



Accelerating nutrition impact

with the SUN stewardship and global support system

Nutrition is a multi-faceted challenge that **requires partnerships driven by passionate leadership** at all levels. The SUN Stewardship and Global Support System, including **the Secretariat, Coordinator, Lead Group, Executive Committee and four SUN Networks** are driven by the needs of SUN Countries and provide support to countries with guidance from the SUN Movement's stewardship arrangements.

SUN Lead Group and Executive Committee

Nourishing a sustainable future



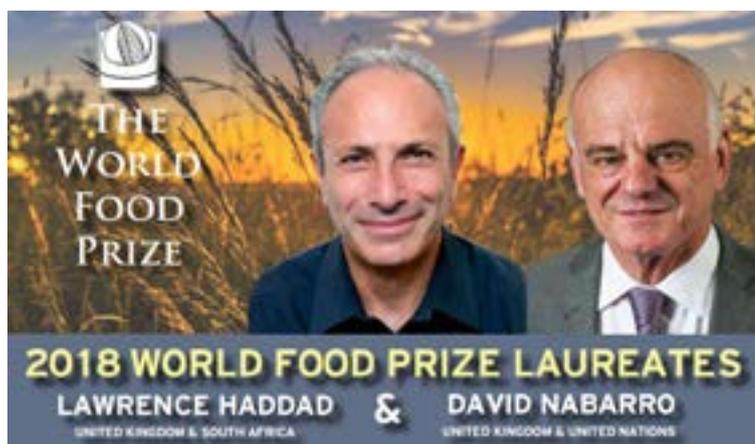
The SUN Movement Lead Group comprises 27 leaders and change makers who have pledged to put nutrition at the top of the agenda. The members provide inspiration and strategic direction and act as high-level ambassadors and champions for the work of the Movement, advocating for specific issues and approaches.

In 2018 SUN Lead Group members had ambitious goals (captured in this [strategic outcome statement](#)) with a particular focus on the socio-economic empowerment of women and gender equality along with the transformation of food systems for improved nutrition. Among the many commitments made, David Beasley, the Executive Director of WFP, [committed to championing engagement](#) with the private sector by supporting SUN business networks in SUN countries. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU [committed to championing the SUN Movement](#) through IPU Assemblies and continued engagement with Speakers of Parliament and Gunhild Stordalen, Executive Chair of the EAT Foundation [committed to ensuring Food System Dialogues](#) will address local challenges.

” *Parliaments should make nutrition a political priority*

[Martin Chungong](#)

Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union



David Nabarro, SUN Lead Group Member and Lawrence Haddad, [SUN Executive Committee](#) member [were awarded the 2018 World Food Prize](#) for their individual but complimentary global leadership in elevating maternal and child undernutrition within the food security and development dialogue. Kenneth Quinn, President of the World Food Prize described their “extraordinary intellectual and policy leadership in bringing maternal and child nutrition to the forefront of the global food security agenda and thereby significantly reducing childhood stunting”.

In 2019, the UN Secretary-General appointed a renewed SUN Lead Group – 27 global leaders who will [spearhead the fight against malnutrition](#) and who will support country-led efforts to scale up nutrition to ensure a world free from malnutrition by 2030. The SUN Lead Group will help drive political momentum and global recognition of nutrition’s catalytic power to achieve the SDGs and guide the strategic direction of the SUN Movement in the changing landscape, for the coming two years. The 2019 SUN Lead Group members met during the 74th Session of United Nations General Assembly and made individual and collective commitments to achieve its objectives – looking toward the 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit and the future of the Movement.

The SUN Movement Executive Committee acts on behalf of the SUN Movement Lead Group to oversee the development and implementation of the Movement’s strategy, to communicate about the value of the Movement and to support governance and accountability. This includes encouraging behaviour change among all stakeholders; acting as nutrition champions inside and outside their own institutions; participating

in nutrition activities at the country level; strengthening linkages with SUN Government Focal Points and SUN Networks and playing proactive roles as gender champions.



The Executive Committee provided support and guidance on the [SUN Movement Mid-term review](#), the [SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning \(MEAL\)](#) system, [nutrition in fragile contexts](#), empowering [women and girls](#), addressing the multiple burdens of malnutrition, and supporting the [SUN Lead Group meeting](#).

[Meera Shekar](#), Global Lead for Nutrition at the World Bank, was elected as [Executive Committee](#) Chair (2019-2020) and new members were welcomed: Anna Lartey (FAO), Robert Bertram (USAID), Tatjana von Steiger (Switzerland), Gladys Mugambi, (SUN Government Focal Point Kenya), Nicola Brennan (Ireland), Asma Lateef (Bread for the World) and Shawn Baker who is now Special Advisor to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee gathered at the SUN Secretariat in Geneva for the [2019 annual retreat](#) to discuss the Mid-Term Review, its recommendations and guidance on the way forward, the adoption of a food systems approach and the strengthening of women's empowerment.

A [Call to Action](#) in 2019 called for the governments of SUN Countries to ensure continual high-level political commitment to nutrition, for stakeholders to internalize and action the SUN Principles of Engagement and for the Movement to engage in the road to the Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G) in Tokyo 2020.

Supporting SUN countries and the catalytic spirit of the Movement: The SUN Movement Secretariat

In 2018-19 the [SUN Movement Secretariat](#) supported countries to fulfil their ambitions while working to rally and maintain commitment to nutrition at the global level.

Brenda Killen was [appointed to the role of Director](#) of the SUN Movement Secretariat, to oversee secretariat activities in collaboration with the **SUN Movement Coordinator**.

Building on the success of 2018, the Secretariat hosted the second **SUN Nutrition Hub**, bringing together nutrition champions from government, NGOs, donors and the UN to [ensure that nutrition was visible at the World Health Assembly](#) and to provide space for nutrition stakeholders to come together for mutual exchange and learning.

The [Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning \(MEAL\) System](#) was implemented, illustrating how multiple stakeholders from different sectors can come together to change behavior and mobilise resource and align implementation efforts to achieve results. The MEAL system provides consolidated, comparable country data at the global level. The country dashboards provide important evidence for informing advocacy work and implementation support.

Collaboration with the [SUN Movement Networks](#) intensified, resulting in stronger connections between and across the Networks. This was evident in the planning of the SUN Movement Coordinator's country visits, in the roll-out of the MEAL system and in the jointly organised events such as the SUN Nutrition Hub during the 2019 World Health Assembly (WHA). Two SUN Network retreats were organised in October 2018 and May 2019 and these were important moments in bringing together key actors.

Strategic engagement in intergovernmental and political activities was another key activity, including participation in the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (July 2019), the United Nations General Assembly (September 2019) and Committee on World Food Security (October 2019). The Secretariat participated in official side events with key partners at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Summit and with the SUN Country Focal Points at the [EAT Stockholm Food Forum 2019](#).

The Secretariat engaged in a series of in-depth country reviews, to better understand what is happening at sub-national level in countries that were early joiners of the SUN Movement. Findings and recommendations from these deep dives will be reported at the end of 2019.

SUN Movement Coordinator

As part of the SUN Movement's stewardship arrangements, in March 2016, United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Gerda Verburg as Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and Assistant Secretary-General.

With support from the Secretariat, [the SUN Movement Coordinator](#) conducted visits to SUN countries throughout the year. These visits have a significant political impact and generate momentum at national level to support the operationalization of commitments at the local level. Highlights included: the SUN Movement Coordinators' participation in the National Food and Nutrition Summit 2018 and at the launch of the National Good Food Logo in Zambia; participation in the SUN Donor Workshop in Malawi and participation in the High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028 in Tajikistan.

A key role of the SUN Movement Coordinator, is to use her voice to amplify important nutrition messages and to share the stories and experiences of SUN countries on the global stage to keep nutrition in the public eye. Over the last year, key messages have included: Why now is the **moment to invest in nutrition** to transform our food systems; **Striving for better nutrition and climate resilience** at the same time; Why nutrition is **key to achieving Universal Health Coverage** and unleashing human capital; Why **more attention should be given** to agriculture, forestry and fisheries to keep our planet in a healthy condition to feed the world population and **Why there is strength in numbers**.

Spotlight

on catalytic and innovative financing of the SUN Movement Pooled Fund

The [SUN Movement Pooled Fund](#), launched in 2017, is a catalytic source of grant funding to support SUN Civil Society Alliance activities at the national and subnational level.

In the 1st Call for Proposals [21 grants were awarded](#) to Civil Society Alliances from 19 SUN countries. The [2nd Call for Proposals](#) (launched in December 2018) gave priority to projects from national Civil Society Alliances that demonstrate the use of partnerships to achieve objectives outlined in their National Nutrition Plans. 19 projects were funded in this 2nd Call.

In June 2019, the 3rd Call for Proposals was launched to strengthen linkages and joint-collaboration within the Multi-Sector/Stakeholder Platform at the national and sub-national level. This 3rd call focuses on innovative approaches and knowledge sharing and on projects that will improve the delivery of multi-sectoral nutrition activities that impact nutrition outcomes for nutritionally vulnerable groups including: women, girls and adolescents.

What has happened?

- The Civil Society Alliance-SUN **Kyrgyzstan** (CSA SUN Kyrgyzstan) prepared proposals for the Food Security and Nutrition Programme (FS&N Programme). The proposals included: integration of the Right to Food into the Kyrgyz legislation; an annual review of the implementation of the FS&N Programme with stakeholder participation and operationalization of FS&N Programme and development of the sub-national nutrition plans. CSA SUN Kyrgyzstan also developed a proposal for the development of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines.
- *Centro de Apoyo de Lactancia Materna* (CALMA) is one of the leading members of the NutrES Alliance, the CSA of **El Salvador**. Their project, "Advocacy for a SMART Nutrition Plan in El Salvador" had important achievements, including preparation of a Country Proposal to provide relevant and strategic input to be taken into account by the next government of El Salvador for the period 2019-2024 including the need to have SMART Planning in nutrition. They also prepared a technical document on the situation of nutrition and food security which served as input for the proposal.
- The SUN Civil Society in **Nigeria** (CS-SUNN) developed a sub-national nutrition budget (2015-2018) report for the selected regions that showed nutrition funding gaps. CS-SUNN advocacy led to the allocation of a budget line for nutrition in the 2018 supplementary budget and in the 2019 budget in Kwara state. Training was undertaken to increase the capacity of CS-SUNN Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on budget advocacy in 3 locations in the country with a total of 59 CSOs trained.

What's next:

- The Ivorian Civil Society Committed to Nutrition (SCIEN) with the support of Action Against Hunger plans to contribute to improving the nutritional status of populations in **Côte d'Ivoire** by participating in the long-term operationalization of the National Multisectoral Nutrition Plan (PNMN) and Regional Nutrition Plans. In addition, SCIEN will participate in the study of nutrition expenditure and identification of funding gaps and will participate in joint resource mobilization efforts for national and regional nutrition plans. It will work on behaviour change and will bring the voices of communities to the regional nutrition committees and decision-making bodies at central level.
- CARE **Peru**, on behalf of the Initiative Against Child Malnutrition (IDI), will advocate for political commitments to reduce chronic child malnutrition and anaemia together with regional government authorities. The project will focus on advocacy in nutrition, technical assistance and capacity building of youth organizations. CARE Peru will help these youth organizations to design, implement and monitor plans to reduce and control chronic child malnutrition and anaemia at the local and regional level.



Credit: EAT Foundation

Learning and exchange at the core of the SUN Movements global support system

Cross-country, cross-stakeholder and collaboration is at the core of the SUN Movement global support system. To facilitate learning, actors in the SUN Movement engage in study tours, country visits, informational webinars, capacity development workshops, global and regional events and much more.

- **A series of webinars** were delivered on topics including: [the Global Financing Facility](#); the [SUN Pooled Fund](#); Donor Roundtables; sharing advocacy tools and resources with the [global breastfeeding collective](#), [making food systems work for nutrition](#) and the “whys and hows” of the [SUN Movement Joint Assessment](#).
- A 12 person delegation from the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (AFSeN-A) went on [a study tour to Bangladesh](#) for **peer-to-peer learning**.
- In Bangkok, 25 participants from 14 SUN countries attended a **three-day capacity development workshop** which provided a unique opportunity for SUN and Agriculture (CAADP) Focal Points to learn together, about how to create nutritious and climate resilient food systems.
- In Stockholm, on the sidelines of the EAT Stockholm Food Forum, 15 participants from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Liberia, Zambia, the Gambia, Lesotho and Kenya took part in [a three-day functional capacity retreat](#) on what it takes to be an effective leader on nutrition. At the **2019 EAT Stockholm Food Forum, these leaders then shared [experiences and stories with a global audience](#)**.
- The [second SUN Movement Nutrition Hub](#) was hosted on the margins of the **72nd World Health Assembly** to raise the visibility of SUN country challenges with a global audience and the importance of nutrition for discussion on Universal Health Coverage.
- During the **26th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government in Guatemala**, a forum entitled [“The effects of climate change on food and nutrition security, malnutrition, poverty and economics in Guatemala”](#) was held.
- In Bangkok, the [SUN Movement Secretariat participated](#) in the third **South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI)** event on the role of high impact and under-represented nutrition sensitive food systems in South Asia.

Nutrition messages in the media

A wide range of SUN Movement representatives amplified the nutrition message throughout the year. Here are a few examples: Memani Morlai, the SUN Movement Focal Point from Liberia, on [why more work is needed](#) to ensure that the EAT-Lancet diet can be adapted and used by low and middle income countries. There was increased recognition in Pakistan that [commitment from the media is critical](#) for mobilising and generating affirmative action to defeat malnutrition. Shawn Baker, SUN Executive Committee warned of the dangers of complacency in the nutrition world [in this article. Is it time to take 'more of a gamble' to scale nutrition interventions?](#) brought attention to the fact that allowing countries to drive multisectoral programming can increase the likelihood of them scaling success. And efforts such as [Scaling Up Nutrition Movement](#) and [Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition](#) are [seeking to recognise successful interventions](#) across different sectors and give them a common platform, along with serving as a community of practitioners.

Spotlight on capacity development: Building nutrition leadership skills in SUN countries

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement's progress **relies on government focal points to galvanise in-country stakeholders to align contributions and implement multisectoral plans for improving nutrition.** This is not an easy task. Focal points are central to multi-stakeholder nutrition platforms: they are conveners, facilitators, coordinators and problem-solvers. In addition to understanding health-related aspects relevant to malnutrition and the complexity of food systems approaches, they also need to resolve conflicts of interest and rally people behind this shared vision: All forms of malnutrition can be eradicated when stakeholders join forces and collaborate effectively. Put simply, they must be strong leaders.

In 2015, the Global Nutrition Report identified leadership as a key factor limiting progress on multisectoral nutrition actions and highlighted the need to address leadership gaps for improved nutrition outcomes.

So, 15 participants from **Nepal, Sri Lanka, Liberia, Zambia, the Gambia, Lesotho and Kenya** gathered for three days of capacity development and leadership training.

The diversity of profiles across the nutrition continuum, from health to agriculture and from political to technical levels, allowed for rich discussions. "Leading from where you stand" was the thread that weaved the sessions together and participants were asked to "leave their titles at the door and learn for their own personal growth's sake". Participants exchanged on what it takes to be an effective leader and the skills needed to plan, lead, communicate, manage and sustain action with multiple stakeholders and across different levels of government.

The training was successful in boosting participants' confidence in their leadership capabilities and feeling of legitimacy in the field. This was demonstrated when training participants enthusiastically and confidently took part in the Stockholm Food Forum. Some spoke on stage, bringing their country perspectives to the global conversation.

The EAT Forum called for a paradigm shift towards food systems that deliver not only food for all, but healthy and sustainable diets for people and planet alike. Our experience at the SUN Movement is that empowering in-country nutrition leaders is a critical step towards this goal.⁴¹

⁴¹ This blog was originally published on the [SUN Movement website](#).

The SUN Networks

- **SUN Business Network**
- **SUN Donor Network**
- **UN Network**
- **SUN Civil Society Network**



SUN Business Network (SBN)

The four SUN Networks are driven by the needs of SUN Countries to deliver the ambitions of the SUN Movement. Each Network is coordinated at the global level by a Facilitator and team with the primary objective to mobilise, align and scale up nutrition efforts.

In SUN countries, members of the SUN networks work in support of governments by participating in the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) and by aligning their activities behind national nutrition goals, targets and activities.

SUN Business Network: Engaging business to act, invest and innovate for improved nutrition

The **SUN Business Network (SBN)** mobilises business to act, invest and innovate in sustainable actions to contribute to reducing malnutrition in all its forms. It is co-convened by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

The SBN currently has more than **650 members**, the majority of which are small and medium enterprises (SMEs), dedicated to increasing the availability and affordability of safe, nutritious food to low-income consumers.

Since September 2018, the SBN has accelerated its efforts to mobilise business at **country level** to support SUN Country National Plans, and is now supporting **33 SUN Countries**. **At the global level**, the platform has **23 global members**, which are food and non-food companies who collectively reach up to **1.1 million employees worldwide** through workforce nutrition programmes. Global members offer technical assistance to support the capacity of SBN Country Networks. **135 business-to-business matches** have been established between global and national members of the SBN throughout 2018-2019.

In 2018, SBN co-hosted the first ever Nutrition Africa Investor Forum. **220 participants** attended the forum, including representatives from **20 investment institutions, business leaders and policy makers**. Over 50 agri-food SMEs attended and **21 companies** participated in the **'Nutrition Dealroom'**.

The SUN Pitch Competition, launched in 2018, showcased investment opportunities presented by SMEs working to improve access to nutritious food across Africa. More than **450 outstanding SMEs** applied to national pitch competitions held in **7 African countries** (Tanzania, Nigeria, Mozambique, Zambia, Kenya, Malawi and Ethiopia). **21 shortlisted finalists** (including **12 female-led businesses**) from national competitions competed in the SUN Pitch Competition final. Ope Olanrewaju, founder of Kennie-O Cold Chain Logistics, was winner of the first ever **SUN Pitch Competition**.

The **SBN Africa Country Gathering** (June 2018) took place in Tanzania and the **SBN Asia Country Gathering** (February 2019) was held in Tokyo, Japan. The gatherings are designed to bring together existing SBNs and stakeholders to share experiences, provide guidance for growth and foster discussion between established and early stage SBN Country Networks.



Ope Olanrewaju, 2018 SUN Pitch Competition winner @ SBN



Quinta do Bom Ovo, before the cyclone

” The 2018 SUN Mid Term Review highlighted the progress of the SBN in developing ‘a robust unique value proposition’ and ‘demonstrating its enormous potential’.

In action around the world

Replacing Industrial trans fats in Nigeria and Pakistan, a Business 2 Business (B2B) approach:

Trans-fat intake is estimated to cause 540,000 deaths globally each year due to coronary heart disease. Traditional diets and the lack of regulation and knowledge of industrial trans fatty acids (iTFA) replacement solutions put Nigeria and Pakistan at high risk. In 2019, the [SBN received a grant](#) to promote the replacement of industrial trans-fats in emerging markets. Following that funding, two multi-stakeholder pilot projects were launched (in Nigeria and Pakistan) to identify and implement relevant cost-effective solutions for iTFA replacement by local businesses. The project aims to utilise the expertise of members of the International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA) to get 20 SMEs from the two countries to replace industrial trans-fat. Ongoing support and input from WHO global and country offices will ensure the credibility and rigour of the project. Results will be leveraged by other SBN networks to support SMEs across emerging markets to replace iTFA and it is hoped that results will support advocacy for the adoption of regulations for iTFA replacement.

Building resilience: Supporting SMEs to recover following a disaster:

In March 2019, Cyclone Idai made landfall in Mozambique. When we spoke with small business owners in Sofala, the worst affected province, the stories were troubling: production and processing facilities had been destroyed, halting production; there was limited food available and what was available was being sold at an inflated price.

Mr Muchango of Quinta do Bom Ovo, a small business producing almost 10,000 eggs a day, shared his experience: The structure of his farm was destroyed and cages, solar panels and the roof were all badly damaged. He needed to rebuild. Two weeks after the cyclone hit, the farm lost 350 out of their 6,000 hens. There were many other small businesses also affected.

By aiding the reconstruction of businesses and helping them to resume activities, restore market links and increase access to quality, safe and nutritious foods at an affordable price, we knew we could contribute to the recovery of the economy and the community. SBN Mozambique is supporting the cyclone response by working with Global SBN Member, Royal DSM, to map affected business to identify their immediate needs. This is aimed at recovering the production and distribution of food quickly and facilitating links between SMEs with the technical assistance from

Global SBN Members and also expanding SBN Mozambique into the affected areas by establishing a regional secretariat in Sofala province.

Workforce nutrition in Indonesia: In Indonesia, workforce nutrition programmes introduced by members of the SBN have benefitted around 25,000 employees. Companies have committed to support better workplace nutrition such as providing support for breastfeeding. Commitments are designed around three pillars: the first 1,000 days of life and adolescent nutrition, balanced nutrition and health and hygiene. SBN Indonesia has been educating the workforce – predominantly factory workers – on these issues and has implemented measures such as healthier canteens, supportive clinics and breastfeeding friendly spaces. Several companies in the SBN Indonesia network (such as Indofood, Nutrifood, Kalbe, Otsuka, East West, BASF, Cargill and Panasonic) have endorsed these commitments, introducing a nutrition policy for a productive and healthy workforce, and are working towards improved policies.

SBN Sri Lanka: A governance structure that drives business engagement

SBN Sri Lanka was launched in March 2019, amidst calls from private and public sector stakeholders to increase business engagement for nutrition within the country. Since the time of the launch, 30 business have signed up as SBN members, with all members encouraged to participate in one or more of the three working groups (focused on workplace nutrition, production of nutritious food, and nutrition awareness) that drive the agenda of the network. Each of these groups is led by a local business leader, and convenes on a quarterly basis to plan and report on the execution of its workplan. Since its establishment, stakeholders have positively indicated that the SBN has created a strong platform to build communication between the private sector and government officials around matters of nutrition, something that was not available previously.

What's next?

- Continue SBN's 'Countries First' approach, providing support to strengthened national SBN platforms that catalyse business engagement in nutrition;
- Work with Tokyo 2020 Global Nutrition Summit conveners to get business alliances to commit to actions and investments to address malnutrition in all its forms;
- Tailor the B2B programme to better address undernutrition and overweight, obesity and non-communicable diseases;
- Support SMEs to scale up innovations to improve the consumption of nutritious food through the 2019/2020 SUN Pitch Competition.



SUN Donor Network (SDN)

” The aim is to galvanise increased and aligned funding for nutrition and to bring these innovative, financing mechanisms to SUN countries.



SUN Donor Network Knowledge Platform

SUN Donor Network: Nutrition as a shared investment with global returns

The SUN Donor Network (SDN) strives for transparency and improved donor coordination and alignment with national nutrition plans in SUN countries. SDN brings donors together to promote high-level political commitment for nutrition, more and better financing, aligned implementation, monitoring of progress and impact and sharing of lessons learnt.

- Currently, **42 SUN Movement countries** have an appointed SUN donor convener who work to increase, harmonise and align development partners' support for government led nutrition plans.
- Donor Networks exist in **28 SUN countries** and **4 SUN countries** are in the progress of establishing a Donor Network.

SDN members also support the functioning and effectiveness of the SUN Movement through providing financial support to global support structures, feeding into strategic planning and through sharing of good practices and lessons learnt. A key goal is to ensure that lessons from the SUN Movement can inform and strengthen global and regional processes for nutrition and sustainable development (e.g. Nutrition for Growth, Decade of Action, Global Nutrition Report, Committee on World Food Security policy guidance, SDGs, R4D).

In action around the world

Improving accountability on nutrition investments: SDN is working to improve accountability through the revision of the Corporate Social Responsibility Code for Basic Nutrition, and the development of an [OECD Nutrition Policy Marker](#). The policy marker is designed to improve the identification, reporting and monitoring of [multi-sectoral and cross-cutting nutrition investments](#) in the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) of the OECD-DAC. It was introduced in 2018 by the Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT), a subsidiary body of the OECD-DAC that sets the standards for reporting statistics on Official Development Assistance (ODA). Reporting on this policy marker started in 2019 (on 2018 activities) on a voluntary basis.

SDN Members are currently revising the handbook of the guidelines using the SDN methodology. Prepared by the SUN Donor Network, the SUN Movement and the OECD Secretariat, the handbook provides information on how to code the activities with the nutrition policy marker and how to interpret the data.

Enhanced support to national donor convenors and networks:

Over the last 12 months, the SUN Donor Network has been working to enhance support to national donor convenors and networks and improve impact at country level. The new knowledge sharing platform: <https://sundonors.wixsite.com/website> provides actors with a place to share information, provides guidance to new members and encourages interaction between donors.

SDN also published a guidance pack and a functionality checklist, which can be used by new donor convenors and by countries who are new to the SUN Movement. It provides information on the role of the global SDN; the National donor coordination mechanisms for nutrition and provides access to a wide range of national and global resources.

The functionality checklist guides countries in development of country work plans of donor networks; on the monitoring of progress and effectiveness; and on planning and implementation of joint activities.

Building partnerships with innovative financing mechanisms:

Over the last year, the SUN Donor Network helped make significant progress in building partnerships with innovative financing mechanisms, such as the Global Financing Facility. The aim is to galvanise increased funding for nutrition and to bring these innovative financing mechanisms closer to SUN countries. A recent webinar, hosted by the SUN Secretariat, provided guidance for GFF eligible countries in the SUN Movement to ensure countries understand and are engaging with the facility.

Donor roundtable for resource mobilisation:

A webinar on ‘organising a donor roundtable for financing national nutrition plans’ was held in July 2019. Approximately 80 people from 13 SUN countries (including SUN government focal points, UN REACH, donors, and Civil Society) joined to discuss financial support for the implementation of multisectoral nutrition plans. Participants from

the World Bank, The Power of Nutrition and Social finance UK along with Human Capital officers from Niger and Burkina Faso also joined.

Country case studies to improve SDN global support to countries:

SDN has collated a section of case studies on the activities, achievements, constraints and opportunities for the network at country level.

In Mozambique the case study highlighted that a lack of data on nutritional status in the country and the lack of evidence driven planning were constraints to improving nutrition. The national donor network in country is now looking at opportunities to build institutional capacity for multi-sector coordination and planning at all administrative levels and to provide support for the development and implementation of an effective food nutrition security information system to build local and national decision making. In Sri Lanka, the case study highlighted that joint advocacy with the government could help to elevate the position of nutrition in the national development agenda.

What's next?

- Seek opportunities to galvanise more and align quality financing for nutrition;
- Improve alignment of financing for nutrition at country level;
- Build and sustain political engagement, commitment and communication at global and national levels;
- Improve coordination and learning both within the global SDN and across the SUN global support system.



UN Network: Working together to break the cycle of malnutrition

The **UN Network**, established in 2013 by the Principals of FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO, helps to leverage the collective strengths of the UN agencies to foster innovations, find efficiencies and enhance complementarity across agencies and with government and SUN networks.

- Today, **60 SUN countries have established UN Networks** with nominated focal points;
- **56 SUN countries have appointed a UN Network Chair.**

In action around the world

A look back at the year: 2018-2019 was a rewarding year. Windows of opportunity, such as UN reform, enabled UNN to explore new ways of working, including efforts to engage UN Resident Coordinators in nutrition and leverage their positions to promote collective action. In Burkina Faso, this helped the UNN take important steps towards bridging the humanitarian and development divide. We have also seized the Agenda 2030 and UNN tools (e.g. UN Nutrition Inventory) as entry points for expanding membership and going beyond those UN agencies with a nutrition mandate. As many as sixteen different UN agencies/entities are now engaged in the UN Network at country level, compared to five when UNN was initially established. This is a means for harnessing the full potential of the UN System and demystifying what multi-sectoral nutrition means in concrete terms.

Thanks to Irish Aid, EU and UN funding, UNN worked closely with government to strengthen MSPs, through capacity building, including the UNN REACH mechanism and multi-sectoral analytics. We were able to reach additional countries to map intervention coverage across stakeholders and networks using the UNN's web-based tool. This is empowering MSPs – at national and sub-national levels – to better coordinate nutrition actions across the multi-sectoral/stakeholder landscape and is helping countries get a better grasp of what it will take to augment coverage in order to achieve results at scale. Today, 25 countries have undertaken the mapping and six others have or will soon. Some countries are replicating the exercise to track the implementation status of national nutrition plans (e.g. Mali, Niger).

How close is Sierra Leone to implementing nutrition action at scale?

Malnutrition is an ongoing challenge in Sierra Leone.⁴² Yet less than half of these core nutrition related actions are implemented in all provinces according to the results of [Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping](#) supported by UNN REACH. Even where geographic coverage is high, beneficiary coverage – the number of people who receive a given service – may be low or may be unknown due to prevailing data gaps. [The mapping engaged eight sectors and five different SUN Networks](#) with a total of 149 stakeholders and 22 actions mapped providing fertile ground for participatory dialogue about how to plan and where to scale up nutrition actions.

⁴² Global Nutrition Report, 2018



Nutrition Stakeholder and action mapping in Sierra Leone
© UN Network Secretariat/Sarah Cruz



Sierra Leone
Credit: UNN Secretariat

Multi-sectoral nutrition mapping in Democratic Republic of the Congo: A [government-led mapping exercise](#) (2018) engaged many stakeholders, including the nutrition inter-donor group in-country. The mapping encompassed 23 actions that supported positive nutrition outcomes at national and provincial levels. In addition, it covered health zones in seven provinces to get a better sense of decentralised action intensity. Strategic comparisons were made between geographical intervention coverage, target groups and delivery mechanisms which showed differences in coverage in some instances. For example, the coverage of complementary feeding counselling considerably varied between health zones in different provinces with Kasai and Kasai Oriental exceeding 75 per cent coverage while others (Sankuru and Sud Kivu) reporting less than 25 per cent coverage.

The mapping also underscored the need to focus on results. While the distribution of family planning inputs is carried out by many actors in all provinces, coverage among individuals 15-49 years old was consistently less than 2 per cent. Equally important, the mapping identified data gaps that inhibited the calculation of population coverage for some actions. Overall, the exercise indicated that less than half of the actions mapped cover more than 50 per cent of their targets in all provinces which presented opportunities for scale-up, particularly in provinces with high levels of stunting. While coverage is highest in Kasai and the northwest of the country, chronic problems are elsewhere.

Burkina Faso's Common Nutrition Narrative and a new climate for increased harmonization of UN support: Burkina Faso has taken great strides to address malnutrition, reaching a number of nutrition milestones and reducing child stunting from 35 per cent in 2010 (Demographic and Health Survey) to 21 per cent in 2017 (National Nutrition Survey).

Since 2015, the UN Network, through REACH, has worked closely with the SUN Government Focal Point. Today, roughly eight ministries (Agriculture, Education, Health, Local Governance, National and Women's Solidarity, Research, Social Protection, Trade and WASH) are engaged.

While developed by UNN, it takes into account the SUN Movement architecture and processes and was conceptualised to serve as a catalyst for discussions with government and partners about SUN activity at national and sub-national levels. The document was developed following

consultations with SUN stakeholders, and an output of a joint UN nutrition agenda, formulated in 2017, alongside the drafting of a UN joint vision on nutrition. Officially launched in late 2018, the common narrative is more inclusive and was revised in light of those wider stakeholder discussions.

The narrative is based on an analysis of the nutrition situation and the challenges faced by stakeholders, drawing upon UNN analytics. These include the [Multi-sectoral Nutrition Overview dashboards](#), [Policy and Plan Overviews](#), [Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping](#), UN Nutrition Inventory and [Nutrition Capacity Assessment](#), which all SUN stakeholders can benefit from and use. This data-driven approach has been crucial for making the narrative action-oriented as well as recapping priorities and the evolution of the Burkina Faso's SUN Movement. The narrative outlines the measures being taken by FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to improve nutrition and it includes specific nutrition targets to help keep these efforts on track.

Philippines: the land of many islands and nutrition achievements. The country has [taken exemplary action to combat malnutrition at all levels](#) from the President of the Republic to Local Government Units (LGUs). The UN agencies engaged in the UN Network (UNN) have increasingly aligned their efforts on nutrition to help tackle these multifaceted issues effectively and holistically. For example, the signing of the "Kalusugan at Nutrition ng Mag-Nanay Act," which calls for the sustained provision of nutrition interventions through pre- and post-natal health services during the critical 1000 days period. This milestone coincided with a national forum on Nutrition in the First 1000 days: Integrate and Scale Up, organised by the National Nutrition Council (NNC) in Manila. The new legislation attracted [CNN media coverage](#), and was an excellent advocacy moment to remind the public and policymakers about the hefty consequences of malnutrition, yet high return on investment.

What's next?

- Further engage UN leadership, additional UN agencies in more countries;
- Integrate new features into our tools, take measures to ensure they are used as intended;
- Work towards increased convergence with the other SUN networks.



SUN Civil Society Network: Building vibrant civil society alliances around the world

The **SUN Civil Society Network (CSN)** encourages the formation of vibrant civil society alliances. With alliances in **53 SUN Countries**, the network represents over 3,000 organisations locally, nationally and internationally, spanning multiple sectors and backgrounds, including four regional coordination groups.

In action around the world

Youth voices and nutrition champions on the global stage: The **Youth Leaders for Nutrition programme was launched** in July 2018 with 13 Youth Leaders enrolled and participating in key events, including: an IFAD and Save the Children Italy co-hosted event on [Adolescent Nutrition](#) in Rome in October, an FAO/IFPRI event on 'Accelerating progress towards ending malnutrition' in Bangkok in November and a RESULTS UK coordinated advocacy tour with UK parliamentarians.

In 2018, 5 Youth Leaders for Nutrition participated in the **Global Citizen Mandela 100 concert in South Africa**. A youth representative was included on every panel during the high-level discussion on SDG2 and a youth leader delivered a speech at the high level SDG2 dinner in front of UN agencies, Heads of States, the UN Assistant Secretary General and SUN Movement Coordinator Gerda Verburg.

Campaigns in support of the Mandela 100 Festival were launched by CSAs in Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Nigeria and Rwanda calling for **increased investment in nutrition**. These built on the budget analysis report launched during the last quarter, which called for governments in the region to invest 3 per cent more in nutrition in the next 3 years.

13 youth leaders for nutrition authored a blog for the **Global Nutrition Report** launch, entitled [why young people are speaking up for nutrition](#). "Good nutrition helps people to reach their full potential and can help us in achieving overall development. Nutrition should not only be the concern of professionals in the field of health or agriculture, young people should also be at the forefront in taking action on nutrition. But of course, young people cannot do it alone."

#GoodFood events were held in Kenya and Zambia on **World Food Day**. In Zambia, the CSA [encouraged](#) the Zambian president to attend the Mandela 100 event in South Africa and publicly announce an increased budget allocation to nutrition in 2019. The CSA in Rwanda also held a #GoodFood event alongside African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) which was chaired by the Rwandan youth leader for nutrition. Female farmers who are part of the CSA in Kenya growing vegetables using solar powered irrigation.

In June, five youth leaders from the SUN CSN attended the 2019 Women Deliver conference in Vancouver and the SUN CSN Secretariat proudly supported one of the only entirely youth-led events at Women



Youth Leaders for Nutrition at the Global Citizen Mandela 100 concert @ CSN



SUN Civil Society Alliances activities and achievements in 2017 and 2018

” ...with drive, creativity and vision for change, young people can and will find ways to make a big difference.

Rose Jade Eugenie Delgado, Global Youth Leader for Nutrition, Philippines

Deliver, ensuring youth leaders had the best opportunity to speak. [This blog](#) provides an insight into why youth found this such an inspiring event. The '[Adolescent Toolkit on Nutrition](#)' was also launched by the youth leaders at the event.

In the **lead up to Tokyo 2020 Nutrition Summit**, the Civil Society network has been working to ensure that civil society is well represented in the Nutrition for Growth working groups. The Japanese Government has confirmed that youth participation is an important aspect of Tokyo 2020.

Nutrition champions playing a key role at country level: In **Cameroon**, ten local mayors were appointed as nutrition champions within their constituencies and have been trained on basic nutrition concepts, communications and advocacy. In **South Sudan**, four nutrition champions were identified by the alliance and a song was composed on malnutrition. In **Zambia** ten food champions, [including Slap-Dee an award winning hip hop artist](#), were engaged to champion investment in nutrition.

Building the capacity of civil society: Two regional CSN workshops were held in **East and Southern Africa and in West Africa**, offering the opportunity to renew CSA membership of the network and discuss how the CSN interprets the SUN Movement principles of engagement and encourages accountability and transparency.

The CSN Country Support Adviser spoke about the importance of nutrition, the SUN movement and Nutrition for Growth to 30 volunteers in the UK. As a result, the volunteers contacted local Members of Parliament about nutrition and a question was asked about nutrition in parliament. The CSN Secretariat organised virtual training webinars for youth leaders as part of their learning and development to support national advocacy. Webinars focused on the SDG2 Advocacy Hub, Digital Campaigning and Parliamentary Engagement. A 'Campaign Pitch' was also held where each of the youth leaders pitched a campaign idea to a panel of experts and received feedback.

The SUN CSN coordinated monthly youth leaders for nutrition (YLFN) calls, bringing youth leaders together to share stories, experiences and challenges and provide peer to peer support. Topics included how to develop a campaign budget, producing evidence and information for effective resource mobilization and advice on how

to effectively apply a gender equity lens to global nutrition advocacy.

This year annual regional workshops were held in East & Southern Africa, West & Central Africa and Asia, bringing together CSA's to share good practices and challenges, map out their contribution to the SUN Movement goals, identify regional plans and take part in training on MEAL, fundraising, climate resilient agriculture, budget analysis, and to have open discussions on governance processes, principles of engagement, conflict of interest and disclosure processes. The collaboration and cross country networking is a valuable opportunity for CSAs to support one another. The meetings took place in Madagascar, Senegal and Cambodia and 38 CSAs from across the world took part.

Engaging the media for powerful nutrition effect: On World Food Day, Hanitra Rarison, reflected on [why nutrition for girls in Madagascar is so important](#) and how Girl Power Nutrition and the SUN Youth leader for nutrition programme can make a difference. In **South Africa** SUN Movement youth advocates [raised their voices](#) at key civil society events while in **Pakistan** the CSA launched a radio campaign to mobilise and direct attention towards food and nutrition efforts. In **Zimbabwe** a media campaign was launched where 60 radio talk shows were developed to increase citizen's awareness of the importance of good nutrition in the first 1000 days and the need to consume fortified foods.

In **Cambodia**, the CSA [delivered a training for journalists](#) on nutrition and in **Sierra Leone**, the CSA participated in two radio programs to communicate about nutrition issues. National football leagues and their supporters were the target of the **Mozambique** CSA's recent nutrition advocacy campaign, with nutrition messages on display during football games.

What's next?

- Secure funding for sustainability of the network and delivery of national plans;
- Support a network of nutrition champions so that the views of the most marginalised communities, and those of women and girls, are considered in nutrition decision-making;
- Support development of a network of parliamentary champions to work closely with civil society to advocate for change.



SUN Spotlight on a selection of partners

How we are working together to scale up nutrition around the world

At the heart of the SUN Movement is the conviction that we can achieve more together than alone. Guided by national priorities, inspired by global commitments and driven by individual, community and regional action the SUN Movement has a unique ability to convene partnerships across multiple sectors and between unusual suspects.

The SUN Movement has thousands of partners across the world and each one of them is a vital source of strength, knowledge and guidance to SUN movement countries. **Here are a few examples of how together we are creating change.**

Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) Partnerships

The United Kingdom's (UK) Department for International Development (DFID) has committed to improving the nutrition of at least 50 million people by 2020 by addressing both the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition. Their focus includes preventing stunting in young children, reducing unequal access of girls and women to food, water and other essential services and building country resilience to droughts and other shocks. This [Technical Assistance for Nutrition \(TAN\)](#) consortium brings together organisations each contributing specialised technical expertise, including MQSUN+, ENN, Nutrition International.

Maximising the Quality of Scaling up Nutrition Plus (MQSUN+)

Over the last year, MQSUN+ provided a wide range of technical assistance and support including: a [multi-stakeholder high-level advocacy workshop on nutrition](#) in **Tajikistan**, a [validation process for the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Multi-stakeholder strategic plan](#) and in **Somalia** [developing a common results framework for nutrition](#).

Nutrition financing in practice in SUN countries:

MQSUN+'s costing consultant for Francophone African countries, [reflects on what nutrition financing looks like](#) in SUN countries. Under MQSUN+, the majority of technical assistance in Francophone countries related to nutrition financing has been carried out by consultant Mr Mamadou Kone. A health economist with over 10 years of experience in financial and statistical analysis, costing and budget development, monitoring and evaluation and grant management.

He has, since 2017, supported activities related to costing multisectoral national nutrition plans in **Togo, Guinea and Burundi** and will soon support **Gabon** with a similar exercise. Assistance can include assessing a plan's readiness to be costed, mapping and costing the scale up of high-impact nutrition interventions or developing a budget for the implementation of plan activities. In 2018, guidance was also provided to multiple Francophone countries to carry out the SUN budget analysis, including in-country visits to **Mali, Guinea and Gabon** and including collection and validation of relevant budget data which meant working intensively with government stakeholders and national consultants to strengthen their internal capacity to engage in future rounds of the exercise.

Building capacity of SUN Movement Focal Points and bridging the nutrition and agriculture gap:

In 2018–19, MQSUN+ supported the delivery of two SUN Movement global functional capacity building workshops in Bangkok (2018) and [Stockholm \(2019\)](#). The retreats were, in recognition of the strong links between nutrition and agriculture, to support and develop behaviour change of SUN and

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Focal Points to more effectively coordinate on multisectoral nutrition planning and implementation efforts. The retreats centred around behaviours and skills related to self-awareness, communication and negotiation, role clarity and understanding of gender and food systems. Beyond the sessions, it was a unique opportunity for SUN and CAADP Focal Points to come together across countries and share challenges and learnings—supporting both cross-country and cross-sector engagement

What's next?

- Support SUN countries to move beyond nutrition plan development to implementation through resource mobilization, advocacy and coordination and translation of plans to the subnational level;
- Engage in broader and innovative thinking around food systems, universal health coverage, equity (including gender and disability) and support data analysis and use for decision-making.

Nutritional International

Under the TAN project, Nutrition International (NI) delivered 38 technical assistance (TA) assignments to 17 SUN member countries. Out of the assignments delivered between 1st April, 2018 and 1st August, 2019, 19 were providing new Technical Assistance.

Making adolescent nutrition a priority in

Tanzania: Adolescents in **Tanzania** comprise nearly 20 per cent of the population. [Harnessing their potential](#) is critical for the country's social and economic development, yet they are faced with many challenges including high rates of child marriage, pregnancy and malnutrition. Confronted with these challenges, the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children convened the first *National Accelerated Action Plan and Investment Agenda for Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Conference* which brought together adolescent representatives from Tanzania's 31 regions to

” Whether it’s supporting countries to cost national nutrition plans or ensuring that those plans are being efficiently and effectively implemented at local levels, we’re proud to support SUN countries as a bridge between policy and practice.”

*Joel Spicer, President and CEO,
Nutrition International*

address six big issues: teenage marriage and pregnancy, poor nutrition, school dropout rates, sexual, physical and physiological violence, HIV and AIDS, and a lack of meaningful employment opportunities.

NI led the session using the [With Good Nutrition She'll Grow Into It](#) campaign to guide the program. Laureta Lucas, an NI technical expert, delivered a presentation on why health and good nutrition are important for adolescents, and how being well-nourished can help them in their daily lives. 31 adolescent girls and boys, were then given a platform to speak. “The government recognises good nutrition as a firm foundation for the nation. We will put in place a high-level steering committee on nutrition to reach our goal of involving all stakeholders in nutrition matters,” said Prime Minister Hon Majaliwa. “To achieve industrial development, nutrition is the foundation of a strong workforce.”

Ensuring the delivery of coordinated technical assistance in Bangladesh: In **Bangladesh**, NI’s TAN providers are working to [ensure alignment of their work](#) to improve efficiencies and effectiveness. Coordination of efforts was evident when the project team travelled to Bangladesh in February 2019 to meet with the SUN Focal

Point, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council partners and NTEAM providers. The visit coincided with the national technical assistance level multi-stakeholder workshop on monitoring and evaluation review, which was organised and delivered by NTEAM TA providers as part of the support to [strengthen multi-sectoral nutrition monitoring and reporting](#).

Around the world: At **Women Deliver 2019** [young nutrition advocates came together](#) with leaders at the *How She Leads: Past, Present, Future* event. Anayat Sidhu, a SUN Movement Youth Leader for Nutrition, shared experiences of learning early the impact that poor nutrition can have when her family moved from Canada to India when she was young. She suffered from anaemia in her first two years of school and the experience shaped her work today. Jane Napais Lankisa, a SUN Movement Youth Leader for Nutrition from Kenya, described the challenges as a young, single woman working in maternal health and the importance of building trust and confidence with the community. Dr. Siekmans [presented the progress to date](#) on the **SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system**, highlighting key examples of knowledge management products for nutrition at a capacity development workshop. The TAN project is collaborating with the Philippine government to [deliver the Philippines Plan of Action for Nutrition](#). The [video from 2018 National Nutrition Awarding Ceremony](#) featuring the launch of A Compendium of Actions on Nutrition.

What's next?

- Implementation of the Nutrition International 2018-2024 Strategic Plan, and the Investment Case, which showcases low-cost, high-impact approach;
- Identify gaps and provide timely, coordinated support to build the capacity of countries to scale up nutrition interventions.

Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN)

The [Emergency Nutrition Network](#) (ENN) strengthens the evidence and know-how for effective nutrition interventions in countries prone to crisis and high levels of malnutrition. Working in many SUN Countries, ENN supports the Movement with nutrition evidence and best practice.

- In 2018-19 26 SUN countries contributed articles to [Field Exchange](#) (FEX) and [Nutrition Exchange](#) (NEX) articles, including 5 new countries (**Mali; Kyrgyzstan; Gabon; Congo; Burundi**).
- ENN produced three country case studies examining multi-sector nutrition programmes at the sub-national level (in **Ethiopia, Niger and Bangladesh**); one case study examining the humanitarian development nexus in Somalia and a paper examining the progress of SUN Networks in 17 Fragile and Conflict Affected States.
- ENN also highlighted the SUN Movement approach via a [video on MSP's](#); a video about the [SUN Movement Joint Assessment in Burkina Faso](#); this podcast on [conducting a costing readiness exercise in Yemen](#) and this podcast on the [power of nutrition champions in Sierra Leone](#).

Documenting multi-sectoral programming:

A core area of work for ENN and one which is seen as critically important for the SUN Movement, has been documenting multi-sectoral programming (MSP). ENN has maintained its focus on capturing the extent to which MSP has been decentralised or devolved from the national to the sub-national level. This has been explored through detailed case studies in three countries, building on the documentation of a previous set of three country case studies in 2018 in **Kenya, Senegal and Nepal**. The case studies examined the design features undertaken to increase nutrition sensitivity, including, where appropriate, convergence of activities across multiple sectors as well as the degree to which the impact of MSP interventions are being monitored and evaluated. Key findings from the case studies included: multisector programmes are, in general, about bringing sectors together rather than

introducing new forms of programming; it takes time to appropriately communicate and plan a multisector nutrition strategy and setting up high level coordination structures is useful for facilitating MSNPs.

Mapping and analysis of SUN Movement Networks: A [detailed mapping and analysis of the SUN Movement Networks](#) across all 17 fragile and conflict affected areas (FCAS) was undertaken, culminating in an ENN hosted webinar with global stakeholders. The analysis set out key achievements of the networks and lessons learnt as country challenges have been faced and overcome, including the publication of country examples of good practice and recommendations for Networks in FCAS.

The Humanitarian Development Nexus: The Humanitarian Development Nexus (HDN) is a key area of work. A visit to Somalia (including sub-national visits) was undertaken, [culminating in a detailed case study report](#) co-authored with Government of Somalia and the National Nutrition Cluster Coordinator and with strong support provided by the Global and Country Nutrition Cluster teams. The report was widely disseminated, and a podcast was recorded with Government representatives to explore their resilience agenda and Common Results Framework developed through a multi stakeholder platform led by the Sun Focal Point for Somalia. Findings were presented to an Advisory Group comprising of donors, UN agencies and INGOs for ENN's humanitarian development nexus portfolio of work and was well received.

What's next?

- Collaborating with the SUN Movement at the SUN Global Gathering;
- Conducting two case studies on multisector nutrition programming in the Philippines and Zimbabwe and a study on the humanitarian development nexus in Ethiopia.

Broader partnerships for nutrition impact

The SUN Movement has thousands of partners across the world. NIPN and Alive and Thrive are two examples which demonstrate how **these partnerships work, and the impact they can have.**

National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN)

An initiative of the European Commission, NIPN provides support to countries to strengthen information systems for nutrition and improve data analysis to better inform strategic decisions on preventing malnutrition.

- NIPN currently works in **8 SUN countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Ivory Coast, Lao PDR, Niger and Uganda)** to improve access to nutrition data and information at country level.
- To **build capacity at country level**, workshops were held, in **Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Uganda and Côte d'Ivoire** (with participation of teams from **Niger and Burkina Faso**), and a 1-day workshop with the Guatemala team, gathering more than 100 participants from NIPN host institutions, ministries and technical assistance partners from the 7 countries.
- **Six thematic webinars were held**, in English, French and Spanish, with 20-30 participants each, focusing on tools, methods or approaches that can be used to support the NIPN process.

Using data to support nutrition decision making:

In **Guatemala**, [existing data was used to support nutrition decision making](#), inspiring a shift from nutrition policy to implementation. The brief, published by NIPN global and local partners in Guatemala: European Commission, CATIE and SESAN, analyses Guatemala's progress in implementing multisectoral stunting reduction strategies and demonstrates the potential of the NIPN approach for tracking country-level progress and informing decisions using existing data. The report provides answers to critical policy questions and the findings are being used ahead of the 2019 elections to advocate with decision makers, such as local governments and Congress, for better implementation of nutrition actions.

*Strengthening the multi-sectoral approach to combat all forms of malnutrition is also dependent on the availability of nutrition information and related systems. It is **an essential step to establish a national information platform** to generate information for policy dialogue and debate.*

H.E. Mr Leo Faber, Ambassador of the European Union to the Lao PDR, NIPN Launch, 2018

Engaging with policy makers on the importance of good nutrition data:

In November during the [IFPRI-FAO conference on Accelerating the End of Hunger and Malnutrition in Bangkok](#), NIPN hosted a side-event to discuss the [Strategic Opportunities and Institutional Challenges of NIPN](#). The panel, chaired by Dr. Marti J. van Liere, Team Lead of the NIPN Global Support Facility, included participations from Food Security and Nutrition Unit, DG International Cooperation and Development, European Commission. Centre for Development Policy Research, Ministry of Planning and Investment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute. The panel discussed how to engage and create buy-in amongst policy makers of different sectors at national as well as subnational level and how to bring different information systems together and coordinate analyses. Priority issues included country ownership, as demonstrated by Ethiopia and Lao PDR, embedding the NIPN approach in the existing multisectoral nutrition coordination system and clarity on the use of existing data.

What's next?

- In 2018/19, several SUN countries initiated a data-informed policy dialogue at national level. In Guatemala and Lao PDR, this is now being taken to the subnational level. The impact of the national and subnational dialogues will be measured in these first-mover countries, and other SUN countries following their example, of positive decisions of national and local governments, based on better use of nutrition data - for better nutrition decisions.

Alive & Thrive

Alive & Thrive (A&T) is an initiative to save lives, prevent illness, and ensure healthy growth and development through optimal maternal nutrition, breastfeeding, and complementary feeding practices. A&T supports local advocacy efforts and supports SUN multi-stakeholder platforms to advocate for improved nutrition activities, financing and practices.

Communications and advocacy for nutrition in Ethiopia: In **Ethiopia**, the SUN movement (ECSC-SUN) is a coalition of 60 civil society organizations. Alive and Thrive lead the communication and advocacy work of the coalition. In 2018, the group collaborated with the Federal Ministry of Health and ECSC SUN to develop nutrition leadership training materials and modules which are now being put to use.

Another key activity for the group was the launch of the National Food and Nutrition Policy and the National 1000 Days Movement in February 2019. 200 participants from sectors including agriculture, education, health, water, women and children gathered in Adama City, Oromia regional state to celebrate. The event, opened by the State Minister of Health, included members of the National Nutrition Coordination Office, the state Minister of Education, of Trade and Industry and of Agriculture, and representatives of USAID and UNICEF. Alive and Thrive supported a large number of media practitioners to attend and there was [extensive media coverage](#).

SUN Civil Society activity in South East Asia:

In **Viet Nam**, the SUN Civil Society was established in July 2019 and is an independent and credible voice supporting activities which drive improved nutrition. The Core Group, including Save the Children, Health Bridge, Plan International, World Vision, Child Fund, Helen Keller International and Alive & Thrive, developed the Terms of Reference and jointly prepared a proposal to strengthen its internal governance and capacity for the SUN Pooled Fund.

In **South East Asia**, Alive & Thrive, with other breastfeeding advocates, supported countries to ensure that the Codex Alimentarius, globally-adopted food standards, are aligned with the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and other policies that protect, promote, and support breastfeeding.

Lao PDR and Myanmar exchange experiences on strengthening SUN Civil Society Alliances:

The **SUN CSA Lao PDR** welcomed six members of the **SUN CSA Myanmar** national and sub-national Steering Committees for a learning visit to Vientiane, June 2019. The learning exchange focused on CSA management, advocacy, and networking with other SUN alliances. The Lao PDR Management Committee and the Myanmar Steering Committee also met to discuss membership, workplans and engagement with the government. The visit featured a cross-learning meeting on advocacy efforts by the respective SUN CSAs. The Laotian delegates were particularly interested in media and parliamentary advocacy while those from Myanmar learned from Lao PDR on approaches to engage with the government.

Collaborating for improved nutrition in Nigeria:

Alive & Thrive collaborated with CS-SUN Network and Save the Children to review the five-year (2014-2018) health and nutrition budget at national level in Lagos, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Kano and Niger states. A&T shared outcomes of the exercise with various ministry's including: Finance, Planning and Health. In Kaduna State, CS-SUNN and Alive & Thrive worked together to advocate for six months maternity leave. Following an orientation session with CS-SUNN, the organizations met with the Commissioners for Women Affairs, the Head of the Civil Service of Kaduna State and the Commissioner for Budget and Planning. In addition to other actions taken by A&T, this contributed to the maternity leave policy announced by the Kaduna state government in May 2019.

What's next?

- In South East Asia, A&T will strengthen partnerships with national civil society alliances (CSAs) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines and Viet Nam; build capacity of local civil society organisations (CSOs) at national and sub-national levels; engage with the private sector and SUN Business Networks to promote responsible business practices.
- In Nigeria, A&T will support advocacy; on release of and tracking of funds budgeted for nutrition; on revised National Regulations on Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and to make strides towards the coordination of nutritional programmes and the operationalization of the Lagos State Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition.

Shining the light

on priority areas for the SUN Movement

” *The parliamentary network has been working to develop and adopt laws on nutrition, such as enforcing the International Code on the Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and measures to exclude the raw materials for producing ready-to-use therapeutic food from taxes. We have also succeeded in adopting a nutrition budget line for nutrition*”

*Honorable Mr. Gnoumou Nissan Boureima, Parliamentarian Burkina Faso and Mayor of Houndé, also the President of the West and Central Africa regional parliamentary network for nutrition*⁴³

Engaging Parliaments for nutrition impact

Key Messages:

- Parliaments are critical actors for ensuring nutrition is a key political priority, and that political commitment translates into action.
- Parliaments can play a vital role in engaging their local constituencies for improved nutrition and using their platforms for advocacy and impact.

Across the SUN Movement:

- **45 countries** report that the SUN Multi-Stakeholder Nutrition Platforms engage with parliaments⁴⁴.
- **15 SUN countries** have dedicated national SUN parliamentary networks: **Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda.**

Liberia is currently setting up a new parliamentary network focused on nutrition, with the first meeting taking place in April 2019.

Several countries hosted parliamentary debates on nutrition in response to the call from the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Member of the SUN Lead Group, Mr. Martin Chungong, in [his letter to speakers of parliaments](#). For example, **Myanmar** held an all parliamentary discussion on nutrition and the role of the SUN Movement in August 2018, involving representatives from the Ministry of Health and Sport, UNICEF and WHO alongside parliamentarians.

The SUN Movement Secretariat, in partnership with the IPU, FAO, WHO and the [Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health](#) co-organised a side event at the 139th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2018) [Legislating on food and nutrition: lessons learned, challenges and opportunities for parliamentary action](#). Cross country learning took place at the event with parliamentarians sharing examples on:

⁴³ Full interview here: <https://www.enonline.net/nex/11/parliamentariannetworkswestafrica>

⁴⁴ Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, The Gambia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



© Photo: FAO/Thomas Canet

best practices for nutrition labelling, marketing of unhealthy foods to children in Chile and the right to food in the constitution of **Kenya**.

In November 2018, more than two hundred parliamentary representatives from different countries all over the world participated in the first Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition in Madrid. This event reaffirmed the political commitment to ensure that everybody has access to sufficient and quality food.

Recognising the slow progress in improving the food security and nutrition situation, parliamentarians from nine Eastern African nations [pledged to urge their governments to intensify their battle](#) against food insecurity and malnutrition by enacting sound legislation and allocating adequate resources. During their First Annual Meeting members of the newly-formed “Eastern African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA FSN)” committed to leveraging their critical role as legislators to promote the Right to Food.

In July 2019, the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica launched the [Parliamentary Front against Hunger strategic plan](#), to lead and impact dialogue, debate and political advocacy to reduce all forms of malnutrition. “To achieve zero hunger, measures must be taken to transform food systems to make them sustainable, fair and inclusive. This requires regulations that

facilitate the population’s access to nutritious, safe products at a fair price and produced in an environmentally-responsible way,” Paola Valladares, coordinator of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger and Malnutrition.

The West Africa Health Organization (WAHO), with support of regional partners organised a regional meeting of parliamentarians from ECOWAS countries (December 2018), to establish ECOWAS, Mauritania and Chad Interparliamentary Committee for the implementation of the declaration of Ouagadougou for adequate health financing, demographic dividend and population and development policies. This declaration will have a great focus on Abuja commitment for African countries to invest 15 per cent of their national budget on health.

Civil society works with parliamentary networks to nurture nutrition champions:

- In **Malawi**, parliamentary networks (comprised of heads of sectors in the line ministers, sector administrative heads, district councillors and administrators) were established to support and educate newly elected political leaders on key nutrition issues within their region or country.
- In **Mozambique**, the Civil Society Alliance trained four parliamentary groups to advocate for increased budget allocation for nutrition and the integration of nutrition in a wide range of policies and plans.

- In **Pakistan**, SUN CSA supported newly elected parliamentarians to form a fifteen-member group of Parliamentary Nutrition Champions, including national and provincial parliamentarians, to pursue the nutrition agenda and to oversee the implementation of nutrition-related government policies. This followed their successful advocacy during the 2018 election process, which helped ensure all major parties included nutrition as a priority in their party manifesto, and the newly elected prime minister committing to make malnutrition a top priority in [his inauguration speech](#).
- In **Zimbabwe** the Civil Society Alliance and the UNN partnered with parliamentarians, academia and the media to launch the East and Southern Africa budget analysis report in September 2018 to highlight gaps in the nutrition budget.



Mobilising budget

for nutrition and WASH in Burkina Faso: How advocacy strategies can work at country level

The Parliamentary Network for Nutrition Security (REPASEN réseau des parlementaires en Réseau des Parlementaires en Sécurité Nutritionnelle) in Burkina Faso was created in 2016. In 2019, there are 34 Members of Parliament who regularly meet and participate in national advocacy activities organised by SUN's multi stakeholder platforms.

Working as part of the parliamentary network and a range of partners, the Members of Parliament have advocated for the creation of a nutrition budget line within the Ministry of Health (MOH) in 2017. Budget analyses by MOH (2014) and by RESONUT (2016) showed that the government was investing less than 2 per cent of its national budget in nutrition and that most nutrition funding is from donors. These findings led to advocacy activities by UN agencies, INGOs, and SUN networks, including, two joint position papers developed by all stakeholders and shared with the Ministry of Finance (MOF) calling for increased domestic investment. [A technical note](#) which explained the main challenges around nutrition was shared with the former President of National Assembly of Burkina Faso during a face to face meeting. In addition, two high level side events were delivered and as a result, a nutrition budget was approved within MOH in 2017.

However, due to national security issues, the MOH nutrition budget was drastically reduced by a third. In response, nutrition stakeholders, including MPs, are currently preparing to influence the revision of the nutrition budget line during the extraordinary budgetary session of September 2019. They have already submitted a proposal to the President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, who has been recently identified as a nutrition champion, as part of the African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative.

In addition, REPASEN has also started advocating for awareness on water, hygiene and sanitation issues within the Parliament. They made an inquiry (in 2018/2019) and questioned the Ministry of Water and Sanitation about access to drinking water and sanitation in the communities. Following this, the government has mobilised funding (April 2019) with World Bank for a project of 180 billion CFA (about 294,660 million of dollars with 83 per cent financed by World Bank and the rest by the government domestic fund) for drinking water and sanitation in four regions (out of 14 regions in Burkina Faso).



” Empowerment works! The SUN Movement has seen that the most successful nutrition actions to date are those that have recognised and addressed gender and social inequalities.

7 things you should know:
[Facts and figures](#)

Scaling up gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

Key messages:

- Promoting diversity inclusion, gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment is at the centre of the SUN Movement’s work to ensure no one is left behind;
- Healthy women and girls are the cornerstone of healthy societies. Ensuring they have access to good nutrition throughout their lives is vital.

[The SUN Movement Lead Group](#), in collaboration with Global Affairs Canada, Nutrition International and Save the Children, [issued a call to action](#) (May 2019) outlining how each level, and each actor, of the Movement can scale up gender equality and empowerment for maximum impact. This call to action, asked all SUN Movement actors to reorient their work and to translate their gender equality and empowerment commitments into results at country level. Visit the [gender topic portal](#) to learn more.

Power. Progress. Change. The 2019 Women Deliver Conference, the world’s largest conference on gender equality and the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women proved essential for the SUN Movement to showcase progress and

change. The SUN Movement co-organised three events. The SUN Civil Society Network’s Youth Nutrition Leaders were in attendance, as was the SUN Government Focal Point from Kenya, Gladys Mugambi and SUN Civil Society Network Steering Group Member, Dr. Irshad Danish, Lawrence Haddad and Lauren Landis – both Executive Committee members also took part.

In 2018, [MQSUN+ conducted a systematic review](#) to ‘take the temperature’ of fifteen countries’ national nutrition action plans based on the criteria in the SUN’s Checklist on the criteria and characteristics of ‘good’ national nutrition plans—including an assessment of how these plans incorporate and aim to address the gender dimensions of nutrition—and to provide actionable recommendations for strengthening these plans for effective future action on nutrition. A brief was also published on this topic: [Gender in Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plans](#).

In **Guatemala**, a SUN Movement country since 2010, [the Government has committed to incorporating a gender perspective](#) into its national programmes to support family farming and fight malnutrition.

[Gender equality was also a key topic](#) at the Functional Capacity-Building Workshop for SUN Movement and CAADP Focal Points held alongside the EAT Food Forum. Gender considerations were incorporated into the workshop and participants reviewed the linkages between leadership and gender and explored links between gender and nutrition.



” Nutrition is a no-regret investment that has the potential to **break the vicious intergenerational cycle of poverty and build more stable and resilient societies, laying a solid foundation upon which Universal Health Coverage can be achieved.**”

*Gerda Verburg,
SUN Movement Coordinator.
Full statement can be read [here](#)*

Integrating nutrition into Universal Health Coverage

Key messages:

- Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is vital for ending malnutrition. UHC will not be achieved until interventions that address malnutrition – especially during the first 1,000 days of a child’s life – are integrated in global, national and sub-national plans and policies.
- Although ending malnutrition requires action across multiple sectors by multiple stakeholders the health system has a crucial role in delivering essential nutrition services to all. National UHC plans and multi-sectoral nutrition plans should be aligned

The health system has a key role in delivering essential nutrition services to all, especially during the critical 1,000-day window from pregnancy to age 2. Indeed, it will only be possible to end malnutrition when everyone has access to basic health and nutrition services without suffering financial hardship.. It is critical that essential nutrition interventions are part of the core services delivered through the primary health care system. Frontline health workers need to be trained on nutrition and essential medicines must include nutrition products like vitamin and mineral supplements.

On the **margins of the World Health Assembly**, the SUN Movement held three events including a high level breakfast [fighting all forms of malnutrition through Universal Health Coverage](#) which brought together Ministers of Health from across WHO regions, alongside global health stakeholders, to share experiences, highlight opportunities, challenges and good practices in integrating nutrition in UHC. This was a strategic moment to highlight the importance of making nutrition a foundational part of primary health care through UHC. A side event, [“Putting Prevention at the center of UHC: A multi-sectoral approach to achieve health”](#) focused on ways to ensure prevention – including good nutrition – is prioritised in UHC. Read more about **why nutrition is the key to achieving universal health coverage and unleashing human capital** in this piece published [by the World Bank](#).

On 12 April 2019, **Madagascar** organised a day of mobilization and sensibilization on Universal Health Coverage, on Global Health Day. This included a public debate on UHC for improvement of public health that was supported by the SUN Civil Society Alliance.

In February 2019, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita announced that **Mali** will provide free health care for pregnant women and children under five years, rolled out as of 2022, including by increasing the number of community health workers, to ensure all women and children have access to essential health and nutrition services. *“I am proud that Mali is among the first countries in Africa to extend UHC to pregnant women and children U5. This is an incredible opportunity to improve health and nutrition”* Mr. Djibril BAGAYOJKO, SUN Government Focal Point, Mali.



Ensuring a food systems approach to nourish people and planet

Key Messages:

- Food systems have the potential to nourish human health and support environmental sustainability; however, they are currently threatening both.
- Insufficient and unhealthy diets underpin the persistent high rates of malnutrition.
- Nutrition has a key role to play in both mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change.

Food is the foundation for nutrition. How food is produced, processed, transported, sold and consumed has immense implications for nutrition and health. The rising phenomenon of the double-burden of malnutrition – where stunting and micro-nutrient deficiencies coincide with obesity, overweight and diet-related non-communicable disease – is calling our attention to the need to transform our food systems to ensure they deliver healthy diets while preserving the natural resources we all depend on.

Adopting a food systems approach requires looking at the needs and demands of all stakeholders and efforts must ensure food systems are sustainable and climate resilient.

Nutrition has a key role to play in both mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change and it is more important than ever to promote nutrition in time of crises. Climate-smart nutrition policies and interventions have the potential to limit food systems' footprint on the planet, while improving nutrition and increasing people's resilience to climate change at the same time.

SUN countries have the power to help catalyse these efforts. Through multi-stakeholder coordination platforms, SUN Focal Points can facilitate discussions on climate change and nutrition linkages and make the most of existing synergies to maximise actions and scale up impact.

Over the last year, **the SUN Movement**, supported the launch of the EAT Lancet [Commission on Food, Planet, Health](#) which provides scientific targets on what is required to transform food systems, to deliver nutritious food, while preserving ecosystems and ensuring the health of people, and planet. Food systems issues were central to the **EAT Food Forum 2019**, during which 15 SUN focal points from 7 SUN countries gathered to **build nutrition leadership skills in SUN countries**.

[Costa Rica](#), a SUN Movement country since 2014, hosted the [Second Global Conference of the Sustainable Food Systems of the UN](#) where participants were urged to transform food systems with a systemic approach to tackle a harsh reality: 821 million people suffering from hunger vs 33 per cent of the population is



Credit: SUN Business Network

*” Winning the SUN Pitch Competition ... was so exciting – and I was delighted to see recognition for **companies working to reduce post-harvest losses.***

said Ope. The SBN recently [launched the 2019/2020 SUN Pitch Competition](#) with shortlisted SMEs to compete in the Global SUN Pitch Competition in Singapore in 2020.

Ope Olanrewaju, (image above) CEO and Founder of Kennie-O Cold Chain Logistics, was [crowned the 2018 SBN Nutrition Champion](#) in recognition of his innovative and scalable solution which enables the preservation of nutrients and reduces post-harvest loss of fresh foods as they move through the value chain. He received a technical assistance and mentorship package worth \$20,000, sponsored by the SBN and received training by the BoP Innovation Center which specialises in helping SMEs develop an inclusive business model – which targets the needs of low-income consumers.

wasting food or is suffering from some type of malnutrition or obesity.

Dr [Gunhild Stordalen](#), Founder and Executive Chair, EAT and SUN Movement Lead Group Member, [highlighted that](#): “There are just as many faces of the food system as people on this planet. There will never be a “one size fits all” solution. There is, however, one thing, one key to our common way forward. The one-word scientists stress, business calls for, and basically everyone highlights. And that is: collaboration.”

In Stockholm, SUN and CAADP focal points from Nepal, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka among others participated in a mini [Food Systems Dialogues](#) sharing stories from the frontlines of nutrition and food systems transformations. As “the noble warriors of food-systems of the future” participants reflected on how to lead from where they stand to bring about change at country level and to draw upon synergies in the agricultural, nutrition and health space.



The SUN Movement participated in a climate focused event in Latin America: "investing in nutrition is investing in human capital". Within the framework of the summit of heads of state and government of Ibero-America, the forum focused on "the effects of climate change on food and nutrition security, malnutrition, poverty and economy in Guatemala".

SUN also participated in a climate focused side, organized by WFP, supporting UNOSSC, on the margins of the Second High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40). The SUN Focal Point from El Salvador attended, and ensured nutrition was a key point throughout the event.

Multi-sectoral actions help improve Chad's nutrition situation

According to the 2018 SOFI report, child stunting in Chad (39.9 per cent) is climbing and in some areas the prevalence of stunting exceeds 50 per cent. The exclusive breastfeeding rate, one of the most effective nutrition actions, has fallen to 0.1 per cent. While overweight and obesity levels are low, a slight increase was reported in the prevalence of adult obesity further complicating the situation.

The country's high exposure to climate extremes as well as conflict are contributing to the high levels of malnutrition (SOFI 2018). Climate shocks undermine ongoing efforts to improve food security, care practices, access to health services and safe water as well as the sanitation environment. A [nutrition capacity assessment](#), supported by the UNN found that great strides have been taken to create a solid foundation in terms of nutrition governance frameworks, coordination architecture and political commitment to combat malnutrition in the country. Insights from the assessment will support the nutrition coordination platforms to be better equipped to operationalize the PNNA and the supporting Inter-sectoral National Food and Nutrition Policy (PNNA) (2014 – 2025). A Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping, will help to ascertain coverage levels of core nutrition actions and build capacity to better coordinate action across diverse stakeholder and sectors.