**24th SUN Movement Country Network Meeting – September 2016**

**Wednesday, 7th September 2016 at 09:00 hrs Central European Time**

**13:30 in Myanmar]**

**To SUN Movement Government Focal Points** **and members of the SUN Country Network**

* Will be chaired by new **SUN Movement Coordinator** **Ms. Gerda Verburg. She is looking forward to engaging dialogue with all of you to appreciate success, lessons and challenges to scale up nutrition in your country.**
* Thematic discussion of the meeting  will focus on
  + **Successes, lessons and challenges in aligning multiple stakeholders behind national nutrition priorities**
* The teleconference will start with the **discussions with each country** reflecting upon the guiding questions below: (for more information, please refer to the attached Guidance Note)

**OVERVIEW - ALLIGNING MULTI-STAKEHOLLDERS BEHIND NATIONALNUTRITION PRIORITIES**

**GUIDED QUESTIONS**

1. **How is the alignment of ..**
   * + civil society,
     + business,
     + United N ations Agencies,
     + academics, media and/or parliamentarians

-- made integral to enhancing nutrition efforts in your country? What process, mechanism or forum is used to ensure their alignment on national priorities?

**DISCUSSION**

* Core Nutrition Actions - CNAs as national priorities are in process of consultation across networks – and across sectoral-ministries. A successful SUN MSP workshop was held on August 12 in which many sectors of government discussed and agreed 20 CNAs across the dimensions of food, health and care, to be prioritized for the SUN PMT (Stakeholder and Coverage Mapping) as part of a national nutrition stock taking, supported by the UN Network.Consequently Common Result Framework (aligned programming) still not established yet.
* However there are visible developments in the process -
  + - SUN Multi-Stakeholders Platform-MSP has been formed and well organized under SUN Country Focal (Government) with four engaging networks; Government, UNNW, CSA, Donors; one exception – Business and/or private NW which would include academia and technical/professional organizations is not yet been formed
    - Business/private NW, although not officially formed, has been invited, shared information and participating as individual organizations in all MSP meetings (six times since Myanmar SUN in May 2013)
* Work Plan of MSP which has been endorsed in MSP-5 in March 2016, follows the four strategic processes of SUN movement, and includes” Common Results Framework for National Nutrition Plan (aligned programming)”
* **Role and Responsibility of Stakeholder networks in Myanmar SUN-MSP includes**
  + Aligning each network’s in-country and international policies and actions in response to country needs for SUN
  + Establishing of each network’s priorities that will have the greatest impact on nutritional outcomes accordingly with agreed Common Result Framework
* CSA has established its own Work Plan and TOR; shared in MSP
* Donors and CSA - Integration of nutrition into food security and livelihood programs; Leveraging Essential Nutrition Actions to Reduce Malnutrition (LEARN) program, funded by Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT)
* UN Network for Nutrition and Food Security / UN REACH was formalized in January 2016, and includes FAP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS (for LIFT and 3MDG projects), UN Women, WFP and WHO and acts as the UN Network for SUN, facilitated by REACH. A rotating Chair was nominated – for 2016, it is the Country Representative of WFP. Heads of Agencies meet every 3 months, and Technical Leads and LIFT/3MDG multidonor trust fund managers meet every month, facilitated by REACH. Our focus is alignment with national priorities, as well as being informed by the SUN Road Map. We have recently recruited a Nutrition Advocacy Consultant – her TOR was closely based on the SUN SMAC Road Map. In May, we held a Nutrition Retreat involving 6 agencies, the RC’s office and the World Bank, with 55 participants to improve our joint understanding of multisectoral nutrition approaches and strengthen UN coherence and alignment around nutrition in support of the SDGs and to prepare for the UNDAF. We have also drafted a UN Inventory of Nutrition Actions, involving 5 agencies, to map our current activities to feed into our discussions for UNDAF on how we are best aligning with national priorities and needs.
* Yangon-based UN, Donor and CS Networks are also now meeting regularly (monthly) to discuss our alignment and supportGovernment is also informed and invited, if available in Yangon.
* National Nutrition Stock Taking – has been started, supported by UNNW with stakeholders consultation. That will provide information to be used in development of CRF-national priorities- to which all networks will need to align
* However, even with the finalization of Core Nutrition Action and development of CRF being still in process, partners alignment of national priorities in evidence based programming of nutrition specific actions – aligning with coverage, complementing (eg IEC in Nutrition Promotion Month activities, monitoring BMS order violation etc)

1. **How is the alignment of the multiple stakeholders assessed in your country?**

**DISCUSSION**

* By regular mechanism**- Multi-stakeholders Platform**
  + Annual multi-stakeholders’ self-assessment workshops of SUN-MSP
  + Reviewed in ,onthly meeting of UNNW, CSA and Donors
  + Reviewed in regular meetings of each NW:-CSA and UNNW – internal meetings for multisectoral alignment
  + Regular meeting of Donors; Nutrition is on the agenda of the LIFT and 3MDG Trust Fund Board meetings, although separate meetings for nutrition have not been conducted.
  + SUN MSP has formed Task Teams, each of which is assigned to regularly monitor the progress of SUN movement work plan focused on alignment of policies, programs and financing in each network as well as with country’s priorities. However, these are yet to meet.
* By occasions:-
  + Events especially in (already identified evidence based) nutrition-specific interventions – multi-stakeholders consultation such as
    - IYCF strategy formulation
    - Law enforcement of BMS order – monitoring violation by CSA
    - IEC activities and complementary support by UN and NGOs
  + Report dissemination: LEARN 2016

1. **What are the challenges faced in your country in aligning specific actors behind national priorities? How are they tackled?**
2. **DISCUSSION - Challenges**

* National priorities – thus the common Result Framework - especially for nutrition-sensitive interventions – were in the process of developing and aligning across Government’s sectoral-ministries when the new Government took over; Advocacy efforts are needed for new government to re-establish high level coordination body to enhance SUN functioning.
* Nutrition Stock Taking is in the initial stage and it will provide information required for development of Common Result Framework which all stakeholders are to align with.
  + Also the DHS survey results, to be out before end of the year can prvide information for CRF development
* SUN Multi-stakeholders Platform has formed its Task Teams each of which are assign to regularly monitor the progress of SUN movement work plan which includes alignment of policies, programs and financing in each network as well as with country’s priorities
* Multi-sectoral coordination mechanism for nutrition need to be placed at higher level for effective coordination across sectoral ministeries
* Need of awareness among actors and decision makers alike, the importance of nutrition to be integrated into nutrition-sensitive actions such as food security and livelihood
* It is equally important for community awareness of linkage between nutrition and other sectors; example – current school curriculum stated about nutrition, food diversification; link between food security, livelihood and also education and development should also be make aware

My alternative suggestion for this section is as follows:

* In the absence of a National Nutrition Policy, or nutrition strongly featuring in other policies, and no current multisectoral action plan and CRF for nutrition (though the health sectoral plan still exists though its timeline ended in 2015, and the Zero Draft of the MNAPFNS response to the ZHC is still under discussion in government), it is a challenge how to “align with national priorities”. So our main effort is to advocate for these to be finalized / decisions to be made. The national stock taking now underway will provide new opportunities to influence that decision making in government, and the next DHS results out soon will also help focus attention and guide prioritization and alignment.
* It may be time to initiate a conversation with the new government about a higher level Focal Point and/or a high level home for a multisectoral coordination mechanism for nutrition, perhaps under VP level, or a Ministry such as Finance and National Planning that has convening power over the implementing sectoral Ministries, which has proved effective in other countries.
* We also still lack a visible champion for nutrition at high level
* We have not yet been able to influence the negotiations around the national budget for increasing allocation to nutrition. The next cycle begins in October and we need to consider how best to influence the new government on this, maybe through the World Bank and the UN Network requesting a meeting with VP2 or Minister of Finance and National Planning on nutrition following on from the recent launch of the National Economic Policy in which nutrition did not feature strongly.
* There are only one or two donors (DfID, EU) regularly participating in the SUN MSP. Donors are not yet formed into a SUN Network that convenes regularly and specifically to address the wider issues of government progress and capacity to plan, coordinate, monitor, cost/budget and mobilise for multisectoral and multistakeholder nutrition at national and sub-national levels through government systems. However, many donors do meet to discuss progress on their funded implementation projects (LIFT and 3MDG) which does provide opportunities to raise nutrition.
* The multiple UN initiatives (SUN, REACH, ZHC, SDGs etc) have contributed to confusion about the nature of UN supports among stakeholders at national level, and it has been difficult to articulate particularly at a time of intense change over
* This time of change is also challenging for civil society stakeholders looking for new opportunities to be more visible and assert their contribution to advocacy, mobilizing communities around nutrition, and holding government to account on commitments made.
* The low level of nutrition awareness in the non-health sectors, among policy makers and practitioners, is a continuing challenge and needs to be addressed. They need to realise the importance of integrating nutrition into nutrition-sensitive actions such as food security, livelihoods, WASH, education, social protection etc. It is equally important for community awareness of linkages between nutrition and other sectors to be enhanced (for example, current school curriculum to cover nutrition, food diversification; and awareness raising among farmers groups in agriculture).

1. **How can the SUN Movement support efforts towards better alignment of actors behind national priorities? How can the SDGs help guide and reinforce the alignment of sectors and actors behind national nutrition priorities?**

**DISCUSSION**

* We are using Multi-stakeholders Platform as guided by strategic process number one of SUN Movement for better alignment of actors behind national priorities as well as for development of all-agreed national priorities (CRF)
* SDG 2 aspires directly on nutrition; ‘end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture’; 12 of the 17 SDGs contain indicators that are highly relevant to nutritionThose SDGs guide in developing core nutrition actions and Common Result Framework for the country
* SDG 17 emphasises partnership so that is a key process for us as we continue to strengthen the SUN MSP. Practicing SUN-MS approach means implementing SDG17 “*revitalizing the global partnerships for sustainable development”*