

UN Network Feedback on the Draft Report of the SUN Strategic Review

1. General remarks on the report

The Strategic Review places emphasis on the SUN Movement's stewardship (SUN Lead Group – SUN Executive Committee – SUN Movement Coordinator), while reflections and recommendations pertaining to the different constituencies and country-action seem to be quite limited. The Strategic Review (SR) provides an opportunity to shape Networks' strategies for SUN 3.0. and identify actionable interventions to improve nutrition at the country level. This opportunity has however not been effectively leveraged.

Also, while in principle, one of the key features of the SUN Movement is to be light touch, and not process-oriented, the SR presents quite heavy recommendations in terms of position paper development and strategy preparations (e.g. to address wider issues through a nutrition lens; to clarify how the SUN Movement engage with other global initiatives, to prepare an advocacy strategy, a global partnership strategy, a SUN Movement strategy). Given the limited available resources, the added value of developing some of these documents should be clearly articulated and agreed upon. Stronger collaboration should also be leveraged with think-tanks and organizations already working on some of the aspects (e.g. Global Panel).

2. Networks and platforms

- a) **The UNN concurs with Recommendation 41, that the 'one size fits all' approach currently utilised by the SUN Movement in country engagement, has not adequately supported the objective of having a country-led and country-focused movement for nutrition.** The models of governance promoted by SUN have not always evolved 'naturally' from country contexts and as such may be difficult to adapt for workability in certain country contexts. Findings from the 2019 UNN reporting exercise for instance, show that there are different forms of UNNs beyond formal 'UN Networks' at the country level. These alternative arrangements take the form of Development Partners Groups, combined UN-Donor Networks or nutrition working groups, and are equally effective in terms of the metrics measured in the UNN Functionality Index+. It is thus suggested that the SUN Movement allow for more country-centered and customized network structures that promote engagement on the national nutrition agenda in a more context-specific manner. In addition, **SUN has not sufficiently adapted to the political context of countries in terms of its advocacy efforts.** More attention needs to be paid to the political calendar of countries in planning advocacy efforts and to better alignment with new government plans and flagship programmes.
- b) **The role of the UNN in aligning UN efforts for nutrition in support of SUN has been under-acknowledged in the SR report.** This is in spite of the great role already played and greater potential for the UNN to support SUN's commitment to addressing malnutrition in all its forms by: assisting countries with the integration of nutrition in their UNSDCFs; developing a common UN nutrition agenda; increasing membership among UNN agencies and; supporting coordination for joint programming, among others.
- c) **The SR pays very little attention to other SUN Networks, apart from the CSN.** CSN's voice comes out the most strongly in the document, and a range of specific recommendations targeting civil society and contributions made by civil society are flagged within the SR. UNN, as well as other SUN networks are equally contributing to the work of the SUN Movement and

have the potential to do more. This is however not been adequately analysed or reflected in the report.

- d) **UNN can leverage its facilitative role towards greater inter-network collaboration and customize its tools to support SUN country level engagement**, a fact which has been reflected by the case studies provided in the Annex of the strategic review report.
- e) **The UNN could contribute to the realisation of Recommendation 7** (i.e. maintain SUN's membership focus on low-income/lower-middle-income countries and explore the potential to expand membership to include some middle-income countries) by activating UN Networks at country level and beyond SUN countries, to support national nutrition efforts, while also exploring their potential for SUN membership.
- f) **SUN has not adequately leveraged the common voice of its member countries' in global governance structures**. If SUN61 (i.e. the 61 member states of the SUN Movement) could express a common position on nutrition in global governance mechanisms (as the G77 does), it could make a powerful impact for nutrition. It is suggested that the SMS facilitate efforts to move beyond individual SUN country commitments to collective country commitments for nutrition (e.g. nutrition-related resolutions).
- g) With reference to Recommendation 6 on the development of SUN position papers, **it is worth noting that there are existing country mechanisms which could better link UN normative and global position papers to enhance country ownership for the benefit of all stakeholders**.
- h) With reference to the findings on SUN governance¹, for a movement that is country-led and country-driven, the SR finding is that focal points are not organized globally as a network. **It merits for the SR to note that in SUN 1.0, the countries' focal point network was central to SUN, but the centrality of SUN countries has been weakening over time**. There were mechanisms for peer exchange (through SUN country calls), it is however not clear whether these have been disengaged and why. More innovative (digital) mechanisms could be proposed and the Action Networks under the Nutrition Decade could be leveraged for peer exchanges.
- i) **More analysis needs to be conducted on regional SUN structures**, specifically linked to country support and facilitation of inter-country learning. Perhaps regional TA structures could be developed, also building on the UN capacity in the Regional Bureaux.

3. Technical assistance

- a) **The UNN concurs that countries need to play a more decisive role in determining the support provided through SUN (Recommendation 36)**. For instance, UNN has helped SUN countries with coordination and accountability tools, as well as REACH facilitation, upon request. Many SUN Focal Points have since requested UNN-REACH assistance, however such requests are exceeding the funding capacity of UNN-REACH and are therefore creating gaps in TA.
- b) **There is need for TA to be clearly mapped and listed by the SUN movement (Recommendation 33)**. It is suggested that a list of TA support be provided by SMS to avoid duplication of efforts and to better map the different needs, as well as potential TA sources (e.g. UN or CSOs). It is also suggested that SMS consult the UNN website when developing its roster of service providers of TA.
- c) **With reference to Recommendation 17, the UNN suggests that the SUN Movement avoid creating tools/databases that are already existing and should rather help generate and/or provide data to be included within existing databases** such as the Global database on the

¹ Findings and insights related to SUN's structure and governance, Pg. 9, Para 2

- Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA), the FAO's GIFT (Global Individual Food Consumption data Tool), and the Global Nutrition Report (GNR).
- d) **In view of Recommendation 11, the UNN recommends that the SUN Movement Secretariat leverages the tools provided by the UN Network** (such as the [Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping](#), the Policy and Plan Overview, etc.), as well as the existing relations of the UN Network with key country actors, to facilitate the development of customised approaches towards improved nutrition governance in countries.
 - e) **The Strategic Review provides limited analysis of the processes around TA provision at the country level.** The role played by the UN system on capacity building and TA has been grossly under-reflected. TA provision at the country level by UN agencies is broader than the system currently in place by the SUN Movement. Moving forward, it is suggested that a more integrated approach be built in the SUN Movement Support system – an approach that benefits from the capacity and skills of UN colleagues already in-country and in the regional bureaux. Several attempts have been made in the past to enhance the role of the SMS as a source of information about TA, to no avail. It is thus recommended that the strategic review includes some **more concrete, actionable recommendations**.

4. Inter-network collaboration

“At present, SUN has a constellation of structures that generally operate within their own silos. As different networks have evolved over the life of SUN, they have largely concentrated on intra-network dynamics and issues rather than inter-network collaboration.”²

The SUN network secretariats have raised this issue repeatedly to the SMS and looked to the **SMS to help create the space for improved inter-network collaboration**. These requests were largely ignored until 2019, but the network secretariats remain committed to improving collaboration across the SUN networks and the UNN, including through its intensive support arm UNN-REACH, has orchestrated joint network activities. When referring to the Draft SUN GSS Collaboration Framework 2019–2020, it would be helpful to acknowledge that the global network secretariats advocated for the development of this framework.

5. Merger with the GNR

The UNN agrees with the recommendation for the SUN Movement to explore the potential for a merger with the GNR in terms of its data work streams (Recommendation 19, page 20), understanding that the GNR is a credible source of data with many independent experts contributing to the report. It would also help reduce the reporting burden and duplication of efforts. UNN could also help bring country success stories to the GNR.

6. Linkages with the CFS

While the SUN Strategic Review acknowledges that “poor diets are a major contributory factor to the rising prevalence of malnutrition in all its forms” it does not make links to the CFS. CFS covers a much larger number of countries. This also seems timely in that: (1) the mandate of the CFS now includes nutrition; (2) SUN is considering whether to expand its borders to developed countries; and (3) SUN is a time-bound initiative. In addition, both the SUN Movement and the CFS have mechanisms from civil society and the private sector while also involving UN agencies and members states. It is suggested that SUN be repositioned in the CFS or at minimum, that the institutional links between the two structures be strengthened. CFS is a good place to drive political commitment (global role with country

² Findings and insights related to SUN's structure and governance, pg. 10, Para 3

participation). Furthermore, increasing the engagement of SUN Government Focal Points in this arena would help ongoing efforts to mainstream nutrition in agriculture, fisheries and livestock, natural resources management and environmental workstreams, which is also increasingly important within the context of climate change.

The UNN Secretariat has brought country stories to the CFS, through its side events, where it has invited SUN Government Focal Points from Mali and Senegal to speak about their experiences. This has also helped to reinforce linkages across government ministries and sharpen the CFS's nutrition lens. In addition, the UNN Secretariat has also participated in the participative process to develop the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition through the CFS's Open-Ended Working Group on nutrition. There are also opportunities for the SUN Movement, including the SMS, to leverage and disseminate the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) reports on varying thematic areas, which typically explore emerging issues. The HLPE reports are high-calibre and reflect multiple perspectives. This would help establish synergies with other existing mechanisms and resources, rather than duplicate efforts, which would seemingly be a risk if the SMS develops position papers as articulated in the SUN Strategic Review report.

7. MEAL and Data Management

- a) The UNN acknowledges the SUN MEAL's importance for dataset, and its country driven elements which can be used complementary with elements of the GNR. To strengthen the system however, the SUN Movement needs to clarify the added value of MEAL and consider ways in which it could better contribute to existing data and knowledge management streams without creating data confusion.
- b) **UNN has contributed to MEAL through findings generated from its analytical tools, which provide updated data on actionable indicators. These exercises should be further supported by the SUN Movement in countries, to ensure periodicity and capacity to generate timely data.**
- c) **The SUN MEAL system also needs to make more links with national information systems and global systems (GNR report), instead of adding layers.** [PPO exercises](#) can be systematically integrated in SUN assessments as it highlights the work on policy coherence and improved policy support for nutrition.

8. Improving linkages with the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)

- a) **As noted in Recommendation 42 and with respect to country collaboration as noted in Recommendation 13, it is suggested that the SUN Movement makes linkages with the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)** via its Action Networks, to foster cross-country learning. Other linkages with the Nutrition Decade could also be proposed, e.g. through nutrition commitments made by SUN countries. The commitments could be registered under the Nutrition Decade and as such become visible in global multilateral reporting mechanisms such as the UN General Assembly, the World Health Assembly, the CFS Annual Session etc.
- b) **In addition, the proposed partnership between HIC and LIC countries (Recommendation 8) is similar to what is being achieved through the Action Networks of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.** SMS could support specific Action Networks on prioritized nutrition issues. The new strategy 2020-2025 would cover the same timeline as the Nutrition Decade.
- c) **SUN could/should play a key role in engaging parliamentarians for nutrition.** One of the members of the Lead Group is the Steering Group of Inter-Parliamentary Union, which should be leveraged. SUN has been instrumental in ensuring nutrition language in the IPU's UHC

resolution. SUN could support an action network (or coalition) bringing together parliamentarians of SUN countries or at a regional level.

9. SUN Pooled Fund

- a) *“Focus SUN Movement grant making on concrete actions that will contribute to scale-up of nutrition, not on core funding for country structures”* (Recommendation 38, pg. 34):
When rethinking the SUN Pool Fund, it would be good to consider how the application requirements can be simplified for countries. Selection criteria might help incentivize inter-network collaboration, perhaps even leveraging the UNN-REACH country support platform, which has proved to be effective in a number of SUN countries. This is particularly relevant in view of the fact that *“In most countries, serving as a Focal Point is not a full-time position, and people in these roles typically have other responsibilities”* as recognized later in the Strategic Review report.
- b) *“Strengthen the role of the SMS in collaborating with countries to generate data for action”* (Recommendation 17, pg. 20): Country findings/reports from UNN analytics are available on the UNN website, where there are specific webpages on the individual tools ([1] Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview, [2] Policy and Plan Overview; [3] Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping; [4] Nutrition Capacity Assessment). These UNN analytics generate action-oriented outputs for the greater nutrition community in-country, helping to inform planning, targeting, resource allocation and other decision-making. In view of the above, it **would be helpful if the SUN Pooled Fund to finance these activities** in the future. Results from a recent impact assessment of the UNN tools, indicates that tools had been utilized for various purposes across the countries, with notable impact observed for improving: (1) nutrition advocacy; (2) strengthening national nutrition information systems (3) multi-sectoral nutrition coordination; and (4) spurring increased engagement of government institutions in the nutrition agenda.

10. SMS Management and Governance

- a) With reference to the section on Advocacy,³ indeed, advocacy around critical nutrition issues had been the most significant achievement of the SUN Movement since its inception. Nevertheless, it would have been useful see an **assessment of the SUN Global Coordinator’s position as a UN ASG**: It is clear that the ASG opens the doors to the highest levels of government. This double position has certainly been an advantage but can also create confusion about SUN – is this a UN initiative? Further analysis is required on this (*see also page 23 on the role of the SUN global coordinator*).
- b) Having a more detailed timeline and also deadline for the SUN movement can bring more focus and orientated actions within the next phase of the SUN movement. If it is clear to work towards a specific deadline (of 2030), countries, partners and SUN will be able to better plan and focus future efforts in the SUN movement.

11. Country UNN responses to the SUN Strategic Review questions⁴

- a) **Which recommendations do you think are the highest priority and should receive top attention in the next phase of the movement?**
 - i. Recommendation 5: Expand the scope of SUN to include important nutrition-related issues such as climate change, food systems and NCDs.

³ Advocacy, Pg. 16, Section 3.1.4, Para 1

⁴ Responses noted within this section reflect only the views of UN Networks at the country level.

- ii. Recommendation 11: Develop a country-driven, country-led and country-centred SUN Movement strategy.
 - iii. Recommendation 10: Develop an advocacy strategy, linked to the objectives of the overarching SUN Movement.
 - iv. Recommendation 14: Support SUN countries to identify a limited set of actionable priority areas that are currently un-addressed or underperforming.
 - v. Recommendation 12: Ensure the SUN strategy is concise and focused and prioritises actions that will support countries to scale up nutrition programmes, improve effectiveness and achieve results.
- b) Are there recommendations with which you disagree strongly, and if so, list up to five key recommendations that you disagree with, and why.**
- i. Recommendation 1: It is important for the SUN Movement to invest in the development of a vision and mission statement as this constitutes a useful exercise both for deducing and updating a clear strategy.
 - ii. Recommendation 3: As it stands, available resources are insufficient for those most in need. Including less-high priority populations is not recommendable in the light of this.
 - iii. Recommendation 7: Seeing as the SUN Movement seeks to address “malnutrition in all its forms”, it becomes even more relevant for all countries, including middle- and higher-income countries to be actively engaged in efforts to combat overweight and obesity on a global level and to do so within the broader context of other global challenges such as climate change.
 - iv. Recommendation 8: This recommendation could generate conflict between high-income countries and low-income countries as it may reinforce donor-beneficiary dividing lines.
 - v. Recommendation 31: Knowledge sharing can be achieved without the creation of a new network. In reality, focal points will be unable to dedicate time and attention to a new network.
 - vi. Recommendation 36: Countries require independence in this respect and must be given the freedom to determine the TA they need.
 - vii. Recommendation 40: This is best left up to all countries to decide on what structure is best for them.
- c) Are there important aspects that you feel have been missed by the Strategic Review, and if so, list up to 5 key areas?**
- i. **Adequate attention has not been given to resource mobilisation for nutrition at the country level.** There is need for the review to proffer resource mobilization ideas and strategies that could be useful in keeping nutrition high on national development agendas.
 - ii. **In some countries, the nutrition Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) only exists in writing.** The review should proffer ways of creating and maintaining active MSPs.
 - iii. **Very little attention is paid to the role of the SUN Business Network in attaining enhanced private sector engagement in national nutrition agendas.** Strong partnerships can be influenced through the SBN as it constitutes actors across entire food value chains. There is need to strengthen SBN structures within SUN countries to enable private sector to contribute sustainably to nutrition.
 - iv. **Insufficient attention paid to strengthening the translation of recommendations into action,** for instance in terms of practical engagement of governments (the key influential

stakeholder) to invest in demand creation and access essential nutrition services through various sectors.

- v. **SMS to provide clear guidance on the importance of the humanitarian-development nexus and the role of different networks at the country level** in facilitating those ends.
- vi. SMS to provide clear guidance, explicitly stating the **role of networks in the nutrition investment financial analysis exercise**.

d) Are there areas where you feel there needs to be more analysis in order to make an informed decision or recommendation? If so, list up to five key areas for further analysis.

- i. Further analysis is needed on how the availability of resources has either positively or negatively impacted achievement of SUN objectives in countries.
- ii. More analysis is required on appropriate ways of planning, budget allocation as well as mainstreaming nutrition in programmes in such a way that contributes to impact on nutrition indicators.
- iii. It is important to develop a risk assessment, disclosure and management tool to safeguard against possible conflicts of interest in policy development and implementation of nutrition programmes arising from engagements with the private sector. Clear guidance on how SUN can support countries in handling undue influence for interests other than the public good would be beneficial.
- iv. The review needs to provide in-depth lessons learned that emphasises what has worked rather than only bottlenecks.

With regards to specific recommendations, further analysis is required on:

- v. Recommendation 31 - Build a network of SUN Country Focal Points and strengthen the communication between Focal Points and the four SUN global networks.
- vi. Recommendation - Expand the scope of SUN to include important nutrition-related issues such as climate change, food systems and NCDs.
- vii. Recommendation 38 - Focus SUN Movement grant making on concrete actions that will contribute to scale-up of nutrition, not on core funding for country structures.
- viii. Recommendation 18 - Review the value and VfM of SUN investment in the MEAL system and in the JAA process.
- ix. Recommendation 32 - Encourage existing networks to be more inclusive of young people.
- x. Recommendation 40 - Shift to a 'Country Coalition' approach at the national level.
- xi. Recommendation 30 - Set clear and high standards for business participation in SUN at the global and country levels.

f) Are the parts of the report, particularly recommendations that need clarification? If so, list up to 5 key areas for further clarification.

- i. Much emphasis is laid on food systems, with few successful examples. This is a macro-economic issue that requires a comprehensive approach ranging from policy analysis to traditional approaches as well as in-country capacities. Clarification is needed on how SUN can influence such macro issues using a 'nutrition flag' rather than a national development tag line.
- ii. Recommendation 36 - Shift the focus of future Technical Assistant (TA) to support the implementation of national plans tailored to country priorities and contexts.
- iii. Recommendation 40: Shift to a "Country Coalition" approach at the national level.

- iv. The role of technical assistance (TA) and REACH in protracted emergency contexts.
- v. Encouraging existing networks to be more inclusive of young people.

12. Additional Comments on the Annex of the Strategic Review

Country examples in annex should be to some extent reflected in the main text. E.g. **Contribution of UNN in terms of evidence building** (pp. 54-55). The following include additional points that could be further reflected in the country illustrations:

- a) **Afghanistan:** As an organised global platform, the SUN UN Network (UNN) has also made tangible contributions to enhance process issues related to implementation of a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder nutrition response. For example, it supported the activation of a platform for donors/development partners, provided various forms of technical assistance (TA) to Afghanistan's Civil Society Alliance (CSA) and supported the government in mainstreaming nutrition into legislation and plans.
- b) **Bangladesh:** The role of UNN-REACH historically in support of SUN in Bangladesh is missing. UNN-REACH played an instrumental role in the SUN Movement in Bangladesh, starting with its efforts in 2010 to encourage the government to join the SUN Movement. UNN-REACH was also a catalyst in establishing other networks, such as the SUN Civil Society Network in Bangladesh, known as CSA-SUN. The initial UNN-REACH Facilitator dually served as the SUN Coordinator until the government appointed the official SUN Government Focal Point, helping to build momentum for SUN processes from the inception. UNN-REACH took vast strides to bring diverse nutrition actors together and help them establish a common language, drawing upon analytical tools developed by UNN-REACH, such as the [Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview](#) and the [mapping](#).

The visuals generated through these comprehensive analytics, from dashboards to coverage maps and charts that highlighted inequities (e.g. gender, wealth, regional) and trends over time, provided key inputs for nutrition advocacy, including efforts that targeted policymakers and lawmakers such as the Speaker of Parliament. They also painted the picture that nutrition is a multi-faceted issue that implicates multiple sectors and impacts the country's broader development. The analytics also provided a basis on which to ground common nutrition messaging, articulated in [Common Nutrition Narrative](#) that was developed in partnership with the SUN Donor Network and facilitated by the UNN-REACH facilitator. Furthermore, they created an appetite for other advocacy activities, directly supported by UNN-REACH, such as the development of a Joint Advocacy and Communications Strategy for Nutrition and the production a striking [film](#) that captured the factors driving undernutrition, particular gender challenges, through the eyes and voices of women and men residing in the Satkhira district. The film served as call to action and supplemented other UNN-REACH-supported activities to profile nutrition in the media, drawing upon UN leadership such as Country Representatives of resident UN agencies.

The combination of neutral facilitation support, impactful analytics and advocacy undertaken through UNN-REACH enabled the country to raise the profile of nutrition as a priority investment for economic and social development and to foster increased coherence across sectors. These efforts were widely acknowledged by actors in-country and cited in the 2015 ICE Evaluation on SUN, which stated that, "The REACH facilitator in Bangladesh is seen in some quarters as a principal driver of SUN in Bangladesh."

- c) **Burkina Faso:** *"In Burkina Faso, UNN-REACH has proven to be an important platform for engaging multi-sectoral stakeholders in efforts that advance the country's progress related to nutrition and, more broadly, the SDGs. The 'One UN' model is functioning in Burkina Faso, with*

*UNICEF providing leadership in maintaining a common vision and joint approach across UN agencies.*⁵ It is great that the contributions/role of REACH is acknowledged in the case study. It would also be good to qualify that UNN-REACH was operational in-country from 2014 to 2018, which correlates quite well with the period during which stunting gains were observed, according to the EU analysis cited in the case study. The UNN-REACH engagement helped foster increased UN joint programming on nutrition and mobilize the UNRC to champion nutrition, bridge humanitarian and development workstreams and further empower a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition. The UNN-REACH facilitators also were instrumental in galvanizing diverse actors to formulate robust nutrition governance frameworks from policy to plans (national and sub-national), providing a foundation for scaling up nutrition actions. It also was key in mobilizing decentralized government authorities, such as mayors, in helping to mainstream nutrition in regional and communal development plans and approaches. Of course, these efforts need to be matched with capacity development and financial support for sub-national activities in order to be translated in nutrition impact. The UNN (including through UNN-REACH) and CSA has made significant contributions within the realm of advocacy, culminating in the establishment of the Parliamentarian Network, also linked to the financing achievements reported in the case study.

Furthermore, UNN support has been pivotal to facilitating the development of a Common Nutrition Agenda. “Launched in late 2018, the narrative serves as the bedrock of successive SUN activity in the country from the capital to sub-national areas. The process of developing the common narrative was highly participative, thanks to the neutral UNN-REACH facilitators, providing an opportunity to nurture the collective spirit of the SUN Movement and reaffirm commitment among SUN actors in the country. While developed by UNN-REACH, the document outlines a set of recommendations for each of the six SUN networks (including UNN) as well as for the SUN Government Focal Point, key ministries and decentralized government authorities.” (2019 UN Network Annual Report).

- d) **Costa Rica:** agencies have formed a UNN as a platform for technical and financial assistance in the planning and execution of Costa Rica’s food security and nutrition programmes. Beyond the UN, it is difficult at this juncture to describe Costa Rica’s MSP as inclusive of all key constituencies that have (or should have) a stake in nutrition.
- e) **Indonesia:** In Indonesia, UN stakeholders and donor stakeholders have merged under a single network known as DUNCNN (Donor and UN Country Network for Nutrition). This merged network has facilitated coordination between two constituencies with explicit mandates to support the government. To date, DUNCNN has also proven to be a viable mechanism for knowledge sharing on programmes/activities and best practices.
- f) **Rwanda:** “As observed in several other countries, 2 SUN structures, the UNN and CSA (Civil Society Alliance), feature prominently in supporting the multisectoral nutrition response in Rwanda. The UNN has provided TA in a number of domains (e.g. technical support to Rwanda’s Academia and Research Network and support with multisectoral coordination).”

It would be good to mention that the UNN-REACH country engagement spanned from 2012 to 2016, helping to catalyse and bring momentum to SUN processes. In particular, the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview (including gender and urban-rural disaggregated dashboards) and the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping were effective in helping diverse nutrition actors obtain a holistic view of the country’s nutrition challenges that successively informed nutrition planning, including at sub-national levels. It was also instrumental in animating a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition. They also fed in nutrition advocacy activities, involving

⁵ Burkina Faso, SUN Strategic Review Country Illustration, pg. 51

the media (e.g. the multi-sectoral campaign, called *A Thousand Days in the Land of a Thousand Hills*), and high-ranking government officials to ensure that nutrition was prominently reflected in the country's development agenda. In addition, the mapping exercise directly supported the development of an online nutrition information system, helping to make sure that indicators beyond the health sector, even if these efforts were largely led by the Ministry of Health. The system, based on the District Health Information System, version 2 (DHIS2) software, enabled all the social cluster ministries to monitor outcome and impact indicators and was linked to the National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan. UNN-REACH also played a considerable role in the establishment of the National Food and Nutrition Coordination Secretariat (2016) and partially covered the costs of its staffing as part of its greater efforts to enhance nutrition coordination capacity.

UNN-REACH facilitation services and the UN Nutrition Inventory also catalysed the formulation of UN joint programming on nutrition, which enabled UN colleagues to capitalize on the identified opportunities for increased synergy, and thus improve the efficiency of UN support in this area. The results from the Inventory also framed discussions for a UNN retreat devoted to strategic planning for nutrition, taking into consideration that three or more UN agencies were supporting actions in six thematic areas. These efforts also incited follow-up action to help some UN agencies make their actions more 'nutrition-oriented', thereby helping to bolster the country's multi-sectoral approach.

- g) **Rwanda:** As observed in several other countries, 2 SUN structures, the UNN and CSA (Civil Society Alliance), feature prominently in supporting the multi-sectoral nutrition response in Rwanda. The UNN has provided TA in a number of domains (e.g. technical support to Rwanda's Academia and Research Network and support with multi-sectoral coordination).