Talking initiatives to share activities with other agencies</li> <li>• Actively reach out to others with similar programmes to ensure collaboration/ knowledge-sharing/ lessons learned and build partnerships</li> <li>• Invite to events, consider joint missions</li> </ul>
<b>Invest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise more funds for nutrition</li> <li>• Support nutrition with enough human resources</li> <li>• Provide necessary resources for building and maintaining multistakeholder partnerships for nutrition</li> </ul>
<b>Build technical support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest more in nutrition-related capacity building and technical support (e.g. more trainings, conferences, cross-visits)</li> <li>• Support functional capacity improvement of multisectoral government sectors in nutrition governance</li> <li>• Provide more technical support to assess bottleneck issues and for close follow-up</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthen focus on nutrition-sensitive interventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate nutrition and well-being as part of social protection, child protection and public financing for children</li> <li>• FAO should more actively lead advocacy for, and partner in, interventions in nutrition-sensitive agriculture</li> <li>• Stronger leadership for nutrition sensitive activities</li> <li>• Strengthen food security activities and a country-wide food security and nutrition survey</li> <li>• Advocate nutrition sensitive agricultural policies. Strengthen capacity of staff</li> </ul>
<b>Go beyond the 1000 days to include a focus on adolescent nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More resource mobilization and allocation for adolescent nutrition to roll out nationwide implementation.</li> <li>• Hire a technical person for adolescent nutrition separately in order to strengthen advocacy with government for adolescent nutrition</li> </ul>
<b>Be accountable and transparent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a transparent, effective and efficient organization</li> <li>• Be a supportive and accountable organization</li> </ul>

## SESSION 10: Next steps and closing remarks

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**“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”**

*Henry Ford (successful American industrialist and pacifist)*

Closing remarks were made by Dr. Sundar Gopalan (World Bank) and Tania Goossens (REACH Global Secretariat). Participants were encouraged to increase their advocacy for nutrition within their organisations and to make efforts to ensure that nutrition was elevated as a priority for the new government, and as a key component for achieving the SDGs. Both speakers commended participants for actively engaging in the various discussions and activities throughout the day, and stressed that the same level of energy and willingness to collaborate would be necessary to make effective and lasting progress in nutrition. Short videos were shown to close the retreat to encourage participants to continue to hold nutrition as a priority, consider the significance of nutrition in relation to the SDGs, and to continue their willingness to collaborate. The energy generated from the retreat can hopefully be carried forward as our conversations of working multisectorally continue.

**“Now that we have ‘retreated’, let’s advance!”**

*Retreat participant*

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