



The 65 SUN Countries, 4 Indian States, +4,000 civil society organizations, +1,400 businesses, 16 UN agencies, and donor network of the **Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement** are now working together to mobilize as one movement in response to the global food and nutrition crisis.

As part of this multisectoral and multistakeholder country-led response, the SUN Movement organized on 5-6 July 2022 a series of four regional member dialogues with member country SUN Political and Technical Focal Points and their teams to:

- Highlight the current and anticipated effects of the crisis on food and nutrition actions at the country-level.
- Understand how SUN Movement members and stakeholders are ensuring that food and nutrition are being integrated into response and preparedness planning and coordination mechanisms at the country-level.
- Identify the challenges encountered by countries in addressing the food and nutrition crisis at the national and sub-national level.
- Share country short- and long-term solutions, including investing in the national food systems pathway, which have been applied to address the challenges identified.
- Outline potential gaps needing global support and action.

The regions included: Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. This brief presents the outputs of the Asia regional dialogue, which included the participation of ten countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

## Regional Situation Analysis

All SUN member countries across the **Asia region** are experiencing rising prices for food, energy and fertilizer, and fuel and fertilizer shortages, though few are direct importers of Russia/Ukraine products.

The COVID-19 pandemic is cited, by some countries, as the continued primary driver of malnutrition. Nutrition is still being prioritized but some countries are facing budget cuts, reduced donor aid and health worker shortages. Timor-Leste and Indonesia are exceptions. UN Food

Systems Summit food system transformation efforts are ongoing in some countries – and linking with nutrition.

In response to the crisis, countries are expanding social protection programmes and school feeding programmes, and providing the agriculture sector with increased funding, subsidies and tax exemptions.

Countries in the region are requesting financial and technical support for their response to the crisis.

## Detailed country-level and regional feedback on challenges and solutions

### COST OF LIVING

- **Challenges being faced:** Food and commodity prices are up (Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan); including edible oils up 20% (Nepal), food prices up 17% (Kyrgyzstan); cost of fuel rising (Bangladesh) up by 43% (Nepal), which is causing rising transport costs.
- **Solutions being implemented:** Social protection programmes being implemented across the region.

### FOOD SYSTEMS

- **Challenges being faced:** Increased fertilizer cost (Kyrgyzstan), up to 3 times price increase (Nepal); shortage in food production (Papua New Guinea).
- **Solutions being implemented:** Agriculture budget increased (Nepal, Timor-Leste); tax abatements and subsidies (Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea); increase production (Nepal, Bangladesh); encouraging youth engagement in agriculture and agri-business (Philippines).

### NUTRITION

- **Challenges being faced:** Funding challenges (Viet Nam) and budget cuts (Lao People's Democratic Republic); nutrition not considered a priority (Viet Nam); reduced access to services in food, health nutrition, WASH and education, and reduced social protection for the most vulnerable (Bangladesh); estimated 10,000 health workers quit their job after COVID-19 (Viet Nam); no national target programme for health since 2019, nutrition no longer managed by the Ministry of Health (Viet Nam).

- **Solutions being implemented:** Expand social protection programmes (Nepal, Timor-Leste); nutrition programmes are receiving increasing funding, leading to a tripling of the nutrition budget (Timor-Leste); expanded school feeding (Nepal) budget up 200% (Timor-Leste); budget of Rp 450 million to reduce stunting (Indonesia); inclusion of a nutrition emergency objective with two indicators being implemented by all provinces (Viet Nam, Lao People's Democratic Republic), proposal to integrate nutrition in universal healthcare (Viet Nam); improved coordination for nutrition (Timor-Leste); loan from World Bank and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to focus on first 1,000 days of a child's life and stunting (Papua New Guinea).

### NUTRITIOUS FOOD AVAILABILITY AND COST

- **Challenges being faced:** Food costs are increasing in all countries in the region.
- **Solutions being implemented:** Food Systems national roadmap funded (Nepal); Food system dialogues have been taking place to highlight the challenges and identify solutions (Nepal, Viet Nam, Timor-Leste).

### GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL NEEDS

- **Challenges being faced:** Reduction in donor aid (Viet Nam); reduction in remittances – by 33% predicted for 2022 by the World Bank (Kyrgyzstan).
- **Solutions being implemented:** Seeking nutrition finance support and technical support for nutrition funding tracking (Timor-Leste).

## Potential support to SUN Countries

- High-level advocacy to increase political and financial commitment to nutrition in the country (Viet Nam, Lao People's Democratic Republic).
- Nutrition financial support, and technical support on nutrition funding tracking (Timor-Leste).
- Technical assistance for carrying out nutrition assessments (Viet Nam).

