

Terms of reference: SUN Donor convenor and supporter

Donor Convenor

Selection

The donor convenor should be agreed among the donors and the relevant government authorities. Candidate donors are those actively engaged in the country, with a country presence and involved in financially supporting nutrition specific and/or nutrition sensitive programmes. In some instances donors may choose to involve a UN agency or other technical partner to co-convene the donor group.

Tasks

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.

The donor lead 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 (annex 1)
2. To support the government's focal point role as convenor of the SUN 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. To act as an enabler and catalyst for other donors by feeding in their views to the multi-stakeholder platform, and communicating progress back to the donors in a timely manner.
4. To be an active member of the platform and help the government to complete the following, if they do not yet exist:
 - Broadening the membership and participation in the 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. To 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. To feed back country perspectives to the global SUN Donor Network and link where relevant with other SUN country donor groups to share lessons

The donor convenor is not expected to be the primary interlocutor between national actors and the SUN Secretariat – consistent with the principles of Paris-Accra, this would be carried out by the appropriate country authority (usually the SUN Focal Point).

Donor support

Selection

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

Tasks

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 outcomes in multiple sectors;
6. Commit to fully support the donor convenor in delivery of the tasks above.

Annex 1:

Good Nutrition Partnership Principles

Derived from the Senior Officials meeting on nutrition held in Ottawa November 30 and December 1, 2010 between donors and development partners, these principles highlight what is needed to emulate the hallmarks of effective partnerships to ensure successful roll-out of the SUN and the achievement of results.

- 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 country-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.