

Rising to the challenge:

Nourishing people and planet

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The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is unique. Made up of 61 countries and four Indian States, the Movement unites us around a collective ambition to eliminate all forms of malnutrition. Together we are shaping a world where every child’s right to adequate food and nutrition is protected and fulfilled, and where good nutrition provides the building blocks of healthy bodies, healthy minds, healthy futures and a healthy planet.

The SUN Movement brings together the different sectors and systems needed to transform evidence into policies, strategies, programmes and actions that are changing how we improve nutrition for children, young people, and societies. And the SUN Movement continues to grow. In 2019, Honduras became the sixty-first SUN member country and Madhya Pradesh became the fourth Indian State to join.

Many SUN countries are moving in the right direction by improving nutrition through effective and sustained multi-sectoral nutrition programming. Active multi-stakeholder platforms are now in place in 55 SUN countries, helping establish an environment where good nutrition can prosper. However, only eleven SUN countries are on track to meet the World Health Assembly target to reduce the number of stunted children by 40 per cent by 2025. This fact calls all of us to



increase our support to country-level action: we must do more, better and faster.

The challenges are complex and enduring, no doubt. More than 820 million people still go hungry on the planet and one in five children under five (i.e. 149 million children) is stunted and denied the chance to reach his or her full growth and development potential. Simultaneously, the prevalence of overweight and obesity is rising across all regions. Poor diets remain the leading risk factor for death worldwide, and overall, nearly half of child deaths are due to malnutrition. This is unacceptable: even one child suffering from malnutrition is too many.

Let's think big and bold about the SUN Movement's future. As the SUN Movement enters its third phase (2021-2025), we need a movement that is fit for purpose and has a universal agenda to address all forms of malnutrition, everywhere. We should bring on board all countries where malnutrition – in any form – curtails children's potential and the potential of the societies where they live. Malnutrition is a universal challenge that unites us and together we need to learn from each other—and find the solutions.

As we look ahead to the major milestones that lie before us, every country, every organization, and every stakeholder must do better if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We must take a systems approach to addressing malnutrition and strengthen the capacity of

national food systems, health systems and social protection systems to deliver nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets to children, young people and societies everywhere, including in the face of climate-related shocks and humanitarian crises.

This year's SUN Global Gathering will energize every stakeholder to take bold and ambitious actions as we look towards the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Tokyo at the end of 2020. We will all need to be accountable to delivering on our commitments. Children, young people and their families across the world are counting on us.

Henrietta Fore

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