



# SUN MOVEMENT

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL)

## MEAL Overview

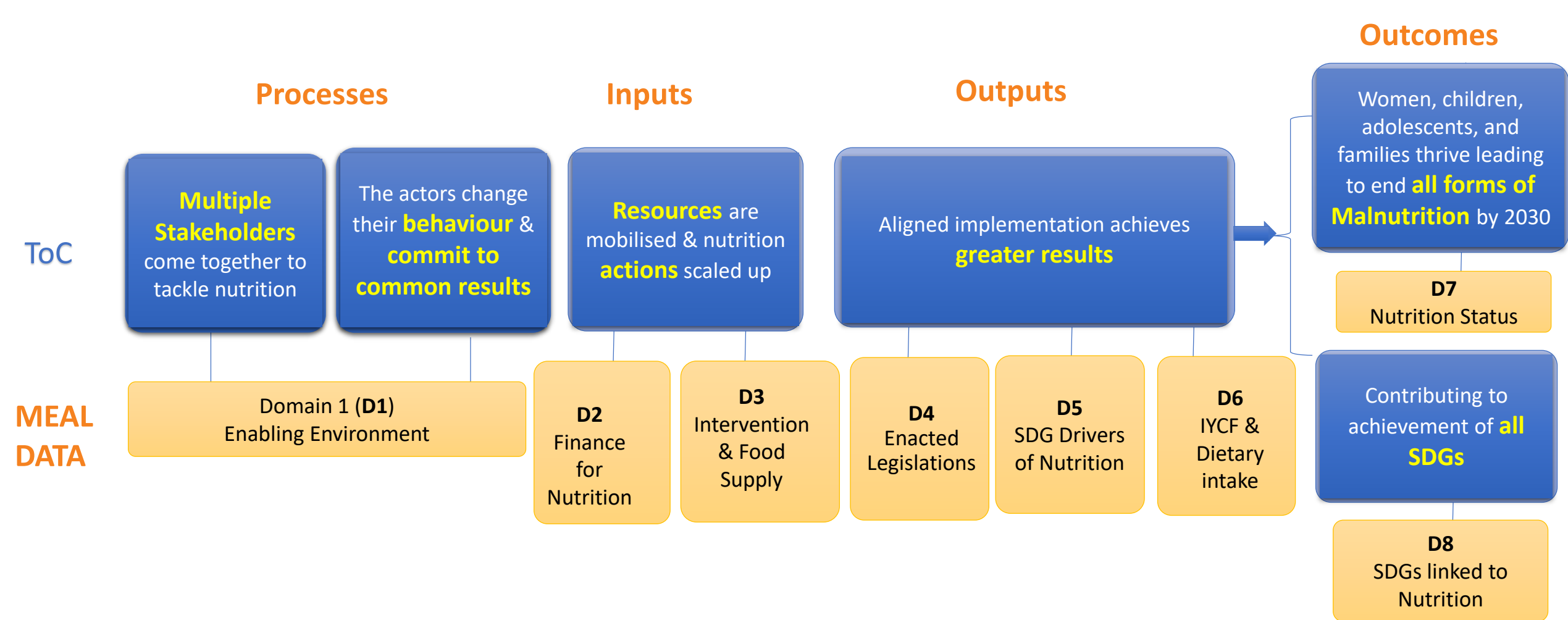
# MEAL system objectives

## Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning

- Help track and report on progress toward overall SUN Movement objectives
- Inform better decision-making on country needs
  - Classification of country needs (geographic, economic & nutritional outcomes)
  - Track country TA needs and *external* support – timely response, capturing lessons
- Inform corrective actions
- Reinforce mutual accountability within the Movement
- Support Learning - documentation and sharing of country experiences

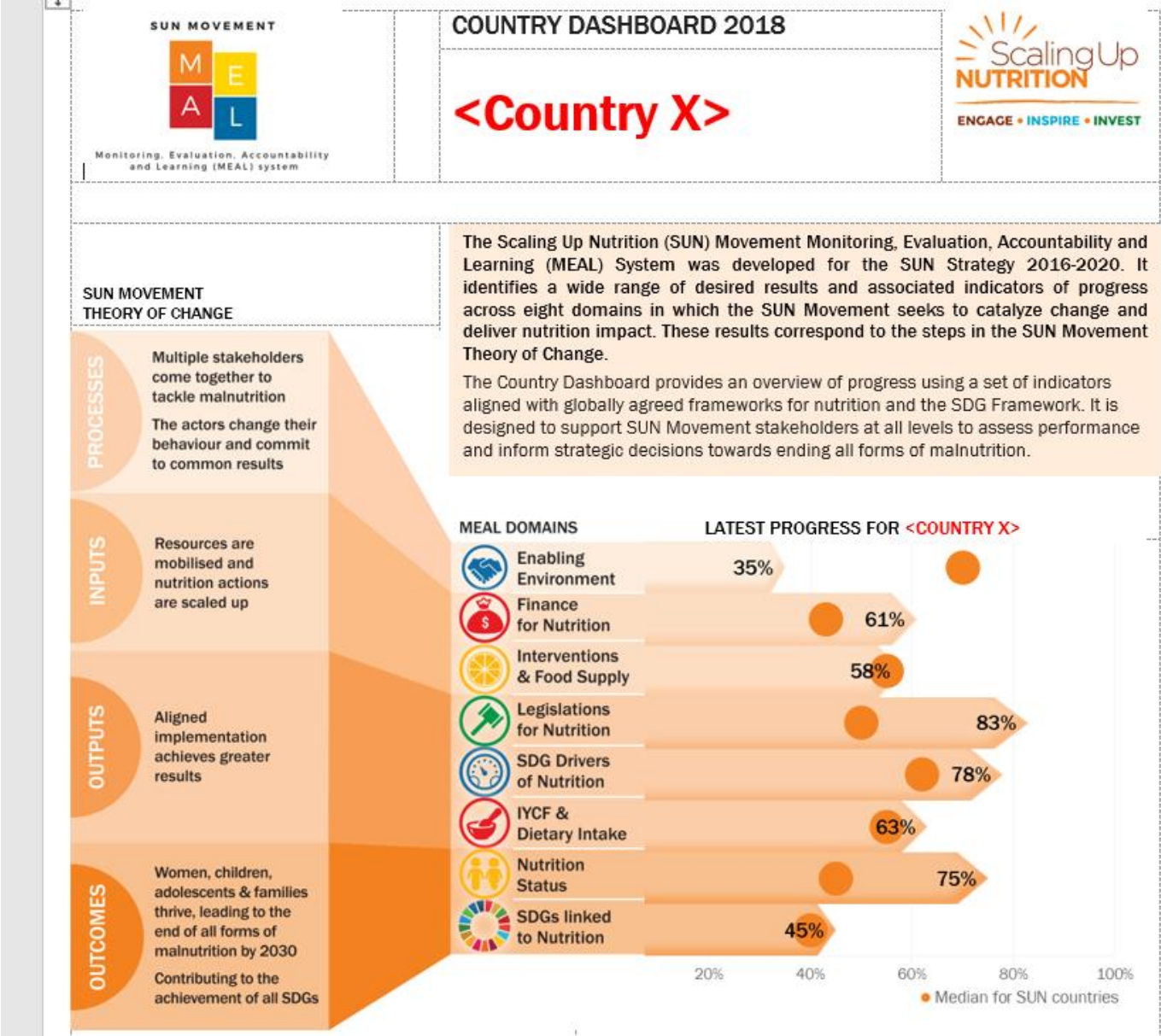
# SUN Movement MEAL System components (2019)

SUN Movement led activities	Monitoring	Evaluation	Accountability	Learning
Joint Annual Assessment	X	Informs	X	X
Networks' Annual Assessments	X	Informs	X	X
National Budget Analysis	X		Could inform	X
Stakeholder & Action Mapping	X		Could inform	X
National nutrition action plan reviews	X		Could inform	X
SUN Global Gathering	Informs		Informs	X
In-depth country reviews (Deep Dives)		Informs	Could inform	X
Regional/global workshops				X
Country calls/webinars				X
Learning Routes				X
Tracking needs and Technical Assistance	X		Could inform	X
Mid Term Review		X	Informs	X
Strategic Review		X	X	X
Networks' evaluations (SBN)		X	X	X



## Links between the SUN Theory of Change and the MEAL Database

As reflected in the cover of the updated Dashboard



# Focus on MEAL Database

## Expected Users

- SUN member countries
- Members of the SUN Movement Global Support System
- Practitioners interested in topics related to the SUN Movement

## Current MEAL Database Features

- **79 indicators** (67 with at least 75% coverage across all countries)
- Most indicators (**84%**) draw on **secondary data** through collaborations with global data initiatives
- 13 indicators (**16%**) draw on **primary data** collection by SUN stakeholders (Enabling Environment & Finance domains)

## Current MEAL Data Uses & Access

- **Country dashboards** summarize data for individual countries across 8 domains
- **All SUN Countries Dashboard** (Excel file) provides overview of performance across countries
- **Dataset** in Excel file on SUN website
- **MEAL 2016 Baseline Report & Focus Area Briefs** provide some initial data visualization of key results

MEAL Database (primary data collection)	Findings included	Indicators in the MEAL Database	Domains in the MEAL Database	Publicly available data sources
<b>National multi-stakeholder Joint Annual Assessments</b> (20 progress markers)	Yes	1.4: SUN Movement processes total score	Enabling Env.	<a href="#">JAA webpage</a>
<b>National Networks’ Annual Assessments</b> (5-6 markers per Network)	Yes	1.2: Network Functionality Index	Enabling Env.	SUN Network websites
<b>National Budget Analysis</b>	Yes	2.1: National Budget Spending	Finance	<a href="#">Finance webpage</a>
<b>National Nutrition Action Plans (desk review)</b>	Yes	1.5: WHA targets 1.6: NCD targets	Enabling Env.	Not yet available
<b>Tracking country priorities (through JAA) and Technical Assistance</b>	Not yet	Not yet defined	Enabling Env. (TBC)	<a href="#">TA webpage</a>
<b>Sub-national Stakeholder &amp; Action Mapping</b>	In progress	3.16: stakeholders presence 3.17: stakeholders actions	Interventions	<a href="#">UNN website</a>
<b>National Information Systems (desk review)</b> (aggregates 26 markers)	Yes	1.7: Information Systems for Nutrition Index	Enabling Env.	<a href="#">Information Systems</a>

**JAA  
SUN  
PROCESSES**

(P1) Bringing **people**  
together into a **shared  
space** for action

(P2) Ensuring a  
coherent **policy &  
legal framework**

(P3) Aligning **actions**  
around **common  
results**

(P4) Tracking **finance**  
and mobilizing  
resources

**MEAL  
DATA**

Enabling Environment

Enacted  
Legislations

Interventions  
& Food  
Supply

SDGs  
Drivers of  
Nutrition

IYCF &  
Dietary  
intake

Finance  
for  
Nutrition

**Links between the JAA processes  
and the indicators in the MEAL Database**

# Overview of MEAL products

**DOCUMENT A**  
SUN Meal Results Framework (Country Level – Baseline 2016)

Types of results	Specific Development Goals or Targets	Expected list of indicators and levels	Actual values of the SUN Movement Global National Systems
Existence and composition of Multi-Sectoral Platforms (MSPs)	Existence, composition and functionality of Multi-Sectoral Platforms (MSPs)	Reference list of indicators (List 1) Part of Joint Annual Assessment (JAA) Reference list of indicators (List 2) On functionality Reference list of specific indicators (List 3)	Support countries in their efforts to strengthen multi-sectoral platforms. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems.
Existence, composition and functionality of Multi-Sectoral Platforms (MSPs)	Existence, composition and functionality of Multi-Sectoral Platforms (MSPs)	Reference list of indicators (List 1) Part of Joint Annual Assessment (JAA) Reference list of indicators (List 2) On functionality Reference list of specific indicators (List 3)	Support countries in their efforts to strengthen multi-sectoral platforms. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems.
Progress within four high-level development processes and follow-up progress and evidence	Progress within four high-level development processes and follow-up progress and evidence	Reference list of indicators (List 1) Part of Joint Annual Assessment (JAA) Reference list of indicators (List 2) On functionality Reference list of specific indicators (List 3)	Support countries in their efforts to strengthen multi-sectoral platforms. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems.
Existence of information systems for nutrition	Existence of information systems for nutrition	Reference list of indicators (List 1) Part of Joint Annual Assessment (JAA) Reference list of indicators (List 2) On functionality Reference list of specific indicators (List 3)	Support countries in their efforts to strengthen multi-sectoral platforms. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems. Support countries in their efforts to strengthen their national systems.

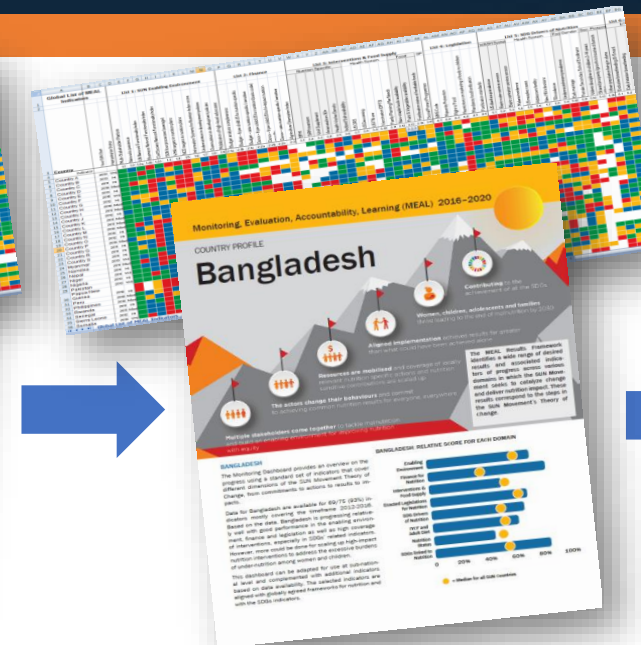
**List 5: Drivers of nutrition (Sustainable Development Goals and others)**

Indicators	SDG Framework	SDG Framework	Other Monitoring Systems
5.1 Prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years of age	WASH	SDG 4.1 Target 1	Every Woman Every Child / GHR
5.2 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	WASH	SDG 6.1 Target 1	Every Woman Every Child / GHR
5.3 Proportion of population using a safely managed sanitation facility with soap and water	HEALTH	SDG 6.3 Target 1	Every Woman Every Child / GHR
5.4 Maternal incidence ratio per 1,000 population	HEALTH	SDG 3.6 Target 1	Every Woman Every Child / GHR
5.5 New cases of measles	HEALTH	SDG 3.6 Target 1	Every Woman Every Child / GHR
5.6 Number of deaths during a given reference period by age group, sex, underlying cause, and place of residence	HEALTH	SDG 3.6 Target 1	Every Woman Every Child / GHR
5.7 Tuberculosis incidence per 1,000 population	FOOD SYSTEMS	SDG 2.1 Target 1	Every Woman Every Child / GHR
5.8 Prevalence of undernourishment	FOOD SYSTEMS	SDG 2.1 Target 1	Every Woman Every Child / GHR
5.9 Prevalence of moderate to severe food insecurity in the population	FOOD SYSTEMS	SDG 2.1 Target 1	Every Woman Every Child / GHR
5.10 Prevalence of women aged 20-64 years who were married or in a union before age 18	GENDER	SDG 5.5 Target 1	Every Woman Every Child / GHR

**Results Framework**  
List of indicators  
Mapping of data



**2016 Baseline**  
Color-coded classification  
Detailed Baseline report



**Country Dashboards**  
Annual updates



**Thematic Briefs**  
Gender, multiple forms of malnutrition, humanitarian

# Questions?



# MEAL Data Analysis in 2018

**Thematic Briefs**

**Econometric  
Analysis**

**Political Commitment  
for Nutrition**

Acknowledgement: All of this work was supported by Nutrition International under the TAN project, funded with UK aid from the UK government



# MEAL Focus Area Briefs

Available for download on the SUN MEAL website:

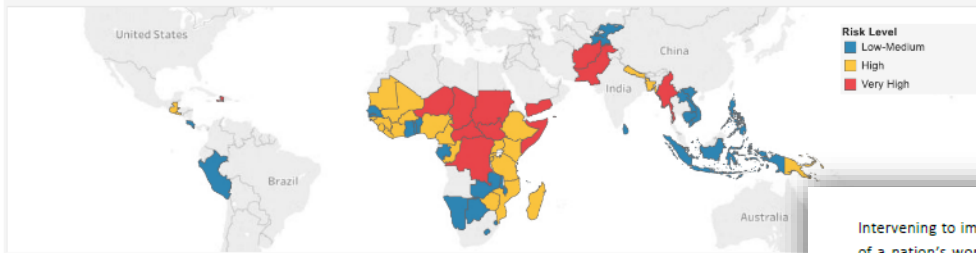
<https://scalingupnutrition.org/progress-impact/monitoring-evaluation-accountability-and-learning-meal/>

# Thematic Briefs - data visualization

## SUN COUNTRY HUMANITARIAN CLASSIFICATION

The [INFORM Index](#) identifies countries at a high risk of humanitarian crisis that are more likely to require international assistance, based on three dimensions of risk: hazards and exposure, vulnerability, and lack of coping capacity. Based on the INFORM Index classification in mid-2017, 25 SUN countries (42%) were considered as high risk and 12 (20%) were considered as very high risk (Figure 1, Table 1).

Figure 1: Map of SUN countries showing humanitarian risk level



Intervening to improve the nutritional status of adolescent girls is an investment in the future well-being of a nation's women. As shown in Figure 3, overweight and obesity among women is highly correlated with prevalence of overweight and obesity in adolescent girls across all SUN countries.

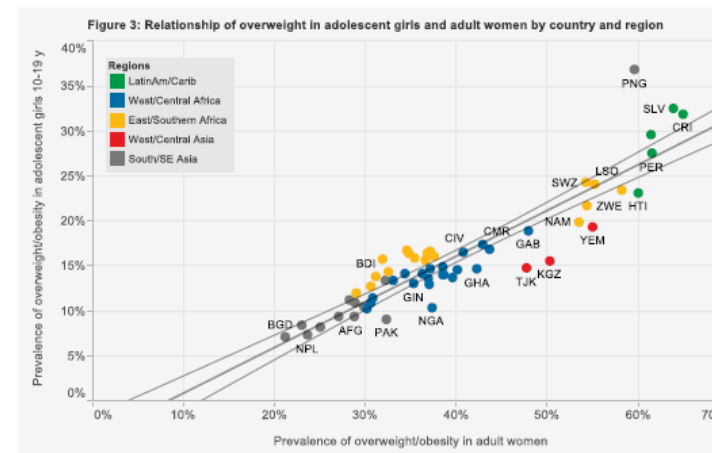
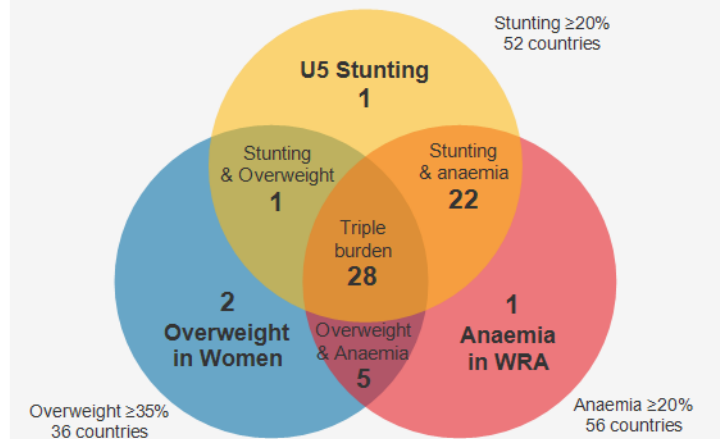
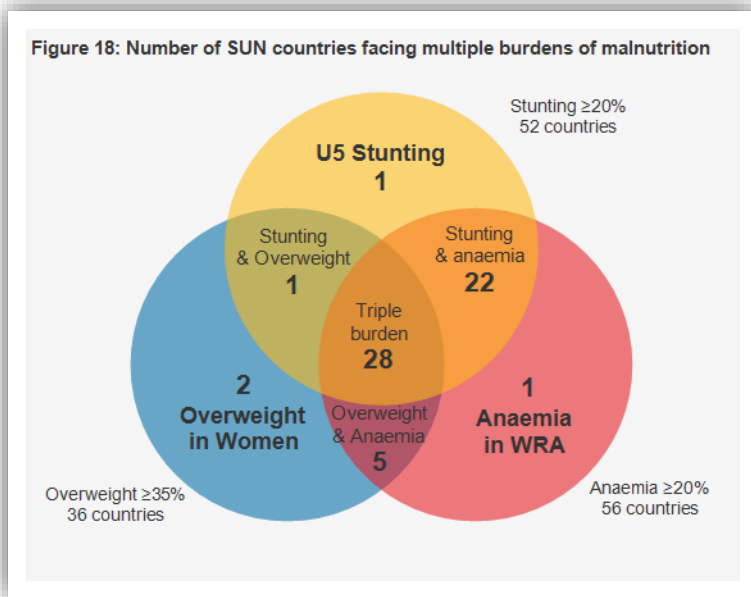


Figure 18: Number of SUN countries facing multiple burdens of malnutrition



# Multiple Forms of Malnutrition – Key Findings



- Nearly half of SUN countries currently experience a triple burden of child undernutrition, women's overnutrition and women's anaemia.
- The burden of anaemia among adolescent girls coexists in countries with high prevalence of underweight or overweight/obesity but there is little overlap between underweight and overweight.
- Gender-differentiated analysis of malnutrition explains important differences among adolescents and adults, but not young children.
- Micronutrient deficiencies contribute greatly to the burden of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls and women; data gaps keep this form of malnutrition "hidden".

# Adolescent Girls & Women – Key Findings

## SUN Movement

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL) 2016–2020

### FOCUS AREA

Adolescent girls and women

#### Key findings from the SUN Movement MEAL baseline:

- Overweight and obesity prevalence has increased rapidly among adolescent girls in SUN countries (2000–2016).
- Preventing overweight and obesity among adolescent girls is an investment in the future well-being of a nation's women given the strong correlation in the prevalence of overweight and obesity among adolescent girls and women.
- Improving women's nutrition will benefit children as well. High levels of underweight in women are closely related with the highest prevalence of stunting and wasting in children.
- Nutrition and health interventions targeted to women reach less than half of their intended beneficiaries in low-income SUN countries with the percentage dropping further for women living in very high-humanitarian contexts. Coverage of nutrition-specific interventions like breastfeeding promotion and iron supplementation in pregnancy is low across all SUN countries.
- Girls living in low-income and high-humanitarian contexts are highly disadvantaged in all SDG indicators of gender equality. They are less likely to enroll in secondary school and more likely to get married and have a baby before the age of 18 years. Countries with high adolescent fertility have higher levels of child undernutrition.
- Women's anaemia levels are higher in SUN countries with low family planning coverage and lower diet quality, highlighting the multi-factorial causes of anaemia.
- Young women and adolescent girls aged 15–24 are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS compared to men.

The SUN Movement calls for implementation efforts that explicitly put the well-being of girls and women at the forefront, especially in humanitarian contexts.



Photo © Nutrition International

- Overweight and obesity has increased rapidly among adolescent girls in SUN countries.
- **Nutrition and health interventions targeted to women reach less than half of their intended beneficiaries** in low-income SUN countries with the percentage dropping further for women living in very high-humanitarian contexts.
- Girls living in low-income and high humanitarian risk contexts are highly disadvantaged in all SDG indicators of gender equality.
- **Women's anaemia levels are higher in SUN countries with low family planning coverage and lower diet quality**, highlighting the multi-factorial causes of anaemia.

# High Humanitarian Risk Contexts – Key Findings

**SUN Movement**  
Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL) 2016–2020

**FOCUS AREA**  
SUN member countries  
with high humanitarian risk levels

**Key findings from the SUN Movement MEAL baseline:**

- The enabling environment for good nutrition is least advanced in countries with a very high humanitarian risk level.
- Donor spending for nutrition-specific interventions targeted to children and women is highest in very high-risk countries; however, as expected, domestic spending for nutrition is significantly lower.
- The delivery of standard nutrition and health care is most challenging in very high-risk countries, with the critical shortage of health professionals and low coverage of interventions targeted to children and women.
- The enactment of legislation for nutrition is less advanced in very high-risk countries – one third have no legal measures in place to implement the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.
- All SDGs that are drivers of good nutrition – access to clean water and sanitation, lower infectious diseases, food security – are lagging in high and very high-risk countries.
- Adolescent girls and women living in high and very-high risk countries are particularly vulnerable, with higher education gaps, early marriage rates and adolescent fertility.
- Child feeding practices are disrupted in the wake of humanitarian conflicts or disasters as shown by lower rates of exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding in very high-risk countries.
- Children and women living in high and very high-risk countries experience a heavy burden of undernutrition, with higher levels of child stunting, child wasting, and women's anaemia.
- SDGs that are influenced by good nutrition – U5 mortality, NCD mortality, early child development and GDP growth – are progressing least in high and very high-risk countries.

Scaling Up  
NUTRITION  
ENGAGE • INSPIRE • INVEST

NUTRITION  
INTERNATIONAL  
Nourish Life

UKaid  
from the British people

- **The enabling environment for good nutrition is least advanced in countries with a very high humanitarian risk level.**
- One third of very high risk countries have no legislation in place to implement the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.
- **Child feeding practices are disrupted in the wake of humanitarian conflicts or disasters** as shown by lower rates of exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding in very high-risk countries.
- **SDGs that are influenced by good nutrition – U5 mortality, NCD mortality, early child development and GDP growth – are progressing least in high and very high-risk countries.**

# ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS

Susan E. Horton, Sakshi Jain, Kendra Siekmans

## Background

- SUN Executive Committee requested an econometric analysis of MEAL data in 2018
- Question: can any inferences be made about **contributions of SUN membership and duration to progress across the eight domains** identified in the MEAL Results Framework?

## Methods – Sue Horton & Sakshi Jain (health economists)

- focused on **27 indicators** where impact was more likely to be seen
- Ran a series of regression models to explore contribution made by SUN membership and duration
  1. **SUN Countries only** - each model included SUN membership duration (years), per capita GDP, population size, regional status
  2. **SUN vs. non-SUN** – included **15 non-SUN countries** (LIC/LMIC & population >750,000); models included SUN membership (yes/no), per capita GDP, population size, regional status
    - Only 20 non-SUN countries identified, 15 LMIC with GDP data; only 3 LIC non-SUN countries (no GDP data)

# Econometric Analysis – Key Findings

## *Results suggest that SUN Membership matters:*

- **Longer membership duration associated with stronger Enabling Environment**
  - Stronger networks, better functioning MSPs, and higher donor funding.
- **Early joiners are more proactive:**
  - Better legislation and higher coverage for nutrition-specific actions (IFA, EBF)
  - However, most of these characteristics already present prior to joining SUN – direction of causality unclear.
  - Need for complementary analysis (e.g. qualitative data, in-depth country reviews).

*“Taken together, the results tell a fairly consistent story – that when contextual factors such as per capita income, population size and regional status are taken into account, SUN membership is associated with greater concern for nutrition”*

# POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR NUTRITION

Patrizia Fracassi, Kendra Siekmans, Phillip Baker

# Political Commitment for Nutrition

## Objective:

To measure level of **political commitment for nutrition** in SUN countries and how this translates into results

## Methods:

- Theoretical framework by [Phil Baker et al. \(2018\)](#)
- Mapped MEAL indicators for each type of commitment
- Ranked countries by level of each type of commitment
- Assessed relationship between level of commitment and progress toward global nutrition targets

### EXPRESSED COMMITMENT

- High-level “rhetorical” commitments for nutrition (incl N4G commitments, mobilization of high-level advocates)

### INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

- Convert E into policy infrastructure & coordination mechanisms (incl MSP, network function, national plans, info system)

### OPERATIONAL COMMITMENT

- Conversion of E+I into on-the-ground actions (incl finance, legislation, nutrition-specific intervention coverage)

### EMBEDDED COMMITMENT

- Commitment to address nutrition-sensitive issues (incl health, food supply, underlying drivers - WASH, gender, poverty)

### SYSTEM-WIDE COMMITMENT

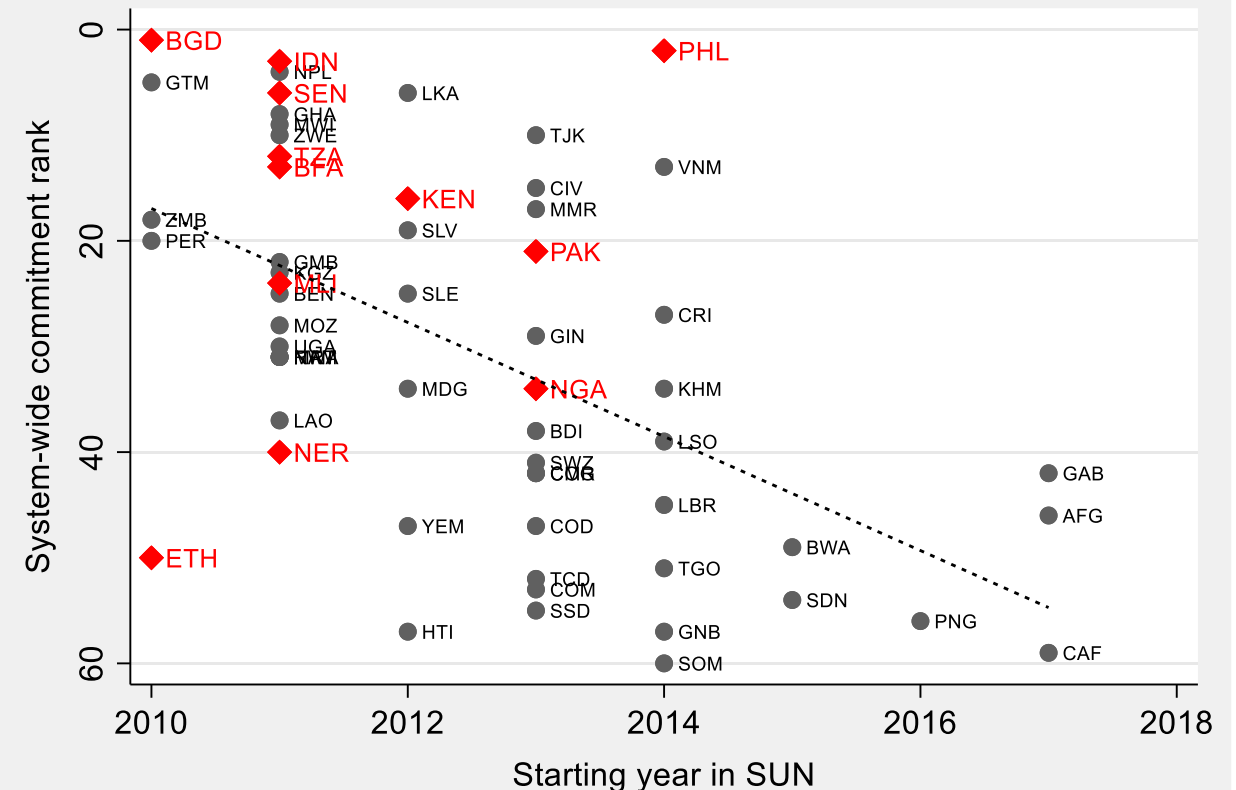
- Achievement of all forms of commitment involving all actors

# Political Commitment for Nutrition

## KEY FINDINGS:

- Longer duration in SUN associated with higher **expressed, institutional & operational** commitment, *but not embedded*
- Level of **institutional** commitment also has an important positive relationship with a country's ability to **operationalize** those commitments – *but only for low-income countries*
- Early SUN joiners more likely to be in the top rankings for **system-wide commitment**

Country rank for system-wide commitment by duration in the SUN Movement



# Examples on Political Commitments

Country	Expressed Commitment Rank	Institutional Commitment Rank	Operational Commitment Rank	Embedded Commitment Rank	System-wide Commitment Rank
Bangladesh	1	1	15	21	1
Philippines	17	4	15	4	2
Indonesia	1	19	7	14	3
Senegal	9	2	15	23	6
Tanzania	9	2	21	37	12
Kenya	36	4	11	22	16
Pakistan	17	13	26	27	21
Nigeria	9	27	26	51	34
Ethiopia	36	23	52	54	50

# Political Commitment for Nutrition

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Importance of working across **all types of commitment**, especially going beyond expressed and institutional commitments.
- Although institutional commitments do matter, especially in low income countries, they may be just ‘tokenistic’ if there is **limited implementation capacity**.
- **Countries with balanced political commitment levels**, especially combining nutrition-specific investments with a pro-nutrition development agenda, **may achieve better nutrition impact** compared with those that have an exclusive focus only on one type of commitment.
- Limitations with the interpretation of findings, especially the direction of causality, underline the necessity of **measuring changes in commitments over time and complementing this type of analysis with qualitative information** on the perspectives, roles and capacities of different stakeholders.

# Questions?

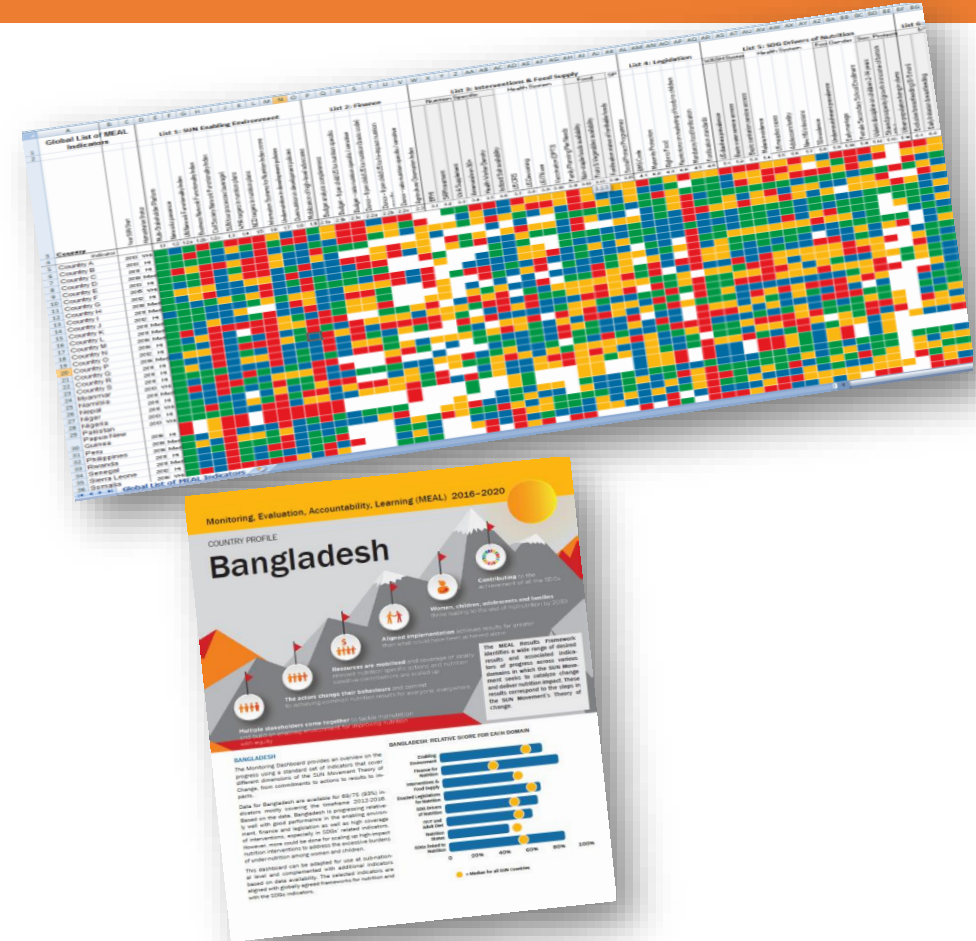


# WHAT NEXT?

MEAL PRIORITIES FOR 2019

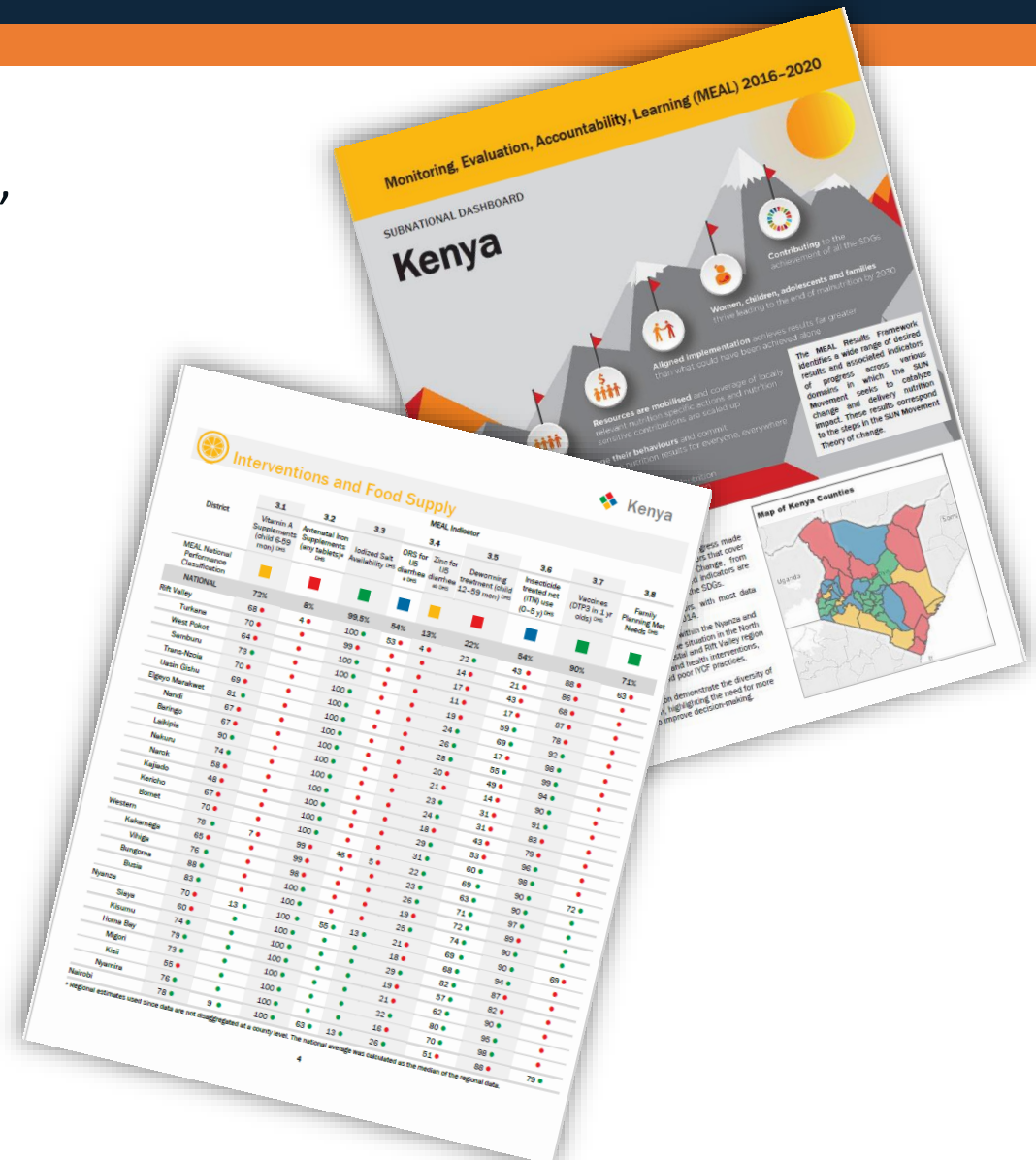
# MEAL Database and Country Dashboards

- **Update and redesign of country dashboards** to summarize data for individual countries across 8 domains
- **Update of all SUN Countries Dashboard** (Excel file) provides overview of performance across countries
- **Update of Dataset** in Excel file on SUN website
- **Provide one brief on changes and trends** observed in countries with updated data.
- **Complement the numerical scores with more and better qualitative information** (e.g. through the deep dives and country case studies).
- **Work with communication** on products for wider dissemination



# Subnational Dashboard Tool

- MEAL country dashboards provide national perspective; recognized need sub-national level data for coordination, planning and decision-making purposes
- **MEAL Advisory Group 2018 priority: Design & test sub-national MEAL dashboards to better inform country work.**
- ~30 MEAL indicators with sub-national data available
- **“Pro-active and responsive approach”** - prepared standardized sub-national dashboards for interested countries (pro-active) and then provide support for them to complement and update the dashboard (responsive)
- Very useful for country “deep dives” in 2018
- **Will be developed upon demand in 2019**



# Stakeholder & Action Mapping

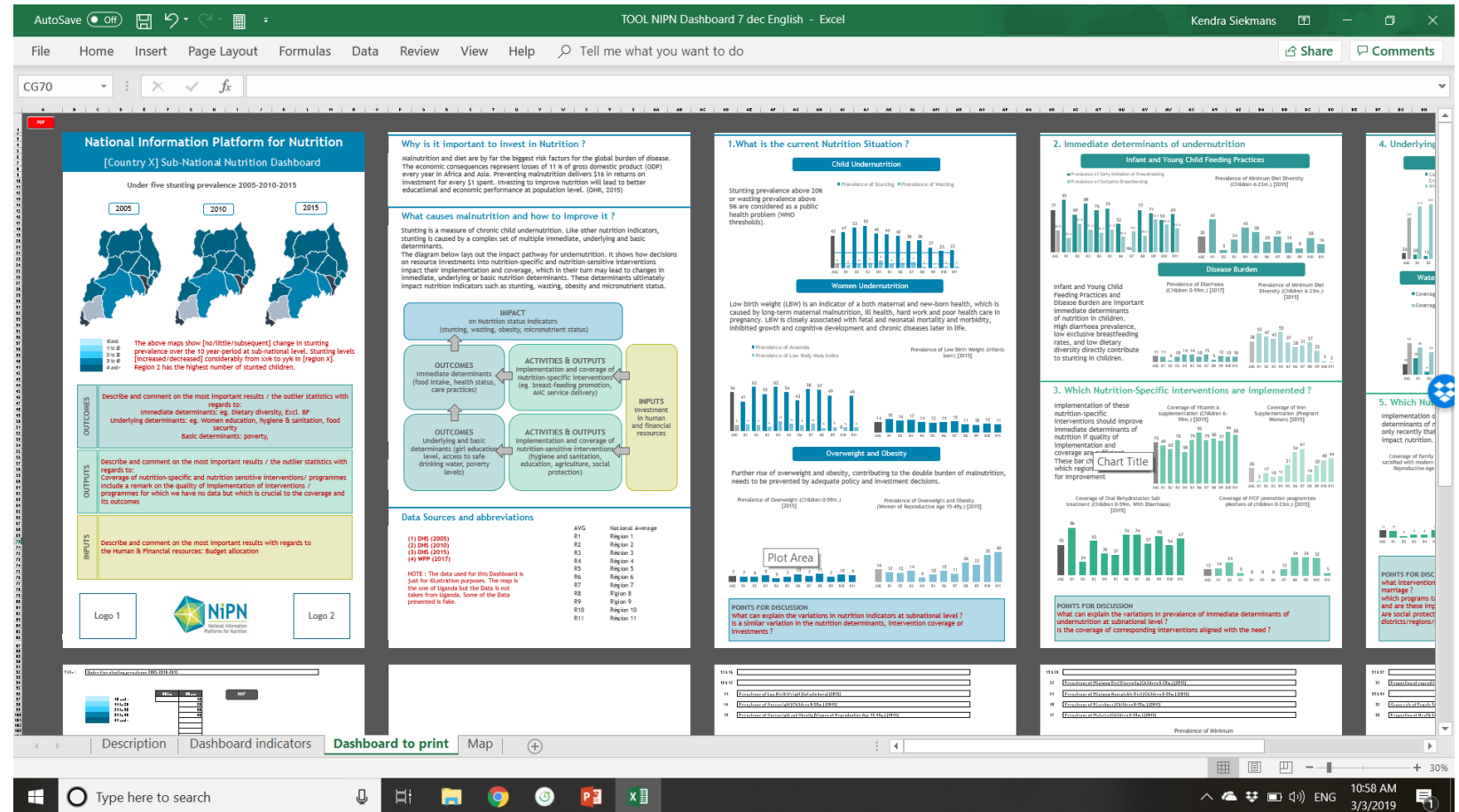
- **Stakeholder and action mapping**

- Led by UN Network
  - Provides valuable info on geographic coverage of both stakeholders and core nutrition actions (both nutrition-specific & nutrition-sensitive)
  - **\*\*A key opportunity to look into multi-stakeholder alignment\*\***
  - Now using a web-based portal that links with DHIS2, enabling ongoing monitoring by country over time (incl Senegal, Mali)
  - 22 SUN countries (incl Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania)
- See UN Network website for country examples  
<https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/outcome-1>
  - Two indicators included in the MEAL Database and Country Dashboard

# Subnational Dashboard Tool



NIPN – NI countries:  
Bangladesh  
Ethiopia  
Burkina Faso  
Niger



MTR recommendations	PRIORITY ACTIONS
<p><b>1) The amount of evidence from JAAs and learning exchanges that are reflected in the MEAL database should be expanded</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the score for the four JAA processes.</li> <li>• <u>Expand use of</u> rich sources of qualitative data that are generated by Joint Annual Assessments and other learning exercises</li> <li>• Explore better sources of data on progress in implementation as a major gap (e.g. NutriDash).</li> </ul>
<p><b>2) A more sensitive set of ‘behaviour change’ indicators should be created/adapted to assess and track actions from national governments, donors, the UN, the private sector and civil society.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify a sensitive set of ‘behaviour change’ indicators to assess and track actions by SUN Movement actors building first on existing reporting system.</li> <li>• Consider additional indicators based on relevance and feasibility.</li> </ul>

MTR recommendations	PRIORITY ACTIONS
<p><b>3) A consensus be developed on the most-appropriate use(s) of the SUN MEAL database (i.e. primarily related to monitoring and reporting or designed to foster greater use of MEAL database content by different end users at different levels)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop MEAL-related communication material to increase understanding and use</li> <li>• Redesigned the info graphic in the cover page to show the oinks between the ToC, MEAL domains and progresses.</li> <li>• Strengthen collaboration with countries and partners</li> </ul>
<p><b>4) A determination be made regarding the extent to which updating certain MEAL database content should be more ‘bottom-up’ (i.e. by National Secretariats) than ‘top down’ (i.e. by the SMS), with suitable checks on quality.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an online JAA reporting system for better updating and storage of information and documents.</li> <li>• Partnerships with UNICEF, UNN, GAIN, NI, DataDENT, NI and MQSUN+</li> </ul>

MTR recommendations	PRIORITY ACTIONS
<p><b>5) There be more systematically documented and disseminated information of promising practices related to (a) MEAL and data use and (b) effective multi-stakeholder, multisectoral partnership.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promising practices related to the MEAL system (i.e. JAA, deep dives, budget analyses, TA provision, etc.) and data use better captured in the SUN Annual Report and discussed in one of the SUN GG sessions.</li> <li>• Promising practices on effective multi-stakeholder, multisectoral partnerships drawn from case studies and evaluation reports including the foreseen 2019 Strategic Review.</li> </ul>

## Are **YOU** a MEAL data user??

- What potential value does the MEAL database have for you in your sphere of influence? What types of questions might this dataset be able to answer?
- What potential value does the MEAL database have for regional or country level partners? How might their use of this resource be increased?
- Would a different type of data interface facilitate greater use of the MEAL database by you, your colleagues or country partners? If yes, what type of data interface do you value for demonstrating/exploring progress of countries?

# Questions?

