

UNSCN YEAR REPORT 2017

Narrative

INTRODUCTION

2017 marked UNSCN's 40th anniversary, the second year of UNSCN's renewed Strategic Plan (2016-2020) and the second year of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. The year also served to further establish interagency consensus on the UNSCN's role and to increase its membership.

This journey started in April 1977 when the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Sub-Committee on Nutrition (SCN). The original ECOSOC mandate (1977) remains valid: focusing on policy coherence and advocacy for nutrition at global level. The main areas of responsibility are to: i) keep under review the overall direction, scale, coherence and impact of the UN System response to nutrition problems; ii) be point of convergence to harmonize UN policies and activities; iii) provide initiative in development and harmonization of concepts, policies, strategies and programs in UN System; and iv) appraise experience and progress towards the achievement of objectives in order to be better able to develop guidelines for mutually supporting action at UN interagency and country levels.

Added Value and Role of UNSCN - See UNSCN Strategic Plan (2016-2020)

PRIORITIES 2017

In 2017, UNSCN strengthened the connection between the strategies, work plans and priorities of its members and solidified their commitment to the Nutrition Decade. As a result, members and Secretariat staff were better equipped to build bridges between the thematic discussions happening around the world to ensure a continuum of information sharing and progress on each area of work.

Considering the new strategic direction of UNSCN, the following priorities had been identified in line with the Strategic Plan (2016-2020) and as set out in the 2017 Work Plan: (i) identify a clear UNSCN position in the global nutrition architecture; (ii) ensure coherent UN engagement in global fora, (iii) support interagency and intergovernmental bodies (i.e., IATF, CFS, 10YFP); (iv) increase accountability through reporting to ECOSOC and HLPF, and through promotion of the Nutrition Decade; (v) develop guidelines for the integration of nutrition at country level (UNDAF); (vi) monitor and promote thematic work done in 2016, such as in the areas of trade and climate; and (vii) map evidence gaps.

The first four priorities are in support of ensuring coherent policies and advocacy for nutrition across the UN - UNSCN Strategic Objective One. The development of the Guidance Note to assist United Nation Country Teams with the integration of nutrition into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) contributes to a consistent delivery on the ground by the UN system - UNSCN Strategic Objective Two. The mapping of evidence gaps contributes to the exploration of emerging issues - UNSCN Strategic Objective Three. A major operational priority for 2017 was to scale up out-reach to target audiences and contribute to knowledge sharing - UNSCN Strategic Objective Four.

SNAPSHOT OF THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2017

Building on the work done in 2016 to set in motion the UNSCN Strategic Plan (2016-2020), UNSCN moved full-steam ahead in 2017 in accordance with its Strategic Objectives (SO). Highlights include:

- The release of [Global Governance for Nutrition](#) provided a better understanding of the role of UNSCN in the significantly evolved nutrition landscape. [By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition and leave no one behind](#) went one step further and drew links between the global targets, the actions and the relevant actors working on nutrition. In total, five substantive and influential discussion papers were produced as major contributions to knowledge sharing and addressing emerging nutrition issues.
- UNSCN served as an integral part of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) machinery to ensure the integration of nutrition in its work streams. This was accomplished as part of its Advisory Group and as a member of most of its Technical Task Teams (CFS TTT), being especially active in the CFS TTT on Nutrition. UNSCN moderated several CFS events and helped with the organization of the three nutrition related intersessional events, two of which were based on the content from UNSCN publications.
- The formal annual reporting lines to ECOSOC were re-established, re-affirming UNSCN's full commitment to accountability towards Member States.
- Efforts to continue strengthening the consistent and accountable delivery at country-level was made possible through the release of UNSCN's [Guidance Note on Integration of Nutrition in the UNDAF late 2017](#) to support consistent and accountable delivery.
- Audience outreach grew with more than 20k visitors to the UNSCN website, Twitter followers increasing by nearly 700, 300 on Facebook, and an additional 200 individuals from all over the world registering to receive the E-alerts and Quarterly Updates resulting in more than 34k people reading and sharing the 14 communications sent in 2017. [UNSCN News 42 – A Spotlight on the Nutrition Decade](#) was downloaded more than 46k times.

2017 IN DETAIL

The achievements in 2017 have been listed according to the UNSCN Work Plan 2017 and its deliverables, and in line with their contribution to UNSCN's four Strategic Objectives as formulated in its Strategic Plan (2016-2020).

SO1 - MAXIMIZE UN POLICY COHERENCE AND ADVOCACY ON NUTRITION

The global nutrition targets as agreed by the World Health Assembly in 2012, the global Noncommunicable Diseases targets and the recommendations of ICN2, provide a clear direction for action to fight all forms of malnutrition. These have been woven into the fabric of the SDGs, where they should be seen as crosscutting and essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) proclaimed by the UNGA on April 2016 amplifies this message by calling for ten years of accelerated, coordinated, global action on nutrition so that the above targets can be reached. Progress will be reported to the world leaders of UNGA, ECOSOC and HLPF so that they can use their political leverage to unlock bottlenecks and ensure that policy development and implementation is steered in the right direction. A major achievement for UNSCN in 2017 was the reestablishment of the formal annual reporting lines to ECOSOC, re-affirming UNSCN's full commitment to accountability towards Member States. In 2017, UNSCN proactively re-established reporting lines to ECOSOC by submitting an [informal report](#).

High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

UNSCN made a [submission to the HLPF](#) on the fundamental role of nutrition as a maker of development and an essential accelerator to achieve all SDGs. It emphasised areas that require urgent attention, the guidance required by the HLPF to move the agenda forward and made policy recommendations to accelerate progress in poverty eradication from a human right-based approach. As a member of the Expert Group Meeting for Nutrition to review SDG2 convened under the auspices of ECOSOC (July 2017), UNSCN

worked to secure the centrality of nutrition in achieving SDG2. In 2018, UNSCN continues its engagement with the HLPF, lifting the profile of nutrition within the SDGs.

Nutrition Decade

UNGA Resolution 70/259 called on UNSCN's coordinating function to support the Nutrition Decade. As part of the informal secretariat of the Nutrition Decade, UNSCN was instrumental in the progress made in 2017, supporting FAO and WHO in their leading and convening role.

- From 30 January to 26 February 2017, UNSCN facilitated an online consultation to gather input on the Nutrition Decade's draft Work Programme. This offered the first opportunity to comment publically on the text and to help shape the discussion that followed, including during the CFS OEWG on Nutrition meeting (February) and for the informal briefing of Member Countries (March). More than 70 individual contributions were received from participants from over 25 countries.
- Drawing from the feedback received from the consultations, UNSCN assisted the FAO/WHO drafting team to further refine the Nutrition Decade's Work Programme.
- UNSCN contributed to the development of Nutrition Decade related products, such as the Biannual Progress Report to UNGA of the Implementation of the Nutrition Decade and the ICN2 Resource Guide, which serves to advise countries on how to define, submit and report on SMART commitments to facilitate the commitment-making process.
- UNSCN elicited concrete commitments from its members considering their specific characteristics and comparative advantages. This outreach will continue through 2018. Commitments can be found on the [UNSCN website](#), including UNSCN's concrete contribution.
- Throughout 2017, the [webpages dedicated to the Nutrition Decade](#) on the UNSCN website served as the main online face of the Nutrition Decade, capturing the latest updates and commitments. In parallel, UNSCN worked with the communications teams of WHO and FAO to develop the un.org website about the Nutrition Decade – expected early 2018. Content was also drafted so that information about the Nutrition Decade would appear on other websites, such as the [SDG2 Hub](#).
- The 2017 publication [UNSCN News 42 – A Spotlight on the Nutrition Decade](#) was dedicated to showcasing examples of what a Nutrition Decade looks like in practice. Additional illustrations were captured in UNSCN E-Alerts and Quarterly Updates.
- UNSCN promoted the Nutrition Decade through presentations made at all events attended in 2017, including by (co)hosting Nutrition Decade specific events in Rome, New York, Geneva and Abidjan.

The Committee on World Food Security

To ensure full integration of nutrition into the CFS, UNSCN served as part of its Advisory Group and as a member of most of its Technical Task Teams (CFS TTT), specifically active in the CFS TTT on Nutrition. Throughout 2017, UNSCN remained actively engaged in CFS multiyear planning (MYPOW) to help shape the CFS plan of work and activities of the HLPF in the coming biennium. It also moderated several CFS events and helped with the organization of the three nutrition related intersessional events, two of which were based on the content from UNSCN publications. UNSCN also took part in the organisation of the [Forum on Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition](#) (September 2017) to promote a shared understanding of how issues related to women's economic empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition are evolving. This work included drafting portions of the [background document](#), soliciting feedback from its members, sourcing case studies and speakers from all stakeholder groups, considering feedback from the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau, and work to ensure that the outcomes are considered in the documents of the CSW62. Finally, UNSCN actively participated in the TTT

on the VGGT on the Right to Food, and made a submission to the online consultation building on the UNSCN publication [Nutrition and Human Rights](#) (UNSCN, 2002) – see [here](#). These events were advertised on the UNSCN website and the outcomes were featured in UNSCN Quarterly Updates to increase engagement.

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Noncommunicable Diseases

In the fall of 2016, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Noncommunicable Diseases started a thematic working group on nutrition. As convener and member of the group, the UNSCN Secretariat developed its work plan and deliverables. In 2017, the group developed a Terms of Reference focusing on improving policy coherence, and is dedicated to have an initial focus on obesity issues in school aged children. The food environment can be understood as the space in which consumers make their dietary choices and is heavily influenced by a large range of actors and factors (trade, labelling, prices, processing etc.). The group also intends to integrate nutrition considerations in other areas of the IATF (i.e. environment, physical activity). The thematic group will be mainly active at the global policy level but will contribute to the UNIATF country support in the development of policies and programmes for the prevention and control of NCDs. The working group will contribute to the implementation of the NCD action plan (2013-2020) and will work according to the principles established in the NCD work plan. Joint country missions and workshops may be organized but not to implement country programmes, which remains the domain of some of the member agencies. Ending childhood obesity in the school environment is an early focus for the group. Going forward, the group also intends to provide input to the NCD Ministerial meeting in 2018.

Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10-Year Framework for Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Throughout 2017, UNSCN remained active in the [Sustainable Food Systems \(SFS\) Programme of the 10-Year Framework for Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns](#) (10YFP). As part of its Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC), UNSCN worked to integrate nutrition and NCDs in upcoming 10YFP SFS project proposals, making the link between sustainable production and sustainable and healthy consumption. UNSCN also served as part of the Steering Committee to organise the technical workshop [Sustainable Diets in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems](#) (July 2017), in collaboration with FAO and UN Environment. UNSCN chaired portions of this workshop and contributed to the formal reporting, which was a follow-up to the International Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition (December 2016). As part of the 10YFP SFSP Communications Team, UNSCN works with MAC members to customise the branding and messaging for the overall efforts of the 10YFP SFSP.

Global Governance for Nutrition

To equip the wider nutrition community with a better understand of the role of UNSCN in the significantly evolved nutrition landscape, UNSCN released two publications: [Global Governance for Nutrition](#) and [By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition and leave no one behind](#) in early 2017. The latter also drew links between the global targets, the actions and the relevant actors working on nutrition. In light of its 40th anniversary, UNSCN also undertook a desk review of the evolution of the Committee and commemorated those who have been a part of its success. Reflections were shared from previous Chairs and Executive Secretaries to mark this occasion.

UNSCN also builds bridges between the intergovernmental decision making forums of its members and that of the CFS as part of its effort to engage in all relevant fora and ensure that nutrition is mainstreamed.

SO2 - SUPPORT CONSISTENT AND ACCOUNTABLE DELIVERY BY THE UN SYSTEM

UNSCN works to translate the selected policy options and strategies into country-specific commitments for action, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and various regional strategic frameworks. Clear common principles should guide the process of developing and implementing local strategies, which

can then be applied to specific contexts with an eye to developing locally specific and pragmatic strategies. The work of the UNSCN in this area is carried out in close collaboration with the SUN UN Network/REACH Secretariat, which is mobilizing UN action in SUN Countries.

One major achievement in 2017 was the release of UNSCN's [Guidance Note on Integration of Nutrition in the UNDAF](#). This Guidance Note ensures that UN Country Teams are better equipped to integrate nutrition into their planning and programming, and to reflect nutrition-related risks and opportunities in the Common Country Analysis. It incorporates the latest global evidence, commitments, policy guidelines and related developments, and it draws from lessons learned in earlier guidance notes, as well as from experiences from the SUN Movement. UNSCN also started mapping lessons learned from country level nutrition interventions – work that will continue into 2018.

UNSCN also developed discussion papers:

- [Schools as a System to Improve Nutrition](#): Drawn from the expert capacities of the technical staff of eight UNSCN members (FAO, IAEA, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and Bioversity International/IFPRI) with input from outside the UN family, including from BMGF, GCNF, PDC, WB and CRS. The paper was first presented at the [2017 Global Child Nutrition Forum](#), featured at the *School, Food and Nutrition: Lessons learned and new perspectives for the Brazil* in Johannesburg (November) and again at the event *International Symposium Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition* in Brazil (November).
- [Sustainable Diets for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet](#): Led by a core team of UNSCN experts including the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, UN Environment, Bioversity with inputs from OCHA, WHO, FAO.
- Treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition and Moderate Acute Malnutrition: Led by UNICEF, in collaboration with UNHCR, WHO and WFP (forthcoming in early 2018).

The process of developing discussion papers is another excellent example of interagency collaboration and how policies can be translated into practice – see the UNSCN website section [Connecting the Dots](#) for more detail.

UNSCN also serves to reinforce the humanitarian side of the nutrition agenda by encouraging members to operationalise key recommendations featured in the [Guidance Note for UN Humanitarian Coordinators - Integrated multi-sectoral nutrition actions to achieve global and national nutrition-related SDG targets, particularly in fragile and conflict affected states](#) (UNSCN, GNC++) released summer 2017 and sent to the UN Humanitarian Coordinator. As a follow-up to the Compact, the humanitarian field now contains an analysis of the needs and priorities of nutrition in the response plans. On-going work will be to disseminate the information widely, including through a joint letter by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and UNDP Administrator to the Resident Coordinators to promote collective nutrition outcomes.

SO3 - EXPLORE NEW AND EMERGING NUTRITION RELATED ISSUES

For the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to achieve longstanding results, forward thinking and adaptively to the constantly evolving nutrition landscape is essential. UNSCN is playing its part to ensure that current research covered by knowledge platforms and the academic community is sufficient to support the intensification of sustainable actions towards the elimination of all forms of malnutrition by 2030. The goal of this effort is to push the research community to come forward and fill these knowledge gaps. The membership of the UNSCN continues to grow, showing the multi-disciplinary nature of nutrition and the increased number of UN agencies committed to make the Nutrition Decade a success.

The following planned activities were done in support of exploring new and emerging nutrition related issues:

- Released the publication [Sustainable Diets for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet](#), which was presented at the [International Symposium on Food Security and Nutrition in the Age of Climate Change](#) (September), at [IUNS 21st International Congress of Nutrition](#) (October), at the [Bonn 2017 UN Climate Change Conference](#) (November), at the Zero Hunger event held at the Italian Parliament (November). A [side event](#) on this theme was also prepared by FAO, UNSCN and the Netherlands for the 40th Session of FAO Conference (July).
- Hosted [two CFS44 side events](#) on the need to align agriculture and health actions to better shape the food environment in support of sustainable food systems for healthy diets. Throughout 2017, UNSCN remained actively engaged in the CFS MYPOW to help shape the CFS plan of work and activities of the HLPE in the coming biennium.
- Building on UNSCN Statements [The double burden of malnutrition: a challenge for cities worldwide](#) (2006) and [Nutrition security of urban populations](#) (2012), UNSCN continued its work focusing on the unique specificities of urban and peri-urban environments and the many challenges that they face in achieving food and nutrition security. Members worked to connect the various discussions at events from the [Global Forum for Food and Agriculture](#) (January 2016) to the [Food Security and Nutrition in an Urbanizing World](#) (June), [EAT Stockholm Food Forum 2017](#) (June), through the [Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Achieving SDGs](#), with a specific focus on implementation of SDG (June) and [World Food Day 2017](#), which focused on “Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development”. Read more about UNSCN’s work to connect the dots on rural-urban transformation [here](#).
- Actively encouraged members to participate in the WHO process to [Safeguarding against possible conflicts of interest in nutrition programmes](#), the online discussion of the HLPE Steering Committee online discussion [Multistakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda](#) and dedicated one block of the November 2017 meeting of UNSCN member for them to speak freely about the rules of engagement with private sector actors and due diligence policies.
- Worked to address the equity and non-discrimination drivers of good nutrition, specifically those affecting women and girls. Awareness raising events and messaging focused around [International Women’s Day 2017](#) (March), the [sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) (March) and the [Forum on Women’s Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition](#) (September).
- Increased coordination of policy and programme actions related to nutrition and diet-related NCDs as part of a healthy environment and integrated health system as convener and member of the IATF on NCDs and through awareness raising at events like the [3rd International Congress Hidden Hunger](#) (March).
- Conducted a literary review of the potential of Neglected and Underutilised Species (NUS) for nutrition and barriers to their uptake. The findings of this research also served as inputs to the HLPE and CFS work on Policy Coherence on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition.
- UNSCN members attended the [IUNS 21st International Congress of Nutrition](#) (October) in significant numbers and organised more than 15 workshops ranging from the latest on tracking and monitoring tools to ways to address all forms of malnutrition throughout the lifecycle. UNSCN also organized the symposium [The Changing Nutrition Landscape: Implications for Research](#). The preliminary findings of the UNSCN discussion paper *Treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition and Moderate Acute Malnutrition* were presented at the WHO/UNICEF Symposium.
- Built links to the academic community, including through the close collaboration of the UNSCN Secretariat with [Global Nutrition Report](#) Team.

The activities mentioned above (as well as the event mentioned under 1 - Maximize UN policy coherence and advocacy on nutrition) enabled UNSCN members to speak with one voice and to present coherent views on nutrition. It also helped to gather insights on the new research developments in nutrition and

the issues that could be taken on board by various groups of academia, knowledge centres or even by the UNSCN.

UNSCN works from a rights-based perspective, therefore all the actions above have been considered from this approach. A succinct analysis is available and was further developed and discussed with members in 2017.

SO4 – PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE SHARING ACROSS THE UN SYSTEM AND BEYOND

Throughout 2017, UNSCN further developed a website to increase its audience base. Nutrition news and information was shared with UNSCN subscribers through 14 E-Alerts and 3 Quarterly Updates. As a result, audience outreach grew with more than 20k users visiting the UNSCN website, Twitter followers increasing by nearly 700, 300 on Facebook, and an additional 200 individuals from all over the world registering to receive the E-alerts and Quarterly Updates resulting in more than 34k people reading and sharing the 14 communications sent in 2017. [UNSCN News 42 – A Spotlight on the Nutrition Decade](#) was downloaded more than 46k times. UNSCN will continue to track these analytics throughout 2018 to tailor the nutrition news that it delivers to its readers.

UNSCN's communication products also evolved during the year in response to consumer demand. For example, the website features the news and events that its viewers have come to know and expect but now includes further detail about the relevance of these subjects and how UNSCN is working to connect the dots between the traditional and non-traditional nutrition actors and between the conversations happening across sectors. At the request of our members, E-Alerts also pull together the nutrition related events during major events such as WHA70, CFS44 and IUNS to help them and UNSCN subscribers stay on top of the action. Extensive work was also done in early 2017 to revamp the UNSCN archiving system to guarantee that the rich volume of text captured throughout UNSCN's 40 year history is easily accessible.

To ensure the greatest level of engagement, UNSCN stands committed to translate its discussion papers into all six official UN languages. Contributions to online discussions and to its Call for Contributions are also welcome in this manner. The development and publication of the discussion papers as mentioned (see SO2) also contribute to promote knowledge sharing among the UNSCN members and beyond.

Regular exchanges of information by UNSCN members were encouraged throughout 2017. This included two face-to-face meetings in 2017 and well-attended bimonthly calls by all five constituent members and at least four other members and observers such as the CFS Secretariat and the UN Network for SUN Secretariat.

UNSCN Communities of Practice

As part of its knowledge sharing role, UNSCN has also facilitated the following online communities of practice.

AREA Community of Practice for 2017

The UNSCN, WHO, and USAID-funded SPRING project moderate the Accelerated Reduction Efforts of Anaemia (AREA) Community of Practice (CoP) to help reduce maternal anaemia by half by 2025. In 2017, CoP membership continued to grow to over 800 members from 70 countries; the year's satisfaction survey remains high (at the same level as in 2016). Four well-attended webinars were organized, each of them drew more than 100 participants. The themes included: i) Neglected Tropical Diseases and anaemia, ii) haemoglobin cut-off points, iii) complexity of anaemia in Bangladesh, and iv) the Global Individual Food Consumption Tool.

The Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice

In 2017, the Ag2Nut CoP held four webinars hosted by the USAID SPRING Project averaging 57 people per call. Many members report listening to the recorded webinars once they had been circulated. Announcements are disseminated nearly daily including job postings, new publications, events and information requests. Membership reached 5500 from 120 countries, adding another 1800 members and 28 countries from the previous year. In its second year, the Ethiopia Ag2Nut sub-group now has doubled to 2269 members from 29 countries (vs. 26 in end 2016). Recorded Ag2Nut webinars are available at: <https://www.spring-nutrition.org/events/series/agriculture2nutrition-community-calls>.

2017 Webinars

- Feb 14—Key Points from the FAO/WHO Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition
- July 20—The OFSP Story: Key lessons and discussion for Ag-Nut programming
- Aug 31—Making the case for fruits and vegetables
- Nov 30—Food Loss and Waste- Taking action

The Nutrition and Climate Change E-group

The Nutrition and Climate Change (NutCC) egroup has 780 members from 84 countries. During 2017 the NutCC egroup has provided a forum to share specialized information on the opportunities to address the impacts of climate change on nutrition through adaptation and mitigation measures. Members of the egroup contributed to the publication of an UNSCN paper on Sustainable Diets for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet and, in collaboration with UNSCN members and the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) Task Force on Climate and Nutrition, organised the symposium "Climate Change and Nutrition: Challenges and Opportunities" at the IUNS 21st International Congress of Nutrition. A symposium on "Global Climate Change, Food, Health & Sustainability" was live-broadcasted to the NutCC egroup on World Food Day 2017. Members of the NutCC egroup participated in two events focusing on climate change and diets at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn (COP23).

Nutrition and Noncommunicable Chronic Diseases – e-discussion Forum

The NutNCD e-group, established in 2011, at the end of 2017 reached 871 members from 93 countries. This e-group is mainly an information sharing platform. In 2017, 17 communications took place on a variety of topics: the publication of interesting papers, sharing of useful tools, announcements of webinars related to the topic, etc. At the end of 2017, the draft updated UNSCN paper on NCDs and nutrition was circulated to the group for comments.

HUMAN AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The steady increase in membership (currently 13 official members and one observer) demonstrates the multi-disciplinary nature of nutrition and the growing number of UN agencies considering nutrition in their policies and programming. UNSCN builds on the mandate and strengths of its members, and works according to a principle of subsidiarity, ensuring maximum impact while avoiding duplication of efforts. The technical teams of the member agencies work to maintain the highest quality standards possible of UNSCN products.

The UNSCN Steering Committee consists of FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNSCN Chair and Secretariat. Mr Michel Mordasini chaired two successful face-to-face meetings of UNSCN members in 2017 before stepping down as Chair of the UNSCN at the end of the year. Members expressed their overwhelming gratitude for the unwavering work and leadership of Michel Mordasini to strengthen strategic partnerships and to help set the direction of UNSCN.

UNSCN Trust Fund and Budget 2017

In 2017, UNSCN relied mostly on the second half of the USD 1,000,000 from FAO (as agreed in the transfer letter) and the balance of UNSCN resources transferred from WHO (USD 431,134). With the Trust Fund

fully established, financial contributions were received from IFAD, WFP, WHO, UN Women, IAEA and UNDESA. All UNSCN members agreed to support in kind. In 2017, no resource mobilization efforts took place outside of the existing members. A financial report will be delivered as separate document.

UNSCN Secretariat

The well-established Secretariat employed a coordinator, an administrative assistant, two full-time and one part-time consultants in 2017. A third consultant joined in the fourth quarter. It was also aided by two interns whose main tasks were archiving, reporting from meetings and undertaking desk reviews. Additional external consultants were commissioned to draft, edit, translate and design discussion papers and assist with the maintenance of the UNSCN website.

