

SUN CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK (SUN CSN) 2015 WORK PLAN

Civil society organizations collectively have a very powerful voice and can provide grass-roots / community-driven support for scaling up nutrition locally.

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1. BACKGROUND

The Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) is one of the five networks of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, established to support the formation and evolution of Civil Society Alliances in SUN countries to ensure and support civil society voice and engagement in national scaling up nutrition efforts including through multistakeholder platforms, as well as facilitate communication and coordination across SUN CSAs, and with the broader SUN Movement.

This document presents the SUN CSN's work plan for 2015.

It builds on:

- Lead group priorities for 2015
- SUN movement Global Gathering key messages
- SUN CSN purpose and priority objectives
- Recommendations and Conclusions from the SUN Independent Comprehensive Evaluation
- Priority needs identified by SUN Civil Society Alliances via the 2014 survey and individual calls where possible.
- Priorities from network members for 2015
- SUN CSN MPTF logframe
- Progress of SUN movement 4 Communities of Practice
- 2013 and 2014 efforts to establish the network and put the foundations in place, as well as efforts around key milestones for nutrition (e.g. Nutrition for Growth summit, Global Nutrition Report ...).

As the SUN movement enters into the visioning of SUN 2.0, 2015 will be a key year for the movement as it enters its next phase. A new phase which will focus on effective implementation at sub-national levels, improved accountability, moving gender and climate resilience focus from global-level rhetoric to country-level practice, better resourced and more effective networks in support of capacity to deliver, harmonised and coordinated support for in-country multi-stakeholder working and cross-country learning to inspire innovation and practical actions on the ground.

2. PURPOSE AND PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

The SUN CSN purpose and priority objectives, approved and validated by the whole network, can be found at - <http://suncivilsociety.net.wix.com/suncsnblog#!sun-csn-key-resources/c1om2> in 3 languages.

Priority objective 1 - Build the network and support the formation and sustainable running of strong, credible and influential national CSAs &

Priority objective 2 - Harmonise advocacy and messages for nutrition to remain a priority on national and global agendas.

Priority objective 3 - Facilitate Capacity Building of national Civil Society Alliances to contribute to effective multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral, multi-level efforts towards scaling up nutrition

3. PRIORITIES FOR 2015

The network works both at the global and country-level. However, ultimately efforts aim to ensure aligned country-level efforts towards sustainable and equitable scaling up of nutrition are successful at regional, national, district, local and community levels.

1. **Supporting effective and efficient operation of strong, credible and influential national Civil Society Alliances (Priority Objective 1 & 3)**
 - o **Membership engagement and strategic expansion** - improve visibility and engagement of CSN membership towards implementing country support strategy
 - o **Foster cross-learning for capacity building and stronger regional efforts**
 - o **Hold an Annual meeting of the network to support cross-learning, membership engagement and strategy beyond 2015 definition**
 - o **Support cascade capacity building to deliver proven nutrition programmes (pending securing funding)**
2. **Improving Alignment of CSO efforts (Priority Objective 1 & 3)**
 - o **Commission a consultancy exercise to strengthen understanding and knowledge of alignment of CSO efforts** to national priorities, and multi-stakeholder owned quality costed national plans and common results frameworks and inform recommendations for improvement:
 - Alignment of CSAs' advocacy and communications with / in relation to National Nutrition Plans, policies and implementation.
 - Alignment of CSAs' nutrition Programmes with National Nutrition Plans
 - INGO alignment in support of country efforts
3. **Positioning of a growing SUN CSN on key issues towards driving effective change focusing on thematic areas (Priority Objective 2)**
 - **Post-2015:** Supporting in country engagement with national Post 2015 government lead, contribution to country positioning during intergovernmental negotiations and development of workable and effective accountability frameworks at national level through promoting successful engagement of SUN CSAs in post-2015 processes.
 - **Private sector engagement:** Advocating for SUN wide discussion on and contribute to unpacking the private sector, improved responsible and transparent engagement of private sector in SUN countries, and prevention and management of conflict of interests process strengthening and establishment in countries; define the role of CS in this arena, including the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.
 - **Rights-based Approaches:** Encourage appropriate legislative responses to ensure human rights principles are enshrined in national government policies and that civil society alliances correspondingly ensure rights based approaches in their work. Support civil society to participate in rights based accountability frameworks.
 - **Accountability:** Support national civil society alliances in their advocacy for strong inclusive national accountability mechanisms to be set up based on mutual stakeholder accountability. Advocate within SUN for and contribute to the joint revision of the SUN accountability framework and its implementation in response to the Independent comprehensive evaluation conclusions and recommendations. Improve internal accountability of the SUN CSN. Contribute to the follow up from ICN 2.

Two areas of work where we will mostly be contributing to efforts led by other SUN actors. Exact focus and corresponding activities unclear as of February 2015.

- **Building Resilience: Sustainability - Environmental and Climate disaster Risk Reduction (Sustainability and the environment):** Contribute to SUN efforts in relation to building resilience in the face of predictable and unpredictable disasters, shocks and stresses particularly in relation to climatic variability and change which affect nutrition outcomes both directly and indirectly and where possible support CSAs in aligning to this priority.
- **Humanitarian:** Contribute to SUN efforts in integrating of nutrition across all humanitarian activities from preparedness planning, to response and recovery and where possible support CSAs in aligning to this priority and engagement in national level clusters.

This priority area will ensure the interconnectedness of these issues is acknowledged and embraced.

4. Engaging with key stakeholders to address gaps (Priority Objective 1, 2 & 3)

- **Effectively engage with key CSO actors and social movements** towards strengthening SUN movement efforts through CS national efforts (right to food, stronger grass roots, stronger conflict of interests processes) and clarify mis-conceptions. This will mainly comprise supporting national civil society alliances to engage more actively with social movements and improve intelligence on this; getting clearer membership criteria from the business network and ensuring follow up from Conflict of interests process recommendations of having red lines with regards to position on International codes and conventions (including International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes); developing a SUN CSN frequently asked tool.

A cross-cutting priority will include encouraging much stronger focus on gender and women empowerment. The SUN CSN will support CSAs to embrace and advocate for women participation and leadership in national and sub-national efforts towards scaling up nutrition, with special attention to the role of youth and adolescent girls.

As we look to 2016, the network response to the independent comprehensive evaluation will be a guide towards looking at our priorities. The three main messages conveyed on behalf of the network will be a good guide for this (cf Annex 1).

4. OPERATIONAL PLAN

Mechanisms to support the operationalization of the above agreed priority areas for the SUN CSN in 2015 include:

- Improved cross-global network working
- Improved cross-country and regional working
- Strategic engagement of members, steering group, social movements, non-SUN actors
- SUN Communities of Practice (CoP 1. Plan, cost, implement and finance multi-sectoral actions; CoP 2. Effective communication and advocacy at local and national levels; CoP 3. Monitoring and evaluation of interventions and programs – National information nutrition systems; CoP 4. Improve functional capacities for implementing effective actions among multiple stakeholders)
- SUN CSN Annual meeting

Cross-cutting thematic areas:

- Post-2015 & the Sustainable Development Goals
- Private sector engagement
- The right to food and other relevant human rights frameworks for nutrition.
- Accountability
- Gender and women's empowerment
- Building Resilience: Sustainability - Environment and Climate
- Humanitarian aid and development nexus

Key supporting work streams:

- **Country Support with a focus on below priority needs**
 - o Sustainability including financial sustainability planning
 - o Experience sharing with other CSAs around a number of priority needs for support including
 - SMAC (COP2)
 - Budget (COP1)
 - Decentralisation
 - Social protection
 - Adolescent girls nutrition
 - Human Rights
 - Family farmers, their roles, good practices in contributing to nutrition security
 - o Budget analysis and off-budget tracking
 - o Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) ideas repository
 - o Governance & Being functional CSA
 - o Accountability (cf above priority)
 - o Nutrition capacity training (cf above priority)
 - o Post-2015 (cf above priority)
 - o Functional capacities & CS contribution to multi-stakeholder working (contribute to CoP4)
- **Social Mobilisation, Advocacy and Communications**
- **Positioning the SUN CSN**
- **Communications**
- **Sustainability & strategy beyond 2015**
- **Alignment**
- **Effectively engage key CSO actors and social movements towards strengthening SUN movement efforts**
- **Reporting to funders**

For details of activities, leads, contributors, measures of progress and timelines, please consult smartsheet tool at ... [SUN CSN 2015 Work plan](#).

5. WAYS OF WORKING

The SUN CSN Steering Group meets via phone for 1 hour on a monthly basis to provide guidance and steer to the SUN CSN secretariat and once a year in person.

A small prioritisation sub-group comprising the chair, vice-chair, a steering group member and the SUN CSN secretariat, meets via a skype group to assist the SUN CSN secretariat prioritise areas of work on a weekly basis.

The SUN CSN secretariat meets on a weekly basis to touch base on the progress of activities and address potential challenges.

6. FUNDING

The SUN CSN receives funding support from the SUN movement multi-partner trust fund (MPTF), Child Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

In addition to financial support, SUN CSN network members also provide significant in-kind contributions.

7. SUN CSN SECRETARIAT ACCOUNTABILITY TO MEMBERS

The detailed work plan and SUN CSN MPTF logframe are two resources to facilitate tracking of progress and accountability of the SUN CSN on delivering on its priority objectives.

The SUN CSN secretariat will continue throughout 2015 to improve and systematise sharing progress, impact and statistics. Monitoring, evaluation and learning is integrated in the work plan and logframe for the network and its secretariat.

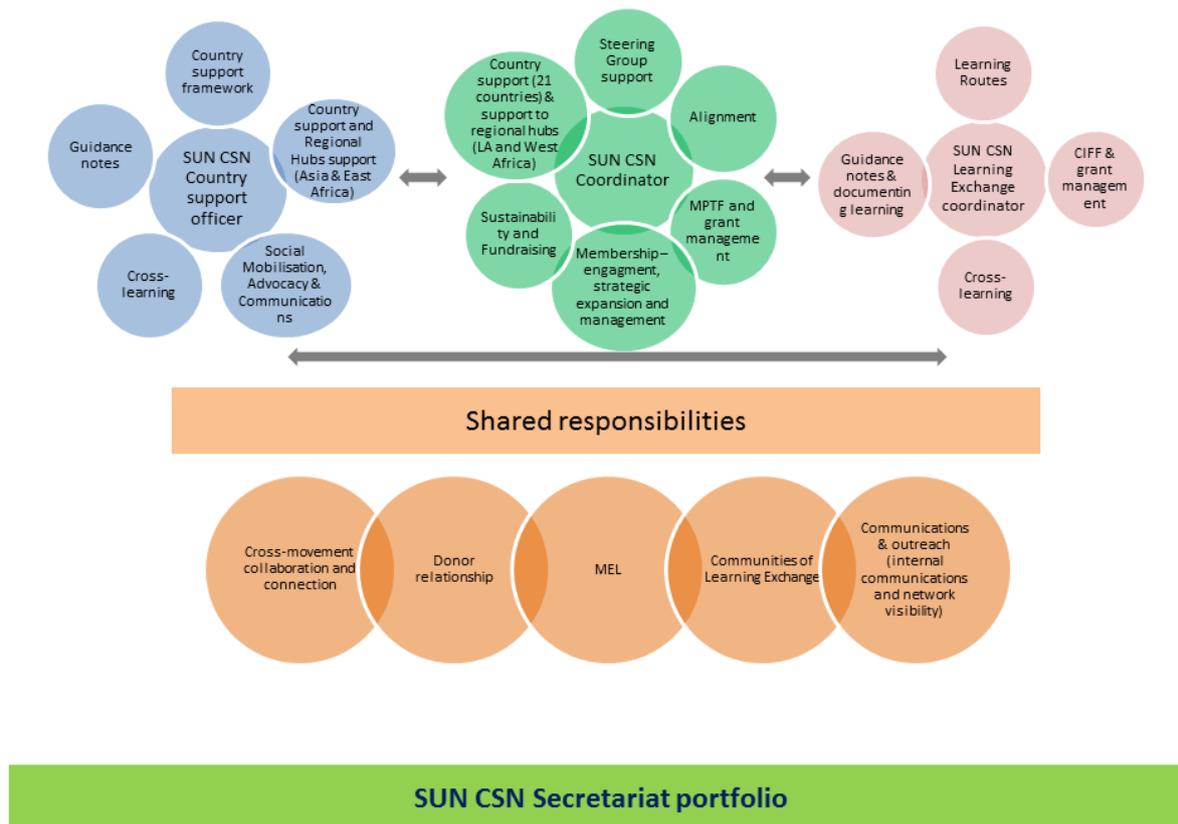
In 2015, the SUN CSN secretariat proposes to have a call with steering group members and all network members via webex dedicated to a touch base on progress at month 6 and month 10/11.

The network will explore the establishment of an independent group to review progress at key points and provide guidance on improving performance / summarise assessment of progress on the SUN CSN work plan to the whole network. Members of this independent group would likely comprise various actors from within the network and SUN and outside of SUN.

8. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

Secretariat portfolio:

-  The full time SUN CSN coordinator to support the network's members with information exchange and in developing plans and developing funding applications to the MPTF.
-  The full-time country support officer to support national civil society alliances to get established, strengthen national advocacy and participation in country platforms, facilitate lesson learning between platforms, ensure that advocacy and experience from the national level guides the movement as a whole, and serves to maintain national and global leadership in SUN countries.



Technical Assistance – through SUN CSN Steering Group members and other network members in line with CSA priority needs for support.

The Steering Group roles and responsibilities are outlined in the Terms of Reference (<http://suncivilsociety.net.wix.com/suncsnblog#!sun-csn-key-resources/c1om2>)

CSAs are responsible for:

- ✚ Inputting into the design and supporting the implementation of country nutrition plans and aligning efforts behind such plans
- ✚ Participating in country Multi-stakeholder platforms
- ✚ Contributing to the CSN communications strategy
- ✚ Assisting in mapping stakeholder activities in countries
- ✚ Attending the 2015 SUN global Gathering if possible with support from the SUN and SUN CSN secretariats as well as the SUN CSN annual meeting
- ✚ Guiding the SUN CSN strategy operationalization
- ✚ Contributing to cross-learning efforts focused on identified support needs
- ✚ Participating in and coordinating a Global Day of Action in their countries
- ✚ Support experience sharing and communications through supplying case studies and other intellectual content for the CSN web based platform and beyond.
- ✚ Actively contribute to sharing experiences and feedback on value of tools provided by the SUN CSN towards monitoring, evaluation and learning

Other network members are responsible for:

- ✚ Supporting the implementation of the SUN CSN work plan in support of country efforts
- ✚ Contributing to the visibility of the network
- ✚ Contributing to shaping the SUN CSN strategy
- ✚ Offering their expertise and experience where applicable and relevant and contributing to the overall development and success of the CSN.

Priorities	Leads	Main stakeholders	Timeline
Supporting effective and efficient operation of strong, credible and influential national Civil Society Alliances (Priority Objective 1 & 3)			
Membership engagement and strategic expansion - improve engagement of CSN membership towards implementing country support strategy	SUN CSN coordinator (secretariat)	SUN CSN SG members, SUN SMS, SUN networks	Ongoing
Foster cross-learning for capacity building and stronger regional efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revise Country Support Strategy - Finalise 2014 survey report - More detail in smartsheet tool 	SUN CSN country support officer (secretariat)	SUN CSAs, SUN CSN members, SUN CSN SG members, SUN SMS, SUN networks, other key experts	Ongoing
Launch of dedicated Learning Routes project to support capacity building around core priorities	SUN CSN country support officer (secretariat)	All	Ongoing from February 2015
Support cascade capacity building to deliver proven nutrition programmes – ENA ToT (pending securing funding)	HKI, Core Group and JSI	SUN CSN coordinator (secretariat) to support, HKI to reach out to other field implementers who also have proven track record in nutrition programmes (ENN, CMAM, Save the Children, World Vision, Concern, World Food Programme, ...)	TBD

Improving Alignment of CSO efforts (<i>Priority Objective 1 & 3</i>)			
Conceptualising alignment and collecting examples of CSO alignment at country level and globally with clear recommendations for improvement and contribution to the SUN countries CRF	SUN CSN coordinator (secretariat) & consultant	SUN CSAs, SUN CSN Steering Group, SUN CSN membership, SMS, SUN networks, other nutrition actors (like right to food, food sovereignty, participatory democracy actors)	Ongoing
Positioning of a growing SUN CSN on key issues towards driving effective change focusing on thematic areas (<i>Priority Objective 2</i>)			
Post-2015: Supporting in country engagement with national Post 2015 government lead, contribution to country positioning during intergovernmental negotiations and development of workable and effective accountability frameworks at national level through promoting successful engagement of SUN CSAs in post-2015 processes	SUN CSN secretariat & SMS	SUN CSN Steering Group + SUN CSAs + SUN CSN membership	Ongoing
Private sector engagement: Advocating for SUN wide discussion on and contribute to unpacking the private sector, improved responsible and transparent engagement of private sector in SUN countries, and prevention and management of conflict of interests process strengthening and establishment in countries; define the role of CS in this arena, including the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.	SUN CSN secretariat & SUN CSN SG	SUN CSAs, SUN networks, Technical experts, SUN CSN members	First part of 2015
Rights-based Approaches: Encourage appropriate legislative responses to ensure human rights principles are enshrined in national government policies and that civil society alliances correspondingly ensure rights based approaches in their work. Support civil society to participate in and develop rights based accountability frameworks particularly at a local level.	SUN CSN secretariat & SUN CSN SG	Office of the R2F	Ongoing

<p>Accountability: Support national civil society alliances in their advocacy for strong inclusive national accountability mechanisms to be set up based on mutual stakeholder accountability. Advocate within SUN for and contribute to the joint revision of the SUN accountability framework and its implementation in response to the Independent comprehensive evaluation conclusions and recommendations. Improve internal accountability of the SUN CSN. Contribute to the follow up from ICN 2.</p>	<p>SUN CSN secretariat & SUN CSN SG</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Two areas of work where we will mostly be contributing to efforts led by other SUN actors. Exact focus and corresponding activities unclear as of February 2015</p>			
<p>Building Resilience: Sustainability - Environment and Climate (Sustainability and the environment): Contribute to SUN efforts in relation to building resilience in the face of predictable and unpredictable disasters, shocks and stresses particularly in relation to climatic variability and change which affect nutrition outcomes both directly and indirectly and where possible support CSAs in aligning to this priority.</p>	<p>SMS& SUN CSN secretariat for SUN CSN contribution</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Humanitarian: Contribute to SUN efforts in integrating of nutrition across all humanitarian activities from preparedness planning, to response and recovery and where possible support CSAs in aligning to this priority and engagement in national level clusters.</p>	<p>SMS & SUN CSN secretariat for SUN CSN contribution</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Engaging with key stakeholders to address gaps and clarify mis-conceptions (*Priority Objective 1, 2 &3*)

Effectively engage with key CSO actors and social movements

towards strengthening SUN movement efforts through CS national efforts (right to food, stronger grass roots, stronger conflict of interests processes). This will mainly comprise supporting national civil society alliances to engage more actively with social movements and improve intelligence on this; getting clearer membership criteria from the business network and ensuring follow up from Conflict of interests process recommendations of having red lines with regards to position on International codes and conventions (including International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes); developing a SUN CSN frequently asked tool; Case studies on the power of social movements with more examples on how they have facilitated change in their communities and country's for better advocacy on nutrition and better nutrition outcomes

SUN CSN coordinator (secretariat) & SUN CSN SG members

SUN CSAs, SUN CSN members, SUN CSN SG members, SUN CSN secretariat, SMS and networks, other nutrition actors (like right to food, food sovereignty, participatory democracy actors)

ongoing

Strategy development for SUN CNS in SUN 2.0 & sustainability

Strategy development for SUN CSN in SUN 2.0 & sustainability

SUN CSN coordinator (secretariat) & chair

SUN CSAs, SUN CSN Steering Group, SUN CSN membership, SMS, SUN networks

Ongoing

9. CALENDAR OF KEY EVENTS IN 2015

The SUN movement calendar is available at - <http://scalingupnutrition.org/resources-archive/events>

10. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2015 SUN CSN WORK PLAN – METHODOLOGY

In 2014, given funding limitations the SUN CSN was unable to hold its annual meeting. As such the below process was adapted to reflect and bridge this limitation and gap and ensure the whole network was able to contribute.

- 1- End of 2014, the SUN CSN secretariat sent 2014 stock take and greetings message seeking priorities for 2015 from network members building on efforts mentioned in background section
- 2- Early 2015, the SUN CSN secretariat compiled 2015 priorities for the network and plan a SUN CSN secretariat retreat for developing a feasible 2015 work plan for the network
- 3- End of January 2015, the SUN CSN secretariat held a retreat and developed a draft work plan building on efforts and network contributions to date. Key stakeholders took part in the retreat including the SUN CSN chair and key experts in budget analysis, accountability amongst others.
- 4- February 2-4, 2015, the SUN CSN secretariat had a series of meetings with the SUN movement secretariat and a Network facilitator meeting where they shared the outline of the plan for information and strengthening.
- 5- First draft developed and shared with the SUN CSN Steering Group by February 13, 2015
- 6- SUN CSN Steering Group reviewed plan and provided feedback by February 25, 2015
- 7- SUN CSN secretariat consolidated work plan with feedback to date by February 27, 2015
- 8- SUN CSN secretariat coordinated translation of draft plan in French and Spanish by March 13, 2015
- 9- SUN CSN secretariat sent the language versions of the draft to the whole network for electronic validation and flagging any major potential omissions along with membership engagement call on March 13, 2015
- 10- Simultaneously, SUN CSN secretariat shared consolidated version for information with the SMS
- 11- SUN CSN members provided feedback and electronic validation by March 25, 2015
- 12- SUN CSN secretariat ensured network response was at least 70% of CSAs, 80% of other network members and 100% of SUN CSN SG members.
- 13- SUN CSN secretariat consolidated all language versions and ensured all comments present in all 3 versions.
- 14- Validated work plan in all three languages available and uploaded on the SUN CSN blog and the SUN website by April 3, 2015

**ANNEX 1 - THE THREE MAIN MESSAGES CONVEYED ON BEHALF OF THE NETWORK IN RESPONSE TO THE INDEPENDENT
COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF THE SUN MOVEMENT**

- 1- SUN was successful at raising nutrition profile, building ownership and mobilising political will but SUN now needs to contribute to clarifying currently busy and fragmented nutrition architecture. We propose SUN does this by**
- i. **Having a more active lead group** with stronger representation from countries, field implementers and global initiative leads and a **SUN movement coordinator** and **secretariat** more strongly **empowered** by the UN Secretary General
 - ii. **Contribute to more coherent, harmonised and coordinated nutrition architecture to support stronger alignment where SUN would be a key player in addressing undernutrition.** Facilitate a dialogue with various existing bodies and global initiatives with a special focus on member states bodies (CFS, ICN2, WHA, GNC, Zero Hunger Challenge, SUHN,...) towards a common coordination framework with clearly defined roles and responsibilities and identified areas of convergence, complementarity and gaps, with clear plans to address these gaps. This process would help ensure that the SUN Movement is understood to complement other nutrition initiatives globally and not undermine the normative UN agencies and global consultative forum efforts.
 - iii. **Advocating for and coordinating more coherence between UN agencies with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.** This process should assign lead agencies for key efforts (e.g. WHO and FAO - on policy; UNICEF on developing MSP, UN REACH on supporting coordination and mapping, ...) for clear accountability.
 - iv. **Sharing learning from countries where coordination and harmonisation is effective** (e.g. Peru for UN agencies; Laos for global initiatives coordination in country)
 - v. **Advocate for mainstreaming gender justice** across scaling up nutrition policies, interventions and programmes and making linkages between gender and nutrition and outlining these links through case studies and examples of what is happening in the field combined with **cross-learning focusing on countries where gender empowerment has been already translated into country level actions** (e.g. Zimbabwe, Senegal)

- 2- **SUN (countries, SMS, networks and lead group) needs to focus on implementation and delivery on the ground of interventions that are proven to improve nutritional status of communities suffering from malnutrition through**
- i. **Supporting SUN countries on multisectoral collaboration and coordination** (how to collaborate and coordinate)
 - ii. **Building national capacity** to plan, deliver and monitor nutrition field programs especially at the sub-national level to **support of more bottom up and community approaches** to scaling up nutrition. Civil society will play a key role in extending the reach of effective field programs and bringing the grassroots perspectives through stronger engagement with social movements.
 - iii. **Supporting and providing guidance for the development of quality costed plans and translating those into effective field programs and clear and accountable CRFs**
 - iv. **Increasing focus on resource mobilisation** to support appropriate at scale implementation and **advocating for the establishment of** currently non-existent **sustainable funding mechanism** like a global fund for nutrition.
 - v. **Strengthening Monitoring, Evaluating, Accountability & Learning** with a strengthened SUN MEAL framework to capture progress and impact and accountability mechanisms in country and globally that cater for specific country contexts and are able to demonstrate progress and impact on the ground
 - vi. **Supporting the strengthening nutrition information systems** aligned with SDG indicators with annual data collection able to capture data on gender equity and justice (using existing tools like the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) household survey that measures five domains of women's empowerment) and that include disaggregated data at subnational level
- 3- **SUN needs to focus on capacity building of human resources to support scaling up nutrition through cross-learning, innovation, exchange of better documented country experiences, peer support and technical support.** *More detail is provided in our detailed survey response.*