



2019 SUN Movement Joint-Assessment

Celebrating progress and setting priorities!

GLOSSARY: USEFUL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS



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Advocacy for nutrition: Advocacy is an activity by an individual or group that aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions. Advocacy for increased resources, improved policies and better accountability in nutrition is vital to create the change that is needed. By collectively telling the stories of people affected by malnutrition and calling for enhanced political will, advocates are building a movement to end hunger and malnutrition once and for all.

Breast-milk substitutes: Any food marketed or otherwise represented as a partial or total replacement for breast milk, whether suitable for that purpose, or not.

Budget analysis for nutrition: A review of how much money is allocated to nutrition in a given country, through the various sectors contributing to the National Nutrition Plan (or equivalent). Budget analysis is an instrument for financial tracking of nutrition investments. It is a way of seeing whether resources that have been *pledged* (see the definition below) are actually *disbursed*. The budget analysis can cover resources that are part of the official national budget (“on-budget”) – which can include both government and donor funding – and “off-budget” resources, though these are harder to track.

Common Results Framework (CRF): Describes a set of expected results agreed upon across different sectors of government and among key stakeholders, through a negotiated process. The existence of agreed common results would enable stakeholders to make their actions more nutrition driven through increased coordination or integration. In practice, a CRF may result in a set of documents that are recognised as a reference point for all sectors and stakeholders that work together for scaling up nutrition. Elements of a CRF include: the title of the CRF; implementation plans with defined roles of stakeholders in key sectors (e.g. health, agriculture, social protection, education, WASH, gender), specific targets and indicators, defined capacity strengthening needs and priorities, cost estimates of included interventions and cost estimates for advocacy, coordination, capacity strengthening, M&E and operational research.

Crisis: Countries and areas in conflict or post-conflict and those at particularly high risk of natural disasters.

Disbursement: The payment of money that have been pledged (promised) towards a given cause.

Double or multiple burdens: Term applied to countries or groups of people to describe the situation of facing more than one serious nutritional problem at once. They are also described as overlapping and coexisting burdens of the different forms of malnutrition, and include, for example, anaemia and overweight.

Food insecurity: When people do not have secure access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development. Food insecurity may be at the level of the household or across a geographical area.

Food security: When people have secure access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and to lead an active and healthy life.

Gender equality: Unlike sex, gender is socially constructed, can vary from society to society, from time to time, and is based on socially acceptable norms and behaviours. Addressing gender in nutrition is critical: addressing gender inequalities can result in larger improvements in malnutrition than if gender inequalities are not tackled. Without addressing the core issue of gender (e.g. decision-making, access to resources, power), we may not make as much progress as is needed to improve nutrition. Addressing gender can also help put an end to intergenerational malnutrition.

Legal frameworks: A system of legal documents (constitution, laws, regulations) that describes the rules, rights and obligations of governments, companies and citizens on a given topic (in the case of the JAA, on nutrition and food security, but also maternity protection, breast-milk substitutes, etc.).

Malnutrition: Malnutrition means having too little or too much to eat. In more technical terms, it's a condition caused by having not enough, or having too many, macronutrients and micronutrients. Here we discuss types of malnutrition such as micronutrient malnutrition, child undernutrition and adult nutritional problems associated with excess eating. Malnutrition is universal: at least one in three people globally experience malnutrition in some form.

MEAL: Stands for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning.

- » *Monitoring* is the routine, ongoing collection and review of information on a programme's activities, outputs, and outcomes that provides programme managers and other stakeholders with indications of progress against programmes plans and towards objectives. This regular collection of information shows whether or not the programme is performing as expected, or if adjustments are necessary. Well planned, timely monitoring allows problems to be quickly identified and programme activities to be adapted in order to optimise their impact. Monitoring is more effective when it is a continuous process, included in the design of a programme and part of our day-to-day work.
- » *Evaluation* complements ongoing monitoring activities by providing more in-depth, objective assessments of a programme's design, implementation and results at particular points in time. Where monitoring shows general trends, evaluations generally help explain 'why' things are happening the way that they are. Programme evaluations may be undertaken at any point in the programme cycle where there is a need to learn more about how the programme is working, or to be accountable for the resources received.
- » *Accountability* is the process through which an organisation balances the needs of stakeholders in its decision-making and activities and delivers against this commitment. Accountability is based on four dimensions - transparency, feedback mechanisms, participation and learning and evaluation - that allow the organisation to give account to, take account of and be held to account by stakeholders.
- » *Learning* is part of the programme's roadmap to implementing MEAL-related activities as intended, in a timely and efficient fashion, and to ensure continuous learning throughout the programme cycle. Learning includes best practices and success stories, as well as lessons learned for future improvement.

Multi-stakeholder platform (MSP): In the context of SUN, the term multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) designates a coordination body which brings together different stakeholders working on nutrition (including government institutions, civil society organisations, United Nations agencies, the private sector and academia). These platforms should also be *multi-sectoral* and include representatives from the key sectors which can contribute to scaling up nutrition (e.g. health, agriculture, rural development, women's affairs, social protection, education, etc.). Platforms can vary in their structure and governance system according to the institutional situation in each country.

Nutrition-sensitive interventions: Nutrition-sensitive interventions are funded interventions into sectors other than nutrition that address the underlying causes of nutrition, thereby indirectly addressing nutrition. Sectors include agriculture, health, social protection, family planning and gender equality, early child development, education and water and sanitation. The causes they address include poverty, food insecurity, scarcity of access to adequate care resources, and health, water and sanitation services. (Source: Global Nutrition Report)

Nutrition-specific interventions: Nutrition-specific interventions are those which have a direct impact on the immediate causes of undernutrition (inadequate food intake, poor feeding practices and high burden of disease) such as breastfeeding, complimentary feeding, micronutrient supplementation and home fortification, disease management, treatment of acute malnutrition and nutrition in emergencies.

Policy: A policy is a deliberate system of principles to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes. A policy is a statement of intent, and is implemented through a strategy, procedure or protocol. Policies can be adopted by different organisations, but in the context of the JAA, the focus is on government policies related to the field of nutrition and food security.

Programme: A programme refers to a set of projects managed in a coordinated manner to implement policies.

Pledge: A formal promise. In the context of the Joint-Assessment, financial pledges refer to the resources which the government or donors have promised to dedicate to implement the National Nutrition Plan.

SUN networks or platforms: Stakeholder networks or platforms bring together one type of stakeholder working on nutrition. For example: UN Networks, Civil Society Alliances, SUN Business Networks, SUN Donor Networks, parliamentary networks, or academic networks. These platforms provide these stakeholders with the opportunity to align their contributions to the MSP, thereby enhancing their effectiveness.