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So we have established a high-level steering committee on nutrition, which really is a multi-stakeholder, multi-partnership committee consisting of senior government officials, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's office, and there's another nine Permanent Secretaries. We also have development partners, which are UNICEF, USAID and Irish Aid. We have the private sector, we also have the CSOs. We have also launched the National Nutrition Strategy last year. Recently, we have completed the implementation plan to execute that nutrition strategy. The 2012-2013 budget, it is a specific nutrition budget line, which the sectors can use to budget. And then we have recruited more 106 nutrition officers in the districts.

What is the main advantage of your engagement with SUN?

With the coming of the SUN, we see a global initiative, which everybody has to be taken onboard. And in fact, it has helped us to put the multi-sectoral, multi-partnership approach, that is one—we are really in the SUN for that. This is not just business as usual, it requires a lot of other stakeholders to come onboard.

What are your priorities to advance progress on Scaling Up Nutrition?

To move from what we have done already, to action, especially at the district level. To let this information—now for the steering committee at the district to work, and now to start really executing of the cost-effective programs which will give us quick results. Also I want to continue recruiting more nutrition officers—at least all the districts by 2014, to have the nutrition officers, and to integrate the community health workers in the nutrition arena.

What will these efforts mean for the future of Tanzania?

It's to have children, who are well-developed, with good brains, who will produce more for the country, who will be beneficial more than it is today. A child who is well-nourished today will be a good citizen, and are more productive in the future.

What would you say to other countries seeking to Scale Up Nutrition?

Malnutrition is a time bomb. It is a bomb we are sitting on, which will affect our country in a very negative way. So by joining the SUN, and getting the exposure, knowing what others are doing, it will help them to come out with the multi-stakeholder, multi-partnership approach toward nutrition and, consequently, lowering the malnutrition rate.

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