

# WEEKLY BRIEFING FOR THE SUN MOVEMENT

20 November 2020

## THE FIGURES: COVID-19 cases across SUN and around the world

The COVID-19 virus continues to affect every region of the world, with some countries experiencing high rates of infection. The last week (9-15 November) saw 4 million new cases globally, in addition to an 11% increase in women, men and children who have lost their lives. The majority (81%) lived in Europe and the Americas.<sup>1</sup> **To date, the virus has sickened more than 57 million people globally, with SUN country infections – across all 62 member States – at a little more than 4 million.**<sup>2</sup> Whereas a sharp upward trend has been seen in Latin America the past week, increases can also be found across other SUN regions. Sadly, resurgences have been seen in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Indonesia – with the latter having observed a weekly decline in cases for six consecutive weeks, until 8 November.<sup>3</sup> Having said that, new SUN country infections do not appear to be growing at the same speed as in other parts of the world, and only make up 7.12% of the global figure, which is lower than it has been since early June (last week, this was at 7.4%). This shows that most SUN countries appear to have mostly controlled the virus. 30 SUN countries – or almost half – have seen almost no new infections the past week. Looking ahead, it is estimated that El Salvador and Kyrgyzstan will continue to see many new cases, and a further 15 SUN countries<sup>4</sup> are estimated to see their figures rise. However, new cases are decreasing in Nepal and Peru (two of the most affected SUN countries to date), with a further 43 SUN countries projected to keep their infections at bay.<sup>5</sup>

## THE PROBLEM: COVID-19 and nutrition

We are at serious risk of **losing nutrition gains (but also towards the SDGs)** over the past decade. Even short-term food & nutrition insecurity and disruption of essential nutrition programmes have **irreversible effects on maternal and child survival, health and development.**

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to **increase many forms of child malnutrition.**

- Children who experience undernutrition are more likely to die – those who survive do less well in school and go on to have lower earnings throughout their lifetime. Women who are poorly nourished during pregnancy are more likely to die or give birth to smaller babies.
- Undernutrition may exacerbate COVID-19: people who are undernourished are more likely to die from infectious diseases, including pneumonia. In countries that have seen the first or second waves of COVID-19, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases have been associated with more severe outcomes of the virus. Nutritional status may impact susceptibility to COVID-19 and health strategies to reduce micronutrient deficiencies and undernutrition are essential. Further, preventing obesity and type 2 diabetes can also markedly reduce the risk of severe COVID-19. ([Oxford University and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine](#))
- Before the crisis, 3.1 million girls and boys under 5 died from causes attributable to malnutrition (or 45% of all child deaths). In 2019, 144 children were stunted (down from 149 in 2018), 47 million were wasted (down from 49 million in 2018), and 38 million children were overweight (down from 40 million in 2018).
- If strong multi-sectoral action targeting wasting is not implemented at scale, the best projections show an increase in monthly child mortality rates by over 40,000 girls and boys and 10-40% per month. An extra 10,000 children per month may die this year from malnutrition due to the COVID-19 crisis. ([WHO](#))
- Acute malnutrition in children under five could rise by 20% (or an extra 10 million girls and boys) due to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on food security.
- Every percentage point drop in global GDP is expected to result in an additional 0.7 million stunted children.
- Resulting from the disruption of health systems and decreased access to food, maternal and child mortality will increase, as will wasting ([The Lancet](#)):
  - Models suggest additional increases between 2,030 and 9,450 in maternal deaths, and between 42,240 and 192,830 child deaths per month. ([The Lancet estimates of 27 July](#))
  - We will see an additional estimated 6.7 million children with wasting in 2020 – 80% of whom will live in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. ([The Lancet estimates of 27 July](#)). The Sahel region is now home to over 60 per cent of the children suffering from wasting in West and Central Africa. This could rise from 8.1 million in early 2020 to 9.7 million by the end of 2020 including 3 million children affected at a severe degree. ([UNICEF](#))
- Early months of the COVID-19 pandemic saw a 30% reduction in the coverage of essential nutrition services in low and middle-income countries and declines of 75-100% in lockdown contexts ([UNICEF data and estimates](#)). The number of children receiving treatment for malnutrition has decreased by 20-12.5% across conflict-affected countries. ([International Rescue Committee report](#))
- COVID-19 has adversely impacted diets, eating habits and lifestyles of children. Without the school platform, and without the access to school health and nutrition programmes, issues like hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, poverty and early pregnancy are exacerbated. Since April 2020, about 370 million children have missed out on meals and essential health and nutrition services, with a potential impact of up to 24 million dropouts and USD 10 trillion in lost future earnings for the current cohort of learners. ([UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO joint statement](#)). Close to half a billion pupils are still affected by school closures; and the most and the most marginalised, including at least 11 million girls, are at high risk of never returning to school ([UN DSG Mohammed](#)). Children in Latin America have lost four times as many school days than children in the rest of the world ([UNICEF](#)).

<sup>1</sup> Analysis taken from the [WHO weekly epidemiological situation update \(17 November\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> Data from [Johns Hopkins University](#), updated on 20 November 2020. New SUN member State Timor-Leste is included in this overview. India is not considered, however. Tanzania has not reported cases since June, which means that the 509 cases they last reported are included in this overview. Note that underreporting or standardised, accurate reporting of confirmed cases remains a challenge, also in middle and lower-income contexts.

<sup>3</sup> Supra note 1.

<sup>4</sup> Guatemala, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Uganda, Ghana, Afghanistan, Congo, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Sudan, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Viet Nam.

<sup>5</sup> Analysis from the [New York Times](#) of 19 November using data from Johns Hopkins University, as referenced above.

<p>We face an <b>impending global food emergency<sup>6</sup> of unknown, but likely very large proportions.</b></p> <p>COVID-19 is <b>severely disrupting livelihoods &amp; the production, transportation, storage and sale of food.</b></p> <p>This undermines <b>people's ability to access safe, nutritious and diverse diets, including a likely increase in people's reliance on staple foods.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19-related disruptions can result in consequences for health and nutrition of a severity and scale unseen for more than half a century. (<a href="#">UN Secretary-General brief on food security and nutrition</a>)</li> <li>• By the end of the year 12,000 people per day could die from hunger linked to COVID-19, potentially more than will die from the disease itself (<a href="#">Oxfam brief on hunger, malnutrition &amp; COVID-19</a>).</li> <li>• Ensuring enough calories is not enough, good nutrition needs to be at the centre of food security efforts during and beyond this crisis. Globally, the cost to health, nutrition, and the natural environment from failing food systems is estimated to be USD 12 trillion dollars a year and rising. (<a href="#">GLOPAN report</a>).</li> <li>• This pandemic is a crisis on top of a crisis in parts of Africa, Latin America and Asia, and, the impacts of crises are never gender-neutral – COVID-19 is no exception.</li> <li>• Acute hunger set to double by the end of 2020 (from 130 million to 265 million). (<a href="#">WFP projections</a>) WFP was awarded the <a href="#">2020 Nobel Peace Prize</a> for efforts to combat hunger and is <a href="#">calling for USD 6.8 billion</a> over the next months to combat the global “[march] toward starvation, estimating if billionaires donated just 0.34% of their pandemic earnings, they could cover the this plea.</li> <li>• 33 million additional women, men and children are at risk of facing hunger due to remittances losses (<a href="#">WFP/IOM report</a>)</li> <li>• In 2019, 3 billion people around the world could not afford a healthy diet. (<a href="#">SOFI 2020</a>)</li> <li>• Labour income losses are much higher than previously thought: the equivalent of 495 million full-time jobs have been lost because of the pandemic. (<a href="#">ILO Monitor sixth edition: COVID-19 and the world of work</a>).</li> <li>• 1.6 billion people working in the informal economy (half of global labour force) still risk losing their livelihoods, and have less access to healthy, nutritious food. Women and young people are the most hard-hit, as they are overrepresented in the informal sector, and in service industry jobs that cannot easily move online (Freund and Hamel 2020). Only 1/8 countries worldwide have measures in place to protect women against the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. (<a href="#">UN Women/UNDP gender tracker</a>) Yet, only 3.5% of COVID-19 decision-making bodies and task forces across 87 countries have achieved gender parity. (<a href="#">BMJ Global Health</a>)</li> <li>• COVID-19 disproportionately affects low-income workers' finances in developing countries: In Latin America, 71% report that a household member has lost their job and 61% that a household member closed their business, in comparison to highest income respondents, where just 14% of whom reported that a household member lost their job and 54% that a household member closed their business. (<a href="#">Inter-American Development Bank report</a>)</li> <li>• Estimates suggest that earnings will fall by 28% in upper-middle-income countries, and 82% in lower-middle and low-income countries. (<a href="#">Glopan Brief: COVID-19: safeguarding food systems and promoting healthy diets</a>)</li> <li>• Disruptions to food supply chains as a result of COVID-19 affected both the production and distribution of food, exacerbated in some cases by currency depreciations, particularly in South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. (<a href="#">World Bank Commodity Markets Outlook</a>). Of 2,400 people in 10 African countries, 94% reported that prices of food and other essentials in their local markets had increased, while 82% said they had lost income or revenue. Only 7% said they had enough savings to cope with a prolonged crisis. (<a href="#">ICRC survey</a>)</li> <li>• Businesses in 'low- and middle-income' countries, collectively, lose between USD 130-850 billion a year through malnutrition-related productivity reductions, equivalent to between 0.4% and 2.9% of those economies' combined GDP (at the least). (<a href="#">Chatham House business case for nutrition report</a>)</li> </ul>
<p>The <a href="#">OECD</a> forecasts a <b>global GDP fall of 4.5% in 2020 likely to push more, especially women, into extreme poverty.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This the first increase in global poverty in more than 20 years (<a href="#">UNSG HLPF report</a>). So far, the pandemic has led to a 7% increase in extreme poverty, with an additional 37 million people living below USD 1.90 a day (<a href="#">Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation Goalkeepers report</a>). 96 million people (of whom 47 million will be women and girls) will be pushed into extreme poverty by the end of the year due to a slowing economy, job losses and lack of social protection (<a href="#">UN Women/UNDP report</a>). In 2021, 247 million women and 236 million men above 15 years of age will be living in extreme poverty (<a href="#">UN Women/UNDP report</a>). By 2030, an additional 130 million people may join the ranks of people living in extreme poverty. Many of these vulnerable people are themselves involved in food production or food systems-related work to secure their own food access. (<a href="#">UNSG food security nutrition brief</a>).</li> <li>• Analysis from the 2008 food price crisis found that child wasting increased by up to 50% in highly affected countries. COVID-19 will cause a 40% drop in foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2020. (<a href="#">UNCTAD, World Investment Report 2020</a>)</li> </ul>

### WHAT MUST BE DONE: Key messages

<p><b>A comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to nutrition needs to be integrated into COVID-19 response &amp; recovery efforts,</b> especially actions across health systems, food systems and social protection systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUN Movement Focal Points and multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) need to be involved in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. It is important to build on existing multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral efforts. In <b>19 SUN countries</b>, the SUN Focal Point is a part of the COVID-19 emergency response efforts: <b>Bangladesh, Cambodia, El Salvador, The Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Liberia, Nepal, Mauritania, Mozambique, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Viet Nam and Zambia.</b></li> <li>• In 2000, hunger in <b>Cameroon</b> and <b>Nepal</b> was categorised as "alarming", but today they are among the nations with moderate scores. (<a href="#">2020 Global Hunger Index</a>)</li> <li>• A global Covid-19 response index by Foreign Policy magazine <a href="#">has given Senegal the highest possible score for its communication strategy</a>, and is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the world.</li> </ul>
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<sup>6</sup> The UNSG brief defines a food emergency as “an extraordinary situation in which people are unable to meet their basic survival needs, or there are serious and immediate threats to human life and well-being”.

<p>(SUN country practices are highlighted in orange)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In <b>Cameroon</b>, FAO is training producers to use innovative solar dryers to process and conserve fruit and vegetables while preserving their nutritional status. In <b>Cameroon, Congo and Gabon</b>, ‘Green Classes’ have been introduced in schools to ensure nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems, with FAO support.</li> <li>• <b>Nigeria</b> has developed a National Food and Nutrition Response Plan for the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• In <b>Sudan and Ethiopia</b>, SUN stakeholders have been supporting the development and dissemination of guidance on nutrition during COVID-19.</li> <li>• <b>Burkina Faso</b> is harnessing digital and transformative opportunities for both integrated management of childhood illnesses and malnutrition – leading to a significant rise in correct undernutrition classifications. A workshop was organised by the SUN Focal Point for MPs during crisis on the importance of nutrition.</li> <li>• In <b>Comoros</b>, an information system on severe acute malnutrition (SAM) management has been built during the COVID-19 crisis.</li> <li>• <b>El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar and Togo</b> have stepped up communication on the importance of nutrition to fight COVID-19, also targeting children.</li> <li>• In <b>El Salvador</b>, the SUN Civil Society Alliance is delivering food parcels to those most in need.</li> <li>• In <b>Bangladesh</b>, the National Nutrition Services (NNS) is conducting online surveys to assess the functionality of 366 severe acute malnutrition centres.</li> <li>• <b>Lao PDR</b> is mainstreaming nutrition into its emergency plan.</li> <li>• In <b>Niger</b>, the Technical Group on Nutrition, based within the Ministry of Health, and composed of key nutrition stakeholders, is working together to improve coordination.</li> <li>• <b>Myanmar</b> is boosting governmental efforts to screen potential COVID-19 cases within the 4 million migrant workers returning from Thailand and China and ensure a 3-week quarantine period in designated centres, ensuring adequate shelter, health, nutrition and hygiene standards.</li> <li>• <b>Peru’s</b> Ministry of Economy has a long-standing online portal, <i>Consulta Amigable</i>, that monitors allocations for nutrition interventions and now COVID-19 interventions.</li> <li>• In <b>Central America</b>, the Central American Integration System (SICA) has launched a Regional Contingency Plan where food security and nutrition is well positioned, as SICA will coordinate actions within this framework to avoid food crises, and will monitor indicators, especially related to adequate access, availability of food and stability.</li> <li>• In <b>Pakistan</b>, the Civil Society Network has mobilised philanthropists, raised awareness, found local resources, provided food baskets and personal protective equipment, and hand washing stations, while helping people contact and register with government support programmes.</li> <li>• The <b>SUN Civil Society Asia Coordination Group</b> has launched a campaign “<a href="#">Nutrition Can’t Wait</a>”.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nutrition must be essential pillar of post-COVID recovery &amp; emergency preparedness moving forward – to build immunity and resilience of people &amp; communities.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor quality diets without the range of nutrients needed for immune function, brain development and health more broadly leave a permanent legacy.</li> <li>• Every response to this crisis must be appropriate for the context, led by countries themselves and ensuring effective coordination between humanitarian and development actors and between different sectors.</li> <li>• Vulnerability factors such as poverty, inequality (also based on gender), pre-existent malnutrition, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, crowded living conditions, poor access to healthcare and clean water and sanitation must be considered and addressed.</li> <li>• National and global responses aiming to prevent a hunger crisis need to critically look at the role and status of women and girls in food systems and nutrition actions, as responses to COVID-19 and related hunger crises are either ignoring women and girls or treating them as victims who have no role in addressing the problems they face. (<a href="#">CARE analysis</a>)</li> </ul>

### THE SUN MOVEMENT’S RESPONSE TO COVID-19: Our priorities

<p>The SUN is taking a Movement-wide approach to COVID-19, bringing together the entire Global Support System<sup>7</sup> to <b>jointly advocate to safeguard nutrition during and following this crisis</b>, and <b>providing support to SUN countries</b> during the emergency, recovery and beyond.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To better equip stakeholders in SUN countries to play a role in COVID-19 response &amp; recovery efforts, and to keep ensuring a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to nutrition, we focus on facilitating coordinated action by SUN Movement stakeholders, at all levels, and providing information and support.</li> <li>• We engage with SUN country stakeholders, on an ongoing basis, to understand the current situation and how it affects nutrition.</li> <li>• Looking ahead, the focus will be on building ‘forward’ better, with the realisation that the impacts of COVID-19 will be felt for a long period to come.</li> </ul> <p><b>Some examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Secretariat workstreams up and running, with three workstreams and monthly meetings, also across the Global Support System, to focus not just on COVID-19 but road ahead, at large.</li> <li>✓ The October period will be used to revise and update many of the pieces below, with a focus on building back better:</li> <li>✓ SUN Lead Group COVID-19 engagement mapping (<i>draft finalised</i>)</li> </ul>
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<sup>7</sup> The Global Support System, to this end, includes the SUN Networks, the Executive Committee, the Lead Group and the SUN Coordinator.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The 2020 <a href="#">SUN Movement Joint-Assessment</a> incorporates a range of questions also related to COVID-19 (49 SUN countries have undertaken the 2020 exercise).</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">SUN COVID-19 knowledge hub</a> (more than 2,000 visits per month).</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">SUN Movement information note and key messages</a> (popular tools on the SUN website but also used by Focal Points and other stakeholders in <b>Pakistan, Gabon, Burkina Faso, El Salvador (govt) Guatemala (UNICEF), Honduras (govt), Liberia (govt), Zambia (govt), Rwanda (UNRC, information note, factsheet)</b>)</li> <li>✓ SUN key asks for each stakeholder group (finalised in English, French and Spanish)</li> <li>✓ SUN and COVID-19 factsheets (November editions in <a href="#">English</a>, <a href="#">French</a> and <a href="#">Spanish</a> planned for next week)</li> <li>✓ SUN country situation papers and SMS-wide follow-up spreadsheet (7 reports and overview report finalised with MQSUN+ support, and good practices showcased above, webinars held 22-26 June). In addition, regional reports and an overview have been created</li> <li>✓ Joint advocacy and communication strategy &amp; action plan (finalised translated, plan is updated regularly)</li> <li>✓ Donor mapping for donor-specific asks (ongoing)</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Integrating SUN approach into new Global Nutrition Cluster guidance</a></li> <li>✓ Harnessing moments and the media (such as the launch of the Global Nutrition Report, including interviews featured in the FT and Le Monde)</li> <li>✓ Sharing and learning, through calls and webinars, including: World Food Day webinars, a joint FAO-SUN webinar (third in series) held Thursday 19 November on Designing and Implementing Food and Agriculture Programmes that promote Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition.</li> <li>✓ A <a href="#">SUN-FAO elearning Academy partnership</a> in place, which offers free online courses, in EN/FR/SP, on key topics.</li> <li>✓ SUN Pooled Fund grantee scopes have been revised to support countries' COVID-19 response through nutrition. SUN government focal points have been encouraged to converge with CSAs to seize the opportunity and include important actions. In parallel, timeframes have been revised to mitigate the impact of COVID on results. (A <a href="#">Pooled Fund website</a> has been launched in English, with French and Spanish to come)</li> <li>✓ The UNGA resolution on the COVID-19 response was adopted on 11 September with strong language on nutrition, also as a result of joint SUN advocacy.</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">CFS High-Level Special Event on Food Security and Nutrition held mid-October</a>, with strong visibility of SUN actors.</li> <li>✓ The Micronutrient Forum 5th Global Conference took place 9 to 13 November, with strong representation from the SUN Movement, including the SUN Coordinator.</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">WHA 73</a> took place 9 to 19 November, with key inputs from the SUN Movement, at large, also the Coordinator, including a statement (<a href="#">video</a>   <a href="#">written</a>) to stress the importance to incorporate Nutrition in the health system (Primary Health Care and Universal Health Coverage) in the context of COVID-19. A decision on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition was been adopted, with its negotiation taking place since the Executive Board, led by a SUN member country. Norway has pledged USD 133 million to WHO to reduce the burden of NCDs in low-income countries.</li> <li>✓ A food systems webinar, bringing together some 160 SUN stakeholders and focal points, was held on 16 November, with SUN Lead Group member David Nabarro.</li> <li>✓ <b>Important SUN moments coming up:</b> the 2020 meeting of the SUN Lead Group will be held on <b>Monday 7 December</b>. A Nutrition for Growth springboard event, hosted by Canada, in conjunction with Bangladesh, will be held <b>Monday 14 December</b>. <a href="#">2021 has been designated as the International Year of Health and Care Workers</a>, in recognition of the dedication and sacrifice of the millions of health and care workers at the forefront of the pandemic.</li> </ul>
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### WHAT MUST BE DONE: Key asks for each stakeholder group<sup>8</sup>

<p><b>SUN governments:</b> Governments are responsible for regulating, coordinating, implementing and monitoring national health, social protection, and food systems, and for the national COVID-19 responses and recovery.</p> <p>They are leading multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder coordination for nutrition, which should continue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ensure nutrition is prioritised in COVID-19 response and recovery plans</b>, with a focus on the most vulnerable, and women and girls who often eat last and least;</li> <li>• Ensure COVID-19 response planning and coordination <b>leverage existing nutrition capacity and multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder coordination</b> structures, including the SUN Focal Point and MSPs;</li> <li>• Continue <b>implementing a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to nutrition</b>. Stay “open for business” and engage with key constituency groups on COVID response, including civil society;</li> <li>• Continue <b>investing and implementing interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition across health, food, and social protection systems</b>, and maintain nutrition-sensitive programming in WASH, gender and other relevant sectors. Globally 62.2% of countries not put in place social protection measure related to food security and nutrition. Central Asia, Asia-Pacific and Arab states have significantly less coverage than Latin America and Caribbean and the African regions (<a href="#">ILO Social Protection Monitor on COVID-19</a>);</li> <li>• An <b>additional USD 19 billion a year from low- and middle-income countries' own budgets should be given</b> for food security and nutrition to accompany development cooperation; (<a href="#">Ceres2030</a>)</li> <li>• Over 100 million women and girls could be lifted out of poverty if governments <b>implement a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving access to education and family planning, fair and equal wages, and expanding social transfers</b> (<a href="#">UN Women/UNDP report</a>);</li> <li>• <b>Maintain and adapt approaches</b> in accordance with technical guidance;</li> </ul>
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<sup>8</sup> These asks are the final key asks developed by the joint COVID-19 advocacy and communication task team, to be updated in September-October.

<p>throughout the COVID-19 response and recovery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt and enforce guidelines that <b>support actors in reaching people with nutrition supplies and services</b>;</li> <li>• <b>Monitor access to essential nutrition services, food prices</b> (including nutritious foods), purchasing power, consumption patterns, and nutritional status;</li> <li>• <b>Put in place, monitor and implement policy and fiscal measures</b> that promote access to healthy food. Promote consumption of safe and healthy diets and ensure the supply of fortified foods and specialised nutrition commodities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bilateral &amp; multilateral donors &amp; philanthropies:</b> Donors can play a vital role. Nutrition is a sensible and effective investment, but, often, even if countries do have nutrition as a priority funding levels do not follow.</p> <p>Donors' continued commitment to funding nutrition and to a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach is key for continued nutrition progress. Donors (especially high-profile politicians and philanthropists) also have a strong advocacy voice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scale up funding!</b> Donors only spend 1% of their budgets on nutrition (GNR 2018) – but even current level of funding could be at risk due to COVID-19 at a time when needs are greater than ever. Aid to agriculture in developing countries fell from nearly 25% of all donors' sector-allocable aid in the mid-1980s to only 5% in 2018 (<a href="#">UNSG HLPF report</a>). An additional <b>USD 14 billion is needed from donor governments to stop millions more people from going hungry</b> in wake of COVID-19 globally, but also to double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farmers, and limit agricultural emissions in line with the Paris climate agreement. This means roughly doubling the amount of aid given for food security and nutrition each year (<a href="#">Ceres2030</a>).</li> <li>• To date, <b>less than 30% of the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP)</b> – which requires USD 10.34bn – has been funded. (<a href="#">September Progress Report</a>). 5 of the worst hunger spots have received zero COVID-related nutrition assistance. (<a href="#">Oxfam report</a>)</li> <li>• <b>Increase flexibility to extend support across sectors</b> to adapt and implement amidst the changing context (e.g. through flexible budgeting to cover unforeseen expenses, being supportive of no-cost extensions, or re-shaping projects to allow, for example, shifting focus to support vulnerable families/populations);</li> <li>• <b>Continued commitment to a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach</b> to nutrition at the country level, linking humanitarian and development efforts;</li> <li>• <b>Support innovation, research, and development</b> that can strengthen the nutrition response to COVID-19;</li> <li>• <b>Support SMEs</b> – with focus on those producing nutritious food - in partnership with governments and other stakeholders. Support can be given through short term (emergency) operating capital to SMEs, either on a grant or loan basis, by adapting funding to make it more accessible to SMEs (shorter terms/longer repayment, and payment in local currency);</li> <li>• <b>Provide technical assistance</b> to low- and middle-income countries based on country needs;</li> <li>• <b>Use their voice to advocate for nutrition in the context of COVID-19</b>, including in regional and global decision-making fora and in the media.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The United Nations:</b> The UN plays an essential role in investing in, coordinating and implementing the COVID-19 response and nutrition-related programmes across health, social protection and food systems in support of governments. UN agencies develop technical and operational guidelines, supporting data collection, monitoring, evaluation and learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that <b>key UN actors coordinating the COVID-19 response at national level liaise with nutrition actors</b>, including SUN government FPs and MSPs;</li> <li>• <b>Work as 'one UN' at country level</b>, ensuring effective coordination across humanitarian and development actors and coordination mechanisms;</li> <li>• <b>Continued commitment to a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach</b> to nutrition at country level, amplifying key nutrition messages at UNCT meetings and fostering involvement of SUN networks (including Focal Points and MSPs) in country-level COVID-19 response efforts;</li> <li>• <b>Support government and liaise with civil society and other key partners</b> to provide and disseminate up-to-date guidance from the UN and considerations within specific country contexts;</li> <li>• <b>Deliver clear, actionable operational guidance</b> for frontline workers and policymakers;</li> <li>• Improve coordination, communication and support to <b>help governments navigate the "information overload"</b>;</li> <li>• <b>Share emerging evidence</b> regarding COVID-19 and nutrition;</li> <li>• <b>Document and share country experiences</b> to promote learning across borders;</li> <li>• <b>Raise awareness, including through UN leadership, about the importance of good nutrition in the context of COVID-19</b> and the potentially devastating effects of the pandemic on people's nutrition.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Civil society:</b> Civil society has important roles as implementing partners in the COVID-19 response, and in nutrition programmes across health, food systems and social protection. They are critical advocacy, communication and community actors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maintain or adapt nutrition programming</b> in line with ongoing guidance;</li> <li>• <b>Support the dissemination of standard messaging</b> (to dispel misinformation), especially to vulnerable populations, in coordination with government, UN and other partners;</li> <li>• <b>Utilise operational capacity</b> to support implementation efforts amidst the COVID-19 response across sectors, in coordination with government and partners;</li> <li>• <b>Advocate to ensure nutrition remains a priority</b> during and after the pandemic;</li> <li>• Advocate for and help facilitate <b>community engagement</b> to ensure vulnerable communities are consulted and heard in design of COVID-19 response plans;</li> <li>• <b>Continued commitment to a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach</b> to nutrition at country level, aligning programmes and advocacy efforts;</li> <li>• <b>Ensure coordination of CSO contributions to COVID-19 response and recovery</b>, within civil society and with government and other stakeholders; <b>Document country experiences</b> and encourage sharing across borders.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Businesses/private sector:</b> Business is also vital. Big companies need to help keep the value chain open. In addition, if income levels fall in developing countries, food systems risk collapse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Contribute to the production and delivery of nutritious foods and food products</b>, with a focus on the most vulnerable;</li> <li>• <b>Donate nutritious foods</b> for distribution through established channels;</li> <li>• <b>Follow internationally recognised "do no harm" guidelines and agreements</b>;</li> <li>• <b>Avoiding donating, marketing and promoting unhealthy foods</b> high in saturated fats, free sugar and/or salt;</li> <li>• <b>Adhere to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes</b> and subsequent WHA resolutions;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Advocate for and support SMEs</b> in a broader food systems’ response to support local efforts, with particular support given to women-led business.</li> <li>• Adopt and deliver <b>workforce nutrition programmes for all employees</b>, including sick leave policies that allow for additional time off to self-quarantine and care of dependents;</li> <li>• <b>Food business associations can improve access to market information</b> and linkages to safe distributors/retailers in operation;</li> <li>• Advocate for <b>private sector investment in government led COVID responses</b>;</li> <li>• Engage in efforts to <b>maintain international supply chains</b> for imports and exports of food products;</li> <li>• <i>Longer-term: Improve local food systems for enhanced domestic food sourcing</i></li> </ul>
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**WATCH THIS SPACE: New developments and interesting reads about COVID-19 and nutrition<sup>9</sup>**

<b>Across SUN countries and regions</b>	<p><b>Ethiopia:</b> <a href="#">Tigray crisis: Government forces 'march on capital'</a></p> <p><b>South Sudan:</b> <a href="#">Norway provides NOK 90 million (USD 10M) supporting education in South Sudan</a></p> <p><b>Rwanda:</b> <a href="#">USAID celebrates five years of impactful Gikuriro Program</a></p> <p><b>Kenya:</b> <a href="#">Food4Education program receives donation from Pwani Oil</a></p> <p><b>Tanzania:</b> <a href="#">Kagera Authorities Take Action to End Malnutrition</a></p> <p><b>Madagascar:</b> <a href="#">Drought and COVID-19 push 1.5 million people to the brink</a></p> <p><b>Zambia:</b> <a href="#">Misapplication of funds meant for social protection increasing food insecurity – CSO-SUN</a></p> <p><b>Nigeria:</b> <a href="#">2.5M Nigerian children suffering from malnutrition</a></p> <p><b>Nigeria:</b> <a href="#">NGO expresses concern over high rate of stunted children</a></p> <p><b>Nigeria:</b> <a href="#">Inability to write good memos stall nutrition programmes in Nasarawa</a></p> <p><b>Niger:</b> <a href="#">Over 110,000 people reached by GOAL with lifechanging nutrition programme</a></p> <p><b>Ghana:</b> <a href="#">Acute poverty affects Ghana’s savanna region: how oilseeds could help boost local diets</a></p> <p><b>Africa region:</b> <a href="#">Investissements contribuant à la nutrition dans les systèmes agricoles et alimentaires – Note d’orientation sur l’analyse budgétaire</a></p> <p><b>Guatemala:</b> <a href="#">‘The Ixil helping the Ixil’: Indigenous people in Guatemala lead their own Hurricane Eta response</a></p> <p><b>Peru:</b> <a href="#">Francisco Sagasti sworn in as interim Peruvian leader</a></p> <p><b>Pacific region:</b> <a href="#">Pacific children being irreversibly damaged by malnutrition</a></p> <p><b>Viet Nam:</b> <a href="#">Viet Nam economy is Asia’s shining star during Covid</a></p> <p><b>Cambodia:</b> <a href="#">Reaching the goal of eliminating malnutrition in the Kingdom</a></p> <p><b>Pakistan:</b> <a href="#">Rs350b project to control child malnutrition</a></p> <p><b>Pakistan:</b> <a href="#">Islamabad High Court disposes of plea seeking focus on malnutrition</a></p> <p><b>India:</b> <a href="#">Cricketer Virat Kohli To Feed 10,000 Malnourished Children, Will Donate Profits From Brand Endorsement To Charity</a></p> <p><b>India:</b> <a href="#">A mission to FEED India: this 43-year-old is ensuring children in West Bengal do not go hungry</a></p> <p><b>Bangladesh:</b> <a href="#">Bridging food system gaps and ensuring access to safe milk in Bangladesh: The role of UHT technology</a></p> <p><b>Tajikistan:</b> <a href="#">Protecting Children’s Health During COVID-19</a></p>
<b>Globally</b>	<p><b>CARE:</b> <a href="#">The Global Hunger Crisis: How Women Are Fighting A Similar But Different COVID-19 Battle All Over The World</a></p> <p><b>BMJ:</b> <a href="#">Scaling up cross border cooperation to tackle climate and disease threats</a></p> <p><b>UNICEF:</b> <a href="#">Averting a lost COVID generation A six-point plan to respond, recover and reimagine a post-pandemic world for every child</a></p> <p><b>WFP:</b> <a href="#">Cuba and WFP reaffirm commitment to fight hunger</a></p> <p><b>UNICEF/Victor Aguayo:</b> <a href="#">« La malnutrition affecte la survie des enfants, leur croissance et leur développement »</a></p> <p><b>BMC/Meera Shekar, Ellen Piwoz, et.al.:</b> <a href="#">Ending malnutrition in all its forms requires scaling up proven nutrition interventions and much more: a 129-country analysis</a></p> <p><b>GFF/Inger Ashing et.al.:</b> <a href="#">Turning the tide: The fight to reclaim gains and accelerate progress for women and children</a></p> <p><b>G20:</b> <a href="#">G20 leaders urged to prevent soaring rates of malnutrition and hunger</a></p> <p><b>CARE:</b> <a href="#">Aid groups warn G20 leaders must act to prevent humanitarian catastrophe in wake of Covid-19 economic recession</a></p> <p><b>Nutrition and COVID links:</b> <a href="#">New report on the role of nutrition in COVID-19 recovery, aging and health</a></p> <p><b>COVID and child health:</b> <a href="#">2021 Measles Outbreak Is Likely Due to Vaccine Delays: Experts</a></p> <p><b>UN:</b> <a href="#">A deep dive into Zero Hunger: the seaweed revolution</a></p> <p><b>UN:</b> <a href="#">Rising hunger, ‘an outrage in a world of plenty’: Guterres</a></p> <p><b>FAO:</b> <a href="#">Global Food Security Cluster turns 10: ending hunger is everyone’s job</a></p> <p><b>Stockholm International Peace Institute:</b> <a href="#">The Geopolitics of Food Security: Barriers to the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger</a></p> <p><b>WHO/UNICEF:</b> <a href="#">Regulating sanitation services as a public good</a></p> <p><b>UNHCR:</b> <a href="#">Public Health and Nutrition in operationalizing the Global Compact on Refugees and comprehensive responses</a></p> <p><b>Unilever:</b> <a href="#">Unilever eyes €1bn plant-based sales and ‘positive nutrition’ push</a></p> <p><b>Analysis:</b> <a href="#">Have women CEOs coped better with Covid than men?</a></p> <p><b>Commentary:</b> <a href="#">‘Severe malnutrition’: thinking deeply, communicating simply</a></p> <p><b>Opinion:</b> <a href="#">Op-ed: We’ve averted famine in the past – we must do it again</a></p> <p><b>Opinion:</b> <a href="#">Sustainable Development Goal 2: Achieving Zero Hunger by 2030. Where Are We Now?</a></p> <p><b>Opinion:</b> <a href="#">Investment by companies in efforts to eliminate malnutrition makes good business sense</a></p>

<sup>9</sup> Where highlights are in orange this refers to news stories and updates where the SUN Movement, and actors and champions therein, has been specifically mentioned.