

SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) 6-month Activity Plan *July - December 2013*

1. BACKGROUND:

The Civil Society Network (CSN) held its inaugural meeting in Washington, D.C. on June 11, 2013. At the meeting representatives from across the Civil Society Network came together to discuss and agree on priorities for the Network.

The Inaugural Meeting happened at a crucial time for nutrition, with events such as the Nutrition for Growth event, the Sustaining Political Commitments to Scaling Up Nutrition conference and the launch of the new landmark Lancet publication series on nutrition providing a unique window of opportunity that the SUN Civil Society Network must capitalize on.

Key priority areas agreed in the Inaugural meeting are reproduced in Annex 1, and key agreements from the afternoon working groups reproduced in Annex 2. The Civil Society Steering Group met following the main meeting to discuss Steering Group priorities in order to take these work areas forward.

This document outlines the key priorities of work for the SUN CSO Network in the next six months

2. IMMEDIATE WORK OBJECTIVES FOR THE CSO NETWORK STEERING GROUP AND SECRETARIAT:

The following four objectives for the SUN CSN Steering group have been previously agreed and were not felt, after the Washington DC meeting, to require significant alteration (See Annexes 3 & 4 & cf. Steering Group Strategy document) :

1. *Building the network*
2. *Supporting advocacy at the national level*
3. *Harmonising global advocacy and messages for breakthrough moments*
4. *Aligning Civil Society Actions with SUN plans*

The following areas will be the main focus of the Steering Group's work in the immediate term (July through December 2013):

- a) Undertake more accurate mapping to provide a clear idea of existing relevant CS organisations and networks in 41 SUN countries, starting with a few MPTF and non-MPTF funded countries.
- b) Identify and plan for key milestones we should all agree to be working towards, so that as a Network we can effectively develop strategic plans towards them.
- c) Strengthen ourselves as a group.
- d) Strengthen our communications externally to show who we are.
- e) Support capacity building in SUN countries' CSAs.

3. STRATEGIC APPROACH:

a. Mapping

This mapping will be used to inform SUN CSN support to civil society alliances (CSAs) in countries and will:

1. allow us to focus our resources to areas where support is most needed,
2. better understand the capacity of the global CSN for supporting accountability efforts in country and for holding others throughout the SUN movement accountable, and
3. better understand the capacity of the global CSN for global advocacy.

A small sub-group of select interested parties from the Steering Group will be responsible for performing this mapping & identifying budget to make that happen.

A list of questions covering issues including around the state of civil society alliances, opportunities and capacity for policy influencing, and the state of relationships with the government will be drafted by the small sub-group.

Starting with those SUN countries for which contacts are available, including both MPTF funded and non MPTF funded countries, we will begin mapping using methods appropriate to the context and to our relationship with civil society in country: this could include utilising pre-scheduled field visits of steering group members or dedicated country visits if necessary; asking trusted colleagues in country to assist with mapping; piggy backing onto meetings at the national level that the SUN CSN is supporting to facilitate establishment of CSAs where they do not exist yet.

We will aim to complete all site visits of the first phase by early to mid-September 2013.

The next phase starting January 2014 will aim to conduct mapping in additional countries.

b. Key Advocacy moments

We will agree on key global advocacy moments and processes that we wish the Network to work together on at the global level. These are likely to be the Rio 2016 nutrition conference; post-2015 discussions; and annual nutrition moments at UNGA which will act as accountability moments for Nutrition for Growth.

We will also identify regional processes that we will wish to advocate towards and encourage and support SUN CSAs and regional sub-networks of CSAs to advocate towards, likely including the AU summit in September 2014 which will focus on agriculture, for example.

These moments will be verified by the Steering Group and then different SG members will then take the lead on certain themes, managing cross-network advocacy to ensure the successful joint global advocacy and to shape the SUN CSN. Global, regional, national and district / local level advocacy efforts will be encouraged.

c. Strengthen ourselves as a group.

We will work to strengthen relationships with the lead group (see Annex 5 for proposed strategy).

Our communications strategy (see below) will allow for more regular exchanges, both on what is happening within the Civil Society Network and what is happening in other Networks and in the SUN movement more broadly. We will save time as a steering group to exchange views on what is going on with SUN.

We will work to fill the remaining spaces in the Steering Group.

In order to best support country civil society alliances (CSAs), the buddying system of a Steering Group member to support each CSAs will be reviewed, revised and updated based on new CSAs and newly joining Steering group members. The Steering group will continue providing support to buddied country CSAs.

d. Communications

We will develop a comprehensive communications strategy for strengthening and ensuring aligned communications:




- Internally within SUN CSN
- Internally within the broader SUN movement
- Externally – our public face

Emphasis will be put on internal SUN CSN communications to:

- Strengthen and ensure clear lines of communication within the SUN CSN to facilitate exchange of experiences and ensure lessons learnt are shared and inform improved and adapted practices in countries;
- facilitate SUN CSN support to CSAs to develop country specific strategies, multi-stakeholder country efforts and foster dialogue amongst the network;
- harmonise SUN CSN advocacy strategy to inform adapted advocacy in country;
- provide guidance around advocacy for budget allocation to nutrition efforts and monitoring implementation and use of allocated budgets holding governments to account;
- provide access to training resources for Capacity Building;
- facilitate and leverage technical assistance in country in response to country needs, gaps and asks;
- ensure the experiences and key learnings are shared with the broader public and contribute to building evidence of nutrition-sensitive interventions effective in scaling up nutrition.

The strategy will be aligned with SUN broader efforts and specifically with the SUNACT SUN Advocacy and Communications Team.

The strategy will likely guide the development of the following communications tools

-  Teleconferences & electronic communications
-  A web platform
-  Social Media

We will agree on the communications strategy and the SUN CSN coordinator will follow up on its operationalization.

It is hoped that the communications will be available late 2013.

e. Supporting capacity building at national level.

The mapping exercise will assist in identifying country capacity gaps as well as assets that can be tapped into to scale up nutrition efforts in SUN countries. The identified gaps will guide the development of strategy for the SUN CSN to support capacity building of CSAs and national / district level efforts.

This strategy will tap into existing SUN CSN efforts, using the SUN CSN communications web platform and broader strategy to ensure:

- Information is shared;
- Exchange of experiences is facilitated and national efforts informed by these;
- Specific and targeted technical assistance leveraged and provided in country;

- Specific training tools developed and existing training tools and resources identified and made available and accessible to all;
- Opportunities for strengthening existing actors identified;
- Advocacy for ensuring adequate capacity building is part of national efforts towards scaling up nutrition;
- Specific capacity building is built into new grants and proposals;
- Advocacy for capacity building being integral part of the monitoring efforts to hold governments, donors, businesses and CSOs to account.

The Steering Group will review mapping and identify priority areas for capacity building in the few countries where the site visits were initially conducted. The SUN CSN coordinator will then develop a proposal for validation by the Steering Group.

It is hoped that the strategy for building support to strengthen capacity at national level will be rolled out / implemented in the next phase starting January 2014).

This mapping will be used to inform our work with country alliances, allowing us to focus.

f. Using the September 2013 SUN Movement Global Gathering to advance SUN CSN efforts and ensure alignment with SUN Movement efforts more broadly.

We, as the SUN CSN network, will use the September 2013 SUN Movement Global Gathering as an opportunity to further discussions with national CSAs in identifying needs for support and shaping SUN CSN strategy for the next phase; to meet and align with various SUN networks, SUNACT, the Lead Group and the SUN movement as a whole; to have an in-person meeting of the Steering group; to advocate for the development and establishment of a clear monitoring framework for accountability on various commitments of the Nutrition for Growth Compact both globally and at national levels.

4. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

The secretariat will provide:

- ✚ The full time Coordinator to support the network's members with information exchange and in developing plans and developing funding applications to the MPTF.
- ✚ Technical Assistance – through identifying a pool of experienced consultants who can support countries with advocacy training and develop accountability tools.

The Steering Group will:

- ✚ Provide strategic direction
- ✚ Guide the SUN CSN strategy operationalization
- ✚ Provide support to country CSAs
- ✚ Leverage and provide technical assistance in countries
- ✚ Support populating the web platform

The CSAs will:

- ✚ Shape the communications strategy
- ✚ Assist in mapping in countries
- ✚ Attend the September 2013 events, if possible
- ✚ Guide the SUN CSN strategy operationalization
- ✚ Guide identification of support needs for country CSAs.

5. SUPPORTING THE CSAs IN SUN COUNTRIES:

The following have been previously agreed and were not felt, after the Washington DC meeting, to require significant alteration:

Support to MPTF-funded Civil Society Alliances

The first objective for the Steering Group and secretariat in their work with country level CS Alliances will be to support in advocating for the establishment of (or in countries which already have them, the strengthening and expansion of) a multi-stakeholder platform (including CSOs, the relevant line ministries, private sector and academia).

The SUN CS Network Steering Group will support each country's CSO platform to develop/be developing an engagement strategy including these key objectives:

- national level stunting targets
- wasting targets
- costed national plans
- nutrition sensitive approaches to agriculture and social protection
- ensuring that NGO programmatic activities are aligned with the country SUN plan

We will also encourage and support SUN countries to advocate for the Government Focal Point to sit in the office of the Head of Government, to encourage an overview and mainstreaming of nutrition and to prevent it being a silo in the ministry of health, as is often the case.

Support from the CSN Secretariat will be focused on:

- Providing technical expertise on nutrition and advocacy via a pool of (preferably local) expert consultants;
- Facilitating the exchange of experiences, learning and best practices with civil society in other MPTF-funded and non-MPTF funded countries through the development of a communications strategy and tools for operationalisation;
- Facilitating the agreement between members of the CSN on joint advocacy positions and strategies;
- Supporting site visits for the mapping exercise;
- Planning a regional meeting in Africa for year 2.

Support to civil society in countries without MPTF-funded Civil Society Alliances

Organisations in the Steering Group will assume responsibility for specific countries and will take responsibility for facilitating the coordination of civil society actors, the formation of new Civil Society Alliances and any eventual applications for MPTF funding.

The first phase will focus on supporting a few countries. This support will include supporting the development of strategies, linking to best practice of other Alliances and coordinating work for key international or regional moments.

Support from the CSN Secretariat will be focused on facilitating the formation of new Civil Society Alliances by:

- Sharing experiences on best practices and achievements of CSAs in other countries, through the development of a communications strategy and tools for operationalization and through visits to and from CS representatives in other SUN countries; and
- Enabling national-level meetings of CS organisations active in nutrition to form new CSAs in 3 countries; and
- Supporting these newly established CSAs through the application of new funding from the MPTF

Annex 1: Main priorities to emerge from the Inaugural Meeting

The agreements on priorities for the CSN, which emerged from the main plenary meeting, were as follows:

1. Supporting capacity building for Alliances, where they are already formed.
2. Ensuring adequate flow of information within and among countries as well as within and between different languages spoken in the various countries – sharing of knowledge, experiences, processes, evidence, opportunities for raised visibility and advocacy.
3. Supporting the establishment of civil society alliances in countries where they do not exist yet.
4. Developing and providing guidelines to support CS throughout the Movement (e.g. structure, governance, CSA membership, conflict of interest management, multi-sectorial efforts, monitoring, steps towards establishing a network (based on success examples e.g. Peru), etc.).
5. Developing an “advocacy tool kit” with key messages to enable us all to “sing the same song”.
6. Providing support for multi-sectorial partnerships (including guidance on how to engage with private sector, farmers group, etc.; facilitating connections when possible; connecting with broader SUN efforts and dialogue on public-private partnership).
7. Playing an evaluation role if possible to evaluate impact and assess what else should be done.
8. Advocating: influencing donor policies and priorities, specific policy changes and integration of nutrition in global policies.
9. Channeling opportunities for funding toward countries in need.
10. Organizing sub-networks to facilitate efforts (e.g. francophone Africa, Eastern Africa, Latin American, ...)
11. Supporting actors throughout the Network to mobilise citizens and get grassroots organisations involved in SUN, working towards a groundswell of grassroots support for nutrition and SUN

Annex 2: Key activities and specific needs for the SUN CSN – as agreed in afternoon Working Groups at the June 11, 2013 SUN CSN Inaugural meeting.

- Guidelines and support to be provided on specific, identified matters.
- Improved information exchange between SUN countries to share best practices and lessons learnt.
- Guidance or a road map on how to form Civil Society Alliance and identify leaders.
- Human resource mapping and networking globally to be done by SUN to bring in connectivity for vertical alignment by *Civil Societies*.
- Providing an advocacy method using success stories of other countries to help countries that want to come into SUN or develop a SUN CSAs.
- The CSN international network to have a role to play in nutrition advocacy towards international forums and processes.
- Establishing a West African sub-Network to facilitate information exchange regionally, and having resources translated to ensure equity in access.
- The Network to empower national alliances to support information sharing, to develop systematic approaches to information sharing, and to support transmission of what's happening globally (including information from the SUN Secretariat) to national civil society and CSAs.
- The SUN CSN to develop a set of criteria for which international forums to focus on and take part in, and map what key priorities for advocacy within the SUN CSN are. Suggestion that the post-2015 process and the lead up to Brazil 2016 were key opportunities to work together on as the SUN CSN to influence. SUN CSN needs to be clear on the independence of the Network.
- Working closely with other SUN networks to ensure that SUN CSN efforts are linked with the broader movement.
- Having a united nutrition agenda in order to engage with multiple bodies. It was raised that all should assist in mapping and identifying the key stakeholders to engage with.

Annex 3: CSO Network Steering Group

Chair	Brendan Cox	Director of Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns, Save the Children UK
Host organisation	Save the Children UK	Network Secretariat
Steering Group members	Alangeh R. Che	Chairman of the non-state actors coordination team of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)
	Asma Lateef	Director, Bread for the World Institute
	Bourima Allaye Toure	President of national civil society council, Mali & Secretary General of OMAES, a Malian health and development NGO
	Carolyn MacDonald	Nutrition Director, World Vision International
	Elisa Pozzi	Asia Representative, Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition
	Elise Rodriguez	Senior Advocacy Adviser, ACF, France
	Francis Zotor	President, African Nutrition Society
	Jennifer Thompson	Hunger Advocacy Officer, Concern Worldwide
	Michael Krawinkel	Chair of the nutrition working group, International Paediatric Association, Germany
	Sultana Khanum	International Public Health Consultant, Bangladesh
	Victoria Quinn	Senior Vice President Programmes, Helen Keller International,
Dr V Prakash	Council Member, International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS), India	

The following is an outline of the new Steering Group members against the quota set in June 2012:

- **Geographical:** North America (3); Africa (3); Europe (4); Asia (2)
- **Gender:** Female (7); Male (5)
- **Cross-sectoral:** The following sectors are included within the membership: food security, agriculture, health and academia/research.
- **Type of CSO:** The membership comprises representatives from different CSO constituencies including farmer's organisations, national and international INGOs, networks and academic associations.

Annex 4: Previously-agreed principles agreed within the Steering Group which will guide the network.

1. An inclusive network with a broad membership and representation both at the global and at the national level - composed of people that are passionate about nutrition;
2. Building strong legitimacy and voice making the Network a credible and authoritative interlocutor in multi-stakeholder dialogue under the SUN Movement both at national and international level;
3. Supporting and empowering CSO actors and groups at the national level, providing guidance and co-ordination to realise our shared vision;
4. Supporting communication, cross-learning and sharing on scaling up nutrition between CSOs in SUN and non-SUN countries;
5. Providing a link between civil society in SUN countries and non-SUN countries with strong civil society movements on nutrition;
6. Reaching out to grassroots organisations and movements including farmers' organisations, women's groups etc.;
7. Making the link between nutrition and food security, health, agriculture and social protection;
8. Bridging the gap between development and humanitarian sectors in nutrition in order to ensure convergence to help governments tackle both chronic and acute malnutrition;
9. Ramping up national and international advocacy on nutrition with the possibility of moving beyond advocacy into training, behaviour change and complementing government interventions, as the Network grows in size, scope and ambition;
10. Forging strong partnerships with other existing networks and Civil Society Alliances;
11. Results focused and work-plan based.

Annex 5: Proposal for strengthening relationships between SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) & the SUN Lead group

Aim:

Well-championed SUN movement with efficient, successful and active civil society

Objectives:

- To strengthen the relationship between the SUN CSN and the lead group

Rationale:

There is a direct line of accountability in the agreed governing structure between the Lead Group and the CSO Network Steering Group.

In the past, the relationship between the SUN CSN and the Lead Group has not been as strong as it could be. It is important that the SUN CSN engages with the Lead Group more actively as they are key champions for SUN whilst recognising the limited time available for the Lead Group members to act as such champions.

Lead Group

Lead Group Members are influential voices in the global community advocating for support for efforts to scale up nutrition. The Lead Group is made up of high-level leaders that represent the array of partners engaged in SUN – government, civil society, international organizations, donor agencies, businesses and foundations. The members are appointed by the UN Secretary General, and are collectively responsible for the functioning of the Movement. The group serves to improve coherence, provide strategic oversight, improve resource mobilization and ensure collective accountability across the SUN Movement.

Proposal:

The SUN CSN recognises the Lead Group as key champions for SUN both at the global level but also potentially at regional and national levels and the importance to mobilise this group as well as its individual members.

The SUN CSN proposes to strengthen this relationship by:

- **Developing a Relationship Management System – Buddying system**
 - Members from the Steering Group and the National SUN CSAs (recognising some of the SUN CSAs representatives may have privileged relationships in country with Lead Group Members) will identify key relationships with lead group to facilitate engagement (e.g. Concern Worldwide – Tom Arnold, Bread for the World (SG), Marie-Pierre Allie (?)...).
 - It is hoped that these Civil Society representatives on the Lead Group can also be champions for the SUN CSN on the Lead Group. Ensuring their presence at key SUN CSN events (e.g. Tom Arnold and Marie-Pierre Allie in Washington for June 11, 2013 meeting) is key to developing this relationship.
- **Formal regular information sharing**
 - Formally write to CS representatives on the Lead Group to brief ahead of the call (informed by the agenda obtained from SMS);

- Draft short biannual briefs (1 to 2 page reports explaining our priorities and the progress in development of the network) provided by the SUN CSN Chair to David Nabarro.

In order to do so, we as SUN CSN, will need to:

- Work with the SMS to better understand capacities within the Lead Group to inform targeted approach.
- Identify key and strategic moments and opportunities for engaging with the Lead Group in a targeted and adapted manner -
 - *Consolidating needs and asks from national CSAs:* SUN CSN is in the process of conducting a mapping of various in-country capacities, needs, gaps and opportunities for SUN CS engagement at the national level. The result of this mapping and subsequent analysis will consolidate asks from civil society to Lead Group and will inform identification of key moments and opportunities for deploying the Lead Group as SUN champions.
 - *Global and Regional Advocacy moments:* The SUN CSN Steering Group and National SUN CS Alliances (CSAs) will identify key opportunities and corresponding calendar for Lead Group mobilisation such as:
 - Contribution to online consultations;
 - Representation of SUN and attendance to high level events;
 - Playing a champion role at key advocacy moment (SUN CSN has identified key global and regional advocacy moments for SUN (Post-2015, Brazil 2016, advocacy moments related to the follow up of the Nutrition for Growth June 2013 events, SUN movement global gathering at the UN General assemblies, AU meeting 2014).
 - The SUN CSN will ensure Lead Group key contacts are made aware of when and how to engage when opportunities arise and will ensure preparatory materials are provided for facilitating Lead Group champions.