



**Civil Society  
Network**

## **Final Declaration from the Inaugural Meeting of the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network**

We represent civil society working on nutrition in the 40 SUN countries around the world.

The prevalence of undernutrition remains at crisis levels. 870 million people around the world are undernourished, and 165 million children are stunted due to chronic malnutrition. For decades, these levels of malnutrition have remained stubbornly high, holding back progress towards a number of the Millennium Development Goals.

Malnutrition is a result of failures in realising people's basic Human Rights. It is an underlying cause of as many as 3 million children's deaths every year, and for hundreds of millions more it is a life sentence, reducing people's ability to learn and to earn. Through its effects on higher healthcare costs and reduced labour productivity, malnutrition can act as a brake on the economic development of whole countries. Recent evidence reaffirms that the 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday is the critical window of opportunity, and it is closing for thousands more children every day.

Many countries, including many SUN countries, are now facing the nutrition transition, which leads to a double burden of malnutrition. We know that nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions not only address problems associated with undernutrition, but can also contribute to addressing subsequent non-communicable diseases in adulthood, and in the long term can support the economic development of whole nations.

Since we met in June 2011, much progress has occurred, and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement has successfully brought the political and policy landscape on nutrition to a place where it has never been before. We believe that the strong, informed and constructive participation of civil society has been, and will remain, vital for the SUN Movement to reach its goals. As Civil Society at the national level, we have formed national alliances to bring us together, align policies and speak with one voice. At an international level we have founded this global Network to the same ends. We would like to thank the generous support of the governments and donors involved in the SUN movement, without whom this would not have been possible.

As the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) we speak as one in emphasising our commitment to working together against malnutrition. Our objective is a world where nobody is undernourished and where strengthened policy, sufficient financing and adequate programme implementation ensure good nutrition for all. It's time to move to the next stage in the SUN story, and as a Civil Society Network we are committed to ensuring that the movement delivers.

**Today, we are pleased to attend this Inaugural Meeting of the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network, and to endorse this declaration. In doing so, we stand by the commitment that civil society made two years ago: to working together to support, to encourage and to mobilize robust action and necessary resources to scale up nutrition.**

**To this end, we commit to:**

- Harmonise the voice of civil society and raise our voice to advocate at national, regional and global level for the success of the SUN movement;
- Galvanise civil society engagement in national, regional and global processes relating to nutrition, develop strong civil society alliances in all SUN countries, and support capacity building for nutrition;
- Mobilise and empower citizens and grassroots communities to contribute to the work of scaling up nutrition;
- Engage with others, including academics, to further evidence the effectiveness of nutrition interventions;
- Inform nutrition governance, policy and financing by supporting the establishment of, and actively partaking in, multi-stakeholder constructive dialogue; and align civil society activities with national costed plans and the work of others;
- Work together and with all parts of the SUN movement to support civil society around the world, through sharing our experiences to maintain global commitment;
- Hold leaders and governments to account for their commitment to nutrition by supporting the development of better nutrition information systems; and monitor and evaluate the progress of all nutrition actors;
- Mainstream the objectives of SUN into our own organisations and actions.

**We re-affirm our call for all people, governments, private sector institutions, the UN system and non-governmental organisations to continue to work together with us to end undernutrition, save millions of lives, and contribute to putting an end to extreme poverty.**

**To this end, we call on:**

- *National governments, as well as subnational and regional governing bodies to:* maintain and increase their commitment to nutrition; increase nutrition financing; develop and deliver national and sub-national multi-sectoral nutrition plans with civil society participation; strengthen monitoring systems to include nutrition interventions and outcomes, ensure high level coordination of nutrition activities, to promote capacity building to improve nutrition.
- *Donors to:* increase their support for nutrition; continue to focus on capacity building at national, subnational and local levels; and ensure that no good nutrition plan goes unfunded.
- *Private sector institutions to:* ensure their business activities promote good nutrition and avoid damaging practices such as the marketing of harmful products; provide resources for good nutrition at affordable costs; and work with others in the SUN movement to ensure nutrition governance and government accountability are strengthened.
- *UN agencies to:* collaborate in their work on nutrition; and to develop a UN nutrition accountability mechanism to be held to account.