

## SUN Movement Pooled Fund – Consultative Group Call

### Summary of proceedings and key decisions

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

**Participants in the call:** Ben Siddle (Irish Aid, Ireland), Marlene Heeb (SDC, Switzerland), Annie Simard (DFATD, Canada), Heike Henn (BMZ, Germany), Abigail Perry (DFID, UK), Cara Flowers (Civil Society Network - CSN), Anushree Rao (CSN), Chris Leather (SUN Donor Network - SDN), Hajra Hafeezurehman (UN Network - UNN), Raphael Siwiti (SUN Business Network - SBN), Jonathan Tench (SBN), Yngvil Foss (UNOPS), Marco Araniva (UNOPS), Bhushan Shestra (UNOPS), Gerda Verburg (SUN Movement Secretariat - SMS), Brenda Killen (SMS), Elena Gaino (SMS), Philip Dive (SMS), Marek Gajdos (SMS)

**Regrets:** Katja Siling (DFID, UK), Joyce Seto (DFATD, Canada), Lara Steinhouse (DFATD, Canada), Wahab Moez (UNOPS), Ann-Marie Quinn (UNOPS), Purnima Kashyap (UNN)

### Introduction, Objectives and Agenda of the Call

Gerda Verburg, SUN Movement Coordinator welcomed the members of the Consultative Group to the call and thanked them for ongoing cooperation and trust in the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS) as well as for their increasing commitment for the SUN Movement Pooled Fund (Pooled Fund).

She presented the agenda and emphasized the main objectives of the call:

- The first objective focused on presentation, discussion and **endorsement of the proposal for the Second Cycle of funding for Window I** that targets additional support to national Civil Society Alliances in need, with a specific focus on working in partnerships.
- The second objective of the call focused on strategic discussion and decision about the **future orientation of the Pooled Fund** as a response to SUN Countries' needs and on how to prove best added value of this mechanism for the upcoming funding cycles. This orientation will then be further developed by SUN Movement Secretariat and UNOPS so that it can be presented to the Executive Committee at their retreat at the end of January 2019.

### State of Play of the Pooled Fund

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals under funding Window I, a total of 21 grants were awarded to Civil Society Alliances from 19 SUN countries. Projects are currently being rolled out. A Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist is accompanying grantees in the implementation and reporting of activities.

### Overview of the Pooled Fund budget

UNOPS is finalizing the agreement with DFID and Irish Aid is ready to contribute to the Pooled Fund also in 2019 and 2020. Germany is now a donor to the Pooled Fund as the agreement has just been finalized with UNOPS. The total estimated budget of the Pooled Fund is now at approximately USD 13,2 million. This is well beyond the minimum annual budget of USD 3 million for the fund to operate.

The Secretariat is in discussion with another donor interested in joining the Pooled Fund – if an agreement is concluded the total funding will increase.

The budget of the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals is **USD 3,1 million**. The estimated budget of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals to Civil Society Alliances is planned for **USD 5 million**. After this 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposal to Civil Society Alliances, the **funding balance for other activities would amount at approximately USD 5 million**.

### **The Way Forward of the Pooled Fund**

When planning the way forward of the Pooled Fund and taking into account the funding balance available, preliminary findings of the SUN Movement Mid-Term Review from August 2018 should serve as a guiding principle. The Pooled fund can bring strong responses to these findings both in the funding Window I as well as in funding Window II.

### **Window I – 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle for funding. Proposal for Continuous Support to CSAs Focusing on Partnership**

There is clear appetite to continue funding those national SUN Civil Society Alliances which are unfunded. After some preliminary discussions with donors and other partners, the SUN Movement Secretariat together with UNOPS has developed a proposal for a **2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals under Window I** to fund **20 additional SUN Civil Society Alliances for a total estimated budget of USD 5 million**. This proposal focuses on Civil Society Alliances that demonstrate the use of partnerships to achieve the objectives outlined in the national nutrition plans. Focus is on strengthening collaboration at country level between different networks through joint planning and collaboration on concrete activities.

The SUN Movement Pooled Fund grants remains catalytic. Longer term financial and programmatic sustainability should be the final aim and creation of any funding dependency should be avoided. The Civil Society Network will provide a technical assistance to SUN Civil Society Alliances in developing and implementation of their Sustainability Strategies.

In comparison to the first cycle, the maximum size of the grants in the second cycle will not exceed USD 200,000 (USD 114,000 in first cycle) and the implementation period will be extended to 18 months (12 months in first cycle). The eligible applicants will be strictly limited to chairs, vice-chairs or designated hosting entities of the Civil Society Alliances (and not member organization of the Alliance) that has not received funds from first cycle of the Pooled Fund.

In the evaluation of the grant applications, more importance will be given to sustainability strategies and fundraising. A new evaluation criterion will cover activities that scale up convening power of Civil Society Alliances by encouraging partnerships with various groups: parliamentarians, enterprises, academia, journalists, religious community leaders, and other relevant actors including the local government level.

This second round of grants would lead to a total **41 SUN Civil Society Alliances (out of a total of 46 SUN CSAs) funded by the SUN Movement Pooled Fund** for a total of approximately **USD 8 million** (including project management costs) between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of the funding to Civil Society Alliances.

The proposal for a second cycle of funding to Civil Society Alliances was shared with the members of the Consultative Group prior to the call. The members of the Consultative Group were invited to

provide comments to this proposal by 19 November. The SUN Movement Secretariat has not received any comments from Consultative Group members and therefore the proposal for **the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals under Window I have been formally endorsed during the call.**

## The Way Forward for Window II

The funding balance of **USD 5 million** remains after allocation for the first and second cycle under Window I.

The preliminary findings of the Mid-Term Review as well as the following questions could help further shape the future options related to Window II focusing on **increased effective sharing and learning opportunities within the SUN Movement to reinforce in-country capabilities of all SUN Countries.** The below potential proposals were shared with the Consultative Group members for consideration:

- targeting Multi-Stakeholder Platforms that operate in a fragile environment only;
- ensuring that our best performing Multi-Stakeholders Platforms are rewarded for their success and we build on that success;
- linking Window II with Window I countries;
- seeking a very tight geographic grouping of selected Multi-Stakeholder Platforms;
- taking advantage of a particular niche opportunity that could become a ‘tipping point’ for all SUN countries;
- promoting a theme, i.e. vulnerable populations, girls, women and youth etc.;
- or funding SUN Global Gathering as a unique sharing and learning opportunity for the countries.

The members of the Consultative Group positively reacted to the future orientation of the Pooled Fund towards the strengthening of the Multi-Stakeholder Platforms at national and subnational level. They underlined the importance of catalytic and strategic use of the Pooled Fund and the focus on the areas where a substantial progress can be achieved. The Multi-Stakeholder Platforms should be able to better align in the implementation of the National Nutrition Plans. The future orientation of the Pooled Fund should avoid substitution of funding for the areas that are already covered from other funding sources.

## Conclusions and way forward

- An agreement was reached on a 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals under funding Window I to SUN Civil Society Alliances and the proposal for a **2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals under Window I was formally endorsed** by the members of the Consultative Group. The Call for proposal will be launched at the beginning of December for implementation of activities to start in the second quarter of 2019. The monitoring indicators will include, amongst others, indicators related to partnership and gender issues.
- On the use of the available funding balance for the way forward related to the funding Window II, direction by the Consultative Group is to **focus on strengthening of Multi-Stakeholder Platforms and collaboration across key areas via sharing and learning.** The support should aim at improving the way the multi-stakeholder platforms work focusing on scalable impact. The areas that will be covered include, amongst others, behavioral change, multi – stakeholder platforms’ role at national and subnational level, strengthening of cooperation with SUN Focal Points and strengthening of ownership at all levels in countries.

## Next Actions

- The summary of the SUN Movement Pooled Fund Consultative Group Call will be prepared and circulated by the SUN Movement Secretariat.
- The SUN Movement Secretariat together with UNOPS will finalize all relevant documents related to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposal for its launch at the beginning of December 2018.
- The SUN Movement Secretariat will prepare a proposal on the use of the available funding balance for the way forward related to the funding Window II, that will be presented in two weeks to the Consultative Group for their comments. The proposal will be shared still before Christmas with the members of the SUN Movement Executive Committee for their discussion and decision on future orientation of the Pooled Fund during their retreat at the end of January 2019.