

Summary of the SUN Movement Pooled Fund Consultative Group meeting 26 January 2021 (15:00-16:00 CET)

Participants in the call: Blaise Peccia-Galletto (EC - DEVCO); Kristin Dypedokk (Norway - NORAD); Abigail Perry, Mark Thompson (United Kingdom - FCDO); Eleonora Di Salvo (Canada - GAC); Karin Gross (Switzerland - SDC); Mary McCarthy, Frances O'Donovan (Ireland - IrishAid); Petra Windisch of GIZ on behalf of BMZ (Germany);

Observers: Anna Horner, Ritta Shine, Omar Alrifai, Uduak Igbeka (SBN); Florence Tonnoir, Laurent Michiels, Hollydente Sedutto, Stineke Oenema (UN Nutrition); Christopher Twiss, Andrew Rooke (CSN); Melanie Bruns, Sabine Keifer (SDN); Wahab Moez, Tin Me Me Aung, Fiona Gatere, Medhanit Mekonnen, Edita Ajeti (UNOPS), Gerda Verburg, Ellen Barclay; Elena Gaino, Mairéad Petersen, Farai Manwa, Maria Pizzini; Paul Mazza, Asiya Davletzyanova (SUN Movement Secretariat - SMS)

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 and presented the agenda as well as the main objectives of the call:

1. Update and reflection on the Pooled Fund Evidence Package and Website
2. Decision on the Pooled Fund 2021 Workplan & Budget, which includes a reprogramming of USD 150,246 from the remaining balancing of the SUN Business Network's approved envelope for supporting 3 unfunded CSA applicants (Cycle 4).
3. Decision to approve the closure of this Pooled Fund project by TOD in Sudan and waive-off the balance of USD 1,250.51 remaining in the hands of TOD, due to a *force majeure* circumstance.

Agenda Item No. 1 - Evidence Package & Website

The chair opened the first Consultative Group meeting of 2021 with a reflection on the achievements documented in the Pooled Fund *Evidence Package* and website, both of which were communicated on 22 December 2020 to Consultative Group members and stakeholders.

Recalling the decision of the Executive Committee at their retreat in January 2019 to commission a Strategic Review of the SUN Movement, the chair reminded the Consultative Group members that an assessment of the Pooled Fund had been incorporated into the overall Strategic Review of the SUN Movement in its Phase 2. Nevertheless, the Pooled Fund Team recognized that the project merits additional detail and reflection in terms of its role and structure in SUN 3.0.

The Pooled Fund Coordinator added that, for the reasons stated above, the Pooled Fund Team collected an array of achievements from Pooled Fund beneficiaries in a synthesis known as the *Evidence Package*. The hope is to take input from the Consultative Group for the Operationalization Group within the Executive Committee, who are addressing the Pooled Fund as one of the topics in Phase 3.

Members expressed their praise of the Evidence package, encouraged continued use of the website to share in-country knowledge, and would welcome more specific documents on the Pooled Fund's direction. The chair invited the Consultative Group members discuss and provide inputs on the package for the Executive Committee's Operationalization Group (aka "Ops Group") to support in designing, strategizing and setting objectives of the future Pooled Fund. In turn, the Pooled Fund team

will continue to support the Visioning process and provide more concrete design examples to which donors and collaborators may react.

They conclude by proposing the steps moving forward to which the Consultative Group agreed.

Decisions:

- The Pooled Fund needs to continue to support the Visioning process and provide more concrete design examples to which donors and collaborators may react - highlighting what aspects should be taken forward and what aspects should be left behind based upon experiences exemplified in records such as the *Evidence Package*.
- The Consultative Group agreed that the Pooled Fund should remain a catalytic, innovative, agile, and non-traditional source of funds that operates on a time-bound manner in SUN 3.0.
- The Consultative Group decided the *Evidence Package*, as well as Chapter 7 from the 2021 Workplan, be sent to the Ops Group to inform them that they have to consider the Pooled Fund and these materials as part of their design considerations for SUN 3.0.
- Consultative Group members will refer to the Ops Group Terms of Reference and determine ways they may contribute to discussions about and design of the future of the Pooled Fund.

Agenda Item No. 2 - 2021 Pooled Fund Workplan & Budget

The Pooled Fund Coordinator outlined the highlights of the 2021 Pooled Fund Workplan, which were centred around the close-out of the current Pooled Fund Project. Recalling the April 2020 decision by the Consultative Group to extend grant agreements due to the pandemic, the Pooled Fund Coordinator noted that many of these projects would end in 2021. A wave of interim reports will come towards the end of January 2021 and final wave after June 2021 as the final set of grant agreements come to a close. The Pooled Fund Team will continue to build upon the website, to document the nutrition impact made possible through the Pooled Fund. Since the pandemic prevented the usual on-site visitation from the Pooled Fund Monitoring & Evaluation Team, the Team has been conducting virtual monitoring visits instead with great success. Finally, the Pooled Fund will continue to contribute to the foundation of knowledge within the larger SUN Movement by continuing its site monitoring debriefs to the SUN Secretariat, sharing data with the SUN networks, hosting lesson-learning sessions with beneficiaries, and continuing to use the website as a basis for knowledge management.

The UNOPS Portfolio Manager then presented the provisional 2021 Budget. The discussion opened with a table on donor contributions to the project. With special thanks to all Pooled Fund donors, the Portfolio Manager clarified the total income received in US dollars, which may vary slightly from the currency in which the contribution agreement was signed. The discussion then moved to the provisional budget. Out of the total budget, 79% is invested directly into Pooled Fund grants. Savings from personnel and from travel categories were also reinvested into grants. The proposal put forth to the Consultative Group was to approve the provisional 2021 budget, including a small reallocation from the SBN's envelope to cover 3 unfunded CSA applicants. The 3 unfunded CSA applicants were selected during the competitive Cycle 4 Continuation Grant selection process. They have been vetted by the selection committee, which included representatives from the Pooled Fund Team, the SUN networks, and the SUN Secretariat. The European Commission representative informed the Group that he would send some questions about the workplan and budget but would not uphold the approval of the workplan and budget. The Consultative Group took the following decision.

Decision: To approve the Pooled Fund's 2021 Workplan and Budget, which includes a reprogramming of **USD 150,246** from the remaining balancing of the SUN Business Network's approved envelope for supporting 3 unfunded CSA applicants (Cycle 4).

Agenda Item No. 3 - Waive-Off Request of Sudanese Beneficiary

The Pooled Fund Coordinator presented the case of an early Pooled Fund beneficiary in Sudan who, following the change in government in Sudan in 2019, was de-registered from government's index of non- profits approved to operate in the country. The Pooled Fund team worked closely with the beneficiary and UNOPS worked closely with a group of UN agencies in Sudan who were establishing a coordinated response to the crisis. The beneficiary had an unspent balance of USD 1,250.51 remaining in their bank account, which they are unable to refund as their accounts have been frozen by the government of Sudan. UNOPS determined that this constituted a *force majeure* event. The UNOPS Portfolio Manager stated that per UNOPS financial rules and regulations the Pooled Fund Team must inform all donors and request consent to close and process the fund waive-off.

Following the discussion, the Consultative Group took the following decision:

Decision: to approve the closure of this Pooled Fund project by TOD in Sudan and waive-off the balance of **USD 1,250.51** remaining in the hands of TOD, due to a *force majeure* circumstance.

The Chair thanked all participants for their support and commitment to the Sun Movement Pooled Fund.