

## UN Network for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat Terms of Reference

### Background on the UN Network for SUN:

The United Nations (UN) Network for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), focuses on support to countries participating in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. A core strength of the UN is the significant engagement, expertise and experience of UN agencies at country level. **The UN Network for SUN serves to strengthen the harmonization, coordination and effectiveness of UN agencies' activities in support of country nutrition efforts; to align with and articulate UN nutrition efforts to those of national governments, other SUN Networks and nutrition stakeholders at global and country levels; and thus to advance the aims of the SUN Movement.**

The UN System Network for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) was endorsed in London during the Nutrition for Growth high-level event in June 2013 by the Principals of five UN Agencies, namely Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO; Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of WFP; José Graziano da Silva, Director General of FAO; Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF; and Kanayo Nwanze, President of IFAD. This network has since served as a harmonizing framework for the role and activities of the UN System in support of nutrition at both global and country levels. The UNSCN and REACH operated as co-facilitators of the UN System Network, at global and country level respectively.

The high-level commitment to the UN Network for SUN was communicated in a letter from the Principals to all UN Resident Coordinators and UN country and regional representatives in SUN countries in March 2014 along with a *Frequently Asked Question* document (FAQ) which provided guidance on setting up UN Networks in SUN countries. In November 2014, the Principals of the five UN Agencies agreed that REACH take on the UN Network for SUN and serve as the UN Network for SUN Secretariat. These arrangements were formalised in a revised and revalidated REACH MOU signed in March 2015.<sup>1</sup>

The UN Network for SUN provides an entry point through which UN entities engage in the SUN Movement and its processes and efforts. It provides the forum through which UN agencies elaborate and agree on joint guiding principles, outline joint and individual responsibilities and agree on processes including communication across the SUN stakeholder Networks. In particular, the UN Network for SUN ensures high-level support for the best possible coordination between all UN entities supporting nutrition efforts in UN countries. It draws on normative and knowledge management capacities of Network members at global and regional levels to support country-level action. With a strong focus on capacity strengthening and learning, country-level support focuses on the formation and operation of multi-stakeholder platforms, advocacy, the development of multi-sectoral national strategies and policies, and the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of nutrition interventions.

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<sup>1</sup> The Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) is a partnership initiated in 2008 by FAO, UNICEF, WHO and WFP. The MoU is valid until end 2017

### Functions of the UN Network for SUN Secretariat

1. Strengthen UN coherence at country level in terms of quality programmes (nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive) implemented at scale:
  - Support a common vision and strategic direction of the UN Network for SUN;
  - Foster a common understanding of nutrition actions through the maintenance and dissemination of the UN Compendium of Actions for Nutrition;
  - Facilitate and support country efforts to foster common UN nutrition approaches, activities, and priorities, identifying gaps, and overlaps and synergies as well as opportunities for strengthened and innovative implementation;
  - Develop guidance for and backstop the preparation of comprehensive country-level UN nutrition agendas (strategies), including the preparation of an inventory of nutrition actions, responsive to national multi-sectoral nutrition plans, in support of UNDAF and aligned with SUN 2.0 strategy, World Health Assembly 2025 goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda 2030 for nutrition as well as Zero Hunger Challenge, ICN2 Framework for Action and UNGNA;
  - Support the development of harmonized nutrition messages, advocacy materials, joint funding strategies.
  
2. Support to the functioning of global and country UN Networks for SUN:
  - Liaise with UN agencies to create a global database of the UN Network membership, including the Chairs of the respective UN networks;
  - Support the establishment and functioning of UN Networks in SUN countries with chairs and focal points appointed and work plans in place;
  - Orient and backstop Chairs of the UN Networks for SUN at country level;
  - Support annual exercise to report on progress of UN Network for SUN using a dashboard, to track the state of country UN Network for SUN activities;
  - Oversee and report on UN Network for SUN activities and funds at country, regional and global levels;
  - Support Steering Committee;
  - Liaise with UN Network for SUN representatives on the SUN Executive Committee and Lead Group, SUN Movement Secretariat, donors, SUN Networks etc.;
  - Organise events and periodic regional /global level meetings of the UN Network for SUN.

3. Knowledge sharing and communication:

- Document and disseminate guidance for and examples of comprehensive country-level UN nutrition agendas/strategies and UN nutrition inventories that respond to national multi-sectoral nutrition plans and inform the UNDAF process;
- Report and circulate information on the work of the UN Network for SUN, strengthening communication flows between global, regional and country levels;
- Disseminate communications and other updates about complementary work of other SUN Networks;
- Prepare content and liaise with SUN Movement Secretariat to update UN Network for SUN webpage as well as relevant news updates about UN activities for posting on the SUN website and/or SUN newsletters, as needed;
- Maintain web based sharing of tools, good practices and guidance materials in relation to the UN Network for SUN;

4. Strengthen partnerships and collaboration with other SUN networks to advance the UN network nutrition agenda, visibility and fundraising:

- Liaise with the SUN Networks, SUN, SCN and UN nutrition cluster Secretariats and other stakeholders to ensure that countries are supported in the most efficient way possible and supported in SUN processes;
- Represent the UN Network for SUN at meetings, including global, regional and country meetings and events, donor meetings, SUN Global Gatherings, SUN facilitator meetings, etc.;
- Report on annual progress on the UN Network for SUN;
- Support extension of the membership of the UN Network for SUN to include UN agencies engaged in nutrition at the country level.
- Liaise with donors to identify funding for specific UN network activities.

5. Oversight of REACH Support:

- Engage stakeholders in the development of strategy and backstop implementation of REACH to support national SUN processes through facilitation, coordination, analytical and capacity development support on multi-sectoral nutrition governance;
- Review, discuss and approve the REACH annual work plan and budget;
- Oversee resource mobilization for REACH as well as appropriate human resource deployment;

- Monitor and evaluate progress achieved by REACH at global and country level.

#### Composition of Staff.

The UN Network for SUN Secretariat shall be comprised of a Global Coordinator as well as technical and administrative staff in furtherance of:

- Strengthened UN coherence at country level in terms of quality programmes (nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive) implemented at scale and support to the functioning of global and country UN for SUN Networks;
- Support to the functioning of global and country UN for SUN Networks;
- Support to the provision of facilitation, coordination and analytical support in the form of tailored REACH engagements at country level.

#### Administrative and Funding Arrangements

- At global level, the Principals of the REACH Partner agencies (FAO, WFP, WHO , UNICEF and IFAD) provide strategic direction to the UN Network for SUN and set its objectives in line with the SUN Strategy 2.0 and Road Map and agenda 2030 (SDGs) for nutrition;
- A Steering Committee guides the work of the UN Network for SUN and forms the governing structure. The Steering Committee includes the Directors/Heads of Nutrition of FAO, IFAD, WFP, WHO, and UNICEF. IFAD is currently an adviser to the Steering Committee. The Global Coordinator and the Deputy Coordinator for REACH are ex-officio members of the UN network for SUN Steering Committee as per REACH MOU;
- The Steering Committee composition may be amended to include other UN entities contributing to nutrition;
- The UN Network for SUN Secretariat is currently hosted by WFP at global level;
- The Global Coordinator or representative will represent the UN Network for SUN at global level and interface with the Chairs of the UN Network for SUN at country level as appropriate;
- An Annual Work plan and budget will be prepared by the Secretariat of the UN Network for SUN;
- Funding: The members of the UN Network for SUN will fund the operations of the Network, through annual contributions, based on a business plan and annual budget.