

SOUTH SUDAN SCALING UP NUTRITION (SUN) STAKEHOLDERS ADVOCACY AND ORIENTATION WORKSHOP REPORT



SOUTH SUDAN JUBA GRAND HOTEL

22ND OF FEBRUARY 2019

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary.....	2
2. Background.....	5
3. Workshop Objectives	6
4. Workshop Deliverables	6
6. Lessons Learned	12
7. Annex.....	12
7.1 Republic of South Sudan Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Advocacy and Orientation workshop with Members of Parliament 22nd February 2019.....	12
7.2 Signed attendance list.....	13
7.3 Members of Taskforce Responsible to develop concept note and RoadMap for Nutrition Policy and SUN Movement Republic of South Sudan	14
7.4 Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Parliamentarian Meeting Concept Note and invitation letter	14

Thankful to Dr. Samson Paul Baba Acting, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health and Country SUN Focal point for his leadership in making this workshop.

Special appreciation to SUN Steering Committee especially Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, University Juba, UN Network members including UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and FAO, Civil Society Alliance (CSA) leads CARE and SCI for commitment, dedication and exhaustive technical inputs in availing time facilitating this workshop.

Sincere gratitude extends to WFP and Save the Children International (SCI) with support from UNOPS for their financial and technical support without which this workshop not have been possible.

We firmly believe that, together we will be able to End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable development

The Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with United Nations world Food Program (WFP) and Save the Children (SCI) on behalf of the South Sudan UN and Civil Society Organizations Alliance (CSA) Organized a half day Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement advocacy workshop targeting parliamentarians under the auspices of the [Scaling Up Nutrition Movement](#) which sought to orient parliamentarians and various stakeholders on the status of the SUN movement in South Sudan and agree on priority issues as well as enlist their support going forward.

The Meeting was chaired by Acting SUN Focal Point and Under Secretary of the MOH Dr. Samson Paul Baba. During the Opening speech “Nutrition is a multi-sectoral issue,” said Dr. Samson Paul Baba “Only by working together can we achieve our progress and end malnutrition in this country.” Moreover, he stressed this is a timely action we must move away from just membership and let the movement bring tangible results. South Sudan features well in images of children who are malnourished, and we need to change this narrative. He made commitments of including a nutrition assistant in the Boma Health Initiative strategy. There is also a need to find out what are the staple foods in the country, look at the 64 different tribes, understand their culture, food and what they cultivate. This will address the root causes of malnutrition.

“Good nutrition fuels entire nations. Nutrition is a marker and maker of development and it reduces poverty and inequality” said Simon Cammelbeeck, WFP Acting Country Director in South Sudan speaking on behalf of the UN SUN Network. “As children grow strong, so do communities and countries, helping end the cycle of poverty. Well-nourished adults tend to be more productive than those who are malnourished. Malnutrition is a huge drain on our economies and our combined efforts can help end malnutrition in its various forms.” Malnutrition will represent an often-invisible impediment to the successful achievement of the SDGs. It results not just from a lack of enough and adequately nutritious and safe food, but from a host of intertwined factors linking health, care, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, access to food and resources, women’s empowerment and more”. said Simon Cammelbeeck. “At this junction the members of the parliament can work together with the

line ministries and stakeholders to incorporate policies, prioritize nutrition relevant interventions and to translate to actions” The SUN UN networks would like to confirm our commitments to support to galvanise the SUN Movement in line with the government policies and strategies” Jointly Mentioned Dina ABURMISHAN Head of Nutrition, WFP and Dr. Biram Ndiaye – Chief of Nutrition – UNICEF

CARE Assistant Country Director Mercy Laker, speaking as chair of the SUN Civil Society Alliance, “Today is huge milestone for us, started in 2016 with the civil societies organizations, they set out a strategy to aim at a country free of hunger, and committed to rallying support bringing on board 39 Civil Society Organizations, Academia, Round Table dialogues.” She indicated that an article was published highlighting growth of the CSA. “The times is now with peace to diversify our efforts to bring nutrition-sensitive approaches, as the work goes beyond treating malnutrition and talk to people who don’t understand malnutrition.”

A total of 49 Participants attend the workshop which were drawn from various arms of the government including, the ministries of health, education and general instruction, gender and child social welfare, agriculture, water and irrigation, universities and UN agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations.

In summary the below are the key achievements of the workshops:

1. Participants were oriented on what is good nutrition and its importance to individual life, community and the bigger development agenda of the country
2. The mission, vision of the SUN movement is linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) especially SDG2 eradication of poverty and all forms of malnutrition.
3. There opportunity to discuss on the overall status of the SUN movement in South Sudan since 2013 the Republic of the South Sudan committed to joining the movement, progress, gaps and way forward as well the expected responsibilities of Stakeholders.

4. Brief panel discussion on the importance of multisectoral platforms, integrated action against malnutrition, the importance leadership and commitment and prioritization of nutrition at all level including the lawmakers to the community
5. The workshop participants agreed on the eight key strategic priorities 2019-2021, a task force was established tasked to develop a concept note and roadmap towards development of a Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan for South Sudan led by the government.

2. Background

Malnutrition has been and remain a persistent public health and socio-economic concern in South Sudan affecting the community mainly children pregnant and lactating mothers and Elders. Levels of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in children under five years of age surpassed the World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of a 15 percent across the Country. Malnutrition in South Sudan is caused by multifactor that change seasonally for different population groups, often triggered by sub-optimal infant and young child feeding practices (IYCF), chronic food insecurity, repeated illnesses, increased seasonal incidences of diseases like malaria and diarrhea, access constraints to health and nutrition services, and poor water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) and other social services.

SUN is a unique Movement founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. It unites people from governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and researchers in a collective effort to improve nutrition. Within the SUN Movement, national leaders are prioritizing efforts, take the Leadership, mobilize local resources to address malnutrition. Since then, efforts to scale up nutrition have evolved into a global movement, and over 60 countries that signed up and joined the movement. In line with the global initiative, the Republic of South Sudan officially joined the global SUN Movement in 2013 with political commitment from the government of the Republic of South Sudan towards scaling up of nutrition within the country.

3. Workshop Objectives

- 3.1 To provide orientation and update on the status of the SUN Movement in South Sudan
- 3.2 Discuss the progress, challenges and way forward
- 3.3 Identify key priority issues regarding nutrition and responsibilities stakeholders

4. Workshop Deliverables

- 4.1 **Presentation** – A brief Power Point presentation was done facilitated by SUN Facilitator focusing on
 - What is good Nutrition?
 - Why invest in Nutrition?
 - Concept of SUN Movement
 - SUN Movement in South Sudan
 - Challenges hindering the SUN Movement
 - Key Messages to the participants

The Presentation is attached below for your reference



SUN Briefing -
2018_Final Version 2

Following the presentation feedback, questions and discussion were made. In summary

- ✓ Malnutrition is perceived to be managed by treatment and food but now it's understood that it must go beyond health as the problem is complex and needs multi-sectoral approach.
- ✓ Yes, ministry of health has responsibility to address with the malnutrition, however the problem is complex, and it needs engaging other sectors
- ✓ The multi-sectoral interventions need to be started during the planning and continued through to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

- ✓ Malnutrition has an inter-generational impact and our intervention modalities have to consider how to break the vicious cycle of malnutrition.
- ✓ The Nutrition Policy was supposed to be developed immediately during the Independence of South Sudan from the Sudan which was a missed opportunity, but still let us act.
- ✓ Since the establishment of the SUN Movement we have been focusing more on membership, there is need to see tangible changes and implementation at the ground
- ✓ National initiatives like the Boma Health Initiative can be use as entry point on community nutrition, MOH will make sure the direction for integration
- ✓ South Sudan is member of the CADAP, let us apply the commitment $\geq 10\%$ domestic budget allocation for nutrition
- ✓ Let the movement understand the gap, appreciate the positive changes and build up on what is good, monitoring is to be critically taken

4.2 Panel discussion (question and answer)-

A Panel was set up of the following key actors comprising of

1. Hon. Catherine Peter Lual – Parliamentarian TGONU – Head of Health Committee
2. Dr. Biram Ndiaye – Chief of Nutrition – UNICEF
3. Mercy Laker – Assistant Country Director – CARE
4. Michael Roberto Legge – Consultant - FAO

The panel discussion was planned purpose to have further discussions and enrich the understanding the movement, how to internalize the role of stakeholders and lastly what could be done differently in the context of South Sudan

- ✓ the importance of revitalizing the food and nutrition security counsel
- ✓ the importance and how to make nutrition as one of the national priority agendas
- ✓ Financing for Nutrition/resources allocation and include within national strategic plan
- ✓ Nutrition response regulatory mechanisms and progress trucking system

The key discussion points were summarized in the table below

#	Topic of Discussion	Key Points from Panelists
1	<p>Most of the time nutrition/ malnutrition is considered as a health issue and to be dealt with in the health sector, however recently it is understood as multi-sectoral agenda. How can this be explained? How can others buy this agenda?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MOH can be key player take the leadership, bringing others together through development of a common framework. ➤ Let MOH take action to make nutrition more prominent and be exemplary to other sectors ➤ Other stakeholders should start understanding what roles can be taken, make sure nutrition relevant activities, engage the platform ➤ Advocacy and capacity building are the key critical aspects where other sectors can buy it ➤ There is a need to develop case scenario to engage the high-level decision makers, how their sectors can be benefited affected ➤ From this workshop we understood Nutrition has trans-discipline nature and there is need to bring other actors on board ➤ there is need one costed plan, on coordination mechanism and one monitoring and evaluation mechanism,

2	<p>The country is on transition of peace deal and it has many priorities, do you think dealing with nutrition is urgent and feasible currently?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Different Studies have shown that conflict, poverty and malnutrition are correlated ➤ From the Sustainable development Goal (SDG) achieving peace (SGD16) supports nutrition ➤ Nutrition is a timely question in South Sudan equally with peace, there is no time to wait, ➤ Let work for enabling environment to move people freely, promote productivity, ➤ During the transitional government Food/Nutrition security was indicated as the fifth priority, now we have opportunity to align with the peace deal, ➤ In the national development plan food and nutrition security are among the top, but we have to make sure it is translated to action, financed, monitored ➤ However, we need to continue the advocacy at all level, let us champion make sure
3	<p>What are the key commitments</p> <p>a. Each sector can make today to support the SUN agenda in South Sudan?</p> <p>b. The Members of Parliament can make today to Support the SUN agenda South Sudan?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the first assignment to ask ourselves what has been done, lessons learned, what were our weaknesses ➤ Let the MOH take the leadership of remobilizing the partners/stakeholders, support the SUN steering committee, Secretariat established ➤ Let all partners align with the call of the MOH, be part of the SUN partnership ➤ While scaling up the nutrition let us, decentralize decisions, let us engage all from top to bottom, allocate resources to the grassroot level ➤ At the parliament to monitor all sectors integrate nutrition, support mechanism of financing and monitoring the accountability ➤ There is strong responsibility of the academia to come out with evidence use for advocacy, ➤ Strong policy, standards and legislation has to be developed by the parliament to speed up the passing the important working documents ➤ Let all stakeholders bear to their mandate how to support the movement ➤ Resource mobilization is key role for all of us to act on

4.3 Priority Setting Planning –

After the presentation and panel discussion, participants had the opportunity to come up with the way forward and strategic priority actions for coming 2-3 years. Accordingly, the following points were recommended to be considered as priority

1. Sustained campaign for improving access and consumption of quality diet through food fortification, diversification and micronutrient supplementation targeting identified vulnerable groups.
2. Expanded social protection and safety nets targeting households with pregnant women and lactating mothers
 - a) Training initiatives in household dietary diversification
 - b) Community or home vegetable and fruit gardens
3. Expanded nutrition-sensitive Home-Grown School Feeding Programme targeting reproductive age women smallholders
 - a) Development School nutrition curriculum and Strategy
 - b) Implementation and Expansion of school deworming program
 - c) Expansion of school meals programmes to cover all children in hunger spots by using locally produced foods
 - d) Implementation of school-based gardening programmed
4. Targeted food supplementation programme for children in the first 1000 days “Window of Opportunity”.
5. Promotion of investment in dairy products, meat value chains and nutrient dense fruits and vegetables to market levels
6. Strengthen country wide surveys and assessments, Nutrition Information and nutrition monitoring mechanism
7. Nomination of Champion(s) and prioritization of Advocacy areas
8. Development of policy and nutrition related regulatory mechanisms:
 - Maternity leave
 - Regulation of importing food products,

- food safety and quality standards,
- Code on Breast Milk Substitutes
- Baby Friendly Hospital Initiatives

5. Conclusion and action points

- 5.1 **Reactivate the SUN Steering committee** with TOR, and deliverables, memberships to be revised and one or two staff assigned from each network – The SUN focal point to have follow up consultative meeting with the Steering committee.
- 5.2 **Establishment of Taskforce-** This task force will be responsible to develop a concept note and roadmap for the national multi-sectoral nutrition policy, and the 8 identified priorities. The tasks force is expected to finish the assignments by 28th of March 2019 with participation of all ministries and other stakeholders. The taskforce is composed of UN, Line ministries, NGOs (Attached) and Academia Chaired by Dr. Samson Baba, Advisor to Special Programs in the MOH
- 5.3 **Staffing and Office Space** – The SUN focal point to advice on the office space and staffing of the SUN movement with clear roles and responsibilities. this can be discussed with the Stakeholders
- 5.4 **Nutrition Priorities-** The Identified priorities to be refined, make sure at least to have costed operational national nutrition plan shared among stakeholders, can be used for advocacy and resource mobilization mechanism

6. Lesson Learned

- This type of workshop created special opportunity to reach people who can influence decisions at different levels, in addition it will be window opportunity to look for champions. Hence regardless of the number of participants we must continue advocating and orienting
- The participants engagement and interaction during the workshop gives a clue that there are institutions, scholars, and individuals with diversified knowledge, skill who can contribute to galvanize the SUN Movement, however there is need to understand how to mobilize and motivate this potential

7. Annex

7.1 Republic of South Sudan Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Advocacy and Orientation workshop with Members of Parliament 22nd February 2019

TIME	ACTIVITY	Moderator	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
8:00-8:30 am	Arrival and Registration	Flora /Josephine (MOH)	Participants
8:30-9:00 am	Self-Introductions	MOH Acting Director for Nutrition	All participants
9:00-9:20 am	Objectives of the meeting	MOH Acting Director for Nutrition	DG Primary Health Care
9:20 - 9:50 am	Opening Speech		MOH, SUN Focal Point



	Opening Remarks	Dr. Baba (Advisor on community health and Special Programmes)	Donor/WFP /WHO Representatives (5 Min Each)
9:50 - 10:20 am	SUN Movement Overview Presentation	Dr. Baba	Shishay
10:20 -10:30 am	Malnutrition Case Show	MOH Acting Director for Nutrition	All
10:30-10:50 am	TEA BREAK	Hotel	
11:50 – 12:30 pm	Panel Discussion	Sandra Balet Lecturer, University of Juba	Panelists (Juba University/Parliamentarian/ UNICEF/CARE/Donor
12:30 - 12:40 pm	SUN Movement Priority Setting	Dr. Baba	All participants
12:40 - 1:10 pm	Commitments and action points	Dr. Baba	Parliamentarian, Ministry, Civil society, UN, Donor
1:10 - 1: 20 pm	Closing Remarks	Dr. Baba	MOH
1:20 – 2:00 pm	LUNCH BREAK and END OF MEETING		

7.2 Signed attendance list



SUN
Attendance.pdf



7.3 Members of Taskforce Responsible to develop concept note and RoadMap for Nutrition Policy and SUN Movement Republic of South Sudan

S/No	Name	Agency	Responsibility
1	Dr. Samson Paul Baba	MOH	Chair
2	Rita Juan Demetry	MOH	Member
3	Khamisa Ayoub	MOH	Member
4	Biram Ndiaye	UNICEF	Co-Chair
5	Ismail Kassim	UNICEF	Member
6	Priscilla Bayo	UNICEF	Member
7	Dina ABURMISHAN	WFP	Member
8	Shishay Tsadik	WFP	Member
9	Emanuel Soma	CARE	Secretary
10	Emmanuel Ojwang	CARE	Member
11	Rejoice Daria	SCI	Member
12	Michael Roert	FAO	Member
13	Adede Rose	FAO	Member
14	Sandra Balet	Juba University	Member
15	Ishraka Khamis	Upper Nile University	Member
16	Margaret Nyayion	Nile Hope	Member
17	Mary Benjamin	MOA	Member
18	Lucy Michael	MOA	Member
19	Albert Eluzm Moni	MWR	Member

7.4 Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Parliamentarian Meeting Concept Note and invitation letter



SUN Movement
Parliamentarian Meet



SUN Movement
Parliamentarian Meet