

Stronger together!

A multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to scaling up nutrition in practice



Scaling Up
Nutrition



PROGRESS REPORT 2020



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INTRODUCTION:

10 years of bridging sectors and stakeholders



Bringing sectors and stakeholders together is in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement's DNA. Why? Because addressing malnutrition is a complex endeavour, and complex problems require multifaceted responses.

The underlying causes of poor nutrition include lacking access to a nutritious diet, inadequate preventive and curative health, and insufficient care, including feeding practices. Each of these underlying causes in turn result from multiple factors. This is why the elimination and prevention of malnutrition requires a multifactorial, multi-sectoral response.

FROM BREAKING SILOES TO SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATION

Breaking siloes between sectors and bringing stakeholders together around common objectives has been the first and foremost challenge that the SUN Movement has set itself. The Movement was originally created with a focus on undernutrition and the 1,000-day window of opportunity, a time critical for a child's future physical and cognitive development.

Embracing nutrition-sensitive approaches to tackle the underlying causes of malnutrition, as well as nutrition-specific interventions to tackle its direct manifestations has been our remit. SUN has spurred a new way of working: bringing civil society, donors, UN agencies and the private sector together, to all collaborate – in unison – and support country-led, multi-sectoral strategies to combat undernutrition.

Over the years, especially in the previous phase of SUN (2016-2020) the focus has broadened to [strive for the elimination of all forms of malnutrition](#). The treatment and prevention of undernutrition, including stunting and micronutrient deficiencies, remain our main



goals, particularly during the first 1,000 days. But the Movement has had to consider fast rising obesity rates, everywhere in the world.

Although undernutrition and obesity can seem like diametrically opposed problems to solve, strategies to combat them are indeed compatible and require tackling profound systemic issues linked to [food systems](#), but also health and social protection systems. For

example, healthy diets should be encouraged through nutrition education and the promotion of healthier food systems that ensure access to affordable, nutrient-rich foods.

NUTRITION IS EVERYONE’S BUSINESS

Nutrition is foundational. It underpins all other development initiatives, including climate action. **Without improving nutrition, we will not be able to meet the Sustainable Development Goals,** nor will we be able to save the planet.

But there is no silver bullet to tackle malnutrition, and no one size fits all. Each of the 63 SUN member countries and four Indian States is unique and each leads its own unique SUN Movement. One thing is common to all SUN stakeholders however: the conviction that nutrition is everyone’s business; that when actors across sectors come together to work on joint advocacy, policy alignment, and invest in country-owned strategies, they undoubtedly contribute towards eliminating malnutrition in all its forms.

” The answer to the question ‘Why scale up domestic and international support for nutrition at a time of severe global recession?’ should be clear ... It is, most importantly, because the problem is so serious, and because the evidence is so overwhelming that the proposed package of interventions offers exceptionally high development returns.

*Scaling Up Nutrition,
A framework for action
(2010)*

ACCELERATING NUTRITION IMPACT:

The SUN stewardship and global support system

” I firmly believe that we are stronger when we come together: when we bring our best thinking and innovations, we can achieve more impactful and sustainable results. Led by countries, SUN can catalyse and drive the actions needed to ensure that every child, adolescent, mother and family realise their right to food and nutrition.

Henrietta H. Fore, SUN Movement Lead Group Chair and UNICEF Executive Director

OUR LEAD GROUP

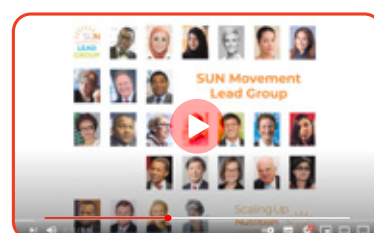
Acting as high-level ambassadors for the SUN Movement, [SUN Lead Group](#)

members guide the strategic direction of the Movement, while leading from where they stand and drumming up the political momentum and global recognition of the catalytic power nutrition has – to achieve most, if not all, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- **11 Lead Group members** attended the 2019 SUN Movement Global Gathering in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **The Lead Group** was instrumental in the development of the SUN Strategy for 2021-2025 and in showcasing the importance of nutrition during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **The Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of International Development of Canada and European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, joined the Lead Group in 2020.** “SUN has a pivotal role – to rebuild a system more inclusive and resilient. But this is not only about recovery. With the SUN third phase, we must seize the opportunity that this crisis presents with both hands – we must stave off a looming malnutrition crisis.” – The Hon. Karina Gould.
- **Henrietta H. Fore**, UNICEF Executive Director, renewed her term as Lead Group chair until 2021.
- **2 Lead Group meetings** were held in 2020. One was used to discuss the latest draft Strategy with the Executive Committee and the second of which was the annual Lead Group meeting, held virtually for the first time.



OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The [SUN Movement Executive Committee](#) speaks up and out about the value of the Movement and to support and guide in-country nutrition action and collaboration. This includes encouraging behaviour change among all stakeholders, acting as nutrition champions within and beyond their own institutions, participating in nutrition activities at the country level, strengthening linkages with SUN Focal Points and Networks and championing gender equality.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2020, the Executive Committee welcomed 3 new SUN Government Focal Points: Kiran Rupakhetee (Nepal), Azucena Dayanghirang (Philippines) and Cecilia Gamboa (Costa Rica).
- Christelle Huré (ACF West Africa), Jo Moir (FCDO) and Connell Foley (Concern Worldwide), Nancy Aburto (FAO) and Allison Oman (WFP) also joined the Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee took a leadership role in the Strategic Review, on behalf of the SUN Movement Lead Group, and in the drafting of the Movement's strategy for its third phase (2021-2025).
- The new SUN Movement Strategy was presented to the Lead Group for their discussion and endorsement in December 2020.

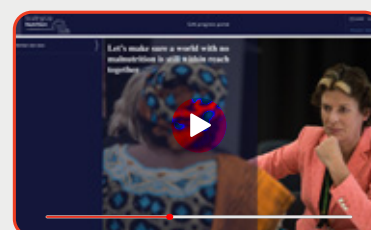


OUR COORDINATOR

In March 2016, United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Gerda Verburg as [Coordinator of the Movement](#) and a UN Assistant Secretary-General. The SUN Coordinator plays a key role in directing the implementation of the SUN Movement Strategy and reflecting the perspectives of member countries in scaling up nutrition, so that they, in turn, can advocate for sustained political attention to nutrition, and bring together national stakeholders for the implementation of effective and coordinated actions. As part of her role, the SUN Coordinator serves as a member of the Lead Group and an ex officio member of the Executive Committee. Her mandate was renewed on 31 July 2020.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2019-2020, the SUN Coordinator visited El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal, Sierra Leone, and Mauritania.
- At the 2019 Global Gathering, 52 bilateral meetings were held with the Coordinator, including 40 country meetings and 12 stakeholder briefings.
- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coordinator has been committed to engaging with SUN countries and support system, and offering support and advocacy, focusing on multi-sectoral engagement, robust strategies to protect food systems and livelihoods, expanding the social safety net, promoting gender equality and anti-competitive behaviour such as price hikes and poor-quality food.
- At the World Health Assembly, she emphasised the [importance of nutrition in the COVID-19 response](#).
- In July 2020, the SUN Coordinator was appointed a member of the advisory committee for the [2021 Food Systems Summit](#).
- In 2020, the Coordinator played an essential role in the development of the Movement Strategy for its third phase (2021-2025).
- On 16 December 2020, the Coordinator brought together the former SUN Coordinators, David Nabarro and Tom Arnold, in the first-ever [SUN Coordinator Dialogue](#), hosted by Youth Leader for Nutrition, Jane Napais Lankisa.



Learn more:

2020 COUNTRY VISIT RESULTS AT A GLANCE

SIERRA LEONE

- **The Vice President of Sierra Leone** has agreed to establish a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral inclusive committee to define the country's commitments for the Nutrition for Growth Summit.
- **Annual debates in Parliament** to review nutrition in Sierra Leone are foreseen.
- **Sierra Leone's Ministry of Finance** has committed to establish a line in the national budget for nutrition.

MAURITANIA

- **The President of Mauritania** has promised to ensure nutrition is a core element of his human capital programme.
- **Nutrition has been included** within Mauritania's national post-COVID-19 recovery plan.



OUR SECRETARIAT

The SUN Movement Secretariat is based in Geneva and is responsible for liaising with and supporting SUN countries and ensuring the catalytic spirit of the Movement is embedded in all actors' efforts. Throughout 2019-2020, the Secretariat retained its steadfast approach to improving country nutrition outcomes, strengthening in-country capacity, and providing coordinated support to SUN countries. The Secretariat has used nutrition as a tool to support countries 'build forward better' after COVID-19, through demand-driven technical assistance, access to nutrition financing, joint advocacy, and strategic partnerships.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Secretariat organised** the 2019 SUN Movement Global Gathering held in Kathmandu in partnership with the National Planning Commission of Nepal, bringing together more than 1,200 participants.
- **In 2019-2020, the Secretariat** undertook a range of physical and virtual country visits to make nutrition a political priority, harmonise data, enforce food systems and livelihoods strategies and further engage UN Resident Coordinators in scaling up nutrition.
- **The Secretariat marked** the 10-year anniversary of SUN, which we call the #SUN10ary
- **The 2020 Strategic Review** took place, with Secretariat input, and the Secretariat played a key role in the development of the SUN Movement Strategy for its third phase (2021-2025),
- **50 SUN countries** undertook the 2020 Joint-Assessment, launched by the Secretariat in July 2020.
- **A renewal of the SUN Movement Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Accountability (MEAL)** database kicked off in 2020.
- **11 new** national nutrition plans were reviewed in 2020.
- **6 countries** completed the financial tracking exercise.
- **During COVID-19**, the focus was on facilitating coordinated action by stakeholders and providing information and support. This included: webinars, regional situation papers, an online knowledge hub, a communication and advocacy strategy, factsheets, weekly briefings, and key messages.

OUR NETWORKS

Four SUN Networks (and the SUN Movement Secretariat) are driven by the needs of member countries and organise support – with guidance from the Movement's stewardship. Each SUN Network is coordinated at the global level by a Network Facilitator and various leadership and coordination arrangements. Their primary objective is to mobilise and align efforts, globally and regionally, to scale up efforts in country.

SUN Networks are bigger and bolder than ever:
In December 2020 a

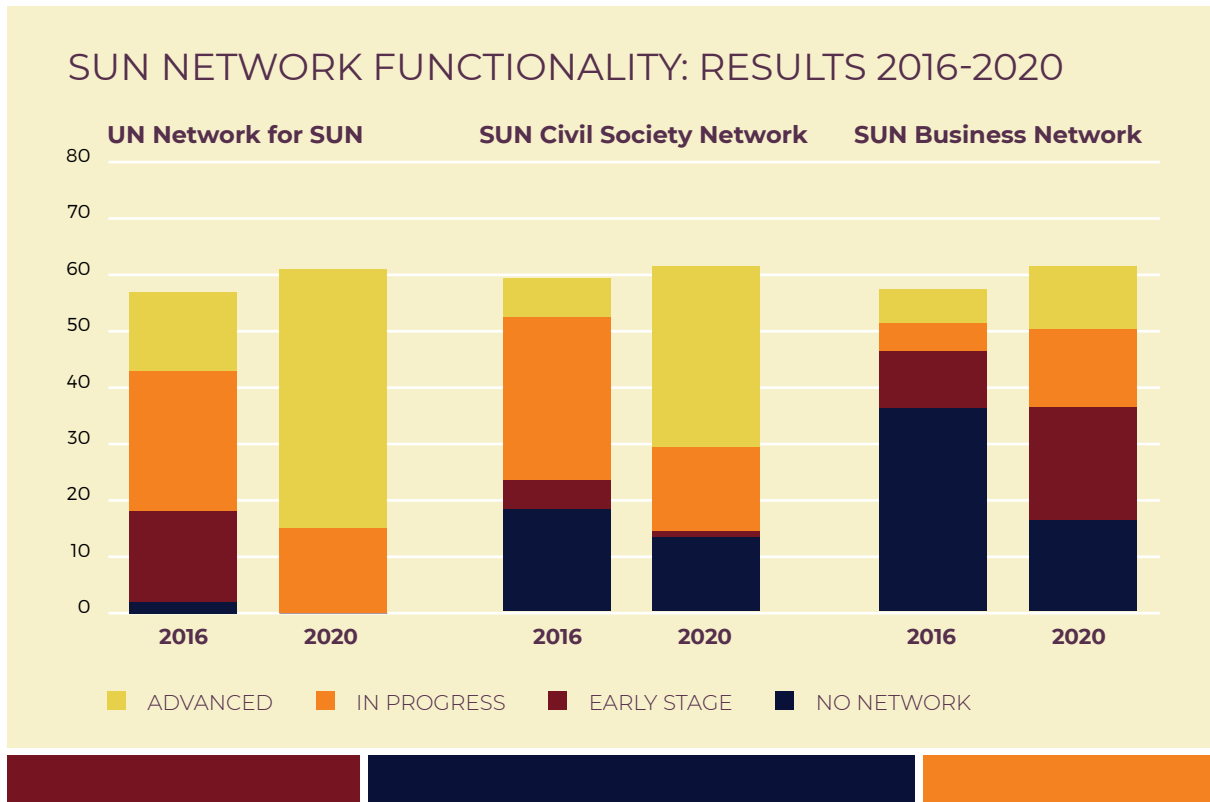
SUN Civil Society Network
of over 4,000 organisations;
a SUN Business Network

– including some 900
small, medium, and large
enterprises; 16 UN agencies
representing the UN Network for SUN; and a
group of international donors and foundations
that form the

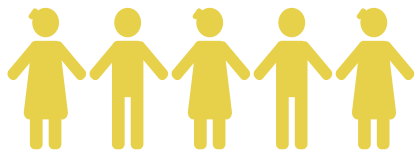
SUN Donor Network

SUN NETWORKS WORK!

The SUN Movement has developed and rolled out a standardised methodology to assess the functionality of three of our Networks (the UN Network, Civil Society Network and Business Network), which has been used annually by Networks. Results show us that all have successfully increased their presence and level of functionality. The UN Network has been established in all SUN countries, for the Civil Society Network, more than half of SUN countries now have an advanced network, and about a third of SUN countries have a SUN Business Network in place, with another 20 in the process of setting up theirs.



Simply put, in 2019-2020, SUN Networks were bigger and bolder than ever. Here are their stories.



Civil Society Network (CSN)

OUR CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK

The [SUN Civil Society Network \(CSN\)](#) encourages the formation of vibrant national Civil Society Alliances (CSAs) and supports them in their work. With CSAs either established or developing in more than 50 countries, split over four regional groups, the CSN is the largest SUN Network – with more than 4,000 members locally, nationally, and internationally.

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THE SUN CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK

2012: The first Civil Society Alliance (CSA) is created in Bangladesh

2013: Alliances are established in 13 SUN countries

2016-2017: CSAs and global members design, validate and adopt the first Network theory of change

2017: The Pooled Fund is launched, supporting 20 CSAs

2018: The SUN CSN Youth Leaders for Nutrition (#YL4N) programme is launched

2019: Over 100 civil society representatives from 50+ countries attend the Global Gathering in Kathmandu

2020: Pooled Fund growth means that 43 Alliances have received financial support through the mechanism

2020: The CSN has 49 established CSAs, with 11 more in development

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- **2020 is the first year** where all four regional groups have held regional meetings, either virtually or in person. The meetings are a chance to celebrate and learn from major regional initiatives, including the Asia [#nutritioncantwait](#) campaign, budget analysis in East and Southern Africa, parliamentary engagement in West and Central Africa, and piloting a virtual learning platform in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Over the last year**, the CSN has run two series of sub-grants, on innovation and research, and Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Accountability (MEAL) and sustainability. These small grants have resulted in a range of new approaches from CSAs on critical issues impacting their own and the Network's long-term sustainability.
- **The Network has a new website**, which has been used along with our increasingly active social media channels, to showcase the amazing efforts of our CSAs. These platforms have been used to highlight the [Youth Leaders for Nutrition](#) (#YL4N) and other programmes we have run, such as MEAL and sustainability grants and country-to-country Technical Assistance Initiative, gaining more engagement and awareness for the CSN's work.
- **Our Youth Leaders for Nutrition (#YL4N) programme** continued to make an impact. Despite the pandemic, the #YL4N made their voices heard globally, speaking at virtual events, and having their writing published. At home, the YL4N worked with CSAs to run community campaigns and many leaders conducted programmes helping empower more young people to champion nutrition. Learn more on [page 26](#).
- **More than 100 CSN representatives** from across the globe came together in Nepal at the [2019 SUN Movement Global Gathering](#), to exchange experiences, learning and challenges from the previous two years.



OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

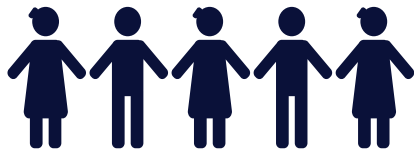
The **COVID-19 pandemic** has required a coordinated response across the Movement, and the CSN is no different. The CSN Secretariat has taken specific actions to support our CSAs:

- **Increasing our communication** to the Network, including a weekly mailing, as well as a bi-monthly [newsletter](#), and increased emphasis on [COVID-19 country stories](#) on our website.
- **Collaborating with other SUN Networks** and the SUN Movement Secretariat to produce COVID-19 country papers, summarising the situation in each SUN country.
- **Working with the [SUN Movement Pooled Fund](#)** to allocate additional funding to 15 of our most financially vulnerable CSAs to protect their work. Learn more on [pages 16-17](#).

WHAT'S NEXT: PRIORITIES FOR 2021

- **Galvanising commitments** across all sectors at the 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit and support civil society engagement at the Summit.
- **Helping more CSAs** secure sustainable funding to ensure the future of their work.
- **Expanding communication**, MEAL, and technical assistance, to build a sense of community within the Network, and greater awareness of the CSN externally.
- **Expanding and improving** the Youth Leaders for Nutrition programme, including wider engagement across the SUN Movement.





SUN Business Network (SBN)

OUR BUSINESS NETWORK

The [SUN Business Network \(SBN\)](#) mobilises business to act, invest and innovate in sustainable actions to contribute to reducing malnutrition in all its forms. It is co-convened by the [Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition \(GAIN\)](#) and the [World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#). The [SBN](#) currently has nearly 1,000 members, the majority of which are small and medium enterprises (SMEs), dedicated to increasing the availability and affordability of safe, nutritious food to consumers in low and middle-income countries.

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THE SUN CIVIL BUSINESS NETWORK

2012: The SUN Business Network platform is launched

2013: The global platform of business commitments is launched

2014: The first national SUN Business Networks in Zambia and Tanzania are created

2015: Regional workshops in Africa and Asia leads to the expansion of country networks

2017: An SBN impact pathway and logic model is standardised for use across countries, to reflect the value of its activities and the needs of businesses and governments

2016-2020: The SUN Business Network expands from two to 25 national networks

2019: An SBN Independent Evaluation takes place

2020: The strategic development and alignment between the SUN Strategy for its third phase and SBN 3.0 is prioritised

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- **In 2019-2020**, the SUN Business Network has accelerated efforts to mobilise business support for national nutrition action plans, and is now working with [25 countries](#) with 'advanced' or 'in-progress' networks, and a further 20 countries that are in the early stages of network development. As of June 2020, the national networks were comprised of 959 business members, of which 428 have made commitments to address nutrition.
- **The platform has [23 global members](#)**, food and non-food companies, alike. Aside from agreeing to implement workforce nutrition programmes, global members offer technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of national SBN members, predominantly in SMEs. 9 SBN global members are currently providing direct technical assistance.
- **Discussions around the private sector** and nutrition have expanded substantially, despite challenges facing businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in countries with new/emerging SBNs. Thanks to new funding sources, including the SUN Pooled Fund, the SBN has been able to drive discussions around the constructive engagement of the private sector within national nutrition landscapes. More advanced SBNs have strengthened their governance and operations to better link government and other strategic partners, enhance collaboration, and build transparency that can be taken forward in the long term.
- **SBN organised the second edition** of the [SUN Pitch Competition](#), which was held as a virtual event on Thursday 30 July. Of the 500 SMEs that applied from across 24 SUN countries, 21 national winners were selected to participate in a three-month acceleration programme, focused on nutrition awareness and investor readiness. [Oluwaseun Sangoleye's Baby Grubz](#), from Nigeria, was crowned the 2020 SBN Nutrition Champion.
- **In lieu of the SBN Annual Gathering**, a series of workshops were held for coordinators, SUN Networks, and other key stakeholders on topics such as gender, partnerships and conflict of interest, financing and sustainability and workforce nutrition.



OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- **In early May 2020**, the SBN undertook a [survey](#) of food system SMEs in 17 SUN countries, to assess the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated control measures businesses and to identify their support needs. 94 per cent of respondents reported being impacted by the pandemic, mainly via decreased sales (82 per cent), 84 per cent of firms reporting changing their production volume, generally decreasing it, and 81 per cent of firms reported urgently needing financial support to stay afloat.
- **The global SBN team** developed a set of [advocacy messages](#) on SME support during the pandemic, which were disseminated to national multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) to support the development of national COVID-19 response strategies.
- **National SBNs held webinars** with key national stakeholders and published op-eds in local media, to raise awareness of the challenges facing nutritious food-producing SMEs during the pandemic.

WHAT'S NEXT: PRIORITIES FOR 2021

- **Growing Network membership**, with a focus on strengthening the engagement of SMEs to act, invest, and innovate to improve nutrition.
- **Strengthening business-to-business linkages** by facilitating technical assistance and enabling investment opportunities for SMEs.
- **Implementing recommendations** of the SBN gender review at the national level, to improve gender equity and the responsiveness of the network to addressing the nutritional issues of women and girls.
- **Advocating for greater public-private dialogue**, to strengthen the enabling environment for business investment in nutrition, whilst also adopting strengthened accountability mechanisms for business.
- **Building and sustaining political engagement** and commitment to the role of the private sector in improving nutrition in the upcoming Nutrition for Growth and Food Systems Summits.
- **Improving coordination and learning**, through greater inter-network collaboration.





SUN Donor Network (SDN)

OUR DONOR NETWORK

The [SUN Donor Network \(SDN\)](#) strives for improved donor coordination and alignment with costed national nutrition plans in SUN countries. The SDN brings donors together to promote high-level political commitment for nutrition, more and better financing, aligned implementation, monitoring of progress and impact, and sharing of lessons learnt. A [key goal](#) is to ensure that these lessons can inform and strengthen global and regional processes for nutrition and sustainable development. SDN members also support the functioning of the SUN Movement, through financial support to global, but also national, support structures, through the SUN Pooled Fund.

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THE SUN DONOR NETWORK

2010: Senior officials of donor agencies advocate for the launch of SUN

2013: SDN members support and launch the first Nutrition for Growth (N4G) event in the UK

2017: A new Pooled Fund is created to act as a catalytic financing facility

2018: A SDN convenors' meeting is held in Malawi, the first time country convenors are brought together

2018: The OECD nutrition policy marker is officially adopted

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- **2019-2020 was a challenging year** that once more proved the need for continuously strengthening donor collaboration and alignment. National resource mobilisation events were planned with the support of the SUN Secretariat in several SUN countries.¹
- **The Tokyo Olympics springboard pledging event**, planned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the 2020 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit were postponed, due to COVID-19. The SDN and partners pivoted quickly to a revised set of activities and tactics to both respond to the pandemic, and to ensure long-term nutrition financing goals remained front and centre:
 - Individual donor agencies focused on reprogramming and pivoting existing programmes to respond to the pandemic.
 - SDN convenors and SUN governments continued discussions on expected N4G domestic pledges, which will be reassessed due to the difficult economic conditions generated by the COVID-19 crisis.
 - SDN members together with the SUN global support system, engaged in continuous advocacy for nutrition, also through the multidisciplinary consortium [Standing Together for Nutrition](#) (STfN).
 - During the 75th United Nations General Assembly, the Governments of Canada and Bangladesh co-sponsored a side event bringing together nearly 400 participants, to discuss the devastating and unequal impact of COVID-19 on malnutrition and highlight the Standing Together for Nutrition call to action.
- **The SDN was key** to the development of the SUN Strategy for its third phase and drafted the financing section. In addition, the SDN supported the continuous financing of the independent facilitators.
- **Together with the SUN Movement Secretariat**, the SDN supported the formal invitation and confirmation of high-level senior officials from four SDN members to the Lead Group, to elevate nutrition on the political agendas in those countries or geographies.
- **The handbook** for implementing the OECD nutrition marker was finalised in 2020, with the support of the OECD Secretariat, the SUN Donor Network and the SUN Movement Secretariat. This is another steppingstone in the continuous effort for transparency and improved tracking of financing for nutrition in the Movement's next phase.

¹ Burundi, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Niger, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Lesotho, Senegal.



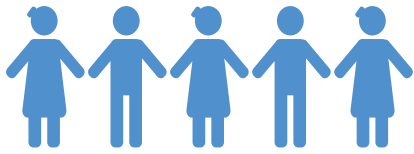
OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- **Multilateral development finance** is on the rise and has been an important channel of development cooperation as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. SUN donor contributions have increased towards multilateral institutions, in comparison to bilateral funding. SDN members contributed to the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF), to support an immediate response to the pandemic, especially in fragile contexts. For many agencies, funds were repurposed to respond to the pandemic.
- **SDN members** continuously engaged within their agencies to ensure that the money was not withdrawn from nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programmes. Advocating to continuously invest in nutrition is still the main goal of SDN members.
- **Since the outbreak of COVID-19**, most donor agencies announced 'fresh' money for emergency health, humanitarian, economic, and development assistance, aimed at helping governments, international organisations, and non-governmental organisations fight the pandemic.

WHAT'S NEXT: PRIORITIES FOR 2021

Several SDN members have played an active role in defining a new approach to a Nutrition for Growth "Year of Action" to ensure that the momentum is both raised and sustained for nutrition. Four milestone moments have been identified to ensure and feature significant nutrition pledges, and SDN members will participate and harmonise its activities for those moments. Additional activities will include:

- **Seeking opportunities** to galvanise more and align quality financing for nutrition.
- **Supporting countries**, with the global support system, to prepare for N4G and the Food Systems Summits.
- **Improving alignment** of financing for nutrition at the country level.
- **Building and sustaining political engagement**, commitment, and communication, at global and national levels.
- **Improving coordination and learning**, both within the global SDN and across the SUN global support system.



United Nations Network (UNN)

OUR UN NETWORK

Since its inception in 2013, **the UN Network for SUN (UNN) aims to catalyse collaboration between United Nations agencies in SUN countries** and beyond, via advocacy efforts with UN Resident Coordinators (UNRCs), UNN analytics, UNN-REACH in-country support and joint UN programming. It has harnessed the collective nutrition resources, skills, and expertise of its members to support national nutrition efforts in creating an enabling environment from policy formulation to strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) for greater impact. From 1 January 2021, **UN Nutrition** (a merger of UNN and the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN)) serves as the UN Network for SUN.

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THE SUN CIVIL BUSINESS NETWORK

2012: The REACH mechanism support is expanded to 8 countries, encouraging them to join the Movement and catalysing SUN activity

2013: The UN Network is established by 5 founding agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO)

2015: REACH support grows to 17 countries and REACH takes on leadership of UN Network for SUN

2016: A common UN framework for nutrition actions is developed, providing a basis for the UN Nutrition Inventory tool, which helps align UN support and broaden UN Network membership at the country level

2017: Additional countries benefit from REACH support thanks to funding from Irish Aid

2019: 16 UN agencies (including many 'non-traditional' nutrition actors) are engaged in country UNNs

2020: UNN merges with UNSCN, to form new entity – UN Nutrition – which will serve as the UN Network for SUN

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- **The year 2019-2020** has stressed the importance of the UNN, as the Network transitions to become part of UN Nutrition. Highlights, as shown in the [annual report](#), include a strengthened positioning of nutrition as part of UN reform, with the collective nutrition agenda increasingly tabled at UN Country Team meetings in 80 per cent of countries. 51 out of 61 SUN countries report joint programming (an increase of 16 percentage points compared to the previous year).
- **In a year** dominated by the COVID-19 response, it is perhaps not surprising that the share of humanitarian programmes has doubled (from 15 to 32 per cent).
- **UNN-REACH** built on previous work to drive political commitment for nutrition and improve coordination and multi-sectoral nutrition programming, with facilitators on the ground in Chad, Lesotho, Liberia, Myanmar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe.
- **The REACH 2019-2020 strategy** aimed to ensure continuity of support to national coordination mechanisms at national and sub-national levels, despite the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **UNN analytics**, including the [nutrition stakeholder and action mapping](#) and [UN Nutrition inventory](#) tools, continue to demonstrate their value in galvanising UN agencies' engagement, at national and sub-national levels. A further ten countries utilised these tools this year, with adaptations to remote training due to COVID-19 yielding unexpected benefits in increased ownership of data management and capacity strengthening.
- **In December 2020**, the Secretariat released its second series of [Tales Be Told](#), a collection of inspiring stories of UN collaboration on nutrition.

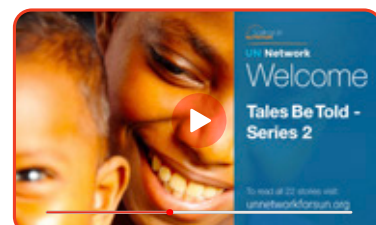


OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- **UN agencies** have been very active in the COVID-19 crisis, with 93 per cent of country UNNs undertaking joint efforts in response to the pandemic. Initiatives include coordination of the COVID-19 response through the nutrition cluster; procurement of nutrition inputs and personal protection equipment (PPE); support to the government to develop a nutrition response plan; development of a shock-responsive social protection model; and nutrition messaging.
- **The UNN Secretariat** has adapted its technical and financial support in light of the pandemic, for example, adjusting UNN analytics to include COVID-19 indicators (Togo mapping tool) and changing UNN-REACH plans to encompass new policies and programmes (Multiple Intervention Programme in Lesotho).

WHAT'S NEXT: PRIORITIES FOR 2021

- **Ensuring maintenance** of intense support for SUN under new entity UN Nutrition, bringing country and global support closer together.
- **Highlighting country UNN priorities**, including providing technical and financial support for the development, costing, implementation and evaluation of nutrition policies and strategies; and for nutrition advocacy.
- **Continuing UNN-REACH support**, with neutral facilitators, in response to country demand.
- **Sustaining commitment** to the 'One UN' agenda, including promotion of UN agency collaboration and increased focus on joint nutrition programming.
- **Supporting inter-network collaboration**, particularly at the country level, to achieve greater nutrition impact.



OUR POOLED FUND

Founded in 2017 as a last resort, catalytic and innovative funding mechanism to support SUN countries in their efforts to scale up nutrition, the [SUN Movement Pooled Fund](#) (#SUNPooledFund) has grown from an initial USD 3 million investment, to a multi-phased budget of USD 18.5 million in just three years. It now supports 85 grant projects across 45 SUN countries. In collaboration with SUN Networks, contracts are allocated to country projects, through transparent and competitive calls within two funding windows. Window 1 aims to build or strengthen the participation of non-state actors in multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs). Its beneficiaries are national [Civil Society Alliances](#) (CSAs) and national [SUN Business Networks](#) (SBNs). Window 2 aims to accelerate a coordinated delivery of high-impact nutrition activities by MSP members, encouraging cooperation across core areas, through sharing and learning – for increased impact.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- **The CSA of Cambodia** supported the finalisation of the National Strategy for Food Security & Nutrition (NSFSN) 2019-2023, by submitting eight case studies from civil society to influence decision-making. Thanks to the Global Financing Facility, the [CSA received an additional USD 200,000](#) to continue their work.
- **As a result of support** from the SUN Movement Pooled Fund, **South Sudan** went from having no nutrition-focused civil society organisation to establishing a fully formed CSA, composed of 51 members, in less than two years. Their efforts have already begun to pay off: The Government has generated a national nutrition budget line, to support human capital development in their new nation.
- **After only 18 months**, the CSA of **Namibia** grew out of the Government-led multi-stakeholder platform (MSP). Today, it is a registered non-profit organisation, with 27 member organisations and a strong partnership with the Food and Nutrition Council of Namibia. The Pooled Fund has been catalytic. After its [strong start](#), the CSA secured funding from GIZ to continue their operations.
- **The Pooled Fund is making a difference** in local administration in **Cameroon**. The CSA organised training sessions to strengthen the capacities of local authorities in nutrition, resource mobilisation, and advocacy. As a result, 30 Local Councils signed letters of engagement committing at least 1 per cent of their budgets to actions aimed at fighting malnutrition in their respective constituencies. This will increase local accountability and contribute to better coordination of nutrition activities at all levels.



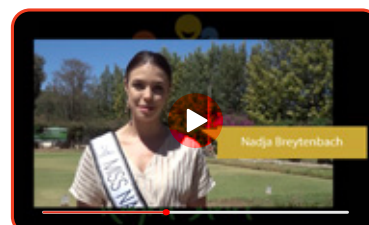


OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- **The Pooled Fund** demonstrated its flexibility and agility to [support countries react quickly](#) to adapt, mitigate, and build back better, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Nearly all beneficiaries** realigned their Pooled Fund activities to either support their Governments in developing or aligning national response measures (Philippines, Tanzania, Kyrgyzstan) or to address gaps in national response clusters (Guatemala, Afghanistan, Nepal).
- **The Pooled Fund** supported CSAs and SBNs in aligning with national nutrition priorities and MSPs in a participatory manner.

WHAT'S NEXT: PRIORITIES FOR 2021

- **Supporting** country-driven activities at both national and local levels.
- **Funding efforts to raise awareness**, to improve behaviours, and to advocate for political and financial commitments for nutrition among nationally based SUN Networks.
- **Continuing promoting cross-network** and regional learning opportunities with other beneficiaries.
- **Demonstrating** the contributions of beneficiaries to the SUN Movement Strategic Objectives.
- **Consolidating evidence**, outcomes, and lessons learned for the Movement's third phase (2021-2025).



PARTNERING FOR CHANGE:

Scaling up nutrition across sectors



Nutrition is everyone's business. Here is a snapshot of the sectors and stakeholders most key to scaling up nutrition with highlights from 2019-2020.

STRENGTHENING THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS FOR NUTRITION IN FACE OF CRISES

The past year has seen enhanced with the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) – a natural ally for the SUN Movement. Nutrition is at the heart of the humanitarian-development nexus (HDN); it is both lifesaving and a key to develop one's full potential. Good nutrition from the start also increases resilience from shocks, diseases, and stresses in future. As such, nutrition is key to realise the vision of the [Agenda for Humanity](#), to transition from delivering aid to ending need.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Good nutrition from the start increases resilience to shocks, diseases, and stresses in future.
- The COVID-19 crisis has come on top of other crises in many SUN countries and without swift action, it will lead to a global [hunger and malnutrition crisis](#) on a scale not seen for decades.
- To safeguard the SUN Movement's multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach, in at least 20 countries, the SUN Focal Point has been a part of the COVID-19 emergency response efforts.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- **The GNC** has integrated the SUN approach into its [COVID-19 Nutrition Cluster guidance](#).
- **The extended four-year GNC Strategy** (2016-2021) reflects the importance of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder planning and response implementation, with the inclusion of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Health Clusters.
- **To move from theory to impact**, a study was commissioned by the SUN Movement Secretariat and the GNC to capture experiences of crisis-affected countries and suggest options to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus for nutrition outcomes. The final recommendations are based on the outcome of three country case studies: Afghanistan, Myanmar and Niger. These [lessons learned](#) have been shared in a [webinar](#) involving in-country stakeholders, from both the GNC and SUN.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AT THE HEART OF NUTRITION PROGRESS

Whereas many countries have successfully scaled up actions to ensure the best possible start in life for children, **the health, nutrition – and in many ways the status – of women is falling behind.** Now is the time to move from lip service to action, to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, but also to give more than half of the world's population the nutrition they need to succeed, at school, at work, at home and everywhere in between.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- With less than 10 years to go to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, nearly 40 per cent of the world's girls and women – or 1.4 billion – live in [countries failing on gender equality](#).
- Women are [50 per cent more likely to face malnutrition than men and boys](#), but they are now also facing the brunt of the COVID-19 crisis and its socio-economic ripple effects.
- The 2019 SUN Movement [call to action](#) urges all actors to reorient their work and translate gender equality commitments into action and results at the country level.
- Our goal is a world free from malnutrition – and we see transforming gender inequalities and power structures as critical to achieving this goal. This is now an integral element of the [SUN Strategy for 2021-2025](#).

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- A [workshop entitled](#) “Productive, not just reproductive! The power of gender equality to scale up nutrition,” focusing on the paradox of not being able to fight malnutrition without gender equality and not being able to fight gender inequality without good nutrition was held during the 2019 SUN Movement Global Gathering, co-hosted by [Nutrition International](#).
- **SUN countries** are scaling up actions, across stakeholders and sectors, to promote gender equality and focus on women and girls' empowerment, as part of national efforts for improved nutrition.
 - In **Zimbabwe**, gender-sensitive indicators have been included in monitoring and policy recommendations for women's and girls' minimum acceptable diets and access to productive assets, among other indicators, have been issued.
 - In **Indonesia**, the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) has facilitated and advocated for the integration of gender equality in stunting reduction programmes, at the sub-national level. Paternity leave has been scaled up by many members of the MSP.
 - In **Niger**, the focus has been on increasing female representation at all levels, and across elective positions, and advocacy for the empowerment of women through adaptive social safety nets has taken place.
 - In **El Salvador**, food security and nutrition actions prioritise the participation and empowerment of women. A food assistance project aimed at female sex workers has been developed.
 - In **Lao PDR**, SUN partners are working together to improve gender equality in nutrition. Since 2018, the Gender Development Association (GDA) has [worked with the local Government](#) in Vientiane Province to ensure both men and women take responsibility for the health and wellbeing of their children.
 - In **Cameroon**, the focus has been on strengthening the representation of women and girls in all fields, including strengthening the production capacities of women and girls in rural areas also to produce foods with a high nutritional value. Advocacy for more involvement of men in the promotion of women's rights, including in matters of maternal and child health has also been scaled up.
 - In **Philippines**, a gender focal point system has been put in place at the National Nutrition Council (NNC) and guidelines are being developed to align gender-sensitive nutrition programming not just of the NNC, but at the level of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN). The NNC submits an annual gender plan and accomplishments, as mandated by the country's Philippine Commission on Women (PCW).
 - In **Guinea**, gender equality is a priority in the advocacy and communication plan for nutrition.
 - In **Pakistan**, advocacy to promote good nutrition for women and adolescent girls has been a priority, and an adolescent nutrition strategy was recently launched.

” Immunisation and nutrition interventions should be delivered together, as a core element of a comprehensive Universal Health Coverage approach. Gavi and SUN both focus on children, counsel of mothers and families – to create a prosperous future, leaving no one behind. Thinking ahead, country systems need to become robust to anticipate the next crises. Combining vaccination and nutrition is a win-win, country-owned and driven.

SUN Coordinator Gerda Verburg, on the occasion of the [2020 global Vaccine Summit](#)

MAKING SURE NUTRITION FORMS PART OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

The SUN Movement has long fought for essential nutrition interventions, including vitamin and mineral supplements, to form part of core services delivered through the primary health care system and by community health workers.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Primary healthcare is the foundation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), a whole-of-society approach towards achieving health and wellbeing for all.
- Access to health services is key to [ensure coverage of essential nutrition services](#) for all, especially during the critical 1,000-day window from pregnancy until age two.
- With the COVID-19 pandemic, many health systems are overwhelmed and access to essential nutrition services, a key contributor of increased immunity and resilience, has often been overlooked.
- Good nutrition and vaccinations prevent millions of deaths each year, create the foundation for health and development, and contribute to a virtuous cycle of prosperity.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2020, the SUN Movement Secretariat has supported SUN countries in advocating for nutrition to form part of the [COVID-19 emergency packages](#), in collaboration with the global support system.
- As the COVID-19 crisis has threatened to roll back progress made on child survival and health, the SUN Movement have embarked on an advocacy journey to link vaccinations and good nutrition, both essential for tackling child morbidity and mortality.
- The development and unveiling of good practices in scaling up nutrition has been a real ‘silver lining of the crisis.’
 - **Burkina Faso** is harnessing digital and transformative opportunities for both integrated management of childhood illnesses and malnutrition – leading to a significant rise in correct undernutrition classifications.
 - In **Comoros**, an information system on severe acute malnutrition (SAM) management has been built during the COVID-19 crisis.
 - In **Bangladesh**, National Nutrition Services (NNS) are conducting online surveys to assess the functionality of 366 severe acute malnutrition centres.

ENGAGING PARLIAMENTS FOR NUTRITION IMPACT

An increasing number of SUN countries are recognising the [critical role that parliaments play](#) in securing necessary laws, policies, financing, and equitable implementation of nutrition actions. In 2019-2020, and despite the pandemic, parliamentary engagement for nutrition has been scaled up.



FACTS AND FIGURES

- Parliaments are a key agent of change in improving national nutrition outcomes.
- In 2020, 47 SUN countries are leveraging the budgetary, legislative, and political powers of parliaments – helping to cement nutrition as a national priority, 11 more countries than in 2017.

Zoom-in on Zimbabwe's parliamentary pledge of support for the 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit

To ensure that the Government of Zimbabwe honours its commitments to nutrition, the Zimbabwe Civil Society Organisations Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance held a breakfast event with 28 parliamentarians who sit in the parliamentary portfolio committee on health and childcare in January 2020. The event was used to share findings from a Nutrition for Growth commitment tracker, in collaboration with the SUN Research and Academia Platform. Parliamentarians noted with concern that although some efforts to honour Zimbabwe's commitment on some indicators, there were challenges in assessing others, due to unclear and unspecific language. Parliamentarians pledged to encourage the Government to consider making ambitious financial and policy commitments for nutrition at the N4G Summit, to be held in December 2021, in line with the Summit's five thematic areas. It was also agreed that, after renewing the country's commitment at N4G, there is a need to set up a team to monitor and report on the progress in attaining targets. The commitment to be made at N4G will offer a perfect opportunity for the Network to hold the Government into account on nutrition governance. Parliamentarians in the country have taken heed of the Network's call for the Government to consider increasing investments in nutrition. In the "A citizen's guide to the 2020 national budget", published by the Parliament, it was recommended that the Minister of Finance and Economic Development considers increasing nutrition investments.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2019, parliamentarians from 20 countries participated in the SUN Movement Global Gathering, held in Nepal, and [signed a pledge](#) where they committed to take action on nutrition ahead of the [Nutrition for Growth Summit](#), and beyond.
- In collaboration with the IPU, FAO, WHO, UNICEF and NEPAD, the SUN Movement Secretariat contributed to a handbook for parliamentarians on food systems and nutrition, which will be launched in 2021.
- In February 2020, SUN Movement Lead Group Member and Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Martin Chungong, [issued a letter](#) to all 179 Speakers of parliament, with a [guidance note](#) on parliamentary action for improved nutrition.



BUILDING ON SYNERGIES BETWEEN WASH AND NUTRITION

Practical ways of integrating nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are very much aligned with SUN's goals. The Movement has built and strengthened its partnership with [Sanitation and Water for All](#) (SWA), to support governments and partners in ensuring greater collaboration and integration of nutrition and WASH.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- The goal of ending malnutrition by 2030 cannot be met while almost each SUN country struggles with an inadequate provision of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).
- Those who lack access to proper WASH services and to good nutrition are the same: the most vulnerable and impoverished women, men, and their families.
- Unfortunately, those most vulnerable and impoverished are also the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic's direct and indirect effects.



2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Integrating WASH and nutrition in practice was the focus of a 2019 [SUN Global Gathering](#) workshop, co-organised with WATERAID, SWA and ACF, with experiences from Cambodia, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali, and Nepal, alongside findings from other partners. Political will, at the highest level, was identified as very important for integrated approaches which require the involvement of multiple ministries and identifying relevant budget lines – in multiple areas.
 - In **Cambodia**, 20 ministries are involved in a technical working group, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, to identify priorities and an action plan.
 - **Ethiopia's [Seqota Declaration](#)** to end stunting by 2030 prioritises water among other sectors and acknowledges that sustainable adoption of WASH interventions is impossible without adequate water infrastructure and long-term investments.
 - **Nepal** has harnessed the opportunities of its federal system and has seen good results from its pilot WASH programme, targeting 35,000 women at the community level.
- In 2020, SUN and SWA mobilised governments and leaders from UN agencies, civil society, the private sector and research to stress that good nutrition and WASH are key to protect against illness and infection, as well as to support recovery, calling for the [prioritisation of nutrition](#) and [WASH interventions](#) in the response to COVID-19.
- In November 2002, SUN also supported the [launch](#) of the [Sanitation and Hygiene Fund](#). Both initiatives have increased the profile of nutrition and WASH in overlapping countries, with co-funding opportunities to support countries' priorities in the next phase of the SUN Movement.

EDUCATION AND NUTRITION HELP CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

The relationship between [education and nutrition works both ways](#). Access to quality education is critical to reduce malnutrition and good nutrition is essential for optimal education outcomes. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the largest disruption of education systems in history. Yet, many girls and boys rely heavily on school feeding programmes. Either it's the only meal or snack they consume in the day or it contributes a significant part of their daily nutrient requirements. In 2019-2020, safeguarding nutrition and education during the COVID-19 pandemic has formed a key element of the Movement's work.



FACTS AND FIGURES

- Good nutrition, especially during a child's first 1,000 days helps develop strong brains and bodies.
- Well-nourished children are given the best conditions to learn and do well in school, and deficiencies in one's nutrition, on the other hand, can cause irreversible damage to the brain.
- If all women in low and middle-income countries had a [secondary education](#), 26% fewer children would be stunted.
- 1.6 billion children – more than half of the world's student population – have been [kept away from school](#) due to pandemic response measures.
- More than 350 million schoolchildren have missed regular school feeding and nutrition services during COVID-19.
- 7 cents to every dollar spent on nutrition relate to education, according to results from [45 SUN countries](#).

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Gerda Verburg, Catarina de Albuquerque, Vivian Lopez and Alice Albright, respective leaders of the SUN Movement, Sanitation and Water for All, Every Woman Every Child and the Global Partnership on Education, came together to raise their [voices](#) for the inextricable links between education, health and hygiene, as countries around the world were pondering whether or not to reopen schools.
- UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO have issued a [call to action](#) on all national governments and development partners to advance an equitable, inclusive and progressive approach to education that includes comprehensive, integrated school health and nutrition programmes, so as to ensure all children and young people have the required conditions to learn and thrive and contribute meaningfully to the development of sustainable and healthy future of their communities and countries.
 - In **Tajikistan**, as part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Food Programme (WFP) has provided one-off take-home food rations to 24,000 vulnerable families, whose children benefit from this [school feeding programme](#).
 - **AUDA-NEPAD** aims to scale up [homegrown school feeding programmes](#) in Africa, and this has become a flagship of AUDA's Food and Nutrition Security programme. It takes a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition, looking at poverty reduction, improving school enrolment, income generation, adding value to local production, enhancing basic service delivery, and adding value to local production.

” I make the commitment that the SUN Movement will do everything to break the silos between systems – between the system of climate, food and agriculture and health. They all need to come together. And wherever we go and whatever the SUN Movement will do in the near future we will invite all the partners to work together in order to make this world a better place and to invest in people.

*Gerda Verburg,
SUN Coordinator*

NOURISHING PEOPLE AND PLANET TOGETHER: SUN RISES AT COP25

Food production and water and sanitation environments are disturbed in many parts of the world, affecting people's food security and disease patterns, and compromising the world's ability to meet the nutritional needs of its growing population. These impacts are hitting many SUN countries hard, where poverty, chronic malnutrition and sometimes conflict are tremendous challenges, affecting people's resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change effects – all creating the conditions for a 'perfect storm'.

FACTS AND FIGURES

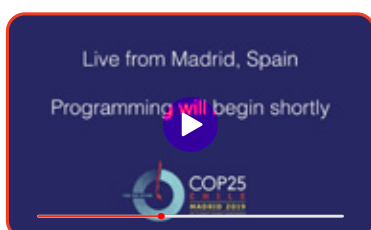
- Our human footprint is driving one million species to extinction, threatening ecosystems that support nutrition for hundreds of millions of people.
- The effects of climate change are now happening at an unprecedented scale and frequency.
- There is growing evidence suggesting that already water-scarce areas are becoming even drier and hotter.



2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

In December 2019, and for the first time, the SUN Movement took part in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at COP25. The Conference aimed to ensure the next crucial steps in the UN climate change process.

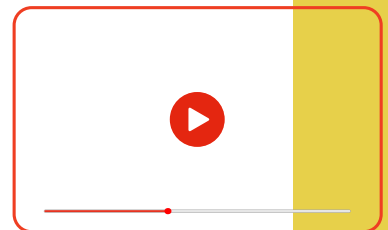
- During COP25, the SUN Movement organised a [side event](#), entitled Scaling Up Nutrition in the face of a changing climate in small island developing state. The event, co-hosted by the Government of Fiji, included a broad range of speakers, while SUN Coordinator Gerda Verburg spurred a vibrant exchange on the importance of nutrition in climate change discussions. Several speakers pointed to the fact that climate change is affecting all forms of malnutrition, including overweight and obesity, as well as micronutrient deficiencies. Stemming this will require profound food system transformations towards resilience and to deliver nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets for all, within planetary boundaries – a key objective of the upcoming 2021 [Food Systems Summit](#).





TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS THAT SUSTAINABLY SUPPORT NUTRITION

For the ambitious 2021 [Nutrition Year of Action](#), it is critical to recognise that there is no one-size-fits-all food systems solution for SUN countries. Dialogue is needed, across multiple sectors, to reach a convergence of perspectives and develop a collective, systemic, and sustainable path forward.



FACTS AND FIGURES

- Despite a 300% increase in global food production since the mid-1960s, over [821 million people are hungry](#).
- In parallel, the world is seeing [record levels of overweight and obesity](#) among adults (39%), with trends increasing, also in low-and-middle-income countries.
- Malnutrition in all its forms is now the number one factor contributing to the global burden of disease and reduced life expectancy.
- Food systems contribute up to [30% of all greenhouse gas](#) (GHG) emissions, including 44% of methane, significantly contributing to climate change.
- Agriculture is also responsible for up to 80% of biodiversity loss and consumes 70% of all freshwater resources available for human use.
- [One-third of all food produced](#) is either lost or wasted. If “food waste” was a country, it would be the third largest emitter of climate pollution in the world, just after China and the United States.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2019-2020, the SUN Movement worked, through its Focal Points in countries and alongside the global support systems and other partners, to support [Food Systems Summit Dialogues](#) and align behind country-owned solutions for results and impact.
- The SUN Movement has been very involved in mobilising nutrition commitments for the [Nutrition for Growth Summit](#).



YOUTH RISING: SCALING UP NUTRITION LEADERSHIP

Supporting the empowerment of young women and men, also those from countries facing high rates of malnutrition, and equipping them with the skills they need to advocate for an end to malnutrition in their own communities and globally is essential for lasting success. This is also shown in the SUN Movement strategy for 2021-2025.

FACTS AND FIGURES

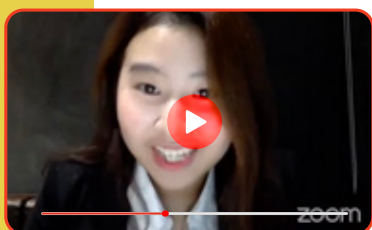
- The SUN Civil Society Network Youth Leaders for Nutrition group (#YL4N) includes 13 youth leaders, most of whom from SUN member States.
- These champions engage locally and globally, in high-level events and forums all over the world, including the UN General Assembly.
- 12 Youth Leaders for Nutrition took part in the 2019 SUN Movement Global Gathering, where they played active roles as speakers, panellists and discussants in plenary sessions and workshops.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2020, the SUN Movement Secretariat, in collaboration with the [SUN Civil Society Network](#) (CSN) and the [Youth Leaders for Nutrition \(YL4N\) group](#), worked hard to ensure youth voices were amplified and heard during the consultation aiming to define the SUN strategy for the third phase of the Movement. The SUN Movement has committed to integrate and strengthen youth engagement, throughout, also across its governance structures. Planning has started to ensure we deliver on those commitments.
- 2020 also saw strengthened collaboration with Lead Group member Sophie Healy-Thow, which resulted in establishing a youth-led SUN Movement [Food Systems Summit](#) Youth Coalition. This group consists of youth and young professionals from across the wider SUN Movement. One member, Mike Khunga, was nominated as the Vice Chair of [Action Track 5](#) – which looks at resilience – of the Food Systems Summit, and has [spoken up and out](#) for the role of young people to 'build forward' better from crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coalition also scaled up work with key influential youth networks including [One Young World](#) (WEF), [UN Major Group for Children and Youth](#) (UN MGCY), [Youth Alliance for Zero Hunger](#) and the [Food Foundation](#).
- To mark 2020 World Food Day, a youth-led [webinar](#) was hosted by the #YL4N, organised in the same spirit that embodies the Youth Leaders for Nutrition programme – for youth, by youth.



Learn more on [page 8](#).



SUSTAINING NUTRITION FUNDING DURING AND BEYOND COVID-19

Resource mobilisation is not a new challenge and is frequently flagged as a key SUN country priority. The [COVID-19 pandemic](#) and the postponement of national and international fundraising opportunities, such as the 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit, have exacerbated resource mobilisation challenges faced by SUN countries in the implementation of their national development plans – but also their multi-sectoral national nutrition plans.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- In 2020, 50% of the 50 SUN countries who did the Joint-Assessment identified resource mobilisation as one of their main priorities for the upcoming year. 75% of these countries are in the two African SUN regions.
- Before the COVID-19 pandemic, at least 6 SUN countries across Africa and Asia were preparing their financing roundtables to secure domestic and international investment in nutrition.



2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- MQSUN+ and the SUN Movement Secretariat developed a [toolkit](#), which includes a nutrition financing gap analysis tool, key advocacy/communication tools, and tactics for resource mobilisation. This guidance, published in December 2020, will help further strengthen SUN countries' expertise and capacity on nutrition financing.
- In 2019-2020, the SUN Movement and its partners provided support to SUN countries in their nutrition integration into emergency responses and recovery efforts, including national funding appeals. [Most donors and development agencies](#) have channelled a significant portion of their response to the coronavirus through the United Nations, the World Bank and non-governmental organisations implementing or delivering potential nutrition-related projects or services in countries.
- The SUN Movement has strongly urged all in-country stakeholders to harness existing [nutrition-related financing partnerships/mechanisms](#), such as World Bank Human Capital Project, the [Global Financing Facility](#), the [Power of Nutrition](#), the [Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme](#) and [UNITLIFE](#).
- Tracking national nutrition programmes and projects, within emergency responses to COVID-19, is challenging. Despite progress made over the past decade in monitoring funding for nutrition, data and tool gaps limit the ability to track nutrition-sensitive investments, globally.
 - In **Mauritania**, the Government has made nutrition a national priority, as part of its multi-sectoral response plan against COVID-19. This was made possible through multi-partner advocacy efforts following the SUN Coordinator's visit in March 2020. By the end of July 2020, 55 per cent of the amount needed to finance the response plan was mobilised. At an estimated overall cost of USD 646 million, 20 per cent comes from the state budget and 35 per cent from multilateral contributions, including budget support. Development partners, members or partners of the SUN Movement have been approached to bridge the financing gap, with some already expressing their commitment and support. Learn more on [page 6](#).

Go to: www.scalingupnutrition.org/progress for more.



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