

SUN Movement Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting
14 September 2023, 15:00 - 17:30 CEST (virtual)
Summary note

Participation

ExCom Participants: Gladys Mugambi and Connell Foley (Co-Chairs), Kiran Rupakhetee (Central and South Asia), Azucena Dayanghirang (*Southeast Asia*), Patricia Ngoran (*West and Central Africa*), Eugenia Villalobos (Latin America), George Kembo (*Southern Africa*), Karima Al-Hada'a (Additional Country Regional Seat), Mathews Mhuru (Additional Country Regional Seat), Christine Campeau (CSN), Neil Watkins (SDN), Augstin Flory (Finance) Caroline Wilkinson (Humanitarian), Richmond Aryeetey (MEAL/analytics), Mike Khunga (Youth), Nancy Aburto (UNN Alternate), Mary Mpereh (East and Central Africa Alternate),

Ex-Officio Members: Afshan Khan (SUN Movement Coordinator), Andrew Kirkwood (UNOPS)

Apologies: , Abigail Perry (UNN) Matt Kovac (SBN), George Baffour (East and Central Africa),

Observers: *Alternates:* Florence Sibomana (Youth), Venuste Muhamyankaka (Additional Country Regional), Helena Guarin (SDN), Ibiso Ivy King-Harry (Additional Country Regional); aid Shamsul Islam Shams (Humanitarian) , El Hadji Momar Thiam (MEAL/analytics)

Networks: Alex Newlands (SBN) Stineke Oenema (UNN); Others: Ilaria Schibbia (WFP)

SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS): Marcy Vigoda, Maria Pizzini, Hiroko Nobusada, Takhani Kromah, Sonia Ancellin-Panzani, Srikanth Eadara

Decisions (silent procedure confirmations)

Following silent procedures that closed on 11 September 2023 and 13 September 2023 respectively, the ExCom did not object to:

- the allocation of the UNOPS excess reserves attributable to the SUN Movement under Stream 2 (estimated at US\$ \$384,038 and subject to final donor confirmations) to the original purpose of the donor contributions as per below proposal:
 - The credit of US\$ 134,864 attributable to the SMS 2.0 to be allocated in support of the SMS 3.0, in particular towards the organisation of the Global Gathering taking place in Rwanda in June 2024.
 - The credit of US\$ 249,174 attributable to the SUN Movement Pooled Fund 2.0 to be allocated to the Secretariat of the Civil Society Network (CSN) in support of their costed plans focused on local civil society needs and funding gaps.
- The Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP) Host Selection Subcommittee's recommendation of the consortium led by Results for Development (R4D), together with Health Strategy and Delivery Foundation (HSDF) and Spark Health Africa, as the top candidate for the FCDP hosting role.

Decisions (as outcomes of the ExCom meeting on 14 September)

The Coordinator will convene the SUN network chairs, ExCom co-chairs and external legal counsel within the next two weeks to determine the best way forward in relation to the governance arrangements for the FCDP.

Follow-up Actions:

- The background document on nutrition financing that was drafted for and submitted to the SUN Movement Lead Group will be revised as needed based on their discussion on 17

- September and then shared more broadly with networks.
- The FCDP Subcommittee Chair will share the selected proposal for the FCDP host.
- The SMS will refine the SUN Movement Evaluation terms of reference based on ExCom inputs, establish the reference group, clarify timelines and keep ExCom informed.
- UNOPS Excess Reserves: UNOPS Director Geneva will now follow up individually with those donors to whom excess reserves are attributable for written agreement.

Summary note

ExCom Co-Chair Connell Foley opened the meeting by reviewing the proposed agenda and summarising progress against the actions and decisions of the last meeting in June 2023. ([Summary of 22 June meeting](#)) It was confirmed that a public announcement of the SUN Movement Global Gathering was made over the summer and ExCom members were encouraged to share this with their constituencies (see [here](#)).

1. FOR INPUT to ExCom Co-Chairs: SUN Lead Group Background Paper

The ExCom Co-Chairs gave the floor to the SUN Movement Coordinator to provide the rationale for the focus of the upcoming Lead Group meeting on nutrition financing and introduce the main elements of the [background document](#) developed for the Lead Group meeting.

The SUN Movement Coordinator summarised that during her consultations, local, regional and global representatives of the SUN Movement consistently raised the importance of developing, costing and resourcing national nutrition plans. The Coordinator recognized that while there have been numerous exchanges regarding the tools, platforms and methodologies available to assist SUN Countries in increasing their access to nutrition financing, engagement in the political outcomes of nutrition financing could be stronger. For this reason, the goal of the paper is to increase engagement of Lead Group members who can positively influence the current financing architecture for nutrition. She also recognised that the message that investment in nutrition acts as a catalyst for achieving global health and development goals as well as building resilience to shocks and disasters with clear economic benefits needs to be amplified.

She noted that a lot of work has been done by SUN Country Coordinators/Focal Points, supported by the SUN Movement Secretariat and networks to develop costed national nutrition plans and some donors had also invested in tracking and monitoring spending across the nutrition sector. However, the power of leveraging the members of the Lead Group who represent international financing institutions, foundation partners, government ministers and commissioners within the AU and EU hadn't been capitalised on sufficiently. At the same time, in discussion with Lead Group members, it was clear that they wanted to have more substantial discussions on strategic topics and the previous approaches to Lead Group meetings that involved prepared statements and declarations were not best serving the Movement.

In consultation with the LG Chair, the Coordinator worked with leading institutions (World Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the ExCom Finance Expert) to develop the Lead Group meeting background document. The Coordinator thanked the contributors and noted that the paper is likely to require revisions following on from the Lead Group discussion. Based on Lead Group feedback, the Coordinator hopes that the ExCom can help identify the actions needed across the networks that can be prioritised to take forward the nutrition financing ambitions set out by the Lead Group.

ExCom members were then invited to share their inputs with the ExCom Co-chairs before they engage in discussion as ex officio members of the Lead Group. The main inputs can be summarised as follows:

- Importance of linkages with other existing initiatives
 - ICAN - which is important for informing a consistent narrative and research agenda to engage the climate community more effectively.
 - Food Systems Pathways implementation - significant synergies to capitalize on, especially in the 11 countries where the SUN Government Focal Point/Coordinator is also the Food Systems Convenor
 - MDB Reform - IDA 21 discussions -opportunity to have a dedicated resource team on food security and nutrition in the future set up of IDA; this will require a broad 'coalition of the willing' to work together swiftly before the autumn World Bank and IMF meetings.
- Country Level Focus
 - Importance of encouraging and motivating governments which have already budgeted for nutrition, so they don't reverse these decisions
 - On the other hand, what do we do for countries like Afghanistan and Yemen which have significant gaps in nutrition financing due to their political situation?
 - How can we ensure that commitments at global forum better align with national nutrition plans priorities
 - How do we get parliamentarians and other legislators more involved in reviewing and approving national budgets for nutrition
 - There is a need for a monitoring mechanism for both domestic and external assistance tracking, recognising the ongoing work being done by OECD DAC and FAO.
 - What can be done across the Movement to identify and promote bankable projects before the next Nutrition for Growth meeting in France?
- Power of the SUN Networks
 - CSN for keeping an eye on accountability and the delivery of commitments (ahead of N4G, role to play in benchmarking what the tracking should look like well in advance)
 - SDN members to use their leadership positioned on governing boards of MDB to help build focus on nutrition; (especially WB and IDA replenishment)

The Coordinator responded in turn to each ExCom member's inputs, explaining the way different concepts were presented in the paper and emphasising the intention to balance the paper's role in being propositional and building Lead Group ownership. Overall, the ExCom was very supportive of this proposed focus of the Lead Group on nutrition financing and the approach taken to frame the issue in the background paper. The Coordinator confirmed that the next step would be to consult with the Lead Group, revise as needed and then share the paper more broadly with ExCom and networks.

- **FOR DISCUSSION: Finance Capacity Development Platform- Process Overview and Way Forward on Governance (45 minutes) - [background documents](#)**

The FCDP Subcommittee Chair, Connell Foley, provided an overview of the process and decision-making in relation to the selected host in line with the recommendation paper that was shared with regular ExCom members on 30 August and the full ExCom (including alternates) on 12 September. Key points raised were as follows:

- Following the endorsement of the SUN Ops Group reports by the Lead Group in 2021, the ExCom's Finance Task team oversaw the process of developing high level design options and recommendations for the FCDP which were endorsed by the wider ExCom in December 2022.

- At their March 2023 retreat, the ExCom decided that the FCDP host selection process was to be delegated to a small group comprising ExCom members not employed by organizations which may apply to become hosts and to avoid circulating documents in relation to the selection process to the broader ExCom distribution list. Based on that decision, the terms of reference for the FCDP Launch Oversight Committee were drafted and endorsed by silent procedure by the ExCom in May 2023.
- Membership of the subcommittee, including the chair, was set out in the terms of reference. The subcommittee's work was supported by two independent consultants, David Kim, as project manager and Eelco Szabo, who provided advice on legal and governance issues particularly in relation to the development and use of a conflict of interest framework for the subcommittee.
- The subcommittee developed a work plan following an aggressive timeline that included expressions of interest, a request for proposals, and then interviews with the candidate organizations/ applicants. The subcommittee held five closed door meetings to develop the process and set criteria in addition to candidate interviews and substantial expressions of interest and proposal reviews.
- The subcommittee also carried out limited consultation with potential donors as the legal entity for one of the candidates recently faced suspension of new agreements with some donors while other donors had communicated the potential to restrict funding new projects through the legal entity. In light of this, the subcommittee decided it would be astute and relevant to understand what donor restrictions, if any, might apply to the FCDP and see whether any donor concerns or restrictions might apply to candidates that could materially affect their ability to receive the funds necessary to the FCDP's work. Ultimately, donors did not raise any issues that would disqualify candidates from receiving funds, or that would pose other significant concerns. The subcommittee was therefore able to make its recommendation based on the assessed merits of each of the proposals and interviews.
- Five institutions participated in the initial expression of interest process and at the final stage three candidates were invited to submit detailed proposals and participate in interviews with the subcommittee.
- The final report shared by the subcommittee elaborates the assessment criteria used in the decision-making process. These included administrative services, management oversight and governance operationalizing the FCDP (which probably had the biggest weighting) and then value for money.
- The subcommittee came to a unanimous conclusion on the host selection after reviewing the proposals against these criteria. The subcommittee found that all 3 candidates were of high quality with each candidate bringing different strengths to the hosting role. However, the subcommittee agreed that Results for Development, in a consortium together with Health Strategy Delivery Foundation and Spark Health Africa was the top candidate based on its assessment of the criteria established in the request for proposal.
- In particular, the R4D proposal had the highest levels of relevant technical expertise and experience. They stood out by offering public leadership and vision, how to support countries improving their nutrition financing capacity and outcomes and in ways that probably represented an evolution from past models of support.
- The subcommittee shared its final recommendations via email on 13 August with the request for approval to be carried out on a pro forma, no objection basis. A few responses were received, some to simply communicate support for the recommendations and share the view that the process was consistent with what had been agreed.
- Beyond this, two ExCom members raised substantive points. One was encouragement for the SMS to be a key actor in the next stage of the process, and, secondly, the importance of getting the governance arrangements right, and how best to oversee the interim set up stage.
- These points were viewed as important input for the work ahead but were not in any way calling into question the robustness of the process.

- A quite urgent next step is to proceed to contracting. One donor has already approved funding for the FCDP and is ready to proceed to contracting but their timeline for being able to access those funds is very tight. The contracting process will include administrative details while fiduciary details will primarily be negotiated between the donor and R4D.
- Further work is required to establish the reporting modalities and to articulate the FCDP outputs. In addition, the setup of the governance, oversight, and accountability framework for the FCDP is required to ensure that the FCDP is optimally supporting and collaborating with the broader global support system and vice versa.
- Hence the subcommittee recommends that a plan be developed to ensure that the FCDP's work is harmonized with the activities and ways of working of the wider GSS and in particular, with the SMS regional hubs.
- The FCDP subcommittee chair reminded ExCom that it had already agreed that the FTT would act as the day- to- day overseer of the FCDP but this arrangement would only be formalized after the initial host contracting process is complete in order to continue managing potential or perceived conflicts of interest. He also suggested that it is likely that he might be required to continue overseeing the next phase to launch the FCDP process until the platform is operational, perhaps working with David Kim and Eelco Szabo.
- The Co-Chair suggested that an alternative could be to use the FCDP subcommittee or some extended version with a number of other members as the primary interim oversight body, before it could be handed over to the FTT.

During the discussion, several ExCom members welcomed the developments to build the FCDP, as an important tool within the broader Movement to support SUN Countries to strengthen access to nutrition financing, which has been long requested and evident in the JAA outcomes. Several also commented on the importance of ensuring that the platform works in alignment with the SMS and SUN Networks.

The SUN Movement Coordinator was then invited by the SUN Donor Network chair to share her views summarised as follows:

- All can agree on the urgency to move forward with this important tool as a part of the broader Movement's efforts to support SUN countries' financing efforts.
- While in no way questioning any of the decisions that have been made by the subcommittee, the Coordinator shared her concerns:
 - The importance of full transparency in this type of decision-making process by the ExCom is required. The Coordinator highlighted the example of the decision-making process for selecting the host of the 2024 Global Gathering. In this case, all of the country bids were shared, and every ExCom member had full visibility of what exactly was being proposed by each entity.
 - While there was a decision made prior to her joining the Movement to keep the bids closed to avoid the risk of any potential conflict of interest, the Coordinator acknowledged that now that a hosting decision has been made by the subcommittee it is important to have clarity on the scope of work from the host entity that has been selected before any discussions or decisions are made on governance and contracts.
 - Recognising the significant work done by the consultant and legal advisor to support the host selection process, there is a need to separate their support and input to operationalise the platform from broader discussions regarding the governance arrangements that need to be established to ensure the FCDP's alignment with the SUN networks and Movement as a whole.
 - The FCDP represents the first time that an entity provides support on behalf of the entire Movement, beyond any one network or the secretariat. Therefore, the governance advice that the SUN Movement receives on how best to ensure

complementarity and avoid fragmentation should be distinct from the governance advice related to setting up the platform.

- The terms of reference for both the Executive Committee and the Finance Task Team both clearly state that neither members of the ExCom nor the FTT have legal or fiduciary responsibilities or roles. Therefore, neither the FTT nor the EXCOM can provide oversight of the FCDP. Governance arrangements based on independent legal advice is needed to make sure the integrity of the Movement is maintained. Neither the Finance Task Team nor the Executive Committee should assume operational roles.
- The Coordinator noted that this moment is an exciting opportunity to strengthen capacity around nutrition financing with new tools, platforms, databases but it is also an important moment to ensure that any new entity is in alignment with the existing structures and governance mechanisms of the Movement.
- The Coordinator concluded by proposing that the ExCom Co-Chairs, the chairs of the four SUN Networks and the Coordinator come together to decide on what governance arrangements should be put in place. This may require support of legal counsel. UNOPS legal counsel could be approached but other suggestions were also welcome.

The FCDP subcommittee chair agreed that it was essential to share the successful bid to allow for a meaningful discussion in regard to the implications of what is being proposed. He also agreed that sorting out the governance arrangements is key. He suggested that the Finance Task Team, which was set up to lead the ExCom finance work, with representation from each of the networks and finance expertise is well positioned to take day-to-day responsibility and oversee the FCDP.

In terms of management responsibility, the FCDP subcommittee chair felt that fiduciary responsibility would be clarified in the contract between the donor and the hosting entity. On the wider governance arrangements, he felt the proposal to involve external legal counsel made sense but felt the FTT was an appropriate body to be involved in discussions with the ExCom Co-Chairs and Coordinator as the ExCom had devolved responsibility related to financing to the task team and already included representation from the networks. He was not clear how involving the network chairs would work.

The ExCom Finance Expert clarified his relationship with R4D specifying that he has no particular relationship with them at the moment, except being called a senior fellow and on a consultant roster. He proposed asking a legal and governance advisor about potential oversight responsibilities for the FTT and offered to recuse himself to avoid any perception of conflict of interest. The ExCom Finance Expert also discussed the process of hiring governance and legal advisors and suggested that David and Elco could potentially advise on the next phase if needed. The meeting was opened for other members to share their inputs.

In response, the Coordinator articulated the distinction between the technical finance expertise of the FTT and consultants involved to date and that of the views of each network's leadership in relation to the broader governance issues for the Movement. The introduction of this new entity that will be externally facing including with governments and other partners would require collaboration, consultation and engagement with the Movement. Therefore, the Coordinator reaffirmed her recommendation to convene a discussion amongst the ExCom co-chairs, the chairs of each of the four SUN networks, herself, and external legal counsel.

The ExCom Co-Chair Gladys Mugambi endorsed the proposal by the Coordinator who in turn offered to convene the network chairs, ExCom co-chairs and external legal counsel within the next few weeks. The Coordinator reiterated the importance of receiving the selected proposal so that an informed discussion could take place.

- **FOR CLOSURE: Written Submissions** (submitted by ExCom Co-Chairs on 28 August 2023 [here](#))

The Co-chairs gave the floor to the Director of the SMS to respond to inputs received in relation to a written submission to the ExCom in relation to the Terms of Reference of the SUN Movement Evaluation and the use of the SUN Movements Excess Reserves.

a. **SUN Movement Evaluation Terms of Reference** ([here](#))

-inputs received and in process of incorporation by SMS as of 12 September [here](#)

The SMS Director recognized:

- the importance of clarifying the scope and purpose of the evaluation that will focus on all parts of the Movement in its entirety and what has been learned to date in implementing Sun 3.0.
- the suggestion to not only look strictly at the 4 strategic objectives, but also to address cross cutting issues, including gender equality, youth, humanitarian contexts and crises will be taken on board
- the need for the evaluation team to be multilingual and to translate the final products into official SUN languages for better communication and dissemination will be reflected in the selection criteria for the evaluators.
- the purpose of the reference group for the evaluation is not just guidance but will form a key element of stakeholder engagement, uptake and dissemination; the group would be multi-sectoral, including all primary user groups such as countries, networks, ExCom, and the Lead Group. The SUN Coordinator has agreed to chair the group.

The next steps include refining the terms of reference, establishing the reference group, and clarifying timelines. The ExCom will be kept updated.

b. **Use of UNOPS excess reserves attributable to the SUN Movement** ([here](#))

-inputs received as of 12 September 2023 are [here](#)

The SMS Director acknowledged the ExCom's agreement on the proposal pending clarifications regarding allocations under Stream 2 and requests for clarity on donors requiring reimbursement. She confirmed that:

- In addition to Norway, Germany has advised that they will require the return of funds, and this reduces the overall amount under Stream 2 to from \$481,251 to \$384,038.
- On the prioritization of funding, for the UNOPS excess reserves attributable to SMS 2.0 (\$134,864), these will be returned to the SMS and while funding is not earmarked to specific activities, it will allow SMS to offset costs of the Global Gathering which is the largest single activity planned going forward.
- For the UNOPS excess reserves attributable to the SUN Movement Pooled Fund 2.0 (\$249,174), the majority of the grants under this fund supported civil society alliances and civil society in country. This ExCom has discussed in the past the critical funding needs of CSAs. This is the rationale that underpins the proposal to allocate these funds to the Secretariat of the Civil Society Network in support of their costed plans focused on local civil society needs and funding gaps.

The ExCom representative from UNOPS added that there may be other contributors that may require returns, and the final numbers could potentially go down.

The Civil Society Network Representative expressed appreciation for the allocation of resources towards national civil society alliances, citing the scale of their current funding gaps as a huge source

of concern. A request was made to consider special consideration for supporting youth engagement in the 2024 Global Gathering.

In relation to other business, the SUN Movement Coordinator reassured the ExCom that the SMS will share a list of important upcoming high-level events as well as key messaging that members can use to ensure a joint voice on nutrition.

The ExCom Co-Chairs summarised the key decisions and actions, thanked participants and closed the meeting.