



SUN Donor Network Senior Officials meeting Geneva, 30th January 2019

Outcome Document

Introduction

Senior Officials from member organisations of the SUN Donor Network (SDN) met in Geneva on 30th January 2019. The meeting took place following the publication of the final report of the independent Mid Term Review (MTR) of the SUN Movement at the beginning of January 2019 and immediately followed the SUN Executive Committee meeting held on 28th/29th January where responses to the MTR were discussed. The outcomes of the Senior Officials meeting informed the 2019/20 work plan of the SUN Donor Network which was discussed and agreed during the SDN Retreat also held in Geneva from the afternoon of 30th January 1st February. Gerda Verburg, the SUN Movement Coordinator, and Brenda Killen, SUN Movement Secretariat Coordinator, participated as a resource persons to inform the discussions.

This document serves to guide the way forward for Senior Officials and the wider SDN in relation to SUN Movement objectives. It does not necessarily reflect positions of the governments and/or agencies of the participants. The document will not be made publically available but will be shared internally within the SUN Movement with the Executive Committee, Secretariat and Networks. The list of participants is attached as an Annex.

Meeting Objectives

The objectives of the Senior Officials meeting were to develop common positions on:

- The added value and future relevance of the SUN Movement
- Ways of securing strong policy and financial commitments & partnerships from SUN countries and supporters in the build up to the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Japan in 2020
- Ways in which Senior Officials can promote high level donor engagement and political leadership for a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition at country level
- Strategic priorities for the SUN Global Support System and the SDN up to 2020

Outcomes

Added value of the SUN Movement to date

Consistent with the findings of the SUN Mid Term Review, we recognise the SUN Movement has added most value to date in helping to:

- Increase awareness of the contributions that multi-sectoral investments in nutrition can make to economic growth and sustainable development;
- Promote high level political commitment, leadership, ownership and accountability on nutrition at country level;
- Bring a wide range of stakeholders together at national and increasingly at sub-national levels to develop, resource, implement and learn from multi-sectoral policies and actions;
- Improve the quality and coherence of policies and plans informed by evidence and learning.

We consider the nature of SUN as a Movement, bringing together a wide range of actors in support of country led plans, is very appropriate in the SDG era. However, progress is highly variable between countries and at risk from waning political leadership. There is an urgent need for revitalisation and improved ways of working. There is a need to resurrect and communicate the original guiding principles of the SUN Movement to ensure that national governments are truly in the lead, external stakeholders are aligning their actions with national priorities and commitments are turned into scaled up actions and improved nutrition. The Movement also still needs to fulfil its potential in promoting equity, equality and non-discrimination for all, with women and girls at the centre of nutrition actions.

Relevance of the SUN Movement post 2020

We believe that the SUN Movement will continue to be relevant in the future as nutrition is an enabler for most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We discussed the importance of the SUN Movement being able to articulate and demonstrate its added value and examples of impact. It is important that the Movement and its support structure evolve to meet the shifting needs and priorities of SUN governments and this must be interrogated closely through the Strategic Review including the fit with existing structures and initiatives.

Recognizing that: all countries experience malnutrition in at least one of its forms; there is a need for a multi-sectoral approach across government to tackle all forms of malnutrition; the universality of the SDGs prompts explicit consideration of policy coherence issues; there is a need for cooperation between countries as promoted through the SUN Movement; we welcome an inclusive process led by the SUN Executive Committee to assess the option of progressively opening up membership to all countries, including donor countries.

Policy, financial and technical commitments at Nutrition for Growth 2020

We believe that increased commitments, action and broad SDG results realisation should be on going in the context of the Decade of Action on Nutrition. At the same time, we also recognise the value of high-level political events, such as the Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G) in Japan in 2020, as valuable moments to mobilise stakeholders, review progress and generate new momentum and policy, technical and financial commitments in order to achieve World Health Assembly global targets by 2025, SDGs and other international goals related to nutrition.

We sincerely appreciate the commitment of the Government of Japan to host the Summit and to involve members of the international community in the preparation process. We stand ready to provide all possible support, recognising the success of the event requires a collective effort. We support the five thematic issues identified for the sharing and development of good policies and practices (nutrition within Universal Health Coverage; food systems for healthy diets; fragile and conflict affected states; data driven accountability; and new and innovative financing). We pledge to explore opportunities for making substantial commitments at N4G 2020 and to encourage others, including SUN country governments, to do likewise.

N4G 2020 is critical moment for enhancing commitments on nutrition. However, there are other nutrition specific and wider development opportunities during the next two years to make the case for investment in nutrition, such as the replenishment of The Global Fund; the Financing for Development Forum; the High Level Political Forum on the SDGs; the UN General Assembly; the Universal Health Care Forum. The SUN GSS is encouraged to map such global and regional events and provide policy messages and examples of success to guide joint efforts.

We welcome the plan of the SUN Movement Coordinator to visit the capitals of donor countries during 2019 to meet with high level politicians to raise awareness and will provide all support possible to facilitate successful outcomes.

Promoting high level donor engagement at country level

There is a need to ensure that attention to nutrition as a major development and humanitarian issue is sustained as much as possible within our own agencies at national and global levels and that we are contributing directly or indirectly to high level political leadership on nutrition in Lower and Middle Income Countries, including SUN countries and creating financial incentives.

Where relevant, we will encourage senior officials at country level, within our own agencies, to elevate and maintain nutrition as a priority in country strategies and to encourage governments of SUN countries and other stakeholders to do likewise within their national sustainable development strategies and plans.

Strategic priorities for the SUN Movement Global Support System

We welcome efforts to strengthen the collaboration between different elements of the SUN Global Support System (GSS) through the development of the Collaboration Framework 2019/20, with its focus on

- Promoting sustained high-level political leadership & commitments (policy, financial, technical) in the build up to N4G 2020;
- Increasing capabilities to scale up nutrition actions and outcomes at national and sub-national levels through the sharing of evidence and learning and improved quality and coordination of technical assistance;
- Establishing shared priorities and actions, and building cooperation between SUN countries.

To be successful we believe it is essential to better harness the resources and capacities that already exist within members of stakeholder networks at national and global levels, including within donor agencies, the UN, businesses and civil society organisations. We agree with the conclusion of the Mid Term Review that all stakeholders need to scale up their contribution to SDG related nutrition targets and better align their actions with national priorities and plans.

Given limited resources it is necessary to find an appropriate focus and balance between provision of support to all SUN countries and the concentration of support capacities so as to achieve and demonstrate significant impact.

We welcome efforts to scale up and improve coordination to strengthen Multi-Stakeholder Platforms for nutrition. In particular, we encourage continued discussion on how best to use the SUN Movement Pooled Fund to achieve impact in nutritionally vulnerable communities especially at subnational level, including through the provision of technical assistance.

Building on the development of the GSS Collaboration Framework, with a view to increased efficiency and effectiveness, we encourage the different elements of the GSS to progressively develop common objectives, integrated work plans, budgets and a common results framework. We recognise the potential benefits of avoiding separate reporting to different donors.

We would welcome more regular, on-going strategic dialogue between SUN donors and the SUN Movement Coordinator to ensure the two-way sharing of information and experiences and to promote strategic synergies in our work at country, regional and global levels.

We encourage the GSS to collate and communicate examples of success from SUN countries in tackling malnutrition and examples of where the GSS has added value and contributed to improved capabilities to scale up nutrition at national and sub-national levels. This is vital for continuing to make the case for investment in nutrition and for the funding of SUN support structures.

We appreciate efforts to strengthen the role of the SUN Executive Committee in supporting and overseeing the implementation of the SUN Strategy and Roadmap and promoting the coherence and effectiveness of the SUN Global Support System. We welcome the outcomes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 28th/29th January 2019. Key actions that could be taken by members of the SDN to help take forward these outcomes are identified below.

Strategic priorities for donors and their networks at national and global levels

We acknowledge the finding of the Mid Term Review that donors need to pay more attention to what we could and should do differently to contribute to the objectives and goal of the SUN Movement. We consider that the Strategic Objectives in the 2018 SDN work plan continue to be relevant for the next two years. In its 2019/20 work plan, we encourage the SUN Donor Network, in alignment with the SUN GSS Collaboration Framework, to develop actions to:

- promote high level political leadership, commitments and policy coherence, including through high level donor engagement on nutrition at country level;
- where possible and appropriate, improve the scale, coordination and alignment of donor financial and technical assistance in Lower and Middle Income Countries, including SUN countries;
- promote connections and dialogue between our own government departments on how to address the burden of malnutrition in our own countries;
- propose messaging on key thematic areas, in particular those which are the focus of N4G 2020;
- help collate success stories which can be used to make the case for investment in nutrition across sectors;
- support the SUN Movement to enhance its added value, including through participation in the design of the forthcoming Strategic Review.

We also invite the SDN to develop a work plan and resource materials for the Senior Officials group to guide and support us in our efforts to promote the integration of nutrition as a cross-sectoral priority within economic and social development agendas. We support regular opportunities to engage with the SDN to discuss issues relevant to the SUN Movement and progress on the SDN work plan, as well as review current evidence in the fields of nutrition and food security.

Annex: Participants

First name	Surname	Organisation	Job title	Meeting role	Notes
Abi	Perry	DFID	Head of Nutrition	participant	alternate for Jonny Baxter, Head of Human Development
Andy	Rigsby	BMGF	Senior Program Officer Global Policy & Advocacy	participant	alternate for Shawn Baker, Director of Nutrition
Rob	Bertram	USAID	Chief Scientist, Bureau for Food Security, Feed the Future	Chairperson	
Christoph	Eiden	BLE Germany	President, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food	participant	
Emi	Inaoka	MoFA Japan	Deputy Director / Special Assistant for Global Health Issues, Global Health Policy Division	participant	alternate for Manabu Sumi, Director, Global Health Policy Division
Frits	van der Wal	MoFA Netherlands	Senior Policy Advisor Food and Nutrition Security	participant	alternate for Reina Buijjs, Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
Heike	Henn	BMZ	Head of Division	participant	alternate for Stefan Schmitz, Director, Food, Agriculture and Rural Development and "One World - No Hunger" Initiative
Joyce	Seto	GAC	Deputy Director, Nutrition	participant	alternate for Megan Cain, Director of Health & Nutrition
Kristin	Dypedokk	Norad	Senior Adviser, Department for Climate, Energy, Environment and Research, Section for Environment and Food Security	participant	
Leonard	Mizzi	EC	Head of Unit, Rural development, Food Security and Nutrition	participant	
Meera	Shekar	World Bank	Global Lead Nutrition	participant	
Nicola	Brennan	Irish Aid	Head of Policy	participant	
Nicolas	Fairise	MoFA France	Head of Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture Unit	participant	
Tatiana	von Steiger Weber	SDC	Deputy Head of Domain Global Cooperation	participant	
Ben	Siddle	Irish Aid	Nutrition Lead	observer	
Heloise	Troc	EC	Policy Adviser	observer	
Jeniece	Alvey	USAID	Nutrition Adviser	observer	
Karin	Gross	SDC	Program officer	observer	
Kedar	Mankad	BMGF	Program Officer	observer	
Mairéad	Petersen	Irish Aid	Regional Nutrition Adviser	observer	
Marlene	Heeb	SDC	Program Manager	observer	
Paul	van de Logt	MoFA Netherlands	Head of Food & Nutrition Security	observer	
Chris	Leather	MQSUN+	SDN Facilitator	facilitator	