

The 2020 SUN Movement Joint-Assessment

AT A GLANCE: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES



Scaling Up
Nutrition



#SUNassessment20

Why is the SUN Movement Joint-Assessment so important?

The SUN Movement Joint-Assessment – or JAA – is a key moment in the year when all in-country partners and stakeholders contributing to improved nutrition come together to assess how they are working together to scale up nutrition actions and progress towards the SUN Movement strategic objectives.

The purpose of the Joint-Assessment is to:

- » Collectively take stock of major achievements in nutrition coordination around processes that are deemed necessary for an 'enabling environment' (See Box 1). These processes assess the changes in behaviour that contribute to advancing the SUN Movement [Theory of Change](#) and the SUN Movement [strategic objectives](#);
- » Clarify challenges, opportunities, and identify priorities for the coming year;
- » Foster discussions and exchange between nutrition stakeholders with a to nurture and scale up collaboration throughout the year
- » Provide an opportunity for each stakeholder group to present their contributions towards achievements in nutrition coordination, give each other feedback and hold each other to account, as well as to stimulate greater engagement from key partners.

BOX 1:

Assessing progress in nutrition coordination

Process 1 ■

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Process 2 ■

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Process 3 ■

Aligning actions around a common results

Process 4 ■

Financial tracking and resource mobilisation

At the global level, the results of the Joint-Assessment enable the SUN global support system to:

- » **Track progress across the SUN Movement**, to demonstrate the added value of coming together and generate continued political and financial support for multi-stakeholder action for nutrition;
- » **Identify the areas where countries need assistance** and mobilise support to meet these needs;
- » **Identify good practices** which can be shared and support peer-to-peer learning across the Movement.

Data collected in the JAA is an essential component of the [SUN Movement annual progress report](#) and a centerpiece of the [Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning \(MEAL\) system](#).

What is the Joint-Assessment about?

The Joint-Assessment focuses on *the process of stakeholders coming together and aligning their efforts* to scale up nutrition (see the four processes in Box 1). It was designed in 2014 to assess how the *behaviour of actors* is changing in line with the SUN Movement Theory of Change.

The JAA is one of the main country-level exercises which enable governments to monitor progress in scaling up nutrition. Other key components of the SUN Movement MEAL system are:

- » **Stakeholder and action mappings:** These exercises, led by governments and supported by the UN Network for SUN, identify which stakeholders are doing what, where and how – to provide a comprehensive picture of geographic reach.
- » **Budget analyses:** Budget analyses describe governments' allocations for nutrition by sector.
- » **National nutrition action plans:** Reviews are conducted using a 'quality' checklist to identify strengths and areas in need of improvement.
- » **Country dashboards and sub-national dashboards:** Visualisation of data to assess progress and challenges.

Who participates in the Joint-Assessment?

The more stakeholders participate in the JAA, the richer the outcomes and more successful the event can be, in terms of sharing progress and mobilising more actors to engage in joint action for nutrition.

Ministries and government institutions (beyond the health sector); UN agencies – including agencies contribution to nutrition, even when it is not in their core mandate; civil society organisations; donors; and business all have important perspectives that can enrich the discussions and bring energy to collective action.

In order for this participation to be meaningful, however, it is important for participants to have a minimum knowledge of what is being done in nutrition (in their field and stakeholder group), and to come prepared.

How can you take part and make the Joint-Assessment a success?

For maximum success, the JAA process can run as a three-step process, where stakeholders all play a key role:

1. Preparation

The SUN Focal Point can, with a small team of partners, fill in the JAA template, building on the results of the previous year (focusing on changes seen).

Stakeholder representatives meet in their respective networks, discuss main areas of progress/challenges and discuss their own contributions to the JAA processes. Note that, for those countries who will use the online reporting system in 2020, each of the four Networks or stakeholder groups, in addition to academia, science and research institutes, have a chance to identify where networks, platforms or fora exist, how the multi-stakeholder platforms work with these networks/stakeholder groups and to what extent stakeholders have contributed towards the SUN Movement's strategic objectives over the past year.

2. Validation and scoring

The second phase of the Joint-Assessment is a stakeholder workshop, where all participants gather to share their perspectives on the progress made, review contributions of all stakeholders, and identify priorities for attention. These workshops should be an opportunity for open and constructive discussions and enable participants to learn from one another.

See the 2020
Joint-Assessment
guidance on
gathering in a
time of COVID-19

3. Sharing progress and challenges

Once the JAA results are compiled, a high-level event can be held to present and celebrate the progress made, and how it contributes to the country's development objectives and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The event can be a presentation to senior members of the government and parliamentarians, involving nutrition champions and the media, and any activity that can catalyse even greater momentum for nutrition in the country.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the constraints in arranging in-person meetings, SUN countries are not expected to organise consultations or workshops, for the 2020 Joint-Assessment, unless deemed safe.

Don't forget! Use the hashtag **#SUNassessment20** to spread the word and let us know how YOUR country is progressing in scaling up nutrition.