

# Summary of proceedings and key decisions

## SUN Movement Pooled Fund Consultative Group Call

27 April 2020 (15:00-16:30 CET)

**Participants in the calls:** Ben Siddle (IrishAid, Ireland); Karin Gross (SDC, Switzerland), Katja Siling (DFID, UK), Eleonora Di Salvo (DFATD, Canada), Petra Windisch-Stumpf (GIZ/BMZ, Germany), Silje Maria Hanstad (NORAD, Norway), Heloise Troc, Teresa Fasig and Fadoi Chaouki (European Commission)

Adam Leach and Jane Keylock (Strategic facilitators), Melanie Bruns (SUN Donor Network - SDN), Purnima Kashyap, Laurent Michiels (UN Network - UNN), Christopher Twiss, Cara Flowers, Andrew Rooke (Civil Society Network, CSN), Jonathan Tench, Emily Heneghan, Ilaria Schibba, Fatiha Terki (SBN), Wahab Moez, Ann-Marie Quinn, Tin-Me Me Aung, Fiona Gatere, Asma Afrin Haque, Medhanit Mekonnen (UNOPS), Gerda Verburg, Elena Gaino, Debora Di Dio, Mairead Petersen, Marlen Schüpbach, Philp Dive, Frederik Weidner, Ophélie Hémonin (SUN Movement Secretariat - SMS)

### 1. Introduction and agenda

The SUN Movement Pooled Fund Consultative Group call was opened by the SUN Movement Coordinator and Chair of the Consultative Group, Gerda Verburg, who welcomed all participants, including the strategic facilitators Adam Leach and Jane Keylock joining as observers, and presented the agenda as well as the main objectives of the call:

- 1- Discuss Pooled Fund support to SUN countries to mitigate the impact of COVID-19
- 2- Contribute to shaping the strategic recommendations for a potential Pooled Fund 3.0
- 3- AOB

### 2. Pooled Fund support to SUN countries to mitigate the impact of COVID-19

Following updates on the extent to which Pooled Fund project activities are currently impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and government containment measures, a proposed decision was tabled to **extend the timeframe and expand the scope of ongoing calls**. It was proposed that Window I Cycle 1 calls be extended until June 2020 (original end: varies by project), Window I Cycle 2 calls be extended until December 2020 (original end: September 2020), and Window I Cycle 3 and Window II calls extended until June 2021 (original end: December 2020). The Consultative Group was further asked to approve the possibility for grantees to revise their activity scope and associated budget allocations to allow them to meet shifting priorities arising from the situation. The approval was encouraged along the criteria outlined in document 2, provided that the revised activities remain aligned with the overall priorities of the call for proposal window.

Participants welcomed the proposal to allow for a revision of scope and activities, while stressing the importance of avoiding any duplication and further encouraging cross-network collaboration. Questions were raised around the expected timeframe for newly approved activities to start, the focus of activities, and implications for the Monitoring and Evaluation of results. While the start date of new activities depends on the grantees, they will be notified of the Consultative Group decision and supported in revising their scope by the Pooled Fund Team within the next 15 days. The focus of activities will broadly

remain advancing food security and nutrition, but be adjusted to the COVID-19 situation and related emergencies. Thanks to its recent strengthening, the Pooled Fund M&E Team will be able to directly accompany grantees in revisiting and adapting their results frameworks.

**Decisions:**

1. No-cost extensions were approved for all Windows within the overarching new Pooled Fund program timeline until 31 December 2021 (as revised in the 20th February 2020 Consultative Group Meeting and as approved by the Executive Committee on 12th March 2020).
2. For active projects, the expansion of the Pooled Fund grant project scope was approved, to include COVID-19 relevant activities, provided these activities demonstrate immediate added value for nutrition and are aligned to the SUN Movement objectives and the Pooled Fund's guiding principles. The ensuing revision of individual grant documents was approved.

The Consultative Group was further requested to consider the **use of the SUN Movement Pooled Fund budget balance** (currently at USD 1.2 Million) in response to the COVID-19 situation. In this regard, two options were envisaged: a top-up of up to USD 50.000, upon request, to all active projects whose objectives could not be met within the initial timeframe and budget due to COVID-19 disruptions. Additionally, a number of activities were proposed for consideration, aiming to address the medium to long-term impact of COVID-19 on SUN Country priorities, and the remaining gaps to prepare the Movement's strategic priorities in countries in phase 3.0.

The Consultative Group approved, in a first step, the possibility to offer top-ups to active Pooled Fund projects, in order to allow them to achieve projects' initial objectives, if budgets and timeframes have been used to address immediate COVID-19 related priorities. Individual needs and requests will be assessed by the Pooled Fund team between now and June, and the Consultative Group will be presented for a proposal for decision at its next meeting in June on the number of top-ups granted and remaining balance. If opportune, additional activities will then be considered.

Questions were raised as to the possibility in the case of top-ups, for non-recipient Pooled Fund countries to benefit from the remaining Pooled Fund budget balance. It was confirmed that top-ups were allowable only for Pooled Fund projects with active contracts. For countries not currently benefiting from Pooled Fund grants, further activities could be envisaged in June depending on the remaining available budget balance and the guidance provided by the Consultative Group (upon consideration of the options listed in document 2).

**Decisions:**

3. Top-up grants to active Pooled Fund recipients were approved, aimed at achieving initial objectives and results which may have been delayed due to COVID-19 disruptions.
4. Following the exact assessment of top-up needs and associated cost, the Consultative Group will reconvene in June with a clear estimation of the remaining budget balance, to take a final decision based on activity options provided.

### 3. Contributing to shaping the strategic recommendations for a potential Pooled Fund 3.0

The Chair informed the Consultative Group of the process, facilitated by the two independent facilitators Adam Leach and Jane Keylock within the SUN Movement's Executive Committee, to inclusively develop strategic priorities and recommendations for the next phase of the Movement. These recommendations will be discussed and decided upon by the SUN Movement Lead Group at their next meeting in September 2020 (see document 3.a for detailed timeline).

To support the process, and more specifically the Executive Committee small group discussion related to the *SUN Movement Support Structures and System* and including the Pooled Fund, Consultative Group members were invited to share initial views. They were invited to reflect on the performance or future role of the Pooled Fund, while insisting on the importance of **synergies with the broader discussion on strategic priorities for SUN 3.0**. In the absence of an independent evaluation of the SUN Movement Pooled Fund and upon request received from Consultative Group members, a document "SUN Movement Pooled Fund Results and lessons learned in 2019" was prepared to inform and support discussions (see document 3.b). Participants shared their thoughts in reaction to the document as well as some of the recommendations included in the Strategic Review and their views as to where a potential Pooled Fund in phase 3.0 could catalyse greatest impact, however stressing that a solid discussion on a Pooled Fund 3.0 was conditioned by prior discussions on phase 3.0 general principles, priorities, strategic objectives and means of implementation, after which "form would follow function".

The Chair committed to sharing these views with the Executive Committee members and to advocate for a subsequent focused discussion on the Pooled Fund, while encouraging Consultative Group members to nevertheless also reach out to their representatives on the Executive Committee.

### 4. Any Other Business (AOB)

The Chair invited Wahab Moez from UNOPS to inform the Consultative Group about an upcoming message related to the treatment of non-expendable equipment (office equipment and furniture) acquired by grantees in the context of Pooled Fund projects, after completion of projects, according to UNOPS' asset management policy. The Consultative Group previously approved the overall principle that procured items can remain the property of grant recipients as part of building and strengthening local development, but specific approval covering existing Window 1 and Window 2 projects is now needed. This decision will be taken by the Consultative Group through silent procedure.

**Decision** (following silent procedure expired 17.05.2020):

5. The Consultative Group approved that procured items in the context of Window I and Window II calls, can remain as the property of grant recipients as part of building and strengthening local development.