SIDE MEETING OF THE SUN CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK (NEW YORK, USA - SEPTEMBER 25, 2013)
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SUN GLOBAL GATHERING

Meeting Notes and Actions

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Updates on SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) efforts** over the past few months was provided. A revamped web page will soon be available and a good resource for accessing information about the SUN CSN.

- A **global day of action for all SUN CSAs to raise awareness and advocate in a harmonised, strong united voice in June 2014 for the AU Summit**, one year on from the Nutrition for Growth summit, capitalising on World Cup as an opportunity for raising nutrition profile. A working group is being set up for the planning.

- **Contribution to a Campaign running up to Brazil 2016** for obtaining additional commitments, maintaining momentum and following-up on Nutrition for Growth. A working group is being set up for SUN CSN and SUN Civil Society Alliances’ (SUN CSAs) contribution to the process ensuring a connection to the post-2015 efforts.

- **Post-2015 – a key time for in-country advocacy efforts** towards agreement on goals and key messages to be brought to and carried by heads of state and high level leaders. Nutrition should be part of goals with integrated indicators throughout. A small group is being set up to develop with horizontal allies and partners key consensual messages to guide in country efforts and equip SUN CSAs with appropriately packaged information.

- **Key needs, initial avenues for types of support from SUN CSN to SUN CSAs to inform a capacity building strategy.**

- **SUN CSN needs to explore improved communications mechanisms.**

- Any interested in taking part in any of the small working groups above mentioned should contact Claire Blanchard, SUN CSN coordinator at sun.csnetwork@savethechildren.org.uk.
WELCOME

Jennifer Thompson (Concern Worldwide & SUN CSN Steering Group member) welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for not having been able to have as many people in the room as we would have wanted due to space restrictions.

UPDATES ON SUN CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK (SUN CSN) EFFORTS

The SUN Civil Society Network provided an overview of SUN CSN activities over the past few months:

- Communication tools in the process of being developed
- A few documents to present the network and start providing tools to support SUN CSN efforts (a Guidance Note on establishing a SUN Civil Society Alliance, a PowerPoint presentation of the network, a document presenting the network, a six-month activity plan) – soon to be available on a revamped web page of the SUN CSN
- A monthly update with a first edition released and circulated shortly before the SUN Global Gathering
- SUN Civil Society Alliances (SUN CSA) established in approximately 17 countries
- Active relationship and partnership building
- A governance structure
- A mapping exercise started to better understand what is happening on the ground and to identify key needs, gaps and assets to inform a capacity building strategy
- Positive relationship built with DFID and constructive discussions on SUN and the SUN CSN playing a role in tracking progress on Nutrition for Growth commitments
- Contribution to the SUN conflict of interest consultation process

Participants were asked to react and give their impressions of the efforts so far. The main feedback was the need to ensure access to all documentation and updates on the SUN Civil Society Network web page in French, English and Spanish.

PLANNING FOR AN ANNUAL GLOBAL DAY FOR SUN CSA VISIBILITY (UNGA, WHA, AU SUMMIT, …)

In Washington, we agreed as a network that an Annual Global Day of Action (GDA) would be a great opportunity to have raised visibility with harmonised message and impact. The discussions aimed to discuss when, in 2014, would be the best time to have such a GDA, what such a global day of action could look like, getting participants views on what they felt should be the objective of such a GDA.

A few opportunities were presented – AU Summit in January, World Health Assembly in May, UN general assembly, SUN global gathering, annual anniversary of the Nutrition for Growth.

Overall the participants agreed on a date for 2014 whilst raising the importance to ensure that all regions should be considered in this process and other opportunities should also be capitalised on.
OBJECTIVE:
- Awareness raising for both high level leaders and government officials and general public and communities
- Try and encourage more high burden countries, not yet part of SUN, to join the movement and get more high level leaders to commit
- Opportunity for advocacy at the meeting as well as on the margins on the event

DATE
- Trying to get a 5 minute spot during the January AU Summit
- For the AU Summit in June 2014, also one year on from the Nutrition for Growth Summit, and in the context of the International Year of Family Farming (larger scale efforts)

ACTION
+ Get a small working group together and develop a proposal for taking this forward, taking on board discussions and suggestions made:
  - an advocacy / position paper from the SUN CSN
  - engaging key players and lead group members such as the CEO of NEPAD / Dr Miyaki to help in advocacy during the actual event
  - all SUN CSAs to take part and arrange events on this occasion at the national level
  - linking to CAADP
  - a 5 minute documentary during the event, work with the SUN movement Secretariat to try and get a five minute spot with David Nabarro at the January AU summit
  - whilst at the same time remembering other opportunities to capitalise on such as the BRICS summit, the Brazilian World Cup, ASEAN
  - a good opportunity to highlight nutrition as a justice issue and reach out more to / get nutrition-sensitive groups and human rights and justice groups on board.
  - explore possibility of contributing to the development of a barometer for nutrition for African countries
  - be at the heart of the event with presidents and prime ministers attending picking up on the issue of nutrition up in addition to a side event.
+ All SUN CSN members interested in being part of this small working group should express their interest to Claire Blanchard, SUN CSN coordinator, sun.csnetwork@savethechildren.org.uk.

CAMPAIGN RUNNING UP TO BRAZIL 2016 – OBTAINING ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS, MAINTAINING MOMENTUM AND FOLLOWING-UP ON NUTRITION FOR GROWTH.

The aim of the discussion was to get a sense whether SUN CSAs felt Brazil World Cup 2014, Women’s World Cup 2015 on the road to Rio Olympics in 2016, with a major nutrition event planned, was an opportunity at national level as well as being a global opportunity.

Jennifer Riggs from the Thousand Day Partnership presented discussions so far based on papers circulated for the meeting.
These efforts were presented as an opportunity:
> To reach new funders for nutrition, increase resources and look for new commitments whilst reporting on progress and finding smarter ways for new partnerships
> To engage with Brazilian civil society groups (in collaboration with lusophone countries such as Mozambique)
> To engage celebrities for raising the nutrition profile
> To engage the public around key spotting moments – nutrition to excel in sport
> To hold leaders to account

Participants felt this process should be connected to the post-2015 process as it is essential to get nutrition in the next development goals to ensure that Rio actually has value. These efforts should be accompanied with a meeting in Africa and Asia to put the spotlight on Africa and Asia.

The SUN CSN is engaged in a nutrition advocacy group that will lead on this over the next three years. Having SUN CSA representatives engaged would be added value to this group.

To be effective, participants felt it would be important to develop a one page of key messages to all speak the same language, in close collaboration with the SUN Advocacy and Communications Team (SUNACT).

All SUN CSN members interested in being part of this small working group should express their interest to Claire Blanchard, SUN CSN coordinator, sun.csnetwork@savethechildren.org.uk.

POST-2015 – EFFORTS ACROSS THE NETWORK AND SUN CIVIL SOCIETY ALLIANCES.

Jennifer Thompson, Asma Lateef and Victoria Quinn from the SUN CSN Steering Group have started to do some thinking on how to best influence this process. Though so far nutrition is currently integrated as a goal, we are going into a period that is going to be complicated as we move the conversations to the country level and figure out how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fit into the development goals, the nutrition goal is endangered. We cannot be complacent.

There is also a broader concern that there will be no agreement at all so key messages that have to be brought to and carried by heads of state and high level leaders are that:

* we need to reach an agreement
* food security and nutrition should remain a separate goal, as well as,
* nutrition being integrated throughout the set of goals

SUN countries are well placed to advocate for this and SUN CSAs to advocate from inside and as a group could bring a very powerful voice within the broader debate.

Overall, participants agreed this was an important opportunity for all countries and that the SUN CSN and SUN CSAs had a role to play in the process. The lead group members could also be champions but main efforts have to come from the country level.

As a SUN CSN, we have the responsibility to step up, position ourselves and equip SUN CSAs with the right information for dialogue with governments and be unified on the ground. We
- have to package the issues appropriately
- have to agree on what type of indicators we should be advocating for and it is crucial we get this right
- need a consensus on what the message is, what we are saying in terms of the wording of the goal and what other indicators we should be advocating for to integrate nutrition in other targets
- provide example(s) on the ground.

There was also concern of sustainability beyond political cycles and for political leadership like that of president Kikwete in Tanzania.

As we move through this process it is important that, both at the global and national levels, we build horizontal alliances with other networks (e.g. human rights, climate justice, farmers organisations, right to food, breastfeeding groups) and ensure we are singing the same song sheet and that messages developed are in line with those of our allies.

We also need to figure out how to get political commitment from presidents at national level to be part of SUN CSAs’ advocacy strategies.

To do so, a small working group of the SUN CSN will start developing a one pager by end of October 2013 and design a strategy for moving forward

**All SUN CSN members interested in being part of this small working group should express their interest to Claire Blanchard, SUN CSN coordinator, sun.csnetwork@savethechildren.org.uk.**

**WHAT NATIONAL LEVEL SUPPORT CAN THE SUN CSN OFFER?**

**Needs identified so far as priorities for the SUN CSAs:**

- Sun CSA needs that may arise from responding to the 6 government needs identified and discussed during the SUN General Assembly
- Documentation of experiences
- Translation
- Specific ways to strengthen capacity for CSAs to contribute to ensuring efforts happen at the district level
- Training - blended learning strategy, online training, innovative (MHealth, other technologies)
  - Leadership training package
  - Advocacy training
  - Train the trainer
  - Twining exchange – Field exchange of experiences between various countries’ SUN CSAs
  - Distance training on how to elaborate strong programmes and accessing funding sources
  - Technical level training
- Budget analysis
- Policy Analysis
- Having as many sectors represented on SUN CSAs through SUN CSOs and types of organisations
- Communications capacity to better communicate internally and respond to the SUN movement at the global
- Strengthening CSAs – supporting technical offices and materials to better deliver
Facilitating and encouraging other alliances to work with SUN CSAs, like the Alliances against Hunger and Malnutrition, Alliances for food and agriculture- SUN CSN should help facilitate contact in a more systematic manner.

- Advocacy for more frequent data
- Resource mapping
- Stakeholder mapping

A concern about managing growing work load was raised.

Though a number of needs exist, the conversations focused on priority needs to inform the first stages of a SUN CSN capacity building strategy.

A point was made that we should all learn from the HIV/AIDS experience and specifically the global fund for HIV/AIDS.

SUN CSAs were very much encouraged to engage and involve academic institutions more systematically as these could be a great resource in country to strengthen CSA’s capacities.

The needs above mentioned as well as additional ones that may arise from the mapping exercise will be prioritised and used to inform the SUN CSN capacity building strategy. This strategy will take a phased approach with a minimal and realistic first phase given existing capacity and next phases to explore as partnerships strengthen and provide access to additional in-kind resources or financial opportunities.

**Types of support to be explored by the SUN CSN for the development of the SUN CSN capacity building strategy:**

- Existing technical support forums (en-net, ...)
- Specific tools and resources – guidance notes, existing resources, advocacy tool kit
- Training (proactive and capitalising on existing opportunities) – online, distance-based, physical
- Webinars (recorded & available offline) – agreed specific topics
- Translation
- Facilitate documentation of country experiences – academic support ?
- Specific ways to strengthen capacity for CSAs to contribute to ensuring efforts happen at the district level
- Others... - when assets are identified through partnership / new members *(leveraging TA in country offices, organising training, etc...)*

In addition to presented options of types of resources, the discussions highlighted the following or provided specifications about some of the above:

- Online exchange forum / support groups – raising issues, sharing experiences and CSAs or other volunteer experts assisting CSAs in potential issues raised
- Organisation of capacity building sessions at all levels (leadership, CSOs, community groups)

*Though this would be highly valuable it was raised that the SUN CSN may not have a direct role to play in all of the above described and may play more a role of providing access to existing resources and information.*
It was clear that the SUN CSN cannot solely rely on one or two people to lead on these efforts and information sharing and communication needs to be the responsibility of all members of the network, all CSAs.

If we are to scale up to near to universal coverage, we should also consider connecting with other training already going on and existing expertise in country and thus the SUN CSN could play more a “dating” / “matching” exercise.

Additional ideas to explore:

- It was also felt a mapping of existing materials both at the global level and in countries would be helpful.
- The idea of having a schedule of webinars for the coming year with key agreed upon discussion topics, with identified facilitators or trainers should also be explored.
- There used to be a working group in SUN on capacity building and it would be worth exploring.
- In countries, international and national NGOs working together to strengthen capacities in country.

ROAD AHEAD

Items that the SUN CSN has yet to cover and address more actively:

- Focus on country platforms and how different partners come together and how do we engage with the donor, UN and business networks
- Ensuring strong leadership is in place
- Development of a common results framework – how many countries have such a framework? Some already developed? If there are some already developed can share with other countries. We as a SUN CSN can play a role in trying to get UN network support in this process.

ACTION – SUN CSN should coordinate a network-wide electronic meeting to have more regular network-wide dialogue and conversations.

Action: SUN CSN coordinator to investigate options for such a meeting to happen.

CLOSING REMARKS

Brendan Cox, Chair of the network, thanked contributors:

- Concern Worldwide for hosting this meeting
- Claire Blanchard, SUN CSN coordinator, for her efforts over the past couple of months
- The Steering Group of the SUN CSN for their dedication to the SUN CSN in addition to their day job
- All for being present and for their efforts towards scaling up nutrition.
Participants

**SUN Civil Society Network Chair**
1. SUN Civil Society Network Chair: Brendan Cox (Save the Children, UK)

**SUN Civil Society Network Secretariat**
2. SUN Civil Society Network Coordinator: Claire Blanchard

**SUN Civil Society Alliances in SUN countries**
3. William Chilufya (Zambia) - CSO-SUN Zambia
4. Afsana Kaosar (Bangladesh) - BRAC
5. Deborah Niyeja (Tanzania) Country Program Officer Health - Aga Khan Foundation
6. Million Shibeshi (Ethiopia) Head of Nutrition, Save the Children
8. Melrose Veronica Tucker (Sierra Leone) Health and Nutrition manager FOUS 1000
9. Tisungeni Zimpita (Malawi) Program Manager, Concern Worldwide
10. Mr. Larry Umunna (Nigeria GAIN)
11. Mary Materu (Tanzania, COU SENUTH)

**Steering group Members**
12. Alangeh Che (Chairman of the non-state actors coordination team of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP))
13. Sultana Khanum (International Public Health Consultant, Bangladesh)
14. Asma Lateef (Bread for the World)
15. Carolyn MacDonald (WorldVision)
16. Victoria Quinn (Senior Vice President Programmes, Helen Keller International)
17. Elise Rodriguez (Action contre la Faim)
18. Milo Stanojevich (Peru) Director, CARE Peru
19. Jennifer Thompson (Concern Worldwide)
20. Francis Zotor President, African Nutrition Society

**Observers**
21. Marie-Pierre Allié (SUN Lead group member)
22. Tom Arnold (SUN Lead group member)
23. Irum Taqi (UNICEF)
24. Smita Baruah (Save the Children US)
25. Kolleen Bouchane (RESULTS / ACTION)
26. Banda Ndiaye (Micronutrient Initiative)
27. Jennifer Rigg (1000 days)
28. Oliva Lopez (US Department of State, Office of Global Food Security)
29. Bruno Rivalin (Global Health Advocates)
30. Jaykumar Menon (McGill University Institute of the Study of International Development)

**SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS)**
31. Stefano Digessa (SMS)

**Apologies**

**SUN Civil Society Alliances in SUN countries**
Aurélien Atidegla (Benin) President of PASCiB (Platform of Civil Society Actors in Benin)
Laminou Kolle (Niger) - President of BEFEN NGO (Bien Etre de la Femme et de l’Enfant au Niger)

**Observers**
Molly Kinder (ONE)
Dan Coppard (Development Initiatives)