

Summary Report
SUN Movement Network Facilitators' call
4 May 2016

Participants

Civil Society Network	SUN Business Network	SUN Movement Secretariat
- Cara FLOWERS - Cecilia RUBERTO	- Kristina SPIEGEL	- Christine CAMPEAU (CC) - Edwyn SHIELL
Donor Network	UN Network	- Delphine BABIN-PELLIARD - Thahira MUSTAFA - Ounfanatt EDUI
- Maren LIEBERUM	- Nancy WALTERS - Nicolas BIDAULT - Ilaria SCHIBBA	

The Chair (CC) welcomed all and reviewed the agenda.

1. The SUN Movement welcomes its newest member, Papua New Guinea

On 12 April 2016, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea officially joined the SUN Movement with a joint letter of commitment from Secretary Pascoe Kase, of the National Department of Health and, Secretary Hakua Harry, of the Department for National Planning and Monitoring. The letter is a demonstration of commitment from the Government of Papua New Guinea to combat malnutrition, hunger and poverty and recognises the impact of malnutrition on reaching the nations human and economic potential. It follows an April 2015 high level advocacy meeting convened jointly by the Secretaries of five relevant ministries where consensus was reached on establishing a high-level multi-sectoral coordination mechanism. To ensure a timely integration, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea participated in the UNICEF and SUN Movement Secretariat organised Public Finance for Nutrition Workshop in Bangkok, 25-27 April 2016.

2. Preparation for the May 2016 series of SUN Movement Country Network meetings

As the SUN Movement enters its next phase with renewed ambition to demonstrate results, it is crucial to confirm and translate the national commitments to address malnutrition into sustainable action that can withstand political, economic and humanitarian shocks. Several SUN Countries are proving that this is possible by ensuring commitments at the highest levels; demonstrating why nutrition must be prioritised, and how this can be done; making nutrition a multi-partisan issue through influencing its inclusion in political party manifestos; and mobilizing campaigns led by committed leaders at all levels.

The 23rd meeting of the SUN Movement Country Network will capitalise on this momentum under the theme “Building and Sustaining Political Commitment for Nutrition Action”, and will provide the opportunity for SUN Countries to present their experiences. Participants will be invited to share, drawing upon their experiences with policymakers, nutrition leaders, program managers, and implementers in making decisions which sustain commitment for nutrition action.

Action points: Network Facilitators to indicate the participation of their networks using the provisional schedule and to contribute their experience to the discussion.

3. Reporting back from the Public Finance for Nutrition Workshop in Asia

The Public Finance for Nutrition in Asia workshop organised by UNICEF Asian Regional Offices and the SUN Movement Secretariat, took place in Bangkok from 25-27 April 2016. This workshop was an attempt to accelerate efforts of Asian SUN Countries to increase the dialogue and alignment among sectors by reporting on nutrition budgets and costs of nutrition plans. The event brought together nearly 160 participants from 18 countries in the region, including 13 SUN Countries and 5 non-SUN Countries.

This 3-day workshop was the second in Asia on financing for nutrition, following the 2015 workshop with the participation of 8 Asian SUN Countries who met to accelerate efforts on budget analysis for nutrition. Throughout the event, participants had the opportunity to explore: i) how to go beyond data reporting and achieve actionable insights with the budget data and analysis and ii) how the budget analysis exercise can become part of more comprehensive efforts to track financial resources and undertake quality costing exercises at different levels (both national and sub-national) to hold responsible parties accountable and leverage increased investment for nutrition. A hands-on learning session on how to translate the findings into simple advocacy messages to make the investment case with different audiences took place on the final day.

The key messages taken away from the workshop include:

- Increased dialogue and alignment among sectors by reporting on multi-sectoral nutrition budgets and costs of multi-sectoral nutrition plans is essential;
- Strengthened coordination with public sectors and other stakeholders to maximize the “on-budget” allocations reporting is key; and
- The weightage for interventions would be based on specific country's needs, situation and the nature of the programs.

As part of the follow up of the workshop, a report will be finalized that will provide an overview of the public finance management systems and procedures for improved nutrition in Asia. Country profiles will be developed with the analyzed data of 2015 and previous years' national government budget allocations for nutrition; with reflections on their experiences and lessons from the budget analysis exercise. The feedback and learnings from the workshop will also feed into the organization and formulation of the discussions for future opportunities, including the SUN Global Gathering.

UN Network for SUN: Nicolas Bidault participated in the workshop and made the following reflection: The global level discussion and country experience allowed countries to look at ways in which they could apply the global level to their specific context with concrete actions on issues around financial tracking, costing and advocacy. Great examples were collected. There is appetite for more institutionalization of these exercises and capacity building. There is a need to make the good examples more visible like the one from Bangladesh on allocated efficiencies after a 6 months process involving all stakeholders.

4. Feedback from United Nations Nutrition Security Coordination Committee meeting

The United Nations Nutrition Security Coordination Committee in Asia meeting was held on the 23-24 April 2016; the first day with the members from UN agencies (i.e. WHO, UNICEF, WFP, etc.) and the second day with all relevant stakeholders, including donors, civil society and academia. The committee was set up in support of the European Union (EU) fund for UNICEF on Nutrition Learning and Capacity development called MYCNSIA. After 5 years, the group came together to discuss Phase Two of the fund, which included a proposed joint advocacy plan to guide and coordinate the advocacy effort of the UN but also all the key partners working to improve nutrition in South East Asia with an objective to increase government investment and stakeholders. The discussions were based on a working draft concept note,

which was reviewed and discussed with partners and suggestions were made to have an advocacy firm look at the plan. Despite the fact that the EU project has come to an end, the group explored ways it could be continued under a different shape. The group also discussed a possible next purpose of the committee, including revamping its terms of reference in a context of a SUN Movement regional approach with regional gathering every 6 months to discuss regional priorities.

Members update included:

- Training Modules for Nutrition from the Mahidol University together with other universities in the region;
- Food Fortification Initiative underlined the issue of salt iodization around gaps identified in the list of countries and how to address them;
- The cost of not breastfeeding- a good methodology developed by Alive and Thrive and lessons learned from Indonesia, Thailand, and Laos;
- Bringing private sector legal firms into the legal discussion agenda for nutrition;
- Good collaboration between UNICEF South Asia and Harvard on documenting the drivers of under nutrition including stunting- first results from Maharashtra are available;
- UNICEF South East Asia is looking at Nutrition and WASH theory of change; and
- UNICEF is starting a Nutrition Global evaluation on stunting in 24 countries with in depth evaluation in 6 countries.

Also discussions around obesity and overweight (75-78 % in Pacific countries) and legislations around the issue that will go into the advocacy plan.

5. “Making the SUN Movement Support System Fit for Purpose”

The SUN Movement Support System continues to foster increased collaboration, coordination, and the alignment of resources among the stakeholders supporting SUN Countries to scale up nutrition actions. The SUN Movement Support System must be fit for purpose to ensure the steady improvement of the quality of services delivered, and their alignment with the SUN Movement’s Principles of Engagement. The consolidated effort of the SUN Movement Support System is essential for the implementation of the SUN Movement Strategy and Roadmap 2016-2020; and to enable the strengthening of the capabilities of in-country stakeholders to deliver results. To enable this, a baseline of information needs to be gathered.

Participants discussed the scope of the exercise to establish a mutual understanding among the SUN Movement Secretariat and the SUN Network Secretariats, the suggested modality to achieve the baseline of information and the next steps in the process, as noted in the “Making the SUN Movement Support System Fit for Purpose” concept note.

Action points: Network Facilitators agreed to share written feedback on the strategic questions by Tuesday 10 May. The Network Facilitators will use the next scheduled meeting on 19 May to pilot this exercise.

6. A.O.B.

- On the occasion of the African Development Bank Annual Meetings to be held in Lusaka (23-27 May, 2016) the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS) will visit Zambia, represented by Florence Lasbennes, Director of the SUN Movement Secretariat, and Ferran Pérez, Policy Advisor liaising with Zambia. The objective of the mission is to appreciate the nutrition situation, progress, challenges and opportunities of the SUN Movement in the country. The SMS representatives will meet with the various SUN stakeholder groups.

- Reminder to send nominations to represent the Networks in the visioning exercise to help define the need, scope and stewardship arrangement of a future potential pooled fund, in relation to the Multi Partner Trust Fund evaluation.