

Nutrition financing: SUN Movement Message Grid [April 2025]

| OVERARCHING MESSAGE | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main challenge facing SUN countries is the nutrition finance gap. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite being central to achieving the SDGs —and with most WHA targets off track— nutrition received just 0.37% of total ODA in 2022. Investing in nutrition could prevent 6.2 million child deaths, 980,000 stillbirths, 27 million stunting cases, and 144 million instances of maternal anemia in the next decade. Malnutrition costs the global economy 5% of GDP, or an estimated US\$3.5tn annually. 1 dollar invested brings 23 dollars return. Scaling up nutrition could generate \$2.4tn in economic benefits in the next ten years. The costs of inaction which could run to \$41tn over 10 years. Well-nourished children grow into healthy adults who drive strong economies and reduce reliance on external aid. There is a need to reshape the financing architecture for nutrition to meet growing needs in countries, especially the most vulnerable in fragile situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage more domestic resources, including increasing efficiency and overall volume from across nutrition-relevant sectors and ministries; maximise existing funding and unlock new financing from development banks, climate finance and the private sector. Specific strategies, such as tapping into large funds or leveraging foundations to de-risk investment, must be employed to support nutrition integration especially in fragile and conflict affected states, which rely heavily on external aid. SUN helps countries to access financing by building the underlying policy frameworks, strengthening capacities to integrate nutrition across sectors, and creating demand for nutrition investments through advocacy, cross-sector partnerships and learning. | | |
| Leverage domestic resources | Maximize existing funding and unlock new financing from IFIs, climate and private sector | Role of SUN |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political leadership is needed to ensure nutrition is integrated as a priority across policies and budgets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUN Coordinator advocacy in Timor Leste led to the formation of 'Stunting Reduction Unit' and National Action Plan for Stunting Reduction Nutrition is often housed in ministries that struggle to secure a strong nutrition budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangladesh and Ethiopia host interministerial meetings to align support around nutrition plans. Good evidence and institutional capacity, e.g. public financial management, budget and expenditure tracking and nutrition information systems is important to help countries see the long-term impact of nutrition integration and investment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUN PFM workshops in Asia and Africa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some SUN countries could do more from their own budgets - but many are extremely vulnerable and fragile and reliant on development assistance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging N4G commitments (USD 27.5bn) for FCAS will save lives Nutrition integration into health, food systems and climate is key to unlock financing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Sierra Leone, the SUN focal point and food systems convenors both sit in the President's office and work closely together Greater demand for financing from MDBs, PDBs and DFIs can help build country capacity, strengthen data systems and cross-sector engagement, thereby supporting long-term planning to sustain nutrition financing. Learn from other agendas on deploying innovative financing instruments, de-risking and blended finance to scale up private-sector investment in nutrition. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a driver of the <i>Coalition for Nutrition Integration</i> SUN connects countries with financial stakeholders. The Coalition mobilizes new partners and sectors that traditionally have not prioritized nutrition, including the development banks and the private sector. Connecting SUN focal points and line ministries with Ministries of Finance and Planning and countries with funders and investors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2024, SUN hosted a webinar with AfDB and supported Bangladesh to access funding from the Child Nutrition Fund. Supporting the development of policy, regulatory and fiscal frameworks, including integrating nutrition into food systems pathways, NDCs and NAPs Sharing country successes - supporting cross country collaboration and learning. |

| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SUN academic networks in Burkina Faso and Ghana advised governments on integrated fiscal strategies and policy development. | | |
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| SUPPORTING MESSAGES | | SUN COUNTRY EXAMPLES |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Better nutrition helps reduce health system costs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Malnutrition costs DRC over \$1bn annually (4.5% GDP) in healthcare, reduced productivity, and education burdens. Reducing underweight children and stunting could save the country around \$383 million by 2025.¹ ● Malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa costs between 3% and 16% GDP annually, i² ● Tools such as 3FS can help give visibility to nutrition spending across the food system. ● Nutrition funding flows need to align with countries' malnutrition burden down to the subnational level to reach the most vulnerable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the run up to COP30, SUN is working with 10+ countries to integrate nutrition into their NDCs as a basis to support adaptation and unlock climate financing. Lesotho has already included nutrition in their revised NDC. ● Subsidies and other public support to the agriculture and livestock sectors amount to over \$800bn annually. SOFI 2024 highlighted that a study in 6 African countries showed that repurposing subsidies towards nutrition outcomes can lead to increased output, jobs and healthy diets. ● Nutrition lags behind other sectors in catalyzing innovative finance. In 2023, only two nutrition bonds (mobilizing less than USD \$500 million) had been issued, compared with 634 green bonds (over USD \$290 billion in 2020 alone). In total, 31 health and 24 education social/development impact bonds had been issued, but only one in nutrition. The global health sector has mobilized over USD \$285 million through five impact investment funds, compared to only one nutrition impact fund. ● There is an opportunity to better leverage private foundations given that they invested USD 2bn between 2014-2028 for newborn/child health and multiple micronutrient Supplementation, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kenya: Cross-sectoral strategies and financial tracking. ● Bangladesh: Multisectoral working group to align funding. ● Peru: Results-based budgeting for early childhood development. ● Pakistan: Leveraging climate finance for nutrition ● Indonesia: National nutrition strategy, tracking budget allocations. PFM reforms helped make nutrition spending visible to decisionmakers for the first time, which led to a commitment announced at the Tokyo N4G Summit in 2021 to maintain over USD \$2 billion worth of annual budget allocation to nutrition up to 2024. ● In Rwanda, data generated from a new PFM system contributed to an increase in the nutrition budget allocation by 24% between 2021 and 2022 while the growth of the total domestic resource envelope was much smaller. ● Malawi: Increased nutrition budget allocation. ● Haiti: Training for nutrition investment cost analysis. ● In 2024, SUN, through Financing Capacity Development Platform (FCDP), Capacity for Nutrition (C4N), and EU4SUN, supported 7 countries in PFM reform, budget costing and expenditure tracking and resource mobilization. ● In 2024, Somalia secured \$79.7 Million from the GCF for a Climate Resilience Project in Agriculture |

¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9482077/>

² <https://www.glopan.org/invest-in-nutrition/>