

SUN Movement Executive Committee Call

15 September 2020, 15:30-18:00 CEST, Webex

Participation

Participants: Meera Shekar (Chair), Tumaini Mikindo (Vice-Chair), Rob Bertram, Azucena Dayanghirang, Cecilia Gamboa, Christelle Huré, Lawrence Haddad, Abdoulaye Ka, Lauren Landis, Anna Lartey, Asma Lateef, Jo Moir, Gladys Mugambi, Felix Phiri, Kiran Rupakhetee, Aslam Shaheen, Fokko Wientjes, Shawn Baker, Gerda Verburg.

Apologies: Karim Moin, Tatjana von Steiger

Observer: Christopher Twiss (CSN), Jonathan Tench (SBN), Purnima Kashyap (UNN), Florence Tonnoir (UNN), Melanie Bruns (SDN), Karin Gross (SDN), Yngvil Foss (UNOPS), Wahab Moez (WB), Kyoko Okamura (WB), Maria Pizzini (SMS)

Attending: Adam Leach (Facilitator – independent consultant), Jane Keylock (Facilitator – independent consultant)

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Discussion on key topic areas
3. Next steps

Notes

1. Introduction

The consultants welcomed all participants in the meeting and provided a summary of the process up till now including the results from the movement-wide consultation on the strategy from which they identified key themes where most concerns were presented; country leadership and implementation, financing and governance and accountability.

2. Discussion on Key topic areas

Country leadership and implementation

ExCom members raised concerns that the “Country Action Plans” (CAP) might not align with existing country plans, do not build on what exists and there is unclarity about the operationalization. There is agreement that “CAP” can help countries prioritize *but* they need to be aligned with country priorities, recognize country leadership and be evidence-based. There is stressed that country priorities should not be mistaken for development priorities. In addition to “CAPs”, commitment to support the country priorities from other actors is needed. In addition, the sub-national level, private sector engagement and context of fragile states need to be better reflected in the strategy.

Recommitment to SUN

Concerns were raised that it is unclear who should recommit, the Global Support System or country leaders. Countries might be lost if they cannot get high-level recommitment. As alternative was

proposed to connect recommitment on the focus on the Food Systems Summit (2021) and Nutrition for Growth (N4G).

Country Coordinator

The focus needs to be on support for the institutional architecture rather than one individual. Both need sufficient capacity and support from the networks for sustainability. This would include capacity building, resource mobilization, peer-to-peer learning and knowledge management. Some countries already have high-level “focal points” and a transition it could lead to disturbances in the ongoing work. It was raised that connecting to the sub-national level might be more effective in some cases. In addition, it was flagged that it is not SUN’s role to be prescriptive about roles but to support with establishing commitment at the highest level.

Financing

The main concern for countries is continued to be the lack of resources. Support is needed to get the financing for national nutrition plans, including human resources for resource mobilization. Capacity in the movement and SMS on country financing is crucial. The changes which COVID-19 implies for domestic and donor funding should be considered and opportunities for private-sector and innovative financing should be included, and attention to how the humanitarian and development work will be bridged. Furthermore, the Pooled Fund needs to be in the strategy, including on capacity building and accessing financing with a window for fragile states. It is important that the tone of the strategy remains positive and inspirational.

Governance and accountability

There is no clarity yet on how the governance structures will be adjusted. While concerns about the accountability of the Movement have been raised in the reviews, there needs to be clarity on what “accountability” means (for who, to whom about what), in the context of a complex organization. Suggestions were raised to set out an accountability framework or to engage in a change management process but that the structures of the Movement should remain lean. There is raised that countries should be included at the highest level of the movement and that governance structures at country level should be followed, as Focal Points are accountable to their government rather than the SUN Movement. In additional the possibility of regional coordination and the alignment with regional bodies is raised and the need to involve the finance ministers.

3. Next steps

- The consultants will provide an outcome report of the process to reflect the consensus.
- The writing group (Meera Shekar, Tumaini Mikindo, Shawn Baker and Lawrence Haddad) will develop a new draft of the strategy based on the consensus, in a shorter more compelling version.
- Focal Points will be included by the process through the facilitators.
- The SDN Will support the writing of the financing chapter.
- Professional editors will be involved to edit the text.
- In October there will be and ExCom meeting to approve the strategy
- In November the strategy will be put forward to the Lead Group for approval.
