



**THE 2019 SUN MOVEMENT GLOBAL GATHERING**

#SUNCG19

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GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL  
NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



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**The 2019 Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)  
Movement Global Gathering**  
*“Nourishing People and Planet Together”*

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

# The 2019 SUN Movement Global Gathering

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## CONTENTS

Introduction.....	3
SUNGG19 at a glance.....	3
<b>MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019</b> .....	4
Opening ceremony .....	4
<b>TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2019</b> .....	6
Plenary 1: From Kathmandu to Tokyo and beyond – Committing to a healthier, better-nourished future .....	6
<b>WORKSHOPS</b> .....	7
<b>WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2019</b> .....	16
Plenary 2: SUN rising - Our progress, our future.....	16
<b>WORKSHOPS</b> .....	18
<b>THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2019</b> .....	28
Plenary 3: Making the SUN shine on all Sustainable Development Goals.....	28
<b>WORKSHOPS</b> .....	29
Plenary 4: Closing ceremony: Accelerating the end of malnutrition, leaving no one behind .....	34
<i>The Kathmandu Declaration</i> .....	36

### Acknowledgements

We wish to extend our gratitude to all SUN countries, partners and participants, including the co-host, the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal, who made SUNGG19 a reality. Special thanks go to ENN, who have been instrumental in capturing lessons from each session as reflected in this report, in addition to our other knowledge partners and Networks.

## Introduction

Over 1,200 participants gathered for the 2019 SUN Movement Global Gathering (SUNGG19) at Hotel Yak & Yeti in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 4 to 7 November 2019. The Government of Nepal and its National Planning Commission welcomed all SUN Movement members – creating a space for SUN countries to share their experiences and insights on how nutrition, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, can accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The theme of the 2019 SUN Movement Global Gathering was “Nourishing People and Planet Together”, acknowledging that globalisation, urbanisation, inequities, humanitarian crises and climate shocks are driving unprecedented negative changes in people’s nutrition around the world. Stemming this requires food systems to deliver nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets for all, within sustainable planetary boundaries. The theme was used to create a detailed programme with plenary sessions and 25 workshop sessions, based on country and stakeholder input, along with the SUN Movement Strategy and Roadmap 2016-2020.

- **The SUNGG19 agenda:** [English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)
- **Press release:** [SUN Movement Global Gathering brings together over 1,000 participants committed to improving nutrition](#)

Prior to SUNGG19, a full day of workshops and meetings involving SUN Focal Points, Networks, Executive Committee and Lead Group members took place, to ensure that SUN countries are on track to deliver results.

The SUN Global Gathering (SUNGG) is the flagship event of the SUN Movement. It is an important moment where the Movement takes stock of progress and challenges, whilst reflecting on the implementation of global nutrition initiatives. Previously, the SUN Movement Global Gatherings have been held in New York (2013), Rome (2014), Milan (2015), and in Abidjan (2017). More information on previous SUN Global Gatherings can be [found here](#).

## SUNGG19 at a glance

### THE 2019 SUN MOVEMENT GLOBAL GATHERING

**1,200 PARTICIPANTS**

from more than 100 countries gathered in Kathmandu, Nepal, for the 5th SUNGG, held 4-7 November 2019



**4 BUSY DAYS**

- 5 plenaries
- 25 workshops
- 19 Global Village events
- 11 pre-meetings

**52 BILATERALS**

held with the SUN Coordinator, including 40 country meetings and 12 stakeholder briefings



**800,000 ALMOST 90**



**IMPRESSIONS ON TWITTER EACH DAY**

**TWEETS BY US EACH DAY**



**11 LEAD GROUP MEMBERS**

**16 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**12 SUN YOUTH LEADERS**

**26 HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM NEPAL**

**51 SUN FOCAL POINTS**

**1,000 PROGRESS REPORTS DISSEMINATED**

**1,600 GLOBAL GATHERING BADGES ISSUED**

**72 GLOBAL VILLAGE STANDS SET UP**

**72**

**GLOBAL VILLAGE STANDS SET UP**

**"IN THE SUN MOVEMENT, YOU NEVER WALK ALONE"**

- Gerda Verburg, SUN Movement Coordinator

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Monday 4 November 2019

## Opening ceremony



The opening ceremony of the 2019 SUN Movement Global Gathering was chaired by Mr. Ishwar Pokhrel, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Nepal (representing the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. KP Sharma Oli). During this session, delegates from SUN member countries, Indian States, observer countries, the SUN global support system, technical experts and the diplomatic community of Nepal were in presence. This session set the scene for this biennial flagship meeting of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, with a focus on progress and challenges of SUN member countries, the exchange of knowledge, Tokyo 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit commitments, and the third phase of the SUN Movement (2021-2025). Following the opening ceremony, the SUNGG19 Global Village was inaugurated, after which a traditional Nepalese dinner, hosted by the National Planning Commission of Nepal, was held to welcome all participants to Kathmandu.

### Speakers:

- Mr. Ishwar Pokhrel, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Nepal;
- Ms. Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF and Chair of the SUN Movement Lead Group;
- H.E Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Vice President of Côte d'Ivoire and member of the SUN Movement Lead Group;
- Prof. Dr Pushpa Raj Kandel, Honourable Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission (NPC), Nepal
- Ms. Gerda Verburg UN Assistant Secretary-General and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement;
- Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari, the Right Honourable President of Nepal (video message: <https://youtu.be/1ZsDiNorkz8>);
- Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (video message <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDrq1vEI-2o>);
- Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (video message: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gafHqQWYA6w>).

To watch the video of the opening ceremony, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLE-SBmFJyM>. More images from Monday 4 November can be found at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scalingupnutrition/albums/72157711650733788>.

### Key reflections:

- The Government of Nepal and its National Planning Commission officially welcomed over 1,200 participants from more than 100 countries to the opening ceremony of the SUN Global Gathering in Nepal. The opening ceremony set the tone for the four-day event, outlining the importance of nutrition to the development agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It further highlighted the importance of the SUN Movement through the Global Gathering as a pivotal moment to ensure that nutrition stays on the political agenda in all SUN countries;
- Nepal has made significant progress in improving nutrition over the past 20 years, fully embracing the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach of SUN. The Government of Nepal recognised that being a member of the SUN Movement has been crucial to ensure political commitment at the highest levels. While there was still much work to be done to improve nutrition in the country, Nepal has continued to move in the right direction. The National Planning Commission is leading this cross-sectoral approach and is taking the lead to ensure collaboration across sectors and to ensure leadership and commitment at the highest levels. Nepal continues to be a proud member of the SUN Movement and was honoured to host this event;
- The official inauguration of SUNGG19 was marked with a traditional Nepalese ceremony involving the lighting of a ceremonial lamp by H.E Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Vice President of Côte d'Ivoire (host of the 2017 SUN Global Gathering) and the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal. This was followed by an official welcome (by video message) from the Right Honourable President of Nepal, Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari;
- Gerda Verburg, Coordinator of the SUN Movement, gave thanks to the Government of Nepal and applauded them for being a proud and gracious host and for their continued commitment to improving nutrition. She iterated that the strength of the SUN Movement lies in the 61 countries that lead the work of the Movement. She challenged participants to use the Global Gathering as an opportunity to speak out, speak up, learn, share and inspire so that when they returned home, they would continue to be inspired to make change and deliver impact;
- Welcome messages were shared by dignitaries including, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO; Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN and Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF. Their messages set the tone for the event to follow and demonstrated the cross-agency, cross-sectoral, cross-stakeholder efforts and the high-level political commitment of the SUN Movement approach to improving nutrition;
- The opening ceremony simultaneously looked ahead to the 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit and the third phase of the SUN Movement. It was also a call to action to everyone in the room to make smart nutrition commitments and help deliver on the SDGs, by 2030;
- The Global Gathering 'baton' was handed from H.E Mr. Duncan, Vice President of Côte d'Ivoire to the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal – in a symbolic gesture to officially open the event.



Tuesday 5 November 2019

## Plenary 1: From Kathmandu to Tokyo and beyond – Committing to a healthier, better-nourished future



This plenary session set the scene and ambition for the 2019 SUN Global Gathering as a key stepping stone toward the 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit and the third phase of the SUN Movement. The plenary recognised that further in-country effort was still required to fully succeed in scaling up nutrition and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Cognisant of these challenges, SUN countries and stakeholders pledged to renew their nutrition commitments at the Tokyo 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit. There was also a reinvigorated focus on nutrition and health, improving outcomes for women and children, reducing inequalities and prioritising the most vulnerable people.

### Speakers:

- Ms. Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF and Chair of the SUN Movement Lead Group (Moderator);
- Ms. Gerda Verburg UN Assistant Secretary-General and SUN Movement Coordinator (Ambition-setter);
- Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nepal;
- H.E Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Vice President of Côte d'Ivoire;
- Dr Azucena M. Dayanghirang, Executive Director, National Nutrition Council of the Philippines;
- Mr. Juan Carlos Carías, Secretary of SESAN and Office of the President of Guatemala;
- Ms. Jane Napais-Lankisa, SUN Youth Leader, Kenya;
- Ms. Diane Holdorf, Managing Director of Food and Nutrition, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (Power pitch, representing the private sector);
- Dr Beth Dunford, Deputy Coordinator for Development for Feed the Future, USAID (Power pitch, representing development partners);
- Ms. Emily Merville-Oro, Country Director Philippines, Acting Director of the Asia region, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (Power pitch, representing civil society);
- H.E. Mr. Masamichi Saigo, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal (Closing remarks).

More images from Tuesday 5 November can be found at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/scalingupnutrition/albums/72157711663352187>.

### Key reflections:

- Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timebound (SMART) commitments were delivered by each panellist in the lead up to the 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit and toward the third phase of the SUN Movement (2021-2025);

- There was a broad commitment to end the ‘business as usual’ approach and establish a new political and strategic ambition to improve nutrition – in the lead up to the Summit, and beyond, in SUN member countries;
- A series of short, ‘power pitches’ were delivered by representatives from civil society, private sector and development partners to demonstrate the ability and necessity of different stakeholders to commit to play their role in improving nutrition. There was widespread recognition that only when SMART commitments are made across sectors and stakeholders will improvements in nutrition be seen and sustainable;
- The closing remarks delivered a strong, clear and powerful message looking towards the 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit. They urged the Movement to harness momentum for new investments, policy commitments and systemic change, to eradicate malnutrition in all its forms, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and leave no one behind.



## WORKSHOPS (Tuesday 5 November)

### Workshop 1

#### Paving the way for Tokyo: Investing for impact and accelerating progress towards ending malnutrition

##### Abstract

Innovative and impactful financial commitments must be delivered at the 2020 Global Nutrition Summit in Tokyo to ensure the 2025 World Health Assembly nutrition targets can be achieved. According to the Global Investment Framework for Nutrition (2017), an additional USD 7 billion per year (USD 10 per child annually) is needed to reach four of the Global Nutrition targets (USD 70 billion over 10 years). SUN countries will therefore need additional resources as well as increased domestic resource mobilisation (DRM) to remain on track with their nutrition commitments.

During this workshop, experiences of financing models were shared by Peru, Burkina Faso, Indonesia and the Canadian Embassy in Mali (as the SUN Donor Convenor). The lead-up to Tokyo 2020 is an opportunity to stay on track through the scale up of innovative financing partnership models. Financing mechanisms include the Global Financing Facility (GFF), the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) and The Power of Nutrition (PoN), which were also presented in the session.

##### Key reflections

- The Global Investment Framework for Nutrition of USD 70 billion investment is only for nutrition-specific interventions. Donors have had high investment in nutrition-sensitive programmes, but this is starting to decline.

- High level political commitment is needed to increase domestic budget spending on nutrition: *“When governments contribute financially to implementation of national nutrition plans with DRM, donors and other development partners are more likely to make financial commitments.”* (examples of Burkina Faso and Côte d’Ivoire).
- Countries need to address taxation before seeking philanthropy and create the right fiscal environment to guarantee rights for all.
- There is an imperative need to strengthen data collection on nutrition spending within-country.
- Public policies do not currently respond to public demands. We therefore need to organise budgetary processes with a human rights-based approach.

Innovative funding mechanisms could:

- Catalyse mobilisation of Domestic Resource Mechanism (DRM) through matched funding.
- Be more sensitive to private sector partnerships (GAFSP; PoN).
- Offer support in multiple activities, for example, developing investment cases, identifying health/nutrition financing reforms, convening investors, implementing projects.
- Ensure that investment is always through the government (e.g. GFF implementation must refer to a country’s investment case).
- Pool resources together to invest in government plans and work on a single platform (e.g. The Power of Nutrition top-up funding in Côte d’Ivoire for adding child development component to a nutrition programme).
- Be flexible and responsive to country needs, e.g. change to policy after demand for investment for Fragile and Conflict Affected states (GAFSP).

## Workshop 2

### Ingredients for sustainable political commitment for nutrition

#### Abstract

SUN countries have set themselves an ambitious goal: revolutionising the way they address malnutrition through a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach. To achieve this objective, high-level political leadership is essential to break silos and bring together diverse groups of people across sectors and across different levels of governance. During this workshop, participants reflected on key contributions that are necessary across society to sustain political commitment and make sure this translates into action and investment: from media coverage to parliamentary commitment, from community mobilisation to responsible business practices, and beyond.

Although there is no universal recipe to sustain political momentum, key ingredients can certainly be adapted from context to context. In this workshop, participants will learn from one another about successful undertakings, mobilisation and advocacy efforts that have prompted governments to be more accountable, transparent and effective in the fight against malnutrition.

#### Key reflections

- Ownership of nutrition at the highest level of government: In order to mobilise ministers, particularly finance and economic ministers, you need the highest level of government to view nutrition as an issue worth investing in. For that you may need to consider capacity strengthening for political actors.
- Legal framework: To make sure the commitment to nutrition does not change when leaders change, it is important to include nutrition in legal frameworks such as Constitution/Laws.

- Civil society empowerment: A trusted, reliable civil society is key to sustain commitment to nutrition by holding governments into account and providing regular reality check at community level, making the bridge with community leaders.
- Evidence generation: Evidence and facts are what resonate with politicians, and policy briefs supported by reliable data, have been noted to be valuable to help politicians understand the state of play quickly and easily. Indicators to measure the impact of political commitment are needed. Budget lines for nutrition are certainly one, but we need more.
- Communication and media engagement: The importance of using various media platforms and tailoring messages according to which platform you are using was deemed to be critical. Also, having a communication plan to translate national targets into behaviour change messages was considered important.
- Youth involvement: It was noted within the workshop that youth engagement is essential for transformational change in the long term.
- Regional sharing: There was recognition within the workshop that regional coordination and partnership need to be strengthened across each continent.
- Private sector: The workshop noted the need for reliable tools to engage with private actors so they can meaningfully contribute to sustain political commitment to nutrition.

### Workshop 3

#### Making food systems work for healthy diets

##### Abstract

Food is the foundation of nutrition. How food is produced, processed, transported, sold and consumed has immense implications for nutrition, health and the environment. The rising phenomenon of the double-burden of malnutrition 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.

Food systems are a complex web of activities and are reflected in a number of different frameworks (such as the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE 2017), Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition (GLOPAN 2016) or the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO 2016 framework). This creates confusion for policy makers and a challenge for governments to appropriately engage with the food system in countries.

This workshop was set up as an “international market” of food system entry points for nutrition. It included examples from Peru, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Burundi, Zambia, Madagascar, Costa Rica, to name a few. It provided an opportunity for participants to share experiences about collective action to transform food systems in favour of healthy and sustainable diets. The discussions also looked at strategic entry points such as nutrition-sensitive agriculture, school nutrition, food-based dietary guidelines, food labelling and urban food policies.

##### Key reflections

- Food systems are essential for improving nutrition and SUN Movement partners are already working on food systems.
- Food system framework should be simplified, as food systems are complex and involve a lot of policy actions requiring more coherence across policies and frameworks.
- Food-based dietary guidelines should be sustainable and reflective of what people are eating and what is being produced in a country.

- Political commitment is necessary not only at the highest level but across all levels of government.
- The private sector is a critical component of the food systems infrastructure that needs to be better engaged.
- Many countries have made important strides in developing food labelling standards.
- The media could be used as a vital advocacy mechanism to inform the public of healthy food and create pressure on the government to increase access to healthy food items.
- Subsidies on cereal crops needed to be explored, and healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables need to be made more affordable. This is an incredibly complex challenge that requires further thought.
- It was recognised that focusing on all aspects of the food system might be too complex to achieve in phase three of the SUN Movement. Hence, the most pertinent components need to be identified and prioritised.

## Workshop 4

### Undernutrition and obesity: Two sides of the same coin! Opportunities to address malnutrition in all its forms

#### Abstract

This workshop gave participants insights and understanding of the multiple burden of malnutrition. It explored factors that influence the relationship between the different forms of malnutrition, e.g. wasting, stunting, micronutrient deficiency or insufficiency, overweight and obesity. The workshop showcased good practices, using existing data on the multiple burden of malnutrition to influence policy-makers and leverage investments and impact. The session highlighted examples from the Philippines, Costa Rica and Kenya, as well as a presentation by FAO on interventions to address this multiple burden of malnutrition. It also shed light on double-duty actions (interventions, programmes and policies) that can be applied for addressing all forms of malnutrition.

#### Key reflections

- Different forms of malnutrition exist in the same communities and cannot be addressed with a single set of interventions.
- The workshop identified the need for a systems approach, particularly examining the role of the food system in addressing the multiple burden as well as a more comprehensive multisectoral approach, that engages new actors.
- The workshop identified the need for better data along with increased investment in data: There is a further need to understand sub-national overweight statistics and micronutrient deficiencies (data is not always accurate) and overweight indicators need to be included in nutrition surveys and data collection mechanisms.
- The workshop identified the need to develop culturally sensitive interventions, recognising cultural beliefs and different understandings of what is a 'healthy' weight. Interventions should be contextualised to each country.
- Political will was essential, as countries cannot only commit to reducing wasting and stunting but should also focus on all forms of malnutrition, given that many countries were on the path to becoming triple burden countries.

## Workshop 5

### Traction and reaction: Making the SUN Movement Joint-Assessments fit for purpose

#### Abstract

Since 2014, SUN member countries have conducted annual Joint-Assessments. These annual assessments provide countries with a detailed picture of their progress against key targets in the SUN Movement. They also offer invaluable knowledge for the Movement's 'support system' in its plight to better serve country needs. Although these assessments are recognised as an important tool and moment for national nutrition communities, many countries have expressed a desire to consider a more time-efficient and less resource-intensive approach.

This workshop encouraged SUN country actors and global Networks to review the Assessment process and outcome. The objective is to create a fit-for-purpose tool that encourages participants to celebrate, but also scale up, progress. Reflections on the Joint-Assessments were shared by 3 countries (Gabon, Indonesia and Honduras) each with different experiences of the Joint-Assessment process.

#### Key reflections

- Countries needed active and inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms to ensure the full range of key stakeholders were part of the process of taking stock of annual progress and limitations to scale up activities.
- Joint-Assessments were highly valued at the national level as they could help raise awareness, enable more 'socialising' with government actors and focus on achievements, progress and priorities for the subsequent year.
- Important limitations to be considered in the third phase of SUN include the ambiguity of some toolkits and the subjective nature of the numerical scoring.
- A further limitation identified was the complexity of the Joint-Assessment process. The workshop recommended the consideration of biennial Joint-Assessments, along with the re-structuring of the assessment toolkits.
- Joint-Assessments will increasingly need to assist countries to assess their capacity for sub-national implementation.
- The Joint-Assessments could be a more powerful tool if they are undertaken to feed into and inform other key national policy-making processes, particularly SDG-related discussions given the centrality of nutrition to achieving these goals.

## Workshop 6

### From national vision to local implementation: harnessing country reviews for SUN's third phase

#### Abstract

The objective of this workshop was to explore country experiences in strengthening coordination and delivery amongst relevant sectors and stakeholders in their efforts to improve nutrition outcomes at the local level. This workshop involved four country presentations on experiences of sub-national coordination. It also included a review of 14 country case studies on the sub-national experience of scaling up multi-sectoral nutrition programming. This included lessons learnt in translating national multi-sectoral policies, strategies, financing and legislation into improved performance and accountability for nutrition at the subnational level. Four countries – Tanzania, Benin, Guatemala and Philippines – presented experiences of the enormous progress made in decentralising multi-stakeholder platforms to the various sub-national levels.

### Key reflections

- The 14 country case studies that were reviewed showed how sub-national MSPs vary in terms of level of decentralisation, range of stakeholders, degree of collaboration and autonomy for decision-making.
- The review also found that sub-national collaboration and coordination between sectors and actors was leading to greater convergence of programming at household and commune level. Further findings included shared platforms for delivery, utilising established structures for community mobilisation, ensuring common sets of messages across sectors and joint monitoring and evaluation.
- Successful decentralised multi-sectoral platforms (MSP) include representatives from various ministries and civil society and are chaired at the relevant administrative level. In countries like Tanzania and Benin, nutrition officers have been appointed at the district level to oversee operationalisation of sub-national programming.
- Sub-national programming is meant to be based on contextualised locally and inclusively agreed action plans that have been developed by sub-national MSPs. These should ideally be fully costed, with nutrition budget lines provided by federal and local government. These subnational common results frameworks have had greater traction when nutrition is an explicit priority in local development plans and elected officials act as nutrition champions at all levels of the administrative chain.
- Key requirements for sub-national MSP coordination were identified as political will, at the local level; An accountability framework with clear roles; decentralised decision-making; qualified and well-trained local staff in nutrition-sensitive sectors; and resources for multi-stakeholder coordination.
- The workshop noted that accountability could be promoted, by publishing nutrition spending against targets with incentives built in, through scoring systems and awards. In some cases, there could be sanctions when targets are not met.

### Workshop 7

#### Cutting through the noise: Why building a powerful narrative and engaging unusual suspects is critical to being heard

##### Abstract

Think people are listening to your nutrition stories? Don't assume. It's a noisy world out there and we need to make sure that our stories are being heard by the right people, at the right time. There is a need to engage new people who are not yet invested in nutrition, such as small farmers and chefs involved in food production but who are not engaged in policy. Usual suspects for collaboration were identified as the government, including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, in addition to donors, media, traditional and religious leaders, nurses and midwives and the private sector. Unusual suspects include young people, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, schools, farmers, chefs, celebrities, parliamentarians, and communities. Which group is classified as a usual or unusual suspect may differ according to context and who you are talking to? This session involved hearing from a panel of unusual suspects (chefs, farmers, youth, media) on how they have found new and interesting ways of building a narrative.

### Key reflections

- Rediscovery of local crops: In Bolivia, local crops had been included in school feeding programmes thanks to advocacy efforts, including showing people how to cook these ‘forgotten’ foods.
- Local crops: Sustainable chefs in India were choosing to buy local, rather than imported grains and using nutritious crops, often labelled as coarse grains and previously consumed only by poor people.
- Creating a new narrative for agriculture in Philippines through working with the farming community to encourage them to eat their own produce rather than selling it all and buying canned foods.
- Utilising media in relation to farming: In Guatemala, a journalist meeting with subsistence farmers created national awareness about the rise in food insecurity due to the climate crisis and highlighted the need to change farming practices to mitigate against this.
- Youth leaders were well placed to engage with adolescent mothers: In Northern Nigeria, safe spaces have been set up to talk freely and encourage girl empowerment.
- The use of celebrities: The Global Citizen Campaign advocacy used pop culture and music to engage 100 million citizens in ending poverty by 2030.
- Importance of social media: An interview with Chef Manal Al Alem from Jordan, highlighted the role that social media can play given her cooking centre and television show which has over 300 million views on YouTube.
- There is a need to be mindful of the potential risks of engaging unusual suspects.

## Workshop 8

### Emerging business practices and consumer trends in SUN countries

#### Abstract

Increasingly, the private sector is recognised as a critical partner in expanding access to healthy diets, making food systems better contribute to nutrition priorities, and reducing malnutrition in all its forms. Consumers across all income brackets rely on the private sector to provide a growing proportion of the food they eat, with consumption patterns becoming increasingly similar across countries. This workshop introduced the role and purpose of the SUN Business Network (SBN) with 14 SUN Movement countries having established Networks, with 27 Networks in various stages of development. Tools have been developed by the SBN to support countries develop networks. The SBN presented why SUN engages with business and how it strives to do so responsibly.

#### Key reflections

- The private sector plays a big role in food systems. Even rural households now purchase a large portion of their food from markets. The current reality is not *if* we should engage with business but *how* we take the private sector along with the nutrition sector to ‘do good and better’.
- 23 large multinational companies are members of the SBN, including some companies which make food products, not all of which necessarily healthy. Infant formula manufacturers are not members but the SBN engages in dialogue with them.
- There was a fallacy that the SBN dealt only with ‘big business’ – however at the country level, its composition was predominantly led by SMEs. The Kenya SBN had 72 members with 50 per cent of the membership being predominantly SME-led or owned by women.

- The Global SBN provides technical assistance or mentorship to national SBN members.
- When looking at consumer trends, it was noted that what really drove consumers is convenience, price and quality. Unfortunately, convenience tended to mean ultra-processed foods. Although consumers are slowly demanding more healthier options, these are often more expensive.
- Nutrition-sensitive business indicators are being developed, which allow governments to track the contribution of business to improving nutrition.
- There is a critical need to change the perception that healthy foods are just costly and not tasty. There is a need for investment in innovation, to make such food items more affordable.
- Some countries need to import products like micronutrient formulations to make products healthier, however these were heavily taxed which discourage their usage.

## Workshop 9

### Productive, not just reproductive! The power of gender equality to scale up nutrition

#### Abstract

Overcoming the obstacles created by gender-based inequalities, unequal access to resources and exclusion is 'the best bet' for development, and, to effectively and sustainably scale up nutrition. Some of the most successful nutrition actions to date are those that have recognised and addressed gender and social inequalities, gender equality and women's and girls' education and empowerment must be at the centre of the SUN Movement's work.

The workshop stressed the need for gender equality being seen as a key topic for the SUN Movement needed to address. It further highlighted the risk of recycling the same narrative without making progress. The workshop focused on the paradox of not being able to fight malnutrition without gender equality, alongside not being able to fight gender inequality without good nutrition. A plenary discussion – with representatives from the SUN Movement Lead Group, Executive Committee, Business Network, the Youth Leaders for Nutrition and SUN Focal Points – unpacking key targeted questions was followed by groupwork to grapple with key actions to impact gender equality as a mechanism for scaling up nutrition.

#### Key reflections

- The workshop noted the need to make nutrition for women and girls a political issue – we need to translate it to every level, so that achieving gender equality within and for nutrition becomes a key political mandate. In other words, it is for a time for a (peaceful) revolution to effectively scale up gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the Movement!
- Gender needs to be contextualised: gender analysis was critical. There is a need to understand the political, economic and social dynamics that underpin gender inequality in each country and community.
- The workshop identified the need for a policy review in each SUN country, to identify gaps and examine food security, nutrition and broader policies, as well as any unfavourable policies – through a gender lens. A suggestion was made for the SUN Movement to act as a 'watch dog' for the development of gender-sensitive policies.

- Empowerment is a key pathway: The *Bolsa Família*<sup>1</sup> example in Brazil is a powerful example of building empowerment. Social protection mechanisms need to be seen through both a gender and nutrition lens.
- More needs to be done to bring adolescent girls and women 'to the table' – they cannot just be seen as beneficiaries, but they need to be involved in the decision-making and planning of targeted interventions. There is also a need to work with men and key thought leaders in countries.
- More data is needed, and SMART indicators should be developed.
- The development of gender champions will highlight the importance of gender equality at the community level, which will mitigate political turnover, and, also, enable an understanding of the barriers to gender equality at the community level.
- Violence against women is a huge limitation to achieving gender equality and more needs to be done to tackle gender-based violence in many countries.
- Workshop participants collectively decided that the most useful result from the discussion would be an outcome document/call to action, outlining the urgent need to focus on women and girls as *the* key to ending malnutrition, with the knowledge that meeting notes or a recitation of the many challenges of gender in nutrition is not enough. This outcome document focuses on practical actions that the SUN community must take over the next 12 months to deliver transformational change in women and girls' nutrition, and can be found [here](#).

## Workshop 10

### SUN rising: Our progress, our future – shaping an optimal support system

#### Abstract

The SUN Movement recognises that the fight against malnutrition is too slow and urgently requires a scale up of interventions and approaches. The session was organised to get feedback from SUN countries on how the SUN Movement support system could be improved in the next phase of the Movement – to help countries achieve nutrition goals. The outcomes will be used to feed back into the ongoing strategic review of the Movement.

#### Key reflections

- The overall reflection for the third phase of the SUN Movement around the support system centred around: 1. Better coordination; 2. Greater focus on technical knowledge and sharing (also between SUN countries); 3. Country-owned and country-driven processes; and 4. Increased professional capability of country actors.
- SUN Focal Points need more support to navigate high-level engagement, at national and global levels, as well as coordinate the many networks and multi-sectoral partnerships within the multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) at the country level – all the while being tasked to undertake their daily duties.

<sup>1</sup> Bolsa Família is the largest conditional cash transfer programme in the world, and a social welfare programme of the Government of Brazil. It provides provides financial aid to poor families, and if they have children, families must ensure that the children attend school and are vaccinated. The programme attempts to: reduce short-term poverty by direct cash transfers and fight long-term poverty by increasing human capital among the poor, through conditional cash transfers. It also works to give free education to girls and boys who cannot afford to go to school. The Economist has described Bolsa Família as an "anti-poverty scheme invented in Latin America [which] is winning converts worldwide".

- The experience of technical assistance (TA) within the global support system (GSS) is that it is often very short-term and does not allow for long-term mentoring and capacity-strengthening, which is what SUN countries increasingly needed.
- The workshop recognised the need to consider how capacity strengthening and the use of different skills-sets and tools could support decentralised scale up at the local government level. Mapping functional capacities could be considered within the Joint-Assessment toolkit and used to grow nutrition capabilities across all sectors and at all levels.
- Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) should be channelled towards countries with the greatest needs and this should be guided by in-depth budget analyses.
- All government commitments should be sustained beyond political appointments/elections. Placing commitments within legal frameworks and ensuring nutrition has a legal status was identified as a mechanism to achieve this.
- Country-based Networks are often bypassed in TA requests and will benefit from being a part of such requests.
- There is a strong desire to utilise or form regional platforms where countries could share common problems and learn from each other.
- In the first phase of the SUN Movement, while the global support system was designed to be in support of countries plans and priorities, it tended to come to the country level with pre-prescribed notions of what was needed and on offer. Whereas to be truly country-driven, the demands need to come from the national and sub-national level. Furthermore, the workshop noted that many countries are unaware of the services offered by the GSS.

Wednesday 6 November 2019

## Plenary 2: SUN rising - Our progress, our future



Since its launch in 2010 by the UN Secretary-General, the SUN Movement has rallied 61 countries and four Indian States that have been supported by over 3,000 civil society organisations, some 600 businesses, 5 UN agencies and a group of international donors and foundations (the SUN Networks). This plenary celebrated the accomplishments of the SUN Movement to date. This included an overview of the nutrition progress and challenges in SUN countries, showcasing lessons learnt and commitments from different voices across the Movement in 2018 and 2019. This session also served as the official launch of the [2019 SUN Movement annual progress report](#).

In 2018 and 2019, SUN countries continued to break down boundaries between sectors and stakeholders, to develop a systems approach to nutrition. In 2019, 42 SUN countries have national nutrition plans and 53 countries are using inclusive platforms to rally stakeholders behind one vision,

one plan, one budget and one monitoring and evaluation system to achieve their nutrition goals. Thanks to the collaborative action of thousands of SUN Movement members, stunting has been reduced globally from 169 million children (2010) to 149 million (2018). While there has been significant progress, the SUN Movement must further evolve to support structural change that leads to sustainable nutrition impact for all people, everywhere.

This plenary session took stock of the nutrition challenges in SUN countries, showcased progress, lessons and commitments from voices across the Movement in 2018 and 2019.

**Speakers:**

- Dr David Nabarro, SUN Lead Group Member, Strategic Director of 4SD and SUN Movement Lead Group member (Moderator);
- H.E. Mr. Jakaya Kikwete, SUN Movement Lead Group member and former President of Tanzania (Ambition-setter);
- Dr Mariachiara Di Cesare, Member of the Independent Expert Group, Global Nutrition Report;
- H.E. Mr. Dag-Inge Ulstein, Minister of International Development, Norway;
- Mr. Abdoulaye Ka, SUN Focal Point and member of the SUN Movement Executive Committee, Malnutrition Unit of the Prime Minister's Office, Senegal;
- Ms. Chandavonne Phoxay, SUN Focal Point, Deputy Director-General, Hygiene-Health Promotion Department Ministry of Health, Lao People's Democratic Republic;
- Ms. Bormey Chuun, SUN Youth Leader, Cambodia;
- Dr Cecilia Gamboa, Coordinator of the Secretariat of the National Policy for Food and Nutrition, Costa Rica;
- Mr. Dissan Boureima Gnoumou, Parliamentarian, Deputy Coordinator of the Network of Parliamentarians on Nutritional Security, Parliament of Burkina Faso (Closing remarks).

**To download the 2019 SUN Movement Progress Report, go to:**

<https://scalingupnutrition.org/progress-report-2019/> **and watch its animation here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYUENTITQ6c>

**To view the state of global nutrition presentation, go to:** [https://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Global-Nutrition-Report\\_SUNGG.pdf](https://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Global-Nutrition-Report_SUNGG.pdf)

**To watch the video of Plenary 2, go to:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM3YpTxNikk>

**More images from Wednesday 6 November can be found at:**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/scalingupnutrition/albums/72157711678700438>

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**Key reflections:**

- Now in its ninth year, SUN Movement countries have made tremendous progress that should be celebrated, however there are continued and new challenges that persist. The SUN Movement and the global nutrition agenda, alike, are at pivotal points that require hard work to preserve the gains made in ending hunger and malnutrition. This will require systemic transformation, with governments in the driving seat. Many SUN countries are moving in the right direction to improve girls' and boys' nutrition, through effective and sustained multi-sectoral nutrition programming. However, it will take continued commitment and even greater action by governments for progress to ensure structural change and sustainability of the nutrition agenda;
- High-level political leadership is an essential ingredient to breaking down silos and bringing together a diverse group of people from different sectors to work on a common goal. It is also

key to ensuring the structural change required to improve nutrition and to ensure sustainability of the nutrition agenda. While commitment could be seen in some SUN countries, it is needed in **all** SUN countries, along with a more widespread recognition that good nutrition is necessary for both the physical and cognitive development of all people;

- The SUN Global Gathering was an opportune moment for SUN countries to showcase their successes, share lessons learnt with others and to acknowledge challenges and identify solutions together. It is important for SUN countries to connect in person to share, learn and inspire each other. This collaborative, supportive and inclusive approach to learning, sharing and progressing is a fundamental part of the SUN Movement approach;
- SUN countries (e.g. Costa Rica, Philippines who presented during this plenary) are increasingly taking a food systems approach to improving nutrition, to ensure that all elements from food production, to storage, to consumption serve the planet and its peoples, alike. SUN countries should look holistically at nutrition issues, taking into account health and environmental issues which are, increasingly, threatening good nutrition;
- Overall, SUN countries should continue to embrace a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to improving nutrition and to create environments where people are able to make good dietary choices. An enabling environment for good nutrition will only be possible when we are able to work across climate, environment, nutrition, education, health, finance and other sectors.



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## WORKSHOPS (Wednesday 6 November)

### Workshop 11

#### More or better data for improved decision-making for nutrition?

##### Abstract

The World Health Assembly set global nutrition targets to be achieved by 2025, however, the world is off track to meet the targets for stunting, wasting, anaemia, overweight, and exclusive breastfeeding. Using data effectively enables actionable and strategic decision making, and the SUN Movement is committed to support and engage countries in filling those data gaps that limit their ability to track disbursements and achievements. This workshop presents a platform for country policy makers to present their experience in using nutrition data to drive effective and efficient policy decision-making.

The overarching aim of this workshop was to discuss whether we needed new or better data to improve decision making for nutrition. The main presentations focused on how the EU-funded Nutrition Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) programme aims to strengthen collaboration

between data analysis and decision makers. Country examples from Kenya, Lao PDR and Niger were presented. The programme is only just over two years old but has managed to establish nine country platforms.

### Key reflections

- NIPN presented a global overview and more specifically the example of Guatemala, which has conducted an analysis of budget allocations for nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions over a 12-year period covering three nutrition strategies. Lessons from the analysis include: the strong potential at the sub-national level, how early outputs trigger engagement, and the need for trust and transparency.
- In Niger, the platform has links to the President's Office, helping to convene the 'right' people across multiple sectors. The system is also based on the existing Health Information System and therefore has sustainability built in. The system has managed to generate good data on programme coverage and the platform now reports on over 500 nutrition related indicators, of which approximately 350 are of adequate quality.
- In Lao PDR, the approach has helped to generate data on the cost-effectiveness of a set of interventions. It has also managed to map the relationship between stunting and a number of social deprivation indicators.
- In Kenya, civil society has helped improve the selection of indicators in the health system and increased ownership and use of data. It has further reduced reliance on survey data, making use of more routine data and provided a better balance between developing and tracking measures.
- UNICEF have been working on providing inputs into the development of DHS surveys; moving from surveys to routine data collection systems; undertaking reviews of areas like prevalence thresholds for stunting, underweight and wasting; developing guidance modules on nutrition information systems; and working on their own global data base, e.g. joint malnutrition estimates.
- The workshop highlighted the importance of ensuring that data systems were driven from national and sub-national levels, with strategically planned and costed processes for strengthening the nutrition data value chain.

## Workshop 12

### **Pole position for maternal and child nutrition! How to induce and establish necessary systemic modifications in SUN countries at sub-national and national levels**

#### **Abstract**

Regardless of the level of economic development of countries, ending malnutrition depends on delivering integrated programmes that have been generated and implemented through a range of interventions. These include evidence-informed advocacy, political will, legislation and policy, funding and cost-effective implementation of programmes, behaviour-change communication campaigns, monitoring and evaluation, and strategic coordination.

This workshop focused on the 'Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly' (BBF) initiative which aims to help governments scale up breastfeeding. BBF uses an evidence informed approach, developing a breastfeeding 'gear model', which generates indicators to develop a toolbox for development and tracking of large-scale breastfeeding programmes. Countries are ranked using an objective benchmark index (BBFI) that scores countries from lowest to highest on a scale of 0-3 respectively. BBF has been

successfully tested in eight countries across five regions. The workshop included presentations from three countries: Ghana, Myanmar and Germany.

#### Key reflections

- Breastfeeding rates in Ghana have declined in the last five years. The majority of Ghanaian children are breastfed but not necessarily according to recommendations. With a score of 1.6 on the BBFI, the gaps to address included advocacy, strengthening maternity protection, capacity for delivering services and enhancing breastfeeding communication and promotion.
- Myanmar joined BBF in 2017-18 with a score of 1.2 with its coordination gear performing the worst as there is no coordination body. Other weakness in its programme include monitoring, funding and resources. Recommendations for Myanmar include: The formation of an infant youth and child feeding (IYCF) alliance; ensuring the availability of routine data on breastfeeding; developing a breastfeeding communication strategy; capacity building and resource mobilisation; strengthening the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative implementation; and enforcing the Breastmilk Substitutes code (adopted since 2014).
- In Germany, whilst a national breastfeeding committee exists, breastfeeding rates are still very low. With a BBFI score of 1.7 weaknesses are found to be around public communication, promotion and advocacy; a lack of connection between actors; quality of measures and the coordination of single activities.
- For the BBF model to be successful there needs to be evidence-based advocacy to generate political will for legislation and policies. This will in turn help to release funds and physical infrastructure for training and establishment of breastfeeding initiatives (e.g. BFHI) and for proper delivery and quality control of these programmes.

### Workshop 13

**Better together: The strength of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral coordination for the best nutrition results, at all levels.**

#### Abstract

Nutrition progress to end malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 requires a range of stakeholders to work together, at all levels. Established, functional, coordinated and accountable multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) are the right medium to accelerate progress. These platforms bring together diverse stakeholders to set priorities, plan and deliver at national and sub-national levels, uniting actors and actions from the nutrition-sensitive, development and humanitarian sectors. Through this integrated approach, MSPs are better able to galvanise political momentum, shape coherent nutrition-relevant policies, and mobilise financing for effective implementation.

The workshop noted that the SUN Framework provides a structure and process for multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder programming, with room for contextualisation. However, this Framework recognises that multi-sectoral programming requires considerable policy reform at the country level and has implications for governance. It was further noted that the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS) has developed a toolkit for the design of multi-stakeholder platforms, with support from Nutrition International, under the TAN project. Presentations were given by representatives from Benin, Somalia and Civil Society Network chairs from Bangladesh and Somalia.

#### Key reflections

- High level political commitment was stressed repeatedly as critical to driving forward a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral agenda.
- The workshop noted the importance of having clear operational guidelines for establishing sub-national coordination committees at district, sub-district and community levels. The role of civil society alliances was also noted as being critical to supporting sub-national coordination.
- Sharing the load of MSP activities is critical, with examples of meeting rotation, sharing of resources, convergence of initiatives, and clarity of roles from Benin.
- Malawi demonstrated a 14-year long history of implementing multi-sectoral programming, with institutionalisation of structures for coordination at every level of governance. Unified policies and coordination structures helped to drive implementation and ensure clarity amongst all stakeholders.
- A strong convener was needed to ensure that once multi-stakeholder platforms were set up, they continued to remain functional.
- In regions with a large number of development actors, as well as in fragile states, coordination is critical to ensure no overlap of services. A mapping of who is doing what and where is vital to ensure that there was no duplication or gaps in services.
- The workshop noted common challenges to include a disconnect between what is budgeted for and what the actual needs are; as well as a lack of 'bottom up' planning resulting in a lack of buy-in from the local government.

## Workshop 14

### Leaving no one behind: Ensuring good nutrition through Universal Health Coverage

#### Abstract

Ending malnutrition in all its forms will only be possible with Universal Health Coverage (UHC), allowing everyone access to quality health and nutrition services without financial hardship. The progressive implementation of UHC, with nutrition at the core, will require health system reforms – with special focus on primary health care at the community level. This interactive workshop unpacked nutrition in UHC and highlighted what would be required to bring nutrition-specific interventions, such as micronutrient supplementation, breastfeeding and nutrition counselling and treatment of acute malnutrition, to scale in SUN countries. The workshop discussed country successes and challenges with concrete examples from Viet Nam, Sierra Leone, El Salvador and Rwanda. It identified priority areas for integrating nutrition into UHC ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit and third phase of the SUN Movement.

#### Key reflections

- Nutrition should be integrated across the 6 pillars of the health system. These include: health service delivery, health workforce, access to essential medicines, health information systems, health financing, leadership and governance. Nutrition integration requires strengthening of the health system across all 6 pillars.
- Nutrition integration in UHC needs to be led by governments, as part of a broader, multi-sectoral approach to nutrition. Donors, the UN and civil society need to fund and support strengthening of national health systems instead of stand-alone nutrition-specific programmes.

Civil society is key in reaching communities, raising awareness and creating demand for services.

- In many countries, policies exist at the national level but there is a need to scale up coverage of services and ensure quality implementation at the local level.
- Increased long-term, predictable funding for national health systems that prioritises nutrition integration is of critical importance.
- Health systems need to respond to changing contexts, including the double burden of malnutrition.
- Interventions to prevent malnutrition should be prioritised as part of routine service delivery.
- Prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition needs to be systematically integrated into health systems, including at the community level.
- Improving the quality of care is essential, with training of health workers being key to address this. A workforce gap assessment could be a critical first step, followed by adequate training and support.
- Community health workers – that are central to delivering integrated nutrition services – are often underpaid and overstretched and require significant support to be effective.
- Accountability mechanisms are vital to ensure quality of services, these should include communities who benefit from the services provided.

## Workshop 15

### Regional partnerships in action: Coming together for improved cooperation and nutrition results

#### Abstract

The SUN Movement does not yet have an official regional nutrition structure. There is a strongly held belief of the need to devolve to the regions to bring the learning and sharing of experiences closer to countries. It is envisaged that the third phase of the SUN Movement will include an element of support to existing regional platforms. A key question is what role regional platforms (RPs) might have in the third phase of the SUN Movement, to advance progress in reducing malnutrition. To address this question, existing platforms with a nutrition focus were convened in this workshop, to kickstart a mapping of who, what and where.

This workshop highlighted regional platforms that already work in collaboration with the SUN Movement and were contributing to the fight against malnutrition. Panellists were drawn from six RPs, (West Africa/ECOWAS, Central American/SICA, South Asia/SAARC, the food industry RP for Asia and, a civil society RP for West and Central Africa). ECOWAS, which brings together 15 countries in West Africa, has a nutrition forum in which SUN FPs and other nutrition focal points from international and national organisations meet bi-annually to share ideas and experiences. SICA, by contrast, is a higher-level regional platform, headed by the presidents of eight member states and focus on peace and security – with a specific objective of tackling food insecurity and climate change. SAARC brings eight countries together to promote welfare and economic development. The civil society regional platform, led by Action Against Hunger (*Action Contre la Faim*) has been evolving since 2013 and brings together 17 countries and 46 members to focus on advocacy, behaviour change communication and accountability in the Movement to commitments made.

#### Key reflections

- There is a strongly felt need to map country access to regional platforms, in terms of SUN Network and Focal Point interactions.

- Such regional platforms represent a significant opportunity for SUN, as countries that are part of these mechanisms share common challenges, ambitions and solutions.
- Regional platforms also confront a number of challenges. In the case of civil society platforms these include financing challenges, a reliance on ‘volunteerism’, a lack of appreciation of their role across governments and development actors, along with numerous internal barriers that can make working together, as an alliance, problematic.
- The food industry regional platform confronts challenges in relation to trust, finding the right balance between business growth and playing their part in tackling overweight/obesity and NCDs.
- The workshop noted that regional priorities do not always align with country plans and priorities.
- The third phase of the Movement will need to enable greater engagement with RPs. The Movement should consider linking all SUN Focal Points to existing regional platforms and consider mechanisms for the integration of countries’ nutrition ambitions into these platforms.
- Any regional actions of the SUN Movement, however, must avoid a top down or prescriptive view of regional issues but, rather, learn from what exists, how they are sustained, their challenges and opportunities.

## Workshop 16

### Accountable financial tracking for transparent results

#### Abstract

Over the last five years, one of the major achievements of SUN Movement countries has been to bring multiple stakeholders together, at the national level, to assess nutrition-related financial disbursements. The work underlines the fact that regularly acquired financial data is critical for policymakers, as it enables them to better prioritise, plan, monitor, and evaluate their nutrition policies’ implementation. Together with informing decision-making, tracking public investments increases accountability, transparency, and advocacy for better nutrition.

The workshop had working group discussions to share good practices and learnings in relation to, how to start tracking nutrition investments; how to refine the SUN budget analysis exercise to better inform decision-making; and how to institutionalise this exercise – with the ultimate goal of influencing finance decisions.

#### Key reflections

- Nutrition is not marked in most budgets because it is not seen as a sector. Gaining an understanding of nutrition budgeting is challenging as it requires examining activities across a large number of sectoral budgets. This is further complicated by the difficulty of defining nutrition-sensitive activities. This highlights a strong need for advocacy.
- Nutrition costing needed to be cross-sectoral and the determination of nutrition-sensitive activities across several sectoral budgets is time-intensive.
- There is a need to have a Ministry of Planning or Finance taking the lead in data collection and analysis.
- Many countries recommend an annual analysis of budgets and spending, to inform processes and inputs for the following year's plans.

- The workshop noted difficulties in tracking external funding support, which the Development Assistance Committee has helped alleviate, though inconsistencies and challenges still remain.
- Due to the complex nature of tracking and mapping local governmental budgets, resource mapping is critical at the beginning of the budget tracking process to avoid ‘double counting’. This also requires district level financing support.
- SUN Networks have a crucial role to play in the financial tracking processes, particularly the SUN Business Network, which include private investment, and the SUN Donor Network, as an indication of demand coming from the government.
- Transparency is vital and requires a push from the national level, to make sectors and partners more transparent in their budgeting and financial tracking.
- Kenya is a good practice, with its nutrition budget tracking tool having been institutionalised within the Ministry of Finance. Similarly, sub-national tracking in Ethiopia has been conducted, within the auspices of the *Seqota Declaration*.

## Workshop 17

### Harnessing the power of parliaments for sustainable nutrition impact

#### Abstract

Parliaments are uniquely placed to ensure that nutrition becomes, and remains, a key political priority. Parliaments are also key to make sure that action is taken to address malnutrition – through the enactment and enforcement of the right laws – while also ensuring that the adequate budget is allocated and disbursed. Parliaments are also essential to hold the government to account for delivering results. Bringing together parliamentarians from 20 countries, along with representatives from governments, donors, civil society and the United Nations, the workshop looked at practical ways that parliaments can contribute to improved nutrition, building on country examples. The workshop highlighted existing tools and mechanisms for support – including how national and regional parliaments, parliamentary alliances, and regional bodies can help maintain momentum, deepen engagement and contribute to greater, more sustainable impact. This workshop included experiences from national parliamentarians from Guatemala, Madagascar and Uganda, a former youth parliamentarian from Zimbabwe, and representatives from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Pan-African Parliament and civil society in Pakistan.

#### Key reflections

- Parliaments are key stakeholders in the SUN Movement multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach to nutrition – through their core mandates of law making, budget and oversight. As representatives of their constituencies, they can ensure sustainable nutrition results that transcends electoral cycles. Increased funding for nutrition and effective implementation of existing laws are key priority areas in many SUN countries.
- The potential of parliaments could be further leveraged with the right partnerships and support. Parliamentarians are busy, with many competing priorities. It is key to strengthen their capacity on nutrition and the roles they can play in scaling up nutrition.
- Parliamentarians need evidence and information, presented in an accessible way and targeted to their context. Messages need to be streamlined and it needs to be demonstrated why nutrition is important to the wider development agenda.

- Parliamentary networks and alliances at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels are seen as essential for connecting and uniting nutrition champion parliamentarians, maintaining momentum and increasing impact of their actions.
- Regional and global parliamentary institutions including the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Pan-African Parliament do substantial work relating to nutrition and can support parliamentary commitment and action on nutrition, at the national level.
- Civil society and the United Nations play key roles in supporting individual parliamentarians and parliamentary networks and alliances in SUN countries – this support need to be maintained over time, as there is turnover among parliamentarians due to elections.
- A key outcome of this workshop was the signing of a pledge, where parliamentarians commitment to act on nutrition, ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, and beyond. This pledge can be found [here](#).

## Workshop 18

### Food systems in the face of climate change: Nourishing the world within planetary boundaries

#### Abstract

Climate change is threatening ecosystems that support food systems for millions of women, men and their families. It is degrading soils and diminishing the nutritious value of the food we grow, while disturbing water and sanitation environments – affecting people’s disease patterns and ability to absorb nutrients and overall household food security. Climate change touches low-income countries disproportionately and erode gains made in ending malnutrition. The relationship between climate change and food systems is bidirectional: food systems and diets are highly sensitive to the climate, but they also act as a major driver of climate change and biodiversity loss. This bidirectional relationship leaves us with a big challenge: how do we adapt food systems to climate change, so they are resilient enough to deliver nutritious food to all, while mitigating the impact on planetary ecosystems that support good nutrition?

This workshop aimed to set a common understanding of the effects of climate change across food systems, highlighting the implications on nutrition outcomes in different SUN countries. It explored how the SUN multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach to nutrition can contribute to adaptation and mitigation strategies, at different steps of the food system. Country experiences were drawn from Honduras, Mozambique, Sri Lanka and Fiji.

#### Key reflections

- Nutrition is key to climate change resilience. Disaster relief funding mechanisms need to be adaptable to climate shocks and repeated disasters, and nutrition should be mainstreamed throughout humanitarian and development actions with the objective of reaching the most vulnerable and improving resilience to shocks.
- Empowering the vulnerable: The experience of Mozambique, following Cyclone Kenneth<sup>2</sup> illustrated the far-reaching effects of climate change that women face, including risks of sexual abuse and violence. Supporting the empowerment of women is particularly critical in these contexts. More broadly, ensuring local farmers are empowered, by ensuring decent livelihoods, is important to nutrition resilience of both of people and food systems.

<sup>2</sup> Intense Tropical Cyclone Kenneth, in April 2019, was the strongest tropical cyclone to make landfall in Mozambique since modern records began.

- Rethinking food systems: Sustainable food production should be incentivised, considering the preservation of ancestral practices and promotion of local crops and seeds that protect biodiversity and provide good nutrition. Efforts should be made to rebuild local food systems that promote sustainable diets, reduce food losses and regulate the use of plastic, across the food chain. Encouraging urban agriculture – given the scarcity of land – is increasingly should be considered. Research is needed to understand how small-scale farmers can benefit from climate smart agriculture technologies, as well as the impact of climate change on the nutritional content of cereal crops.
- Engaging private actors: The private sector needs to be more engaged in promoting sustainable initiatives and strengthening the applicability of climate-smart technologies, such as early warning systems that provide farmers with information on changing weather patterns.
- SUN countries’ multi-sectoral platforms can act as springboards to integrate policies and interventions related to food security, nutrition, gender equality, resilience and climate change at the country level, recognising that countries should tap into existing mechanisms and focus on the potential impact in relation to nutrition.
- The SUN Movement can play an important role to ensure knowledge-sharing among countries on the links between nutrition and climate change. This includes disseminating more information on planet-friendly diets and on interventions to transform food systems to make them more nutritious, with a reduced impact on the climate. Promoting peer-to-peer learning between countries on programmes to prepare for and adapt to climatic shocks, would also be valuable.

## Workshop 19

### How to accelerate progress in nutrition: Lessons from a stunting deep dive

#### Abstract

Stunting is one of the most challenging issues in the SUN Movement. While global stunting rates have decreased over the last 15 years (from 32 to 22 per cent), in order to reach the 2025 World Health Assembly nutrition targets there is a need to triple the rate of progress. This workshop gave an overview of patterns and progress toward accelerated stunting reduction. Case studies from Nepal, Ghana and Rwanda were presented, whilst panellists from Peru, Viet Nam, Burkina Faso and Burundi shared their country experiences.

#### Key reflections

- There is a critical need to understand what is driving the change: Research has shown that the drivers for stunting reduction is vastly different across countries. Furthermore, nutrition-sensitive interventions have been found to contribute to only 50 per cent of change. There is a need to truly understand the drivers of stunting progress in each country and develop contextualised, evidence-based strategies to scale up stunting reduction efforts.
- Sub-national stunting prevalence rates are often higher than national rates. For example, stunting rates in rural areas in Peru, are three times higher than national figures.
- National country plans should be contextualised to the local level.
- Political commitment is essential to driving stunting progress and should be matched by financial commitment.

- Multi-stakeholder platforms and multi-sectoral programmes are generally seen as critical to driving stunting reduction strategies, but such mechanisms, at all levels, need to be strengthened for lasting success.
- Stunting strategies must be prioritised: More evidence is needed as to what interventions to prioritise and where.
- A balance is needed between nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive activities.
- Stunting is a complicated problem and solutions need to recognise this complexity. Furthermore, adequate time needs to be factored in to effectively reduce the burden of stunting within countries.

## Workshop 20

### Scaling up nutrition resilience in the face of uncertainty

#### Abstract

Malnutrition is driven by multiple forms of fragility, including political, social, climate and economic fragility. The resultant malnutrition not only impacts morbidity and mortality, but also the capacity to achieve all Sustainable Development Goals. In fragile contexts, the need for tailor-made and multi-stakeholder strategies adapted, adaptable and resilient to the unique sets of risks and opportunities is as critical as it is challenging. This workshop explored potential policies and programmes that could help limit the continued dependence on humanitarian assistance in fragile contexts. Country examples were taken from Afghanistan, Niger and Ethiopia.

#### Key reflections

- Independent and lifesaving humanitarian assistance will remain essential until governments, and other duty bearers, are able to build their own response capacity, have the fiscal space, flexibility and political commitment needed to respond – in a timely manner – to all shocks and crisis.
- Humanitarian actors should clearly communicate to governments and other development partners that sustainably improved nutrition and nutrition security requires a longer-term approach – with targeted long-term development programming – aimed at the most vulnerable in the most vulnerable regions currently receiving humanitarian assistance.
- Short-term funding makes it difficult to build sustainable nutrition resilience.
- There is a need for predictable, multiyear development funding to the government and development partners that is scalable, adaptable and integrated into national development plans. The workshop noted that other tools and systems could also contribute to resilience, such as risk insurance, financing from the private sector, pooled funding etc.
- In most cases, independent humanitarian aid transaction costs are higher than if emergency response capacity were integrated into State institutions. It is important to invest in State capacity so that they can take over from the independent humanitarian actors as soon as it is possible without putting those in need at risk.
- There is a need to bring humanitarian and development nutrition actors closer together for joint analysis, planning and coherent implementation. This requires a mutual understanding and respect for each other's operating principles, approaches and funding models.
- There need to be country-specific strategies for scaling up prevention and resilience programmes.

- Peace is a pre-requisite for most things, including good nutrition. Political solutions to conflict, discrimination, exclusion and other causes of fragility are essential for the sustainable eradication of malnutrition.
- The 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit provides an opportunity for policy and financial commitments. It also provides the opportunity to make the case for reducing the current excessive risk aversion in development cooperation funding.

Thursday 7 November 2019

### Plenary 3: Making the SUN shine on all Sustainable Development Goals

This plenary was framed as a frank conversation about the changing nutrition landscape, and how the SUN Movement can evolve, in its third phase, to combat all forms of malnutrition. Panellists shared their vision of challenges and possible solutions for the future of the SUN Movement moving into the decade of delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the mid-point of the UN Decade of Action for Nutrition (2016-2025).



#### Speakers:

- Mr. Shawn Baker, Special Advisor to the SUN Executive Committee (Moderator);
- Mr. Maxwell Mumba, SUN Youth Leader, Zambia (Ambition-setter);
- H.E. Ms. Frances Piagie Alghali, Minister of State, Office of the Vice President, Sierra Leone;
- Ms. Meera Shekar, Global Nutrition Lead, World Bank and Chair of the SUN Movement Executive Committee;
- Dr Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and member of the SUN Movement Executive Committee;
- Dr Anna Lartey, Director of Nutrition, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and member of the SUN Movement Executive Committee;
- Ms. Asma Lateef, Director of Bread for the World Institute and member of the SUN Movement Executive Committee;
- Mr. Felix Phiri, Director for Nutrition, Ministry of Health, Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, Malawi and member of the SUN Movement Executive Committee;
- Ms. Tatjana Von Steiger, Deputy Head of Domain Global Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and member of the SUN Movement Executive Committee.

To watch the video of Plenary 3, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N71t8eHzsgo>

More images from Thursday 7 November can be found at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/scalingupnutrition/albums/72157711959134906>

### Key reflections:

- This plenary explored the changing landscape of the SUN Movement. It provided a platform for SUN stakeholders to share challenges and solutions for the future of the Movement, in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Decade of Action for Nutrition;
- Stemming these challenges require food systems to deliver nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets for all within sustainable planetary boundaries;
- Health, water and sanitation, education and social protection systems also have crucial roles to play in promoting and supporting good nutrition for children, adolescents and women;
- The discussions further examined the growth, membership and strategic focus of the Movement, and explored implications – as the Movement evolves – to tackle all forms of malnutrition. Major challenges include globalisation, urbanisation, inequities, humanitarian crises and climate shocks which are driving unprecedented negative changes in people’s nutrition around the world;
- Speakers stressed that ownership of the nutrition agenda should be driven by governments and supported by local and international stakeholders. This means that the whole Movement needs to champion convergence, alignment and accountability for impact – through their organisations, companies and networks.



## WORKSHOPS (Thursday 7 November)

### Workshop 21

#### Common results, bigger impact: Key takeaways from four regions of the SUN Movement

##### Abstract

Combating malnutrition requires a coordinated effort across sectors. Various national nutrition plans and monitoring and evaluation systems exist to guide the development and implementation of national nutrition targets. The quality of country-driven and country-owned multi-sectoral nutrition plans requires improvement, as incomplete plans lead to weakened nutrition accountability and sustainability. Rigorous evidence of what works, how and at what costs is scant, and this further impedes the ability of donors, policymakers and programme managers to make decisions in their resource-constrained settings. This workshop looked at four country examples: Bangladesh, Mali, Peru

and Tanzania and their experiences of developing and implementing common results frameworks (CRFs). World Food Programme (WFP) Asia also presented different viewpoints of the value and challenges of these frameworks, from a development partner perspective. For the purpose of this workshop the terms “common results frameworks” and “national nutrition plans” were used interchangeably.

### Key reflections

- Common results frameworks differ in various ways. All have clear targets for results but vary in the extent to which the framework emphasises accountability (who is responsible for what indicators and achievements), resource flows (budget and spend) and decentralisation (level at which targets, and budgets are set).
- The workshop noted that all CRFs have gone through cycles of ‘course correction’ with accumulated experience. For example, in Mali, it was found that 65 per cent of nutrition resources were prioritised for emergency activities, detracting from the resilience-building focus of the plan. In Tanzania, a mid-term review (year three of a five-year plan and framework) found that only about 40 per cent of the planned budget had been mobilised. In Peru, budget estimates for certain activities improved with experience.
- Data challenges: WFP suggested that the periodicity of data could be a challenge for plans, citing the experience of Cambodia, where the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) only took place every five years and did not coincide with the beginning of the national nutrition plan. Thus, there were no baseline nutrition indicators. A partial solution to this challenge was to introduce ‘nutrition proxy’ indicators.
- A further challenge noted is that outcome indicator monitoring is usually sector-driven and many sectors lack nutrition experts, thus reducing nutrition-related data collection capacity.
- The CRF was unanimously seen as a useful planning tool to scale up nutrition. It contributes to the programmatic alignment of stakeholders including government and development partners and could be used as a resource to focus on commonly agreed priorities.

## Workshop 22

### Integrating WASH and nutrition in practice: What works, what doesn't

#### Abstract

The goal of ending malnutrition by 2030 cannot be met while almost each SUN country struggles with inadequate provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The SUN Movement and Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership aims to support governments and partners to drive greater collaboration and integration of nutrition and WASH.

There is evidence that inadequate provision of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services contributes to undernutrition, both directly and indirectly. Recent studies, including the SHINE Study (Sanitation, Hygiene, Infant Nutrition Efficacy) randomised control trials (RCTs) in Bangladesh, Kenya and Zambia showed that basic WASH interventions, alone, have no effect on linear growth and only a mixed effect on treating diarrhoea. This highlights the complexity of the relationship between WASH and undernutrition, and the need to include other interventions alongside ‘transformative’ WASH programmes. This workshop session included experiences from Cambodia, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali and Nepal, alongside findings from other partners.

## Key reflections

- The workshop noted policy integration across multiple sectors (including health, agriculture and education) was critical, but still lacking in many countries. Where policies, themselves, are integrated, big challenges remain – with both financing and the implementation of integrated approaches.
- Political will, at the highest level, was identified as very important for integrated approaches, as only the highest political leaders can bring together multiple line ministries and hold them to account. This is critical, as securing an adequate budget for WASH-nutrition integration requires the involvement of multiple ministries and identifying relevant budget lines – in multiple areas. For instance, in Cambodia, 20 ministries are involved in a technical working group (TWG), chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, to identify priorities and an action plan.
- It then takes substantial work to translate high-level political dialogue on integration into improved sub-national coordination and local level delivery. Technical capacity for WASH is limited at sub-national level, and often WASH practitioners do not understand how to enhance ‘nutrition sensitivity’ of their interventions.
- Achieving sustainable behaviour change related to nutrition and hygiene requires creative thinking and willingness to invest in the long term. Sustainable adoption of WASH interventions is impossible without adequate water infrastructure for example (e.g. Ethiopia’s *Seqota Declaration* to end stunting by 2030 prioritises water in its innovative phase.). Donors also need to understand that this is a long-term commitment.
- It is important to maximise the use of existing financial opportunities for more integrated approaches (the GFF was cited as one example). Sharing success stories can be used for advocacy evidence of the utility of integration, but there remains insufficient evidence on the benefits of WASH-Nutrition integration to convince donors and governments – more is needed.
- Using existing multi-sectoral platforms to build more integrated approaches and strengthen coordination is crucial, but strong accountability mechanisms are also needed. Communities and citizens need to be empowered, knowledgeable and aware of their rights. Greater ownership by local authorities and communities will create lasting effects. E.g. Nepal has harnessed the opportunities of its federalised system and has seen good results from its pilot WASH programme targeting 35,000 women at the community level.

## Workshop 23

### Scaling up nutrition-sensitive interventions

#### Abstract

A nutrition-sensitive intervention is any set of interventions that have nutrition advancement as a goal. In contrast, nutrition-specific interventions are those where nutrition is the primary goal. Nutrition-sensitive programmes draw on complementary sectors such as agriculture, social safety nets, early child development, health systems and education, to affect the underlying determinants of nutrition. These programmes also have enormous potential to enhance the scale and effectiveness of nutrition-specific interventions. The 2014 Global Nutrition Report (GNR) noted that the evidence base on which to achieve this potential is weak but growing stronger. Based on official development assistance (ODA) data from the Global Nutrition Report, a lot more investment is needed for nutrition. There is a strong recognition of the need to engage with all sectors, influencing them and building

relationships (which can be a long and time-consuming process) – to scale up nutrition-sensitive interventions. In this workshop, case studies from Senegal, Nepal and Burundi were presented, as well as a WFP Resilience programme in West Africa.

### Key reflections

- Strong political leadership is critical. Governments need to display leadership in driving forward nutrition-sensitive activities, particularly in relation to multi-sectoral programmes. This includes having an overall plan, which can be adapted and contextualised, at the local level.
- Local and international civil society actors are recognised as being key stakeholders in scaling up nutrition, as a result of their extended coverage and reach in many countries. This was particularly noted in Senegal, where partnerships between local and international NGOs (to allow for skills transfer) were encouraged, with the Government driving the coordination of which actors provided which activities and where.
- Coordination across sectors is critical to drive the nutrition-sensitive agenda. Sectors should be encouraged to develop their own action plans, based on the National Plan, to better showcase their proposed nutrition actions and reflect these actions in coordination meetings.
- Data remains a challenge. Interventions across a multitude of sectors requires the integration of databases, which has been highlighted as a tremendous challenge. All countries noted the challenges of setting up a single monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for a multi-sectoral approach. Even integrating nutrition information into health systems can be challenging, given that health data often reflects all children under the age of three, while nutrition data requires the collection of information for children under the age of two.
- Women and the vulnerable need to be able to have a meaningful contribution throughout the process. The case study from Nepal on nutrition in mountainous agro-ecosystems showcased its focus on women farmers who were given inputs and support to grow local, nutrient-rich legumes.

## Workshop 24

### Trying to see ‘the wood for the trees’ in adolescent nutrition

#### Abstract

Adolescence provides a unique opportunity to break the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition. Youth are not being brought into strategies, policies and programme design yet they represent a potentially powerful force in the fight against malnutrition. Furthermore, youth make up a significant proportion of the global population comprising up to 25 per cent of developing country populations. There is very limited data on the state of nutrition in this age group, however the problems are thought to be extensive across undernutrition, overweight and obesity. During this workshop, youth leaders from a number of countries provided perspectives on issues affecting them, but also their needs and opportunities for greater connectivity with global and country-led efforts.

### Key reflections

- There is a critical need to bridge gaps between youth platforms and large organisations. Young women and men often find that large organisations are like ‘concrete monoliths’ who do not see the reason to engage with ‘inexperienced’ young people who may lack nutrition

training. They often feel patronised and are at a loss as to how to be recognised and supported to successfully engage in malnutrition solutions. There was a general feeling amongst the youth leaders that they were under-represented at SUNGG19.

- Young women and men cannot, and should not, be left with the sole responsibility for youth engagement as the issue of adolescent nutrition is everyone's responsibility.
- Countries need to articulate clear strategies and plans for youth engagement. Some countries have existing strategies and plans for youth (e.g. Ethiopia) but most do not.
- Data on adolescent nutrition is a major gap. The Global Nutrition Report does not have a scorecard for adolescent nutrition, as this data is not collected. The upcoming Lancet series on adolescent nutrition will help articulate the prevalence and burden of malnutrition among this population group and recommend next steps for data gathering.
- Youth networks are not being harnessed. There is a sense that the urgency of malnutrition is not being communicated to youth and that a more compelling, but less technical, narrative is needed.
- The workshop recognised that a large number of adolescents do not have agency over their bodies, or their time and it was these youth who were most left behind. They are often outside the education system and more vulnerable to early marriage, pregnancy, malnutrition and violence. Education was noted as a key entry point to protect youth, particularly girls, and intervene in nutritional issues such as anaemia.

## Workshop 25

### Technical Assistance (TA) – a catalyst to accelerate progress towards scaling up nutrition, at both national and sub-national levels

#### Abstract

Countries who join the SUN Movement are joining a global network and support system that strives towards common objectives – for effective nutrition actions. As part of this network, countries often team up with both in-country and out-of-country Technical Assistance (TA) providers. This workshop reflected country examples of the provision of technical assistance, with a focus on how this can and has played out at the sub-national level. Country examples from Guinea, Philippines and Yemen highlighted how TA from Nutrition International (NI) and MQSUN+ have helped advance nutrition plans and overcome roadblocks. The workshop also highlighted the priorities and benefits of TA and how it could be better provided to countries.

#### Key reflections

- The workshop stressed the role of Technical Assistance in bringing people together. For example, in Guinea, a key value add of TA was the ability of the TA consultant to get people into the same room, to drive the conversation forward on developing a strategic plan.
- TA is perceived to have a greater impact where mappings of stakeholders and actions are undertaken at the start of the exercise. Mapping helps provide a clear overview for all stakeholders as to the 'state of play' of nutrition interventions and provides a good baseline from which the TA could be kick-started.
- The workshop also noted the importance of flexibility in TA. Particularly in the case of Yemen, TA had to adapt to the changing needs and the fragile situation of the country. Therefore, flexible terms of reference ensure that TA continues to meet the true needs, at national and sub-national levels.

- TA needs to be a country-driven process that addresses the country’s own priorities and limitations. It should never be global, or donor driven, and should always align to national governments and sub-national structures and priorities. Government actors and in-country stakeholders need to be involved from the inception of the TA process, to truly own the process and have the ability to monitor TA provision.
- The workshop noted the need for mindfulness of the realities facing country-level actors. At the sub-national level, stakeholders have a multitude of policies to implement and need support to disentangle interwoven and sometimes conflicting policies.
- Sustainability of plans was noted as being critical. TA often ‘gets things started’ but then lacking capacities are often seen to drive projects to completion. Participants reflected on the importance of academia and research institutions as extra TA providers.
- Stronger focus on operationalisation. TA provision needs to respond to the end user’s needs to ensure that the robust tools developed are utilised appropriately and not ‘shelved’ away.

#### Plenary 4: Closing ceremony – accelerating the end of malnutrition, leaving no one behind



This final plenary and closing ceremony of SUNGG19 focused on the strategic direction of the Movement leading up to the 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit and the third phase of the SUN Movement (2021-2025). SUN Movement Lead Group members made strong commitments outlining how they would support SUN countries to make further progress. The plenary concluded with the SUN Movement Coordinator and the high-level representatives from the Nepalese government presenting the Kathmandu Declaration to H.E. Mr. Masamichi Saigo, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, as an acknowledgement of the commitment of the SUN Movement to the 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit.

#### Speakers:

- Ms. Cherrie Atilano, founder and CEO, Agrea Agricultural Systems International Inc., and member of the SUN Movement Lead Group (Moderator);
- Ms. Sophie Healy-Thow, Youth Leader and member of the SUN Movement Lead Group (Ambition-setter);
- Ms. Manal Al Alem, chef and member of the SUN Movement Lead Group;
- Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union and member of the SUN Movement Lead Group;
- Ms. Monica Musonda, CEO of Java Foods and member of the SUN Movement Lead Group;
- Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Defence and National Security and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Fiji and member of the SUN Movement Lead Group;

- Dr Usha Jha, Honourable Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal;
- Dr Yuba Raj Khatiwada, the Honourable Minister of Finance, Nepal;
- H.E. Mr. Masamichi Saigo, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal;
- Ms. Gerda Verburg, UN Assistant Secretary-General and SUN Movement Coordinator;
- Mr. Upendra Yadav, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Nepal.

To watch the video of Plenary 4, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N71t8eHzsGo>

More images from Thursday 7 November can be found at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/scalingupnutrition/albums/72157711959134906>

#### Key reflections:

- It is an injustice that healthy diets are a luxury which many people cannot access. Current food systems are broken, fuelling poor diets and exacerbating inequality, climate change and environmental degradation.
- Greater involvement of young people in the SUN Movement at grassroot, national and global levels is critical – youth need to be part of decision-making processes and help find innovative solutions to ending malnutrition.
- Donor funding and public spending is not enough to move the needle on nutrition – greater private sector investment is needed. Businesses need to be convinced to make their food investments nutrition-sensitive. SMEs are critical food systems actors – producing 60 per cent of all food in SUN countries, but they need more support. An enabling environment for business engagement is needed, which should include incentivising them to do good and ‘calling out’ those who do harm.
- Addressing malnutrition requires collaboration with actors and initiatives working across the SDGs, beyond SDG 2. More focus on climate change is necessary for sustainable nutrition results – as climate change is already exacerbating malnutrition in SUN countries.
- Harnessing the power of parliaments is crucial for improved nutrition and parliaments could play a greater role in the SUN Movement at country level – advancing the nutrition agenda through their law-making, budget and oversight mandates, but they need to be sensitised on nutrition.
- Looking ahead to the 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, there is a huge opportunity to advance nutrition in SUN countries through commitments around integrating nutrition in Universal Health Coverage, building sustainable food systems, and addressing fragile and conflict affected states, while ensuring more and better financing and accountability systems for nutrition.



## ***The Kathmandu Declaration***

The 2019 SUN Global Gathering culminated in the *Kathmandu Declaration* which was presented on stage during the closing ceremony. The non-binding declaration is an expression of the SUN Movement’s commitment to end malnutrition in all its forms.

This Declaration draws on the key messages and takeaways which were shared by SUN Movement stakeholders during the 25 workshops and four plenary sessions held across the four days. Recognising that the triple burden of malnutrition – under-nutrition, hidden hunger, overweight and obesity – threatens the survival, growth and development of children, young people, women, economies and nations, the Declaration should be seen as a call to action for all SUN Movement members as they look ahead to the 2020 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit.

Framed around the action areas outlined in the SUN Movement Strategy and Roadmap 2016-2020, it is a tool to encourage all member countries and stakeholders to take the energy and inspiration from Kathmandu forward to the Tokyo 2020 Summit and beyond into the third phase of the SUN Movement.

In a symbolic gesture, the Declaration was handed by the Government of Nepal, and its National Planning Commission, to H.E. Mr. Masamichi Saigo, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal during the closing ceremony.

The Kathmandu Declaration is available in: [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Russian](#)

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