

SUN Donor Network

I. Introduction

Donors are one of five key constituencies supporting the global movement to Scale Up Nutrition. At the country level SUN donors usually form a coordination group, if this does not already exist, and in collaboration with the Government Focal Point, agree a Donor Convenor. Terms of Reference for the Donor Convenor and Donor Support roles are in Annex 1. These can be adapted for the specific country context. In addition to engaging with the coordination group, donors are also expected to be part of the Multi-stakeholder Platform which is the recommended mechanism at the country level for bringing all stakeholders together to plan and implement scaling up nutrition.

At the international / cross-country level, donors work together through the SUN Donor Network¹. An annual workplan for the network will be developed and updated as appropriate (see Annex X). The chair(s) of the donor network will directly link with the SUN Secretariat and through this ensure that all efforts are linked and coordinated with the work of other SUN constituent networks.

The donor contribution to SUN will be measured through a series of agreed indicators (see Annex X for draft indicators). Each country level donor coordination group will be expected to measure progress against these in collaboration with the Government Focal Point and report annually to the donor network in time for the annual progress report in September. The donor network will aggregate these results as appropriate and support the analysis and interpretation of the findings. In addition the donor network will report nutrition ODA figures on an annual basis using an agreed method.

In Ottawa(2010) donors and development partners agreed to adhere to a set of principles which highlight what is needed to emulate the hallmarks of effective partnerships to ensure successful roll-out of the SUN and the achievement of results. These are as follows and the essence of these is captured in the TORs in Annex 1-2 and donor behavior indicators in Annex 3.

- Strengthening Country Ownership and Leadership: Country-level ownership and leadership are the single most important determinants of success. Buy-in at the sector level as well as by governments as a whole is critical for ensuring the higher prioritization of nutrition at the country level, a clear commitment to results and enhanced capacity to deliver. Partners (donors, civil society, private sector) must work in alignment with and support local systems and nutrition strategies.
- Focusing on Results: Recognizing the exceptionally high development returns that will be achieved through direct nutrition specific interventions and comprehensive nutrition-focused development, the demonstration of results through rigorous evaluation and real-time monitoring is key. Building the evidence base and the demonstration of results will facilitate greater global and country-level advocacy and mobilization for addressing undernutrition.
- Adopting a Multi-Sectoral Approach: Priority integration of nutrition across sectors will accelerate action on the determinants of undernutrition, result in effective and innovative pro-nutrition actions in other sector programmes, and increase policy coherence by addressing the unintended consequences of sector specific programming on nutrition. Building the knowledge base on how to effectively integrate nutrition considerations across sectors will be key and help to ensure county-level roll-out is coordinated, aligned within country systems and implemented in such a manner so as to reduce transaction costs.
- Focusing on Effectiveness: The need to optimize the use of existing resources to achieve nutrition outcomes through more effective and innovative direct nutrition specific interventions and nutrition focused development should be prioritized. Consideration should be given to how partners can work better and more effectively together to achieve nutrition results. Country-level scale up of proven, effective interventions should be fast-tracked.
- Fostering Collaboration and Inclusion: The engagement of all interested stakeholders – from governments, to CSOs, to private sector entities – is critical for sustaining country-level roll-out and the achievement of results. The promotion of inclusive partnerships will serve to further strengthen country-level commitment and leadership and act as a check to monitor progress and ensure accountability.
- Promoting Accountability: High level commitment from donors and development partners to the roll-out of the SUN Framework and Roadmap is critical for ensuring success. Donors and development partners need to be mutually accountable for achieving development results including through global and country level political leadership and commitment, and alignment, predictability and sustainability of support at the country level.

II. Terms of Reference for country level donor networks

a. *Donor convenors in SUN countries*

¹ Which is the successor to Task Force D

Membership

The donor lead should be agreed among the donor agencies and the relevant government authorities. Candidate donors are those actively engaged in the country, with a country presence, involved in financially supporting nutrition specific and/or nutrition sensitive programmes and committed to increasing their resources for nutrition.

Activities

Each SUN country requires different levels of engagement. Donor responses will likely include a diverse set of tasks in order to be responsive to each country's individual needs. Supporting the SUN process at the country level is a collective donor responsibility and the Donor Convenor acts as a catalyst and represents the wider donor group in discussions with government. In accordance with the Paris Principles, the networks of donors at country level should be responsive to the country's needs.

The Donor Convenor, with support from the wider donor group, would perform the following functions during the first year:

1. Commit to fully operationalise the good nutrition partnership principles agreed in Ottawa, Dec 2010.
2. Support the government's focal point role as convenor of a multi-stakeholder platform comprising civil society, the private sector, the UN family and other development partners. **If a group including these constituencies already meets then a new group need not be formed, or an existing group could be modified.**
3. Act as an enabler and catalyst for other donors by feeding in their views to the SUN group, and communicating progress back to the donors in a timely manner.
4. Be an active member of the national SUN platform and help the government to complete the following, if they do not yet exist:
 - Broadening the membership and participation in the SUN platform including representation of all relevant stakeholders
 - Stock-taking of nutrition-relevant programmes/policies
 - Review of capacity to scale up nutrition, technical assistance requirements and identification of critical gaps
 - Plan for scaling up nutrition which includes all relevant sectors (this could be very light if most actions are already captured in sector specific plans)
 - A results framework including indicators (input, output and outcome) against which progress will be tracked/identification of funding gaps
5. Work with the wider group of donors to prioritise and harmonise investments to address critical gaps identified and to support the development of a system-wide and sustainable response to undernutrition.
6. Feed back country perspectives to the global donor network, including country level updates and challenges that could be addressed.

The Donor Convenor is not expected to be the primary interlocutor between the local level and SUN globally – consistent with the principles of Paris-Accra, this would be carried out by the appropriate country authority.

b. Donor supporters in SUN countries

Membership

All donors who are supporting programmes intending to deliver nutrition results, and have a country presence, will be eligible to be a donor supporter.

Activities

1. Commit to fully operationalise the good nutrition partnership principles agreed in Ottawa, Dec 2010
2. Encouraging a greater understanding of the SUN Framework and Roadmap within field office;
3. Promoting the integration of nutrition sensitive development in national planning processes and budgets;
4. Raising nutrition considerations in donor coordination mechanisms such as SWAps in multiple sectors (notably agriculture, education, health and social protection);
5. Encouraging the identification of nutrition specific outcomes in multiple sectors;
6. Commit to fully support the donor convenor in delivery of the tasks above.

III. Terms of Reference for Global Donor Network

Membership

The Network is open to staff from any bilateral donor, multi-lateral donor, development bank or private foundation. All donor convenors at country level should be members of the Network. The Global Donor Network is comprised of a technical level network and a senior level network.

Activities

1. Coordinate and align global funding streams for nutrition with the SUN Framework and Roadmap.

2. Provide a forum for discussion about successes and challenges in scaling up nutrition between global staff and country-level donor convenors, with a view to feeding these into the relevant decision making processes at country and global levels
3. Aggregate, where relevant, and report progress against the donor behaviour indicators on an annual basis and provide a narrative explanation of the results for the SUN progress report
4. Annually report ODA for nutrition using an agreed method
5. Actively attract new donors to the group with a view to broadening and deepening donor support for SUN at global and country levels.
6. Maintain high level political commitment for SUN within donor organisations
7. Coordinate as relevant with other key constituencies within the SUN movement.
8. Coordinate engagement with key multi-lateral partners on nutrition, as well as CSOs and the private sector
9. Advocate scaling up nutrition through key international negotiation moments and events (e.g. G8, G20, UNGAetc)
10. Coordinate donor engagement in global and regional events on SUN

Ways of working: Technical level network

1. At least monthly conference calls among international members to review progress against the work plan
2. Bi-monthly updates for the entire network on progress and key developments in SUN
3. Quarterly conference calls for all members to provide a chance for between country exchange and global/country lesson learning
4. Prepare quarterly / 6 monthly face to face meetings of high level donor group to review progress of Network.
5. Conference calls as needed with other constituent networks to coordinate on specific tasks
6. Rotating chair every year

Ways of working: Senior level network

1. Quarterly/biyearly face to face meetings to review progress and provide strategic input into the SUN Lead Group
2. Collaborate on high level events throughout the course of the year
3. Rotating chair every quarter to host senior level meeting

Tracking tools

1. [In the first instance the network will conduct a short survey of donor convenors to find out what they would value most from the Donor Network and these TORs would be adjusted accordingly.]
2. The network will contribute to updating a country grid, housed in the Secretariat to assist information sharing and reporting progress. This will be updated in advance of the quarterly conference calls for all members to provide the basis for discussion and agenda setting.
3. Reports of progress against the network workplan will be captured in the bi-monthly updates (see 2 above)
4. Annual tracking of progress against donor indicators and ODA in the SUN progress report.

**Annex 1:
DRAFT Indicators for Changed Donor Behavior (SUN Movement) (revised following Dublin meeting)**

Expected Result	Indicator	Target (2013)	Comments
<p>1-Donor partners support for nutrition is harmonized among donors and aligned to national plan Donor partners are effectively coordinating their support to national plans to scale up nutrition</p>	Proportion of SUN country donor partners within a SUN country implementing harmonized/aligned programmatic and financial support of the national program/strategy to scale up nutrition in concert with other donor partners in-country and with the national government	2/3(66%) of SUN donor partners in a SUN country are implementing harmonized programs and funding in support of national nutrition program/strategy	This relies on the assessment of the government focal point or possibly the development of some type of check list that can be used by both the government focal point and the donor convenor in a country.
<p>2-Predictability of donor partner financing Assistance will be provided in a manner that is accessible, timely, and predictable.</p>	Percent of SUN donor partners in a given SUN country that release funding according to agreed-upon schedules in annual or multi-year frameworks	75% of SUN donor partners in a given country that provide assistance for nutrition disburse the funds within the fiscal year for which it was scheduled	This relies on the self-reporting of donors and/or an assessment by the government focal point.
<p>3-Nutrition incorporated across sectors (multi-sectoral approach) Donor partners will incorporate nutrition considerations within their strategies for support of country development programs across many/most relevant sectors (e.g., Agriculture, Education, Health, Social Protection) in alignment with the national nutrition strategy in each SUN country.</p>	Proportion of SUN donor partners in a given country that incorporate nutrition considerations within their country development strategies in at least two sectors (e.g., Agriculture and Education)	75% of SUN donor partners in a given country have incorporated nutrition considerations within their strategies for support of country development in at least two sectors	It may be necessary to develop a similar type of assessment tool as for #2 to provide a rapid determination of successful "incorporation of nutrition considerations".
<p>4-Focus on results Development assistance resources will be provided in a way that ensures measureable results within a defined time frame (e.g., through linking with strong leadership, robust institutional arrangements, and sound program design, implementation and monitoring).</p>	Percent of SUN donor partners in a given country that incorporate a core set of indicators to assess and evaluate nutrition results	80% or more of SUN donor partners in a given country incorporate a core set of indicators for assessment and evaluation of nutrition results	Will there be a core set of indicators applied to all SUN countries? Or is the core set of indicators unique to each country context?

