

2023

## SUN in a snapshot

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is a country-driven initiative led by 66 countries and four Indian states and supported by thousands of stakeholders from across society – all united in their mission to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

### History: SUN rising

**The SUN Movement was born from the collective recognition that the international system was failing to address undernutrition** – the cause of nearly half of all deaths in children under five years of age.<sup>1</sup> Evidence that stunting is irreversible and devastates children’s physical and cognitive development and, therefore, the economic growth and stability of countries was a political call to action. The [2008 Lancet Series on Maternal and Child Undernutrition](#) laid out the evidence and the [Copenhagen Consensus](#) made the economic case explicit. The [Scaling Up Nutrition: A Framework for Action](#) outlined a multi-stakeholder plan of action – calling for an end to fragmentation and urging unprecedented collaboration, for impact at scale.

**The SUN Movement was launched in 2010 by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Led by governments and driven by evidence, SUN has to date rallied 66 countries and four Indian states** – supported by over **4,000 civil society organisations**, some **1,400 businesses**, **five United Nations agencies** and a group of **international donors and foundations (the SUN Networks)**. They commit to leave egos and logos behind, align efforts, and work together to ensure every child, adolescent, mother and family can realise their right to food and nutrition, reach their full potential and shape sustainable and prosperous societies.

The 2013 Nutrition For Growth Summit and 2017 Global Nutrition Summit fuelled political and financial commitment for nutrition on a global scale. **The 2021 Tokyo Nutrition For Growth Summit and the UN Food Systems Summit demonstrated the centrality of nutrition**, critical for transforming food systems to ensure they are nutritious and

sustainable, ensuring low-cost and high-impact actions, and catalysing progress across all 17 of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The [2023 UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment](#) will build on this momentum and create a space for countries to review the commitments to action that were made, share stories of success and early signs of transformation.

### The challenge of malnutrition

**Malnutrition in all its forms continues to be the leading cause of poor health and poverty globally.** Children who suffer from undernutrition become more susceptible to obesity, leaving countries to struggle with the burden of undernutrition and overweight simultaneously.

Yet, years of progress are slowing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing impacts of conflict and climate change on livelihoods, food production and the frequency of natural disasters. Food systems have the potential to nourish human health and support environmental sustainability; however, they are currently threatening both.

Now, during an unprecedented global food and nutrition crisis, this represents a critical moment – both to support countries to ensure that nutritious foods remain available to everyone and to ensure that the global response to the current crisis is country-driven. **Improving nutrition means driving progress across the host of challenges faced by the world today. Yet, it remains one of the world’s least-addressed problems. Each country and stakeholder must do more and collaborate to tackle malnutrition, in all its forms.**

<sup>1</sup> Black, R.E., et. al., “Maternal and child undernutrition and overweight in low-income and middle-income countries”, *The Lancet*, Volume 382, Issue 9890, 2013, Pages 427-451.

## The SUN approach

**SUN countries are breaking down boundaries between sectors and stakeholders, developing a systems approach to nutrition.** Each of the 65 SUN countries and four Indian states lead their own unique national SUN Movement, where actors come together for joint advocacy, alignment, and investment in adopting successful strategies to eliminate all forms of malnutrition.

The focus is on sharply scaling up evidence-based, cost-effective interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition. Every \$1 invested in proven nutrition programmes offers benefits worth \$16.<sup>2</sup> Stakeholders take a multisectoral approach by integrating nutrition into related sectors and using indicators of undernutrition as one of the key measures of overall progress across agriculture, social protection, health, education, and the water supply and sanitation sectors, as well as cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, governance and state fragility. Country nutrition plans, while drawing on international evidence of good practice, must be country-owned and built on the country's specific ambitions, needs and capacities.

- **48 SUN countries** have national nutrition plans.
- **55 countries are using inclusive platforms** to rally all stakeholders behind one vision, one plan, one budget and one monitoring-and-evaluation system to achieve their nutrition goals.

**SUN countries are driving forward a dramatic increase in high-level leadership for nutrition.** Political commitment and ownership at the top level are essential to lead a whole-of-government approach. SUN Government Focal Points, who are appointed when a country joins the Movement, are strategically placed to convene sectors and stakeholders effectively – ideally within the President's, Vice-President's or Prime Minister's cabinet or in the Office of Planning. Domestic investment is the true test of political commitment and ownership, and therefore Ministers of Finance, parliaments and civil society are key to ensuring more and better investment for nutrition and accountability for progress.

<sup>2</sup> International Food Policy Research Institute. 2014. *Global Nutrition Report 2014: Actions and Accountability to Accelerate the World's Progress on Nutrition* <https://www.ifpri.org/publication/global-nutrition-report-2014-actions-and-accountability-accelerate-worlds-progress>.

## The power of we: Leading from where you stand

**Every stakeholder can do better, as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is in its Decade of Delivery.**

The nutrition agenda must be owned by countries, driven by governments, and supported by local and international stakeholders who champion convergence, alignment and accountability for impact, through their organizations, companies and networks.

**Nutrition must also be explicitly integrated into global as well as national initiatives** for climate change (including the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP28), agriculture and food security, water and sanitation, gender equality, women's empowerment, education, youth involvement, emergency response, social protection and universal health coverage to reduce fragmentation and ensure win-win scenarios.

**The SUN Movement Lead Group, Executive Committee, Coordinator, Secretariat and Networks support and guide countries in their mission to scale up impact and results. The SUN Movement Principles of Engagement set the course for rising to the challenges ahead.** They require everyone to demonstrate what they will do **differently** and **additionally** to eliminate all forms of malnutrition durably and sustainably.

## The SUN Movement principles of engagement

1. Be transparent about impact
2. Be inclusive through open multi-stakeholder partnerships
3. Be rights-based by upholding the rights of all women, men and their children
4. Be willing to negotiate when conflicts arise
5. Be mutually accountable to joint commitments
6. Be cost-effective by focusing on evidence-based analysis and sustainable impact
7. Be continuously communicative to support learning and sharing
8. Act with integrity and in an ethical manner
9. Be mutually respectful
10. Do no harm



ENGAGE • INSPIRE • INVEST

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