

Supportive document 6: Suggested process for a capacity and risk self- assessment and the design of capacity development strategies

Facilitated capacities and risk self-assessments should be carried out upon the initiative of a SUN country team or by invitation of the ExCom. Based on the assessment capacity development strategies will be designed. It is recommended to develop a policy to guide such assessments and strategies development inspired by MQSUN+ guidance documents⁹.

Self-assessments will identify technical and functional CD needs and assess also risks which could hamper a consistent and planned approach (incl. institutional, context related risk, slow onset disasters and rapid disasters). They will also consider aspects like community engagement, GESI, and political economic analysis.

The Self-assessment will focus on essential categories, such as:

- **Technical capacities** associated with areas of professional expertise, such as nutrition, food systems, social protection, agriculture, etc.
- **Functional capacities** that enable national, regional and district actors to plan, manage, change, and sustain the technical capacities. They can be cross-cutting, multi-sectoral and relevant across various levels. These should include capacity to engage stakeholders, capacity to assess a situation and define a vision, capacity to formulate policies and strategies, capacity to finance and budget, manage and implement, capacity to evaluate.

Examples from MQSUN+ are:

- **At the national level:** Analysis of finance for nutrition actions (e.g., costing of multi-sectoral plans, budget analysis and financial tracking)
- **At the subnational level:** Improving intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination, capacity, and community platforms

Based on the assessment the appropriate support mechanism will be agreed. This could entail tailor-made short term technical assistance or more long-term capacity development pathways supported by CD teams. Depending on the context and the CD requirements a combination of national, regional, or global CD support teams can be established. The establishment of the teams will be coordinated by the country coordinator and the nutrition technical country teams, involving the MSPs in the country and brokered by the SMS, as well as the country responsible focal point in the ExCom. It can be composed (among others) from country resources, SUN networks, external advisors from other movements or organisations. Existing global tools and best practice from other countries will be used (i.e. budget analysis framework, MSP toolkit).

Following the assessment, a CD strategy, with SMART recommendations and milestones for review, will be designed and implemented. For the longer-term CD different implementation phases and reviews will be carried out together with partners. Partners could be other countries with similar or different development requirements, or a group of countries, including neighbours, regional peers, or global peers. The implementation phases of the plan and the reviews shall benefit from the

⁹ See MQSUN+ multisectoral planning for nutrition toolkit chapter 6.2: Creating a Capacity Development Strategy for Nutrition. There has been huge collaboration with SUN countries to develop these toolkits. https://mqsunplus.path.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MQSUN-Multisectoral-Nutrition-Planning-Toolkit_Module-6_24Nov2020_final.pdf#page=10

support from networks, regional organisations and centres for excellence and hubs.

The SMS shall act as broker and direct supporter, the country coordinator and the country technical team will lead and own the CD plan. ExCom shall monitor and provide advice and take ownership for the global coordination, the Lead Group promotes the process with the respective government and partners, selected organisational or individual members of SUN shall act as mentors and coaches (this could be ministries, academia, SUN networks, or organisations like UN-agencies, INGOs, NGOs, WB, ADB, etc.)

CD strategy, self-assessment, and review reports can be published on the SUN website in a safe space. Depending on the wish of the respective country teams, the assessment can be kept confidential or made available to all partners and the public.

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