Notes from the Strategic Review Consultation Call
Southeast Asia and Pacific Regional Call
9 March 2020

Led by Dr. Azucena Dayanghirang, SUN Executive Committee member and SUN Government Focal Point, Philippines
In attendance:

- H.E. Sok Silo, SUN Government Focal Point (Cambodia)
- Iean Russell, FAO (Cambodia)
- Indira Bose, WFP (Cambodia)
- Hou Kroeun, Hellen Keller International (Cambodia)
- Soe Nyi Nyi, UN REACH Facilitator (Myanmar)
- Sahr Nouwah, Save the Children (Papua New Guinea)
- Md. Islam Bulbul, SUN technical Focal Point (Bangladesh)
- Syed Muntasir Ridwan, GAIN (Bangladesh)

Note: Dr. Azucena Dayanghirang presented the responses to each question on behalf of the team from the Philippines

- Representatives from the SUN Movement Secretariat: Samantha Rudick, Country Liaison Team (helped moderate the call), Stephen Williams, Country Liaison Team, Maria Pizzini, Advisor, Renee de Jong, Policy Support Officer, Philip Dive, Country Liaison Team
- Consultants from the Strategic Review: Jane Keylock, Adam Leach

Attempted to join but faced technical issues

- Representative from Sri Lanka, Gaya Adikari, SUN technical Focal Point

Invited but was unable to attend:

- Representatives from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam

Introductions, mention of the deadline extension for consultations, objectives of the call, ensuring all have copies of the Strategic Review

Question 1: Which recommendations do you think are the highest priority and should receive top attention in the next phase of the movement?

- Cambodia (SUN FP):
    - Rec. #4, clear articulate position on healthy diets
    - Rec. #5, extending the scope of SUN to include nutrition related issues
    - Rec. #11, country driven, country led strategy for the SUN Movement
    - Rec. #30, clear and high standard for business participation
    - Rec. #32, engage existing networks to be more inclusive, including of young people
- Myanmar (UN REACH)
    - Apologies that other colleagues couldn't join the call due to it being a public holiday
    - They sent their priorities through the UN Network, too
    - Rec. #3, #4 & #5 (position on healthy diet and expansion of scope to include important nutrition-related issues), #28 (accelerate activities), and #36 on the future of technical assistance (aligned and shaped with country priorities, shifting focus to implementation of national nutrition plans)
- Papua New Guinea (Save the Children)
    - Waiting for colleague to speak on this point
- Philippines (SUN FP)
    - In no particular order…
    - #10 an advocacy strategy on the objectives of the SUN Movement. Advocacy strategy with different topics such as humanitarian response and UHC. In the

Philippines we just have the law passed on UHC and we would like to see nutrition integrated.
    - #14, says to support SUN countries to identify a limited set of priority areas which are currently under addressed or performing. Many options for action, TA can be provided to all of us to focus on a few actionable priority areas. Will help to optimize resources of SUN Countries (which are limited).
    - #30 set clear high standards for business recommendations at global level. Dealing with conflict of interest and clear principles of the SBN which the countries can use to organize and manage the business network at country level
    - #31, network of SUN Country focal points and strengthen the communication between the focal points and the global networks. Important to involve the other networks and actors. Platform for exchange of experience and to learn from others.
    - #37 joint donor funding for nutrition related TA and to avoid conflict.

SUN Coordinator Gerda Verburg briefly addressed those on the call, said she was happy to listen in to the call. Important that countries speak up and out about what they need.

Question 2: Are there recommendations with which you disagree strongly?

- Philippines (SUN FP):
    - None we strongly disagree with
- Cambodia:
    - (SUN CSA/HKI) Why the composition of the board, we do not agree with this point. Intent to increase the country participation, how to choose the country and organization. Can raise questions and times. We think country voice is important, but to revise the composition is not a priority.
    - (FAO) referenced page 35 of the Strategic Review, related to focal points and a coalition approach. This is one area we disagree with, Focal Points suit the institutional arrangements and entry through the government is an important.
- Myanmar (UN REACH):
    - For the SUN UN network, all the recommendations are relevant. Already suggested 5 recommendation for the priorities, none that he strongly disagrees with.
- Papua New Guinea (CSA/STC)
    - From our experience, one thing we need to clearly look at is funding private sector
    - Conflict of interests happen from the private sector in terms of what they promote and profit for themselves, advocate for their own interests, they have more resources then civil society, and convince the public of things that are actually not true. Need to clearly look at how much we can involve them. What kind of lens should we use on this.
    - Resources, the pooled fund is not that much. Pooled Fund – we need long term investment and holistic approach. If you don't have the right resources you cannot take this forward.

Question 3: Are there important aspects that you feel have been missed by the strategic review?

- Cambodia (FAO)
    - One point to make: important that there be streamlining to fit the individual platforms, to avoid duplication of efforts. Our country-level synthesis of ideas and activities is the most important level for us and then to communicate them globally. Individual global networks (CSA, UNN), should more be backstopping.

    - Not about TA, but the way we gather, analyze and then apply information in the SUN Movement, onus is on the country to do this work. Rather than working through global networks. For him, with UN network, more important to invest time in country items then reporting to global UN. Not a criticism of the global UN network. The real benefit is interacting across agencies and networks in the country.
- Papua New Guinea (SUN CSA/STC)
    - He thinks the report covered a lot
    - The narratives could emphasis on the specific context
    - When a country joins, the nutrition data is bad. In PNG, urgent, many issues still on the table untouched, what kind of funding or arranging, far different then countries that have already done some work. Need to consider these contexts and make sure it works for them.
- Cambodia (WFP)
    - More emphasis on how to engage non-traditional actors they play an important role in nutrition.
    - Examples: from a business perspective, not just working with food industry but mobile money service providers, been a bit more challenging
    - Ministry of Labour, on issues of maternity leave. Not typically engaged
- Myanmar (UN REACH)
    - Financing country level NNPs, this is based on their context. Myanmar is resource limited and now have NNP that is multi-stakeholder. Funding for the implementation and – 1st nutrition commission. For the network we are strengthening the MSP and the individual networks.
    - Financing at the national level, on NNPs

(Note: Dr. Bulbul, technical FP from Bangladesh joined the call at this point)

- Philippines (SUN FP)
    - Maintain addressing malnutrition in all its forms. Agree to focus on *all its forms*, aligned with other international commitments. WHA, UN Decade of Action, etc. however in addition, it should consider sustainable and healthy diets.
    - Strengthening non-nutrition sectors (like in Cambodia)
- Bangladesh (GAIN)
    - There are countries in humanitarian context – it is so different. More advice on how they can work in SUN. Yemen has joined for example.
    - Non-traditional – engaging the youth is helpful in most of the developing countries. Huge demographic. Mobilizing them = huge impact.

Question 4: Are the parts of the report, particularly recommendations, that need clarification?
&
Question 5: Are there areas where you feel there needs to be more analysis in order to make an informed decision or recommendation?
Note: Questions 4 & 5 were discussed interchangeably

- Bangladesh (technical FP)
    - Engagement of the youth in all arenas, great if possible in the third phase
    - how can we make multi-country research, and use it for similar countries. To collect data and then share experiences with countries
    - More on best practices? Sharing best practices with other countries.

- Myanmar (UN REACH)
    - Own experience at country level, Recommendation #31 – great recommendation, taking Myanmar, still finding a challenge with communication and coordination at country level
    - Going to the next level, regional or global.
    - Not ready yet for a FP network, honestly, not the moment.
    - Recommendation #27 review, value for money, consider more effective means. P 28, there are pros and cons of GG, More face to face is super helpful, really, in sharing experiences
- Cambodia
    - More informed decisions in relation to the Theory of Change for the SUN Movement, would be useful to look at the Theory of Change and analyze whether SUN is making a difference. Why are some making progress without following the SUN mode and some are taking on board recommendations but not seeing progress?
        - Recommendation: system of reporting is more aligned to what is it that is making the difference
        - If we can identify to what is making the change and reporting system aligned with this, and align it with the SDGs to make it simpler to communicate this to SUN and relay to SDGs
- Papua New Guinea (SUN CSA/STC)
    - Wanted to add, the issue from their experience in PNG. 3 things – entire approach, leadership. No matter what if the right leadership is not in place, there's nothing anyone can do. Hardcore programmatic approach. Right leadership in place, in Prime Minister's office, to get resources for what is needed to implement programs.
    - Decentralization – it doesn't matter what happens at national level if doesn't get to community level. To make impact is how do we streamline these things.
    - When a SUN Member joins, as part of their commitment, let them put resources on the table. For membership, each year [to stay a member, they have to put] something on the table. If PNG wants to renew [their membership as a SUN country], should say they will, for example, allocate 1 or 2% of national budget per year to nutrition.
    - In terms of leadership, CSOs can lead in decentralization
- Cambodia (FAO)
    - For all of us the things that work well are the opportunities that SUN brings to us to work together, for networks to work together.
    - We can see the benefit SUN CSA in Cambodia, almost 50 organizations are represented. Whenever we are working on something, we can get an opinion back from that network in a short time. Really effective. Donor and UN much smaller but can see SUN network helps us work together
    - Regular milestones – important to drive us along, putting together these reports [responding to SUN Movement processes throughout the year] forces us to take stock and prioritize for the coming year
    - Coming together and reporting globally is an advantage
- Bangladesh (SUN technical FP)
    - Best practices, all stakeholders together in a place, 22 ministries took part in the implementation plan for the second National Action Plan on Nutrition

    - Works to hear from all ministries as well as part of the platforms meeting. We also try to engage all the stakeholders. These opportunities came from SUN initiatives, concept came from multi-sectoral approach.
- Bangladesh (GAIN)
    - Now such a shared language of nutrition and issues, convergence of our workplans is really what SUN movement has brought to Bangladesh (business, government, etc.) where the angle of nutrition could be
- Cambodia
    - Alignment of SUN actions with their national strategy. Backbone in the strategy that SUN actions and priorities are incorporated in there. Build the two things together.
- Philippines
    - The sun is shining through the MSP.
    - SBN just organized. Hopeful business network engages to solve nutrition issues.

Bangladesh SUN technical FP thanked the moderator, Dr Azucena, SUN FP Philippines, for chairing this session. Noted under her leadership, our region will get more momentum.

Dr. Azucena talked about our journey from the SUN GG to N4G. This is our commitment to the SUN. As well, she wanted to specify that the SR recommendations are very important for us to migrate to nutrition 3.0.