

## **1. Overview and Background: the nutrition CoP during SUN 2.0**

Nutrition Financial tracking has been a priority of the SUN Movement since its inception and will continue to be critical in the next phase (2021-2025). The process to develop fit-for-purpose guidance to track financial resources on nutrition justified the creation of the nutrition Community of Practice<sup>1</sup> (COP) building on the SUN 3-Step Approach, which was defined as the most practical way for countries to track trends on budget allocations.

Since its inception, the SUN Movement Secretariat alongside SUN partners has mainstreamed this approach now conducted by 50+ SUN countries. This methodology provides valuable insights into the nature of government spending allocations to nutrition-specific and -sensitive areas.

The Nutrition Financing Community of Practice (COP)<sup>2</sup> was created with the willingness to share best practices in conducting budget analysis work globally with the support of the USAID-funded SPRING project, together with Results for Development (R4D) and the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS). Over the last years, this group has provided opportunities to connect in-country stakeholders with donors to discuss findings from nutrition budget analyses, standardize measurement templates, and methodologies and explore advocacy strategies for increasing country-level nutrition funding.

With the close of USAID/SPRING, the SMS has requested MQSUN+ to take on the role of convener for the Nutrition Financing COP between Jan 2019- Jan 2020. The objective was to coordinate this group and finalize a common methodology—and related guidance—on nutrition-sensitive costing, budgeting, and investment tracking.

## **2. The Nutrition Financing Community of Practice in SUN 3.0. (2021-2025)**

As the SUN Movement is entering a new phase, the COP is well positioned to keep improving awareness and understanding of the current nutrition financing and how SUN countries can improve access to innovative financing mechanisms and better track resources. Building on its achievements during SUN 2.0, the COP can support the efforts of SUN member countries in implementing their national multi-sectoral nutrition plans.

The COP will help set the path right ahead and includes strategic areas of work on continuously improving country planning and implementation to end malnutrition. Throughout SUN 3.0, these areas of work will strengthen country capacities across the budget cycle: planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The COP can also support technical assistance (TA) requests related to public financing for SUN

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<sup>1</sup> The COP expands beyond just nutrition financing related to the budget analysis and covers costing, commitment tracking, and other forms of financial tracking.

<sup>2</sup> Those information were extracted from the *“Terms of Reference/Expression of Interest for: Support to the Nutrition Financing Consultation Group and Related Guidance”* (January 2019)



countries can be grouped into three themes: (1) Planning, (2) Budgeting, and (3) Utilization. Those themes are detailed below:

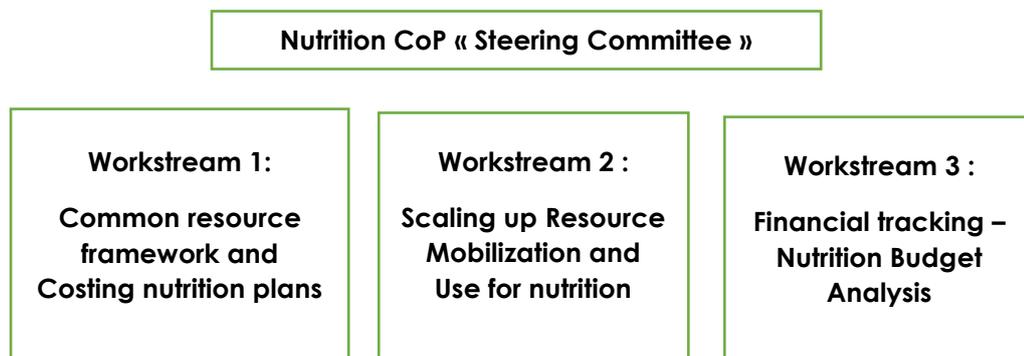
1. Under the "planning" aspect of budget cycles, countries receive TA to enhance allocative efficiency.
2. TA focused on budgeting centers on assisting countries to raise domestic resource allocations and mobilize resources.
3. The "Utilization" aspect of public financing TA focuses on assisting countries in tracking and monitoring their budgeted allocations to measure how funding is used. Advocacy products– parliamentary engagement.

### **3. The functionality of the CoP – Transition to Working Groups on Policy and Budget Cycle Management**

Since 2013, the nutrition COP has been underway to identify what key areas for action are that can guide the nutrition financial tracking led by the SMS. During SUN 3.0, the COP should expand the scope of its activities to cover the policy and budget cycle better. The creation of working groups/workstreams per thematic areas will provide a renewed framework to achieve this aim. These working groups will be asked to support the ongoing work of SUN countries in implementing their costed national multi-sectoral nutrition plans.

The SUN Secretariat ambitions to assemble a new nutrition COP made up of relevant constituencies through existing SUN networks and other related platforms. This approach should enable the most active engagement of the full range of nutrition-related actors and ensure that SUN 3.0 efficiently delivers the expected pledges to be made during the 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit.

Suggested workstreams:



The COP steering Committee has been critical during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of SUN. the Committee was developed for several reasons:

- For representatives from the key nutrition financing players to keep each other updated on what each partner was doing related to nutrition financing and how it could be leveraged/shared with other COP members;
- It allowed for a larger group of experts to come to an agreement on what discussions/presentations to prioritize for the quarterly calls, and
- it allowed for a larger representation of experts to strategize how to best leverage the COP as a whole – mostly around increasing cross-country learning and representation within the group related to nutrition financing.



The *nutrition CoP Steering Committee*<sup>3</sup> will keep fulfilling this role which will be expanded to:

- Provide updates on the activities and progress of the working groups and the constituency groups
- Input ideas, reflections, and issues raised by the respective constituency groups for course correction during the third phase of the SUN movement
- Enable a coordinated effort to support countries in implementing their national nutrition plans
- Disseminate updates on global events and milestone moments to their respective working group/constituency group

The workstream 1 "*Common resource framework and Costing nutrition plans*" will be focused on costing and assessing the feasibility of the CRF. This workstream will specifically work on enhancing the utility of the country multi-sectoral plans for scaling up nutrition impact by i) gathering practitioners contributing to inclusive and participatory country nutrition plan development processes, ii) sharing their experiences working with SUN countries in aligning their activities to the country plans and supporting coordinated efforts

The workstream "*Scaling up Resource Mobilization and Use for nutrition*" will focus on i) scaling up and aligning resources, including addressing financial shortfalls, and ii) improving country efficiency in spending financial resources. This platform will support SUN countries' advocacy for nutrition, cross-learning, and innovation to address country funding gaps.

The workstream on *financial tracking – Nutrition budget analysis* will be strengthening the country's use of financing disaggregated data from multiple sources for better policy decision making, accountability, and advocacy. This already includes the ongoing work of the nutrition financing consultative group on tracking and reporting on financing for nutrition. Experts will gather to share their experiences in developing participatory, continuous, and innovative nutrition data systems in SUN countries to monitor nutrition targets and the implementation of prioritized actions as per country plans.

All 3 workstreams will work closely to better advise on how to monitor implementation and related spending of budgeted prioritized activities as per country plans.

#### **4. The members of the COP and their role**

The following networks have been proposed to support the coordination of engagement and mobilisation of commitments across their respective constituency groups and feedback through an Advisory Group. Each of the below groups will choose a representative who will take part in bi-monthly calls between June (TBC) 2020 and December 2021, along with the co-chairs of the 5 thematic Working Groups:

- SUN Networks/ Global Support System

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<sup>3</sup> Over the last years, some of the tasks taken by the COP Steering Committee were to keep COP members updated on each partners' work related to nutrition financing, help co-organize the larger COP quarterly calls and strategize how to best leverage and maximise the COP as a whole. Currently, the Steering Committee members are R4D, USAID Advancing Nutrition, FAO, MQSUN+ and SMS.



- Academia – GNR Independent Expert Group, IFPRI, CGIAR, etc.
- SUN governments – an engagement plan with governments will be coordinated by the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS).

The members of the Nutrition COP set out above will have responsibility for:

- Drawing in feedback, ideas and perspectives from the constituency group to better the support to countries in costing, implementing their nutrition plans and nutrition financial tracking
- Where necessary, coordinating engagement with key stakeholders to avoid duplication of effort
- Providing updates on progress as well as recommendations/feedback from the constituency group to the SUN Movement Secretariat through quarterly Nutrition COP calls (TBC).

## **5. Mode of engagement**

Each member of the COP should adhere to the Principles of Engagement for the SUN Movement.

To enable a coordinated approach within the COP, it would be useful if partners keen to join could put in place a simple work plan outlining their expectations and their ongoing work in SUN countries or across the thematics defined above.

This does not need to be detailed but a simple tool to enable the Nutrition Steering Committee and the SUN Movement Secretariat to know how to make the best use of their support and to let them aware of key opportunities to support SUN countries while avoiding duplication of effort.

The Nutrition COP steering committee will be held quarterly (TBC), while the different workstreams could be (if needed) meeting every two months. The Nutrition CoP may meet in-person SUN Global Gatherings, or when preparing significant joint deliverables.

## **6. Suggested priorities for 2020-2021**

The priorities will be discussed with all members of the COP and how this will be implemented in the different workstreams. Several COP meetings should be convened between now and December 2021 to help better structure the deliverables of the group.

However, from May 2020 until December 2021, the Nutrition COP should focus on the activities below:

- Play the role of a coordination mechanism for Technical Assistance provision to SUN countries
- Shape SUN Phase 3.0 strategy on Nutrition Financing
- Finalize the terms of reference of the Nutrition COP aligning the work plan and activities with the SUN Strategy 3.0 (2021-2025)



- Support Countries finalize multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder quality plans for nutrition and can access a fast-track review mechanism to get the technical endorsement, as needed.
- Support countries by developing and sharing more evidence on the effectiveness of nutrition sensitive approaches in agriculture and food systems, social protection, education, WASH, and public health.
- Coordinate a forum of experts to coordinate and harmonize guidance on nutrition financing (expand membership where possible)
- Support SUN Countries set or refine their nutrition targets and SMART commitments in line with their baselines and contextual circumstances (COVID19) for the upcoming 2021 N4G Summit.

## **7. Timeframe**

This process of engaging constituencies will kick-off during the next COP call scheduled in June (TBC) 2020. Thereafter, several platforms will be useful to support the process of engaging different constituencies.