
Nutrition Financing Community of Practice: September 28, 2021 2:30-4:00pm (CET)

Note that:

- The agenda and presentations will be sent alongside the minutes
- The updated ToRs of the Nutrition Financing Community of Practice are also attached
- The recording of the session is available [here](#)

Participants

Augustin Flory (Results for Development); Alex Key (ASC, Development Initiatives); Ali Winoto Subandoro (GFF/World Bank); Andi Kendle (GNC Technical Alliance); Andrew Rooke (SUN Civil Society); Ann Levin; Annemarie Hoogendoorn (DAI/TASC (new MQSUN+); Assia Sidibe (UNITLIFE); Aurelie du Chatelet (SUN Secretariat); Barbara Koloshuk (TASC/DAI); Bruns Melanie (SUN Donor Network); Caroline Andridge (Results for Development); Chigariro Nyasha (SUN Secretariat); Bibi Giyose (NEPAD/AUDA); Elaine Siew Gray (USAID); Fracassi Patrizia (FAO/ESN); Gail Hurley (World Food Programme); Gerda Verburg (SUN Movement Coordinator); Hugh Bagnall- Oakley (Save the Children); Jane Keylock (TASC/DAI); Jean Sebastien Kouassi (SUN Secretariat); Jen Olsen (JSI); Jordan Beecher; Kyoko Shibata Okamura (World Bank); Mary D'Alimonte (Results for Development) ; Meaza Getachew (FHI360); Michelle Thompson (The Power of Nutrition); Mohamed amine Hillal (Islamic Development Bank); Dr Mohamed Farah (SUN Focal Point – South Sudan); Moustafa BADR(World Food Programme); Olav Kjørven; Osob Osman; Paula Quigley(TASC/DAI); Rebekah Pinto (USAID); Renee de Jong (SMS); Rita Abi Akar; Sandrine Fimbi; Sascha Lamstein(USAID); Silvia Kaufmann; Stephen Williams (SUN Secretariat); Suleiman Abdinoor; Susannah Hurd (Global Health Vision); Tasmin Walters; Sergio Cooper Teixeira (Nutrition International),

Presentations

Updates on the UN Food System Summit Sergio Cooper Teixeira

- Nutrition accountability framework and the new commitment registration are online. The soft deadline is end of October, though commitments can be received after October 31st.
- Commitments for different initiatives can be registered.
- Information can be found on the N4G website. The commitment making guide is available in English, French and Spanish on the website.
- The side event guidance and proposal form is now online. Different partners and organizations such as GAIN, WHO and UNICEF are planning side events. Side events guidance templates are also in three languages, English, Spanish and French.

- The outreach to countries is still ongoing. Invitations have been sent to countries. Communication will be sent out to all SUN focal points to engage them in the commitment making process.
- N4G has an outreach working group led/facilitated by UNICEF, they have been mobilizing support to help governments in the commitment making process. SUN is organizing webinars on the 7th and 14th of October with focal points, the objective is to explain the new nutrition accountability framework and help with the commitment making.

Questions & Answers

Gerda Verburg (SUN Movement Coordinator): You mentioned GNR is registering the commitments for the N4G, how are they doing this? How will they navigate these commitments and how can we follow up? Who in the GNR is dealing with this as I want to follow up in the UNFSS?

Sergio: Many of the commitments have been made on the NFSS platform. The GNR cannot move these commitments. However, commitment makers themselves must move the information to the Nutrition accountability framework. Colleagues at the GNR are working with UNFSS colleagues to identify commitments that can be added to the Nutrition accountability framework, by following up with the actors and asking them to remake the same commitment for N4G also. Charlotte Martina is working on this as well as Renata Micha.

Olav Kjørven: To the commitments that are currently in the registry for the UNFSS we can expect more commitments, especially in the form of additional countries joining some of the coalitions that are being created thanks to the summit process.

Barb Koloshuk Costing tool model for nutrition

- TASC is providing support to SUN countries. User friendly costing tools will be beneficial for countries to cost their national nutritional plans. The idea is that this will fall along the lines of the costing readiness assessment tool and the financial gap analysis tool, that where part of the multisectoral planning tool kit that was developed by MQSUN+
- What is to be costed: Actions that are outlined in the multi sectoral national nutrition plan of a country and or the common results framework
- The Costing readiness assessment tool and the financial gap analysis tool that have been developed by MQSUN+ have allowed all the users to input up to 10 strategic objective and up to 5 results/indicators for each strategic objective. This tool will be similar and the total number of actions to be included per result/indicator is still TBD, but we are leaning towards 5 actions per result/indicator, for a total of up to 250 actions (10x5x5). This should be flexible enough for even the largest or most complex plans.

For the approaches and methods we wanted to have options for countries because in some countries they may have more information or data to be able to do a detailed costing but in others they may not. Or in different sectors or time available. We are planning for two different approaches/methods in the costing tool,

1. A high-level costing of actions in the plan, where the user inputs the entire cost of an action without used of detailed cost inputs.

2. Detailed ingredients costing, defining all the cost inputs, units, quantities, frequencies, and process for each if information is available.

User can choose which method they want depending on what the action is and the amount of time and data available. They can also use a blended method where they could do high level or some more detailed inputs within the same tool

Q&A

Meaza Getachew: apologies if you already mentioned this but when is the estimated launch date for the tool?

Answer: There is no launch date as there is no funding for the next years

Olav Kjørven: With your funding issue it would seem relevant to try and generate a commitment for the N4G to create support for this going forward. With the 100+ national pathways for the sustainable food systems by 2030. It would make sense to see one can leverage the national pathways to promote this tool.

Kyoko Shibata Okamura comment: Not sure if you had the chance to discuss with our Optima Nutrition team at the Bank, but Optima allocative efficiency analysis starts with costing, and it does link the costing info with coverage and impacts. Would be nice if this tool can produce the kind of info that can also be used in other tools such as Optima. It would be good to have this tool in the countries we work in and be able to use consistent information across the tools. We are discussing how to have consistency in terms of the costing information that reflects actual government expenditures because that's most probably the ideal way of influencing how to allocate existing governmental resources. Optima for example has been using hypothesized costing in many countries because the background data is not available in the government system. The next job we must collaborate and do is to influence the government systems reforms so that we can have data for nutrition expenditures.

Barbara Koloshuk: We did have chats with people which is where a lot of content came for the scope tool. There is a lot of tools for other things but one to help a country cost all the national nutrition plans. There is a summary of the feedback from the expert interviews that we did at the end of the PPT presentation.

Augustin Flory: How many actions should be costed? I think the tool should not drive what the countries want to do. The question we should ask ourselves as the support is how to make the tool work for as many actions as possible. On the point on scenarios, I would like to support this. The Sun plans are quite aspirational, then there is a difference between having a plan and a financeable investment case. Having scenarios forces everyone to think more about what is realistic, ambitious and more baseline. There are different questions so maybe that's a link to optima, when you have scenarios that you need to optimize which is great. Driving in that direction would be useful as it's a big step between a general costed plan and prioritizing what you are asking from your ministry of finance.

Melanie Bruns: To which extent can this tool be used for budget impact? For example, to see if we invest x amount in this strategic objective what money would it free?

Barbara: We were not thinking about it in terms of a budgeting tool but theoretically a country could use it in any way that is feasible for them. For example, we can have a button where they can shutoff very

different strategic objectives just to see how this would impact the overall costs. But this is not necessarily looking at the impact of those actions.

Ann Levin: Certainly, you can do budget impact, you can look at the budget as opposed to what you have already been paying for nutrition and see how that would affect your total budget. You can use the output from your tool to do that. They will probably have that outside the tool as we had not yet thought of adding this in the tool.

Barbara: The MQSUN+ Financial Gap Analysis tool could be used to do this.

Debt Swap for Nutrition (World Food Programme) Gail Hurley and Moustafa Badr

- WFP is working within this context of rising debts and food insecurity to look at the ways we can use debt swaps as an innovative tool to reduce both debt service repayments and debt stock as well as mobilize much needed additional funding for important food insecurity and development programs. Debt for development swaps are essentially an innovative financial tool designed to reduce debt programs while mobilize additional funding for development programs. Essentially debt swap is the cancellation of a sovereign debt by a creditor in exchange for the debtor country committing to allocate the resources it would have spent on that service to mutually agreed developing programs or projects. WFP has mobilized 88 million towards debt swaps since 2009

Types of debt swaps

1. Bilateral debt swaps are directly between the creditor and the debtor. Where a portion of the amount owed to the creditor is directed towards development programs implemented by WFP
2. Trilateral scenario is the implementing agency (WFP) would purchase the debt from the creditor at a discount and is paid back by the debtor instead and the proceeds are channeled towards a developing program.

Advantages of debt swaps:

- debt relief should be much easier for many countries, often for political and transparency reasons a blanket relief policy will be difficult to implement for a developing country and this is where debt swaps come in place and provide an opportunity to cancel portions of the debt.
- For the creditor they can increase their ODA budget without making new resource outlays. They provide an opportunity to ensure that the resources are used transparently in support of development priorities. Debtors often channel the resource to an independent trust fund that will govern and manage the funds
- Debtor countries, there is a reduction in foreign currency denominated debt. Often there will be a discount associated with the debt swap meaning a creditor might agree to cancel 100 million of debt and ask that 60 million channeled into the independent trust fund for spending on national development priorities. Therefore, there is an advantage for the debtor country that there is a discount in the amount of debt service to be paid.
- WFP increase predictability resources for its programs to priority areas jointly agreed with creditors and debtor governments

Most of our work has been supporting school feeding programs. We have also focused on community resilience in agriculture to climate change.

Questions & Answers

Bibi Giyose: Given the huge political and economic instability - let alone poor governance and lack of accountability - of most of the poor countries, what is your (WFP) programme to educate and build real capacities to ensure monitoring etc.? Costing model is it the same that was started 5 years ago or it's a new tool? How are we going to make sure we have robust mechanisms in place, that will make sure as we do debt swaps we do not fall into the same traps as before, in terms of lack of transparency, poor governance, poor management and forever instability of changing individuals so there is no continuity in terms of how we manage. Lack of real capacities on the ground so we leave it to the government to manage it so that there is sustainability.

Answer: **Gail HURLEY:** It's true that debt swaps are often more difficult in countries where there are governance challenges and high political instability. Debt swap agreements can be quite strict (and restrictive) as regards monitoring, but we work with both independent entities and local organizations on monitoring.

Debt swaps can be well done or badly done; the devil is usually in the detail. Over the years lessons have been learnt and good practices have come out including sustainability. There is a requirement that the funds are channeled into a trust fund that is managed by an independent organization with a handling fee. WFP in its programs always tries to build in a local capacity to monitor the activities being supported. It is a tool that can assist with debt relief for some development

Jean Sebastien KOUASSI: It's not a new tool costing tool, the goal is to shape the tool and make it better with the new data we have.

Kyoko Shibata Okamura This is interesting that those donors' debt swaps can be earmarked to certain programs/sectors. It would be great to know a bit more about who has been involved in this dialogue on the government side (who are the decision makers) and how long it takes for the funds to become available (lead time) -- all leading to a question of how it fits with the overall national planning processes and coordination work.

Olav Kjørven: Governance challenges are real in several countries, but that is true irrespective of types of interventions, right? Or are there particular governance related challenges with debt swaps?

Answer Gail Hurley: this is precisely why a creditor might want to involve a UN entity in program implementation

Dr Farah: It is a good initiative, if a country is allowed to invest into development than settling a debt, particularly if it is used in real development such as nutrition. In Somalia it has not yet been practiced but will investigate it in the future.

SUN budget Analysis- Somalia SUN focal point Dr Mohamed Farah

Malnutrition is a major public health issue in Somalia, and it negatively affects the development of the country. Mainly affecting children, women of reproductive age and adolescents from marginalized communities bear the greatest burden of malnutrition. It also has a long-term negative impact on health ability to learn and impede development while increasing poverty.

The national budget is an important tool for addressing the multiple causes of malnutrition as it facilitates translation of policy commitments that government and other parties make to address the causes of malnutrition.

Somalia has done a robust policy framework on nutrition, but their implementation requires the government to mobilize adequate resources to make optimal investment in nutrition programs in relevant sectors. Two main objectives to achieve in this study:

1. Estimate the amount of resources allocated to nutrition by the federal government of Somalia.
2. Provide evidence for advocacy to strengthen budget allocation to nutrition interventions in the country.

The analysis covered fiscal period on 2018-2021 and adopted a multisectoral approach. We are reviewing the budgets for all ministries and agencies (MDAs)

We used the methodology of the SUN nutrition budget analysis approach which has 3 main steps

1. Identify nutrition budget line items
2. Categorize the identified budget like items as nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive or potentially nutrition-sensitive
3. Analyze the budget data and make inferences out the data that had been captured

Limitations: lack of financial data, which made a problem in having detailed analysis. Maybe in the next year we will have more data, based on the recommendations. The analysis was likely an overestimate of the amount of the resources allocated to nutrition between FY2018-FY2021. The scope of the study was limited to the federal government level due to data that was not easily accessible and time constraints.

In the period of FY2018-2021 the nutrition relevant budget amounted to about US\$3 billion. This funds were earmarked for 12 MDAs in the agriculture, health, social protection, WASH and gender sectors. The budget increase by ninefold from US\$ 302 million pre-covid to US\$2.7 billion during COVID-19. This increase was mainly in the social protection and health sectors

Questions & Answers

Martha Bekele : Important to remember Somalia's financial data is highly aggregated by economic classifications. In the absence of programme/sub-programme and/or project activity disaggregated data, the much one can speak of is on the 'direction' of investments rather than making reference on the actual magnitude/amount.

Jean-Sebastien Kouassi: We are 3 months heading toward the big summit in Tokyo. Will this feed into the process into the commitment making that Somalia will make?

Dr Farah: We are working on the commitments now. One of the commitments is budget reallocation for nutrition which has increased, and we will have more commitments we will share.

AOB and next steps

- The [recording](#), minutes and presentations will be shared to all partners

- The next meeting should be end of the year. The SUN Secretariat calls for all other partners to chair the meeting.
- For follow up and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at
- sun.craft@scalingupnutrition.org or cat@scalingupnutrition.org