

SUN Movement Executive Committee Meeting 6 December 2022, 15:00 - 17:30 CEST (virtual) Summary note

Participation

ExCom Participants: Gladys Mugambi and Connell Foley (Co-Chairs), Karima Al-Hada'a (Regional), Christine Campeau (CSN), Azucena Dayanghirang (SE Asia), Augstin Flory (Finance), Eugenia Villalobos (Latin America), Mathews Mhuru (Regional), Abigail Perry (UN Nutrition), Florence Sibomana (Youth alternate for Mike Khunga), Gerda Verburg (SUN Movement Coordinator), Neil Watkins (SDN), Caroline Wilkinson (Humanitarian), Andrew Kirkwood (UNOPS), Cecilie Patricia MoH Cameroon (for Patitrici), Eugenia Villalobos (Latin America), Mary Mpereh (on behalf of George Gyan Baffour)

Apologies: Patricia N'Goran (Francophone Africa), Kiran Rupakhetee (Central and South Asia), George D. Kembo (S.Africa), George Baffour (East and Central Africa), Mike Khunga (Youth), Matt Kovac (SBN)

Observers: *Alternates:* Nancy Aburto (FAO), Helena Guarin (SDN), Richard Pendame (CSN), Ibis Ivry King-Harry (Regional); *Networks:* Emily Henegan, Ritta Shine (SBN); Melanie Bruns (SDN), Christopher Twiss *Others:* Ilaria Schibba (WFP), Anna Horner (WFP), Teresa Fasig (EC);

SMS: Marcy Vigoda, Maria Pizzini, Paul Mazza, Elena Gaino, Eve Gossiaux, Francisca Gomez Cisterna, Judith Kabore, Kendra Siekmans, Sonia Ancellin-Panzani, Srikanth Eadara, Tendai Gunda, Zahra Inayat, Andoniaina Brice, Jennifer Ferguson-Mitchell, Irina Zodrow.

Decisions

The Executive Committee endorsed:

- The **objectives and high-level features of the FCDP, its key operating principles and the proposed governance and oversight framework** acknowledging the centrality of alignment with SUN Countries' priorities and complementarity with existing efforts and structures of the GSS.
- The **GSS action plan** was endorsed with the recognition that individual network workplans are still under development and will be shared with the ExCom in 2023.
- The **revised Indicators of Success were endorsed.**

Follow-up Actions:

In relation to ensuring a **country-led Executive Committee:**

- Regional ExCom Government and Country Representatives are invited to propose candidates for the three alternate seats which remain vacant (one for Latin America and two for Anglophone Africa)
- ExCom Co-Chairs will convene a discussion with Regional ExCom Government and Country Representatives early in 2023 to discuss how to be more proactive and strategic in using this standing agenda item.

In regards to **UNOPS:**

- The SMS is actively managing the negative impact for SUN of UNOPS financial mismanagement (S3i) and keeping the Co-Chairs updated.

In relation to the **SMS regionalisation and work plan and budget:**

- The SMS will share:
 - More information regarding the proposed hub activity funds and decision-making processes.
 - The cost of the different proposals presented to the ExCom (FCDP, Global Gathering, GSS funding).
 - A written update on regionalization in January. This update will also include a preliminary analysis of the support MSPs require to achieve SUN 3.0 objectives.
- ExCom members are requested to share any additional comments in writing **before the end of 2022**. A revised and final work plan and budget will be shared for approval in January 2023.

Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP):

- The principles of alignment behind national nutrition plans and priorities and alignment and complementarity with the SUN Movement will continue to be explicitly articulated in the operationalisation of the FCDP.
- Comments and suggestions, with regards to the operationalisation of the FCDP, can be shared with Augustin until **23 December**.

GSS Action Plan:

- The GSS will present joint annual priorities for 2023 together with the SMS and network annual workplans. Clear responsibilities will be highlighted, based on individual GSS entity mandates and capacities.
- The Co-Chairs propose that the critical issue of network governance and the impact on the GSS' ability to 'deliver as one' at country level, is put on the ExCom Agenda early in the new year.

Global Gathering

- ExCom members are asked to self-nominate for a 2023 GG Reference Group to guide planning, by **16 December**.
- ExCom would like to see the overall required funding envelope of SUN GSS, including the GG.

ExCom 2023 Work Plan and meeting dates for 2023

- Co-Chairs will work with the SMS to refine the approach and set the 2023 meeting schedule. This will incorporate the topics raised in the meeting.

Summary note

1. Welcome and approval of meeting agenda

The Co-Chairs opened the meeting and gave a special welcome to Dr. Maria Eugenia Villalobos Hernandez who has taken over the ExCom seat for Latin America from Dr. Cecilia Gamboa.

2. SUN countries' priorities [for discussion]

Way Forward: Co-Chairs will convene a discussion with Regional ExCom Government FP's and Country Representatives early in 2023 to discuss how to be proactive and strategic in this standing agenda item.

ExCom Co-Chairs invited Regional ExCom Focal Points and Country Representatives to propose candidates for the three alternate seats which remain vacant (one for Latin America and two for Anglophone Africa).

3. Responding to SUN countries' needs: a shared direction

a) UNOPS update *[for information]*

Overview given by SMS Director: A [Special Session of the UNOPS Executive Board](#) was held on Wednesday 30 November to discuss the two final independent third party reviews of UNOPS' financial mismanagement on S3i (documents are publicly available [here](#).) During the Special Session, donors raised concerns as to the reports' findings and the underlying factors that enabled the alleged mismanagement of funds by the UNOPS S3i initiative. They shared appreciation for the work of the acting Executive Director, Jens Wandel, in addressing the shortcomings and to reinstate confidence in UNOPS.

UNOPS is directed to present a detailed plan to address the third party recommendations by the first regular Board meeting at the end of January 2023. The three remaining members of the former UNOPS Senior Management Team have been removed from decision-making roles.

The UNOPS crisis has negatively affected the SMS and its ability to finalise its workplan as some donors have delayed and/or considered withholding funds from the Secretariat (EC, BMZ). The SMS Director expressed sincere gratitude for all of the efforts made by WFP to explore possibilities to accept EC funding on behalf of the SMS - as a last resort option - if it was not possible for EC funding to be granted through UNOPS. While most agreements are either now finalised or in the process of completion, the delays have resulted in large currency exchange losses. The SMS is discussing options with UNOPS to recover the incurred losses.

Way Forward: SMS is actively managing the UNOPS situation, keeping the Co-Chairs updated.

b) Regional Updates (Dakar & Convergence Hub) and [plans to accelerate staffing of SMS full model](#) *[discussion]*

The SMS Director gave a snapshot update (see presentation [here](#)) of the progress, challenges and potential of the regionalization hubs, focusing on the Dakar Hub and the Convergence Hub. An update on all hubs will be provided in early 2023.

Dakar Hub: The Dakar Hub is fully staffed¹ since 1 December 2022. Dakar was chosen as a pilot to be fully staffed as it has the highest number of countries to support (19 countries).

Good progress has already been made thanks to the following elements:

- Proximity (geographical and time zone) to countries which is helping to strengthen relationships, build trust, and deepen understanding of country needs leading to more targeted and efficient responses to requests for support and information sharing.
- More frequent country support missions which are instrumental in understanding the true functionality of MSPs, helping to foster relationships with stakeholders and develop stronger national networks and partnerships
- As the SUN Business Network (Nairobi) and Civil Society Network (across the geographic hubs) are also decentralizing, regional coordination is proving valuable in terms of more strategically joined-up capacity to support country needs.
- Regional presence is also increasing expectations from countries, in terms of the support the SMS and GSS can provide.

¹ In line with the full SMS model put forward in the 2021 functional review and agreed by Excom: 1 Regional Representative, 1 Country Action Specialist, 1 Resource Mobilisation Specialist and 1 MEAL & KM Specialist.

Convergence Hub: Working closely with partners, the SMS is assisting the very diverse set of SUN Countries² participating in the Convergence Hub to access the tailored support they need. The Convergence Hub participants have been meeting on a regular basis and are enthusiastic about the way in which they can learn from each other. The SUN MSP approach is being revitalised and strengthened, based on the country's situation.

SUN Countries' needs for capacity strengthening and multi-stakeholder platforms going forward (background document can be accessed [here](#)): Given the end of the SUN Pooled Fund and without an external SUN TA provider, the SMS, in close collaboration with the GSS, undertook a consultation to identify the best ways to support countries' efforts towards sustainable and resilient food and nutrition systems.

The consultation had the following outcomes:

- No Pooled Fund 3.0
- The Global Support System (GSS) 'working as one' is best placed to ensure that TA requests are covered by existing resources, primarily at the country and regional level and embedded in a holistic systems approach.
- Capacity-strengthening and multi-stakeholder platform support are needed for the implementation of nutrition action as well as to support the integration of nutrition across country policies, legislative, regulatory and financing frameworks, envisioning the expiration of the SUN Movement by 2030.
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and in particular SUN Civil Society Alliances (CSAs) play a critical role but face significant financial constraints.

Based on these outcomes, SMS proposed to further strengthen the hubs by securing additional resources needed to **add one Country Action Specialist in the Anglophone Africa, Asia, and Convergence hubs, and to secure a discrete activity funding envelope for the Regional Hubs to be used for targeted interventions with a focus on systemic change, MSP functionality and capacity strengthening.** This will be aligned with the SMS work plan, GSS action plan and ways of working and will be complementary to the Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP).

The cost of this staffing and envelope is estimated at roughly \$5.5 million over the three years 2023-2025 and will be reflected in the SMS workplan and budget submitted in early 2023 to the ExCom for approval.

Discussion: The ExCom welcomed the update on the progress made by the Dakar and Convergence Hubs and support was expressed for accelerating the full staffing of the Hubs, and the creation of a discrete activity funding envelope for the Regional Hubs, although final details will need approval.

Prioritization of the work of the Convergence Hub was also welcomed in line with [OPS Group Recommendation 7](#). Country representatives emphasized that the support received has tangibly improved and to bring about systemic change, then functioning MSPs are key.

ExCom members emphasized that they would like to be kept abreast of developments and consulted on strategic decisions with regards to the positioning and focus of the hubs, noting that feedback from country representatives will be critical.

Way Forward: The SMS will share:

- More information regarding the proposed hub activity fund.
- The cost of the different proposals presented to the ExCom (FCDP, Global Gathering, GSS funding).

² A number of these countries are fragile and conflict affected states with de facto governments, often lacking nutrition data or policies and with fewer in-country partners (e.g Yemen, Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan). There are also a few outlier countries that don't naturally fit elsewhere, i.e. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan in Central Asia

- A written update on regionalization in January. This update will also include an analysis of the support MSPs require to achieve SUN 3.0 objectives.

The Co-Chairs proposed a discussion on the challenges and proposed solutions for MSP strengthening in early 2023.

c) Finance Task Team (FTT) Update including discussion and decision on Finance Capacity Development Platform Recommendations [for discussion and decision]

Decision: The ExCom endorsed the objectives and high-level features of the FCDP, its key operating principles as well as the proposed governance and oversight framework, emphasising the centrality of alignment with SUN Countries’ priorities and complementarity with existing ways of working and structures of the SUN Movement.

The ExCom Finance Expert and Chair of the ExCom Finance Task Team (FTT), Augustin Flory, gave a [presentation](#) of the Task Team’s recommendations (background paper [here](#)) to advance the establishment of the Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP)³.

He outlined the consultative process behind the FCDP recommendations, including an incubation phase starting in August 2022, and the landscape and needs assessment outcomes shared with the ExCom in [September 2022](#).

The objective and high-level features of the platform (a resource centre for finance capacity building tools and learning) and functionalities (tailored country support, financing tools and information, liaison & convening) as well as the proposed operating principles of the platform were shared. It was agreed that the **ExCom functions as the Platform’s governing body with the FTT playing a “first-line” oversight and stewardship role for the Platform.**

Discussion: The ExCom welcomed the recommended direction and highlighted the centrality of the FCDP going forward. The ExCom asked the FTT to prioritise FCDP development as there is a sense of urgency to operationalise the platform as soon as possible.

Country representatives welcomed the proposed FCDP as a concrete and strategic approach that will help countries in accessing finance while developing financing-for-nutrition-related capacities in a systemic manner. ExCom members further emphasised that bringing about systemic change to countries and maximising coordination and dialogue in countries to avoid duplication will be central to success.

It was agreed that alignment of donor and development partners’ efforts behind national nutrition plans and priorities of SUN countries will be included as a fundamental principle for the platform and that this should be explicitly articulated in next steps. Synergy and complementarity between the FCDP and the work of the GSS should be prioritised (TA provision, existing tools, website, shared resource libraries etc). Augustin reassured the ExCom that roles and structures will not be duplicated.

Way Forward: The principles of alignment behind national nutrition plans and priorities and alignment and complementarity with the SUN Movement will continue to be explicitly articulated in the operationalisation of the FCDP.

Comments and suggestions, especially with regards to the operationalisation of the FCDP, can be shared with Augustin until 23 December, 2022.

³ It was agreed that in the interest of time, no FTT update as such was required as the written update had already been circulated (see [here](#)).

4. SMS 2023 workplan and updated budget [for discussion]

The provisional SMS 2023 workplan and budget were presented for discussion and early input (see background document [here](#)). The SMS Director (Marcy) highlighted how the provisional 2023 workplan links to the [SMS Logframe 2022-2025](#), builds and expands on the 2022 SMS workplan, the work initiated through the new regional hubs, as well as the efforts to strengthen collaboration within the GSS over the past months.

It reflects country needs and priorities. The final version submitted in January 2023, will reflect this input as well as the updated status of SMS funding and inputs from the GSS.

Discussion: The work plan is ambitious, especially considering the heavy lift required for a Global Gathering in 2023. It is important to focus more on priorities including in relation to global opportunities and the concrete ways that all of the GSS can support regional and country progress.

Way Forward: ExCom members are requested to share any additional comments in writing before the end of 2022. A revised and final work plan and budget will be shared for approval in January 2023.

5. GSS 2023 Action Plan [for endorsement]

Decision: The GSS action plan was endorsed with the recognition that individual network workplans are still under development and will be shared with the ExCom in 2023.

The global SUN Business Network coordinator (Emily Heneghan Kasoma) gave a brief overview of the GSS Action Plan for 2023 on behalf of the GSS (see background document [here](#)). The action plan is an attempt to illustrate the various areas of collaboration across the GSS to support SUN countries to deliver on their national nutrition priorities, using the framework of SUN 3.0 as a guiding document. There will be a GSS retreat in the first quarter of 2023 which will help with prioritisation and crystallising deliverables.

An overview (see [here](#)) of GSS funding requirements and gaps, including for the Finance Capacity Development Platform, was presented acknowledging that the scope of each network's proposals varies (e.g. some of the proposals including both global and regional level teams).

Discussion: The SUN Coordinator (Gerda) raised the issue that in order to be able 'to deliver as one' as required by SUN 3.0, the governance of the GSS has to be reviewed and better harmonised. ExCom emphasised the need for GSS to work and 'deliver as one' as being central to the success of the Movement and that a focus is needed on what should be done jointly.

Way Forward: The GSS will present joint annual priorities for 2023 together with the SMS and network annual workplans. Clear responsibilities will be highlighted, based on individual GSS entity mandates and capacities.

The Co-Chairs propose that the critical issue of network governance and how this impacts on the GSS' ability to deliver is put on the ExCom Agenda early in the new year.

6. Revised Indicators of Success [for endorsement]

Decision: The ExCom endorsed the Revised Indicators of Success.

In follow-up to the presentation of the indicators of success to the ExCom in September 2022, a consultation was held with the SUN Movement MEAL/KM Advisory Group, members of the ExCom and SUN country Focal Point representatives to discuss improvements to the indicators of success.

The SUN 3.0 revised indicators of success shared (see background document [here](#)) with the ExCom reflect these discussions and action taken to ensure that each indicator has clear definitions, an associated data source and are aligned with the [Joint Annual Assessment process](#) and [Mutual Accountability Framework](#).

The SMS Director clarified that further reporting on the indicators will be done in late 2023 and 2025 at the end of SUN 3.0.

7. SUN Movement Global Gathering [for discussion]

Following the in-principle decision of the ExCom in September 2022 to support the planning of the next Global Gathering, the SMS has launched a consultation to solicit proposals from SUN Countries who may be interested to host GG 2023. In parallel, the SMS is working with SUN Network representatives to explore potential host locations that can capitalise on scheduled regional or global opportunities in 2023 (see background document [here](#)). The 2023 GG should allow for hybrid participation.

Discussion: The value of the GG to countries was recognized by ExCom members as well as the in-principle agreement to move forward with the next organising steps. It was highlighted that the human and financial resources required to deliver a successful GG should not be underestimated and should be realistically reflected in the SMS workplan.

Way Forward: ExCom members are asked to self-nominate for the 2023 GG Reference Group to guide planning.

ExCom would like to see an overall funding envelope of SUN GSS including GG for 2023.

8. ExCom 2023 Work Plan and meeting dates for 2023

The Co-Chair (Connell Foley) gave an overview of key priorities and milestones of the ExCom in 2023 by sharing a brief [presentation](#). A draft workplan for 2023 will be shared in due course but it was highlighted that reviewing the governance role of the ExCom to ensure it can fulfil the responsibilities set out in the ExCom Terms of Reference will be a top priority at the beginning of 2023.

Going forward the 13 OPS Report recommendations will also be prioritized as in some of them more progress needs to be made, such as the ExCom's oversight and coordination role of the GSS.

Connell further shared an approach to agenda setting for each meeting, making sure that SUN country representatives and country issues are always at the centre of each meeting.

Discussion: The value of clear governance processes that keep SUN Countries at the centre was highlighted and the proposed direction supported.

Way Forward: Co-Chairs will work with the SMS to refine the approach and set the 2023 meeting schedule. This will incorporate the topics raised in the meeting.

9. Farewell to SUN Movement Coordinator

As it was the last meeting of the current SUN Movement Coordinator, Gerda Verburg, ExCom members thanked the Coordinator and shared their appreciation for her leadership which is leaving a great legacy behind.

The Coordinator highlighted how it has been an honour to serve the SUN Movement and thanked the ExCom for the touching words. She reminded everyone that this is not a goodbye as she intends to remain a committed and active supporter of the SUN Movement.

10. AoB / Summary of agreed action points

The Co-Chair (Gladys Mugambi) closed the meeting by briefly summarizing the decisions and follow-up actions agreed during the meeting (back to [top](#)).