



Unfeashing nutrition's potential

for a brighter future



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Reflections from Gerda Verburg, Coordinator, SUN Movement

Next year marks the 10th anniversary of the SUN Movement. This will be a moment to celebrate progress, take stock of our challenges and together create a path forward to 2030, towards a world free from all forms of malnutrition.

2020 marks ten years to end hunger. Ten years to achieve universal health coverage and ensure clean water and sanitation for all. Ten years to create nutritious, climate resilient and inclusive food systems that nourish people and planet alike. Ten years to break down silos and leave egos and logos behind.

As Coordinator of the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, I will rise to the challenge. Join me.

The scale of change required to succeed is historically unprecedented. This is an exciting time: a time for bold, ambitious action. It is nothing less than our collective future that is being decided in the years to come. Nutrition is at the centre.

Nutrition is a cornerstone issue to many of the challenges we face. It is central to delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Averting malnutrition will catalyse at least 12 of the 17 SDGs and help create a healthy and prosperous world, in which no one is left behind.

Nutrition is a driver of change, a builder of resilience and security, and a key to unlock intellectual capacity and socio-economic development. It is the starting point and the foundation for a sustainable future.

Young people of today are stepping up for a brighter future.

Young people today are looking for change. They are demanding that we leave quick fixes and undelivered promises behind and are urging everyone to commit to change. Young people are stepping up for a better planet, for a better future. Whether it is in civil society, business, agriculture, health or research, young people today are calling for change in the way we eat, grow, transport and sell food around the world. They are calling for action. As knowledgeable consumers, as engaged citizens and as passionate leaders' young people are pushing for the systemic change required to address poor nutrition.

I am inspired by these young people and I will support them.

Looking ahead, to the SUN Global Gathering, to the Tokyo 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit and to the third phase of the SUN Movement, let's make a promise to ourselves: to make bold commitments, across countries and regions, at all levels of society and across sectors and stakeholders. Let's make commitments that will create real, lasting change and deliver a world where malnutrition is a thing of the past. Let's make commitments that the younger generation deserves and that will deliver a better future for all. Let us make commitments that we are firmly prepared to deliver.

I commit to ensuring that the SUN Movement will further strengthen our character – to remain country-driven and people-centered, to embrace a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach for improved nutrition, to leverage synergies and to make food systems efficient, nutrition-sensitive and climate resilient for people and planet.

I hope you are inspired by the progress and stories you have read. These stories demonstrate how our SUN Movement countries and stakeholders are working to improve nutrition and foster change in the right direction. Together, we will make all forms of malnutrition a thing of the past.

Looking ahead:

SUN Movement countries set priorities for 2020 and beyond

During the 2019 joint-assessment, SUN Movement countries identified up to 5 areas of action for 2020 and beyond. Here is a glimpse of what SUN countries will be working on:

- Many countries will be **developing, finalising and implementing Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plans** which are costed and which will work to strengthen the coordination and collaboration of actors at national and subnational levels;
- Countries will also **identify nutrition champions** to play a powerful advocacy role and improve public awareness of food and nutrition issues;
- A large number of countries see **financing** as a crucial issue. These countries will develop an investment plan for nutrition for use by business, civil society, government and parliamentarians and look at ways to improve financial tracking of nutrition expenditure;
- Many countries see **private sector engagement** as key. They will strengthen public-private partnerships, establish a Business Network and explore the potential for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to bring nutritious products to market;
- For nearly all SUN countries there are many opportunities to improve the **policy and legal framework** and so strategies to strengthen regulation, develop new policies and ensure implementation of legal frameworks relating to food and nutrition issues will be vital.



Gerda Verburg

Coordinator, Scaling Up Nutrition Movement

 [@GerdaVerburg](https://twitter.com/GerdaVerburg)