

COUNTRY PROGRESS
In scaling up nutrition



JANUARY 2013

The Scaling Up Nutrition or SUN Movement is a new effort to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms. It is founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. It is unique in that it is bringing different groups of people together – governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and scientists – in a collective action to improve nutrition.

The SUN Movement recognizes that malnutrition has multiple causes. That's why it requires people to work together across sectors to include nutrition in all development efforts. SUN supports actions which are known to be effective including **nutrition-specific interventions** such as support for breastfeeding, fortification of foods, vitamin and mineral supplementation, and treatment of acute malnutrition. It also supports **nutrition-sensitive approaches** to agriculture: making nutritious food accessible to everyone throughout the year; water and sanitation: improving access to clean water and good hygiene to reduce infection and disease; education: making sure children have enough energy to concentrate and learn; employment and social protection: making sure families have enough income to meet their needs; health: improving access to services so that women and children stay healthy; resilience: establishing strong communities that are better able to cope during crises.

Scaling Up Nutrition relies on national leaders taking ownership and responsibility for addressing malnutrition. Governments of SUN countries are putting four processes into place:

1. Bringing people together by setting up multi-sector, multi-stakeholder platforms;
2. Putting effective policies and laws in place;
3. Implementing programs with shared nutrition goals; and
4. Mobilizing resources.

Nutrition improves when everyone gets together to support national governments to put these processes fully in place. SUN countries are at different stages in pursuing the four processes: Stage 1: Taking stock; Stage 2: Preparing for scaling up; and Stage 3: Scaling up rapidly to deliver results. At the start of 2013, around one third of countries in the SUN Movement have reached Stage 3 and more are moving forward from Stage 2 to Stage 3. These countries are establishing platforms for nutrition; developing strategies including budgeted plans for scaling up effective actions; strengthening capacity for implementation and monitoring; operating programs and interventions at scale; reporting progress; and mobilizing significant internal and external investment across relevant sectors to ensure delivery.

The country summaries below demonstrate the tremendous progress that has been made over the last few years in scaling up nutrition. Progress will be demonstrated when fewer children become stunted and more children reach their full height and learning potential. At the start of 2013, there are 33 SUN countries that are home to 59 million stunted children which represents around one third of all stunted children in the world. The average annual rate of reduction (AARR) in stunting in all 33 countries combined is 1.8 per cent. The World Health Organisation recommends an AARR of 3.9 per cent in order to meet the global target of 40 per cent reduction in the number of children in the world who are stunted by 2025. In 8 SUN countries, stunting is decreasing by more than 3 per cent per year. In a further 5 countries, the AARR in stunting is between 2 and 3 per cent. The goal in 2013 will be to further increase these rates of reduction.

BANGLADESH

With leadership from the Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, different groups are coming together to support actions to improve the nutrition of women and children in Bangladesh. The government has renewed its resolve to deliver nutrition-specific interventions. Through the National Nutrition Service, it is delivering a comprehensive nutrition package to communities including support for breastfeeding and complementary feeding, dietary diversification, food supplementation and fortification as well as management of severe malnutrition.

Efforts are being made to coordinate policies that set out shared nutrition-related objectives across sectors - from expanded health service delivery, to improving access to nutritious foods through the agriculture sector. A common results framework for nutrition has been set out under the National Food Policy Plan of Action and a corresponding Country Investment Plan (2011-2016). This investment plan focuses on increased, effective public investment to increase and diversify food availability in a sustainable manner and improve access to food and nutrition security. Both of these plans are currently under discussion and review by various ministries engaged in nutrition.

The Bangladesh Country Investment Plan estimates that an investment of US\$ 7.8 billion is required over a five year period. A total US\$ 2.8 billion is already allocated through government budgets and contributions made by development partners leaving a financing gap of US\$ 5.1 billion.

Action to scale up nutrition is being supported by strong civil society alliances. One of the civil society alliances that has recently been launched received US\$ 535,000 from the SUN Multi-Partner Trust Fund in December 2012. The fund covers the period from January 2013 to December 2015 and will be used to create a strong, coordinated and vibrant civil society constituency to support further development and wider implementation of a nutrition agenda for Bangladesh.

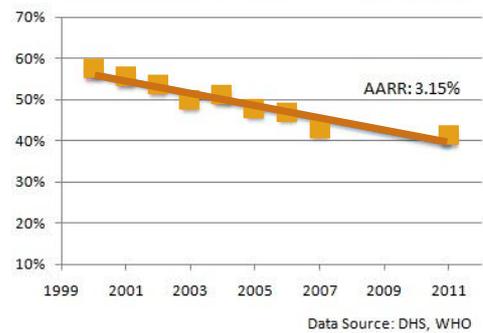
ETHIOPIA

Malnutrition rates in young children are going down in Ethiopia; specifically stunting rates that are going down by nearly 2.5 per cent per year. Large scale programs to improve access to health posts in remote and drought-stricken areas, and to provide safety nets for vulnerable families, have been scaled up over the same period.

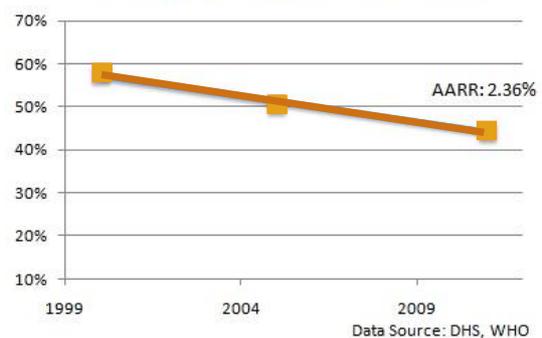
The Government of Ethiopia has set up a high-level multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition comprising seven ministries. It includes country representatives from United Nations agencies, bilateral donors as well as technical and research institutions and soon will add representatives from the private sector and civil society.

Ethiopia is in the process of updating its National Nutrition Program, which provides the framework for strategic objectives and interventions to improve nutrition across relevant sectors including health, agriculture, education, water, labor and social affairs and women, children and youth affairs. A number of programs that address both the direct and underlying causes of malnutrition are already being implemented at scale in Ethiopia. Increasing their alignment is expected to contribute significantly to reduced malnutrition among women and children. Putting this multi-sectoral plan in place will require budgeting and mapping of contributions from partners and by sector as well as tracking expenditure through different channels.

Stunting reduction in Bangladesh

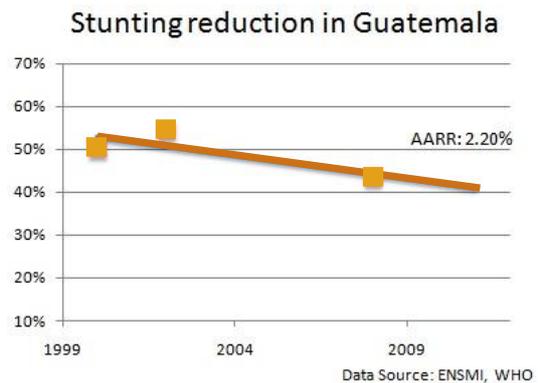


Stunting reduction in Ethiopia



GUATEMALA

Guatemala's National System for Food Security and Nutrition is recognized as a model for multi-sector, multi-stakeholder food and nutrition security governance in the Latin American region. Political commitment comes from the highest possible level. In 2012, as part of his "National Agenda for Change" President Otto Perez Molina vowed to tackle malnutrition through his National Zero Hunger Pact. Under this Pact, the President has committed to reducing chronic malnutrition in children under five years of age by 10 per cent before the end of his Presidential tenure.

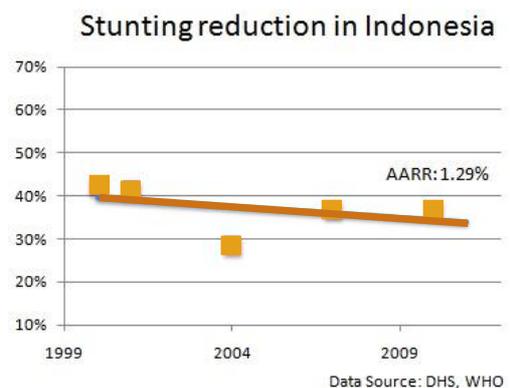


The Zero Hunger Pact is being operationalized through a Strategic Plan 2012-2016 and coordination bodies that bring together different government ministries and external actors. The plan includes specific nutrition interventions such as the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, increase in access to fortified food, and to health and nutrition services. It also includes programs that address the underlying causes of under-nutrition such as the creation of income generation opportunities, improved water and sanitation facilities and better education for women.

The Zero Hunger Plan is attracting support from external partners. In October at the 2012 Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting in New York, Guatemalan Government leaders, the Executive Director of the World Food Program, and representatives from the United Nations and civil society organizations came together to announce a new partnership seeking to support the Zero Hunger Plan. World Vision has since committed US\$ 1 million in funding while in November 2012 the Inter-American Development Bank committed US\$ 280,000 over two years to contribute to improving the outcomes of major government interventions in preventative nutrition in the first thousand days of life within the framework of the Zero Hunger Plan and social protection through the provision of technical assistance and analysis setting and aspects of its design and operational processes.

INDONESIA

In September 2012, Indonesia launched its national version of the global SUN Movement. The 'First 1,000 Days of Life Movement' was launched by four ministers representing people's welfare, development and planning, health and women's empowerment and child protection. The objectives of the 'First 1000 Days of Life Movement' are set out in a policy framework together with five national nutrition targets for 2025 for reductions in child chronic and acute malnutrition, anemia in women, low-birth weight, exclusive breastfeeding and childhood obesity.

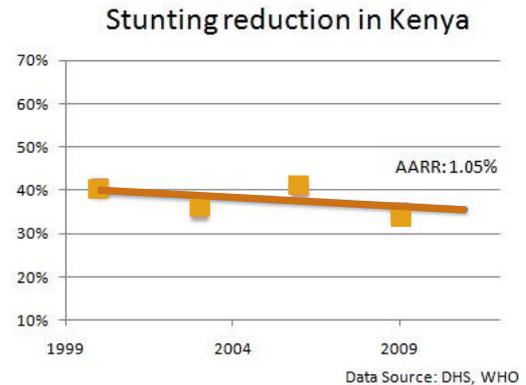


Indonesia has a National Food and Nutrition Action Plan (2011-2015) which provides the country's common results framework for improving nutrition. This framework is complemented by community-based nutrition programs, fortification schemes and nutrition-sensitive social protection programs. A central multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral coordinating SUN forum has been formed in support of other coordinating fora that have been established across key constituencies; government, development partners, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, the business community and media.

The Ministry of Health has been allocated US\$ 70 million per year at the central level. Each of the provinces (33) and each district (497) have their own resources in addition to this.

KENYA

Kenya is coordinating actions to improve nutrition across government ministries and with external organisations. The approach is set out in the National Nutrition Action Plan approved by the government in November 2012. Nutrition budgets are now mainstreamed as the plan is aligned to the government's broader Medium Term Development Plan. The government has committed to spending Ksh6 billion (US\$ 70 million) over the next five years to scale up nutrition. The money will be shared across ministries including water and irrigation; fisheries development; agriculture; and national planning and development.



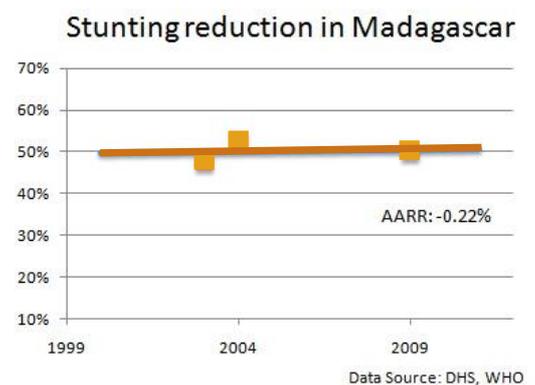
Nutrition legislation is being strengthened in Kenya and in September 2012 Parliament passed the Breast Milk Substitutes Regulation and Control Bill. The bill effectively adopts the recommendations of the World Health Organisation International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes.

External partners are aligning behind government leadership for nutrition. The United Kingdom Department for International Development has committed Ksh2.29 billion (US\$ 26 million) to assist scale up of nutrition in the three counties of Turkana, Wajir and Mandera. Additional multi-year funding to the nutrition sector will be provided through the €250 million (US\$ 326 million) European Union initiative, called "Supporting Horn of Africa Resilience (SHARE)", which helps the people in the Horn of Africa to recover from drought and strengthens the population and regional economy to better withstand future crises.

Around 27 million Kenyans will have access to nutritionally fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil and maize meal over the next five years through a partnership between the government and private organisations that was launched in October 2012. All large-scale vegetable oil producers and wheat flour and maize meal millers in Kenya have committed to fortifying their food products. In exchange, equipment and nutrient blends will be provided to industry along with training in quality assurance.

MADAGASCAR

Nutrition has been given a central position in Madagascar. The National Nutrition Council is directly supervised by the Prime Minister. It is a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition and includes representatives from a wide cross-section of sectors and stakeholders. Similar nutrition platforms have been set up in each of Madagascar's 22 regions. The National Nutrition Council is responsible for implementation of the National Nutrition Policy (2005-2015) and the National Nutrition Action Plan (2012-2015). The plan has five strategic priorities covering prevention and management of malnutrition, enhanced food and nutrition security as well as effective nutrition coordination. A monitoring and evaluation plan has been developed.



Madagascar is ensuring that the underlying drivers of malnutrition are addressed. It is particularly focusing on empowering women as a key element to all scaling up nutrition activities. The Ministry of the Environment is engaging with the SUN Movement to ensure that the links between nutrition and climate change are understood.

The estimated budget to implement the national action plan for nutrition is US\$ 138 million. This budget is currently being evaluated by development partners and efforts to fully resource all programs are underway.

MALAWI

A standardized framework for rolling out SUN has been established in Malawi. It employs a multi-sector approach to nutrition at community and district level. A target to roll out SUN in 50 per cent of districts has been established for 2012 and 2013. A National Nutrition Committee, chaired by the Secretary for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS in the office of the President and co-chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund, is responsible for nutrition coordination among technical specialists and development partners in Malawi. The main function of the committee is to mobilize resources and support for implementing nutrition interventions, monitor progress, and evaluate impact.

Malawi has a Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2005) and a National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan (2007-2012). The plan outlines programs to address five outcomes: improved maternal nutrition and care; improved infant and young child feeding practices; improved intake of essential micronutrients (and zinc for diarrhea management); prevention and treatment of common infectious diseases; and improved management of acute malnutrition.

Malawi is focusing on community-based action. The 1,000 Special Days National Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy is being prioritized from 2012 to 2017 to reduce child stunting among children under two years to less than 20 per cent through behavior change and awareness raising at the community level. This will employ a number of tools: public and community media, family counseling, awareness-raising of local leaders and capacity building of multi-sectoral frontline workers.

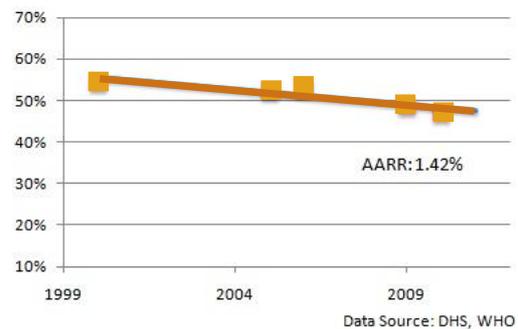
MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique has adopted its Multi-Sectoral Action Plan to Reduce Chronic Malnutrition (2011-2015) and has set up a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder technical group to coordinate implementation of, and alignment with the plan. Members of this platform include ministries carrying out nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs, United Nations agencies, donors and civil society organizations.

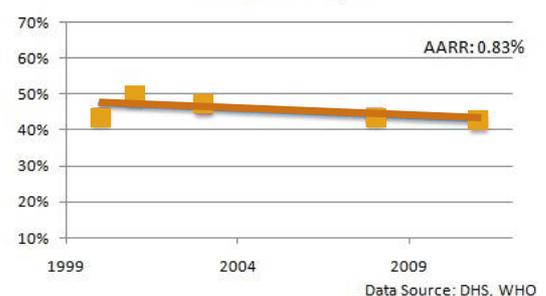
In line with the priority interventions identified in the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan, the Nutrition Department in the Ministry of Health is implementing large-scale supplementation programs including vitamin A supplementation for 6-59 months old children (along with deworming) and iron/folic acid supplementation for pregnant and postpartum women. There are also programs for the treatment of acute malnutrition, optimization of infant and young child feeding practices as well as large-scale fortification of wheat flour and edible oils.

The total cost for 2012 of the seven strategic objectives of the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan were around US\$ 60 million a year including supplementary feeding for around US\$ 26.4 million. Nutrition funding in Mozambique is currently channeled through sector-specific budgets and vertical funding arrangements. However, for the future a common fund for nutrition is envisaged under the Ministry of Finance. Donor partners such as Danish International Development Agency and the World Bank have already committed to contribute to this common fund.

Stunting reduction in Malawi



Stunting reduction in Mozambique



NEPAL

Commitment to scaling up nutrition in Nepal has been demonstrated at the highest level of government and the Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai is a member of the SUN Lead Group. In September 2012, the Government of Nepal, representatives from United Nations agencies, development partners, civil society and the private sector signed a Declaration of Commitment for an Accelerated Improvement in Maternal and Child Nutrition. In signing the declaration, these leaders have ratified their commitment to contribute to actions for scaling up nutrition.

The commitment, skills, resources and expertise of all these actors is harnessed through the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral platform which has been established, under the auspices of the National Planning Commission; the highest planning level authority in the country.

One of the most powerful examples of the SUN Movement in action is the development of Nepal's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan. Through the leadership of the SUN Government Focal Point, all relevant stakeholders have been involved in developing the plan which serves as a common results framework for improving nutrition. All ministries have agreed on a set of essential nutrition 'specific' and nutrition 'sensitive' interventions to be delivered. Actions and results are clarified in five linked logical frameworks for Health, Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Agriculture and Local Governance sectors.

The Government of Nepal has established a budget line for nutrition specific interventions, which has doubled from US\$ 4.9 million to US\$ 11.7 million since 2011. External assistance for scaling up nutrition has jumped from US\$ 0.2 million to US\$ 5 million. In addition, a basket fund for the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan is being set up which will receive funding from the government and development partners.

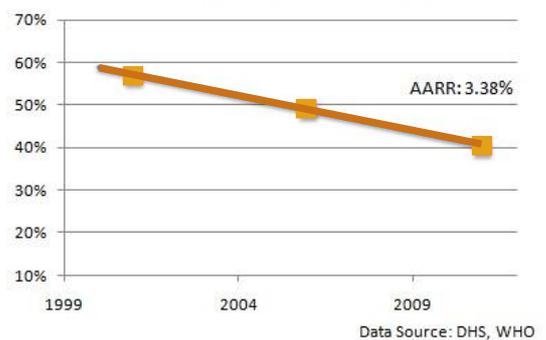
NIGER

Niger is finalizing its "3N" program, « les Nigériens nourrissent les Nigériens » (Nigeriens Feed Nigeriens) which will run from 2012 to 2015. The goal is to ensure that all Nigeriens have sufficient, good quality food throughout the year. The "3N" is a multi-sectoral program linking different initiatives under a common framework aiming to strengthen the agriculture sector while building resilience to food crisis and improving nutritional status. A road map to operationalize the "3N" program is currently being developed overseen by a "3N" High Commissioner and with a governance mechanism at municipal and national level.

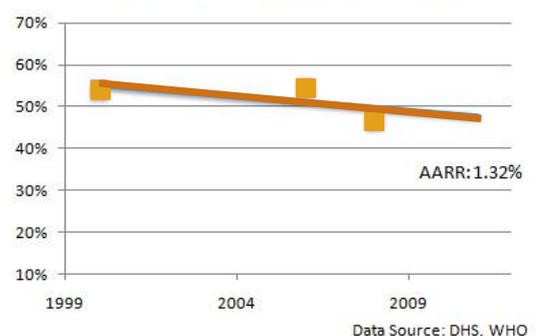
The government has doubled the national budget line for nutrition to FCFA 1 billion in 2013 (US\$ 2 million). External partners that are contributing through support to government budgets include the European Union, United Nations agencies and several non-governmental organisations including Helen Keller International, Action Against Hunger and Medecins San Frontieres.

A platform with 18 national and international civil society organizations has been formed to mobilize communities, advocate for setting up multi-sectoral structures for nutrition at regional level, for increased financial support for nutrition and more research. This platform has received funding through the SUN Multi-Partner Trust Fund of US\$ 428,000 for the period January 2013 to December 2015.

Stunting reduction in Nepal

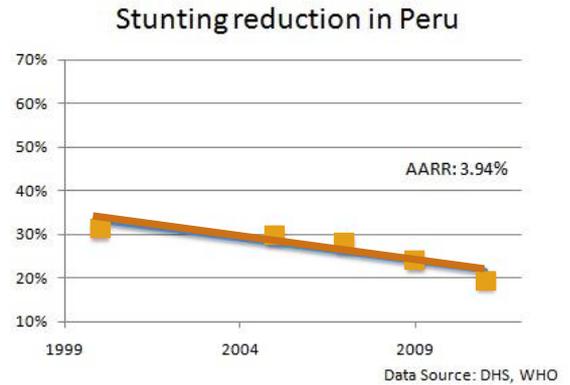


Stunting reduction in Niger



PERU

The Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion was established in October 2011, providing a significant boost to the country's approach to nutrition governance. It has two main functions (i) to implement five major social programs to address social exclusion, vulnerability and poverty; (ii) to ensure inter-sectoral coordination for the implementation of the National Development and Social Inclusion System. The latter is the direct responsibility of the Vice Minister of Policy and Social Evaluation who is also the SUN country Focal Point. In 2012, national guidelines to reduce child malnutrition were approved by the government.

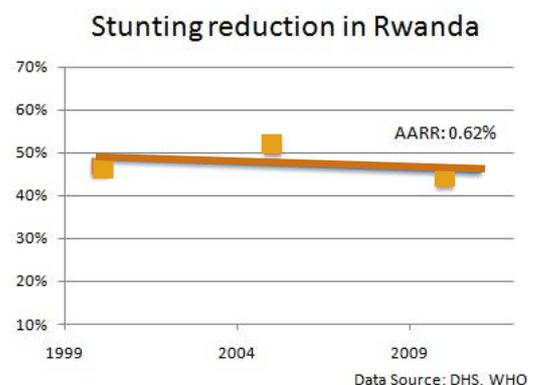


The national "Grow" (CRECER) strategy that started in 2007 established a system of geographical targeting of interventions and coordination across programs to fight malnutrition, and acts as the common results framework for nutrition. The Comprehensive Health Insurance System together with five major social programs are the main focus for addressing child malnutrition. These are complemented by food security and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) components of the Nutrition Articulated Program 2008. A number of Ministries have recently signed a "National Agreement for Coordinated Action against Child Malnutrition" establishing (i) an inter-Ministerial strategy, (ii) effective interventions to reduce child malnutrition and districts that should be prioritized in the strategy and (iii) a multiannual budgetary commitment for nutrition.

An annual budget of US\$ 1.1 billion USD for nutrition has been allocated by the government. In addition, there is a multi-annual budgetary commitment to increase or at least maintain the financial resources associated to reduce and prevent children's chronic malnutrition.

RWANDA

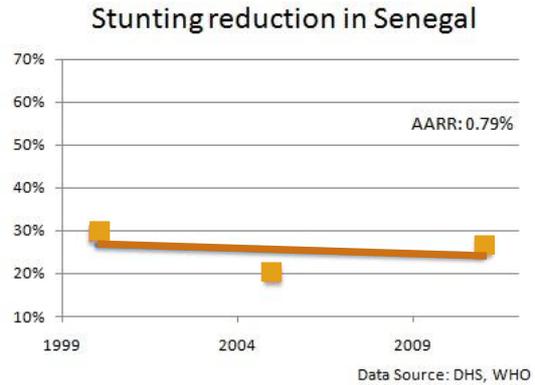
Rwanda has been committed to improving malnutrition for some years. A Presidential initiative to address malnutrition was launched in April 2009 and followed by the First National Nutrition Summit, in November 2009. The government has set up various convening bodies for nutrition. Multi-sectoral nutrition committees have been established at central and local levels involving mayors, vice mayors in charge of social affairs, district directors of health, nutritionists, agronomists, and officers from social protection, veterinary, hygiene and sanitation sectors.



The Ministry of Health is mandated to provide overall coordination for implementing the National Multi-sectoral Strategy to Eliminate Malnutrition (2010-2013). Rwanda also has a comprehensive joint action plan to fight malnutrition under the Office of the Prime Minister. This provides a common results framework for nutrition. It takes a multi-sectoral approach incorporating nutrition-specific interventions with nutrition-sensitive actions in six community-led sectors including infant and young child feeding, home fortification, growth monitoring and promotion, screening and treatment of acute malnutrition, nutrition support for HIV/AIDS, nutrition integration into agriculture, and links with cooperatives. The plan is being implemented throughout the country and has a monitoring and evaluation element. Multi-sectoral District Plans to Eliminate Malnutrition are being implemented in all districts. The Government of Rwanda has signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Union for US\$ 10 million for nutrition over the next three years. Various partners are also leveraging funds from donors both in country and outside. It is estimated that Rwanda may receive up to US\$ 12 million per year for nutrition over the next 3 years.

SENEGAL

Senegal has located nutrition at the centre of government. A nutrition convening body, called the Fight Against Malnutrition Unit, is located in the office of the Prime Minister. Senegal is in the process of updating its Lettre de Politique de Nutrition (Nutrition Policy Letter), which serves as the common framework for nutrition, and its related roadmap. These policy and planning documents are based on World Health Organisation recommendations and guidelines and are also linked to policies for poverty reduction and social protection.



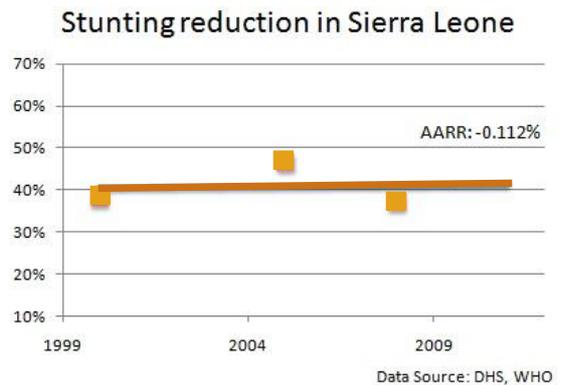
The Fight Against Malnutrition Unit is implementing five programs which cover key areas including community nutrition, social transfers to mitigate the negative impact of food price increases, poverty and hunger reduction (covering 7 of 14 regions of Senegal), food fortification, and salt iodization.

Senegal also has a national agricultural investment program (2011-2015) that focuses on reducing poverty by addressing hunger and under-nutrition, and integrates impact indicators of food security and nutrition. The government has allocated a budget line for nutrition and is searching for funding from other partners. There is enough funding to continue all programs in 2013, but gaps in financing need to be filled in the following years.

SIERRA LEONE

The SUN Movement in Sierra Leone was formally launched in October 2012 with a ceremony at which the Vice President and relevant Ministers signed a declaration of commitment to support the government's Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan, which is due to be finalised shortly.

The development of a National Food and Nutrition Implementation Plan, following the endorsement of the National Food and Nutrition Policy, was the result of the concerted efforts led by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the Ministry of Agriculture together with other line ministries with other stakeholders. Additionally, the implementation of the Free Healthcare Initiative that focuses on ensuring access and care for women and children is expected to contribute to a reduction in child mortality.



Programs have been aligned around seven priorities with involvement of relevant line ministries, local government and multiple stakeholders. These priorities include improved indicators for breastfeeding and complementary feeding; micronutrient intake; diarrhea and parasite control; treatment of acute malnutrition; household food security; maternal nutrition and the nutritional status of People Living with HIV/AIDS/TB as well as the reduction of non-communicable diseases.

Sierra Leone is also in the process of finalizing and validating the budget for the Food and Nutrition Policy Implementation Plan that is expected to clarify the extent of the financial gap.

UGANDA

Uganda is taking a comprehensive approach to scaling up nutrition. It is focusing on five cross-sectoral objectives: improve maternal, infant and young child feeding; enhance consumption of diverse diets; protect households from the impact of shocks; strengthen the policy, legal and institutional frameworks; and increase national awareness of nutrition. These objectives are set out in the Uganda National Action Plan Framework.

In August 2012, an implementation plan was developed which outlines specific interventions by sector against the five objectives. The interventions are aligned with national priorities and are within the mandates for each sector. A costing exercise is underway to establish how much it will cost to roll out the plan.

Partners are using the implementation plan as a strategic guide to make sure that programs are aligned with the government plan. The Feed the Future initiative is an example of alignment. Involving the government, United States Agency for International Development, private entities and other donors, it will implement a range of nutrition and food security interventions in 38 districts in the coming five years, concentrating on developing maize, bean and coffee value chains.

A Uganda civil society coalition for scaling up nutrition has been formed and has received US\$ 321,000 through the SUN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the period January 2013 to December 2015. The coalition aims to strengthen the capacity of Ugandan civil society to support scaling up nutrition actions with a major focus on nutrition advocacy and campaigns for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of nutrition programs in the country.

