

SUN Movement Executive Committee (ExCom) Transition Meeting

18 July 2024, 14:00 - 16:30 CEST (virtual)

Summary note

Follow-up Actions

- Global Gathering: Any feedback or enquiries related to the [Global Gathering preparations](#) can be directed to Yasmin Ali Haque, **SMS Director ad interim** (Yasmin.Haque@scalingupnutrition.org).
- **Resource Mobilisation: ExCom members** interested in helping to refine fundraising pitches for support to donors on the power of the networks to deliver coordinated and effective support to SUN Countries **are invited to get in touch** with Paul Mazza, SMS Governance Specialist (paul.mazza@scalingupnutrition.org) who will facilitate the convening of further discussions on this topic.
 - SUN CSN Case for Investment 2024-2025 ([here](#))
 - Request for SUN Executive Committee Support for SBN Fundraising ([here](#))
- The **SMS** will:
 - communicate the **date of the next Executive Committee meeting in September 2024**
 - contact ExCom members directly to **organise onboarding calls** in the second half of August 2024.
 - share **background documentation** related to the **external evaluation** as well as a **one-pager** detailing the current **fundraising situation of the Global Support System** with new ExCom members as part of their onboarding.
 - provide information related to the **election of new Co-Chairs** (during the September 2024 meeting) as part of the onboarding process.

Summary note

1. Opening of meeting / agenda approval / past action points

The agenda was approved without further additions. The Co-Chair reviewed the **action points** from the last ExCom meeting on 11 March 2024 (meeting summary [here](#)) which are all complete.

2. Introduction of new Executive Committee [FOR INFORMATION]

The Co-Chair thanked outgoing ExCom members for their services and congratulated incoming members for their appointment. He then briefly introduced outgoing, [returning and new members](#).

3. Co-Chair's Welcome and Overview [FOR INFORMATION]

Co-Chairs shared reflections on the ExCom during their tenure. Key points made:

- **Addressing all forms of malnutrition:** While there has been a perception that the SUN Movement has predominantly focused on stunting and chronic malnutrition, there is a need for equal attention to wasting. The ExCom should ensure that better linkages are fostered between the SUN Movement, humanitarian clusters, the Global Network Against Food Crises, and other relevant initiatives. (In the later segment on Global Gathering preparations, it was recognised that two-thirds of wasted children are in non-humanitarian contexts principally in South Asia. WHO, WFP and UNICEF are well placed in the GG thematic working group *Embedding Nutrition in Health and Social Protection* to advance this issue.)

- **Overall progress on nutrition and of the Movement:** The Co-Chairs highlighted the smooth transition between SUN Movement Coordinators as well as evolution of the SMS and the emerging strength of regionalisation efforts (including the establishment of SMS regional hubs) to promote collaboration across countries as key successes in the last two years. Increasing youth engagement and prioritisation of resource mobilisation in response to countries' requests for support were also recognised.
- **Challenges:** Ensuring that MSPs are people-centred, dynamic and proactive; rebalancing the Movement's focus to include behaviour change for healthy and sustainable diets and expanding advocacy efforts to influential actors in key sectors and institutions will be especially important.

The Co-Chairs made two specific **recommendations** to the incoming Executive Committee:

1. Continue to keep space for **SUN Country representatives to set the agenda** of the Executive Committee and encourage them to proactively raise challenges and opportunities.
2. As preparations commence for N4G commitment-making, listening to country focal points is essential to **ensure alignment of resources behind national nutrition plans and priorities**.

Discussion:

The Coordinator applauded the work of the two Co-Chairs during their term and supported their observations. She emphasized how the coming twelve months present a unique opportunity to advance the nutrition agenda through major events such as the Global Gathering, the N4G Summit, the Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktaking Moment, and next year's Financing for Development meeting in Spain.

4. Global Gathering: operational and thematic update [FOR INFORMATION]

Yasmin Ali Haque, interim SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS) Director, gave an update on the Global Gathering (GG) (see [here](#)) and shared a set of asks for the ExCom:

1. **Funding and Participation:** Help us to ensure that country delegations are adequately funded and that network delegations give as much space as possible to country-based colleagues.
2. **Support for Engagement:** Support your regions, networks, and experts within your thematic expertise to fully engage with the preparations for the Global Gathering.
3. **Collaborative Efforts for N4G:** Help us to ensure that we are taking every possible opportunity to work together to make the Global Gathering a key stepping stone for a successful N4G.

Discussion:

In relation to alignment with Nutrition for Growth: The SUN Movement Coordinator has been appointed as a co-lead of the N4G's "Team World", alongside Brieuc Pont, France's Special Envoy on Nutrition and Secretary General of the N4G Summit, and another national government to coordinate inputs from countries and ensure alignment between the agendas of the N4G Summit and the SUN Global Gathering. The Special Envoy of N4G is also part of the SUN GG Programme Advisory Group and is focused on effectively using the SUN Global Gathering to shape some of the N4G commitments. Thematic groups for N4G will be established in September 2024 and led by UN agencies, including WFP, FAO, UNICEF, and WHO. As these agencies are part of the SUN Movement and centrally involved in GG preparations, effective alignment between the two events is expected.

The Global Nutrition Report (GNR) team is developing a standardized framework for commitments and will participate in the GG regional meetings to capture and record commitments where appropriate. For countries not yet ready to make commitments, a clear plan for technical support will be developed.

Given the tight timeline between the Global Gathering and the N4G Summit, it is essential that all parts of the Movement align their support to countries in articulating financial commitments as early

as possible so they arrive at the Global Gathering fully prepared. Additionally, it is crucial to leverage other opportunities, such as the upcoming launch of the World Bank's new investment framework for nutrition in September, and to ensure these developments are discussed at regional levels. This approach will enhance preparation and support for countries to make meaningful financial commitments.

In response to enquiries regarding space for country-to-country exchange: The GG will prioritise space for exchange on challenges and insights on how to effectively implement and operationalize regional, continental and global commitments and opportunities. For example, the Global Gathering aligns well with Africa's Post-Malabo process, which is focused on shaping just food systems transformation in Africa. The outcomes of the GG will help AUDA-NEPAD to advocate for stronger political commitment and increased investment in nutrition in view of the upcoming Post-Malabo Declaration Summit taking place in February 2025 in Uganda.

Regional discussions will also focus on topics not covered in the plenary or parallel sessions and provide a platform to address any unresolved issues countries have expressed an interest in discussing. Additionally, rooms for 30 to 50 people will be available to provide space for ad-hoc consultations.

In relation to the role of parliamentarians at the GG: Recognising parliamentarians' responsibility for overseeing government commitments, implementation, and most crucially, budgeting, there was aligned interest in the possibility to organise a high-level session where MPs and partners can discuss nutrition-related issues. There is already good traction behind this idea as at least 18 MPs are expected to participate as part of SUN Country delegations.

Action: Any feedback or concerns related to the Global Gathering preparations can be directed to Yasmin Ali Haque, SMS Director *ad interim*.

SUN Movement Evaluation Update [FOR INFORMATION]

Preksha Golchha, Lead Social Policy Advisor at the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI). gave an overview presentation on the external evaluation (see [here](#)). She highlighted that online surveys are being developed and that EPRI was currently finalising plans for in-depth SUN country visits which will be completed by 10 October. A light draft version of the report will be submitted by October 25, and a presentation of key findings is envisioned for early November 2024. The final report will be completed after the Global Gathering.

Discussion

In relation to concerns about selected informants' familiarity with the [SUN Strategy 2021-2025](#), it was agreed to focus on the learning that can be derived from the strategy's concepts and principles rather than informants' detailed knowledge of the strategy's contents. Preksha explained that the evaluation team will provide briefs during interviews, noting if key stakeholders lack awareness of the strategy so as to ensure that relevant issues are not excluded from the evaluation. In the meantime, incoming ExCom members will be briefed on key elements of the SUN Movement Strategy 2021-2025 during their onboarding sessions with the Coordinator and SUN Movement Secretariat.

The need for a dedicated space at the Global Gathering to allow for reflections on lessons learned, progress achieved, and challenges faced, particularly concerning the SUN 3.0 strategy and preparations for SUN 4.0, was raised. Given that only a preliminary draft of the SUN 3.0 evaluation will be available by the time of the Global Gathering, additional follow-up and assessment will be necessary. A plan to ensure thorough integration of expertise and stakeholder input to the development of the next SUN Movement Strategy process will be discussed with the Executive Committee just after the GG.

Action: The SMS will share relevant background documentation related to the evaluation (in addition to the [Evaluation ToR](#)) with ExCom members as part of their onboarding package.

5. Resource Mobilization Update - SMS, CSN, SBN [FOR INFORMATION]

The Co-Chairs highlighted how the SUN 3.0 strategy and the [ExCom Terms of Reference](#) articulate **the role of the SUN ExCom to ensure that the Global Support System (GSS) is aligned with the Movement's strategic objectives and that the SUN support system is actively supported in fundraising.**

The SUN Movement Coordinator, updated the ExCom on the funding status of the Global Support System (GSS) and requested support in addressing funding gaps which are as follows:

- **SBN Budget Gap: USD 1,921,656**
- **CSN Budget Gap: USD 1,514,362 (excluding funding for the in-country Civil Society Alliances or CSAs)**
- **SMS Budget Gap: USD 2,759,426**

The Coordinator made the case that for the SUN Movement to be effective in supporting the SUN countries to harness the potential of the MSPs and realise improved nutrition outcomes, it is imperative that the **key networks are aligned, working in synergy and adequately funded.** She explained that in the current political and funding context, the Movement can no longer afford for the secretariats and global networks to fundraise independently.

Since January, the SMS, SBN and CSN have been working to develop a more coordinated approach to address the significant funding gaps and avail of resource mobilization opportunities. This has included presentations to the SUN Donor Network and bilateral discussions with current and potential new donors (CIFF, Aga Khan Foundation, Dubai Cares, Spain and Sweden).

In parallel to fundraising activities, cost-saving measures have been taken at the SMS to ensure operability of the SMS through 2025. Overall, it is important to continue with efforts to reposition SUN within existing policy discussions (food systems, health and climate) and leverage opportunities like the GG to strengthen a common understanding of the power of the networks to support country-level nutrition actions and obtain partners' commitments to the Movement and to SUN Countries.

Alexandra Newlands, Head of the **SUN Civil Society Network (CSN)** detailed the actions taken, including the development and submission of an investment case ([here](#)) to the SUN Donor Network members and other potential donors and the support needed (see [slides 3-5](#)). Despite limited funding, the CSN has achieved significant impact, demonstrated through its 2021 N4G commitment reporting. To support resource mobilization, she asked ExCom members to review and share the CSN investment case, advocate for civil society and youth-led action, provide space for alliances and young people's voices, and offer technical support to review proposals.

Ritta Shine, Central Coordinator of the secretariat of the **SUN Business Network (SBN)** elaborated on its achievements over the past 12 years, which include mobilizing businesses to align with government nutrition priorities, advocating for improved enabling environments, and signalling good business practices in nutrition. Despite these successes, the SBN now faces a severe funding gap, threatening the functionality of its 17 active networks, which collectively involve around 1600 members. Recent efforts to address the gap by SBN (see [slide 6](#)) include the development of a core funding proposal and 'virtual deal room' proposal. More specific requests for urgent support to SBN fundraising efforts from the ExCom were shared (see [slide 7](#) and [here](#)).

In conclusion, the Coordinator closed the update by reinforcing the CSN and SBN points that **the strength of the Movement is its ability to work consistently with the SUN country focal points to bring in MSMEs and civil society, not just in advocacy and accountability but also working side-by-side with governments, in implementing necessary policy changes and the national nutrition plan.**

Going forward, there **will be a concerted effort to ensure that ExCom members are kept informed of the latest funding status as part of their onboarding.** ExCom members will in turn be asked to **use their convening power within their networks to keep everyone informed of the financing gaps and of joint efforts to fundraise for the GSS.** Equally important is that we use the ExCom platform to understand the **local agenda** - how to best work with **MSMEs** to ensure **local production of nutritious food** is included in the national nutrition agenda and that **local civil society is strong and supported** in their unique role in the Movement.

Discussion:

ExCom members were requested to assist in rethinking and improving the funding pitches of the GSS. It is critical to demonstrate how SUN networks impact country-level implementation. The Movement needs to aim to better identify and document examples where the networks provide coordinated and effective support to SUN countries, prioritizing key areas of action.

It was agreed that ensuring internal communication about potential donor interactions at the country level was critical as other network members can benefit and contribute by sharing their experiences and insights. At the country level there is an opportunity to use the UN and donor coordination networks to approach potential funders locally - leveraging the power of the Movement-government, civil society and SBN -working together to influence nutrition outcomes in-country.

Action

- The SMS will share a one-pager detailing the current fundraising situation of the Global Support System with new ExCom members as part of their onboarding.
- ExCom members interested in helping to refine the pitch for support to donors on the power of the networks to deliver coordinated and effective support, are invited to get in touch with the SMS, specifically Paul Mazza who will facilitate convening further discussion on this topic.

6. Other business [FOR INFORMATION]

The floor was opened and as no issues were raised, the agenda item was closed.

7. Co-Chairs' summary, agreed actions and concluding remarks

The Co-Chairs summed up the meeting proceedings and key actions:

Global Gathering: it is critical to ensure that country focal points have a strong voice and effective platforms during the event. Space for the 18 parliamentarians attending the gathering shall be provided, allowing them to discuss advancing nutrition and improving national resource mobilization. It is critical to address emerging issues and maintain strong links with commitments from Nutrition for Growth (N4G) and other fora, working closely with the Global Nutrition Report colleagues to ensure consistency. Feedback can be shared with Yasmin Ali Haque, Director a.i. of the SMS

SUN Evaluation: ExCom members, and country focal points in particular, are encouraged to engage with the evaluation team. The importance of using this opportunity to understand how to improve global support based on country needs was emphasized.

Resource Mobilization: ExCom members are encouraged to lend their expertise to enhance the investment cases and resource mobilization efforts. It is everyone's shared responsibility as our success as a Movement relies on all of its parts.

The meeting was concluded by thanking outgoing members for their service and encouraging them to stay engaged with the Movement. The first regular meeting of the new ExCom will be in **September 2024** (date to be confirmed), **where the election of new Co-Chairs will take place.** The SMS will facilitate onboarding calls and provide details on the election process.

ANNEX 1. Participation:

ExCom Participants: Connell Foley (Co-Chair), Gladys Mugambi (Co-Chair), George Baffour (East and Central Africa), George Kembo (*Southern Africa*), Patricia Ngoran (*West and Central Africa*), Eugenia Villalobos (Latin America and Caribbean), Mathews Mhuru (Additional Country Regional Seat), Abigail Perry (UNN), Christine Campeau (CSN), Neil Watkins (SDN), Caroline Wilkinson (Humanitarian), Richmond Aryeetey (MEAL/analytics), Mike Khunga (Youth), Mary Mpereh (East and Central Africa Alternate), Karima Al-Hada'a (Additional Country Regional Seat), Mr. Aimé Garlas Kwizera, Elisa Gamero (SUN LAC Representative - new), Florence Sibomana (SUN Youth Representative - new), Jessica Fanzo (Climate and Nutrition Expert - new), Kefilwe Moalosi (Additional SUN Country Seat - new), Kyoko Shibata Okamura (Finance Expert - new), Mohamed Farah (SUN Country Representative, countries in Humanitarian Contexts - new), Nazeer Ahmed (Asia Representative - new), Neema Lugangira, (Additional SUN Country Seat - new), Said Shamsul Islam Shams (Humanitarian Expert - new), Shabina Raza (Additional SUN Country Seat - new).

Ex-Officio Members: Afshan Khan (SUN Movement Coordinator, UN ASG)

Apologies: Andrew Kirkwood (UNOPS), Azucena Dayanghirang (*Southeast Asia*), Prof. George Gyan-Baffour (East and Central Africa Representative)

OBSERVERS

Alternates: Helena Guarin (SDN), Ibis Ivy King-Harry (Additional Country - Regional Seat), El Hadi Momar Thiam (MEAL / Analytics), Venuste Muhamyankaka (additional Country Regional Seat), Nancy Aburto (FAO - UN-N); Richard Pendame (SUN Civil Society Network), Daniel Mwai (Finance Expert), Nancy Aburto (UN-N, FAO), Maaïke Klappe (EC), Siboniso Chigova (Zimbabwe, Food and Nutrition Council)

SUN Networks: Alex Newlands (CSN), Ilaria Schibbia (WFP - UN-N), Ritta Shine (GAIN - SBN), Hannah Rowlands (WFP - SBN), Ilaria Schibba (WFP - UN-N), Alessandra Mora (WFP), Lena Dreyer (GIZ, SDN Facilitator)

SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS): Yasmin Al Haque, Maria Pizzini, Paul Mazza, Wolfgang Erdei, Julia Klever, Michelle Link, Srikanth Eadara, Irina Zodrow, Eve Gossiaux, Francisca Cisterna-Gomez, Toby Johnson, Joshua Levens, Tetteh Ogum