

THEMATIC DISCUSSION

Information systems for nutrition: data collection, analysis and reporting

National information systems for nutrition are essential to assess the status quo and to measure changes in the nutritional status of populations; to track progress of actions taken to improve nutrition, and; to prioritise efforts toward improving nutrition for all. An accurate assessment of the nutrition situation allows governments and their partners to make evidence-based decisions with regards to nutrition policy and programme development. Additionally, having reliable data allows for a better understanding of nutrition needs and programme reach, which can be seen as key for improved collaboration and efficiency amongst various stakeholders.

During the 12th meeting of the SUN Country Network in January 2014,ⁱ which focused on information systems for nutrition: data collection, analysis and reporting, SUN Countries emphasised the importance of analysing information in a meaningful way; harmonising timing of actions; scaling up different data sources, and; decentralising the capacity to collect, collate and analyse data.

Since then, several frameworks have been endorsed. The **Global Monitoring Framework on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding (MIYCF)** defines a **core set of 14 indicators**, to be reported on by all countries and an **extended set of 16 indicators**, from which countries can draw in the design of national nutrition surveillance systems fitting the specific epidemiological patterns and programme decisions. These core indicators were approved at the 68th World Health Assembly in 2015.ⁱⁱ

This complements the comprehensive **Global Monitoring Framework and Targets for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases** that include relevant indicators and a set of voluntary global targets that were approved during the 66th World Health Assembly in 2013.ⁱⁱⁱ

Finally, the **Independent Global Nutrition Report Independent Experts Group (GNR IEG)** identified **56 indicators as the most nutrition-relevant^{iv}** from the list of 242 proposed **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)** indicators in UNSTATS' Provisional Proposed Tiers for Global SDG Indicators 2016.^v Synthesizing these elements, the GNR IEG is currently finalising a short list of nutrition-relevant indicators that could be included in the National Country Profiles, as part of the Global Nutrition Reports for 2017-2020. Most expected indicators will have an established methodology and be widely available across SUN countries.

These frameworks are meant to inform country choice of indicators to include in their national information systems for nutrition.

In the meantime, an initiative aiming to strengthen the capacity for data analysis to track progress, inform policies, and improve programmes in eight countries, the **National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN)**, is ongoing, with the support of the European Union.^{vi}

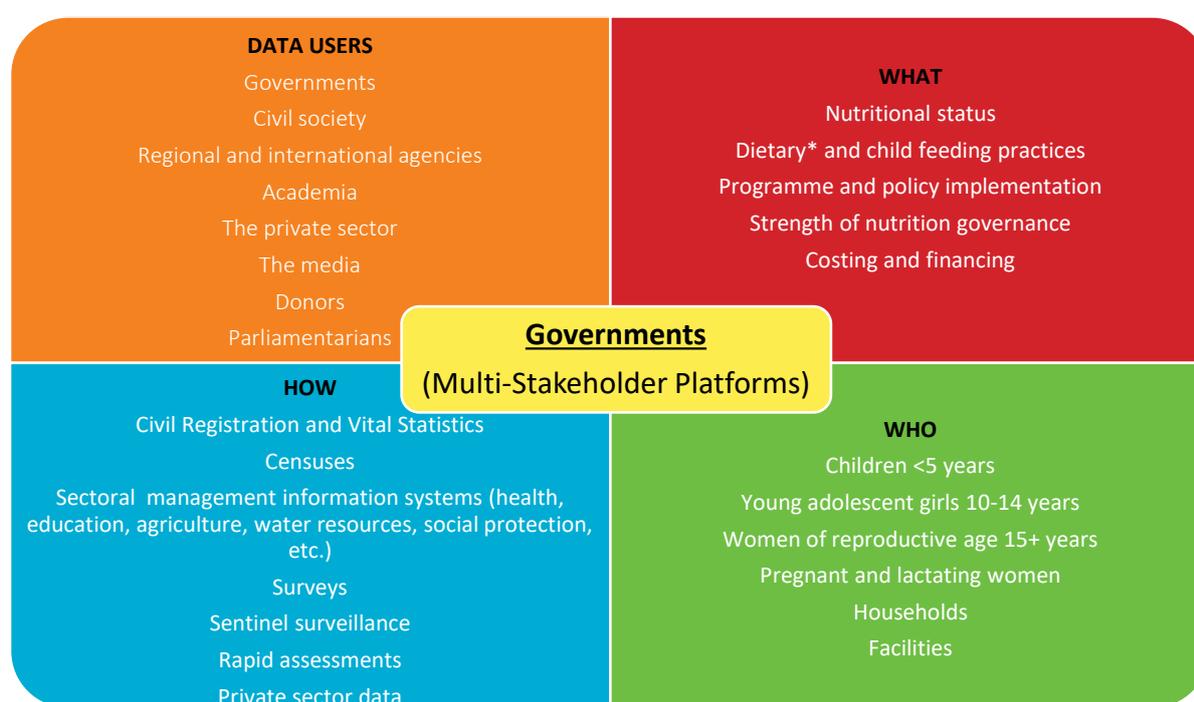
Consensus in indicators is informed by:

- The World Health Assembly (WHA): 6 global targets
- The MIYCF Framework: 14 core indicators, and 16 extended indicators
- 9 noncommunicable disease targets, and 25 indicators
- Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, and the Global Indicator Framework: 56 nutrition-relevant indicators out of the total 242 SDG indicators (as identified by the Independent Experts Group of the Global Nutrition Report)
- National Country Profiles of the Global Nutrition Report: 82 indicators
- Mapping of data and accountability initiatives were supported by the SUN Donor Network.

In 2016, the SUN Donor Network has supported a mapping of global data and accountability initiatives providing an informative overview of existing supports and guidance for countries (for further information please see the Annex of this Guidance Note)^{vii}

Building on these elements, the SUN Movement will define in first half of 2017 a minimum set of key indicators in order to monitor and account for progress and results beyond the four SUN Processes that are already tracked through the country Joint-Assessment. This will nurture continual SUN Movement improvement through evaluation and learning. **If country Multi-Stakeholder Platforms are interested in participating in the working group, please let your Focal Point know and get in touch with the SUN Movement Secretariat.**

The figure below can help show how the data landscape is understood in terms of users, what data is collected, how and about who, and; that government and their Multi-Stakeholder Platforms remain at the centre to guide action, build accountability and commitment to progress towards reducing malnutrition.



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Framing the discussion

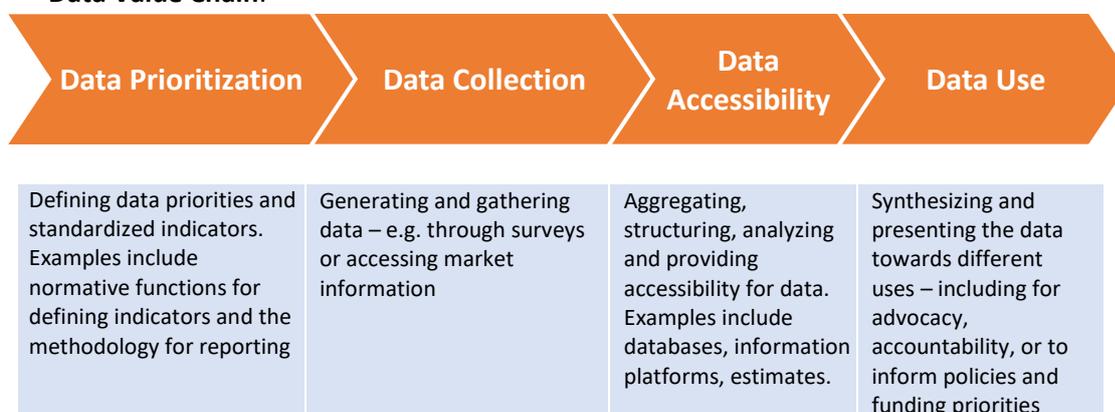
The reliable monitoring of progress, evaluation of outcomes and demonstration of results are core functions of countries participating in the SUN Movement. The 25th SUN Country Network Meeting will explore how SUN countries are organising and aligning coherent data value chains to fulfil these functions.

*Two initiatives that aim to address the gaps in individual dietary data are, the [Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool](#) (from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, and the World Health Organization, WHO), and the [International Dietary Data Expansion Project](#) (INDDEx supported by Tuft University).

Each teleconference will offer an opportunity for one country to share its experiences with others around the following guiding questions:

- Is there a recognised **lead actor in coordinating** the work on data and accountability for nutrition?
- If so, how did the lead actor ensure an **initial alignment across actors along the data value chain** – from defining the types of data to be used, where and how to access it, and how to analyse and interpret it? *Examples could include agreeing on common results, developing the M&E Framework, doing a stakeholder mapping, identifying key questions, etc.*
- Looking at the data value chain below, can you identify what **were the three largest gaps** in terms of data collection, accessibility and use, **and how you were able to overcome** each specific gap, in your experience? *Please give examples.*
- What **recommendations** do you have for other countries going through the same process? In particular, how are you able to maintain the alignment across actors and ensure their continued interest?
- What are the main **priorities** for this work in 2017?

Data Value Chain:



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References

- ⁱ Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. 12th Country Network Meeting Summary on “Information Systems for Nutrition”. January 2014. (<http://docs.scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/SUMMARY-JANUARY-ENGLISH.pdf>)
- ⁱⁱ World Health Organization, WHO. “Indicators for the Global Monitoring Framework on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition”, November 2014. (http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/indicators_monitoringframework_miygn_background.pdf?ua=1)
- ⁱⁱⁱ World Health Organization, WHO. “Noncommunicable Diseases Global Monitoring Framework: Indicator Definitions and Specifications”, November 2014. (http://www.who.int/nmh/nccd-tools/indicators/GMF_Indicator_Definitions_Version_NOV2014.pdf)
- ^{iv} Global Nutrition Report. Appendix No. 8 “Nutrition and the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Table A” (<http://ebrary.ifpri.org/utils/getfile/collection/p15738coll2/id/130387/filename/130598.pdf>)
- ^v United Nations Statistic Division. “Provisional Proposed Tiers for Global SDG Indicators as of March 24, 2016”. (<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-03/Provisional-Proposed-Tiers-for-SDG-Indicators-24-03-16.pdf>)
- ^{vi} The National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) initiative is part of a programme launched by the European Commission (EC). (<http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/>)
- ^{vii} Kim. Mapping Exercise Global Data and Accountability Initiatives for Nutrition. June, 2016. (<http://docs.scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Mapping-Exercise-Global-Data-and-Accountability-Initiatives-for-Nutrition-June-2016.pdf>)