Supportive document 5: Risk-informed planning and decision making. Suggestions for a Risk Framework

The county delivery working group has strongly recommended that the SUN Movement should enhance its engagement with fragile and conflict affected countries (FACS) by better engaging and partnering with all stakeholders, across the sectors, with the experience and competencies to deal with uncertainty and risk. In general, the SUN Movement should better incorporate risk in its planning and decision making including at global and regional level. This requires more risk informed data, planning and decision making. Such data can also be used to better inform the priorities of the movement.

There are multiple sources of information and data about risks (disaster risks, technological risks, conflict risks, political risks, food security risks, health risks, etc) available. Starting with the information collected by ministries, as well as regional (from regional organizations (ASEAN, SAARC, OAU, EU) and global sources. To mention only a few: The WEF World Risk Report, the ACAPS instrument, country, and global publications from SUN members (UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, etc.), EMDAT (international disasters’ data base), as well as nutrition specific reports like the state of food security and nutrition in the world, Global Food crises report. Useful additions to put a wider view on risks are also the trust indices from the Edelman Trust Barometer and the country reports from the Crises Group.

The SUN Movement should help make sense, from a nutrition perspective, of this wealth of information, and make it easily available to its members to ensure that all nutrition plans, and by extension all national development plans, are sufficiently risk informed. This will allow them to adapt and respond to any man made or natural crisis, thereby avoiding the loss of hard-fought nutrition gains, mitigate the nutritional impact of a crisis, build nutrition resilience of the population, and better prepare for an immediate post crisis recovery.

To reinforce the risk informed approach it is recommended to work along the humanitarian development nexus (HDN). SUN and the Global Nutrition Cluster have already started work on this. To provide guidance and insight to SUN and GNC country stakeholder on the added value of closer cooperation between the two groups SUN/GNC just published a global report on the Humanitarian Development Nexus for nutrition https://scalingupnutrition.org/share-learn/humanitarian-development-nexus/.

The SUN Movement should draft a risk framework, which can then be used by its members for planning and decision making. This framework will allow countries and global governance to better present and understand risk information for nutrition planning. Part of the risk framework could be the comparison of risk data and can ranking member countries by pertinent risks, degree of fragility and at the same time suggest mitigation measures. Particular attention can then be paid to high-risk countries and the need for tailor-made support to Governments, MSPs, technical teams and country coordinators.