

SUN Movement Executive Committee Annual Retreat 18-20 May 2022 - CICG Geneva Summary note



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Attendance

In-Person Participants			
SUN Country Co-Chair	Gladys Mugambi	Head of Health Promotion and Scaling Up Nutrition Focal Point, Ministry of Health, Kenya (SUN Focal Point/Country Coordinator)	
Co-Chair	Connell Foley	Director of Strategy, Advocacy and Learning, Concern Worldwide, Ireland (CSN)	
	Members		
Government F	Focal Point & Country	/ Coordinators	
Southeast Asia¹	Azucena Dayanghirang	Executive Director of the National Nutrition Council, Philippines	
Central & South Asia ²	Kiran Rupakhetee	Joint Secretary Good Governance and Social Development at the National Planning Commission (NPC), Nepal	
West and Central Africa ³	Patricia Ngoran	Coordonnateur du Conseil national pour la nutrition, Côte d'Ivoire	
Southern Africa⁴	George D. Kembo	Director General, Food and Nutrition Council, Zimbabwe	
Latin America⁵	Cecilia Gamboa	Coordinator of the National Secretary of Food and Nutrition, Costa Rica	
Networks			
CSN	Christine Campeau	Senior Advisor Food Systems, Care, Switzerland	
SBN	ALTERNATE: Shea Wickramasingha	Managing Director, CBL Group, Sri Lanka	
SDN	Neil Watkins	Deputy Director, Global Policy and Advocacy, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USA	
UNN	Abigail Perry	Director Nutrition, WFP, Italy	

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¹ Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam

² Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Indian States, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Yemen

³ Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, CAR, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DRC, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Madagascar, Mali, Mauretania, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Togo

⁴ Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

⁵ Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras Guatemala, Peru

Youth & Experts			
Youth	Mike Khunga	SUN Youth Leader for Nutrition, Civil Society Nutrition Alliance (CSONA), Malawi	
Humanitarian	Caroline Wilkinson	Nutritionist, ICRC, Switzerland	
MEAL / analytics	Richmond Aryeetey	Professor, University of Ghana	
Finance	Augustin Flory	Senior Fellow, Results 4 Development, Bangkok	
Ex-Officio members			
UNOPS	Andrew Kirkwood	Director, Europe and Central Asia Region, Switzerland	
SUN Movement Coordinator	Gerda Verburg	SUN Movement Coordinator, SUN Movement Secretariat, Switzerland	

Remote Participants

- The retreat was open for virtual participation for:

 Regular ExCom Members who cannot attend in person

 All alternates

 - Members of the GSS

SUN Executive Committee Regular Members

Central and East Africa ⁶	George Gyan-Barfour	Chairman, National Development Planning Commission and Adviser to the Minister of Finance, Ghana	
Additional Count	Additional Country / Regional representatives		
Country regional (1) Mathews Mhuru Country Coordinator, CSO-SUN alliance, Zambia			
Country regional (2) Karima Planning and Liaison Specialist, Ministry of planning and intercooperation, Yemen		Planning and Liaison Specialist, Ministry of planning and international cooperation, Yemen	

SUN Executive Committee Alternates			
	Networks		
Civil Society Network	Richard Pendame	Regional Director Africa, Nutrition International, Kenya	

⁶ Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, The Gambia

SUN Donor Network	Helena Guarin Head Sector Nutrition and One Health, EC DG INTPA, Belgium		
	Youth & Experts		
MEAL / analytics	El Hadji Momar Thiam	M&E Officer, National Nutrition Development Council, Senegal	

Global Support System		
SUN Civil Society Network Secretariat (CSN)	Barbara Rehbinder & Nazgol Golahmady	
SUN Business Network Secretariat (SBN)	Emily Heneghan	
SUN Donor Network (SDN)	Melanie Bruns	
UN Nutrition	Stineke Oenema	
SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS)	Marcy Vigoda (Director), Arnhild Spence (Senior Advisor), Sonia Ancellin-Panzani (Head of Country Action), Maria Pizzini (Governance Advisor), Paul Mazza (Governance Specialist), Renee de Jong (Policy Support Officer), Kendra Siekmans (Independent Consultant supporting SUN MEAL)	

Agenda

The original agenda can be found <u>here</u>. All additional <u>background documents</u> and presentations are available here.

Thursday 19 May 2022

Introductory Session: Short Opening and Welcome by ExCom Co-Chairs

The SUN Movement Coordinator encouraged SUN Countries to set the agenda. She stressed that the COVID-19 crisis will be further exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine war and that the impact is already being felt in SUN Countries. The SUN Movement Coordinator informed the Executive Committee that she will not seek a fourth term as SUN Movement Coordinator.

Andrew Kirkwood, UNOPS Director of the Geneva Office, provided assurances that contributions to the SUN Movement are not affected in any way in relation to the reported concerns regarding the Sustainable Infrastructure, Investments and Innovation Initiative (S3i) funded by UNOPS headquarters. It was confirmed that UNOPS regular service lines, delivered on behalf of its partners, are securely ring-fenced from S3i's activities. UNOPS has a system in place with unique identifiers to ensure that activities and transactions linked to S3i could be clearly differentiated from any other activities. It was further explained that the S3i reserve is part of a specific investment portfolio that is clearly distinguished from UNOPS working capital. Project-related funds are fully segregated from UNOPS reserves. At no stage have SUN funds been at any risk from the problems at S3i. To date, the Deputy Executive Director is on Administrative Leave and the Executive Director resigned in May. UNOPS Executive Director a.i. Jens Wandel has written a letter to the SUN Coordinator with copies to the Executive Committee Co-Chairs with these assurances (see here).

Session One: What it means in practice to be a Country-Led Movement (led by 4SD)

The session by 4SD served to set the tone of the SUN ExCom Retreat. Prof. George Gyan-Baffour opened the meeting by sharing his story about the transformations in Ghana over the last ten years from identifying the national challenge of malnutrition, to participating in the SUN Movement and now shaping its own national food systems pathway in follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit using mechanisms and lessons learned from Ghana's experience in the SUN Movement. David Nabarro shared the history of the SUN Movement, how it was set up after the 2008 food crises and that today, with the Ukraine-Russia war, a major spike in food prices can be expected again. Different members of the ExCom shared the concerns related to this crisis.

The Co-Chair shared the outcomes of the session with the SUN Focal Points Wednesday 18 May 2022 (presentation): Their key messages included:

- Country Representatives on ExCom have a positive and constructive mindset and want to focus on solutions more than challenges.
- Country Action should lead and in order to do that, they require adequate resources. Being country-led means costed National Nutrition Plans should lead and donors should follow.
- We must build on existing structures while promoting SUN principles and ways of working.
- There is a need to build critical skills of SUN Country Reps to be able to tackle challenges of prioritization, advocacy, accountability etc.

- We all need to keep the focus on coverage of interventions and delivery capacity at sub-national level. If it is not happening there, we are all wasting our time! Devolution/ decentralization may be an opportunity in some countries.
- We all need to influence and learn to make a compelling case with fresh stories to keep nutrition on a competitive agenda.

(Takeaways and actions from this session can be found below in the summary of the supplementary session on the Global Food Crisis Response (Page 10).

Session Two: Humanitarians for Development

The ExCom Humanitarian Expert presented several considerations on the Humanitarian Development Nexus and the role of the SUN Movement and the <u>SUN Movement Convergence Hub</u> (<u>presentation</u>). During the discussion, ExCom members stressed the importance of: a) the timing of this work; b) using SUN's resources strategically; c) clarifying the partners to engage with for implementation; d) the role of the Focal Point; e) how to deal with emergencies competing with the general nutrition budget; and f) the relevance of sharing data. Karima Al-Hada'a shared her experience in Yemen.

Takeaways:

- Engagement with Global Nutrition Cluster is a good start.
- Proposed actions are quite broad but good starting points.

Actions: (to be further elaborated when SMS Convergence Hub Staff member starts in June 2022)

- 1. Pilot specific models of engagement in 2-3 countries while giving guidance to all.
- 2. Identify and document the instances where the shift from an international cluster-led system evolves to a government-led approach which embeds the humanitarian response (e.g. Kenya).

Session Three: Understanding where SUN Countries stand and how we move forward in alignment and support

The Executive Committee MEAL and Data Analytics expert and Head of the Country Action Team in the SMS presented the outcomes of the Joint Annual Assessment (JAA) 2021-2022 (presentation). The Executive Committee Government Focal Point representative from Costa Rica shared how the revised version of the JAA is adding value for countries. During the discussion, it was highlighted that a majority of new technical assistance requests coming out through this year's JAA are directly related to the delivery of SUN Countries' N4G commitments. SUN Country representatives confirmed that the JAA helps in keeping up momentum in countries to reflect and report on progress and that the presentation of the collective data was very useful. It was requested to consider ways to further reduce the reporting burden on countries.

Takeaways:

Broad endorsement of the JAA value with a call for continuous improvement, namely in

terms of participation of all networks.

Actions:

- 1. Country stakeholders to identify local technical assistance providers and sources of resource and support.
- 2. Members of the Global Support System to explore various modalities to complement and help reinforce the ecosystem of local technical assistance and capacity development providers, such as via twinning consultancy arrangements.
- 3. SMS to finalize capacity strengthening landscape analysis by July 2022 from which the capacity development action plan will be developed.
- 4. ExCom Co-Chairs to convene a special ExCom meeting to discuss implications and options in July/August 2022 to prepare for decision making at September 2022 ExCom meeting.
- 5. SMS and ExCom Co-Chairs to establish a set date in the annual ExCom calendar to discuss distilled outcomes of JAAs.

Session Four: What does it take to meet our collective ambitions to finance nutrition priorities?

The ExCom Finance Expert presented the latest regarding the nutrition financing landscape.. It was stressed that both domestic and ODA budgets for nutrition will significantly reduce as a result of the economic contraction caused by the COVID crisis and now the Russia-Ukraine war. Therefore, it is essential to secure existing funding commitments and be strategic and focused on how to best use them. The work of the ExCom Finance Task Team (FTT) to date was also shared (Presentation & quarterly report). The ExCom Focal Point from Côte d'Ivoire shared her experience to raise funds (presentation). During the discussion, members shared challenges with funds being reallocated during crises, the need for support to get the national high-level commitments, the need to continue support to countries in parallel to setting up the Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP) and to tap into the discussion on the Global Action Plan on Wasting.

Takeaways:

- There is a real sense of the importance of improving access to financing for nutrition.
- There was enthusiasm for and endorsement of the focus and work of the Finance Task Team and the Finance Capacity Development Platform.

Actions:

- 1. FTT to keep ExCom updated on progress and build it into ExCom meetings as a standing item.
- Finance Task Team with Global Support System to respond to SUN Countries' requests for support for: resource mobilization roundtables; guidance calls, support to e-learning modules, development of resource mobilization strategy guidance and mapping of potential sources of financing
- 3. Finance Capacity Development Platform detailed design proposal to be developed in the second half of 2022 with support of an external consultant for presentation and decision at the December 2022 ExCom meeting. (ExCom Finance Expert is currently working with the SMS to secure an expert consultant.)

Friday 20 May 2022

Session Five: Systems Leadership Session: Building our shared story of the SUN Movement

ExCom Country Representative, Dr. Kiran Rupakethee shared his story of personal experience, commitment and ambitions for nutrition and the SUN Movement - powerfully illustrating the way that stories can build identities and connections. 4SD then walked ExCom members through the process of crafting, molding and holding stories as a way of coalescing activities and behaviors around a transformational shift.

Takeaways:

- Personal stories resonate with people.
- Making an emotional connection allows us to garner support for action and collective action.
 It's important to determine how you want someone to feel after your story and then craft the story to trigger the desired emotional reaction.
- It is helpful to consider 5 H's: being Honest, Humble, Holistic, Hopeful, Human.
- Overall a sense of passion for addressing injustice, malnutrition being its clear face.

Session Six: Ensuring a unified Global Support System response

All four networks gave a short introduction about their background, work and priorities and SMS shared an update on current capacity and staffing. From the group discussions, there were calls for the GSS: to motivate networks at country level and to ensure that staff changes do not affect countries; to strengthen the relationship between focal points and network representatives; to drive different engagement of different networks in different countries; to ensure there are clear goals to which to hold the GSS accountable; and and to further operationalise the strategy of SUN 3.0.

The GSS highlighted three priorities for the next 12-18 months:

- 1. Global Advocacy (Role of ExCom, Lead Group, AU Year of Nutrition, connection with UN RCs and N4G follow up).
- 2. Technical Assistance (resources of SUN, using the joint TA tracker, support soft skills of SUN Focal Points and their teams).
- 3. Knowledge Management (analysis of gaps and understanding where GSS can support).

The GSS has agreed to both short and longer-term activities during their retreat on 17 and 18 May which is summarized here.

Takeaways:

- GSS shared priority areas seem sensible, however we need to be vigilant of the gaps that remain outside of these priority areas to deliver SUN 3.0.
- Networks are encouraged to work more effectively together in-country (see gaps identified by JAAs) to drive collective efforts and to let the "CSS/RSS" (Country/Regional Support System) inform action at GSS level.
- ExCom's role is not only to approve plans but also to advise, enrich and to leverage institutional/personal networks towards the objectives of SUN 3.0.

Actions:

- GSS to write up a light action plan on what was proposed not too burdensome or bureaucratic but with clear KPIs linked to SUN 3.0.
 - This to be circulated well in advance of the next ExCom meeting in September 2022 for discussion and agreement.
 - Each ExCom member is tasked to read SUN 3.0 and the GSS "light plan" and interrogate implications.
- In the short term, GSS is asked to map out how it can support the African Heads of State meeting in July 2022 and to work together to maximize and leverage the impact of the Lead Group.
- Each ExCom member is asked to use their influence to further strengthen the alignment and coordinator of their network's or constituency's membership behind the shared goals of the SUN Movement and country-owned nutrition action.

Supplementary Session: Global Food Crisis Response

During the discussion, members of the ExCom discussed the lack of a coordinated strategic approach between the humanitarian and development (financing) communities to combine resources in the most effective way in crises like this one. The SUN Movement can and should play a role in resolving this (with further discussion by ExCom required in this area). It was agreed that it is important to include the voices of SUN Countries in messages about the impact of the Ukraine war on food and nutrition security and to have a more strategic approach to. It was emphasized that this is a fast moving debate and that messages need to be timely and focused on the added value of the SUN Movement. There are many crises playing out in addition to this one, so it is important for SUN actors to align behind existing initiatives.

Takeaways:

- Continue to advocate on the importance of nutrition and the impact of crises on nutritional status and the need for multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approaches at all levels.
- Give voice to country stories.
- Encourage acceleration of the development of transformative food systems pathways and their implementation.
- Use it as an opportunity to push the approach to the Humanitarian Development Nexus for Nutrition.

Actions:

- ExCom and GSS members are urged to provide country information and actions/responses to SUN Movement Coordinator to include in the Global Crisis Response Group discussions.
- Need short sharp messages from GSS we can all use in this fast communications space.

Session Seven: Youth Session

Youth Representative Mike Khunga presented work to date to include youth in the movement (presentation). During the discussion, ExCom members raised the need to include local youth, from all sectors, beyond the ones selected by International NGOs, especially youth parliamentarians. All SUN Networks were encouraged to consider how they can include young people in their work and discussions. It was agreed that a stronger connection with SUN Country Focal Points/Country Coordinators will ensure more effective engagement. The ExCom Country Representative from Côte d'Ivoire shared how a national youth network was recently launched. The ExCom Country Representative from the Philippines shared the country's intention to start a SUN youth network as well. It was recognised that youth is a powerful group to lead change. Concerns were raised that over-formalising the youth network can kill its spirit. ExCom Members were all invited to share their ideas on how to engage young people. Their written inputs were collected for future consideration by the Youth ExCom Representative.

Takeaways:

• Great opportunity to mobilize youth to support the objectives of the SUN Movement.

Actions:

• The Youth Representative on the ExCom will develop a roadmap that outlines different options to mobilize more youth, using a number of different channels. This approach should remain light and flexible but allow for youth to be fully involved across the Movement.

Next Steps:

• One or two ExCom members (in addition to Connell) are asked to come forward to support Mike in drawing up options for a roadmap to wider youth engagement in nutrition.

Season Eight: Mutual Accountability Session

SUN ExCom Country representative from the Philippines, Azucena Dayanghirang, presented how her country dealt with conflict of interest through private sector engagement (presentation). Kendra Siekmans, an independent consultant providing MEAL technical assistance to the SUN Movement Secretariat, presented the work previously done in 2021 to develop a Mutual Accountability Framework for the SUN Movement (presentation). The three pillars of the framework (to function at both global and country level) were briefly reviewed: 1) a shared agenda and objectives; 2) agreed indicators and measures for success; and 3) a dialogue process to review performance of members.

ExCom members reflected on their responsibilities to provide guidance and oversee efforts to ensure alignment of support behind SUN Countries. Country representatives on the ExCom have a key role to bring the voices of SUN countries.

Takeaways:

- Excellent thinking behind the Mutual Accountability Framework, however we need to be realistic as to how much time it takes and make it as light as possible by building on existing performance appraisals and add if there are gaps.
- The process does not have to look the same in every country but holding each other accountable is a core element of the SUN Movement Principles of Engagement which should be upheld.
- ExCom members committed to rolling out the Mutual Accountability Framework elements at the global level. There was also consensus around developing a small number of country pilots with a lighter version.

Actions:

- The SMS will work with GSS and SUN Government Focal Points and Country Representatives to present an amended/lighter approach (including revised 360 degree questionnaires) and present it to the ExCom in September 2022 to apply later in year, ideally by December 2022.
- SUN Government and Country Representatives on ExCom will consult countries in their regions and identify one country each to pilot a light-touch version of the approach outlined in the Mutual Accountability Framework.

Session Nine: Any Other Business

- 1. The SUN Coordinator raised the consideration of organising a SUN Movement Global Gathering in 2023.
- 2. She also informed the Executive Committee about the recruitment process for her successor led by UNICEF and confirmed that her contract will be extended until the end of 2022.

Actions:

- Co-Chairs will follow up with the Lead Group Chair on the SUN Movement Coordinator recruitment process.
- Co-Chairs to work with the SUN Coordinator and GSS to identify optimal ways to mobilize Lead Group members for "advocacy windows of opportunity/events".
- SMS to convene SUN network members to come with a proposal for a Global Gathering 2023 (Q3-4) and to present in September.
- Identify two ExCom volunteers in addition to Richmond to work with GSS to develop a proposal on process or potential processes to prevent and/or manage conflicts of interest.

Closing Session: Review of Agreed Actions, Next Steps

The ExCom Co-Chairs presented their key takeaways from the meeting. They flagged that a lot of time has been spent on the reorganization of the SUN Movement around the strategy for

SUN 3.0, including a disruption and turnover at the SUN Movement Secretariat. The Executive Committee is currently also finding its new role, and a key objective of the retreat was to build relationships and trust. We all want to see the same thing: better nourished children, mothers, women, people and especially those living in crisis situations. The priorities and actions set out below begin to map out the way forward of the SUN ExCommittee over the next year.

Priorities for 2022-2023

- Fully staffed SMS based on interim model for 2022-2023.
- Getting Regional SMS hubs functional and supporting countries.
- Coordinated support behind the workplan of the ExCom Finance Task Team and advancement of the Finance Capacity Development Platform (proposal expected in December2022)
- Responsiveness to Ukraine war-driven global food crises but also existing food crises.
- GSS work plan presented and agreed before end of September 2022
- Way forward and pilots for Mutual Accountability Framework agreed and established by end of 2022

Actions:

- 1. Co-Chairs and SMS to develop and share a calendar of meetings for next two years (indicating at least months of meetings with dates to be tied down 6 months in advance)
- Co-Chairs and SMS to agree country-focused content of each meeting to include: set agenda items on topics; standing items, leaving space for emerging items from Countries and process/governance issues.
- Country Representatives to work in regional groups in their preferred ways and then to propose to Co-Chairs issues they wish to table no less than 4 weeks in advance of regular ExCom meetings.

Annex: Action Points and Follow up SUN ExCom Retreat 2022

Action for follow up	When at ExCom	Responsible
Humanitarian Development Nexus: 1) Develop process and timeline to pilot different models of engagement in 2-3 SUN Countries which capitalize on the added value of the SUN Movement. 2) Identify and document shifts from international cluster-led response to government-led approaches which embed a humanitarian response.	Update December 2022 ExCom meeting (for information)	SUN Movement Secretariat
Country Support: 1) Explore means to provide TA to countries - with priority for identifying and reinforcing in-country support. 2) Develop and present capacity building action plan. 3) Regular review and discussion of JAA within ExCom.	Special session in July/August 2022 to discuss capacity building action plan proposal to ensure decisions and action at September 2022 ExCom meeting.	Global Support System
Finance: 1) Support to SUN Countries by the Finance Task Team, particularly in relation to resource mobilization roundtables; guidance calls, support to e-learning modules, support for development of resource mobilization strategy guidance and mapping of potential sources of financing. 2) Proposal for the Finance Capacity Development Platform developed and agreed.	Update on actions of the Finance Task Team to be presented to ExCom (for information) and presentation of proposal for the Finance Capacity Development Platform (for decision) at the December2022 ExCom meeting	Finance Task Team
A unified GSS approach 1) Action plan with KPIs linked to SUN. 2) GSS maps out how it can support the African Heads of State meeting in July 2022 and to work together to maximise and leverage the impact of the Lead Group.	GSS action plan to be circulated to ExCom in advance to ensure proper review and decision making at the September 2022 ExCom meeting.	Global Support System
Global Food Crisis: 1) Share stories with the SUN Coordinator on the impact of the war in Ukraine on food and nutrition security in	Update September 2022 ExCom (for discussion)	SUN Movement Coordinator, SUN Country Representatives on The

SUN Countries 2) GSS to develop and share advocacy messages to be used by Executive Committee and Lead Group		Executive Committee and the Global Support System
Youth: 1) Roadmap on youth engagement in nutrition action	Update September 2022 (for feedback)	ExCom Youth Representative with support from ExCom Co-Chair Connell Foley and other ExCom Volunteers (TBA)
Mutual Accountability Framework: 1)The SMS will work with GSS and SUN Government Focal Points and Country Representatives to present an amended/lighter approach (including revision of the questionnaires) and present to the ExCom in September 2022 to apply later in year, ideally by December 2022 2) SUN Government and Country Representatives on ExCom will consult countries in their regions and identify one country each to pilot a light-touch version of the approach outlined in the mutual accountability framework.	For review and decision during the September or December 2022 ExCom meetings.	SUN Movement Secretariat
Conflict of Interest: 1) Development of a proposal on processes to prevent and manage potential conflicts of interest in the SUN Movement	Update to be shared in September 2022 (for feedback) and final proposal (for decision) in December 2023	ExCom KM MEAL Expert and other ExCom Volunteers (TBA)
Global and Regional Gatherings: 1) Development an options paper for regional gatherings and/or a Global Gathering in second half of 2023	For decision by ExCom in September 2022	SMS with network members