

SUN Movement Executive Committee Call

28 March 2022, 15:00 – 17:00 CEST, Zoom

Summary note

Participation

Participants: Connell Foley, Gladys Mugambi (Co-Chairs), Augstin Flory, Azucena Dayanghirant, Caroline Wilkinson, Cecilia Gamboa, Christine, Campeau, George D. Kembo, Karima Al-Hada'a, Kiran Rupakhetee, Mathews Mhuru, Mike Khunga, Neil Watkins, Patricia N'Goran, Richmond Aryeetey, Andrew Kirkwood, Gerda Verburg, Nancy Aburto (on behalf of Abigail Perry), Shea Wickramasingha (on behalf of Matt Kovac)

Apologies: Abigail Perry, George Gyan-Baffour, Matt Kovac

Observers: Alternates: Florence Sibomana, Helena Guarin, Richard Pendame, Venuste Muhamyankaka, Network Facilitators: Emily Henegan (SBN), Stineke Oenema (UNN), Melanie Bruns (SDN), Hannah Stephenson (CSN) Others: Theresa Fasig, Mary Mphereh, Siboniso Chigova, Marie Durling, SUN Movement Secretariat: Maria Pizzini, Renee de Jong, Strategic Management Team (SMT) and Country Action Team (CAT)

Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Building a country-led Executive Committee
 - a. Transformation of the Executive Committee into a truly country-driven governance platform
 - b. Presentation by SUN Country Government Focal Points on findings and asks from the regional surveys to assess readiness to roll-out SUN Strategy 2021-2025
3. Procedural items
 - a. SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS) priorities, work plan and budget for 2022
 - b. SUN Movement Pooled Fund Work Plan, Budget, review and vision for the Pooled Fund 3.0
4. Other business
 - a. Update from the Executive Committee Youth Representative
 - b. Update from SUN Executive Committee Finance Expert
5. Closing remarks

Decisions

- *The SUN Movement Executive Committee endorsed the SUN Movement Secretariat priorities, work plan and budget for 2022*
- *The SUN Movement Executive Committee approved the SUN Pooled Fund work plan and budget until June 2022, endorsed the review and endorsed the vision that will inform the business case for a new phase of the pooled fund*
- *The SUN Movement Executive Committee confirmed the proposed composition of the Finance Task Team shared by the Executive Committee Finance Expert member on 14 March 2022.*

Action points

- Executive Committee members are encouraged to reflect on the presentation and requests shared by SUN Countries with their networks and constituencies to enable a more action-oriented discussion on the response during the May 2022 retreat. In particular, Executive Committee members were encouraged to *support the GSS as they identify priorities for their joint workplan from July 2022 onwards in order to deliver as one at country level in the coming years.*
- The Global Support Team will share their agreed priorities for joint work in 2022 after further discussion and agreement in coming weeks.
- *SMS to share a summary of the outcomes of the interviews for the Pooled Fund Review with the Executive Committee*
- *Executive Committee members are requested to share potential candidates for the remaining vacant seats on the Finance Task Team, particularly where they can identify individuals with expertise in domestic resource mobilization, budget negotiations, climate finance or private investments*
- *The Finance Expert member is requested to share more details of the questions framing the for expert consultancy to design the Finance Capacity Development Platform.*

Summary note

Opening remarks

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

Agenda Item 1: Building a country-led Executive Committee

SUN Movement Executive Committee working modalities

The Co-Chairs presented their vision for transforming the Executive Committee to a country-driven governance platform. To do so they proposed to use the additional day for SUN Country Focal Points on the ExCom the 18th of May. The Chairs strive for the ExCom to have clarity of the agenda on an annual basis, building on the JAA and the Global Nutrition Report while balancing substance and procedural issues. They welcome any feedback.

Presentation of the SUN 3.0 readiness assessment

The SUN Country Focal Points on the Executive Committee presented the results of the regional readiness assessment surveys and shared the priority request for the ExCom support ([all presentations](#)). Specific country requests are detailed in Annex I. Following the presentations, the Co-Chairs pointed out the consistent and common requests for support for resource mobilization, (high-level) advocacy and better information management systems.

- On **resource mobilization**, the relevance of the finance capacity development platform was emphasized. Understanding the needs of individual countries is important in order to effectively “match-make” with the support available from the Global Support System. The importance of mobilization of sustainable domestic resources was emphasized by country representatives. Support to organise fundraising round tables with prospective sources of external financing

would be particularly helpful for countries. Encouragement for donor alignment behind national nutrition plans and funding priorities was repeatedly raised.

- On **knowledge management and MEAL**, it was suggested to organize peer-to-peer learning activities related to data systems. The SMS will establish a 'convergence hub' as part of its new structure. This hub will provide a platform where countries affected by humanitarian crises will have the opportunity to exchange and learn from one another.
- On **(high-level) advocacy**, it was stressed that the crisis in Ukraine is likely to put extra strain on countries' food and nutrition security challenges. The SUN Movement has an important role to play in supporting countries who have made their commitments to improve nutrition to see these through to action and results on the ground. The SUN Movement Coordinator invited all ExCom and Lead Group members to participate in and/or join her on country visits.

Some members asked for more time to reflect on the presentations and to discuss the requests in May. The use of digital tools for quick informal communication such as WhatsApp is encouraged.

The Co-chairs thanked the countries for sharing their results and the initial thoughts on taking leadership in their own resource mobilization. It was suggested to identify the key issues, turn them into action points and discuss the follow up at the next meeting with a commitment to report back regularly on progress. ExCom Members were encouraged to support the GSS as it develops its priorities for joint working in the coming year.

Follow up Action Points:

- Executive Committee members are encouraged to reflect on the presentation and requests shared by SUN Countries with their networks and constituencies to enable a more detailed and action-oriented discussion on the response during the May 2022 retreat. In particular, Executive Committee members were encouraged to support the GSS as they their joint workplan from July 2022 onwards in order to deliver as one at country level in the coming years.

Agenda Item 2: Procedural items

2.1 SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS) priorities, work plan and budget for 2022

The SUN Movement Coordinator briefly presented the SMS priorities for the first half year, the full work plan and the budget. The SMS has developed (and agreed with its donors) a four-year provisional budget based on an interim model¹ and one region fully staffed based on the Executive Committee's recommendation in January 2022. Gender is mainstreamed in all priorities and activities of the SMS as well as a more systematic approach to engaging youth. The Executive Committee suggested that if needed it was preferred to reduce global activities rather than country support and asked for a common agenda on three priorities to rally around collectively. It was stressed that the top priorities are the country needs, including setting up the regional hubs. The Global Support Team will meet virtually and in person in coming weeks to agree on a joint work plan and agree priorities for joint work from the second half of 2022 onwards.

¹ as recommended in the 2021 SMS Functional Review and agreed by the Executive Committee

Decision: *The SUN Movement Executive Committee endorsed the SUN Movement Secretariat priorities, work plan for the first half year and the budget for 2022*

Follow Up Action Point:

- The Global Support Team will meet virtually and in person in coming weeks to agree on a high-level joint work plan and agree priorities for joint work from the second half of 2022 onwards.

2.2 SUN Movement Pooled Fund

The Coordinator requested that the Executive Committee 1) approve the extended work plan and budget till June 2022 as approved by the Pooled Fund Consultative Group 2) endorse the strategic review of the Pooled Fund and its findings and recommendations, 3) endorse the draft vision for a Pooled Fund 3.0.

The Coordinator stressed that the fund is not for the Secretariat or SUN Networks but for use of stakeholders in SUN Countries and to support their national initiatives, create capacity for advocacy and have flexible and last resort funding for innovative and catalytic ideas. The focus is on local organizations over international NGOs, however the pooled fund will face restrictions with country-based partners who don't have a bank account or who lack the legal registration required to receive funds directly. In these instances international partners can support sub-grants as has occurred in the past. Additional emphasis will be on the added value to the SUN movement, gender and youth. The fund will not be for technical assistance. It will keep its innovative, catalytic and last resort nature, but grants might be a little larger in size and longer in duration. Following endorsement of the vision, the Secretariat will develop the business case for fundraising.

ExCom members asked for more information about the information coming from the interviews that were part of the review process. It was agreed that fewer and larger grants can benefit individual projects but should be carefully balanced with meeting the need of small scale funding for a wide range of SUN Countries and the "last-resort" character of the pooled fund.

Decision: *The SUN Movement Executive Committee approved the SUN Pooled Fund work plan and budget till June 2022, endorsed the review and endorsed the vision for SUN Pooled Fund 3.0.*

Follow up: *SMS to share a summary of the outcomes of the interviews for the Pooled Fund Review with the Executive Committee*

Agenda Items 3: Any other business

3.1 Update from the Youth Representative

The Youth Representative shared that they had been working among the Youth Leaders for Nutrition to develop plans to increase youth participation beyond the existing 15 youth leaders. Within the civil society network they strive to set up a community organization approach and to connect youth leaders at the national level, including indigenous groups. The representative shared that he will establish a youth team in his country to coordinate youth engagement at the grassroots level in collaboration with civil society and to advocate decision makers. In May he will share more about the ideas to further engage youth in the SUN movement. The Executive Committee encouraged the idea of regional teams, and asked how networks can further support youth leaders at country level in a Movement approach.

3.2 Update from SUN Executive Committee Finance Expert

The Finance Expert member shared that the Finance Task Team is now ready to move ahead following the approval of the group's composition by silent procedure and an informal first meeting. It was acknowledged that the earlier presentations on country needs and deeper analysis of the Joint Annual Assessments will give key direction to the Task Team as they identify their priority actions and support the development of the Finance Capacity Building Platform. The Finance Capacity Development platform is envisioned as a resource center with tools for learning and a one-stop shop for both humanitarian and development goals with the aim to grow technical expertise at the national level. Additionally, it can support matchmaking for technical assistance needs and facilitate knowledge sharing. The consultancy for the incubation period will map country needs and the landscape of available support, what the platform will and will not do, where it will be hosted, how success is measured and its budget. A proposal for resource mobilization for the platform should be developed once these questions can be answered and a clear design developed.

3.3 Executive Committee Membership

Two new alternates have been identified following a recent call for nominations. Ibisoyin Ivy King-Harry, national coordinator of the SUN Business Network in Nigeria is proposed as the alternate for one of the two additional country-based seats (in support of Karima Al-Hada'a). Daniel Mwai is proposed as the alternate for the Independent Finance Expert (Augustin Flory). The SMS will open a silent procedure for one week after which the final approval of these nominations will be confirmed.

3.4 Remarks from the Coordinator

The SUN Movement Coordinator called on all members to attend the preparatory systems-thinking session that will take place virtually on 11 April 2022 with 4SD. She also invited members to come one day early in May before the retreat to make time for bilateral meetings and exchanges.

- **Follow up Action Points:**
- *Executive Committee members are requested to share potential candidates for the remaining vacant seats on the Finance Task Team, particularly where they can identify individuals with expertise in domestic resource mobilization, budget negotiations, climate finance or private investments*
- *The Finance Expert is requested to share more details of the questions framing the for expert consultancy to design the Finance Capacity Development Platform.*

4. Closing remarks

The Co-Chairs, stressed the importance of the issues tabled by the Country representatives, thanked all participants for the constructive meeting and closed the meeting to be reconvened in Geneva in May.

ANNEX I - Identified Regional Priorities and Requests for Support

The Asia Region ([Presentation](#)) was represented by Dr. Kiran Rupakethee and Dr. Azucena Dayanghirang

- Funding and resource mobilization
 - Global advocacy for resource mobilization for SUN member countries;
 - Ensuring financial resource opportunities are communicated and disseminated to SUN member countries;

- Facilitating opportunities for dialogue with donors at global levels;
- Facilitating for organizing high level round tables/dialogues to help countries secure funding;
- Provide dedicated technical Human Resource support (secretarial support) for the SUN Country Coordinator/Focal Point.
- High Level Engagement
 - Advocacy and engagement with/of high-level political individuals, bureaucrats and key stakeholders including UN and donors for the centrality of nutrition in development agenda;
 - Clarify the terms of engagements and roles and responsibilities of regional bodies (ASEAN, SAARC, SADAC);
 - Organize systematic “onboarding” of these regional bodies at SUN Lead Group, SUN Ex-Com and Coordinator level;
 - Commitments secured for transparent tracking of national nutrition resource allocation.
- MEAL and information systems
 - Facilitate the creation/scaling up of knowledge sharing and learning platforms and/or processes for countries to share nutrition related knowledge, experiences, challenges and best practices;
 - Support for developing and/or strengthening a national information system and presenting ideal model approaches – would support to generate sufficient data to prioritize approaches and areas;
 - Support in developing tools and reference materials for countries to utilize, e.g. online short courses (SUN and/or external stakeholders and partners)
- Capacity building and technical assistance
 - Support for capacity strengthening of nutrition governance architectures of member countries;
 - Support in formalizing a SUN Academia network at all levels;
 - Support to ensure Country Action Plans (CAPs) are risk informed and can quickly adapt to crisis such as COVID-19 or man-made crisis;
 - Streamlining the TA request process and ensuring timely and quality TA support is provided.

Francophone Africa (& Haïti) Reigon was represented by Dr. Patricia N’Goran (presentation)

- Fundraising and resource mobilization
 - High-level advocacy to government, parliament and donors for resource mobilization for domestic and external funding (Gabon, Haïti, Sénégal, Sao Tomé etc.)
 - Support in the organization of roundtables to raise financial resources for the development or implementation of National Nutrition Plans (Mali, Guinea, Mauritania, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire)
 - Development of fundraising strategies/national investment plan for nutrition (DRC)
 - Capacity building in advocacy for resource mobilization (Togo)
 - Technical assistance for budget tracking(Burundi)
 - Avail resources to the Networks (and facilitate the identification of relevant funding bodies) to finance their operations, in particular for the academic Network (Côte d'Ivoire)
 - Funding for a study on the creation of an innovative fund from the taxation of non-regulatory foods (Côte d'Ivoire)

- MEAL and information systems
 - Capacity building in monitoring and evaluation and information system for nutrition (Djibouti, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire), including at sectoral level.
 - Monitoring and evaluation tools and systems for the implementation of the multisectoral nutrition action plans (Gabon, DRC), including:
 - Development of National Health Information System (Haiti)
 - Development a real-time routine Multisectoral Nutrition Information System (Mauritania)
 - Strengthening accountability at sectoral level (Côte d'Ivoire)
- High level advocacy in nutrition
 - Advocacy for the establishment of the national nutrition coordination committee (Comoros)
 - Capacity building in advocacy techniques for the MSP (Gabon)
 - Advocacy for resource mobilization (already covered under theme 1)

Latin America an the Caribbean, presented by Dr. Cecilia Gamboa ([presentation](#))

- Funding/resource mobilization
 - Facilitate the development and sharing of tools and resources to effectively map donors by area of interest and geographical priorities.
 - ExCom and Lead group representation at the resource mobilization round tables to secure funding.
- MEAL and information Systems
 - Technical assistance in the development of tools that monitor progress of the national nutrition plan in rural areas.
 - Technical assistance with information systems that allow nominal (per child) follow up.
- High Level Advocacy in Nutrition
 - ExCom to accompany missions to influence the inclusion of nutrition in the new governments' development plans and political agenda.
 - ExCom to leverage global support from UN and Donors in the country.

Anglophone Africa by George D. Kembo ([presentation](#))

- Funding / resource mobilization
 - Facilitate the creation and sharing of tools and resources to track nutrition expenditure at different levels of implementation.
 - ExCom and Lead Group representation at the resource mobilisation round tables to secure funding.
- MEAL and information systems
 - Technical assistance in the development of tools for effective data collection, monitoring and evaluation for consistent reporting in nutrition.
 - Facilitate capacity building for FPs on data quality assessment and smart indicators.
- High level advocacy in nutrition
 - ExCom to accompany missions to influence the inclusion of nutrition in the governments' development plans and push nutrition policy implementation.
 - ExCom to leverage global support from UN and Donors in the country to strengthen MSPs