

Guidance for SUN stakeholders in 2021, the Year of Nutrition Commitments

Why is 2021 so important for nutrition?

- The global COVID-19 crisis has exposed the **fragilities of food, health, and social protection systems. Its socio-economic consequences are undermining people's nutrition worldwide** and most acutely in already vulnerable population groups.
- In this globally difficult context, there is both **an urgency to act fast to protect hard-won nutrition gains**, while at the same time, drawing the lessons from the pandemic crisis and **investing the systemic changes** needed to enable sustainable access to good nutrition and healthy diets, leaving no one behind, even in the face of crisis.
- To achieve this challenging and ambitious goal, the [United Nations \(UN\) Food Systems Summit](#) (FSS) planned in September 2021 and the [Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit](#) (N4G) in December 2021 will give all SUN countries an opportunity to contribute to **building a strong momentum in order to sustain investments and commitment towards nutrition**.
- 2021 also marks the launch of the **SUN Movement 3.0 strategy (2021-2025)** which recognizes there is no one-size-fits-all solution for nutrition and further empowers country ownership of the nutrition agenda through multi-sectoral/multi-stakeholder work.
- In line with this approach, UN [Food Systems Summit Dialogues](#) are being launched as an integral part of the FSS, acknowledging that every country needs to design its own approach towards transforming food systems. Dialogues are designed to bring together stakeholders across multiple sectors within a given country to reach a common understanding of opportunities, challenges, and potential trade-offs specific to the context. **The aim is to collectively define national pathways towards more resilient, nutrition-sensitive, and climate-smart food systems at the country level.**
- **SUN Stakeholders are invited to engage in these Dialogues actively**, building on the SUN multi-sectoral/multi-stakeholder work and bringing the SUN priorities to the table. As such, Dialogues can **kick-start the SUN 3.0 strategy**, revitalise ownership of the nutrition agenda at the highest political level and initiate commitments to transformative action in order to achieve sustainable impact for people's nutrition.
- **2021 will culminate with the Nutrition for Growth Summit in December which will be essential to sustain nutrition investments from national budgets and global donors**, ensuring the latter align behind country-owned solutions, for greater results and impact. All SUN countries will be invited to attend the event, and Governments, donors, private sector, UN agencies, and civil societies will be encouraged to make bold and ambitious policy, program, and financial commitments to nutrition along thematic areas, including health systems, food systems, and resilience.

Key Steps for SUN countries in 2021

A. Start reflecting on opportunities ahead

1. **Convene in-country nutrition stakeholders** meeting to discuss opportunities ahead, to achieve a shared **understanding of the N4G and FSS visions**, objectives, and commitment processes, and how you can leverage existing processes to advance the national nutrition agenda and **to kick start the SUN 3.0 strategy in your country**.
2. **Jointly reflect on progress and challenges in implementing your national nutrition plan**, including by reviewing progress on **key targets and indicators** (which may include SDGs, WHA Nutrition Targets, previous N4G targets, etc.). **Identify key areas where further investment and action is needed**.

- a. What is the ‘priority of priorities’ that the MSP would recommend to their Head of State as the most important nutrition rallying point for the country? Can that priority become a SMART¹ international commitment?
- b. Alternatively, from the Food System Dialogue is it possible that a set of tangible actions can emerge that has national traction and could be an innovative national rallying point? Could selected actions become a SMART international commitment?

B. Make the most of Food Systems Summit Dialogues

3. Engage in Food Systems Summit Dialogue’s preparatory process in your country.
 - a. Advocate to your authorities for the **rapid nomination of a Food Systems Summit Dialogues “National Convener”** (if not already nominated) and pick a date and work collaboratively to design the talks.
 - b. Ensure planned Dialogues are inclusive of **all nutrition Stakeholders**, linking up to your networks, and ensuring special attention is paid to the **inclusion of young people and women**.
 - c. Where present, make sure that **humanitarian actors are included in the Food Systems Dialogues**. They have the knowledge, experience, and competencies to help identify the impact of the current gaps in the food system, i.e., who it does not cater for, and what would need to be done to close these gaps. Since resilience is a common feature of both Summits, the Food Systems Dialogue can act as a powerful springboard for the N4G Summit.
4. Use the Dialogues to **elevate nutrition as a key lever and necessary outcome of any food systems transformations**. Build on the SUN multisectoral/multi stakeholder work in your country to outline priority actions needed to create nutrition impact from a Food Systems perspective (see SUN’s [food systems approach in practice webpage](#) for inspiration).
5. Use food Systems Dialogues to **raise awareness about the Nutrition for Growth Summit**.

C. Mobilize joint commitments in the lead up to N4G

6. Work with government counterparts (including Economy and Finance, Planning and development), businesses, multilateral institutions, donors, and other development and humanitarian partners to **develop commitments**.
7. Nutrition-related outcomes of the Food System Dialogues, combined with discussions around Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and resilience, should form the basis for N4G commitments. Commitments should be **ambitious and SMART** and address existing bottlenecks, integrate contributions of different sectors, and accelerates the progress and impact of your National Nutrition Plan.
8. Make plans to leverage the N4G opportunity with advocacy strategies, key moments, champions, and allies to **ensure N4G contributes to increased political momentum for nutrition** in your country ahead of the Nutrition for Growth Summit and beyond.
9. **Share your top draft priorities / actions** with your Country Liaison Team member at the SUN Movement Secretariat, and request assistance, if required, especially if external collaboration is necessary to raise your priorities / actions to the ‘higher political levels’ within your country.

Additional resources

- [Past N4G commitments made by SUN stakeholders and their status](#)
- [GNR Country Profiles](#)
- [Toolkits to support the organisation of national resource mobilisation events](#)

¹ SMART = Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound