



Report of the Nutrition Partners Kick-off Meeting

14 and 15 December 2010 in FAO HQ, Rome

Sponsors: The Governments of Germany and France

Executive Summary

Rational and objectives

Currently there is momentum for nutrition globally, with a clear increase in interest and attention to nutrition. In November 2009 the UNSCN and the European Commission (EC) convened a meeting in Brussels to put nutrition higher on the agenda of both high-burden and donor countries and to develop basic principles to guide country nutrition action. The Brussels meeting provided initial directions to the reform of the UNSCN. Since then, much progress has been seen in nutrition globally. Among others, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Road-map has been developed and many actions are continually taking place to ensure its implementation, more countries have been adopting the REACH approach, and the reform of the UNSCN is coming to completion.

To respond to the momentum, the UNSCN would like to organize a Meeting of Nutrition Partners in its 36th Annual Session in 2011 to announce its reform and have key nutrition stakeholders agreeing on ways to work together within the reformed UNSCN to further harmonize and bring coherence to global nutrition. It will also be an opportunity for partners to take stock on progress in scaling up nutrition and further identify ways to support the development of country capacities.

The UNSCN convened representatives of all key nutrition stakeholders in FAO, Rome, on 14th and 15th December 2010 to kick-off the process of organizing the 2011 Nutrition Partners Meeting. The specific objectives were: 1) to report on progress on the UNSCN reform, one year after the Brussels meeting, and receive further insights from key nutrition stakeholders for its completion; 2) to report on progress on SUN Road-map implementation arrangements that assure Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) implementation and the UNSCN reform are mutually reinforcing; 3) to agree on the Nutrition Partners Meeting taking place in 2011 and on processes to be undertaken in advance.

On 14 December, low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) and Brazil, India and China (BRIC) representatives met in a preparatory working session to share their experiences and insights on effective processes and challenges for institutional strengthening, for building country leadership and management capacity, for creating multi-stakeholder platforms at the country level, and to discuss how best the global players could support their efforts so that nutrition action can be scaled up effectively. These insights will be



useful for informing processes to be undertaken in advance of the 2011 Nutrition Partners meeting and will be crucial for informing the ongoing discussions on the UNSCN reform.

In advance of the meeting

Participants from low- and middle-income and BRIC countries were advised that they were not expected to make presentations about their countries. They were requested to review the SUN Road-map before the meeting and actively engage in open and in-depth discussions, based on their personal experiences with policy processes at the country level. Participants were also advised to take a few hours in advance of the meeting to reflect on the following points and elaborate their ideas, which will be shared with others.

1. How to galvanize political commitment at the appropriate high level?
2. What can trigger the right champions? How can the national (and global) nutrition community best support these champions?
3. In addition to champions, who are the most effective advocates and behind-the-scenes “movers and shakers”? How to gain their support, bring them into the nutrition movement and support their efforts?
4. Implementation capacity for nutrition is said to be low across the board. What are the most effective mechanisms for identifying and developing endogenous capacities in countries?
5. Institutional arrangements for convening, coordinating, overseeing progress, overall M&E, accountability: what are the success factors and bottle-necks?
6. After effectively setting up mechanisms for convening multi-stakeholders, how to reach consensus on priorities and share roles and responsibilities? What are the success factors and bottle-necks? How to overcome those?
7. How to move from policy and strategy formulation to robust programming with investment plans able to generate action?
8. How to make funding and support more sustainable?

Participants

During the **Working session with LMIC and BRICs** (14 December), a full day of intense discussions took place among representatives of the Governments of Brazil, China, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Nepal, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. To enrich the discussion, Helen Keller International (HKI) - Cambodia was also invited. An output document was prepared and presented to the larger group of stakeholders on 15 December.

During the **Dialogue with key nutrition stakeholders** (15 December), 62 representatives from LMIC, BRIC and countries engaged in international development cooperation in nutrition, NGOs, CSOs, academic institutions, business corporations and the UN agencies discussed the relevance of a Nutrition Partners Meeting, achievements to date and future plans for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), and ways to advance and complete the UNSCN reform.



Conclusions

1. There is a broad consensus on the need for a reformed UNSCN, but that reform means that a clear added value must be demonstrated.
2. The reporting line to the ECOSOC needs to be re-established. Reporting to other intergovernmental processes needs to be established or strengthened. The UNSCN should concentrate on global issues.
3. Progress has been made on linkages with intergovernmental processes, especially with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). This work needs to continue.
4. NGOs, CSOs, research communities, international financial institutions and the business sector should all have observer status in the reformed governance structure of the UNSCN.
5. The UN agencies will work even closer together at the highest level in order to provide a strong and visible platform for nutrition action.
6. There is a clear need for networking and information-sharing in the nutrition sector. The UNSCN annual meetings, based on very clearly defined participation, will continue to exist in the form of a Forum of Nutrition Partners to enhance the dialogue among constituencies and nutrition stakeholders. The annual meetings should not be for decision-making on harmonized UN policies or for UN coordination.
7. SUN is an important new movement in nutrition and is building a strong momentum. The technical support provided by the UNSCN Secretariat was essential for developing the SUN Road-map during the summer of 2010. This support will continue to be essential for the SUN Road-map implementation. Resources will have to be mobilized so that the UNSCN Secretariat can (i) continue providing input to SUN and (ii) engage more players while ensuring transparency of the process.

Two open questions therefore remain:

8. Should the Chair of the UNSCN be: (a) from one of the four core UN agencies on a rotational basis; or (b) transferred to the UNSG Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition? More discussions on this point are needed.
9. No final conclusion has been reached on the role of member countries in a reformed UNSCN Executive Group. The Chair will continue discussing this matter with the Group of Four in order to reach a conclusion.

Alexander Müller's mandate ended at the end of 2010. However, he kindly agreed to continue his Chairmanship for about 6 more months in order to ensure that the first seven points are implemented and the two open questions are answered so that the reform is successfully concluded. His availability was highly appreciated.