

MAIN OBSERVATIONS FROM THE COUNTRY VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE

3-6 May 2017. Delegation: SUN Movement Coordinator, **Gerda Verburg** and SUN Movement Secretariat Staff, **Fanny Granchamp** (Country Liaison Team) and **Thuy Nguyen** (Communication and Advocacy Team).

BACKGROUND

Mozambique is a country of 26.4 million with a stunting rate of 43.1%. It joined the SUN Movement in 2011 with a letter of commitment from Dr. Nazira Carimo Vali Abdula, the Vice Minister of Health at the time, who is currently the Minister of Health. The multi-stakeholder platform is the **Technical Working Group of the Multisectoral Action Plan to reduce Chronic Undernutrition** (GT-PAMRDC). It was established in 2012 as the coordination mechanism under the **Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN)** in the Ministry of Agriculture. The GT-PAMRDC brings together relevant line Ministries such as Health; Agriculture; Gender, Child and Social Action; Education; Public Works, Housing and Hydric Resources; Industry and Commerce; Economy and Finance and Youth & Sports. Technical Working Groups (GTs) have also been established at the decentralised level in all 11 provinces of the country as Provincial Technical Working Groups. The SUN Government Focal Point is **Edna Possolo**, Executive Secretary, SETSAN – Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security, Ministry of Agriculture.

OBSERVATIONS FROM MEETINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT

There is leadership in nutrition from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, and it is also understood that the President is committed to the cause and recognises the need to invest in nutrition. The **national nutrition plan** (PAMRDC) successfully integrates programmes from line ministries which is a positive sign of political will across the government. However, SETSAN and its coordination mechanism may not hold sufficient convening power across ministries to move from the plan to effective implementation. There is a particular interest from SETSAN to **establish a high-level Inter-ministerial governance mechanism** for food and nutrition security namely, the National Council for Food and Nutrition Security (CONSAN), to be positioned under the Prime Minister. This structure has been a successful model in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), and other countries such as Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia. The CONSAN structure envisages a system working at all three levels of governance central, provincial and municipal functioning as a forum for dialogue, political negotiation, planning and monitoring of food security and nutrition strategies and plans, and consultation with social participation and food and nutrition security involvement at these different levels. Interim Findings from The Cost of Hunger Study undertaken in Mozambique show that investing in nutrition would reduce health care costs, increase productivity and help break the inter-generational cycle of poverty – currently costing the country over **10% of GDP**.

OBSERVATIONS FROM MEETINGS WITH UNITED NATIONS

There is a strong determination by United Nations agencies to **Deliver as One** and respond to government driven demand rather than agency led agendas. The UN Resident Coordinator is very committed to leading this and the alignment of the UNDAF with the National Development Plan. The UN Nutrition Agenda for the reduction of chronic undernutrition (UN Agenda) provides a clear and concise voice of the approach of the UN agencies in Mozambique to support policies and programmes to reduce undernutrition. The UN agencies in the country work closely with the government to improve governance and build leadership and deliver on the global commitments and targets for nutrition.

OBSERVATIONS FROM MEETINGS CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The SUN Civil Society Platform (SUN-CSP) in Mozambique was well represented at the multi-stakeholder platform meeting and is convened by the Association for Food and Nutrition Security (ANSA), and co-chaired by Helen Keller International. The SUN-CSP is active in advocating for nutrition, building public awareness

and undertaking policy and budget analysis and monitoring. On top of this, one of the Platform's objective is also to help monitoring the implementation of the PAMRDC.

OBSERVATIONS FROM MEETINGS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND BUSINESSES

The SUN Business Network in Mozambique launched in February 2016. GAIN leads the SBN with WFP as a strategic partner. The Network receives DFID funding of £7.7m over three years and is composed of 19 private companies. Their action plans include school feeding, nutritious product development, marketing and distribution, and workforce nutrition.

OBSERVATIONS FROM MEETINGS WITH DONORS

The economic crisis that Mozambique is experiencing (the debt crises) has resulted in the suspension of donor funding. A significant deterioration of the flows of foreign capital that have buoyed the economy in recent years is having negative consequences on the achievement of SDGs. The Nutrition Partners Forum (NPF) includes both UN agencies (UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO), the World Bank and bilateral agencies (USAID, DANIDA, Irish Aid, EU, and others). The NPF is co-chaired by the EU and UNICEF, and regular meetings are held.

Since the launch of the National Nutrition Plan there has been a substantial increase in financial support for nutrition, especially with the aim of reducing the prevalence of stunting in the country. However, there is a common understanding that despite the investments to improve nutrition by donors including UN agencies, the support is not holistic, and does not promote the multisectoral approach recommended and does not complement other interventions related to Food Security and Nutrition.

OBSERVATIONS FROM MEETINGS WITH CHAMPIONS AND JOURNALISTS

Champions are recognized as important agents of change that can influence the adoption of good practices and behaviour change related to nutrition. It is important that these champions continue to mobilize the engagement of other actors for nutrition maximizing the resources available, and valuing the local culture and foods.

Champions in Mozambique are a success story that should be shared widely to inspire other SUN Countries. Not only does the group of champions include the honorable First Lady, it includes two critical Ministers (Agriculture and Health), two religious leaders (Muslim and Christian), a well-known singer (Mingas), a worker's rights activist and "mother of the nation", Graça Machel. The activity plan for the champions is diverse, including a song produced and sung by Mingas, about the importance of nutrition for the nation. Four provinces in Mozambique already have champions for nutrition who are First Ladies and musicians. All the champions who participated in the meeting reaffirmed themselves to multiply their efforts to advocate for adequate food, and for the reduction of chronic undernutrition in the country. There is a desire for capacity building of **journalists** in Mozambique.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Government ministries recognise the multi-sectoral causes of malnutrition and the coordinated approach that is needed to tackle the issue and how nutrition is fundamental to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The President is committed to the cause and recognises the need to invest in human potential through good nutrition, for social and economic gains across the nation. The multi-stakeholder event demonstrated a collective desire from all networks, in support and alignment of government efforts, to be results oriented, have an impact, scale up replicable results and build an inclusive data system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- In consensus with the recommendations of SETSAN, **the CONSAN structure should be established** to offer a high-level coordination mechanism for nutrition in Mozambique. The CONSAN should be led by the Prime Minister to emphasize political ownership and leadership and meet annually to review progress towards the PAMDRC.
- A commitment to **allocate of public funding** to implement nutrition actions should take place to trigger the alignment of development and investment partners funding to catalyse government investments.
- Stronger partnerships should focus on **improving data on nutrition status**, disaggregated to community or district levels. This will help prioritise programmes and ensure targeted coverage and effective implementation. At same time local capacity to target the most vulnerable households as the main beneficiaries of key interventions needs to be strengthened.
- There is a need to improve information quality and sharing at different levels to support decision-making processes.
- Due to the susceptibility of Mozambique to weather and climate shocks, the Government of Mozambique should engage with partners to ensure collaboration on **resilience building** between development and humanitarian spheres of work.
- The SUN Movement Secretariat will work with SETSAN to ensure connection to appropriate channels of capacity building for **journalists** as highlighted during the visit.
- Despite the existence of the five SUN Networks (government, UN agencies, donors, civil society, and business) in Mozambique there is a need to increase the communication between these networks to facilitate the implementation of interventions needed and to scale them up.
- With regards to private sector role it was highlighted that the relevance of **private sector actions need to complement government interventions** by avoiding disparities or duplication in terms of service provision in communities. For example, the private sector can facilitate the access of nutritious foods by lowering food prices at local markets.
- Mozambique team also requested the **SUN Movement Secretariat to share best practices** learned in other countries on the areas that are still a challenge in the country such us financial tracking for nutrition, monitoring, advocacy and social and behavior change communication (SBCC).

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| 5 May 2017 | Meeting / Activity | |
| 8:45 – 9:45 | Meeting with Ms. Márcia Castro, UN Resident Coordinator and representatives of the UN Agencies | |
| 10:00-10:30 | Meeting with His Excellency, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security and SUN Government Focal Point, Ms. Edna Possolo, Executive Secretary of Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) | SETSAN (Executive Secretary) |
| 14:30-16:30 | Meeting with the multi-stakeholder platform of the SUN Movement in Mozambique (Nutrition Partners Forum, Civil Society Alliance, Business Network) | SETSAN (Executive Secretary) SUN Business Network Mozambique SUN Networks |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | Meeting with Zélia Menete, Executive Director, Foundation for Community Development [Fundacao para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (FDC)] | |
| 6 May 2017 | Meeting / Activity | |
| 9:00 - 11:00 | Meeting with relevant ministers (Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economics and Finance) on the coordination mechanisms of Nutrition in Mozambique | FAO Representative Portugal and with CPLP, Dr. Francisco Sarmento SETSAN |
| 15:00-17:00 | Meeting with Agents of Change (the Champions) of the Campaign "Nutrition is Development a Commitment of all" namely: Minister of Agriculture Sheik Aminudine Muhammad, Islamic community Ms. Elisa Jamisse, Singer | SETSAN SUN Movement Secretariat |