



UN Network for Scaling Up (SUN) Nutrition -Terms of Reference for country level

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 2015.¹

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.

¹ 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 at country level

- Support agencies to foster a common understanding of UN nutrition approaches, activities, and priorities, identifying gaps, and overlaps and opportunities for synergy;
- Work with agencies to complete an inventory of nutrition actions using an agreed inventory tool;
- Develop a comprehensive country-level UN nutrition agenda (strategy) responsive to national multi-sectoral nutrition plans to support coherent, complementary nutrition programs, 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;
- Develop harmonized nutrition messages, advocacy materials, joint funding strategies;
- Respond to government requests for technical and functional capacity strengthening for nutrition and refer any outstanding requests for support to UN Network for SUN Secretariat to match the supply of regional and global expertise with country demands.
- Support south-south learning needs/requests in consultation with the UN Network for SUN Secretariat as above;
- Liaise with the SUN focal points and SUN Networks at country level and with the UN Network for SUN Secretariat to ensure that countries are supported in the most efficient way possible and supported in SUN processes;
- Strengthen existing analytical capacity for multi-sectoral nutrition analysis, stakeholder, actions and coverage mapping (including implementation tracking), nutrition information platforms, developing and drawing upon scorecards as appropriate;
- Monitor the progress of the UN Network vis-à-vis its commitments as elaborated in the country nutrition strategy/agenda. Periodically report on nutrition as tabled at the UNCT meetings;
- Undertake an annual exercise to track and report on the progress of UN Network activities using a scorecard;
- Share good practices for the UN Network for SUN webpage as well as relevant news updates about UN activities for posting on the SUN website and/or SUN newsletters;
- Respond to government demand for a REACH engagement to provide facilitation, coordination, analytical and capacity development support for national government on multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nutrition governance. A generic TOR for REACH engagement is available as a basis to adapt to country context.

Administrative and Funding Arrangements:

- At SUN country level, the UN Country Team establishes arrangements most adapted to the local context;



UN Network

- All UN agencies working in nutrition at country level are encouraged to join the UN Network for SUN;
- The UN Network for SUN will be chaired by a senior UN staff (ideally, one of the UN Representatives or Deputy Representatives) who is nominated by the UNCT, on a rotational basis as appropriate;
- The UN Network for SUN includes the most senior technical/programme staff of each UN agency dedicated to nutrition;
- The Chair will ensure that an annual work plan and budget is prepared and monitored;
- The Chair will serve as the link with the SUN country focal point, SUN networks and the UN Network for SUN Secretariat as appropriate, and represents the UN Network for SUN at relevant meetings, including global, regional and country meetings and events, reporting to the UNCT on a regular basis;
- The UN Resident Coordinator will be expected to periodically table nutrition at the UNCT meetings and to monitor the progress of the UN Network for SUN vis-à-vis its commitments;
- Funding Arrangements: The agencies will fund the operations of the UN Network for SUN, through existing budgets or annual contributions based on an annual budget.