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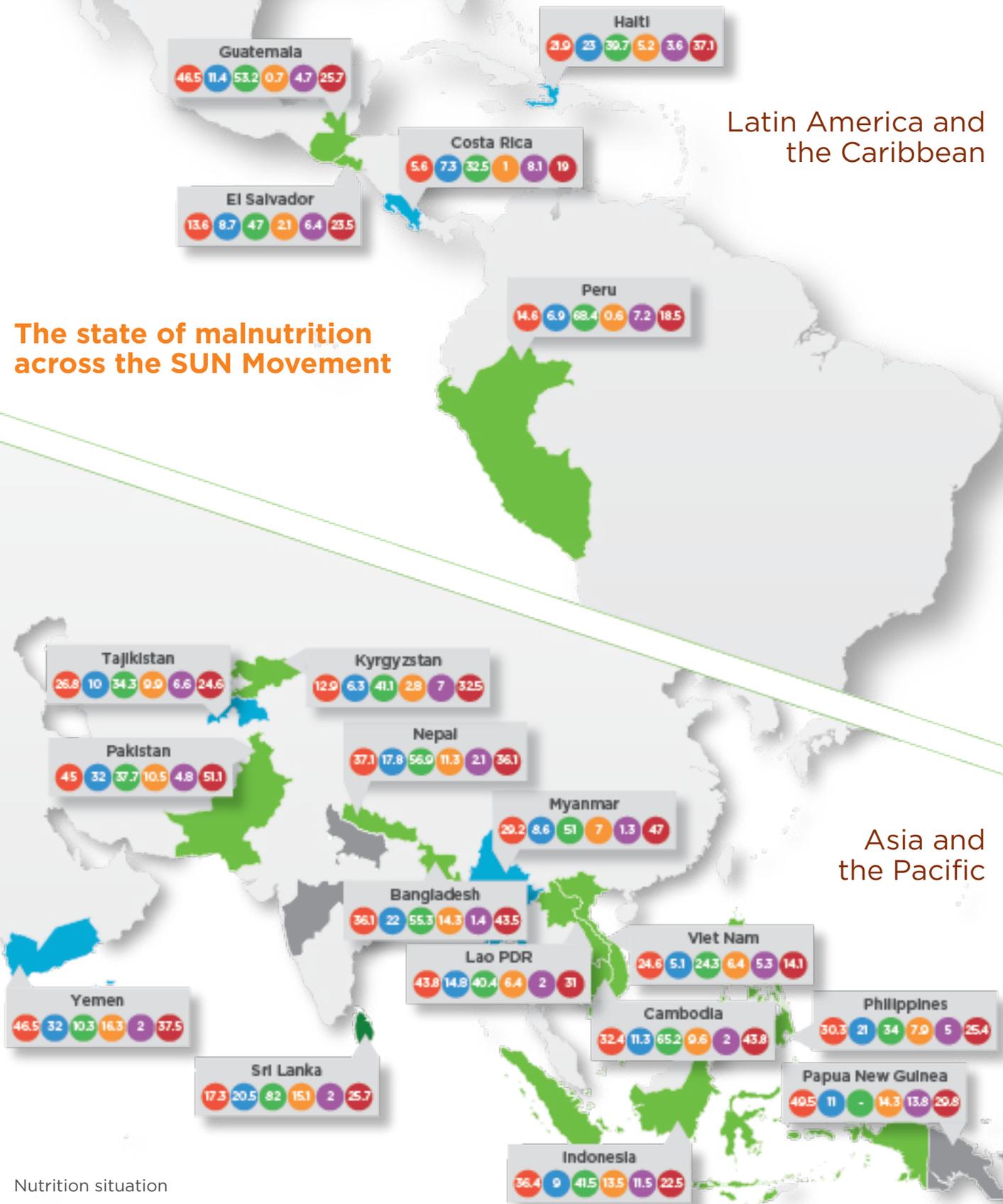
Fighting malnutrition across the SUN Movement

2.1 THE STATE OF MALNUTRITION ACROSS THE COUNTRIES THAT DRIVE THE MOVEMENT

59 countries and the Indian States of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are now driving the SUN Movement. They are home to more than **100 million stunted children**. Through their commitment, collaboration, investment and implementation of effective actions, however, millions of children have a chance of a better life, leading to a multiplier effect for all families, communities, regions, and countries. Communities will prosper and the world will be a safer and more sustainable place.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The state of malnutrition across the SUN Movement



The countries driving the SUN Movement

Asia and the Pacific



Nutrition situation

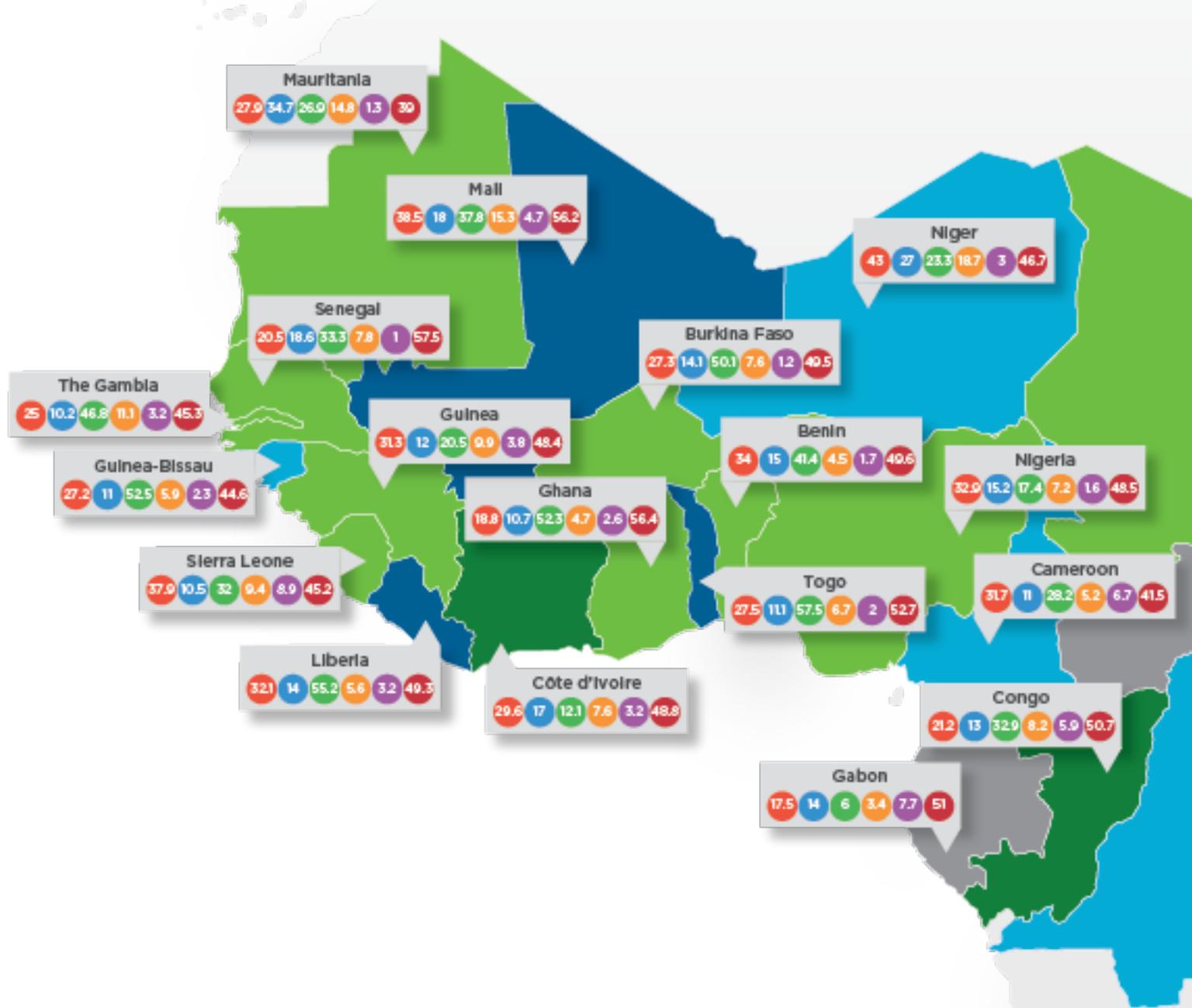
- Under five stunting (%)
- Low birthweight (%)
- 0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding (%)
- Under five wasting (%)
- Under five overweight (%)
- Women Anaemia 15-49 years (%)

Progress towards the SUN Movement strategic objectives (total weighted, as reported in 2017)*

- 0 - 25% weighted progress
- 26 - 50% weighted progress
- 51 - 75% weighted progress
- 76 - 100% weighted progress
- weighting not available

*UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Group joint child malnutrition estimates, 2017 edition, and the Joint-Assessment results completed in 2016 by SUN Countries.

See the Country Profiles on pages 82-142 for more information.



The state of malnutrition across the SUN Movement

Nutrition situation



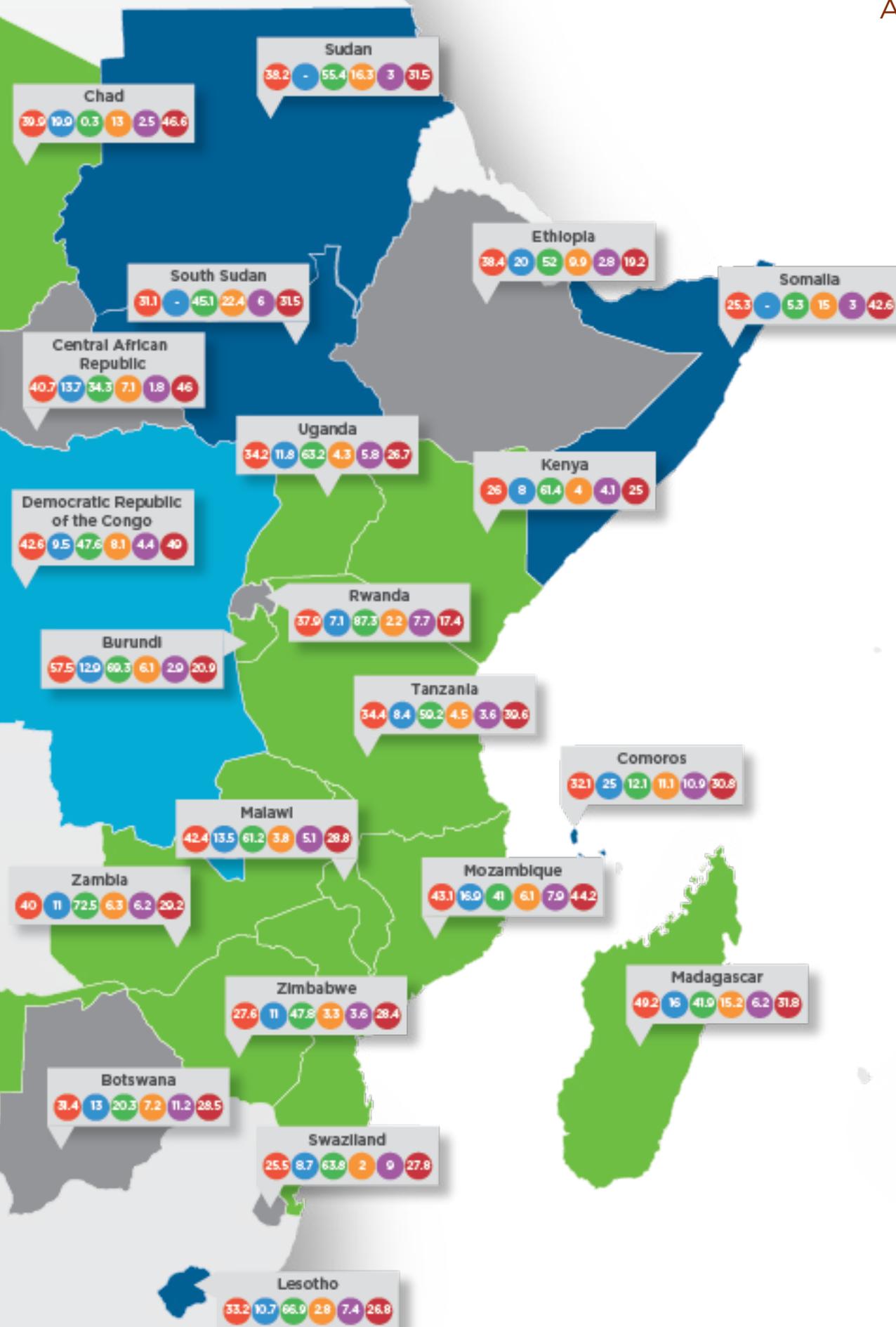
Progress towards the SUN Movement strategic objectives (total weighted, as reported in 2017)*



*UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Group joint child malnutrition estimates, 2017 edition, and the Joint-Assessment results completed in 2017 by SUN Countries.

See the Country Profiles on pages 82-142 for more information.

Africa



REACHING THE SDGs: INTRODUCING THE MEAL SYSTEM

As oversimplified as the saying “you can’t manage what you can’t measure” may be, it does describe why tracking progress in nutrition is so important. With the prospect of thriving women, adolescents and children, in particular, the SUN Movement’s transformational theory of change calls on all stakeholders to come together and for all actors to collaborate – so that resources can be mobilised and spent in a coordinated way.

As the SUN Movement has entered into its new phase, stakeholders seek to demonstrate how their human and financial resources have and are being translated into actions and results that deliver better nutrition for all. Achieving this ambition requires a strong Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system that reflects this theory of change and is well suited to the systemic nature of the changes that the SUN Movement is seeking to bring about – across its 59 member countries.

“ NUTRITION IS A CATALYSER FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs. AT THE SAME TIME, IMPROVED NUTRITION IS NOT EASY TO MEASURE.

– Gerda Verburg, SUN Movement Coordinator

Figure 1: The SUN Movement’s theory of change



2016 and 2017 has seen the development of this MEAL results framework which includes indicators of progress that correspond with each step of the theory of change. The choice of indicators is aligned with globally agreed monitoring frameworks and initiatives, and includes secondary data from publicly available repositories (e.g. UNICEF global databases, WHO's Global Health Observatory, etc.). The MEAL system also includes indicators specific to the Movement – based on primary data collected by the SUN Secretariat (such as the SUN Movement Annual Joint-Assessment) and the global networks.

The MEAL system aims to:

- Track progress of SUN Countries, as a group** → To assess progress of SUN countries using a standard set of indicators which cover different dimensions from commitments to actions to results to impact.
- Track individual SUN Country progress** → To understand where each SUN Country has made the most progress and where they lag behind.
- Identify patterns of progress across SUN Countries** → To identify patterns across SUN Countries looking at countries that have made most progress, those in the middle and those that are struggling.
- Identify patterns linked to the theory of change** → To compare SUN Countries looking at specific groups of indicators that correspond to the SUN Movement theory of change – the enabling environment, finance, interventions, legislation, SDGs that are considered drivers of nutrition, nutrition status and contribution of nutrition to the SDGs.

To facilitate comparisons across indicators and countries, individual country values are grouped into colour-coded values that represent a continuum in performance. The classification of is mainly based on performance vis-a-vis other SUN Countries, but also occasionally with regards to established standard cut-off points (e.g. public health significance of anaemia prevalence).



2.2 NUTRITION PATTERNS ACROSS SUN COUNTRIES

Addressing vulnerabilities to malnutrition

155 million girls and boys are stunted today. In 2016 the Global Nutrition Report devised way of looking at the thresholds of underlying drivers of stunting (calories from non-staple foods, access to improved water, access to improved sanitation and female secondary school enrolment rate) and how many countries have such a 'vulnerability'. Across the Movement, **Costa Rica** is the only country to be above the threshold for all four indicators.

Among the 14 countries with two or less vulnerabilities, **Uganda** is the only low-income country. Most progress has been seen in access to improved drinking water (the case for 39 countries), with progress in the other three drivers lagging behind.

Figure 2: Number of SUN Countries falling above the thresholds of vulnerabilities for the underlying drivers of stunting

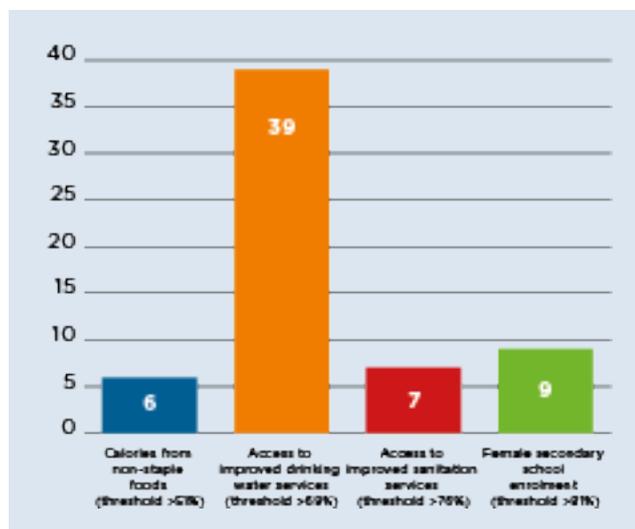


Table 2: Vulnerabilities to stunting across the SUN Movement³⁴

Number of vulnerabilities	Number of countries	SUN Countries
0	1	Costa Rica
1	6	Botswana, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan
2	7	Guatemala, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Uganda, Viet Nam
3	25	Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Swaziland, Zimbabwe
4	20	Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Yemen, Zambia

³⁴ Vulnerability is defined as being below the threshold for the following four underlying drivers (source: GNR 2016):

Calories from non-staple foods <51%

Access to improved water <69%

Access to improved sanitation <76%

Female secondary school enrolment rate <81%



GETTING THE BEST START IN LIFE – FOR BRAIN AND BODY

- 39 per cent of SUN countries have exclusive breastfeeding rates of at least 50 per cent. **Burkina Faso, Kenya** and **Swaziland** have seen an average annual increase in exclusive breastfeeding of more than 10 per cent.
- Only 15.4 per cent of 6 to 23-month-old children across the Movements' countries receive a minimum acceptable diet (MAD), which is when both the minimum number of meals and minimum diet diversity (MDD) is acceptable.³⁵ **Guatemala, Peru** and **Viet Nam** are the only countries with minimum diet rates of at least 40 per cent or higher, while the rates are less than 10 per cent in 19 countries (44 per cent).
- On average, 29.5 per cent of children 6–23 months in SUN countries receive a minimum diet diversity (MDD). **Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, El Salvador, Viet Nam** and **Swaziland** have MDD rates of at least 50 per cent or higher, with **Swaziland** being the only African country.
- The coverage of children 6–59 months with two doses of vitamin A supplementation in 48 SUN countries shows a great variety. Only 17 SUN countries have reached a 90 per cent and above coverage, while another 16 countries are at less than 50 per cent coverage.

MAKING SURE WOMEN AND MEN ARE NOURISHED – TO THRIVE AT WORK AND AT HOME

- Data on country policies to implement **healthy diet policies**, based on information from the NCD Progress Monitor 2017.³⁶ **Central African Republic, Mali** and **Tajikistan** are the only three SUN Countries that report fully achieving all three components of healthy diet policies – salt/sodium policies, saturated fat and trans-fat policies and restriction on food and beverage marketing to children.



Table 3: Number of SUN Countries reporting progress towards implementing healthy diet policies

Policy	Fully achieved	Not achieved	Unknown ^a
Salt/sodium policies	6*	47	2
Saturated fat and trans-fat policies	7 [†]	49	3
Restrictions on marketing to children	6 [‡]	47	6

^a Unknown includes the following categories: Documentation not available, Don't know

* Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Mali, Peru, Tajikistan

** Bangladesh, Botswana, Peru and Swaziland have partially achieved putting in place salt/sodium reduction policies.

[†] Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Peru, Swaziland, Tajikistan

[‡] Central African Republic, Mali, Mozambique, Peru, Swaziland, Tajikistan

³⁵ This is comparable to recent global estimates of 16 per cent but the median is lower than the global one (14 per cent).

³⁶ WHO (2017). Non-communicable Diseases Progress Monitor. Geneva: Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

MOTHERS FIGHTING MALNUTRITION: HEALTHY COOKING CLASSES IN RWANDA



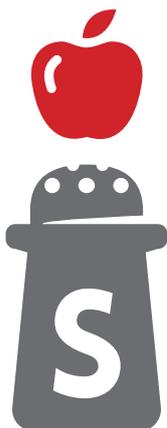
“When I was told that my son Emmanuel was suffering from malnutrition, I felt offended,” said Nyirahabimana. “I thought I cooked so well. I used to fry most of our food, including vegetables. But my son was thin and became sick very often.”

Nyirahabimana was convinced her son was poisoned. But she discovered that her son was actually malnourished when she joined a USAID-funded nutrition school. Her son was not alone. Nyirahabimana lives in rural Rwanda, a country where in 2015, 38% of children under 5 years old suffered from chronic malnutrition, or stunting.

Nyirahabimana’s nutrition school focuses on rehabilitating malnourished children. Nyirahabimana attended classes that teach mothers how to cook healthy, balanced meals to provide their children with adequate nutrients. For sustainability, the schools do not provide food. Instead, each woman brings an item from her home to contribute to cooking a meal. Because of this, women like Nyirahabimana learn how to cook healthy meals using what they have available at home.

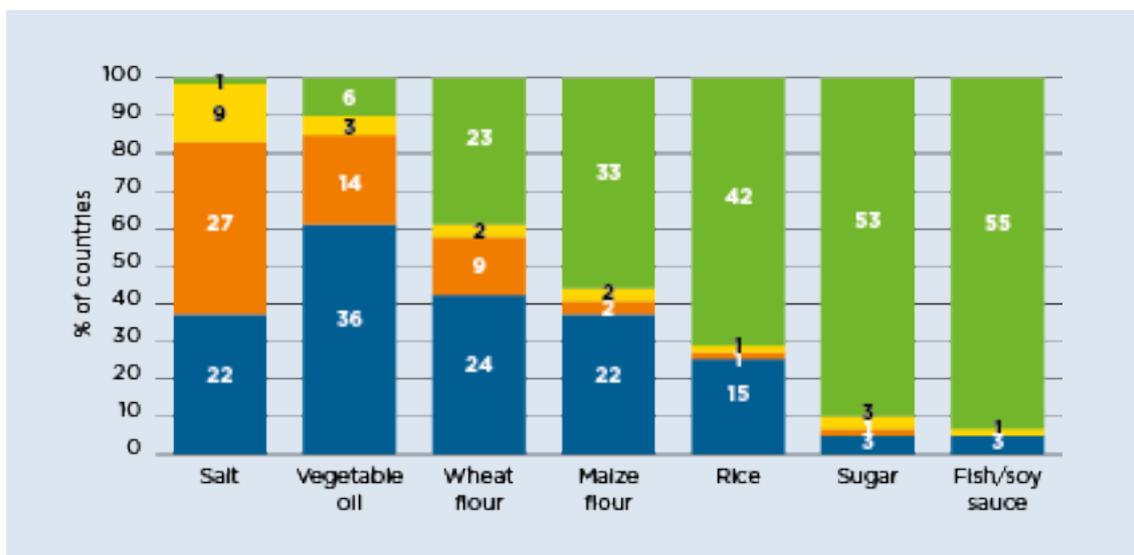
After a few months of attending the nutrition school, Nyirahabimana was shocked by the impact these healthy meals had on her son. “My son does not become sick anymore. He weighed 20 pounds at the beginning of the programme, 4 months ago. Now he weighs 33. I now know that frying food doesn’t make it healthy.” Today, Nyirahabimana cooks healthy, delicious meals at home – to the delight and wellbeing of her family.

Since 2015, USAID, in collaboration with the Government and other partners have established 913 nutrition schools across Rwanda. As a result of these nutrition schools, more than 2,400 children like Nyirahabimana’s son have been rehabilitated from malnutrition.



- Data on per capita fruit and vegetable intake (looking at grams of fruits and vegetables consumed per day) is available for 58 SUN countries.³⁷ Overall, the mean intake of fruit and vegetables was at 211g per day. Only one country, **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, has a population mean intake over 400g per day, the recommended minimum intake level by WHO.
- All SUN Countries have data on daily sodium intake for adults. Across the Movement the mean intake is 2.9 grams per day,³⁸ higher than the 2g per day maximum recommended by WHO. Exceptions include **Burundi, Comoros, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, and Rwanda**.
- Worldwide, approximately 70 per cent of all households have access to adequately iodised salt.³⁹ Across the SUN Movement, only **Kenya, Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea** have achieved iodised salt consumption in 90 per cent or more of households, 28 countries have access in 50–89 per cent of households and 19 countries have access in less than 50 per cent of households.
- Fortification is adding vitamins and minerals to foods to prevent nutritional deficiencies. Nutrients regularly used in grain fortification prevent diseases, strengthen immune systems, and improve productivity and cognitive development. As shown in figure 3, which looks at the status of fortification across SUN Countries per food 'vehicle', countries are classified into 'sustain',⁴⁰ 'improve',⁴¹ or 'build/expand'⁴² categories. In the case of unavailable data, either the food vehicle is not relevant to the country in question⁴³ or there is not enough information to assess relevance. Countries might be classified at different stages according to the food vehicle. **Costa Rica** has a 'sustain' status for salt, wheat flour, maize and rice while **Guatemala** falls into the 'sustain' group for vegetable oil, wheat flour, maize and sugar.

Figure 3: Fortification status in SUN countries by food vehicle (number and % of countries)



- Social protection can address immediate, underlying and basic causes of malnutrition by improving dietary quality, increasing income and ensuring access to health services. Nutrition and social protection are linked by their relevance for building resilience and linking emergency

³⁷ The Global Dietary Database. Available at: <http://www.globaldietarydatabase.org/the-global-dietary-database-measuring-diet-worldwide.html>

³⁸ Powles J, Fahimi S, Micha R, et al. (2013). Global, regional and national sodium intakes in 1990 and 2010: a systematic analysis of 24 h urinary sodium excretion and dietary surveys worldwide. *BMJ Open*; 3:e003733. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2013-003733.

³⁹ Pearce, Andersson & Zimmermann (2013). Global iodine nutrition: where do we stand in 2013? *Thyroid*, vol 23(5). DOI: 10.1089/thy.2013.0128.

⁴⁰ Those countries where at least 80 per cent of the fortifiable food vehicle is fortified, and the country is at least 70 per cent compliant.

⁴¹ Those countries where 50–79 per cent of the fortifiable food vehicle is fortified, but compliance (adequate fortification to standard) is under 70 per cent.

⁴² Those countries that have a common and widespread consumption of fortifiable food vehicle, but less than 50% of the fortifiable food vehicle is fortified [any amount].

⁴³ This is primarily due to the fact that it is not commonly consumed in quantities relevant for fortification (i.e. at least 10 g/capita/day for vegetable oil; at least 75 g/capita/day for grains).

and development approaches.⁴⁴ Data on social protection coverage is available for 41 SUN Countries,⁴⁵ and shows that coverage reaches more women, men and their families in upper middle-income countries than those living in lower middle-income and low-income countries. In Latin America, social protection programmes reach on average 63 per cent of the population and 80 per cent of the most impoverished households. The only four African countries with a coverage of social protection programmes above 50 per cent are Lesotho, Swaziland, Liberia and Uganda, the last two being low-income countries.

13 WAYS SUN COUNTRIES CHAMPIONED NUTRITION OVER THE 12 PAST MONTHS



1. Guatemala's Congress signs commitment to fight chronic malnutrition



2. Landmark moment for Bangladesh as Nutrition Council approves the second National Plan for Action for Nutrition



3. A turning point for the next generation of Filipinos with the launch of a new nutrition action plan



4. Burkina Faso approves its Multi-Sectoral Strategic Nutrition Plan 2016-2020, with the backing of all key sectors and stakeholders



5. A new National Nutrition Action Plan forges a strong path ahead for Madagascar



6. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf reaffirms commitment to Zero Hunger in Liberia



7. Former President launches Sri Lanka's blueprint to end hunger and malnutrition



8. Former President launches a Strategic Review to end hunger in Ghana by 2030



9. Former President launches Nigeria's Zero Hunger strategic plan to end hunger by 2030



10. Sierra Leone launches its Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for Healthy Eating



11. Malawi's Minister of Health supports a local business to launch a new complementary food product



12. Official nomination of the first lady of the Republic of Guinea as ambassador of nutrition



13. SUN Movement Unit launches to better reach the 55 million people in the Sindh Province of Pakistan

⁴⁴ FAO (2015). Nutrition and social protection. Available at: www.fao.org/3/a-i5021e.pdf. [Accessed October 2017].

⁴⁵ World Bank ASPIRE database. [Accessed May 2017].

2.3 ENSURING NUTRITION PROGRESS: THE 2017 SUN MOVEMENT JOINT-ASSESSMENT EXERCISE



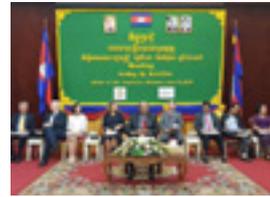
Benin



Burkina Faso



Burundi



Cambodia



Cameroon



Chad



Congo



Côte d'Ivoire



Ghana



Guinea-Bissau



Haiti



Indonesia



Kenya



Malawi



Mauritania



Myanmar



Nepal



Nigeria



Senegal



Sierra Leone



Sri Lanka



The Gambia

Between April and August 2017, a record-breaking **52 SUN Countries**⁴⁶ convened their nutrition communities to undertake the 2017 SUN Movement Joint-Assessment Exercise. This participatory and face-to-face exercise brings together in-country stakeholder teams, in a bid to: align their visions of the status of institutional transformations for scaling up nutrition – including progress over the past year; give a snapshot of challenges and obstacles faced; mobilise support for realising joint goals including ensuring that women and girls are at the heart of all actions, in terms of substance, structure and staffing at the country level; set common priorities for the year ahead, and provide concrete inputs into the decision-making processes of the global SUN support system.

Figure 4: The strategic objectives of the SUN Movement

- 
1. Expand and sustain an enabling political environment
- 
2. Prioritise and institutionalise effective actions that contribute to good nutrition
- 
3. Implement effective actions aligned with common results
- 
4. Effectively use, and significantly increase, financial resources for nutrition

This process of annual reflection and priority-setting is unique to the SUN Movement and the data collected reflects the institutional transformations which are supporting nutrition change agents to make measurable contributions and impact, in collaboration. As they reflect on their progress to achieve the SUN Movement’s strategic objectives (see figure 4), they hold each other mutually accountable and plan to continuously improve. Considering that it allows multiple stakeholders and sectors to build consensus, this exercise is seen as the ‘bread and butter’ of the SUN Movement.

SUN COUNTRIES ARE BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER INTO A SHARED SPACE FOR ACTION

In the SUN Movement, expanding and sustaining an enabling political environment means:

- Strong in-country leadership translates commitment into action and inspires collective political and social momentum.
- A shared space (multi-stakeholder platforms) at national and local levels paves the way for collective action, where nutrition change agents take joint responsibility for scaling up impact.



⁴⁶ Please note that, in addition to the 52 SUN Countries indicated, Gabon and Papua New Guinea, who joined the SUN Movement in December and April 2016, respectively, undertook baseline studies of the nutrition environment in their country between April and July 2017.

Driven by its 59 member countries and three Indian States, the SUN Movement continues to make strides towards bringing more people, the right people, into a shared space for nutrition action. The results? More effective leadership – with multiple stakeholders coming together to build an enabling environment for improving nutrition in 2016-2017. Improving the capacity of individuals and institutions to collaborate effectively, at both national and sub-national levels, is critical for nutrition impact, and for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The SUN Movement’s Roadmap for 2016-2020 places emphasis on strengthening this capacity, with the aim of ensuring all SUN Countries, by 2020, partner with key stakeholders, including communities, to make strides towards ending malnutrition. Although there is no ‘one size fits all’ model for multi-stakeholder platforms, the capacity to work across sectors, and sometimes interests, requires a trusting and principled environment for collaboration.

PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

It is increasingly being recognised that champions, at every level, play a vital role in influencing nutrition policy and practice – from securing political will to changing attitudes in communities. In 2016-2017, **more than 30 SUN Countries** have engaged with nutrition champions, be they high-level changemakers, parliamentarians, or the media, to advocate for actors to change their behaviours and commit to achieving common nutrition results for everyone, everywhere.

Today, more SUN Countries have put in place and operationalised multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs), at both national and sub-national levels, for better impact and lasting results. In 2016-2017,

50 SUN Countries have national MSPs, with these platforms existing at the sub-national level in **35 SUN Countries**, up from **26** countries in 2015-2016.

The past year has also seen an increase in both membership and reach⁴⁷ of the Movement’s four autonomous networks who play a key role in supporting governments scale up nutrition efforts. **39 SUN Countries** have a Civil Society Alliance (CSA), with new regional coordination groups covering Asia and East and Southern Africa being established in 2016-2017, in addition to a new CSA in **Philippines**. SUN Business Networks (SBNs) were set up in **Nigeria and Niger** in 2016-2017, whilst **30 MSPs** now include private sector representatives – acknowledging their contribution to the food sector, but also increasingly with innovation in the mobile and digital communication field. **15 countries** have established national SUN Business Networks, with 15 additional countries having developed their own private sector networks, with 7 more working towards setting up their networks. Over **400 companies** have the potential to reach **166** million consumers with nutritious goods and services, each year, by 2020.⁴⁸

HOW DO MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS WORK?

- SUN Countries are increasingly formalising their multi-stakeholder platforms, seeking high-level political engagement;
- SUN Countries are involving more sectors and stakeholders to scale up and strengthen nutrition actions;
- SUN Countries have successfully decentralised their multi-stakeholder platforms, but focus can be limited to high-burden areas;
- SUN Countries are auditing their coordinating structures to make sure they’re up to par;
- SUN Countries can face challenges in maintaining the momentum of their MSPs.

⁴⁷ To learn more about the progress of SUN Movement networks in 2016-2017, please see pp. 63 – 71.

⁴⁸ SUN Business Network (2013). SUN Business Network Company Commitments. Available at: <http://sunbusinessnetwork.org/sun-resources/sbn-company-list/> [accessed September 2017].

Figure 5: What multi-stakeholder platforms look like in practice



1. SUN Countries are increasingly formalising their multi-stakeholder platforms, seeking high-level political engagement

In 2016-2017, SUN Countries report that formalising their multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) increases its ability to engage with senior levels of government – for maximum impact. **38 SUN Countries** actively engage with the executive level of their respective governments. Many SUN Countries have recently formalised their platforms, often hosting them at the highest levels of government, such as the Committee for the Fight Against Malnutrition in **Congo**, the Department for Nutrition and Sport in the Ministry of Health of **Costa Rica**, the Presidential Commission for the Reduction of Chronic Malnutrition in **Guatemala**, and the Multi-Stakeholder Nutrition Committee in **Guinea-Bissau**. In **Myanmar**, with the new Government, a high-level convening body for nutrition has been put in place by the State Counsellor, and the MSP has expanded to include trust funds and the World Bank.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the food security and nutrition MSP was formalised in June 2016, at the National Forum on Nutrition and Food Security.

What do we mean by formalising multi-stakeholder action?

Formalise 'fɔ:m(ə)laɪz/
Verb

- give (something) legal or formal status.
- give a definite structure or shape to.

An MSP is formal when it's existence is made official by virtue of a governmental instrument. These instruments often detail the name, membership, purpose and operation modality of the structure created.

2. SUN Countries are involving more sectors and stakeholders to scale up and strengthen nutrition actions

In **Bangladesh**, the formal multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordinating structure (the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council or BNNC) has recently been restructured and strengthened. A total of 18 ministries thus contributed to this revitalised structure, with overall emphasis on alignment with attaining the SDGs. In **Namibia**, new line ministries, such as the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, are playing a key role in decision-making on nutrition and have contributed to a new national development plan, through the Namibian Alliance for Improved Nutrition (NAFIN). In 2016-2017, **Benin, Burundi** and **Madagascar** brought new sectors onboard in their MSPs (including the water and sanitation sector, the Ministry of Decentralisation, and ministries of environment, finance and social protection). In **Somalia**, a growing commitment to scaling up nutrition and the Movement has been seen over the past year - through, for instance, the issuance of letters of commitment and the appointment of SUN focal points, by the Federal Ministers for Agriculture and Livestock. The Ministry of Water, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have appointed focal points.

In **Tanzania**, stakeholders - at all levels - came together to formulate the National Multi-Stakeholder Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP) 2016-2021, with its approval in September 2016 attended by a record-number of Permanent Secretaries. Tanzania has also made major strides towards including more non-governmental stakeholders in the MSP in 2016-2017, including CSOs, media, academia and parliamentarians. Besides the SUN UN, donor, civil society and business networks, who have made their mark on nutrition in 2016-2017, newly formed networks include academia in **Madagascar**, fortification in **Guinea**, champions in **Chad**, parliamentarians in **Burkina Faso** and **Cameroon**, and the media. In 2016-2017, the media has dedicated networks in 4 SUN Countries, including **Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger** and **Madagascar**, whilst **Haiti** is in the process of reviving two existing but separate networks.

“ NUTRITION IS UNQUESTIONABLY A CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE THAT IMPACTS EVERY WALK OF LIFE, PARTICULARLY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, ECONOMIC SECTORS, AND HUMAN CAPITAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.

– Dr. Zainab Chaula, Deputy Permanent Secretary responsible for health at the Tanzanian President's Office

HOW STOCK-TAKING HAS HELPED RALLY DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS AROUND NUTRITION RESULTS IN MYANMAR

Nutrition action necessitates the engagement of multiple sectors and stakeholder groups – due to the multi-dimensional nature of malnutrition – but doing so can be challenging as different constituents often use different languages. The UN Network’s suite of multi-stakeholder analytical tools, developed and facilitated in practice by REACH, has helped bring diverse nutrition actors together to take stock of ongoing nutrition efforts and to establish a common discourse around nutrition.

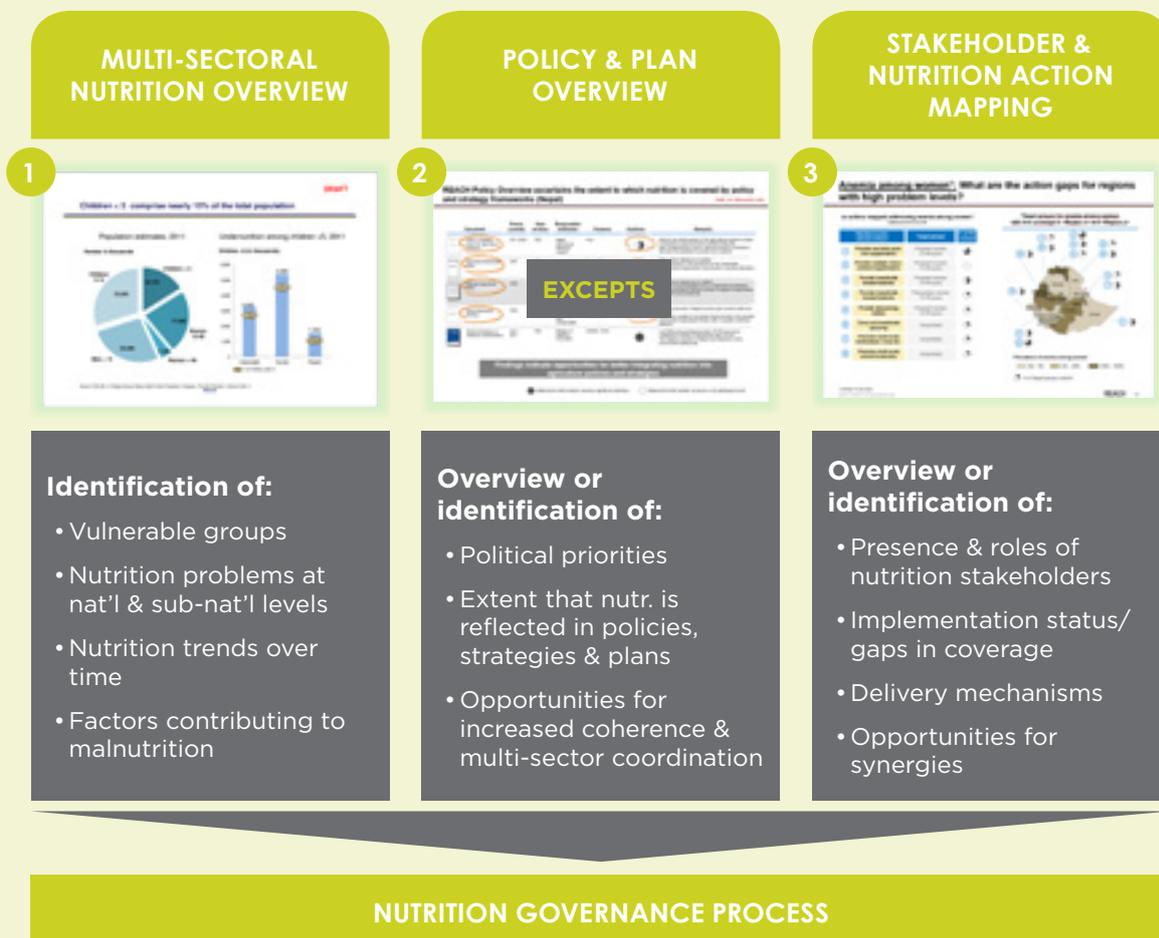
“MYANMAR IS ONE OF FIVE SUN COUNTRIES WHO HAVE REPORTED A DECREASE IN STUNTING IN 2016-2017.”



Launched in August 2016 in Myanmar, the stock-taking exercise brought great momentum and provided a concrete platform to engage a multitude of nutrition actors, to depict the nutrition situation, in its entirety. It also identified gaps and opportunities for increased synergies. Led by the National Nutrition Committee (NNC), anchored within the Ministry of Health and Sports, the 3-pronged exercise relied on REACH tools and facilitation support.

While the tools and their respective outputs were imperative, the facilitation support that accompanied the process helped ensure an inclusive approach so that each actor felt part and parcel of the undertaking. The REACH facilitator worked with the NNC to galvanise support from five ministries, who came together to develop the stock-taking package. Other networks, such as the SUN Civil Society Network, were also mobilised. In addition to the tangible results generated from this exercise, country actors now have a greater appreciation of the importance of applying a multi-stakeholder approach to nutrition. It has also shown that multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination is possible when there is willingness to work towards a common deliverable. REACH has been critical to foster and enable that momentum. Similar experiences have been observed in other countries, such as **Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique** and **Tanzania**, where REACH supported comprehensive stock-taking exercises.

Figure 6: Nutrition stock-taking exercise



3. More SUN Countries have decentralised their multi-stakeholder platforms, but focus can be limited to high-burden areas

In 2016-2017, **35** SUN Countries – 9 more than in 2015-2016 – report having decentralised their multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs). Countries like **Bangladesh, Benin, Burundi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Malawi, Madagascar, Myanmar** and **Nepal** are establishing coordination mechanisms at the sub-national level, with a focus on high-burden areas.

In the reporting period, **Somalia** has seen interest, at the State level, to form a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) at the sub-national level. However, a total of 10 line ministries currently coordinate their efforts and participate in the MSPs. In **Malawi**, functional MSPs are in place at national, district and community levels. There are SUN focal points in place at all levels and each MSP has well-defined terms of reference. All key sectors implementing nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific actions form part of these platforms.

In **Zimbabwe**, the institutional coordination structures from the national to the ward level have been strengthened in 2016-2017. In the past year, 'cascade' capacity-building has been held from the national level to 15 District Food and Nutrition Security Committees – who have passed on the baton in training 75 Ward Food and Nutrition Committees on community-based, multi-stakeholder approaches for stunting reduction. The model strengthens accountability at the local level for actions to address stunting, as well as increasing community ownership of food and nutrition programmes in their communities.

Some countries report difficulty in extending these efforts, while others face lacking awareness of the importance of nutrition among local authorities, or means are not available. **Kyrgyzstan** reports that further decentralisation of the MSP is required, while both **Lao People's Democratic Republic** and **Myanmar** have started to establish coordination structures. However, in **Pakistan**, the provincial level coordination structures are well-established and working well despite challenges in ensuring adequate financial allocations for nutrition at the federal level.

4. SUN Countries are auditing their coordinating structures to make sure they're up to par

Reflection on the effectiveness of coordination structures often takes place during policy development, and before MSPs are shaped, or re-shaped, at national or sub-national levels. Several countries, including some 'early-risers' of the SUN Movement, have taken this one step further, by undertaking organisational, or institutional, audits. During the reporting period, these audits took place in **Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Madagascar, Niger** and **Tanzania**.

In **Niger**, the institutional audit identified capacity strengths and gaps of individuals, and of the overall structure. The audit also made recommendations regarding the MSP organisation, enshrined in a resulting Decree to strengthen the structure and functioning of the MSP. The institutional analysis carried out in **Madagascar**, with the support of UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank, looked at modernisation needs of the National Nutrition Office. In **Tanzania**, an institutional analysis of the national, district and council level coordination structures took place in October 2016. The analysis – carried out during the process of developing a new National Multi-Stakeholder Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP) for 2016-2021 – showed the need to modify the national structures to ensure alignment.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT COMMUNICATION FLOWS BETWEEN CENTRAL AND LOCAL PLATFORMS?

SUN Countries report varying levels of difficulty in ensuring communication flows between central and local authorities. In **Benin**, a series of channels are explored by the Ministry of Decentralisation, the Communal Dialogue Bodies (*Cadres Communaux de Concertation*) and the National Association of Communes. **Mali**, however, reports that "knowledge management between centre and regions needs to be strengthened", and **Burundi** worry that food security data still doesn't flow up and down easily. In **Ghana**, general feedback mechanisms between central and regional/district-levels exist, however this needs to be strengthened for nutrition, in particular.

5. SUN Countries can face challenges in maintaining the momentum of their MSPs

Although most SUN Countries have seen progress towards bringing people together into a shared space for action in 2016-2017, challenges are still faced by many.

Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger have seen some challenges in operationalising their coordination structures in the reporting period. Challenges include not gathering often enough or not at all, the lack of a workplan to rally behind, a low participation rate or lacking multi-stakeholder engagement.

In **Yemen**, the National SUN Secretariat faces coordination challenges due to the ongoing conflict, which have weakened existing partnerships and coordination mechanisms. However, efforts are made to coordinate activities of various sectors and stakeholders, to bridge the development and humanitarian nexus, while acknowledging the different coordination structures in place.

Several countries report difficulty in creating or keeping up the momentum of certain networks, such as a donor network, which is the case for **Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and Democratic Republic of the Congo**. Several countries report that these networks do not come together enough or work as part of the MSP, although several have reported this would require facilitation skills and tools, which some MSPs do not possess. To overcome this, **Chad** has held an inter-network workshop, which resulted in an inter-network workplan. In **Tajikistan**, in April 2016, the SUN Development Partners' Network was created under the leadership of USAID and UNICEF (donor co-conveners), and recognised the need to push nutrition in its own right, rather than always aligning with other sectors such as food security and health. The creation of this network has helped mobilise both interest and commitments from donors.

The road ahead

The first phase of the Movement was characterised by diverse stakeholders coming together to prioritise nutrition and align their efforts for impact. The second phase encourages a greater focus on results and improvements in the nutritional status of everyone. Most SUN Countries report progress towards bringing more people, and the right people, to the table. However, there is a risk of momentum flailing, which could threaten positive trends seen recently.

SUN Countries have, however, sustained the early gains made in 2014 and 2015 in establishing coordination mechanisms, and several of those mechanisms have transitioned from informal working groups into formal structures in 2017, which is a major feat.

In addition, those MSPs have maintained the 2015 and 2016 gains in expanding the range of stakeholders engaged, and ensuring their coordination. Finally, the gains seen in high-level political commitment in 2016 have also been maintained.

The greatest challenge SUN Countries still face include tracking, reporting and reflecting on stakeholders' contributions, with no progress seen since 2015. Information does not generally flow easily between decentralised and central coordination mechanisms, which also rings true for the SUN networks, who could scale up the information flow, between each other, and with the government.

SUN COUNTRIES ARE ENSURING A COHERENT POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In the SUN Movement, prioritising and institutionalising effective actions that contribute to good nutrition means:



- Proven high impact nutrition interventions to reduce stunting, increase exclusive breastfeeding, reduce anaemia, and reduce wasting are scaled up.
- Sectors such as agriculture, education, social protection, health and women's empowerment incorporate a focus on nutrition and contribute more to nourishing people's lives and futures.
- Policies and laws which help make good nutrition a reality are put in place, which put women and girls at the centre and strengthen community action and inclusive participation.

As stated in the Movement's Strategy and Roadmap for 2016-2020, whether or not the promise to leave no one behind is fulfilled depends on whether those furthest behind are taken into account when policies and laws are made. In 2016-2017, SUN Movement action in this area has been underpinned by the right of any woman, man or child to have adequate food and nutrition – by upholding the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, as endorsed by the World Health Assembly (WHA), and pushing for decent work and maternity protection – thus safeguarding the healthy physical and cognitive development of a child. The promotion of a healthy diet, through food fortification and salt iodisation, for instance, has also been an increasing area of focus, during this period. To ensure nutrition as a game-changer to development, an important area of work has been harnessing the powerful role that parliamentarians play in ensuring strong environments for improving nutrition.

“NUTRITION NOT ONLY MAKES A DIFFERENCE, IT IS THE DIFFERENCE... A GIRL WITH A LOWER LEVEL OF EDUCATION IS MORE LIKELY TO MARRY EARLY AND HAVE CHILDREN, AND IF SHE HAS CHILDREN, SHE RISKS SEVERE COMPLICATIONS – OR EVEN DEATH – DURING PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY. IF SHE GIVES BIRTH, HER BABY IS MORE LIKELY TO BE SMALL OR BORN PREMATURELY – A MAJOR PREDICTOR OF POOR HEALTH, DISABILITY AND DISEASE LATER IN LIFE.

– Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Canada, and SUN Movement Lead Group member

PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

SUN Countries have, in 2016-2017, worked tirelessly towards ensuring pro-nutrition, gender-sensitive, robust and coherent policy, legal and regulatory actions as per frameworks to redress the various causes of malnutrition, throughout the lifecycle. The Constitutions of **10 SUN Countries** explicitly protect the right to adequate food, whilst **21 SUN Country** Constitutions implicitly protect the right to adequate food for women, men, and their families. **45 SUN Countries** have in place some form of legal measure related to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. Out of which, **20 SUN Countries** have comprehensive legislation or regulations reflecting all or most provisions of the Code. **56** countries have legislation on universal salt iodisation, **46** countries have legislation on mandatory flour fortification, **18** countries have a high level of constitutional protection of the right to food and **24** countries have a minimum of **14** weeks' full paid maternity leave, with **5 SUN Countries** having ratified the ILO's Maternity

Protection Convention, No. 183 (2000). **49 SUN Countries** now have data on country policies to ensure a healthy diet. **22 SUN Countries** have a multi-sectoral, integrated non-communicable disease (NCDs) and risk factor policy, strategy, and/or action plans, at the national level, that address the four main NCDs (cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases), where unhealthy diet and physical inactivity as seen as main risk factors.⁴⁹

Although fewer SUN Countries report progress towards creating this coherent legal and policy environment in 2016-2017 than across the other strategic objectives, a record-breaking **42 SUN Countries** are harnessing

the budgetary, legislative and political powers of parliamentarians – helping to cement nutrition as a national priority. **13 SUN Countries** also have dedicated parliamentary networks set up. **25 SUN Countries** have nominated one, or several, high-level political or social champions for nutrition – from First Ladies, Presidents, Prime Ministers to sports stars, traditional and religious leaders, and celebrities. **26 SUN Countries** organised high-level events in 2016-2017 to spur action on nutrition.

1. SUN Countries are working towards ensuring policies and laws are coherent across actors and sectors, although progress has been slow

The recognition of nutrition as a fundamental driver for human, societal and national development is a key factor leading to increased alignment behind national nutrition priorities. This understanding facilitates the rallying of all actors in society behind national nutrition priorities, which SUN Countries are strengthening, through participatory multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder consultations. Nearly 25 per cent of all SUN Countries have reviewed their policies – with the involvement of relevant actors to effectively align their actions with national nutrition goals. In **Peru**, the President has played a key role in elevating nutrition to a “state issue”, beyond the responsibility of any one line ministry.

The longer countries are a part of the SUN Movement, the more likely they are to establish evidence-based nutrition policies and legislation that support lasting human impact. As relevant policies and legislation are put into action, governments and other nutrition actors move quickly to ensure the widespread dissemination of policies to those who are tasked with implementing them. In 2016-2017, **18 SUN Countries** have facilitated this through the development of advocacy and communication strategies, with **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Senegal** currently developing theirs. 19 per cent of SUN Countries have made progress in disseminating their national nutrition policies. The Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security (SESAN) in **Guatemala** has implemented its 2016-2020 Strategic Communication Plan to help disseminate nutrition actions, within the framework of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Chronic Malnutrition 2016-2020. SUN Countries are working more to integrate nutrition into sector-specific plans, in areas such as agriculture, gender equality and climate change, with countries such as **Malawi** reviewing these plans and policies, to ensure alignment with the SDGs in 2016-2017.

HOW DO SUN COUNTRIES ENSURE GENDER-SENSITIVE AND PRO-NUTRITION POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND LAWS?

1. SUN Countries are working towards ensuring policies and laws are coherent across actors and sectors, although progress has been slow;
2. SUN Countries are putting the right to food into action;
3. SUN Countries are stepping up to protect the best infant and young child nutrition;
4. SUN Countries are working towards making work and family work – for parents and children;
5. SUN Countries are engaging parliamentarians to champion nutrition results.

⁴⁹ Noncommunicable Diseases Progress Monitor (2017). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2017. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

2. SUN Countries are putting the right to food into action

“ SINCE FOOD IS A RIGHT AND NOT A COMMODITY AND EATING REMAINS A VITAL NEED, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY MUST BE CONSIDERED A RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE RATHER THAN A DEVELOPMENT GOAL CARRYING NO ACCOUNTABILITY.⁵⁰”

Whilst under international law states are obliged to respect, protect and fulfil the right to food, the practical difficulties in achieving this human right are demonstrated by the extent of food insecurity seen today. In many SUN Movement countries, not only is there shortage of food and lack of infrastructure but also poor distribution and inadequate access to food. However, the recognition of the right to food and nutrition in constitutions and national legal frameworks has provided the necessary grounding to ensure nutrition is an enduring rather than

fleeting priority in many SUN Countries. Across the Movement, **24 SUN Countries** explicitly or implicitly mention this fundamental right in their constitutions. **10 SUN Country** constitutions (Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Niger, Philippines and Zimbabwe) explicitly protect the right to adequate food, whilst **21 SUN Country** constitutions implicitly protect the right to adequate food (Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Togo and Tanzania).

IN UGANDA, THE CONSTITUTION HAS NO MENTION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD, AS SUCH, BUT FOCUSES ON THE RIGHT TO NUTRITION.



3. SUN Countries are stepping up to protect the best infant and young child nutrition

“ SUN COUNTRIES DESPAIR AT THEIR LIMITATIONS BORDERING ON INABILITY TO ENSURE STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ‘MILK CODE’... DESPITE LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS WHICH INCLUDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATORS IN MOST COUNTRIES.”

– Charulatha Banerjee, Regional Knowledge Management Specialist Asia at ENN

Breastfeeding has often been described as nature's health plan. Breastfeeding is the best way to prepare the brains and bodies of baby girls and boys for a long, healthy and thriving life ahead. The International Code on the Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes represents a set of recommendations to regulate the marketing of breast-milk substitutes, feeding bottles and teats and aims to stop the aggressive and inappropriate marketing of breast-milk substitutes, which prevails in many countries of the world today. This Code was adopted at the 34th session of the World Health Assembly (WHA), held in 1981. Today, **45 SUN Countries** – or more than three quarters of the Movement – have legal measures in place to implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. **13 SUN Countries** have no legal measures in place, and

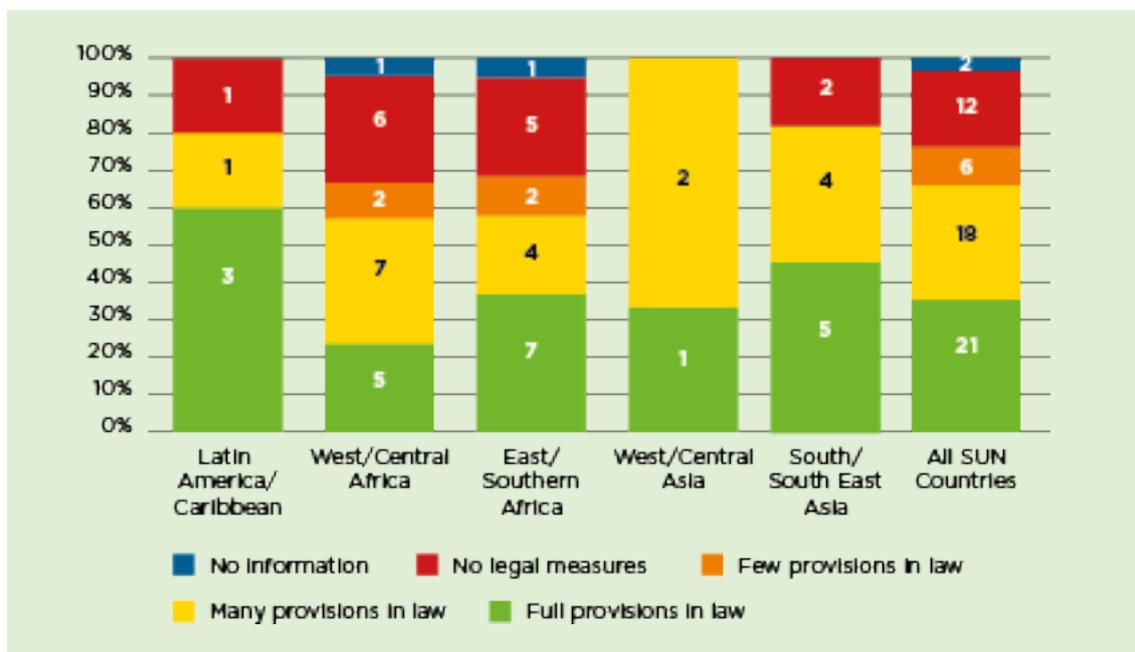
no data is available for two countries. **21 SUN Countries** have included all the Code provisions into their national regulatory framework, with some interesting trends across SUN regions and sub-regions (see figure 6).

In 2016-2017, **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Mauritania, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia** report working towards putting in place regulations on the marketing of breast-milk substitutes – with **Chad** working with parliamentarians to advocate for the adoption of the Code. **Viet Nam** has strengthened regulations and **Lao People's Democratic Republic** is working on revising the legislation, whilst **Democratic Republic of the Congo** reports needing to revise theirs.

⁵⁰ Vivero Pol, J.L. and Schuftan. (2016). No right to food and nutrition in the SDGs: mistake or success? BMJ Global Health Jun 2016, 1 (1) e000040; DOI: 10.1136/bmjgh-2016-000040. Available at: <http://gh.bmj.com/content/1/1/e000040> [accessed September 2017].

Uganda is looking for ways to ensure that the Code is implemented, as is the case for **Comoros**, **Gabon** and **Niger** – as the latter three not as yet having operationalised this key Code.

Figure 7: Legal status of Code in SUN countries by sub-region



CODE VIOLATORS IN THE SPOTLIGHT: CIVIL SOCIETY ALLIANCES ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY



All SUN Civil Society Alliances (CSAs) prioritise reporting violations of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (BMS) regularly, to concerned authorities. In 2016, **Myanmar** launched a mobile app, which can be used to report violations in real time. This allows the reporting to be done throughout the year and from all corners of the country – however, actions against offenders are yet to be seen. The **Cambodia** CSA, responding to the rapid fall in exclusive breastfeeding rates, successfully advocated for the establishment of an Oversight Board for the reporting of violations – with authority to take action. Another effort to increase awareness on the BMS code has been in the **Philippines**, through information campaigns conducted by Island Caravans to reach communities and inform them of the benefits of breastfeeding and stress that promotion of BMS a legal offence.

4. SUN Countries are working towards making work and family work – for parents and children

For genuine equality of opportunity and treatment for women and men at work, safeguarding the health of expectant and breastfeeding mothers, and protecting them from job discrimination is a precondition. Although raising a family is a cherished goal for many, pregnancy and maternity represent potentially vulnerable times for working women and their families. Expectant and breastfeeding mothers need special protection to prevent harm to them or their infants, and they need adequate time to give birth, recover, and give their children the best start, by breastfeeding. At the same time, they also require protection to ensure that they will not lose their job simply because of pregnancy or maternity leave. Such protection not only ensures a woman's equal access to employment, it also ensures the continuation of often vital income, necessary for her whole family's wellbeing.

Data on maternity protection laws is available for 56 SUN Countries (reference year 2011),⁵¹ and shows that most countries have full (24 out of 56) or partial (23 out of 56) laws in place. The ILO's Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183) gives a guaranteed 16 weeks' maternity leave and ensures female workers can return to the salary and posts they occupied before delivery.

Five SUN Countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Peru and Senegal) have ratified this Convention, with **Peru** and **Senegal** signing onto this key Convention in 2016-2017.⁵² Nine countries lack maternity protection laws, altogether.⁵³ The type of breastfeeding policies in place is available for 53 SUN countries,⁵⁴ however, the requirements differ across countries especially with respect to the number of workers. **El Salvador, Philippines, Viet Nam** and **Sri Lanka** have laws, for instance, that require all employers to provide paid breastfeeding breaks, regardless of the number of workers. 24 countries have a minimum of 14 weeks' fully-paid maternity leave, with **Philippines** extending maternity leave from 60 to 120 days (or 150 days for single mothers) in March 2017, and **Nigeria** extending their maternity leave to 18 weeks in 2016-2017.

Paternity leave also seems to be on the rise, which bodes well for ensuring children's nutrition, as too much of the burden of malnutrition is placed on the mother's shoulders. SUN Countries such as **Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Gabon, Madagascar, Mauritania,** and **Togo** now provide for up to 10 days' paternity leave, **Kenya** providing for 14 days' paid leave for fathers.

Maternity protection encapsulates 5 elements:



1. Maternity leave
2. Cash and medical benefits
3. Health protection at the workplace
4. Employment protection and non-discrimination
5. Adequate breastfeeding arrangements

⁵¹ Data source: 2015 Global Nutrition Report dataset.

⁵² The ILO. Information System on International Labour Standards, NORMLEX. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11300:0::NO::P11300_INSTRUMENT_ID:312328

⁵³ Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Uganda, Guinea-Bissau, Philippines, Yemen, Papua New Guinea, Sudan

⁵⁴ Data on entitlement to paid nursing breaks not available for the Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Liberia, Sierra Leone and South Sudan. Data on provision of nursing or childcare facilities not available for Burkina Faso, Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Sierra Leone and South Sudan.

LOOKING AT NUTRITION AT WORK IN INDONESIA: THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The SUN Business Network (SBN) in Indonesia, is led by the private sector company IndoFood. SBN Indonesia has 16 members, all of whom have pledged to develop workforce nutrition programmes.



SBN Indonesia is working with Nutrition Japan, a public-private platform involving Japanese business and supported by the Government of Japan, to pilot a workforce programme in collaboration with the Fakultas Kesehatan Masyarakat University of Indonesia, in four factories on the island of Java. The aim of the pilot is to improve maternal health and support breastfeeding for approximately 1,400 working mothers, and improving the nutrition of factory workers, through healthier lunch provisions, nutrition education, health screening and physical activity offerings. Improving workers' nutrition status not only improves their health but also improves attendance and productivity. A baseline assessment was undertaken in May 2017, where an assessment of canteen food provisions and employee health and dietary intakes were made. The programme offered healthier meal options in factories as well as employee education seminars around nutrition, health checks and physical activity classes as well as offer dedicated breastfeeding rooms for lactating mothers.

The University of Indonesia will conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the pilot, which will help demonstrate the impact of workforce nutrition programmes on workforce nutrition status. The findings from the evaluation will be used to modify the workforce nutrition programme which will then be rolled out to an estimated 40 factories across Indonesia.

Data on country legislation on salt iodisation is available for all 59 SUN countries, with a total of 56 SUN countries (or 95 per cent) having mandatory legislation.⁵⁵ Nevertheless, only nine countries⁵⁶ fulfil the criteria of adequate level of iodine in the salt and have a level of household consumption above 80 per cent. In 2017, legislation on the fortification of maize and pearl millet was passed in **Namibia**.

GIVING DECENT JOBS TO YOUTH AND PROMOTING NUTRITION AND LOCAL FOOD IN NAMIBIA

In February 2017, the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) handed over facilities of the Pearl Millet/Olute Food Research Project, launched by Nahas Angula, former Namibian Prime Minister and SUN Movement Lead Group Member, to the Community Skills Development Centre in Ondangwa, in the Oshana region. The Olute Food Research Project is about developing and modernising local food such as mahangu, beans and groundnuts, to ensure nutrition. This community centre was to build skills of young drop-outs, so they can enter skilled labour and be self-employed. Nahas Angula started the Olute Food Project when he was the Minister of Higher Education, with a view to add value to local food, ensure food security and get rid of the dependence on imports.



⁵⁵ Gabon, Pakistan and Somalia do not have legislation of iodised salt.

⁵⁶ Benin, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Uganda.

5. SUN Countries are engaging parliamentarians to champion nutrition results

2017 was a landmark year for parliamentary engagement in the SUN Movement. In January 2017, SUN Movement Lead Group member and Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) encouraged all member parliaments of the IPU, who are also members of the SUN Movement, to convene a national nutrition debate. **Bangladesh, Myanmar, Senegal and Zambia**, among others, have shared their intent to bring parliamentarians together to make nutrition a cross-party priority. **42 SUN Countries** are now leveraging the budgetary, legislative and political powers of parliamentarians – helping to cement nutrition as a national priority. They have expressed a desire to be better connected, supported by evidence-based tools, and to share their experiences across the SUN Movement. The SUN Secretariat, working with the SUN networks, will provide a platform for parliamentary learning and exchange going forward, alongside UNICEF, Alive & Thrive and the IPU.



In April, Dhaka, Bangladesh the IPU put nutrition front and centre of its General Assembly declaring nutrition a maker and maker of sustainable development during its general debate. Nutrition was also a key feature of a side event focusing on “**Breaking Down Barriers for Improved Health of Young Generations: A Multi-Sectoral Approach**”.

In June, the IPU and UNICEF, in collaboration with Alive & Thrive and the support of the National Assembly and the SUN Movement Secretariat, held a two-day sub-regional seminar in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Entitled, “Promoting maternal and child nutrition in Western and Central Africa”, the event brought together regional leaders and representatives from



over 20 nations. Around 100 parliamentarians passionately rallied behind improving nutrition in their countries and respective electorates, and requested more ways to share and learn from one another as they champion the nutrition agenda. The event culminated in the development of the “**Ouagadougou Declaration**” – a set of priority actions that each participant will recommend to their national parliaments and constituents to advance progress towards meeting global nutrition targets.

Other parliamentary gatherings took place in the margins of the World Bank Spring meetings and during the Africa Caribbean Pacific – European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Malta, where parliamentarians stressed the importance of good nutrition.

THE OUAGADOUGOU DECLARATION

To provide a compass for encouraging parliamentarians to champion nutrition, the following calls to action have been used to focus their efforts:

- *Schedule once per year, a full-fledged debate on the status of nutrition in your country;*
- *A coherent nutrition policy needs a coherent budget; the Parliament must keep oversight on this and make sure that the budget is spent in the right way;*
- *Make sure that donors, investors and stakeholders in society act in alignment with the National Nutrition Plan;*
- *Make nutrition and early childhood development a topic in elections;*
- *Nutrition is the foundation for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (including the Sustainable Development Goals);*
- *Many countries face multiple burdens of malnutrition so it would be great to build concrete partnerships with countries who are fighting obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) to share research and experience, learn and leapfrog;*
- *Make data collection and interpretation an inclusive and transparent process including the SDG Voluntary Reviews of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF);*
- *Be a champion! Members of Parliament are important role models in their constituencies, in Parliament and elsewhere, Walking your talk about nutrition.*

The road ahead

SUN Countries have made great strides in the development and review of nutrition-relevant policies. SUN Countries have embraced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the main reference for development policies and programmes at the national level.

Countries are still overcoming the complexities of cross-sectoral coordination for nutrition to complement national policy processes, with adequate planning and budgets for actions. More work is needed in to recognise that policy enforcement can be achieved only by addressing various shortcomings that fall into the responsibility of several governmental sectors. Some SUN Countries have already started to tackle this challenge by mainstreaming nutrition into sectoral policies, for ownership. Moving forward, SUN Countries will need to prioritise the adoption of policies that reduce nutritional inequities and inequalities, especially for women and girls, and work on eliminating discriminatory laws and practices.

Although, there is a strong rationale for making nutrition a top government priority and implementing an effective nutrition policy, challenges persist in breaking the traditional norm of nutrition policies being seen as a sub-sector of health that competes with other subsectors over resources. SUN Countries are focusing on raising the executive oversight of policy implementation and legal enforcement, by increasing the awareness of senior decision-makers of the scale of malnutrition problem and its social and economic consequences for this and future generations, and having policies endorsed at the highest level of government.



SUN COUNTRIES ARE ALIGNING ACTIONS AROUND COMMON RESULTS

In the SUN Movement, implementing effective actions aligned with common results means:



- Agreed common results guide nutrition stakeholders, with improved coordination and partnership behind national plans and priorities.
- A collaborative multi-sectoral approach is implemented, with impact monitored and adjusted for results at scale.
- Results are shared, change agents learn from the experience and continuous improvement paves the way for sustained transformation of people's nutrition.

For all women, men, adolescents and children to achieve optimal nutrition, the SUN Movement's Strategy and Roadmap call on all stakeholders to come together, for all actors to collaborate and rally around a common results framework (CRF), so that resources are mobilised and used effectively, in a coordinated manner. Simply put, the notion of a CRF in the SUN Movement has been shaped to facilitate this common language for actions to end malnutrition, in all its forms by 2030, everywhere. And often, the process of developing a CRF can be as important as the final product, as it facilitates the engagement of more sectors in nutrition, in a more profound way, and is key to ensure awareness is raised about everyone's role in ensuring nutrition results.

“ WHEN WRITTEN DOWN, THE COMMON RESULTS FRAMEWORK (CRF) WILL INCLUDE A TABLE OF EXPECTED RESULTS: IT WILL ALSO CONSIST OF A COSTED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, PERHAPS WITH A ROADMAP DESCRIBING THE STEPS NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION... THE DOCUMENTS THAT MAKE UP A COUNTRY'S CRF WILL BE THE COMMON POINT OF REFERENCE FOR ALL SECTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS AS THEY WORK TOGETHER FOR SCALING UP NUTRITION.⁵⁷

CRFs can take many forms. They can take the form of multi-sectoral policies, strategies, or plans. CRFs can also be dedicated programmes or frameworks that unite other planning documents. For countries in the process of developing their CRFs, multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) have been key to their development, as the MSP the ability to convene stakeholders and ministries, with defined roles and a lead.⁵⁸ A CRF has several key ingredients (see figure 8), which includes linkages with sectoral policies, strategies and plans, an agreed set of results to be achieved, an implementation plan with estimation of costs and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

⁵⁷ SUN Movement (2015). Ref 2: Assessment Guide and Overview of Progress Markers 2015. Available at: http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/REF-2_Assessment-Guide-Overview-of-Progress-Markers_2015-EN.pdf [accessed September 2017].

⁵⁸ SUN Movement (2017). SUN Country Network Meeting on implementing effective nutrition actions aligned with common results and national goals. Available at: <http://scalingupnutrition.org/sun-countries/sun-country-network-meetings/26th-sun-country-network-meeting/> [accessed August 2017].

PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

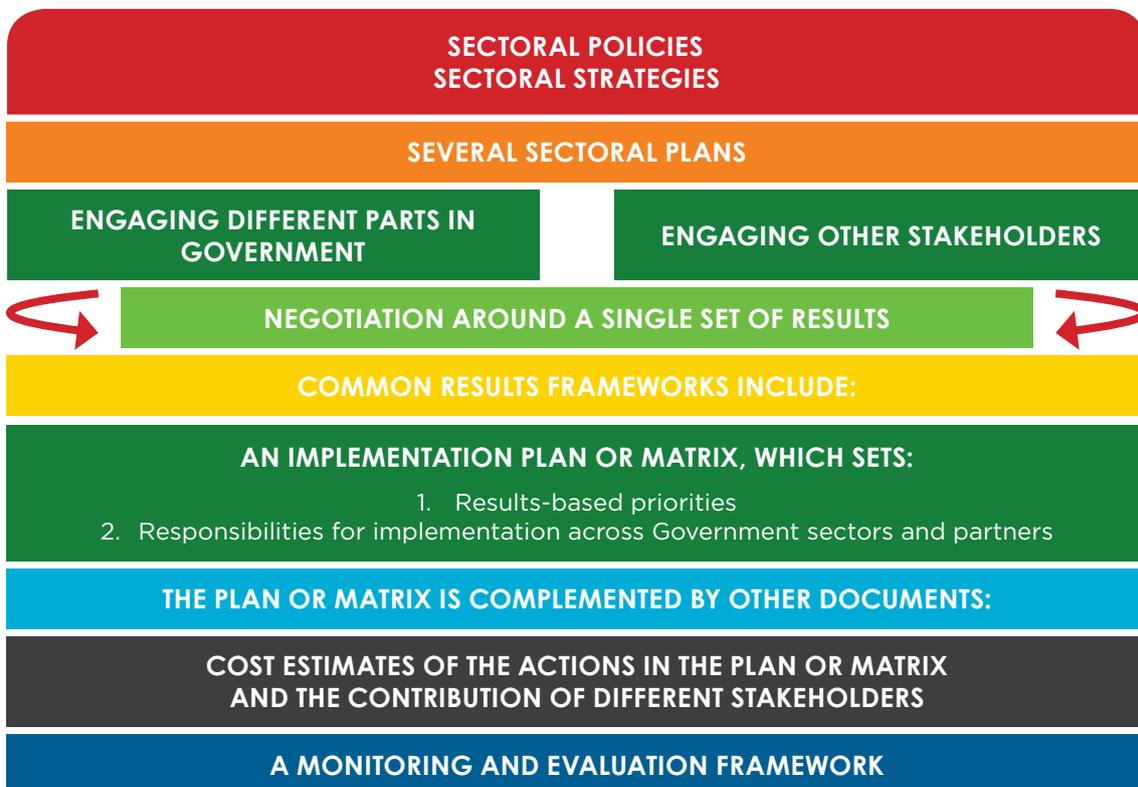
HOW ARE COMMON RESULTS DETERMINED AND ACTED ON ACROSS THE SUN MOVEMENT?

1. SUN Countries are stock-taking policies and programmes and ensuring actions are aligned;
2. SUN Countries are agreeing on the importance of common nutrition goals and paving the way to meet them;
3. SUN Countries are organising and implementing priority actions at local and national levels;
4. SUN Countries' use of information systems to monitor actions is stronger in the first countries to join SUN.

More than half of SUN Countries report they are closer in the development – and execution – of their CRFs in 2016-2017 than ever before. In 2016-2017, **37 SUN Countries** have a national CRF in place while **13** more⁵⁹ are in the process of developing theirs, including two of the most recent SUN Countries (**Gabon** and **Papua New Guinea**). At least **10** countries⁶⁰ are developing their 'second generation' CRFs and one SUN Country is in the process of finalising its third multi-sectoral plan (**Madagascar**). 14 CRFs include between two and four sectors, while seven encompass more than 10. **24** have a monitoring and evaluation framework, and **5** are under development. **30** CRFs are fully costed – **12** more than in 2015-2016, with a further 8 in the process of being costed. **Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania,** and **Senegal** have, in 2016-2017, fully

completed this area of work.

Figure 8: Common results frameworks – key ingredients



⁵⁹ Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Mauritania, Lesotho, Liberia, Kenya, Gabon, DRC, Chad, Cameroon.

⁶⁰ Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Sri Lanka, the Gambia, Viet Nam, Zambia.

The reporting period has also seen an increase in hands-on tools to facilitate the creation, refinement and execute CRFs, across the Movement, such as the first-ever checklist for ‘good’ quality national nutrition plans, launched by the UN Network for SUN and Secretariat in January 2017. **Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad** and **Tanzania** have already made use of this checklist, in the process of developing and assessing their CRFs.

1. SUN Countries are stock-taking policies and programmes and ensuring actions are aligned

ALIGNMENT IN TAJIKISTAN: ENSURING NUTRITION AND ATTAINMENT OF THE SDGs AT THE SAME TIME

In **Tajikistan**, the first ever National Nutrition Forum took place in July 2016. The two-day Forum aimed at sharing the knowledge and experience around nutrition and its linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Tajik National Development Strategy 2030. As a result of continuous advocacy, food security and nutrition have been included in the priorities of the new National Development Strategy (NDS) 2030 and Mid-term Development Strategy (MTDS) 2020.



Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Senegal and **Tanzania** today have fully completed this important step, whilst **9 SUN Countries** have reported progress⁶¹ within the reporting period. However, as many SUN Countries report having ‘almost’ achieved a stock-taking of policies and programmes, whilst others have seen some alignment of existing actions, collective progress across SUN Countries in the past year has been limited, but stable.

2. SUN Countries are agreeing on the importance of common nutrition goals and paving the way to meet them

To meet nutrition goals, creating a set of common targets is essential. These targets must be SMART (specific, measurable, accountable, realistic and timebound). Many SUN Countries feel that global points of reference, such as the 2030 Agenda, the 2025 Global Nutrition Targets, and the WHO global NCD monitoring framework, further facilitate their work.

There are two factors seen by SUN Countries as critical: political will to ensure nutrition is at the top of the agenda, and, the time and effort put in to reach consensus amongst sectors and actors on common country ambitions. These target-setting exercises involve multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder consultations, with the participation of nutrition councils, technical experts and committees. To protect the CRF as a nonpartisan agenda, **Mali, Congo,** and **Senegal,** have involved members of parliament in the process of strategy and action plan development.

Furthermore, sustaining the commitment to develop and implement the CRF – by both government and people – is needed for progress. The high staff turn-over and leadership in line ministries and institutions can lead to changes in the implementation and priority placed on a nutrition policy and programme. Some SUN Countries have stressed that the integration of the CRF into the National Development Plan is essential to ensure the sustained implementation of actions.

Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Myanmar, Tanzania, Guatemala and **Senegal** have put in place key CRF components, such as a costed operational planning document and monitoring and evaluation frameworks – with Côte d'Ivoire and Tanzania having fully completed this work in 2016-2017. However, some SUN Countries find setting up these monitoring and evaluation systems and accountability mechanisms challenging.

⁶¹ Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and Senegal.

Putting the checklist to use: Assessing and improving the quality of the multi-sectoral nutrition plan in Burkina Faso

BURKINA FASO IS ONE OF FIVE SUN COUNTRIES WHO HAVE REPORTED A DECREASE IN STUNTING IN 2016-2017.

While setting up their CRF for nutrition, Burkina Faso adopted a multi-sectoral, participatory approach to identify and form national nutrition targets. This process was followed by specific workshops for each sector to further refine CRF interventions per sector, in a bid to help to achieve agreed national nutrition targets. This key exercise, using the checklist for 'good' quality national nutrition plans, has been very useful to both foster dialogue and improve the quality of the national nutrition plan – a win-win for Burkina Faso.

Malnutrition is a real public health and development concern in Burkina Faso, with a 27.3% stunting prevalence in 2016. After joining the SUN Movement in July 2011, Burkina Faso revised the national nutrition policy, as per the multi-sectoral approach of the Movement in the development of a new multi-sectoral nutrition plan (NMHS) for 2017-2020. Ensuring quality national nutrition plans is a key dimension for real nutrition impact, at scale.

With this in mind, Burkina Faso used the checklist during the formulation phase of this plan in February and March 2017. Concretely, a review looking at strengths and weaknesses of the draft national nutrition plan was undertaken by the multi-sectoral technical planning committee, especially within the areas of: (1) situational analysis and reviews of policies and programmes; (2) stakeholder participation and political engagement processes; (3) costs; (4) mechanisms for implementation; (5) follow-up mechanisms, with criteria such as SMART nutrition targets and governance, accountability, management and coordination mechanisms.

Subsequently, this committee, under the lead of the SUN focal point, the Director of Health at the Ministry of Health, held working sessions to find consensus and make a common single evaluation for each criterion on the draft nutrition plan. This exercise showed that most of elements that make a good quality national nutrition plan were taken into account in the first draft, but the checklist made it possible to improve the final iteration of this plan. Areas in which the plan was strengthened, was in alignment with the National Economic and Social Development Plan, the SUN Movement theory of change, and the SUN Movement's multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach, and risk management.



3. SUN Countries are organising and implementing priority actions at local and national levels

Ethiopia has a strategy with a multi-sectoral nutrition scorecard, available at the district, regional, and national levels, which enables the comparison of performance inter-regionally, and across districts. **Zambia's** recently developed multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder CRF monitoring and evaluation framework will be rolled-out in selected districts.

The in-country capacity to implement actions in a coordinated way – centrally, and in districts – per the CRF, has increased across the Movement in 2016-2017, with **Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Senegal** and **Guatemala** reporting progress. In **Cameroon**, the revision of the nutrition policy in 2015 to reflect new evidence that scaling up interventions accelerate the reduction of malnutrition, made it possible to create an operational plan – and a CRF. These plans will be validated and submitted for Cabinet approval in September. Members of the multi-stakeholder platform in **Kyrgyzstan** have participated in an online consultation on food security and nutrition programme in action, to guide more efficient work and improve human impact.

4. SUN Countries' use of information systems to monitor results is stronger in the first countries to join SUN

It has been said that “an investment in knowledge pays the best interest”. Reliable monitoring of progress, evaluation of outcomes and demonstration of results are core functions for countries in the SUN Movement. Information systems are used to monitor the implementation of priority actions for improved nutrition. National information systems for nutrition are essential for assessing the status quo; measuring changes in the nutrition of women, men and their families; tracking progress of actions taken; and prioritising efforts toward improving nutrition. An accurate assessment of the nutrition situation allows governments and their development partners to make evidence-based nutrition policy and programme development decisions. Although SUN Countries have reported the same level of use

of information systems in 2015-2016, more discussions on coordinating service delivery and harmonised targeting is ongoing. **7** countries have reported progress in this area,⁶² while **4** have reported a decline (Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Tanzania).

“ IT IS MY SINGULAR BELIEF THAT EVERY SECTOR MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY OF FOOD AND NUTRITION WITH VERY CLEAR INDICATORS MONITORED AND EVALUATED ANNUALLY.

– Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD and SUN Movement Lead Group member

⁶² Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Senegal.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: NATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION



With one of the highest prevalence of stunting in under-five girls and boys in the world, **Guatemala** has made major strides in ensuring that the fight against hunger and undernutrition is placed at the highest level of the political agenda. In 2012, Guatemala signed the Zero Hunger Pact (PPHO), which marked the beginning of various governments stepping up the institutionalisation of food and nutrition security, putting in place new institutions and policies aimed at improving commitment across ministries and sectors, resulting in high investments in the national information system for nutrition. In 2016, Guatemala updated its common results framework based on the lessons learned from implementation of the Zero Hunger Pact Plan, which influenced the design of the 2016-2020 National Strategy for the Prevention of Chronic Malnutrition (ENPDC).

The Food and Nutrition Security National Information System (SIINSAN), operates as a repository and source of invaluable information that serves as a basis for increased awareness of the actual levels of service delivery, enhances accountability of the health posts, and helps to identify what issues need to be addressed in order to achieve goals set.

The road ahead

Although an established CRF has many benefits when in place, SUN Countries have encountered various bottlenecks that need to be overcome to agree and put into practice joint outcomes for improved nutrition.

Despite the fact that nutrition is a multi-sectoral endeavour and, hence, everybody's business, can also mean it is not prioritised and becomes nobody's business. This often arises from a lack of capacity and technical expertise on nutrition in the non-traditional sectors, with very few well-informed nutrition-focused personnel at the departmental level to drive multi-sectoral cooperation for nutrition. To this end, key SUN Movement focus must be on strengthening in-country capacity, for better impact. Calling on nutrition champions, including, for instance, parliamentarians in strategic advocacy for ownership and results, could be scaled up to sustain this momentum.

To help build resilience amongst all SUN Countries, but in particularly those facing fragility or conflict, CRFs serve an important purpose in bringing emergency and 'bread and butter' interventions. A CRF must identify the emergency responses to be framed in a broader development agenda and not be executed as a siloed intervention. This allows governments to anticipate crises and enables them to be prepared for a post-conflict and resilience-building context.

More can be done to learn how countries have addressed financing gaps for common results. With reduced commitment from sectors, adequate resources do not get allocated for the implementation of prioritised activities. Dwindling resources for nutrition-related CRFs in humanitarian contexts is also a stark reality, especially for those facing recurring crises.

SUN COUNTRIES ARE TRACKING FINANCES AND MOBILISING RESOURCES

In the SUN Movement, effectively using and significantly increasing financial resources for nutrition means:



- Spending on nutrition across sectors and actors is transparently tracked and assessed, to make existing money aligned behind nutrition goals and mobilise new money for nutrition.
- National governments, donors, innovative financing mechanisms, businesses, and consumers act in “global solidarity” to collectively accelerate progress.

“FOR MANY PEOPLE, THE ETHICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ARGUMENTS FOR IMPROVING NUTRITION ... ARE REASON ENOUGH FOR ACTION. BUT THERE ARE ALSO STRONG ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS FOR INVESTING IN NUTRITION.”⁶⁴

In 2016-2017, SUN Countries have been striving to demonstrate a better use of financial data, through improved advocacy and planning – to entice mobilising domestic and external resources and investments in nutrition. They do this by regularly and transparently tracking nutrition budget allocations against multi-sectoral nutrition plans, when available. The 2016 Investment Framework for Nutrition⁶⁴ – the first of its

kind – estimated that scaling up nutrition-specific interventions needed to meet the global targets for stunting, anaemia in women, exclusive breastfeeding and treatment of severe wasting everywhere, will cost USD 7 billion annually over the next 10 years. Today only USD 3.9 billion is spent on nutrition each year. **Altogether – by putting our money where our mouth is and investing to reach these targets – at least 3.7 million child deaths can be averted.**

Financial tracking, analysing, and monitoring the allocation and spending of resources is key to reach SUN Movement’s strategic objectives and to attain the SDGs. The availability of robust finance data is critical for policy-makers – as it enables them to prioritise, guide programme planning, monitor, and evaluate the implementation and results of any given policy. Tracking public investments also increases accountability and advocacy opportunities for good nutrition.

⁶³ The World Bank Group (2006). Repositioning Nutrition as Central to Development. A Strategy for Large-Scale Action. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/7409> [accessed September 2017].

⁶⁴ World Bank Group (2016). An Investment Framework for Nutrition: Reaching the Global Targets for Stunting, Anemia, Breastfeeding and Wasting. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/26069;jsessionid=7BAB7658BC3085AF9F51D203ACBCEA84> [accessed July 2017].

PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

How are SUN Countries tracking finances and mobilising resources?

1. SUN Countries are slowly but surely increasing investments in both nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific programmes;
2. SUN Countries are finding funding gaps, with a view to filling them to ensure better nutrition for all;
3. SUN Countries are reaping benefits of tracking nutrition funding, including the alignment of sectors and programmes and more resources;
4. SUN Countries are ensuring reliable and long-term nutrition investments by creating resource mobilisation strategies.

47 SUN Countries – or almost 80 per cent – are seeing progress in their ability to track finances and mobilise resources for nutrition. **Zambia**, for example, has reported six ministries now being able to develop, cost, and operationalise their respective workplans at the national level. **13 SUN countries** have reported an increase in capacities to track and transparently account for spending.⁶⁵ Countries such as **Côte d'Ivoire** have increased their 'score' after having integrated nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific actions in their public investment programme, to benefit from better financial tracking mechanisms. **18 SUN Countries** have increased their ability to address shortfalls and align resources.⁶⁶ In **Kyrgyzstan**, the State budget reports on expenditures and donors track their expenses in the framework of their programmes

and agreements with the Government. **17 SUN Countries** report increasing their ability to turn pledges into disbursements. **5 SUN Countries** saw a decline in the reporting period, to this end.⁶⁷ **18 SUN Countries** have increased their ability to consistently predict multi-year funding.⁶⁸ In **Nepal**, the revised Suaahara-II programme is an example of sustaining and building on results already achieved, as the first phase of the programme reached more than 600,000 households with its integrated nutrition programming.

The average estimated nutrition budget allocation across **37 SUN Countries** is at **5.9 per cent of general government expenditure**, although nutrition-specific spending is at **less than 0.05 per cent**. SUN Government Focal Points and SUN Networks are working hard to use the evidence gathered through budget analysis exercises to advocate for more and better nutrition-focused spending.

⁶⁵ This is based on analysis of 42 SUN Countries.

⁶⁶ This is based on analysis of 41 SUN Countries.

⁶⁷ This is based on analysis of 40 SUN Countries.

⁶⁸ This is based on analysis of 39 SUN Countries.

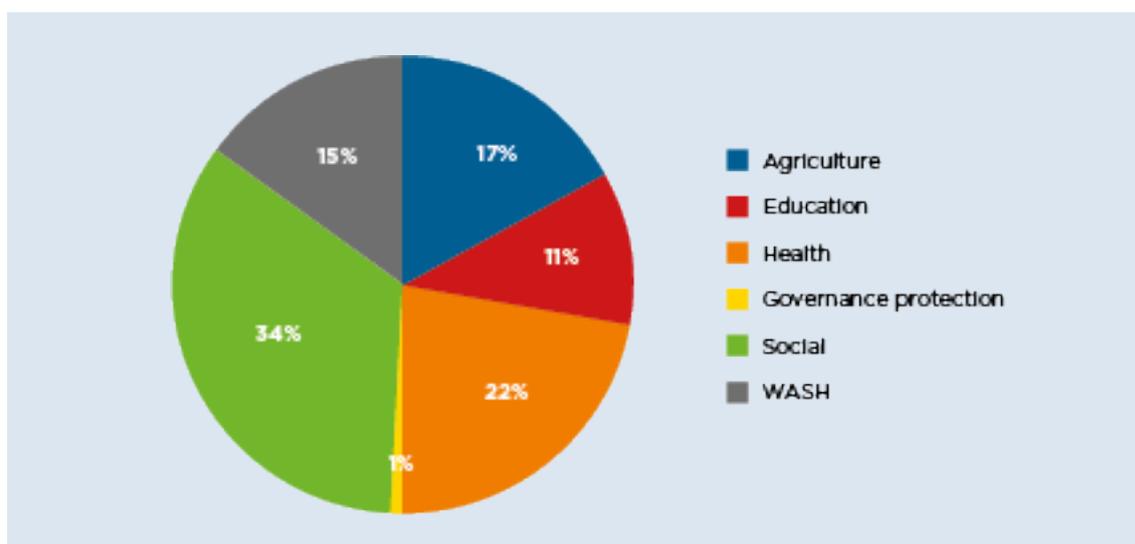
1. SUN Countries are slowly but surely increasing investments in both nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific programmes

On average, 2016-2017 allocations for nutrition-sensitive programmes in **Bangladesh, Chad, Comoros, Ghana, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Madagascar, Nepal, Philippines** and **Zambia** (based on 25 countries) has increased by 4 per cent. Allocations for nutrition-specific programmes (based on 21 countries) in **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Nepal, Philippines** and **Zambia** have increased by 29 per cent, with Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mauritania and Nepal having seen particularly large increases in spending on nutrition-specific programmes in the reporting period.

“**MOBILISING THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS AGAINST MALNUTRITION WILL REQUIRE THAT DONORS, COUNTRIES, INNOVATIVE FINANCING MECHANISMS, BUSINESSES, AND CONSUMERS ACT IN SOLIDARITY. IN THE GLOBAL SOLIDARITY SCENARIO—WHERE NUTRITION COMMITMENTS ARE MADE AND ALL ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ARE MOBILISED THROUGH COORDINATED GLOBAL EFFORT—DONOR SPENDING SCALES UP RAPIDLY DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, WHILE DOMESTIC SPENDING STEADILY GROWS. THEN, FROM 2020 TO 2025, DOMESTIC FINANCING ACCELERATES, AND DONORS BEGIN TO SCALE BACK IN SUPPORT OF COUNTRY OWNERSHIP OVER NUTRITION PROGRAMMING.**”⁶⁹

Within nutrition-sensitive programmes, the highest share is allocated to social protection, health, and agriculture, in particular. The Government of **Zimbabwe** has, in 2017, prioritised investing in the agriculture sector by allocating USD 291.6 million for key food security activities, including strategic grain reserve, input schemes and supportive personnel. This allocation, together with other agriculture-related expenditures incurred amounting to USD 148.8 in 2016, has now been translated into a total of USD 440.4 total in agriculture support for 2016-2017 (or a little more than 10 per cent of the national budget). **Peru** has reported an increase in the budget allocation of nutrition-related activities, for the year 2017. Although there has been a gradual decrease in external investments, this has also coincided with an increase in state investment of nutrition and anaemia-specific programmes. **El Salvador** has reported an increase in food security and nutrition-related investments throughout the last years, which has enabled the country to identify financial gaps to better manage government resources and mobilise additional external investments.

Figure 9: Distribution of nutrition-sensitive allocations across sectors



⁶⁹ Investing in nutrition dashboard. Available at: <http://www.investinnutrition.org/dashboards/global> [accessed August 2017].

LEARNING MORE ABOUT PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT: BUDGET ADVOCACY IN PAKISTAN

Recognising the important roles that parliamentarians can play in increasing budgetary allocations for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, the SUN Civil Society Alliance (CSA) in Pakistan has focused efforts on engaging parliamentarians as key nutrition champions. Irshad Danish, the founding coordinator of the CSA and the SUN Academia and Research Network in Pakistan (SUNAR, Pak) explained that the CSA began its work by reaching out to parliamentarians who had a history of working on different social and development issues. They were encouraged to see not only a great deal of interest from female parliamentarians at both national and provincial levels, but also that both ruling and opposition MPs were ready to work together to address issue of malnutrition despite their political differences.

The CSA did their homework - they studied each party's manifesto and then made sure to highlight how their political ambitions were easily related to and complimented by the country's development goals particularly those related to health and nutrition. The CSA then organised sensitisation sessions of MPs across the country. During their engagement with parliamentarians, they provided key statistics and updates on the legal situation and policy environment. This led to parliamentarians using official procedures and protocols of national and provincial assemblies to call attention to and instigate dialogue on nutrition. Meetings with members of relevant Parliamentary Standing Committees also helped to promote accountability through parliamentary platforms. The CSA is also developing policy briefs and provincial scorecards to aid MPs champion nutrition during policy and planning activities.



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2. SUN Countries are finding funding gaps, with a view to filling them to ensure better nutrition for all

Finding shortfalls in the capital needed to fund nutrition activities is perhaps more important now than ever. In August 2016, **Sudan** launched an investment case to scale up the coverage of suggested nutrition interventions to 90 per cent. This was costed at an average of USD 524 million USD per year, of which, estimates of current government contributions were at USD 83 million USD per year, highlighting a gap of USD 324 million to scale up nutrition, once other partners had pledged their commitments. In 2016-20, the financial tracking exercise in **Kyrgyzstan** has led to the estimation of a financial gap of 44.7 per cent within the existing costed Food Security and Nutrition programme (2014-17). The Government of **Ethiopia** continues to work towards fulfilling their commitment to allocate domestic financing of USD 15 million per year towards nutrition until 2020. Some SUN Countries are also zooming in on certain sectors and interventions. In **Cambodia**, for example, the Government has found ways of bridging this shortfall by allocating USD 2.2 million towards salt iodisation promotion and the purchase of potassium iodate and ready-to-use therapeutic food, which was previously provided by partners.

FINANCING NUTRITION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE: INCREASING NATIONAL INVESTMENTS TO ACCESS EXTERNAL RESOURCES

On 7 June 2013, Côte d'Ivoire joined the SUN Movement to show its commitment to ending all forms of malnutrition. In 2016, the costs of putting into action its multi-sectoral plan for nutrition 2016-2020 (PNMN), which was developed by its multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform (MSP), were estimated to be at USD 470 million.

With a financial commitment of about 15 per cent of the overall costs of the Plan by the Government, partners are stepping up to fill the remaining funding gap.

This Plan has now been aligned with the National Development Plan 2016-2020, and nutrition has been integrated into the public investment programme. This has ensured a transfer of funds towards the implementation of the Plan, whilst also reaping the benefits of advanced monitoring mechanisms for disbursements. By ensuring complementarity between the Nutrition Plan and the Development Plan, the donor community had an opportunity to rally behind nutrition goals, as part of its overall platform development cooperation support.

The country's aid management platform has been key to enhance transparency and sharing of knowledge on donor contributions towards malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire. Although translating the pledges into actual disbursements remains a challenge, and there are still some funding gaps, lessons learned from Côte d'Ivoire include that, with the right will to ensure domestic funding, eventually external funding will follow suit. Furthermore, this is far more likely to be the case where programmes are aligned with national development priorities.

3. SUN Countries are reaping benefits of tracking nutrition funding, including the alignment of sectors and programmes and more resources

The SUN Movement budget analysis exercise, which took place in 2015-2016, have had a range of benefits in SUN Countries. In a bid to achieve the SUN Movement's Strategic Objective four 'effectively using and significantly increasing financial resources for nutrition', 47 SUN Countries have undertaken the budget analysis exercise, comprising 3 key steps, and have analysed their government budgets in 2016-2017. Data is available for 41 SUN countries, and 22 SUN Countries have undertaken this analysis for a second time (in 2015 and 2016). The 2017 budget analysis exercise is still ongoing. Furthermore, with the third round of data collection currently underway, the budget analysis exercise is less about financial tracking and more about showing how countries are investing and assisting them in increasing their resources, or spending more wisely. SUN countries who undertook the budget tracking analysis at least twice believe that this exercise provides a very useful entry point for raising awareness among relevant sectors and stakeholders of the value of addressing malnutrition.

Specifically, the budget analysis data helps:

- Map alignment of planned and budgeted interventions;
- Monitor performance and expenditures of implemented interventions;
- Map alignment of budgeted programmes' objectives against drivers of malnutrition (in the case of nutrition-sensitive budget allocations);
- Advocate for:
 - Scaling up implementation and mobilising resources;
 - Improving coordination and targeting of programmes (both geographically and population-wise);
 - Integrating nutrition high-impact interventions in selected programmes.

Beyond tracking existing allocations for nutrition, the budget analysis exercise has helped countries to engage with potential sectors implementing nutrition-sensitive programmes. **Tajikistan's** existing programme was focusing on nutrition-specific interventions, with the Ministry of Health as the implementing agency. Budget analysis unearthed the potential of engaging with other nutrition-sensitive sectors. Tajikistan envisages a resource mobilisation strategy, using data obtained from the budget tracking exercise.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT NUTRITION INVESTMENTS IN SUN COUNTRIES?

In 2017, the SUN Movement Secretariat has compiled Nutrition Investment Snapshots for 35 SUN Countries and the Indian State of Maharashtra that look at trends in nutrition-relevant programmes and activities.

Go to: <http://scalingupnutrition.org/share-learn/planning-and-implementation/investing-in-nutrition/>

This budget tracking exercise has also been useful to engage policy and programme managers in understanding the biggest funding drivers with potential nutrition-sensitive programmes, and has triggered a thought process on how to turn the needle on malnutrition across the SUN Movement. For instance, **Pakistan's** budget analysis exercise has revealed that the Benazir Income Support Programme (on social safety nets), with budget allocations of approximately USD 1 billion and a reach of around 5.4 million beneficiaries, could play a critical role in reducing stunting, wasting and food insecurity, if tailored to nutrition outcomes.

Budget analysis has also reaped benefits for nutrition programmes, with **Ethiopia, Nepal** and **Philippines** developing their 'second generation' multi-sectoral nutrition programmes, with the inclusion of additional interventions, especially those that are nutrition-sensitive. In these SUN Countries, more resources, have been put in towards the implementation of these plans by the public sector, (on-budget allocations).

PASSING THE BATON IN ETHIOPIA: INCREASING DOMESTIC NUTRITION-SENSITIVE RESOURCES FOR LASTING CHANGE

Child malnutrition has decreased by 20 per cent in 16 years, showing the commitment by the Government of Ethiopia to ensure that fighting malnutrition is a key priority. This is also demonstrated by the Seqota Declaration to end child undernutrition by 2030, actions and targets set in the National Nutrition Program 2016-2020 (NNPII) – a multi-sectoral strategy using a lifecycle approach to improving maternal and child nutrition and the stewardship of the National Nutrition Coordinating Body.

Information on past and current investments in nutrition is critical to scale-up these interventions, assess the resource gap, and set financial targets to be achieved jointly by stakeholders. However, data on resources is not readily available across partners.

Some key lessons from Ethiopia's successful journey in the fight against malnutrition include ensuring investment into systems strengthening and capacity-building so that routine nutrition resource tracking across sectors is conducted through public systems. Furthermore, promoting sustainable, on-budget financing options for nutrition with monitoring mechanisms to ensure that funds are used for priority interventions is key for lasting human impact.

Costing for the NNPII has been conducted, with the total budget required for implementing the programme over the next 5 years is estimated to be USD 1.1 billion, out of this the Government is contributing 45 per cent (or USD 515,690,757), with donors putting in 17 per cent (or USD 198,116,469). With a budget gap of almost 40 per cent, the results of the NNPII depends upon filling this gap, for Ethiopia to make further gains in the fight against malnutrition.



ETHIOPIA IS ONE OF FIVE SUN COUNTRIES WHO HAVE REPORTED A DECREASE IN STUNTING IN 2016-2017.

4. SUN Countries are ensuring reliable and long-term nutrition investments by creating resource mobilisation strategies

Resource mobilisation entails all activities involved in securing new and additional resources for nutrition, but also involves making better use of, and maximising, existing resources. The geographic and programmatic scale up envisaged across the SUN Movement demands a significant increase in investments. Countries including **Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Philippines** are developing their resource mobilisation strategies.

Countries such as **Viet Nam**, face challenges in mobilising resource because of absence of a resource mobilisation strategy. Countries in fragile and protracted crisis are struggling with ensuring adequate finances for the longer-term development programmes, as humanitarian and life-saving interventions are main funding drawers.

Calls for nutrition investments continue to grow

At the ground-breaking **Human Capital Summit** held during the 2016 World Bank Annual Meetings, the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, and Finance and Economic Ministers of Cameroon, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Pakistan, Senegal, and Tanzania pledged to improve nutrition, health and education programmes for young children to dramatically reduce childhood stunting and equip tens of millions of young girls and boys with the abilities they need to succeed in a fast-changing world.

The road ahead

The road ahead for SUN Countries heavily depends on ensuring political commitment to sustain and increase resources for nutrition.

To better inform scaling up needs, the data gap needs to be bridged – in both financial and programmatic areas. Considering the contributions that nutrition-sensitive programmes play to ending malnutrition, a key area of focus for the Movement ensure that national and donor investments in social programmes become increasingly more nutrition driven. Countries have also shown that having resource mobilisation strategies in place help spur long-term and reliable investments. Ensuring more of these strategies are put in place, will be key to securing the finances needed for SUN member countries to eliminate malnutrition.



2.4 THE SUN MOVEMENT'S UNIQUE ADDED VALUE

SUN Movement nutrition champions: Leading from where they stand

The SUN Movement is a powerful example of how working together can lead to lasting results and human impact. Led by governments and supported by multiple stakeholders – the SUN Movement has inspired unprecedented political will to improve the nutrition status of everyone, everywhere. Behind the scenes, nutrition champions are making sure that inspiration translates into impact for those who need it the most.

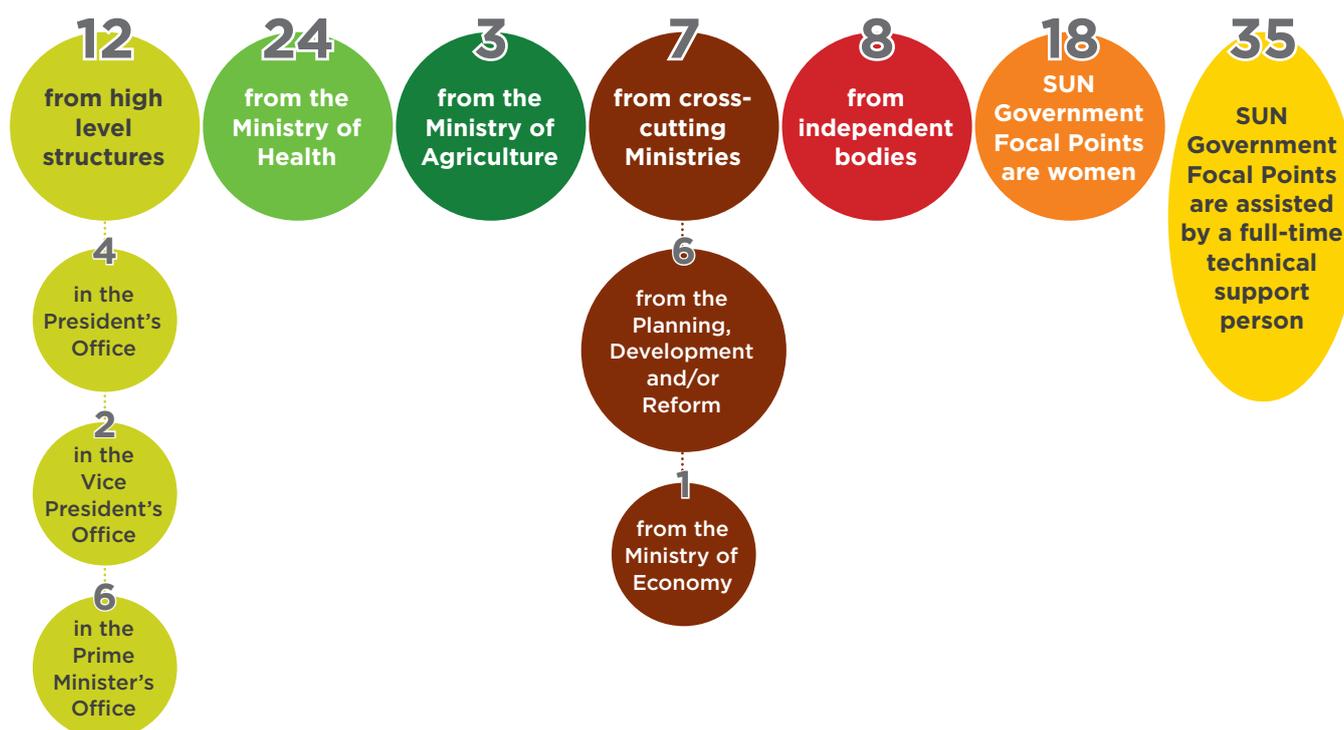
Nutrition changemakers in SUN Countries, representing sectors such as agriculture, health, education, water and sanitation, women's empowerment and others, come together to tackle the multiple forms of malnutrition and build an enabling political and environment – to ensure good nutrition. They change their individual and institutional behaviours – to achieve common nutrition results. Finance and resources are mobilised and the coverage of locally-relevant nutrition-specific actions and nutrition-sensitive approaches are scaled up. By working together, and aligning their actions, they can achieve results far greater than what can be achieved alone.

52 SUN Government Focal Points – champions themselves – have convened these diverse agents of change from UN agencies, civil society, donors, business, academia, the media and parliament – to achieve national nutrition goals. The SUN Government Focal Points hail from sectors such as health, agriculture, planning and economy – and their efforts to unite their national nutrition communities are why the SUN Movement thrives.

“ IN MY POSITION, I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY, AND I MUST. BEFORE I GO TO BED, I ASK MYSELF, WHAT DID I DO TO CHAMPION NUTRITION TODAY? WHO DID I TALK TO ABOUT GOOD NUTRITION? ”

– José Pacheco, Minister of Agriculture, Mozambique

WHO ARE THE SUN MOVEMENT FOCAL POINTS IN 2016-2017?



“ I AM A BREASTFEEDING AND NUTRITION CHAMPION PASSIONATE ABOUT MATERNAL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD NUTRITION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF THE CHILD. I FEEL THAT A LOT HAS BEEN DONE ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL BUT UNFORTUNATELY SOMETIMES THIS INFORMATION DOES NOT TRICKLE DOWN TO THE MAN AND WOMAN ON THE STREET.

– Esther Kimani, Kenya

25 SUN Countries have officially appointed high-level nutrition champions. Champions often fall into three categories: decision-makers, influencers and clients. Champions work at high-levels, mid-levels and on the ground. While some individuals are working within their personal capacities or professions, others are contributing to broader governmental efforts to champion nutrition.

Nutrition leadership is proving invaluable for sustaining political commitment to nutrition amongst many of the countries. Leadership in nutrition can be fostered and built overtime and it has made the difference in many SUN Countries.

“ WE CAN ALL BE, AND WE SHOULD ALL BE, NUTRITION CHAMPIONS IN OUR OWN RIGHT, AND, BY LEADING FROM WHERE WE ARE, WE CAN MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MANY.

– Gerda Verburg, SUN Movement coordinator



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Announcing the Scaling Up Nutrition Champion Awards!

The 2017 SUN Movement Global Gathering is an ideal moment for recognising these nutrition champions' efforts and supporting them to keep banging the nutrition drum. **This year:** The first-ever Scaling Up Nutrition Champion Awards will be given to women and men who have made an outstanding contribution towards:

1. **Bringing people together for nutrition**

Nominees in this category will be assessed on their achievements in increasing the political salience of nutrition and successes in building coalitions involving new and diverse stakeholders.

2. **Nutrition policy impact**

Nominees in this category will be assessed on their achievements in advancing pro-nutrition policies, laws and legislation, as well as generating widespread awareness about good nutrition.

3. **Supporting nutrition results**

Nominees in this category will be assessed on their achievements in fostering alignment amongst stakeholders, for enhanced impact at national, regional or community level to reach those directly affected by malnutrition, as well as innovations in multi-sectoral programming.

4. **Increasing finance for nutrition**

Nominees in this category will be assessed in relation to their contributions in helping to mobilise new national financial resources for nutrition and efforts to helping to maximise the effectiveness of current spending on nutrition.

Want to learn more? Go to: www.scalingupnutrition.org.

SUN Countries are sharing and learning how to fight malnutrition, across sectors, from one another

In the reporting period, the SUN Country Network – comprising SUN Government Focal Points and multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) – convened thrice during SUN Country Network meetings, which provide an opportunity to discuss each other's progress, to analyse common challenges and to share the lessons learnt in the continued efforts to address malnutrition and ensure lasting human impact. In 2016-2017, SUN Countries shared good practices and challenges in aligning multiple stakeholders behind national nutrition priorities, they examined how to coordinate the efforts of actors along the data value chain for efficient and effective nutrition information systems, and they reviewed the effective implementation of nutrition actions, aligned with common results and national goals. A series of meetings were also held to support Latin American, Southern African and Eastern African countries as they deal with the major threats posed by El Niño and increasing food insecurity.

Coming together virtually



SUCCESSSES, LESSONS AND CHALLENGES IN ALIGNING MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS BEHIND NATIONAL NUTRITION PRIORITIES

Date: 5-9 September 2016

Participants: 374 people

Countries: 51 Countries and the Indian States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh



Key takeaways:

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) present an excellent opportunity to reinforce alignment of stakeholders' efforts;
- To articulate government needs, creating a common vision of what a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition is, and ensuring that there is an authority or mechanism to guide, put into practice and sustain this approach, is critical;
- Coordination mechanisms at the sub-national level are key to the alignment of stakeholders and in coordinating work in each region or district for improved results;
- Adequate funding is key to support nutrition governance and coordinating structures;
- Overcoming sectoral and individual ways of working remains a key challenge across the SUN Movement.



INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION

Date: 12-16 December 2016

Participants: 229 people

Countries: 35 Countries and the Indian States of Jharkhand and Maharashtra

Key takeaways:

- Nutrition targets based on indicators such as the WHA global nutrition and nutrition-relevant non-communicable disease (NCD) targets need to be included in the planning stage - to agree on one common monitoring and evaluation framework;
- Stakeholder contributions need to be mapped to harmonise data and information management;
- Building capacity at the grassroots level to use automated systems can improve the quality of data and information collection and a coordinated implementation of surveys;
- Taking advantage of technology and tools available to facilitate data management - from collection to visualisation - can help spread the word about findings;
- Having a recognised lead agency that can tap into the expertise and capacity of different actors along the data value chain, helps the development of a functioning system with a central repository that is accessible to all;
- Continuous engagement in communities of practice on data and accountability initiatives to share and learn the knowledge and know-how around data gaps is encouraged across the SUN Movement.



IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE NUTRITION ACTIONS ALIGNED WITH COMMON RESULTS AND NATIONAL GOALS

Date: 13-23 March 2017

Participants: 312 people

Countries: 51 SUN Countries and the Indian States of Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh

Key takeaways:

- The added value of a common results framework to guide nutrition planning in the country is to facilitate the coordination of efforts and resources for joint nutrition actions;
- Sustaining the government's and people's commitment to the CRF is essential for delivering continued results;
- The CRF can be an effective tool to monitor nutrition-relevant programme implementation across sectors and to hold all relevant actors mutually accountable;
- Having operational plans and communication strategies seem to improve the way SUN Countries work together, for common results.

SPECIAL MEETING WITH SUN GOVERNMENT FOCAL POINTS ON INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SUN MOVEMENT COUNTRY NETWORK MEETINGS

Meeting Date: 1 -22 June 2017

Participants: 18 SUN Government Focal Points

Key takeaways:

- As there is always space for growth and improvement in ensuring optimal sharing and learning, all SUN Government Focal Points were invited to join an interactive discussion with the SUN Movement Secretariat, to reflect on areas for improvement for the next iterations of SUN Country Network Meetings – in 2018 and beyond. An online survey was also used to receive inputs members of the national multi-stakeholder platforms;
- The below thus reflects concrete actions points for the road ahead, collated from these meetings and the results from the online survey;
- The SUN Country Network Meetings are integral to sharing and learning about topics facing many SUN countries today and to position their multi-stakeholder platforms in countries;
- To garner more detailed, operational and impact-oriented online discussions than SUN Country Network Meetings normally allow for, online sharing tools in the form of supplementing webinars are encouraged to be considered;
- The current frequency of the meetings (quarterly) is deemed adequate with the opportunity to also report on the progress of the SUN Countries towards achieving the SUN Movement's strategic objectives;
- In terms of 2018-19 themes, having a thematic prioritisation exercise during the 2017 SUN Global Gathering for SUN Government Focal Points has been suggested.

Learning exchanges

SUN Countries often organise field visits and study tours to other countries, to learn from their experiences. While this process can be facilitated by the SUN Movement Secretariat, the majority is done without global level involvement – thanks to the support of UN agencies and donors in-country.

Last year, delegations from **Tajikistan** and **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, visited **Nepal** and **Viet Nam**, respectively, to learn about coordination mechanisms for nutrition, behaviour change communication and young child feeding practices. In 2017, a range of multi-stakeholder delegations have visited other SUN Countries: **Côte d'Ivoire** travelled to **Senegal** to learn about their approach; Indonesia and **Madagascar** visited **Peru** to learn about their multi-sectoral action. In addition to this great example of South-South Cooperation, Canadian Members of Parliament visited **Indonesia**, to learn about promoting impactful development policy for maternal and child health.





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