

SUN Movement Executive Committee Members



Meera Shekar, World Bank

Chair of the Executive Committee for 2019-2020

Ms. Shekar is Global Lead for nutrition with the World Bank's Health, Nutrition & Population Global Practice, managing key partnerships and firmly positioning nutrition within the World Bank's new initiative on Human Capital. She steered the repositioning of the nutrition agenda that led to the new global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and was a founding member of the Catalytic Financing Facility for Nutrition that evolved into the Power of Nutrition. She led the development of the first global Investment Framework for Nutrition and co-leads the Nutrition Financing working group for the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summit to be hosted by Japan in 2020.

Ms. Shekar has lived and worked across the globe and has extensive operational experience in India, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Vietnam, Bolivia, Guatemala, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Before joining the World Bank in 2003, she led UNICEF's Health, Nutrition and Water and Sanitation teams in Tanzania and the Philippines. Ms. Shekar has a PhD in international nutrition, epidemiology and population studies from Cornell University and has consulted extensively including with JHU Population Communications Services and Population Services International.



Tumaini Mikindo, Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA)
Vice Chair of the Executive Committee for 2018-2019

Mr. Mikindo is the Executive Director of the Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA). PANITA is the Tanzanian SUN Civil Society Alliance (CSA) and one of the largest CSA networks with over 300 members across the country. He is responsible for the development and implementation of PANITA's vision and strategic objectives and to oversee PANITA's main functions: advocacy, coordination and capacity building for members. He also represents civil society in various multi-stakeholder nutritional and health forums in Tanzania and globally, including at the Tanzanian High-Level Nutrition Steering Committee, Nutrition Multi-Sectoral Working Group and Development Partners in Nutrition.

Previously, Mr. Mikindo has worked and served the Government of Tanzania from local level to the national level. Since 2008 he joined civil society, on areas of Nutrition, health and HIV/AIDS. In 2010, he was elected as Co-Chair of the Development Partners Group for Nutrition in Tanzania during his tenure at Irish Aid.



Rob Bertram, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Mr. Bertram serves as the Chief Scientist in the USAID Bureau for Food Security as advisor on a range of technical and program issues in relation to global food security and nutrition. He leads the USAID's evidence-based efforts to advance research, technology and implementation in support of the United States Government's global hunger and food security initiative, Feed the Future. He also serves as USAID representative on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition.

Previously he served as Director of the Office of Agricultural Research and Policy in the Bureau of Food Security. Prior to that Mr. Bertram guided USAID's multilateral investment in agriculture and natural resources. Before his career at USAID he served with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) international program as well as overseas with the CGIAR system. Initially he collaborated with SUN as a Senior Official in the SUN Donor Network.



Azucena Dayanghirang, National Nutrition Council (NNC), Philippines

Dr. Dayanghirang was appointed in 2019 as Executive Director of the NNC, where she had been the Deputy Executive Director since 2016. In 2016 she was also selected as the National President of the Nutrition Action Officers' of the Philippines Association, Inc. Additionally, she is designated as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Government Focal Point.

Dr. Dayanghirang is an experienced public health leader with 29 years of experience in programs on Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition, Communicable and Non-communicable diseases. She served as City Nutrition Action Officer of Davao City Nutrition Office from 1991-1995; Chief of the Technical Services Division and Medical Officer VI of the Davao City Health Office from 1996 to 2005; as well as the Provincial Health Officer II and Provincial Nutrition Action Officer of Davao del Sur from 2008 to 2016. During her service in the local government, she impacted the health and nutrition of the people of Davao through proper planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health and nutrition programs, including the Fresh Milk Supplemental Feeding Program which reduced protein-energy malnutrition among children up to 6 years old.



Cecilia Gamboa, Coordinator of the Secretariat of the National Policy for Food and Nutrition, Costa Rica

Dr. Gamboa works at the Ministry of Health in Costa Rica at the Department of Strategic Planning and Evaluation of Health Policies. She is Coordinator of the Secretariat of the National Policy for Food and Nutrition and the SUN Government Focal Point of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in Costa Rica, since 2014. Dr. Gamboa was designated as the Coordinator of the Food-based dietary guidelines of Costa Rica and Focal Point of the National Plan for the Reduction of salt/sodium 2011-2021. In addition, she was appointed Coordinator of the National Network of the Costa Rican Campaign "5 a day", promoting the consumption of fruits and vegetables. She is also member of the National Commission of Non-Communicable Diseases of Costa Rica and the National Commission of Micronutrients.

Dr. Gamboa is licensed in Human Nutrition and holds a master's degree in public health from the University of Costa Rica. She has a post-graduate specialization in Public Health Policy with emphasis in Health Promotion and Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases, from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.



Lawrence Haddad, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Mr. Haddad became the Executive Director of GAIN in October 2016. In 2018 he won the World Food Prize because of his research showing nutrition intervention not merely as a technical agriculture or health issue but as one linked directly to economic growth and food security. From 2014 to 2016, Mr. Haddad was the founding co-chair and lead author of the Global Nutrition Report.

From 2004 to 2014 Mr. Haddad was the Director of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). Before joining IDS in 2004, he was Director of the Food Consumption and Nutrition Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) from 1994 to 2004. From 2009 to 2010 he was the UK's representative on the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the UN's Committee on World Food Security (CSF). He was the President of the UK and Ireland's Development Studies Association from 2010 to 2012. As economist, Mr. Haddad completed his PhD in Food Research at Stanford University in 1988.



Christelle Huré, Action Contre la Faim, Regional office for West and Central Africa

Ms. Huré is the Head of Advocacy for Action Against Hunger regional office for West and Central Africa (ACF ROWCA). She has been working at ACF since 2013, holding different positions including as Senior Nutrition Security Advocacy Advisor. She is supervising the coordination of the regional SUN civil society platform (led by ACF ROWCA).

Throughout her career Ms. Huré has developed strong connections to the SUN Civil Society Alliances and has supported the development of several different alliances, especially in Francophone Africa. In addition, she has experience in working with fragile and conflict affected states, but also with bringing civil society voices to the global stage. She is very familiar with the SUN movement as she has represented ACF in the SUN Civil Society Network Steering group as well as in various related groups to the SUN movement including on MEAL and Advocacy.



Abdoulaye Ka, Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition, Secrétariat Général du Gouvernement, Sénégal

Mr. Ka is, since 2011, the National Coordinator at the National Nutrition Coordination Committee (CLM) in Senegal. He is a public health and social development specialist with over 20 years of experience with maternal and child health and nutrition programming. He was part of the core team that initiated the nutrition policy reforms in 2001 that led to the creation of the CLM under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office and the development of a national nutrition program.

As National Coordinator, Mr. Ka has overseen the continued scale up of the community program, which now reaches 80% of under-five children, the strengthening of the nation-wide platform for community-based service delivery, the diversification of funding sources for national nutrition programs and the participatory development of an inclusive multisectoral nutrition policy and strategic plan that includes the mainstreaming of nutrition in the different sectors. At the global level, Mr. Ka has also acted as an ardent champion for nutrition.



Lauren Landis, World Food Programme (WFP)

Ms. Landis began her career in relief and development in 1985 working for OCHA in Geneva. She then took on assignments in Washington and in Africa working as a Disaster Operations Specialist and as an Emergency Operations Coordinator for the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance within USAID. In 1993, Ms. Landis turned her efforts to the NGO sector and held several positions, including serving as the Director of Humanitarian Response and then the Director of the Food Security Unit at Save the Children.

Ms. Landis returned to the U.S. Government in 2002 as Director of USAID's Office of Food for Peace. In 2006, she transitioned to the U.S. Department of State, where she served as the Senior Representative on Sudan. In 2009, Ms. Landis joined the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) as Chief of Staff, and in 2011 she became Director of the WFP Geneva Office. From 2013-2016, Ms. Landis served as the WFP Country Representative and Director in Chad. In mid-2016, she returned to Rome, Italy to take up her current role as WFP's Director of Nutrition.



Anna Lartey, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

Professor Lartey is, since 2013, the Director of the Nutrition Division at the FAO. Prior to that she was professor and the Head of Department at the department of Nutrition and Food Science at the University of Ghana where she worked since 1986. She has won several honors and rewards related to her work on nutrition such as the African Nutrition Society award in 2014 as well as the Sight and Life nutrition leadership award. Between 2013 and 2017 she was also the president of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences.

Ms. Lartey worked as a researcher in Sub-Saharan Africa for 27 years on maternal and child nutrition. She has contributed to over 80 peer reviewed academic publications about nutrition and the food system and she has given over 100 keynote presentations. In 1998 she finished her PhD on international nutrition at the University of California in Davis.



Asma Lateef, Bread for the World

Ms. Lateef is currently the Director of Bread for the World. She oversees the institute's research, analysis and education on policy issues related to U.S. and global hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Before she joined Bread for the World, Ms. Lateef was director of policy and programs at Citizens for Global Solutions.

Additional to her position in the Executive Commission of SUN, she is also on the steering committee of the SUN Movement's Civil Society Network and a member of the 1000-days advocacy working group. She is the co-chair of the post-2015 working group of international coalition for advocacy on nutrition. Ms. Lateef holds a master's degree in economics from the University of Maryland, a post-graduate diploma in economics from the London School of Economics and a bachelor's degree in geography from McGill University.



Jo Moir, Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom

Ms. Moir is DFID's Deputy Director for Human Development – covering health systems, sexual and reproductive health and rights, WASH and Nutrition. As part of this role, she is working with colleagues across DFID to spearhead the UK's commitment to ending preventable deaths of mothers, new-borns and children. She also sits on the Global Financing Facility's Investors Group and Trust Fund Committee, is a member of the FP2020 Reference Group and has led a change management process across DFID's Policy Division.

Ms. Moir has previously been Deputy Head of DFID Ethiopia and Acting Head of DFID's humanitarian and conflict department. She has led UK government programmes in Sudan, Libya and Egypt, represented the UK in UN negotiations on peacekeeping and conflict prevention, and helped to set up the UK Independent Commission for Aid Impact. Ms. Moir has had regular involvement with DFID's work on nutrition since taking on leadership of DFID's Human Development Department in 2018.



Gladys Mugambi, Food Security and Nutrition, Kenya

Ms. Mugambi is currently the Multisectoral Coordinator for Food Security and Nutrition as well as the Focal Point for SUN at the Health Sector Coordination and Intergovernmental Affairs Unit. Before she was the head of the Nutrition and Diabetics Unit at Kenya's Ministry of Health. She has over 20 years of experience working in the government at the district and national level.

Prior to these positions, Ms. Mugambi worked as a district nutritionist with the Ministry of Health at the Thika District Hospital for ten years. She initiated supplementation through Early Childhood Development centers and developed a proposal for funding the national food fortification program. For five years, she spearheaded the implementation of the national food fortification project. Ms. Mugambi participated in research, co-authored publications, and participated in regional and global conferences. She is a registered nutritionist and holds a BS in Home Economics from the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, and a MS in Food, Nutrition and Dietetics from Kenyatta University.



Felix Phiri, Ministry of Health, Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, Malawi

Mr. Phiri is the Director for Nutrition, at the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, at the Malawian Ministry of Health. He is responsible for policy and technical guidance, leadership, oversight and high-level advocacy for nutrition programs. This included developing a Nutrition Strategic Document and legal frameworks like the Nutrition Bill for Malawi.

He brings over 16 years of experience in technical, programmatic and policy development from the public sector at different technical, senior and policy levels. He has a wealth of experience in working on projects and programs supported by international partners such as World Bank, USAID, EU, Global Fund, Irish AID and UN agencies. He had been instrumental in ensuring that Nutrition is highlighted as a priority in the National Development Agenda for Malawi and he's been influential in bringing different stakeholders in one platform. Mr. Phiri has championed the development of the web based multi-sectoral Monitoring and Evaluation and resource tracking system. He is currently studying towards a PhD at University of Nottingham United Kingdom.

Kiran Rupakhetee, National Planning Commission, Nepal



Dr. Rupakhetee Ph.D. is a senior level Government Officer working as Joint Secretary at National Planning Commission (NPC), at the government of Nepal. He is serving as SUN country Government Focal Point for Nepal and Spokesperson for the NPC. He has more than 25 years of professional experience in different capacities. He has demonstrated ability on conceptualizing/formulating national priorities, plans and programs on nutrition, social protection, child rights promotion and protection, good governance and gender equity with the perspective of “No one is left behind”.

He was directly involved in the development of a variety of nutrition related policies and plans such as the “Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan”, “15th National Development Plan (2019-2024)”, “SDG localization”, “National Strategy on Early Childhood Development (2020-2030)”, and the “National Strategy to End Child Marriage”. He had a contributory role in the successful hosting of SUN Global Gathering 2019. He holds Ph.D. degree on ITTP/Technology Management, Economics and Policy, from Seoul National University (2012) and has been honored with national and international awards. He has also written number of papers/articles including on nutrition, child rights and gender-based issues.



Muhammad Aslam Shaheen, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform / Planning Commission of Pakistan

Mr. Shaheen is the Chief of Nutrition at the Planning Commission in Pakistan as well as the national SUN Movement focal person. He brought significant achievements through accelerating a coordinated and synergistic response to curtail malnutrition in Pakistan. His steady advocacy at each level resulted in the establishment/institutionalization of nutrition policy planning and programming at national, provincial and regional level. This enabled multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms for effective nutrition coordination and collaboration. He also formulated the effective decision-making SUN Core Group comprised of technical experts from all nutrition stakeholders and networks to bring harmony and coherence in planning and executing nutrition interventions.

Mr. Shaheen has been in the lead for the development of key policies and law reforms related to nutrition in Pakistan such as the Pakistan Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy. He has a M.Sc. (Hons.) in Food Technology/Nutrition and a Post-Graduation in Food and Nutrition Security: Caring for Women & Children from the International Agriculture Centre from Wageningen University.



Tatjana Von Steiger, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Ms. von Steiger is the Deputy Head of Domain Global Cooperation at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation since July 2017. Before, she was the head for Sustainable Development & Humanitarian Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York, which she joined in late 2012. She was the main coordinator of various processes leading to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as facilitator of intergovernmental processes, including the consultation on the Global Sustainable Development Report.

Between 2009 and 2012, she served as Head of the Swiss Cooperation Office to Macedonia. From 2003 to 2008, she worked at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, in the United Nations Development Unit, where she also served as deputy head of the division. Ms. von Steiger joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in 2001 after working in journalism and teaching.



Fokko Wientjes, Royal DSM

Mr. Wientjes is the Vice-President of Nutrition in Emerging Markets and Public-Private Partnerships at Royal DSM NV. The partnerships are with the World Food Program and UNICEF and focus on nutrition. He is also a member of the Sustainability Advisory Board at the SNS Bank, the World Economic Forum New Vision on Agriculture Steering Board and the Future Council for Food & Agriculture.

Mr. Wientjes has been with DSM since 1988 and has broad experience in human resource management, logistics, marketing and sales, and change program management. He did business development in South America, was a General Manager for DSM antibiotics in Egypt and he worked as Director for Human Resources in Switzerland.



Moin Karim, United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS)
Ex-officio member of the Executive Committee

Mr. Karim has over 20 years of experience in the humanitarian and development fields in progressively senior levels within the United Nations. In 2015, Mr. Karim was appointed Director of the Europe and Central Asia Region for UNOPS and currently oversees a program portfolio that includes nearly 100 countries and a wide range of projects – from infrastructure to humanitarian assistance. In addition to his current responsibilities, Mr. Karim was temporarily from July 2017 to 2018 also in charge of the Global Service Cluster in New York, servicing the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

Before joining UNOPS, Mr. Karim served at the UN Secretariat in New York, at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and 15 years with UNDP at headquarters and various field offices in a wide range of capacities. Mr. Karim's responsibilities included the management of humanitarian and development programs, coordination within the wider UN system, overseeing financial operations and building partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders.



Shawn Baker, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Special Advisor to the SUN Movement & ex-officio member of the Executive Committee

Mr. Baker is currently the first ever Chief Nutritionist at USAID as of 2020, before that he has been the Director of Nutrition in the Global Development Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation since 2013. He has over 30 years of experience in international public health, including 25 years living in sub-Saharan Africa. He was with Helen Keller International, for 16 years as Vice President and Regional Director for Africa. In that role, he oversaw expansion from four to 13 country programs. Flagship programs that he has shaped include vitamin A supplementation through child health days reaching over 50 million children twice-yearly and food fortification programs reaching over 130 million consumers. In addition, he served as country director for Helen Keller International in Niger and Bangladesh.

He is the author or co-author of over 80 peer-reviewed publications, presentations at international conferences and monographs. He also serves on many committees and advisory groups, including the Technical Review Panel for The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, which he chaired until November 2014.



Gerda Verburg, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement

Since August 2016, Gerda Verburg (The Netherlands) has served as UN Assistant Secretary-General and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, working with the 61 country governments that lead the SUN Movement, united with UN agencies, civil society, business and donors, in a common mission to defeat malnutrition in all its forms. She was appointed by the UN Secretary-General based on her extensive experience in politics and international cooperation.

In 2008, following her appointment the previous year as Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands, Ms. Verburg was elected as Chair of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 17). From 2011, she served as Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations Rome-based agencies (FAO, IFAD and WFP). In 2013, she was elected as Chair of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and in 2014 she served as Chair of the Agenda Council for Food and Nutrition of the World Economic Forum (WEF).