



Terms of Reference for the global SUN Donor Network

Introduction

These Terms of Reference (ToR) describe the purpose, structures, activities and ways of working of the global SUN Donor Network (SDN). They do not provide a ToR for national donor networks for nutrition. The global SDN provides guidance for developing / strengthening ToRs of national networks and national donor convenors on the [SDN Knowledge Platform](#). The global SUN Donor Network is part of the [Scaling Up Nutrition \(SUN\) Movement](#).

Purpose

The SDN provides a space where donors at global and country levels can work together and in collaboration with other SUN Movement stakeholders, to help improve nutrition for all, by promoting high-level political commitment for nutrition, evidence based policies and actions, more and better financing, aligned implementation, monitoring of progress and impact and the sharing of lessons learnt.

Objectives and activities

SDN members work together to:

- ✓ Support national donor networks in SUN countries to enhance donor coordination, alignment and effectiveness of policy implementation and programme delivery, in support of national, multi-sectoral nutrition policies and actions
 - e.g. through sharing of guidance and advice, facilitating learning exchanges between national donor networks, encouraging high-level donor engagement on nutrition at country level etc.

- ✓ Help strengthen the functioning and effectiveness of the SUN Movement
 - e.g. through financial support to global support structures, including to the Pooled Fund, processes and events, feeding into strategic planning and reviews, sharing of good practices and lessons learnt etc.

- ✓ Help ensure that lessons from the SUN Movement inform and strengthen wider global and regional processes for nutrition and sustainable development and nutrition resource-tracking.
 - e.g. Nutrition for Growth, Decade of Action, Global Nutrition Report, Committee on World Food Security policy guidance, SDGs, R4D etc.

Guiding principles

Members of the SDN are encouraged to emulate the hallmarks of effective partnerships as described in the [Good Nutrition Donor Partnership Principles](#) agreed by global SDN members in Ottawa in 2010 as well as the [SUN Movement Principles of Engagement](#).

Membership

The Network is open to any of the following types of donor organization providing nutrition related funding in SUN countries:

- ✓ bilateral donor
- ✓ multilateral government donors
- ✓ development bank
- ✓ private foundation

Other types of organization that are both recipients and providers of nutrition related funding in SUN countries, e.g. UN agencies, are not eligible to be members of the global SDN but may be invited to participate in SDN events and processes on an ad-hoc basis.

National donor networks for nutrition are also invited to be SDN members, represented by a convener or other network member from one of the above types of organization. Where the conveners of national donor networks are staff of UN agencies, they may be invited to participate in SDN events and processes on an ad-hoc basis.

Donor agencies and national donor networks that are interested in becoming SDN members should send an expression of interest to the SDN Facilitator.

The SDN is comprised of a technical level network and a senior level network:

- ✓ Technical level members have direct responsibilities for overseeing and supporting nutrition related donor investments within their agency
- ✓ Senior Officials ideally have a broader remit within the donor agency

Responsibilities of SDN members

By joining the SDN, member organisations commit to

- ✓ emulate the Good Nutrition Donor Partnership Principles and the SUN Movement Principles of Engagement

- ✓ engage proactively and regularly to support the SDN activities
- ✓ contribute towards achieving the SDN strategic objectives
- ✓ ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are at the core of all nutrition policies and activities

Senior Officials

The roles of Senior Officials from SDN member organisations are to:

- ✓ review progress against and guide the implementation of the SDN work plan
- ✓ ensure the active engagement of their organisation in the SDN
- ✓ as appropriate, explore opportunities for enhancing agency commitments and contributions to nutrition
- ✓ as appropriate, explore opportunities to reinforce the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in nutrition interventions, and incorporate these values in SDN work plan
- ✓ where relevant, encourage senior officials at country level, within their own agencies, to elevate and maintain nutrition as a priority in country strategies
- ✓ where relevant, encourage governments of SUN countries and other stakeholders to do likewise within their national sustainable development strategies and plans.

The SDN develops a Senior Officials work plan, aligned with the overall SDN work plan, as required.

Facilitators and strategic leads

The work of the SDN is facilitated by a Lead Facilitator supported by one or more co-facilitators. The Lead Facilitator is funded and contracted by a member of the SDN as agreed amongst the membership. The role and ways of working of the Lead Facilitator are described in a separate ToR approved by SDN members.

Ways of working

The global SDN develops an annual or biennial *work plan* describing how the SDN will work towards the purpose and objectives outlined in this Terms of Reference.

Strategic Objective Leads facilitate the activities under each Strategic Objective in the work plan.

Working groups may be established by *Strategic Objective Leads* to enable the participation of SDN members

At technical level the SDN holds monthly virtual *meetings* and at least one face-to-face meeting per year to review progress against and revise work plans. Other calls or meetings may be held on an ad hoc basis.

The SDN aims to hold at least two *Senior Officials meetings* per year, one being a face-to-face meeting.

Decisions are taken by consensus. Silence through participating or absent members will be taken as approval.

The primary means of *sharing information* amongst SDN members is the [SDN Knowledge Platform](#).

Engagement with other parts of the SUN Movement at global level

SUN Movement Executive Committee

The global SDN selects three donor members of the [SUN Executive Committee](#) from within its membership. Whilst members of the Executive Committee participate as individuals, rather than representing their own organisation or network, it is expected that they share information and consult with members of the networks with which they are associated.

SUN Movement Global Support System (GSS)

The SUN GSS consists of the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS) and the global SUN Movement Networks (the SUN Donor Network, UN Network for SUN, SUN Civil Society Network, and the SUN Business Network). All components of the SUN GSS, including the SDN, align their activities with the SUN Movement Strategy, Roadmap and GSS Collaboration Framework. The SDN coordinates with other parts of the GSS through regular virtual and face-to-face meetings.

Safeguarding

SUN Donor Network members are all staff of development partners, including bilateral donors, foundations, and development banks, all of which have their own policies and/or code of conduct. Each SDN member is required to act with the highest integrity with regards to their employee policies and/or code of conduct, and the SDN expects members to demonstrate this integrity throughout their work of the SDN.

Accountability

Progress in the implementation of the work plan is reviewed during [SDN monthly calls](#), e.g. one strategic objective each month. Updates on implementation, achievements and constraints are provided to Senior Officials. Progress is also reviewed during SDN face-to-face meetings during the SUN Global Gathering and the annual [SDN Retreat](#). The work plan is shared with others in the SUN Movement Global Support System and progress reported to the SUN Executive Committee in the context of the GSS Collaboration Framework.