



verhead view of a group of African village children sharing a meal of rice, Bamako, Mali

Where we are today

The year 2022 was one of transformation for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. SUN stepped up efforts laid out in its 2021–2025 (SUN 3.0) Strategy, helping to position nutrition both as a key driver and outcome of sustainable development.

We worked on boosting country ownership of the SUN Movement's coordinated and systemic approach to combating malnutrition, with dedicated attention to fragile States requiring both nutritious humanitarian assistance during emergencies and durable solutions to strengthen their resilience to recurring economic crises, conflicts and extreme climate events.

In our calls for increased investment to ensure global food systems are geared towards prioritizing people and planet, we made sure to urge **climate** action for a stronger future and the resolution of the **inequality** that is hurting our economies and communities, through better support and inclusion of women, youth and external debtridden nations.



A woman waters vegetables in a market garden established on formerly degraded land in Quallam, Niger

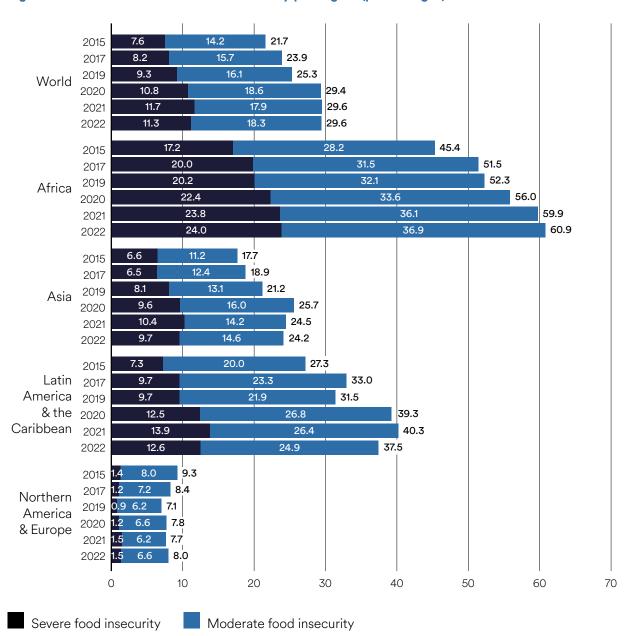
After the COVID-19 pandemic revealed the global interconnection and vulnerability of food systems, the 65 SUN Member Countries and four Indian States faced the largest food and nutrition crisis in decades. Between 2019 and 2021, the cost of a healthy diet rose nearly 7 per cent, according to the 2023 State of the Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report.

In 2022, the average cost of a healthy diet was more than 50 per cent higher than the World Bank's extreme poverty line. In 12 countries - all of them in Africa - more than 90 per cent of people could not regularly afford a healthy diet, offering a diversity of nutrient-rich foods, aligned with dietary guidance.

Since 2021, food, agricultural inputs and energy prices have continued to rise. The war in Ukraine, which began in early 2022, only made things worse, reducing the availability of fertilizers and threatening to decrease the production of and access to food, pushing many countries to support domestic supply through food export-limiting measures.

It is in this context that no progress was made last year on food security and nutrition around the world. The number of people unable to access safe, nutritious, and sufficient food rose to almost 3.1 billion, or about 44 per cent of the global population, with women and people living in rural areas among the hardest hit. This is 134 million more people than in 2019, before the pandemic.

Figure 1. Moderate and severe food insecurity per region (percentages)



Progress towards the 2025 World Health Assembly (WHA) global nutrition targets is largely insufficient and we are far off track to meet the SDG targets, the 2023 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report and Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME) showed.

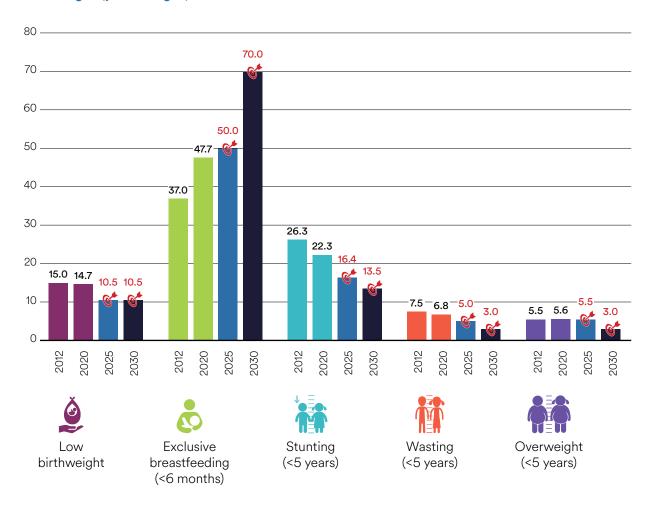
Though some regions of the world have made some progress, most indicators of child undernutrition – including stunting and wasting, deficiencies in essential micronutrients - as well as overweight and obesity in children have been on the rise.

Only a third of all countries are 'on track' to halve by 2030 the number of **stunted** children. At this rate, the 2030 target will be missed by 39.6 million children, 80 per cent of whom live in Africa.

Most shockingly, the global prevalence of wasting is more than double the 2030 target, and low birth weight, an indicator of women's proper nutrition before and during pregnancy, is off target as well with limited improvement in the last decade. Only one in six countries is projected to achieve the target of 3 per cent prevalence for **overweight**. Adult obesity is also lagging behind targets.

Not all the news is grim, though, as some countries are set to achieve some of the nutrition targets by 2030, and levels of exclusive breastfeeding have steadily risen.

Figure 2. Global trends in stunting, wasting, exclusive breastfeeding, overweight and low birthweight (percentages)







2025 WHA Global Nutrition Targets 2025 targets extended to 2030 to be aligned with the SDG timeline

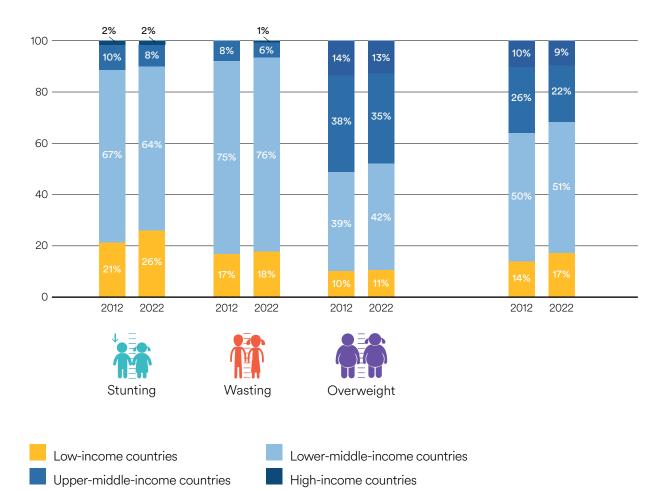
SOURCES: Data for stunting, wasting and overweight are based on UNICEF, WHO & World Bank. 2023. UNICEF-WHO-World Bank: Joint child malnutrition estimates - Levels $and trends (2023 \, edition). \, [\hbox{Cited 24 April 2023}]. \, \underline{ https://data.unicef.org/resources/ime-report-2023}, \underline{ www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutritions}, \underline{ www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring$ and-food-safety-and-events/joint-child-malnutrition-estimates, https://datatopics.worldbank.org/child-malnutrition; data for exclusive breastfeeding are based on UNICEF, 2022. Infant and young child feeding. In: UNICEF. [Cited 6 April 2023]. https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/infant-and-young-child-feeding; data for low birthweight are from UNICEF. & WHO. 2023. Low birthweight joint estimates 2023 edition. [Cited 12 July 2023]. https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/low-birthweight; www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutritional-status-and-food-safety-and-events/joint-low-birthweight.
The targets are drawn from: UNICEF & WHO. 2017. Methodology for monitoring-nutritional-status-and-food-safety-and-events/joint-low-birthweight. $progress towards the global nutrition targets for 2025-technical report. New York, USA and Geneva, Switzerland. \\ \underline{https://data.unicef.org/resources/methodology-for-method$ progress-towards-the-global-nutrition-targets-for-2025; and UNICEF & WHO, 2019. The extension of the 2025 Maternal, Infant and Young Child nutrition targets to 2030, New York, USA and Geneva, Switzerland. https://data.unicef.org/resources/who-unicef-discussion-paper-nutrition-targets.

Other megatrends are gradually changing the nutrition landscape and will have to inform our policy advocacy. These include urbanization, with already more than half of the global population living in cities. More people living in rural households far away from urban centres are relying on food purchases rather than their own subsistence farming, and more of them are consuming highly processed foods.

This can explain the equally worrying emerging trend of rising overweight among children under 5 years of age in many lower-income countries (1 percentage point from 14.3 per cent to 15.3 per cent observed in the last decade, from 2012 to 2022).

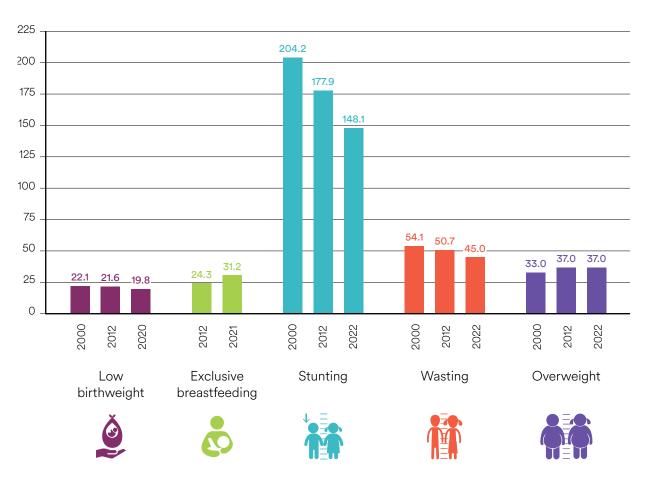
Figure 3. Distribution of children under 5 years of age affected by stunting, wasting and overweight, by country income group (percentages)

Population distribution of children under 5 years of age by country income group, global (percentages)



SOURCES: Data for stunting, wasting and overweight are based on UNICEF, WHO & World Bank. 2023. UNICEF-WHO-World Bank: Joint child malnutrition estimates - Levels and trends (2023 edition). [Cited 24 April 2023]. https://data.unicef.org/resources/me-report-2023, www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutritional-status-and-food-safety-and-events/joint-child-malnutrition; data for exclusive breastfeeding are based on UNICEF. 2022. Infant and young child feeding. In: UNICEF. [Cited 6 April 2023]. https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/infant-and-young-child-feeding: data for low birthweight are from UNICEF. WHO. 2023. Low birthweight joint estimates 2023 edition. [Cited 12 July 2023]. https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/low-birthweight: www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety-and-events/joint-low-birthweight-estimates.. Population data are based on United Nations Population Division. 2022. World Population Prospects 2022. [Cited 27 April 2023]. https://population.un.org/wpp





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SUN Countries

Amid these challenges, SUN Countries intensified their efforts to preserve nutrition gains and continue progress towards eradicating all forms of malnutrition. The first step towards concerted action is to build clear objectives and steps to reach them.

By 2022, nearly all of SUN countries either had a national multisectoral **nutrition strategy** in place or were in the process of developing or renewing one, and more than two-thirds had national nutrition plans in place.

Level of SUN Government Focal Point coordination role

Above sector-level

52%

- Office of the Vice-President
- Office of the Prime Minister
- Minister of Planning
- Minister of Finance
- Nutrition Council

Sector-level and other entities

48%

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
- Ministry of Social Protection

Countries have made efforts to place SUN Government Focal Points in coordination roles above the sectoral line ministries (e.g. health, agriculture, social protection) in order to better engage stakeholders across the vast nutrition landscape and strategically combat malnutrition through multisectoral, multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs). Nearly half (52 per cent) of SUN Countries were able to place SUN Government Focal Points either at Prime Minister or Presidential Office levels in 2022. Among those focal points, 43 per cent were women.

Likewise, connecting humanitarian and development efforts is especially critical in contexts fraught with instability or conflict. Nearly all of the <u>SUN Government Focal Points</u> or other MSP representatives participated in national emergency coordination systems and structures, and more than two-thirds - including all 13 of the Convergence Hub and fragile States - reported they had staff within their MSPs concentrating on humanitarian issues, resilience and disaster risk reduction.

Technical assistance and capacity strengthening

In 2022, we set up a <u>capacity strengthening plan</u> for SUN Government Focal Points, their teams and key MSP networks. This allowed them to develop new ways of onboarding focal points, peer-to-peer

exchanges, "establish buddy" systems to match peers for more congenial information flows, and identify e-learning needs.

Examples of peer-to-peer exchanges conducted by SUN countries in 2022

- Timor-Leste and Indonesia on stunting reduction
- Djibouti, Togo and Senegal on Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
- Mali and Ghana on food systems transformation pathways
- Côte d'Ivoire and Burundi on establishing youth networks and monitoring programmes related to food security and nutrition
- Sudan and Bangladesh on multisectoral nutrition planning
- Ethiopia and Somalia on nutrition governance
- Peru and Ecuador on information systems
- Ecuador and Costa Rica on breastfeeding counseling
- Costa Rica and Colombia on malnourished children



The new SUN regional hubs helped address the almost 200 requests from countries for support for support on issues related to finance, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy, and information systems, 45 of which pertained to resource mobilization and financing. Solutions were identified for almost 75 per cent of requests, including technical assistance, peer-to-peer missions, workshops, and advisory services.

The 2022 SUN Movement capacity-strengthening action plan led to the development, in partnership with the FAO e-learning Academy, of a certifying and online advocacy training for SUN Government Focal Points and their teams. The tool is being peer reviewed and is scheduled to be released in early 2024. SUN focal points' requests for <u>leadership skills training</u> led to the development of an online tool in partnership with Nutrition International (NI).

Financing

In the midst of the ongoing polycrisis, financing for nutrition remained a key issue for most SUN Countries. As of 2022, 35 SUN Countries had costed multisectoral nutrition plans, with costing ongoing in six additional countries. Some countries reported having been able to maintain, or even increase, their nutrition budgets.

To support SUN Countries' most urgent needs, the <u>SUN Global Support System</u> organized country-level exchanges and capacity building on national financing solutions. The <u>Pooled Fund 2.0</u>, a last resort, catalytic in innovative funding

mechanism providing support to SUN Countries their efforts in scaling up national nutrition responses, was extended to December 2022. Over the life of the pooled fund, it supported 86 grant projects contracts that were awarded through a competitive process across 46 SUN countries during this time. In 2022, this included the delivery of budget analysis and capacity-strengthening workshops in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Costa Rica, Guinea-Bissau and Honduras, a costing readiness exercise in Sudan, and resource mobilization round tables in Ecuador and Senegal.

Figure 5. Types of multisectoral national nutrition plans

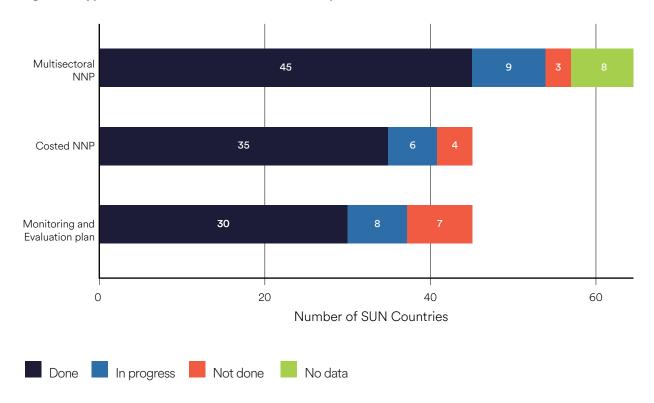
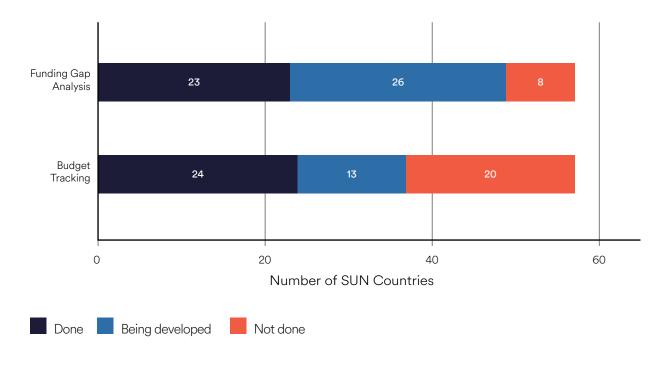


Figure 6. What the nutrition finance processes include



SUN partners also worked together to ensure nutrition was a key concern of the wider development finance community, including through advocacy at key events such as Stockholm+50, the 2022 United Nations General Assembly High-level meetings, 2022 UN Climate Change Conference

COP27 as well as reigniting - or establishing new-partnerships with critical actors such as the <u>Asian Development Bank</u>, Islamic <u>Development Bank</u> and <u>African Development Bank</u> to support nutritionsensitive financing decisions.



Engagement

SUN's first-ever Regional Gathering in the Latin America and Caribbean region brought together 10 countries, who were able to share experiences, reinforce regional partnerships and collaboration, including with the regional economic commissions and development banks.

SUN Country engagement and leadership continued during the <u>African Union Year of Nutrition</u>, which led to the <u>2022 Abidjan Declaration</u> reiterating the commitment of African countries to end malnutrition.

The SUN Movement rallied around messaging to sensitize climate negotiators on sustainable healthy diets being a lever for climate-smart food systems transformation at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27). This helped State Parties better recognize the

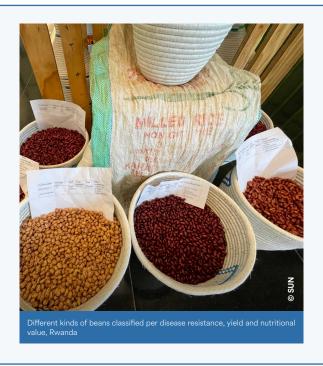
importance of ensuring food and nutrition security in the current climate crisis, while reducing the impact of food systems on climate change.

In 2022, 39 good practices from SUN Countries were documented and 13 detailed case studies created, complemented by a series of nutrition changemakers videos, all designed to help countries learn from each other and replicate efficient ways of working.

SUN Countries have also engaged in peer-to-peer learning efforts and high-level engagement and nutrition policy through the <u>food systems</u> transformation pathways, Nutrition for Growth (N4G) commitments, and <u>2022 Food Systems</u> Solutions Dialogues. Successes were also shared in a series of <u>webinars</u> related to good practices from each of the SUN regions.

Rwanda engages with the private sector

In December, as a follow-up to the SUN Coordinator's visit to the country in September 2022, accompanied by representatives from the SUN Donor Network and SUN Business Network, Rwanda officially launched its national SUN Business Network, supported by the World Food Programme, Sight and Life, and the National Child Development Agency. Efforts have been made to involve Rwandan businesses in the advancement of the nutrition agenda, including the Rwanda Food and Drug Authority's food fortification platform, Rwanda Standards Board technical committees, the nutrition and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) technical working groups, and the Private Sector Federation. Building on these initiatives, the national SUN Business Network gives the country a single centralized network to unite private-sector actors on the issue of nutrition.



SUN Movement Networks

<u>SUN Civil Society</u> Network and <u>UN-Nutrition</u>¹ were present in more than 80 per cent of SUN Countries. The <u>SUN Donor Network</u> and <u>SUN Business Network</u>

are active in roughly 63 per cent of SUN Countries. The presence of all four networks' rose by half to 33 SUN Countries from 22 the previous year.

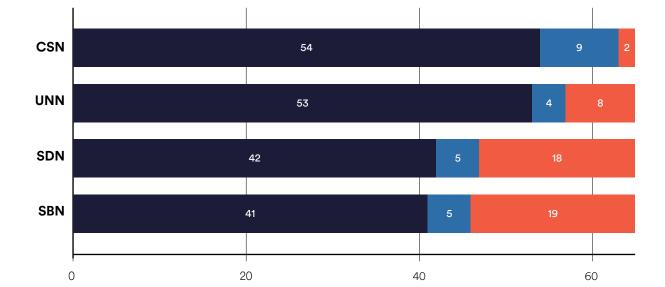


Figure 7. Number of countries with SUN networks established in 2021

SOURCE: data based on JAA 2022 and GSS records

In progress

UN-Nutrition upholds a broader mandate and is universal in scope, encompassing both SUN and non-SUN countries. It is a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to which UN-Nutrition is accountable. UN-Nutrition combines the former functions of UN Network for SUN with those of the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition following their merger in 2020.

SUN Civil Society Network

Placing SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) members and youth first in all opportunities, and opening the civic space remain the Network's utmost priority.

In November 2022, National Youth Coordinators (volunteers) were recruited from 20 countries, covering all four regions of the CSN. Their mission is to build a broad and inclusive network of children and young people, with a priority on marginalized and excluded communities.

On the anniversary of the Tokyo N4G summit in December 2022, the SUN CSN launched a <u>social accountability campaign</u> to support CSN members in holding stakeholders, including themselves, to account for commitments made, using scorecards. The campaign, which will run until the Paris N4G summit in 2024–2025, will complement the work of the Nutrition Accountability Framework, adding the invaluable perspectives and experiences of the grassroots communities not always captured in quantitative data.

The SUN CSN Secretariat published the <u>2018-2022 SUN CSN Small Grants Report</u> which highlights the incredible work achieved by the grantees from each cycle of the small grants programme, under the themes of Innovation & Research, Youth Innovation & Research, MEAL & Sustainability, and Youth Leadership.

In November, CSN member organization International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) ran an in-person Nutrition-Sensitive Programming training in the Philippines following which CSN participants from around the world developed action plans on how they would implement their learnings and formed a community of practice. More about the training from the perspective of training participant Georgine Obwana: "Nutrition Sensitive training in the Philippines – A Tale of Experience."

The SUN CSN, in partnership with the SMS, started documenting <u>SUN Civil Society Alliances'</u> good practices which will help them promote their work and present themselves as credible technical partners.



UN-Nutrition

In October 2022, UN-Nutrition launched its inaugural strategy highlighting how United Nations agencies, funds and programmes can jointly fulfill their commitments to nutrition through 2030.

As part of its work to foster collective knowledge management, it released a UN-Nutrition Transforming Nutrition Journal with over 20 peer-reviewed articles on potential transformative measures that can be taken to help countries meet global nutrition targets.

UN-Nutrition also supported the completion of the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping exercise in five SUN Countries – Burkina Faso, Lesotho, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone – in 2022, with the results highlighting aggregated intervention coverage and drawing attention to data gaps. The exercise has proved beneficial in helping governments better coordinate nutrition actions across sectors and stakeholders. In some cases, such as in Senegal, it is being used to monitor the progress of the national nutrition plan.

UN-Nutrition continued to raise awareness about the nutrition-environment nexus and advocate for interdisciplinary solutions, building on evidence presented in its discussion papers on aquatic foods and livestock-derived foods in the context of sustainable healthy diets. This included UN-Nutrition's engagement in numerous events at COP27, helping to amplify common UN messaging, bring country voices and share good practices that support win-wins for human and planetary health.

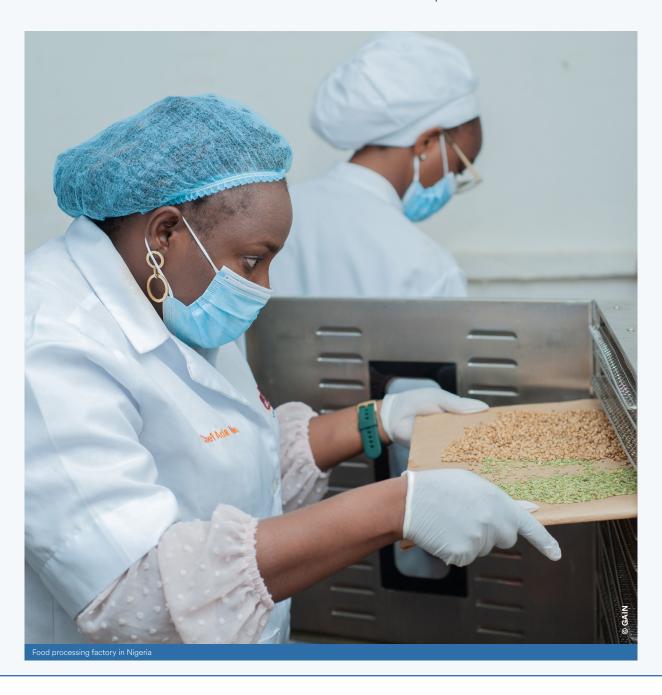
SUN Business Network

The role of the private sector has become increasingly integral to SUN Country strategies, emphasizing the need for continued engagement and support for private sector initiatives. New national SBNs have been activated recently in more than a dozen countries.

In developing countries, an estimated 43 per cent of women and 57 per cent of youth are <u>involved</u> in the <u>agricultural workforce</u>. The <u>SUN Business Network Women and Youth Empowerment Strategy</u> aims to support women and youth in overcoming challenges and empowering them to explore opportunities for delivering healthier, safer and more affordable diets to their communities.

The new SBN strategic action plan aims to support small and medium businesses, particularly those led by women and youth, enhance consumer awareness about nutritious food, and leverage the expertise of large corporations to build capacity among smaller ones.

A survey conducted by SBN involving small and medium enterprises revealed the impacts of the food price crisis. Nearly 80 per cent of SMEs reported experiencing problems related to price volatility, with a majority responding by increasing sales prices. This result points to a key area of opportunity for SUN Countries to provide support to these enterprises.



SUN Donor Network

The SUN Donor Network (SDN) has been active in keeping nutrition a top priority on national agendas, including through support for the African Union Year of Nutrition and the Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS).

Together with the World Bank, the Group of Seven countries launched the GAFS under the German Presidency in 2022 to catalyse an agile, immediate and coordinated response to the global food security and nutrition crisis. The Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard offers the latest global and country-level data on food crisis severity, global food security financing, nutrition, and innovative research to strengthen crisis response and resilience. In addition, country dialogues are convened in 26 countries with key GAFS partners on the ground to gather the latest information on the food crisis, identify funding gaps, and take action on crisis response and preparedness.

The SDN played an instrumental role in initiating and financing the incubation of the Finance Capacity

Development Platform, designed to enhance the financial capacities of countries to adequately fund and manage nutrition programmes.

The National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) initiative, launched by the European Union to strengthen SUN Countries' ability to collect multisector nutrition data into a central repository and analyse it for informed decision-making on policy, programmes, and investments in nutrition, entered into its second funding cycle, in close collaboration with the SMS, SUN networks and building on current efforts of the SUN Movement.

In 2021 and 2022, GIZ provided technical and programme management assistance in Ethiopia and Niger, while UNICEF supported Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Uganda. The Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) delivered technical and programme management assistance in Guatemala. For some lessons learned through this initiative, read the report on Ethiopia.





SUN Movement Secretariat

The SUN Movement Secretariat helped accelerate action and align stakeholders behind country priorities to tackle nutrition issues, driving the integration of nutrition both into global agendas and at the country level through hands-on capacity strengthening and drawing on the support and expertise of its members or referring incoming requests through the SUN Joint Annual Assessment (JAA) to actors best positioned to respond, convening of MSP stakeholders and supporting financing for nutrition.

In 2022, the composition of the 24-member SUN Movement Lead Group was renewed to ensure that the diversity of the group closely mirrors the constituencies of the SUN Movement and that countries are better represented at all levels of governance.

Similarly, the Executive Committee, renewed in late 2021, reflects strong country leadership in keeping with the spirit of SUN 3.0.

In 2022, the SUN Movement continued to implement the 13 recommendations made by the <u>SUN Operationalization Group in its report of late 2021</u>, addressing governance, accountability, delivery, capacity strengthening and finance, among others, for which good progress was made in 2022: development of a Mutual Accountability





Framework to strengthen accountability across all components of the SUN Movement, to be piloted in 2023; updating indicators of success for the SUN Movement, to be reported on at the end of 2023; and prioritizing investment in multistakeholder mechanisms, national advocacy and finance, and the establishment of a framework for capacity development and technical assistance as outlined above.

Coordinator Gerda Verburg ended her six-year tenure at the end of December 2022. Including during multiple country visits, she championed the importance of country leadership for sustainable and durable impact and the central role good nutrition plays in creating prosperous societies.

SUN's impact in Timor-Leste

During a visit to Timor-Leste in late 2022, former SUN Movement Coordinator Gerda Verburg helped encourage country stakeholders to commit to the SDG2 Consolidated National Action Plan for Nutrition and Food Security and ensure its costing and full implementation. She also encouraged Timor-Leste to establish the national SUN Secretariat as a State entity within the Office of the Prime Minister and to enshrine into law the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes.

Felipe da Costa, Government SUN focal point in Timor-Leste and Special Delegate for Nutrition and Food Security Coordination within the country's Prime Minister's Office, led on-the-ground efforts to improve the health of the nation's infants and mothers. This included advocacy to protect, promote and support recommended breastfeeding practices, positioning breastfeeding as nature's first food system.



Former SUN Movement Coordinator, Gerda Verburg, with Timor-Leste SUN Movement ocal point, Felipe da Costa

This led to the establishment of the <u>Timor-Leste Decree-law for regulating the marketing of breast milk substitutes in 2023</u>, which regulates the marketing of infant formula while promoting breastfeeding for the benefit of the country's mothers and children. With 65 per cent of mothers exclusively breastfeeding, Timor-Leste is getting closer to achieving the global nutrition targets. Check out the <u>VIDEO</u>.

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Looking forward

Today, as more than four in 10 people worldwide are unable to afford a healthy diet, the world is off track to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The Movement's role will be to keep making sure that efforts to end malnutrition are strongly aligned with, and contribute to achieving concrete progress on this global agenda.

A key opportunity for reassessing how best to reach nutrition objectives will be the <u>SUN Global Gathering</u>, to be held in June 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda, which will convene the Movement's practitioners to take stock, learn and agree on specific steps forward.

The incoming Coordinator, Afshan Khan, appointed in May 2023, will be pivotal in elevating the Movement's voice through increasingly strategic and targeted advocacy efforts and engagements to scale up nutrition finance. She will further engage and support the SUN Lead Group, Executive Committee, networks and key partners in their roles as thought leaders and champions of the Movement to inspire all nutrition stakeholders to stand up for people and the planet.

By deepening mutual trust, collaboration and coordination among countries, civil society, business and United Nations agencies working together for better nutrition, the SUN Movement will continue to serve people and the planet and help realize long-term sustainable development.





ommunity health worker talking to mother during the preparation of a meal in Sierra Leone

