



Foreword

MAKING SURE A FUTURE WITH ZERO MALNUTRITION IS WITHIN REACH



A child's cognitive development moves from preoperational to operational when she or he reaches the age of seven. In the same vein, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement has reached its seven-year mark -- and its next phase in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development -- bringing together more countries and stakeholders than ever in a global partnership to make malnutrition a thing of the past.

There is no place for malnutrition in the future we want. We must harness the opportunity that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) present, as nutrition is both an indicator and determinant of development. Good nutrition spurs progress in health, education, employment, empowerment of women and the reduction of inequalities and poverty. It helps to ensure the best possible start in life for girls' and boys' bodies and brains, and is a prerequisite for thriving communities and countries.

Formed to act on the growing evidence of the injustice and impact of malnutrition, the SUN movement is focused on ending all forms of malnutrition for everyone, everywhere, by 2030. The 59 countries and three Indian states that today form the movement - up from four countries in 2010 - are showing that success is achievable.

In the past year, countries including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Myanmar and Nigeria have reported a reduction in stunting. Globally the number of children too short for their age has decreased from 165 million in 2012, to 155 million today. Almost 70 per cent of SUN countries report that the environment in which they operate - across sectors and stakeholder groups - has been more enabling, with more than 2,000 civil society organizations, 400 businesses, UN entities, journalists, parliamentarians, scientists and champions all working to address issues of malnutrition. By working together, with governments in the driver's seat, the SUN movement is facilitating the progress needed to advance SDG 17, which requires partnering for results to reach those furthest behind.



In spite of these significant advances, crises have left 20.7 million people without adequate food and nutrition in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and north-eastern Nigeria. This requires an immediate and coordinated response. In line with the promise of the SDGs to leave no one behind, the SUN movement has scaled up its response in countries that are facing or have recently faced crises – whether socio-political or climate-driven. Moving forward, we must focus on strong cross-sector collaboration for a whole-of-government approach to make nutrition a driver of more peaceful, secure and stable societies.

This new phase of the SUN movement also requires a focus not only on undernutrition, but on the increasing and devastating emergency of overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable disease experienced in almost every country. Undernutrition and overnutrition often occur in the same individuals, families and communities. Several SUN countries are addressing this through national plans and policies.

At the backbone of the SUN Strategy and Roadmap for 2016-2020, launched last September, lies a transformational pathway that looks to a future where everyone can realize their right to food and good nutrition. The past year has seen the development of a movement-wide Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning system to help stakeholders demonstrate how their resources have translated into results that deliver better nutrition for all.

The SUN movement is making great strides in reaching children at risk of malnutrition and helping to build stable and thriving societies. With only 13 years left to meet the SDGs, there is not a moment to waste. I look forward to the work ahead and hope you will continue to support the SUN movement.

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