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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 Francophone Africa regional dialogue (and Haiti), in which 13 countries took part: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Haiti, Madagascar, Mali, Niger and Togo.

## Regional Situation Analysis

Countries across the **Francophone Africa region** are experiencing higher food and fuel costs. These are resulting in deteriorating living conditions, reduced food production, impoverishment of the population and rise in vulnerability. The prevalence of malnutrition is increasing across the region, especially in the Sahel.

Several countries are working on strengthening support systems, notably social protection programmes, but with limited tangible results reported as yet.

There is a sense of a need to turn this crisis into an opportunity at the community level, rather than the

national level, through increased work for young people, creating opportunities to escape poverty.

Many countries in the region are applying a foods systems approach and developing action plans for the agriculture and nutrition sectors, indicating that challenges faced by these sectors are being prioritized by governments.

Countries are requesting advocacy at the highest political level for a nutrition-sensitive approach to the crisis response and to raise the profile of nutrition, notably through internationally proven good practice exchanges and inspiring examples of national food systems pathways.

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

### COST OF LIVING

- **Challenges being faced:** Increase in prices for agricultural inputs and fuel (Madagascar); with downgraded living conditions and loss of production, impoverishment of the population and rise in vulnerability to and prevalence of malnutrition (especially Niger); landlocked countries are experiencing a significant decrease in imports and exports (notably Burundi); some countries import almost all food products (especially Djibouti), so this crisis has had a strong impact on household purchasing power.
- **Solutions being implemented:** Care for vulnerable people in the informal sector extended due to the crisis (Côte d'Ivoire).

### CLIMATE AND CONFLICT

- **Challenges being faced:** Countries are facing two crises – drought and the global food and nutrition crisis (Horn of Africa); countries have to cope with an influx of population displacement, partly due to the drought; lack of food reserves (Djibouti) causing rapid price increase for imported products); conflict-affected areas are experiencing population displacements, leading to use of dangerous coping mechanisms such as abandoning farming activities in favour of the mining sector (Cameroon).
- **Solutions being implemented:** Several countries have worked on strengthening support systems, notably social protection programmes (Mali); engaging youth at the community level, creating employment and opportunity to escape poverty; government supporting restoration of livelihoods, increasing access to protection, followed by promoting and improving accountability mechanisms (Cameroon).

### FOOD SYSTEMS

- **Challenges being faced:** In all countries, there is a shortage of agricultural inputs (e.g. fertilizer, pesticides, seeds). Multisectoral coordination is not working effectively, particularly in relation to advancement of national food systems pathway implementation and Nutrition for Growth commitments.
- **Solutions being implemented:** Countries across the region are moving quickly to put measures in place to address the crisis; high-level commitment from the president promoting agriculture and livestock to ensure the island nation becomes self-sufficient

(Madagascar); introducing an agricultural one-stop shop to improve access to inputs, equipment, plots, etc. (Madagascar); roadmap for capacity building focusing on cassava, rice and peanuts (Burundi); National Food and Nutrition Security Programme 2022-2027 developed, and government has adopted national policy document and action plan on food and nutrition security (Burundi) – policy is funded by the FAO and focuses on developing the food value chain; National Cereals Office established (Burundi); development of national agricultural policy (Burundi); large-scale production, processing and marketing, replacing wheat with cassava for bread production (Burundi); restructuring and revitalising the food value chain (Burundi); introducing the agricultural land register (Burundi); establishment of national agricultural and food system development fund (Burundi); state aid for , soil assessment and production feasibility study (Côte d'Ivoire).

### NUTRITION

- **Challenges being faced:** In most countries, coverage and continuation of nutrition services are being challenged; only 69% of nutrition care is covered, mainly funded by partners (Mali); failure to achieve nutrition goals and loss of ground gained in nutrition (Mali, Chad); nutrition emergency declared (Chad); nutrition security is receiving lower priority than food security (Congo); national crisis management team did not initially take food and nutrition security considerations into account (Madagascar).
- **Solutions being implemented:** Action plans are being developed to guide response to the food and nutrition crisis including increased budget allocations (Madagascar); sale of subsidized cereals (Madagascar); national crisis management agency now taking food and nutrition security considerations into account (Madagascar); government working with UNICEF to identify causes of malnutrition and how to address these in new action plan (Congo); Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health will work to update data on malnutrition and food insecurity (Congo); SMART survey being prepared to enable improved nutrition strategies (Chad); some donors have already mobilized funding for initial nutrition measures (Chad); existing food stocks of rice, cereals and maize to cover some need (Chad); Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity has introduced an assistance fund to cover the nutritional needs of vulnerable people (Djibouti).

## NUTRITIOUS FOOD AVAILABILITY AND COST

- **Challenges being faced:** Many countries in the region are experiencing rising food costs and lower local food production.
- **Solutions being implemented:** Strategic approach in Africa to view this crisis as an opportunity – “From a triple challenge to a triple victory”; progressing food systems transition according to UN Food Systems Country Commitments; exempting wheat from customs duties (Côte d’Ivoire); replacing wheat with other foodstuffs (Côte d’Ivoire); \$1 million solidarity fund to combat the food crisis and drought created (Djibouti); plan to create food reserves in partnership with the World Bank (Djibouti).

## GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL NEEDS

- **Challenges being faced:** Increased demand on national budgets.
- **Solutions being implemented:** Increase in budget allocations to address food crises are being taken forward, notably in Madagascar. In DRC, it is focused on agricultural innovation, local food campaigns, transformation of agricultural production and implementation of food system approach, subsidized transport of agricultural produce from remote areas, capacity building for national agri-food industry, to reduce the DRC’s international dependence.



## Potential support to SUN Countries

- Identification and sharing of proven good practices are presented as key “way forward”, notably on advocacy to mobilize additional funding and crisis management capacity building.
- Facilitation of platforms (including SUN Global Gathering) for member countries to share information on good practices and local solutions.
- Strengthening of multisectoral and intergovernmental coordination mechanisms to address food and nutrition insecurity, especially in periods of crisis associated with various adverse shocks.
- Advocate for the creation of a budget line in the state budget to effectively ensure effective decentralized coordination for food systems and nutrition activities.
- Elevate nutrition to the highest level, for increased potential external and internal donors and development partners to support effective nutrition actions and interventions.