



2024 SUN MOVEMENT GLOBAL GATHERING: POWERING THE CHANGE FOR NUTRITION

Final Concept Note

Context

The landscape of global health and nutrition is rapidly evolving. In the face of climate change, ongoing conflicts, unsustainable food systems, changing disease patterns, the aftermath of COVID-19, and economic challenges, progress in battling malnutrition has not just stalled but reversed, taking countries further from the World Health Assembly targets. Humanitarian crises and displacement have continued to grow with severe nutrition impacts. The SUN Movement, created in response to the 2008 food and nutrition crisis, now faces a world remarkably different from the one in which it was founded. As the toll of malnutrition continues to rise, the urgency for action has never been greater. As we enter the final five years of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, our rallying cry is clear: The time for accelerated action on nutrition is NOW.

The event

The SUN Global Gathering in Rwanda, themed **'NutritiON: Power the Change'**, is the SUN Movement's flagship event. It will bring together over 900 stakeholders including policymakers, advocates, and practitioners from 66 member countries, to seize opportunities presented by the political agenda, especially in the lead up to the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summit where high level commitments are expected to be made. The event will serve as a critical pivot point, aligning nutrition action amongst the different stakeholder groups to advocate for one strong and powerful voice for nutrition.

Why a Global Gathering?

Nutrition stands as a linchpin of contemporary development challenges, intrinsically linked with public health, robust and sustainable food systems, climate action, gender equality, educational opportunities, water management, and social protection. These connections are even more pronounced in regions grappling with instability and conflict.

The SUN Global Gathering is, therefore, poised to advance nutrition on these multiple fronts while promoting enhanced, evidence-based programming, strategic financing, and systems designed to tackle malnutrition in all its forms. Our ambition is to weave nutrition into the fabric of these intersecting sectors, fostering an environment where intersectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration is not just encouraged but is the norm. All the while making sure that life-saving nutrition actions are part of country level health systems.

With 2024 and 2025 as important moments to refocus attention on eliminating hunger and malnutrition, SUN's Global Gathering will serve as a catalyst for change among all 66 countries, bringing countries together to share experiences and best practices, with a view to unify, share insights, and solidify national commitments to the Nutrition for Growth agenda.

Objectives:

-  **Reposition nutrition at the heart of the SDGs through national agendas:** Champion nutrition's role at the core of the SDGs, highlighting required sectoral investments, particularly targeting the first 1000 days, as well as synergies with food systems transformation, climate action, gender equity, and other critical global concerns.
-  **Accelerate country action:** Take stock of promising approaches and results by countries against national nutrition and World Health Assembly targets, with a view to prioritize nutrition in sectoral interventions and national plans. Build on the power of the movement to bring together movement stakeholders to support the execution of those plans.
-  **Explore opportunities to leverage greater financing for nutrition:** Identify and leverage funding opportunities, showcasing successful models and bankable projects.
-  **Showcase innovations:** Highlight breakthroughs in nutrition - from cutting-edge products to groundbreaking research - with a view to increasing uptake of innovations at the country level.

Event Format & Outcomes:

Spanning four days from November 25-28 2024, the SUN Global Gathering will commence with high-level dialogues with Ministers from SUN countries, Heads of UN Agencies, leadership from key regional bodies, civil society, and business, as well as other global, regional and national thought leaders. This will set the stage for a comprehensive programme intertwining strategic and operational discussions, to define what actions are needed to accelerate progress on nutrition. This format encourages active participation, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas and solutions, and will also use the opportunity to feed into the Nutrition for Growth Summit to advance policy implementation and strategic engagements by all stakeholders of the Movement.

It is expected that the Global Gathering will result in the following outcomes:

- **Leadership commitment:** High-level decision makers including Ministers, support the prioritization of nutrition in a cross-cutting manner, connecting nutrition across sectors and SDG targets, and allocating resources accordingly through national development plans and budgets.
- **Practical adoption of strategies:** Countries are better equipped to adopt, cost, and contextualize successful, evidence-based approaches shared by other SUN countries to help attain their nutrition targets, identifying practical opportunities for collaboration among key stakeholders.
- **Enhanced investment understanding:** Enhanced clarity on financing avenues will lead to increased investment in national nutrition priorities.

A green and inclusive gathering:

Emphasizing sustainability, the Gathering will minimize its environmental footprint, reflecting Kigali's commitment to eco-friendliness and safety. This event will be a physical convergence of global leaders, widening its reach and inclusivity by leveraging virtual platforms to facilitate information exchange.

More information can be found in the [Global Gathering Frequently Asked Questions](#), with information on donor funding opportunities available [here](#).