

SUN Movement Executive Committee (ExCom)

24 June 2024, 15:00 - 17:00 CEST (virtual)

Summary note

1. Summary and agreed actions

The meeting focused on the opportunities to keep nutrition integration high on the political and financing agendas. The need for **joined-up advocacy**—leveraging the full breadth of the SUN Movement especially in a crowded global environment—was recognised. Framing nutrition in terms of its **co-benefits and interlinkages** with other sectors will be key to gaining traction. There was agreement that **global engagements** must be rooted in **tangible country-level priorities and support**. Efforts will continue to coordinate in coming months and in the co-creation of a **unified advocacy strategy** that will be developed as part of the operational plan for phase 4 (as recommended as part of the Executive Committee's [Management Response](#)).

The meeting closed with a reflection on the **critical period ahead** for the SUN Movement, particularly over the coming months, which are packed with **key advocacy opportunities**. It was emphasized that sustained visibility for nutrition will depend on the **collective strength** of the Movement.

Noting the approval of the SMS workplan and budget on 12 June, the **SUN Network secretariats were encouraged to share their SUN relevant workplans and budgets** for ExCom approval in accordance with the ExCom [terms of reference](#) (para 2.5).

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

Jessica Fanzo chaired the meeting in the absence of her Co-Chair, Neema Lugangira, who was unable to attend due to a parliamentary engagement. The Chair thanked ExCom members for their **review** and approval of the [2025 SMS work plan and budget](#) by non-objection on 12 June and noted that, as per the **ExCom Terms of Reference (ToRs)** the ExCom is also **expected to approve the SUN relevant joint workplans** and budgets of the Global Support System.

The SUN Coordinator highlighted the importance of **alignment across SUN networks** and encouraged **network representatives** to share updates and priorities to enable more **coordinated advocacy**, and a better integrated movement..

The **SUN Civil Society Network (CSN)** is on track with its (CSN) **strategy consultations**, which have included all regions and **external stakeholders**. A **revised CSN work plan and budget**—adjusted to reflect the **cancellation of the Global Gathering**—was expected to be **submitted for ExCom review on 25 June 2025**.

3. Key External Opportunities for SUN Movement Engagement

ExCom members were invited to engage in an open discussion on how best to leverage the SUN Movement's collective strength to turn recent and upcoming external opportunities into country-level action (see [background note](#)).

a. [78th World Health Assembly](#)

Elisa Gamero, regional representative on the ExCom of SUN countries in Latin America and Caribbean

(LAC) gave an overview of the two resolutions¹ adopted at the **World Health Assembly (WHA)** and the **role the SUN Movement** played in mobilizing support through workshops, country-level coordination, and collective advocacy. These resolutions provide critical **political legitimacy, evidence-based guidance**, and a foundation for **global consensus**, all essential for accelerating **implementation at country level**. From a country-perspective, the WHA outcomes help align policies and programs across sectors, including **health, education, food, and social protection**, to ensure **adequate child nutrition**.

SUN plays a key role by **bringing together diverse actors**—donors, governments, and technical agencies—to harmonize support, mobilize funding, and sustain policy dialogue to advance **country-led, integrated, and accountable nutrition solutions**—and ensuring that **nutrition remains a top global priority**. El Salvador's new seat on the [WHO Executive Board \(2025–2028\)](#), as well as several other SUN Countries, presents an opportunity to influence future **resolutions** and maintain **nutrition as a global priority** and to leverage global governance spaces on **health, food, climate, and financing**.

Discussion

As countries review their **National Nutrition Action Plans**, there's a key opportunity to align financing needs with the extended WHA targets—strengthening the case for increased domestic and external investment and embedding WHA targets and **Decade of Action on Nutrition** goals into **national health budgeting processes**.

It was highlighted that a new **resolution on school nutrition** is expected to be proposed at the next WHA by Ukraine, and SUN countries were encouraged to support it.

The Coordinator highlighted the role of **coordination platforms** hosted by agencies like FAO and WHO as well as other important vehicles to continue to advocate for more systemic integration of nutrition in health that will help to ensure: improved **budgeting and costing of nutrition interventions** and **continuity of key commodities and services** (e.g., breastfeeding support, RUTFs) in the face of growing **resource constraints** amongst national systems and international development partners.

b. Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)

Abi Perry, **SDN representative** on the ExCom, opened the agenda segment by outlining the upcoming **FfD4 conference** and its relevance to **nutrition**. While direct references to nutrition in the official proceedings are limited, the changing **financing landscape** brings both challenges and openings for nutrition. There is growing focus on areas like **climate, disaster risk reduction, social protection, universal health coverage (UHC)**, and **agrifood systems**—where nutrition has strong links. **Development banks** are shifting toward **concessional finance**, highlighting the need to balance **rising debt** with well-targeted, cost-effective **nutrition investments**.

The role of domestic financing is gaining traction, bringing nutrition into **government budgeting, taxation, and public financial management (PFM) reforms**. These are critical **entry points** that require coordination to avoid fragmentation. **Private sector** interest in **SME investment** remains high, but barriers persist—especially around access to **large-scale finance, risk management, and inclusive growth**. A strong **regulatory framework** is essential to steer private sector action toward **nutrition goals**.

Innovative financing tools—like **impact funds, thematic bonds, and insurance**—remain underused in nutrition. To unlock them, the sector must define clear **impact metrics** and **investment triggers**, a challenge for long-term outcomes like **stunting reduction**.

Greater **cross-sector coordination** is crucial. Rather than treating nutrition as separate, it should be positioned as a **driver of development finance goals**. While shaping the **FfD4 agenda** may be limited

¹) Extension of the Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition.

2) Extension of Global Nutrition Targets to 2030 and adoption of a resolution on regulation of digital marketing of breast milk substitutes.

at this stage, there's still time to showcase how **nutrition actors** support **whole-of-government approaches**, strengthen **public systems**, and deliver **high returns**—making nutrition a credible and strategic **development partner**.

Kyoko Okamura, ExCom Nutrition Financing Specialist, emphasized the need for a more **structured, collective approach** to advancing **nutrition financing** (see [slides](#)). Her framing focused on three core questions: **why nutrition matters**, **what needs to be done**, and **how to finance and deliver it** effectively at the country level.

A key theme was the central role of **nutrition-responsive public financial management (PFM)**, where **the SUN Movement can help coordinate technical support and align guidance to help build** the needed **budgeting systems** and **institutional capacity**. Many **subnational gaps** reflect limited understanding of **funding flows** and insufficient coordination between sectors like **health, planning, and finance**.

A recent **regional training** on nutrition-responsive PFM amongst SUN Countries in East and West Africa showed strong demand, with **multisectoral teams** from ministries of health, planning, and finance participating—demonstrating early momentum for **system reform**. Building on this success, a **replicable model** is being developed for **Asia**. The model includes a **country-level assessment** to identify **needs** and **reform entry points**, the development of **concrete action plans**, integration of **nutrition** into existing **reform agendas** such as **climate** or **gender-responsive budgeting**, and continued **collaboration** with **technical partners, multilateral institutions, and the SUN Movement**.

The overarching aim is to shift from **scattered technical inputs** to a **strategic, country-owned model** for **system strengthening** and **sustainable nutrition financing**. This approach supports **SUN Strategic Objective 2** and lays the groundwork for long-term **country capacity** and **collective impact**.

Discussion

The discussion acknowledged the growing disconnect between **global nutrition commitments**—such as those made at **N4G**—and the **current funding landscape**, marked by declining support, especially **in fragile settings**. Concerns were raised about the immediate impact on **essential services** and the urgent needs of **vulnerable populations**, particularly **women and children** in conflict-affected contexts.

While long-term **systems strengthening** remains critical, participants emphasized the **urgent need for action** in FCAS countries such as Afghanistan, Yemen, Sudan or Somalia. The **SUN Movement** was encouraged to continue to amplify **collective advocacy** with a stronger call to **protect services** to reach those most in need through key partners and the SDN.

To stay relevant in a shifting political environment, nutrition advocacy must evolve—framing nutrition not only as a **health issue**, but as central to **inclusive development**, aligning with **job creation, economic resilience, and climate adaptation**.

Stronger evidence of **delivery capacity**, showing not just why nutrition matters, but that it can be implemented effectively and efficiently is critical. Beyond simply labeling investments as **nutrition-sensitive**, there is a need for deeper analysis to ensure real **impact**, and to identify **bankable options** that governments and partners can support.

Suggestions were made to develop **annual nutrition budget snapshots** to track allocations and identify gaps, helping to strengthen advocacy and align public spending with political commitments. The potential of **new donor communities**—including **faith-based organizations, foundations, and non-traditional funders**—was also noted, particularly for providing **flexible support** in fragile contexts. Regional and parliamentary platforms—such as **AU summits** and **Pan-African Parliament sessions**—are also being used to push for greater political and financial commitment. The Movement has an important role to play in bringing consistent support to **SUN Country Focal Points as well as Ministries of Financing and Planning** as we take forward the nutrition integration agenda.

c. UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake +4

Kefilwe Moalosi opened the agenda segment with an overview of **coordination efforts** underway

with the **UN Food Systems Coordination Hub** and with support from the SUN Movement's regional hubs to strengthen **nutrition integration** within **food systems programs** ahead of the **UN Food Systems Stocktake**. Recent events such as the **Africa Pre-Summit**, the **Africa Peace Summit** in **Nairobi** and meetings underway in Rome all **signal** country-led **momentum for greater nutrition investments** as part of food systems transformations.

Most **African SUN member states** have now developed **country-led food systems pathways and roadmaps**. These were shared during the Pre-Summit preparations and are being considered by the **UN Food Systems Hub** for **showcasing**, to highlight how **nutrition** is being embedded in **national food systems efforts** with **SUN support**.

Discussion

The discussion highlighted a series of coordination meetings that will soon be convened by the **SUN regional hubs** (Anglophone, Francophone, and N4G-focused) with **SUN focal points, CAADP leads, and national food systems conveners** to strengthen collaboration, promote **peer learning**, and support **coherent advocacy** for nutrition integration across **food, health, and agriculture** sectors.

News was also shared that the FSS+4 **program** will feature a **dedicated session on school meals** as well as a **nutrition-focused session** backed by over a dozen **SUN countries**, highlighting **affordable, nutritious, quality diets**; and an **Ethiopia-led showcase on nutrition integration** linked to the **Seqota Declaration, grain strategy, and climate-nutrition synergies**.

Emphasis was placed on coordination between **national food systems conveners** and **SUN focal points**, particularly where these are separate roles, to enable a **unified national voice** on nutrition.

It was noted that **30% of N4G commitments** were directed toward **nutrition-sensitive food systems**, presenting an opportunity to leverage **concessional and philanthropic financing**—provided countries show strong integration of nutrition into food systems pathways.

The SUN Coordinator highlighted the [recently signed letter of intent with ADB](#) which aims to strengthen alignment and increase financing for **food systems and nutrition**, as part of broader efforts to coordinate across **production, consumption, and distribution systems**.

d. Open exchange on additional opportunities i.e. UNGA, Climate Week 2025

A broad range of global and regional events in the second half of 2025 offer strong momentum to integrate **nutrition** into **food systems, health, education, social protection, and climate** agendas:

- **AU Summit** – 10–12 July, Malabo
- **Pan-African Parliament session** – 21 July, Johannesburg
- **International Congress on Nutrition (IUNS)** – 24–29 August, Paris
- **UN General Assembly (UNGA) & Climate Week** – 23–30 September, New York
- **CFS 53** – 20–24 October, Rome
- **Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security & CAADP Partnership Platform** – 29–31 October, Kigali
- **Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2)** – 4–6 November, Doha
- **COP30** – 10–21 November, Brazil

The importance of bringing together the SUN Movement Lead Group to create space for reflection and recalibration of the SUN Movement at this critical moment for the Movement's future was raised. The SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS) is exploring the feasibility of holding an **in-person Lead Group meeting** on the margins of UNGA High-Level Week.

The SUN Movement will continue to align **advocacy efforts** with **sectoral priorities**, work with **regional platforms** like the AU and Pan-African Parliament to promote **nutrition investment and accountability**, improve **budget visibility** through **country snapshots**, and ensure coordinated messaging with **civil society, the private sector, and UN partners**.

4. Other business including update on SUN Movement Phase 4 (15 minutes)

The SUN Movement Coordinator updated the ExCom on the **SUN 4.0 strategic framework which is evolving as a light refresh** of SUN 3.0, based on inputs from the **external evaluation, ExCom and SDN retreats, and country consultations**. The draft framework will maintain **country-led action** as its core principle while responding to new **global and regional challenges and opportunities**. The **zero draft** of the strategy, currently under development, will be reviewed by the **Strategic Reference Group**, which includes ExCom members, lead group representatives, former members, nutrition leads, and key partners (see [here](#)).

The draft framework will be shared with key SUN constituencies this summer—including **government focal points, network secretariats, and partners**—for consultation. The SUN Movement Coordinator stressed the **importance of these consultations and called upon ExCom Members, particularly SUN Government Focal Points and Network Representatives, to convene their constituencies and lead discussions** on the draft to help build ownership of SUN 4.0. The SMS is working on some guidance for this consultation for all parts of the movement and the Hubs will provide direct organizational support to the SUN Government Focal Points to convene their respective regions as part of the process. The SMS will also work to ensure key partners who may fall outside of the current networks have an opportunity to engage. It is envisaged that the **network secretariats will support Network ExCom representatives** to organize a consultation approach that best suits their constituencies.

Once consultations are complete, the draft will be revised and submitted to the **ExCom and Lead Group** for validation. The **timing of endorsement** will depend on the availability and guidance of the Lead Group Chair, with possible alignment to events around **UNGA**. Following endorsement, the SUN Secretariat will coordinate the development of an **operational plan**, outlining the **roles, resources, and tools** that each part of the Movement will contribute. This will include commitments to support delivery of the strategy and efforts to ensure **sustainability post-2030**. The **operational plan will be reviewed biannually**, given the current **funding constraints** and shifting partner capacities.

Discussion

There was a strong appeal to keep the strategy development process **open and constructive**, ensuring space for continued dialogue and inclusive input. Achieving meaningful buy-in from across the movement was described as essential to realizing SUN's **future potential** and collective impact.

There were positive signals around **civil society alignment**, opportunities for greater inclusion of **SMEs and non-traditional partners**, and strong recognition of the need to **build country capacities**, particularly around **nutrition financing strategies**. The financing framework presented earlier was noted as a valuable tool to support deeper work in this area.

ANNEX 1. Participation:

ExCom Participants: Abigail Perry (SDN), Christine Campeau (CSN), Nancy Aburto (UNN), Mr. Aimé Garlas Kwizera (SBN), Florence Sibomana (SUN Youth Representative), Kyoko Shibata Okamura (Finance Expert), Nazeer Ahmed (Asia Representative), Said Shamsul Islam Shams (Humanitarian Expert), Irshad Danish (Additional SUN Country Seat - alterante), Kefilwe Moalosi (Additional SUN Country Seat), Kola Anigo (Additional SUN Country Seat), George Kembo (Anglophone Africa)

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

Apologies: Patricia Ngoran (West and Central Africa), Mohamed Farah (SUN Country Representative, countries in Humanitarian Contexts), Shabina Raza (Additional SUN Country Seat), Neema Lugangira, (Co-Chair),

OBSERVERS

ExCom alternate: Anthony Oko-Isu (alternate of Kola Anigo)

SUN Networks: Alex Newlands (CSN), Ilaria Schibba (WFP - SBN), Florence Tonnoir (UNN)

SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS): Maria Pizzini, Paul Mazza, Michelle Link, Irina Zodrow, Francisca Cisterna-Gomez, Sonia Panzani, Tetteh Ogum, Zahra Inayat, Edward Boydell.