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Standing Committee on
Nutrition



UN Regional Nutrition Meeting Asia Pacific

Strengthening UN Joint Country Support for Improved Nutrition

Bangkok, Thailand, 29-30 June 2015

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Contents

Executive Summary.....	4
1- Opening Session.....	8
2- Outcomes of the 2nd International Conference On Nutrition (ICN2) and its Relevance for UN Agencies Regional and Country Level Support to National Governments	11
3- Regional Perspective: How UN Agencies Collaboratively Support Governments in Implementing ICN2 Outcomes.....	14
4- Division Of Labour And Complementarities of UN System Agencies in Nutrition.....	17
5- The UNDAF as a Tool for Programming and other Collaborative Actions of UN Agencies at Country Level.....	20
6- The Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement.....	24
7- Needs and Expectations from Countries towards the UN Network for Optimal Support	28
8- UN Better Working Together in the Post-2015 Era	30
9- Strengthening UN Network for SUN in Countries of the Asia and Pacific Region.....	33
10- Key Outcomes of the Meeting and Next Steps	36
11- Closing Remarks	38
Annex.....	39

This meeting report aims to capture the key issues discussed and the way forward agreed upon during the UN Regional Nutrition Meeting Asia Pacific that took place in Bangkok, 29-30 June 2015. For a complete account of the meeting’s concept paper, agenda, presentations and photos, please refer to the [UNSCN website](#).

List of Acronyms

DaO	UN Delivery as One
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NNFSS	National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat
NCD	Non-communicable disease
EU	European Union
REACH	Renewed Effort for Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
SAM	Severe acute malnutrition
HLTF	High Level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security
ICN2	Second International Conference on Nutrition
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
UN	United Nations
UN HQs	United Nations Headquarters
UNSCN	United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition
UNGNA	United Nations Global Nutrition Agenda
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	US Agency for International Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
ZHC	Zero Hunger Challenge
WHO	World Health Organization
WHA	World Health Assembly
WPRO	West Pacific Regional Office
WFP	World Food Programme

Executive Summary

The UN Regional Nutrition Meeting Asia and the Pacific entitled “Strengthening UN joint country support for improved nutrition programming” took place in Bangkok, Thailand, 29-30 June 2015, organized by the UNSCN Secretariat and the UN Network for SUN Secretariat, in close collaboration with FAO, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, and IFAD; and funded by the German Government.

The UN system plays a key role in collectively supporting the process to scale up nutrition in countries. The meeting aimed at strengthening the joint support provided by UN agencies to countries for improved nutrition policies and programming, including nutrition-sensitive development and nutrition-specific actions. Specifically, building a common understanding among UN country team members about the UN nutrition priorities, based on the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), and the new directions of the SUN Movement were focused on. The meeting provided better guidance to UN country teams on ways to strengthen their joint support to national governments for improved nutrition programming. This happened through providing a forum for sharing experiences and lessons learned from UN joint programming in support of national priorities with view to maximizing impact on nutrition. UN country team support on the follow up actions of national governments on the commitments and recommendations of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in line with national priorities in the nutrition plans and strategies were discussed; as well as the need for better guidance to UN country teams on how to engage other sectors and actors from the wider UN family in scaling up nutrition at country level, including ensuring that sectoral plans effectively build-in nutrition outcomes from the onset.

The meeting brought together 112 participants: including 60 staff from UN regional and country teams working on nutrition from nine UN agencies and bodies working in 15 countries in the Asia and the Pacific region; 18 national government representatives from 12 countries from which most are SUN countries; donor representatives from Germany, EU Delegation, USAID and World Bank; and representatives from civil society organizations; as well as global partners including UN HQs and SUN Movement Secretariat.

Day 1 presented the burden of malnutrition in the region, discussed the outcomes of ICN2 from global, regional and country perspectives; the UN Global Nutrition Agenda was launched and linked to the ICN2 outcomes follow up by national governments and the division of labour and complementarities among UN agencies that come together in collaborative and joint actions at country level in support of governments priorities; related tools like the UNDAF and relevant guiding notes on NCD were addressed.

Day 2 discussed the latest developments of the SUN Movement and strengthening of the UN Network for SUN for optimal country support and better working together of the UN in the post-2015 era. Overall, a discussion has started that needs to be continuously nurtured and the follow up of the identified and agreed next steps is essential with this regard.

One focus of the meeting was discussing the ICN2 outcomes and this in the context of major intergovernmental and UN lead initiatives, related structures and tools for UN joint

action in support of government priorities at country level to fight malnutrition and food insecurity. At the ICN2 governments at the highest level acknowledged the multiple burdens of malnutrition and made a political commitment to improve the nutrition situation in their country and worldwide. The Framework For Action provides a broad menu of actions in 22 policy and program areas for guidance on possible action areas to do so. This addresses problems of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies as well as overweight and obesity that are linked to the problem of hunger and food insecurity in the world.

In a way the ICN2 embraces other intergovernmental and UN lead initiatives that aim at improving nutrition and combating malnutrition in its various forms at country level. This includes also the fight against hunger and food insecurity, as these are elements of the nutrition security concept. As such, the SUN Movement as well as the UNSG Zero Hunger Challenge initiative find a place under this global umbrella of the ICN2 and constitute different entry points for countries to combat malnutrition and food insecurity. These offer different models for different group of countries worldwide to engage in the course.

The role of the UN agencies is further defined by the UN Global Nutrition Agenda (developed by the senior technical directors in nutrition from the five main agencies with mandate in nutrition). In a number of countries, notably the SUN participating countries, the UN Network for SUN is the umbrella for increased joint support to countries. The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is one of the tools for the UN to better work together and jointly support the government in its development priorities.

Key outcomes of the meeting include the following:

- Clarity of purpose and clarity of language within and among UN agencies.
 - With regard to coordination among UN agencies, there needs to be more clarity from UN HQ and regional offices, and each country needs to coordinate actions based on the specific context of the country (identify what already exists in the country and what the strengths and weaknesses are).
 - UN agencies need to provide clear guidance and speak with one voice to country offices on how to coordinate and harmonize different nutrition ‘calls to action’. Specifically, at country level, there needs to be clarity between ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action, Zero Hunger Challenge, and SUN Movement. The Zero Hunger Challenge and SUN Movement originate from the UN Secretary General while ICN2 outcomes are the commitments adopted by the UN Member States. These ‘calls to action’ should not compete, but be regarded as different entry points to prioritize nutrition actions at the country level.
 - There is a need to improve the flow of communication on nutrition from UN HQ to regional to country level. Both horizontal and vertical communications need to improve. Country teams want to be better informed about new developments at all levels.
- Political commitment of national governments:
 - There is a need for strong political commitment at the highest levels of government, resulting in program ownership, which will in turn translate in

mobilization of domestic resources for nutrition. Some countries have shown this commitment in their presentations.

- The commitments and recommendations of the ICN2 outcomes are of voluntary nature. Each country will decide which commitments to focus on depending on the local context.
- Inlusiveness and broad engagement of stakeholders:
 - Nutrition needs a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach. Therefore it is necessary to include private sector, academia, civil society and UN partners all together under the leadership of the national government.
- Complementarity and reinforcement
 - It is important to highlight the comparative advantage of each agency.
 - Different country teams have mentioned the importance of developing a common narrative for all UN agencies in a country for harmonizing advocacy messages on nutrition. This should address all forms of malnutrition, including overweight and obesity.
 - It is important to leverage synergies, based on value added from each UN agency. Service delivery can be improved by UN agencies targeting similar geographic areas, increasing convergence and harmonization.
- Accountability and measuring progress
 - The UN agencies play an important role in holding countries accountable for their commitments. Governments are accountable to their communities and to the UN, and the UN is accountable to the national Government.
 - The UN agencies have a role to play in assisting Governments to measure progress, through appropriate M&E systems.
- Country success stories and knowledge sharing:
 - There are a lot of success stories and good practices to be learnt from countries. They need to be documented, shared and widely disseminated among UN agencies and country governments with a view to learn and possibly adapt to the country context where relevant.
- Capacity of UN staff at country level in nutrition.
 - It is important to build strong capacity among UN staff in nutrition for better coordination and advocacy including communication on UN nutrition calls to action, as part of a long-term human resource development plan.
 - UN agencies can offer technical assistance to governments in all relevant areas, including conducting national situational and policy analysis, functional and technical capacity building; M&E: information systems; advising on policy formulation; mapping exercises; etc.

Next steps and way forward:

- Develop and disseminate a clear communication on the ICN2/the UNSG's ZHC / SUN Movement/ the UNGNA by UNSCN/UN network for SUN - September 2015.
- Send a communication from the UN Nutrition Directors (5 main agencies) to countries regarding the UN Network for SUN, its Secretariat and workplan- July 2015.
- Develop coherent accountability instruments (for ICN2 follow up, UN network for SUN actions etc.) by the UN agencies – December 2015.
- Document and disseminate best practices– by SCN and/or its agencies

- Finalize and endorse by agencies the Compendium of Nutrition Actions – October 2015.
- Finalise inventory tools, agenda/strategy and dashboard based on UN country experience in Asia Pacific (volunteers sought) and support countries to implement, by Countries UN network for SUN.
- Support countries to develop a UN common agenda/narrative to explain how the UN is working as one at country level to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms – inventory, roles and responsibilities, by UN network for SUN in country - 2015/2016.
- Focus on improved coordinated UN programming – UN teams in country
- Engage other UN agencies active in nutrition but not yet involved (e.g. UNFPA) in the work by the UN Network for SUN– UN team in country

I. Opening Session

Welcome Address

In his welcome address, *Dr. Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific*, noted that the Asia and Pacific region as a whole is achieving the Millennium Development Goal's (MDG) hunger target and the largest reduction in the number of undernourished people (236 million) of any region of the world. Despite this remarkable progress especially in Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia, there are still wide disparities and 490 million people continue suffering from chronic hunger in the region. At the same time excessive energy intake resulting in overweight, obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases are rapidly rising in many countries.

He referred to the challenges ahead in terms of population growth, income growth and increased urbanization that together port a growing and diversified consumer demand for diversified foods. Together these factors mean that global food demand is estimated to increase between 50 - 70 per cent by 2050. He further referred to the challenges this implies, The challenge is not only to produce more food from the increasingly limited natural resources, but also to ensure access to safe and nutritious food to meet dietary needs of people. This necessitates sound policies and institutional and technological innovations.

Dr. Konuma referred to the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) that address these challenges, highlighting the importance of coordinated actions among different actors and sectors at international, regional, national and community levels through cross-cutting and coherent policies and programmes to address the burden of malnutrition in all its forms and promote sustainable food systems. He underlined that addressing malnutrition requires integrated actions across sectors such as agriculture and the food system, public health, education and social protection. There is a need for wider implementation of effective, sustainable and long-term nutrition-specific as well as nutrition-sensitive approaches that give attention to adequate quantity and quality of food in terms of variety, diversity, nutrient content and safety of food, as well as improved health condition.

Finally, he recognized the importance of the UN system working together more effectively in order to support national governments in developing, strengthening and implementing their plans, policies and programmes.

Quotes from the Welcome Session

“We are facing big challenges and uncertainties... We are expected to bring our commitment for improved nutrition we need to improve collaborative work, starting with the UN agencies. We need to work together and create teamwork, maximizing the UN agencies’ strengths. This is a good opportunity to work together. I sincerely hope this gathering will create such momentum.”

Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, FAO, in his opening address

“It’s not just a slogan that hunger can be eliminated in our lifetime. It is possible. Not easy, but possible.”

Prof M.S. Swaminathan, in his opening remarks of day 2

“The document from the ICN2 provides guidance and inspiration to work together... The Nutrition agenda is a global agenda. All countries are affected by one or several forms of malnutrition. The UN is committed to reduce all forms of malnutrition and it needs to continue its role as enabler. There is a need to respond in a coordinated and optimally aligned efficient way, while respecting agencies’ leadership roles. We also need to bring nutrition more vigorously in the food security agenda.”

Francesco Branca, UNSCN Executive Secretary a.i., in his welcome address.

“Even though there have been so many positive results in nutrition over the last years, there is no room for complacency. Unless we work together, the promise of accelerating the reduction of malnutrition won’t be realized. Each of us here has responsibilities. I get impatient with grant declarations that don’t mean anything at the end of the day. They need to be translated into practical actions”

Tom Arnold, Coordinator a.i. SUN Movement, in his welcome address

Burden and Trends of Malnutrition in Asia Pacific

Ms. Christiane Rudert, Regional Nutrition Advisor UNICEF, presented the latest estimates and trends of malnutrition in the Asia and Pacific Region. She explained that despite considerable improvements over the past 2 decades, stunting and wasting in children under five years of age remain very high both in terms of total numbers and percentage despite economic growth in many countries and improvements in health related indicators.

She summarized that almost two thirds of all stunted children in the world live in the Asia and Pacific region (91 million children out of 161 million in total), with particularly high rates of stunting in South Asia, where most countries still show a prevalence above 20 percent . In total numbers, India has the largest burden by far (with 39 percent and 49 million children under five).

She then explained that with regard to acute malnutrition, two thirds of all wasted and underweight children (under five years old) in the world live in Asia Pacific, with almost 24 million severely wasted children living in only six countries in South Asia: India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. In the same countries, the coverage of treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was estimated at only 1.4 percent in 2013.

Furthermore, she explained that some parts of the region show rising trends in overweight in children under five, with rates of 5.9 percent child overweight in South Asia and 8.8 percent in East Asia and Pacific (in 2013). Overweight and obesity is a growing problem in the adult population. There are great disparities between urban and rural areas; and many countries do not yet reach the nutrition target set for child overweight at the World Health Assembly. In fact most of the countries are off track with regard to several of the globally agreed nutrition targets.

Finally she emphasized that increased resources and commitments for accelerating scale-up of institutionalized nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions that are based on the context specific determinants of malnutrition in each country are needed.

Nutritional Risk Factors of NCDs in the Asia Pacific Region

Mr. James Rarick, Technical Officer NCD from WHO Cambodia, addressed the economic and human impact the NCD epidemic has in this region and stated that in the Pacific Islands, health ministers have declared NCDs as a crisis that puts a huge burden on families. Often, treatment costs exceed 25% of the household income. He explained that, although the prevalence rates are lower in Asian countries compared to the Pacific countries, there is a steady increase in adult overweight in the entire region. He described further that obesity is one of the main risk factor for NCDs requiring a comprehensive intervention strategy rolled out at scale. Worldwide, more than 2.1 billion people - nearly 30 percent of the global population—are overweight or obese. That’s nearly two and a half times the number of people who are undernourished.

He explained the major causes lie in the changes in lifestyle and diet, and rapid urbanization. He addressed the role of nutrition in this epidemic by illustrating the consumption of a high sodium diet as one dietary risk factor. More sedentary lifestyles with major changes in our food systems lead to unsustainable and distorted eating systems where we have constant easy access to sugar, fat, salt and calorie-rich and nutrient-poor foods. He also referred to the role of trade agreements in these developments.

Mr. Rarick concluded by underlining that the efforts to prevent non-communicable diseases go against the business interests of powerful economic operators. He stated that it is not just ‘Big Tobacco’ anymore, but public health must also contend with ‘Big Food’, ‘Big Soda’, and ‘Big Alcohol’. Industries fear regulations, and have an interest to protect themselves. In the multisectoral work to fight against the NCD epidemic it is important to go beyond the health sector and to create awareness and engage with all relevant sectors.

II. Outcomes of the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and its Relevance for UN agencies Regional and Country Level Support to Governments

Dr. Anna Lartey, Director of Nutrition Division of FAO, jointly with Dr. Francesco Branca, Director of Nutrition Division in WHO, presented the outcomes of the ICN2 starting by explaining that these unacceptably high and persistent levels of malnutrition led to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). They said that the ICN2 took place in November 2014 in Rome with the theme “Better Nutrition, Better Lives”, and explained that two main outcome documents¹, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, were endorsed at the conference by Member States and that world leaders committed to establishing and strengthening national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition in all its forms, including hunger, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight and obesity by transforming food systems to make diversified and healthy diets available to all.

In the Rome Declaration on Nutrition it enshrines the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food and commits governments to preventing malnutrition in all its forms. The Framework for Action provides a set of policy options and strategies which governments, acting in cooperation with other stakeholders, may incorporate, as appropriate into their national nutrition, health, agriculture, development and investment plans, and consider in negotiating international agreements to improve nutrition in all sectors.

The speakers underlined that Governments have the primary responsibility to take action, in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders, including the UN system. The Rome Declaration will be of great value to mobilize focused, concerted, coordinated and complementary national and international support. It will also facilitate the articulation of a common vision and a multi-sectoral approach and an accountability framework to address all forms of malnutrition. Both speakers emphasized that the ICN2 is not an end in itself but part of a continuing process to fight malnutrition. Both the 68th World Health Assembly in May and the 39th session of FAO’s Conference in June 2015 endorsed the ICN2 outcome documents and urged Member States to implement the commitments and recommendations.

They explained that the Director Generals of FAO and WHO requested the UN Secretary-General for the UN General Assembly to endorse the outcome documents as well and consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025. Dr. Lartey elaborated on the Establishment of the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund by FAO that will support governments in transforming the ICN2 commitments and recommendations into

¹ www.fao.org/ICN2 ; [www.who.int/nutrition/topics/WHO FAO announce ICN2/en/](http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/WHO_FAO_announce_ICN2/en/)

concrete actions from 2016 to 2025. Dr. Branca explained that WHO is committed to further provide technical assistance to Member States and supporting the engagement of other sectors than health in country nutrition plans. An accountability framework will be developed and a process of regularly reporting progress on the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference to Member State bodies. Both speakers underlined the ICN2 process and its contribution to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Finally Dr. Branca explained the relevance of a Decade of Action on Nutrition in catalyzing sustained momentum needed at national and global levels to address all forms of malnutrition to ensure good nutrition for all, and that this decade will provide a platform for countries and their national commitments to nutrition.

“ICN2 is a space to address nutrition problems and challenges and an opportunity to align efforts. Bringing together the health sector and agricultural sector has been a big challenge....Bringing all of us [UN system] together is very important”
Anna Lartey, Director Nutrition FAO

“The idea of the ‘Decade of Action’ is to be very concrete about the implementation of the ICN2 recommendations and commitments. The Decade of Action is a space, is a time that we have given to ourselves to catalyze sustained momentum. We need it for addressing the nutrition challenges and to ensure good nutrition for all. It is a space to put together the national commitments to address all forms of malnutrition. It is an opportunity to align our efforts, from the countries and from the different actors... This is an opportunity to articulate common visions, multisectoral approaches, to agree on a sense of common policy to scale up.”
Dr. Francesco Branca, UNSCN Executive Secretary a.i and Nutrition Director WHO

Perspectives from UN Member States Government Representatives

Thailand - *Dr. Napaphan Viriyautsahakul, Director of Bureau of Nutrition for the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand*, explained that in Thailand, the outcomes of the ICN2 were reported to the Cabinet by the Public Health Minister and the outcome documents were distributed to all relevant agencies for their commitments and that the way forward will be discussed in the forthcoming meeting of the National Food Committee in August 2015.

She stated that Thailand has successfully alleviated maternal and child malnutrition since the 1980s by fostering multi-sectoral efforts from the central government to the community level, with actions being implemented at the community level by local population trained as village health volunteers. Now, Thailand has become an upper middle-income country since 2012. Like many other countries, Thailand is currently facing the period of nutritional, economic and demographic transitions, most strikingly, a growing elderly population, urbanization and international food trade. These new challenges to Thailand are manifested in the double-burden of malnutrition, the coexistence of undernutrition and overweight, obesity, and an increase in noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). She noted that

tackling this nutrition challenges could not be succeeded if the health sector works alone. It needs multi-sectoral collaboration, and coherence between food supply and public health policies.

Dr. Viriyautsahakul referred to the National Food Committee Act promulgated in Thailand in 2008. The act aims to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of food management, and to achieve food security through sustainable food production and the supply of high quality, safe foods for the nutrition and health of Thais as well as for food trade. Finally she reiterated that Thailand strongly commits to proactively achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and is ready to work collaboratively at international and regional levels to share experience and scale up proven interventions.

Federal Republic of Germany - Dr *Hanns-Christoph Eiden, President of the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Germany*, stated that, by adopting the Rome Declaration and the Framework for Action, Member States committed themselves to emphatic action in a broad scope of areas. They aimed high and should not fall short of their goals.

He stressed that nutrition is on the agenda also in other parts of the world outside Asia Pacific, such as in Germany, as illustrated by the wide spectrum of measures the German government takes at both national and international levels. It is precisely for that reason that the G7 summit in Elmau, on June 7 and 8 2015 focused on food and nutrition security as a central field of action. He explained that a large number of countries around the globe are affected in a similar way as Germany by overweight, obesity, lack of exercise and the diseases they induce.

Half of all women and over 67 percent of men in Germany are overweight while every one in five citizens is considered obese. To tackle this problem, the National Action Plan for more exercises and better nutrition, INFORM, was initiated in 2008 already as a joint initiative by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Federal Ministry of Health. In order to achieve its objectives, the programme counts on people's own initiative, detailed consumer information, sustainable structures and on networks among stakeholders and projects.

He then encouraged the sharing of experiences across countries and learning from each other. Referring to the ICN2 follow up, Dr. Eiden emphasized the importance to get dynamic processes started and to initiate positive change for nutrition.

“There is a big need to learn from each other and share experiences, to liaise with other countries, to clearly articulate needs and respond to them”.

“Now is the time to carry on where the ICN2 and the conference's spirit left off, now is the time to implement its conclusions.”

Dr Hanns-Christoph Eiden, President of the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Germany

III. Regional Perspective: How UN Agencies Collaboratively Support Governments in Implementing the ICN2 Outcomes

Asia Pacific Regional Plans and Frameworks

A Panel of regional representatives from FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO discussed and presented examples how UN agencies collaboratively support governments in the implementation of the ICN2 outcomes.

Action Plan to Reduce the Double Burden of Malnutrition in the Western Pacific Region (2015-2020)

Dr. Katrin Engelhardt, Technical Lead of Nutrition, West Pacific Regional Office WHO (WPRO), in her introductory presentation introduced the Action Plan to Reduce the Double Burden of Malnutrition in the Western Pacific Region (2015-2020) as example how Member States in the Asia and the Pacific region address the implementation of the ICN2 outcomes. She explained that all countries in the region are facing high levels of undernutrition and rising trends of overweight, obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases, and that current food systems are being increasingly challenged to provide adequate, safe, diversified and nutrient rich foods to enable a healthy diet.

The Action Plan therefore seeks to achieve eight nutrition targets for better nutrition for life that are linked to the six WHA targets on nutrition and the nutritional risk factor targets of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs.

“Addressing the double burden forces us to think outside of the typical programme silos”.

Dr. Katrin Engelhardt, Technical Lead of Nutrition, WPRO WHO

Regional Guiding Framework for Achieving Zero Hunger in Asia and the Pacific

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): *Dr. Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific,* explained that in his role as Chair of the UN Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty and Hunger in Asia and the Pacific, FAO promotes dialogue and encourages joint actions in the region, and talked about the Regional Guiding Framework for achieving Zero Hunger in Asia and the Pacific as example. He explained that a number of countries, including Timor-Leste, Nepal, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, used the Regional Zero Hunger Challenge Framework and formulated national action plans to combat food insecurity and hunger whereby they are supported by UN agencies. To reduce stunting is part of this challenge.

Dr. Hiroyuki Konuma explained that the Regional Guiding Framework for achieving Zero Hunger in Asia and the Pacific as another example how the UN system at regional level supports countries to combat hunger and food insecurity. This framework was formulated

by the UN Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty and Hunger in Asia and the Pacific through in-depth discussions within the Group as well as a multi-stakeholder consultation involving civil society organizations.

Its purpose is to provide guidance to countries in the Asia-Pacific region for the formulation and implementation of actions to respond to the Zero Hunger Challenge towards attaining zero hunger in the region by 2025. It will not duplicate but complement the existing international and regional level initiatives such as Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition as well as government efforts to eradicate hunger through national policies, strategies and various programmes and projects. Pilot countries have been identified to formulate a national action plan and implement the national Zero Hunger Challenge with the support from the UN team.

Furthermore, he mentioned the preparation of the Nutrition Country Profiles in this region through harmonization of all available information as another example of UN regional collaboration. He then emphasized the necessity to move forward with the implementation of the commitments and recommendations of the ICN2 outcomes and mainstreaming nutrition objectives into food security and agriculture policies and programmes. The UN system has an important role in facilitating joint government-led national multisectoral mechanism for strengthened coordination at the country level.

“A strong leadership is necessary to achieve nutrition targets. Countries can carry out processes where different line ministries come together to create a government-led inter-ministerial coordination mechanism, bringing UN agencies together to support governmental efforts.”

Dr. Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO

UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF): *Dr. Isiye Ndombi, Regional Deputy Director, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific*, stated that the UN agencies are well coordinated at regional level. Since 2012, UNICEF is chairing the UN Regional Nutrition Committee where 16 UN agencies discuss regularly how to better support countries in implementing their nutrition plans. He emphasized that UNICEF has shared the ICN2 outcomes will all country offices and that it is time to move the agenda forward and discuss how to empower governments to take the lead in prioritizing the use of their national resources, since domestic resources are the largest resources available to nutrition. Then, the next step to follow would be that the international community discusses how to fill in the gap with external resources. In many countries of the region, the UN is assisting governments with tools to calculate how much it costs to invest in nutrition and the cost of not investing in nutrition. He concluded by referring to the importance of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and that the regional office supports country teams to integrate nutrition into the framework. All UN agencies in countries should use the UNDAF to provide consistent support and use clear language.

World Food Programme (WFP): *Ms. Katrien Ghoois, Regional Senior Nutrition Advisor, WFP*, noted that the ICN2 outcomes reinforce the messages and recommendations from

other global nutrition initiatives, and wished to put the ICN2 outcomes back in their context, in order to reflect on their implications for UN regional coordination and what they mean for country level work. She further underlined that more attention needs to be given to nutrition-sensitive actions through the establishment of broad partnerships. There is a need to reinforce all global nutrition initiatives in general, and to better integrate food and health systems. UN agencies need to advocate for advancing improvements in nutrition with a harmonized voice at all levels.

World Health Organization (WHO): *Dr. Francesco Branca, UNSCN Executive Secretary a.i and Nutrition Director WHO*, explained that after ICN2, representatives from WHO met with governments and different UN agencies to establish priorities for the implementation of the ICN2 Framework of Action. He noted that the priorities expressed by countries varied according to the specific context: while some countries decided to address as a priority undernutrition, like focusing on the scaling-up of treatment for severe acute malnutrition, the prevention of anemia or reduction of stunting, some other countries opted to focus on the double burden of malnutrition or on overweight and obesity. With this regard, WHO regional offices guide and coordinate assistance to Member Countries on request in supporting policies on product reformulation, food labelling as well as food marketing initiative.

Discussion and Interventions from the Floor

In the discussion that followed, some Government representatives shared their country's post-ICN2 commitments. The representative from Pakistan stated that the Government of Pakistan allocated substantial funding for nutrition, and he added that the allocation of resources by both the Government and the UN agencies are fundamental. Also Myanmar has committed to strongly reduce the burden of malnutrition, and the government has increased the budget for nutrition.

Other main points raised in the discussion include:

- It was reiterated that the choice of the recommendations from the ICN2 Framework for Action that a country makes to improve the nutrition situation depends on the national context and policy priorities. The ICN2 recommendations are not binding and offer enough flexibility.
- There is a need to look at the bigger picture and broaden the number of sectors that should be involved in preventing and reducing malnutrition. The UN system supports countries in rolling out nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. However it was also noted that bringing together different sectors requires different approaches, capacities and expertise according to the country specific context and the sectors involved.
- It was further noted that with regard to successful coordination mechanism, the nutrition community should learn from other examples such as the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.
- The UN system should advocate for more national investments in nutrition at the country level and these need to be complemented by donor funding.

- Accountability mechanisms should be strengthened and better used. It is important to hold both governments and the UN system accountable for their actions. Accountability requires division of labor. Each UN agency needs to clarify where their added value is so that we can achieve synergy and avoid duplication of efforts.
- An adequate emergency response plan should be in place in all countries in order to support countries when an emergency happens. There is a need to enhance the capacity building process with regard to emergency response. However, the agenda for nutrition preparedness is changing. Governments can now lead the first wave of response using their national resources. As an example, the response carried out by the Government of Nepal and the international community after the 2015 earthquake was based on multisectoral preparedness work done before the onset of the earthquake.

Dr. Branca summarized that nowadays an unprecedented level of knowledge exists on how different actions affect nutrition. From here, the development of a better narrative that articulates a common understanding on how to proceed to address specific problems, consolidating and integrating joint efforts, is needed. He emphasized to clarify roles and complementarities of UN agencies and to make greater efforts to speak with the same language.

IV. Division of Labour and Complementarities of UN System Agencies in Nutrition

The moderated discussion on the roles of UN system agencies in nutrition, including division of labour, complementarities of UN system agencies in nutrition and need for enhanced harmonization started with the introduction of the UN Global Nutrition Agenda.

The UN Global Nutrition Agenda, its Link with ICN2 Outcomes and UN Country Support

At the meeting, the UN Global Nutrition Agenda (UNGNA) was launched and presented for the first time to the wider UN regional and country teams. The UNGNA is a broad framework for aligning the work of the UN Agencies in support of global and national nutrition goals. It describes the vision and guiding principles for UN work on nutrition and outlines the broad aims UN agencies will pursue collectively over the next five years. The UNGNA is not a blueprint, but should serve to strengthen collaborative action toward the goal of ending malnutrition in all its forms in our lifetime.

The principles and priorities apply to UN agencies' efforts to support the achievement of nutrition goals worldwide. Biennial reviews of the UNGNA and its translation into concrete action at all levels will provide opportunity to assess progress on UN coordination and allow for updating the Agenda in light of changes in UN nutrition governance, possible increase in the number of SUN countries as well as global trends and emerging priorities.

In his presentation, Dr. Francesco Branca, speaking in his role as UNSCN Executive Secretary a.i., mentioned the dysfunctional characteristics of the present international nutrition system, and that the SUN Movement Independent Comprehensive Evaluation also concluded that mobilizing prompt, effective and coordinated action by the UN agencies remains a significant challenge. He referred to the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition, which states that the United Nations system, including the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and international and regional financial institutions should work more effectively together.

Dr. Branca explained that in order to solve some of these challenges, the UN agencies have developed the common narrative on nutrition, the UNGNA,² which is a guiding framework for UN action in response to global and national nutrition priorities. The UNGNA clarifies the role of the UN System, in response to the changing global nutrition policy landscape. It provides a UN's shared vision for nutrition and guidance to UN country teams. The document includes ten guiding principles, three strategic outcomes and 14 specific goals. He concluded that these guiding principles largely embody the discussions that have been carried out during this meeting.

The vision statement of the UNGNA:

“The UN’s interagency work seeks to catalyze action to achieve optimal nutrition worldwide. Through our normative and operational activities at global, regional and country levels, we act collectively to support countries in their advocacy, governance and implementation efforts to prevent and rapidly reduce all forms of malnutrition”.

Success story of UN Working Together in Support of Country Action

Nepal Case Study: supporting nutrition in changing context

The Nepal UN country team (UNCT) demonstrated how the UN country team supports the national government in a changing context from development focused actions to emergency response back to development actions. During the past years significant efforts have been invested in multisectoral planning and coordination architecture at all levels supported by the National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS). The UN agencies have played a vital role in establishing coordination architecture for food and nutrition security. The UNCT is supported by REACH since 2012. After the powerful earthquake struck Nepal in April, with the epicenter in Lamjung District (north-west) of Kathmandu, the UN as well as the NNFSS changed their role, led the disaster response by coordinating nutrition actions, ensuring that food and other essential services reached the population in need. The REACH Facilitator acted as Inter-cluster Coordinator of the humanitarian response. The

² http://unscn.org/files/Activities/SUN/EXE3_HDef_UN_Global_Nutrition_Agenda.pdf

same agencies and NNFSS are now beginning to reorient from this emergency response towards development action.

The UN country team in Nepal sees its way forward in advocating for political leadership so that nutrition continues to be prioritized at the highest level and political commitments can be translated into sustained actions. While it is important to maintain the momentum for nutrition specific interventions, nutrition sensitive development actions need to be scaled up at the same time.

Role of UN System Agencies: Division of Labour, Complementarities and Need for Harmonization – Panel discussion

FAO, IFAD, WHO, UNICEF, WFP and IAEA addressed their agencies specific priority areas in nutrition and how the UNGNA can assist in enhancing the collaboration between the agencies.

FAO: *Dr Anna Lartey* explained that in FAO nutrition is a priority now. Within the UN system, there is a need to build linkages. The UNGNA has opened the space for initiating the dialogue. And the dialogue should be at the highest levels, with common messages that can be sent to countries. Resources are limited, and by working together, we can use resources more effectively.

IFAD: *Mr Sean Kennedy, Senior Technical Advisor Public Health and Nutrition, IFAD*, noted that IFAD focuses on implementing nutrition-sensitive agricultural and rural development strategies. IFAD works on the basis of loans to support agriculture, focusing on income-generating activities in female headed and women dominated households which create an enabling environment for improved nutrition.

WHO: *Dr Francesco Branca* explained that WHO is strengthening its collaboration with other UN agencies at all levels. At the country level, the regional joint agenda on nutrition will be translated into harmonized efforts to support the national plans. Alignment to governmental plans is crucial. Specific commitments from WHO are to strengthen its capacity in areas that are demanded by governments, to increase the number of WHO nutrition staff and to put WHO experts in key countries.

UNICEF: *Ms. Christiane Rudert* noted that UNICEF has a strong country presence and supports the implementation of numerous programs, both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive, in emergency and in development context. She also explained that UNICEF provides support to a number of sectors, which allows the agency to show clear strength in multisectoral work. She stated that UN agencies need to focus on complementarities to enhance capacity, analysis and advocacy for nutrition. According to her, the UNGNA might help to structure the work we do together at the country level and help measure the impact the UN system has.

WFP: *Ms. Katrien Ghoos* explained that WFP is a food assistance agency with the mandate to ensure that people can access nutritious foods. WFP has expertise in research, cash transfer, social protection schemes, school feeding and food fortification, among others. The agency has broadened its program to the development context. She also noted that WFP links the public sector engagement with its work. She reiterated the importance that the different UN agencies give the same message around nutrition and for that the UNGNA is a useful tool.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): *Dr. Cornelia Loechl, Head of Nutritional and Health-Related Environmental Studies IAEA*, explained that IAEA complements the work of other players in nutrition, mainly encouraging the use of stable isotope techniques to provide key information to further develop and evaluate interventions aimed at combatting malnutrition in all its forms.

Discussion and Interventions from the Floor

- UN agencies should work together on nutrition, for example joint publications that are released by two or more agencies have greater recognition and are more powerful. As example the FAO/WHO jointly released guidelines on “Preparation and use of food-based dietary guidelines” was mentioned.
- The UNGNA can help to analyze the complementarities between the different agencies, as the UN system is mapping the functions of each UN agency and trying to improve coordination in the area of nutrition.
- With regard to the question whether a lead agency should coordinate the UN work in nutrition at country level, it was stated that leadership is established at the country level and who leads has to be decided at the UN country team level. In some countries, thematic technical working groups are established.
- No matter the mechanism, it was reiterated that the Government should ultimately lead. The UN should focus on strengthening national mechanisms and support governmental actions. A coherent UN should be able to respond to country needs.

V. The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as a Tool for Programming and other Collaborative Actions at Country Level

The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is a framework agreed between the government and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) that describes the collective response of the UN system to government priorities. The UNDAF includes outcomes, activities and UN agency responsibilities that are agreed with the government. The process

of the UNDAF includes a country situation analysis, the development of the framework and the implementation of agreed actions.

As Ms. Alka Narang, Assistant Country Director UNDP India, explained that different UN strategic development frameworks exist such as UNDAFs, One Plans, One Programmes, Partnership Frameworks, etc. These are development plans detailing the course of engagement between the UN and the government over a period of 3-5 years. The UNDAF is one of such development frameworks. The formulation and implementation processes of the UNDAF is an opportunities for the UN System to position itself in countries, to increase their focus on shared results through annual UN joint work-planning and joint programming activities, to leverage the full range of UN expertise to address multi-sectoral challenges and coordinate a coherent UN response. This was illustrated through the experience of India's most recent UNDAF process. The UNDAF 2013-2017 addresses nutrition in outcome 2 which is dedicated to Food and Nutrition Security, based on the UN's well-placed position to provide holistic inter-sectoral solutions. In response, the UN established an UNDAF Working Group and two task teams, task team First 1,000 Days, co-led by UNICEF and WHO and the task team Zero Hunger, co-led by WFP and FAO. UN agencies work jointly on generating evidence, advocacy and capacity building.

Country Experience in Integrating Nutrition in the UNDAF Process – Key findings from a study commissioned by UNSCN

The aim of the study, which was commissioned by the UNSCN, was to assess the performance of the existing Guidance note on integrating food and nutrition security into Country Analysis and UNDAF. The study, conducted in July 2014, discussed with UN country team members in 11 countries about their experience in integrating nutrition in the latest UNDAF process in their country.

Mr. Sergio Cooper Teixeira, independent consultant who lead the study, explained that according to the study results, very few UN country team members had used the existing guidance notes when developing the latest country UNDAF. UN staff had preferred to rely on current national nutrition policies and plans, SUN movement guidance, and other guidance provided by REACH, High Level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security (HLTF), results of the WHO Landscape Analysis and others. Some UN teams considered thematic guidance note not useful as the UNDAF is more a collation of existing policies and plans and is not perceived as a driver for policy changes. It was found that UNICEF was most often leading the process to develop the nutrition components of the UNDAF. On the other side, that FAO was leading the food security component and not involved in leading and seldom contributing to the nutrition elements. Food Security and Nutrition were often split as two separate working groups.

The study also discussed the strengths and opportunities of UN joint action in nutrition with a number of illustrative examples. UN Joint Programmes are seen as a test for joint fundraising or fundraising for each other, and avoid duplicative individual agency's fundraising for the same activity in country. In particular Niger and Pakistan were positive about their approach to joint programming in form of 'flagship proposals.' Challenges exist

and seemed to be more pronounced in UN agencies collaboration on nutrition-sensitive than nutrition-specific actions. Many teams perceived UN collaboration as extra to the regular work. It was stressed that more UN players in the country should participate in the UNDAF process such as World Bank or IFAD, and that civil society should be participating right from the start to strengthen vulnerability analysis and targeting.

While the rollout of ‘Delivering as One’ seems to be pressuring UNCTs to develop joint programs, some teams critically remarked that this may result in joint implementation on paper but not necessarily in practice. Furthermore, the increased focus on government-led coordination and implementation necessitates that the UN re-defines the meaning of UN joint fundraising and joint action in this evolving context.

In conclusion, UN joint action needs to be emphasized, and the difference to UN agency’s individual action to be clarified. It was considered important that more best practices, success stories, and practical examples on joint action and fundraising should be documented and shared with country offices. This should also include frequent and better documentation of past lessons learned through conducting UNDAF mid-term reviews and UNDAF end-term evaluations. Interviewees also expressed the need for the development of a global strategy for joint UN action in nutrition that includes vision and priorities, complementary roles of agencies and that resolves related issues on capacities, mandates and resources, in order to reduce conflict and long negotiations at the country level. With this regard, the UN Global Nutrition Agenda is the step in the right direction.

Success stories from Pakistan and Sri Lanka about successful integration of nutrition into the UNDAF process from planning to joint implementation

UN Delivery as One (DaO) is an approach to streamline UN interventions, increase national ownership, improve joint programming among UN agencies at the country level, reduce transaction costs and increase harmonization and accountability.

In **Pakistan**, as a DaO country, the UN country team has been able to provide support for service delivery and reach populations with high impact nutrition interventions. The UNCT in Pakistan decided to focus on ‘food and nutrition security for most vulnerable groups’ as Strategic Priority Area in the UNDAF and linked it with the national policy priorities as outlined in the Pakistan Integrated Nutrition Strategy. Relevant indicators on malnutrition for stunting, wasting and anemia were included right from the start in the country situation analysis. Federal and provincial consultations took place and fed into the development of defined joint outputs. A food security working group (FAO, WFP, UNESCO and UNICEF) and a nutrition working group (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNESCO, UNWOMEN) are managing the implementation process under the guidance of a Steering Committee. They are working on four flagship proposals related to nutrition and to household food and nutrition security including monitoring and information systems. The way forward is to continue defining [new] common goals as one UN, and to focus on the double burden of malnutrition.

In **Sri Lanka**, the Government leads the coordination platform to implement the national multisectoral nutrition action plan. The rationale of one of the pillars in the UNDAF was to enhance food and nutrition security through a multi-sectoral approach to prevent malnutrition. The Sri Lanka UNCT presented its new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Post-2015 Joint Programme. UNICEF, FAO, WFP and WHO engage in this 4-year Joint Programme for Sustainable Improvement of Maternal and Child Nutrition through a Multi-sector Approach. Their new multisectoral model includes future joint actions to advocate for financial allocations, support policy development, build capacity, improve nutritional and dietary practices and monitor and evaluate progress with real time data.

Integrating Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) into the UNDAF design process and implementation

Mr. James Rarick, Technical Officer NCD from WHO Cambodia, addressed the economic and human impact the NCD epidemic in the Asia Pacific Region, and explained the urgency to address the nutritional risk factors of NCDs in a cross-sectoral approach in countries (see page 10 for more details).

Ms. Alka Narang, Assistant Country Director UNDP India, introduced the Guidance Note on integrating NCDs into the UNDAF process. UNDP and WHO propose that UNCTs integrate, according to country context and priorities, NCDs into the UNDAF design processes and implementation, considering the multi-sectoral nature of the response required. This Guidance Note is intended to assist those who are developing UNDAFs to strengthen the integration of NCDs into the UNDAF process, within the context of the United Nations Development Group's (UNDG) guidance for developing UNDAFs. The Note highlights the importance of ensuring that linkages are made between the prevention and control of NCDs and broader development issues included in UNDAFs, such as universal health coverage, social protection, governance and wider social determinants of health. It highlights linkages with other sectors such as food and agriculture, finance, trade, urban development and education.

In view of the impact of NCDs on socio-economic development and the clear need for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response, Heads of State and Government called for urgent action in the 2011 Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York on the Prevention and Control of NCDs. The Political Declaration called upon the World Health Organization (WHO) as the lead UN specialized agency for health, and upon all other relevant UN system agencies, funds and programmes, to work together in a coordinated manner to support national efforts to prevent and control NCDs. The importance of NCDs in the development agenda is likely to increase with the anticipated adoption of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

VI. The Scaling Up Nutrition Movement

New Directions of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement

Mr. Tom Arnold, SUN Movement Coordinator a.i., explained that in terms of the establishment of the SUN movement, two core background factors could be identified. He stressed the fact that a different approach had to be devised to try to deal with achieving food and nutrition security. The 2008 food price crisis put food back on the nutrition agenda and this led to the publication of the landmark Lancet series³ in 2008 and economic analyses of the cost of hunger. All these factors came together with a heightened realization of the importance of nutrition as such and it all led to the establishment of the SUN movement in 2010.

Mr. Arnold stated that one of the key principles of SUN is that it is a movement and it is not government directed. It was founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition⁴. It involves all key stakeholders with a role in nutrition and all have a role to play. The other key principle, he noted, is that it has to be led by the country itself. All stakeholders involved in the SUN Movement are required to accept a number of Principles of Engagement that ensure a common purpose and mutual accountability. In terms of practical operations, besides the SUN country structure that establishes a SUN focal point, the SUN movement has four additional networks: civil society, business, donors and the UN system. The networks support a more coherent nutrition agenda globally and at the country level. Mr. Arnold explained that, from its beginning, the strategic direction for the SUN Movement has been given by a “Lead Group” that consists of 27 professionals from around the world. In each country there is a focal point that coordinates the efforts at the country level. Up to date, 55 countries are part of the SUN movement.

Mr. Arnold explained that, in 2015, an overall independent comprehensive evaluation of the SUN defined that the SUN had been generally successful. The evaluation was followed by an extensive consultation with stakeholders in Tanzania. He confirmed that the recommendations from Tanzania were brought forward and were endorsed by the Lead Group. Based on the results of the evaluation, he explained the SUN Movement has helped to continue to keep the focus on nutrition at the political level, both nationally and internationally. The evaluation also acknowledged that not everything was perfect: there is a need for greater focus on supporting national plans and better systems of accountability for results. Additionally, it was established that there is a need for another body that can get more involved than the Lead Group and can provide more day-to-day guidance. Consequently, in May 2015, the Lead Group decided to establish an Executive Committee within the SUN Movement architecture, which is ongoing and will recruit a coordinator.

³ <http://www.thelancet.com/series/maternal-and-child-undernutrition>

⁴ www.scalingupnutrition.org

Mr. Arnold concluded by confirming that the SUN movement will be renewed from 2016 to 2020 and it will be further developed. He also explained that, at the country level, the SUN movement will focus on a number of key issues. First, he emphasized the importance of strongly accepting that “you build on what you have”. He explained that there is a need to take into account the country realities and build on systems and strengths that already exist at the country level. Second, continued advocacy for improved nutrition at the national and international levels will be encouraged. Third, countries will be provided with more support to implement their plans. Fourth, cross-country learning is considered a valuable element and will be encouraged. He mentioned that this has already been done through the establishment of “communities of practice”, but needs to be further developed. Fifth, the scope will be broadened to the double burden. Even if SUN will keep its focus on the undernutrition side of the problem, it will eventually include both under- and over-nutrition. Sixth, he encouraged countries and other stakeholders to recognize that even good plans need resources to roll them out. He, therefore, noted that there should be more emphasis on mobilization of national resources. Seventh, he committed to improve clarity on the role of the SUN Movement and on the Zero Hunger Challenge.

The UN Network for SUN at Country Level

Ms. Nancy Walters, Global Coordinator for REACH and the UN Network for SUN, explained that the UN Network for SUN is one of the five networks of the SUN Movement and it builds on what exists at the country level. She noted that everything that the UN Network does is about supporting country work. She stressed that the UN Network is a key contributor to the SUN movement. It is composed of a UN Network Steering Committee of five UN agencies (FAO, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, IFAD) and the UN Network for SUN/REACH Secretariat at headquarter global level.

Ms. Walters stated that the UN system as a whole has a comparative advantage in nutrition due to a number of reasons. First, she noted, the UN system has widely recognized multisectoral specialized expertise in nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive areas that can respond to country nutrition needs. The UN system is by nature multi-sectoral and has working relations with all line ministries. She also referred to its implementation capacity, due to its in-country field presence and flexibility to adjust its responses, as country nutrition situation and priorities change. The UN System has a proven track record of taking collective action for impact. In addition, the UN possesses strong policy, strategy and programme design capacities, thanks to its ability to take emerging evidence from science and apply it to policy and strategy development and concrete actions on the ground. Additionally, it has the ability to document experiences and share knowledge in a short time frame. She also emphasized the advocacy and fundraising credibility, as a result of its strong convening power and capacity to advocate for nutrition. The UN system can mobilize resources and raise awareness of nutrition programming and funding gaps.

Ms. Walters stressed that national governments and the UN system hold common expectations. On the one hand, she noted, countries demand coordinated UN support on nutrition that transcends agency mandates and that speaks as one, moving along in tandem with government. On the other hand, the UN system needs to work together, at the country

level, in order to succeed at improving nutrition outcomes. She emphasized the importance for the UN Network for SUN to behave as a single reflection of the UN system, bringing together all UN agencies, funds and programmes with an interest in nutrition. She also stressed the relevance for the UN system to have clearly agreed objectives on nutrition and a common strategy to achieve them, which should at the same time align with national strategies and plans. Lastly, she encouraged UN agency staff to reflect the commitments of their Principles and translate them into action.

Ms. Walters also stressed that at country level, the UN Network for SUN builds on what exists and works towards an agreed Nutrition Agenda to support a national multi-sectoral strategy on nutrition. She reiterated that the UN Network for SUN serves to strengthen the harmonization, coordination and effectiveness of UN agencies' activities in support of country nutrition efforts. It also aligns with and articulates UN nutrition efforts to those of national governments, other SUN Networks and nutrition stakeholders at global and country levels. She also noted that, in addition, it advances the aims of the SUN Movement.

Ms. Walters took the opportunity to inform that the UN Network for SUN Secretariat is carrying out an inventory of existing UN agency country-level work in nutrition. This inventory will provide a common and comprehensive framework language for describing UN current nutrition actions in the country. It will also allow UN agencies in the same country to compare the focus, magnitude and location of UN nutrition contributions. She also explained that the UN Network for SUN Secretariat is developing guidelines for a country UN Nutrition Strategy or Agenda and a UN Network Dashboard. This Dashboard is a tool that visualizes the geographical coverage of the UN in a country and illustrates the 'health' of the UN Network for SUN at the country level in a standardized manner, in order to enable comparisons across countries. She also noted that it identifies the extent of alignment by the UN agencies to the national multi-sectoral nutrition plan. In addition, the UN Nutrition Strategy will be useful to concisely, clearly and holistically disclose the story on UN contribution to nutrition.

Lastly, Ms. Walters confirmed that a number of recommended actions have been defined and need to be carried out by the UN Networks for SUN at the country level. Some of these are the development of comprehensive UN nutrition strategies, the harmonization of nutrition messages, joint advocacy and fund raising for nutrition through a common narrative, the development of coherent, complementary nutrition programs or the effective response to government requests for technical and functional support.

Even if REACH was not the focus of this presentation, it is important to clarify that REACH⁵ is an interagency partnership between FAO, WFP, UNICEF, WHO and IFAD, initiated to better provide joint and coherent support to government. It delivers a coordinated approach to good governance and institutional capacity building that ensures more effective and coherent food and nutrition action. REACH is currently actively engaged in 17 countries and is expanding to others.

⁵ <http://www.reachpartnership.org/>

“The UN needs to work together, at the country level, if we are to succeed at improving nutrition outcomes”

Ms. Nancy Walters, Global Coordinator for REACH and the UN Network for SUN

Discussion and Interventions from the Floor

After Mr. Arnold’s and Ms. Walter’s presentations, an interesting debate took place among the meeting participants. Some of the key points discussed by some of the participants are presented here:

- *Ms. Josephine Iziku Ippe, IASC Global Nutrition Cluster Coordinator*, explained that once the national plans and interventions that are implemented within the framework of the SUN movement include emergency response and capacity building in emergency nutrition, at that point the humanitarian work will be largely done. However, since there is poor sector coordination in the routine context, countries still call on the UN system when disaster strikes.
- Mr. Tom Arnold, *SUN Movement Coordinator a.i.*, informed that the Global Nutrition Report⁶ has finally been published and it will be useful for the identification of geographical areas or regions where progress is being made. The Global Nutrition Report convenes existing processes, highlights progress in combating malnutrition, identifies gaps and proposes ways to fill them. As the report becomes more visible and authoritative, countries can begin to learn from each other and share successful examples of cases where rapid progress has been achieved.
- In a participant’s opinion, some UNCTs have managed to work better at the policy level (by developing common advocacy narratives) than at the implementation level.
- In largely populated countries, it was stated that it is difficult to coordinate resources in the same geographic area on the same issues.
- It was agreed by several participants that the UN has credibility and leadership in nutrition. However, in-country human resource capacity of UN agencies in this topic is not always good enough. Full-time expertise is needed at the country level.

⁶ <http://globalnutritionreport.org/>

VII. Needs and Expectations from Countries towards the UN Network for Optimal Country Support

Dr. Emorn Udomkesmalee (Wasantwisut), SUN Country Network Facilitator and Senior Advisor at the Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University, Thailand, noted that over the years, member states have looked to the UN system for guidance on how to move their food security and nutrition agendas forward. Governments have received over the years many useful and competent recommendations from the UN system. However, she noted now it is also time for the UN system to follow the recommendations that are given during this meeting in order to improve coordination efforts in nutrition. She reiterated that even if the SUN Movement intends to bring countries as the drivers, the rest of stakeholders also need to coordinate their actions in order to support the countries to achieve their goals.

Subsequently, a number of countries presented the challenges and opportunities of scaling up nutrition and gave suggestions on how the UN team could provide optimal support.

SUN Movement in Lao PDR - Challenges and Opportunities of Scaling up Nutrition and How the UN Team can Provide Optimal Support

Dr. Chandavone Phoxay, Deputy Director General of the Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion of Lao PDR Ministry of Health and SUN Government Focal Point explained that despite high economic growth rates (8.1 percent in 2010) and decreased poverty, undernutrition remains a serious public health issue in most areas of the country. For instance, chronic undernutrition has remained stubbornly high (44 percent in 2010). As a consequence, she noted, the Government of Lao PDR has put nutrition in the highest level of the political agenda, which has led to an increase of 8 percent (2013) of the national budget allocation to the health sector. This high commitment has translated into the establishment of a National Nutrition Committee, which functions as a multisectoral coordinating mechanism for nutrition. Dr. Phoxay explained that some of the challenges faced by the government have been limited organizational and human capacities, different points of view with regard to roles and responsibilities, resource constraints, inadequate alignment of external support and lack of common results framework, among others.

Dr. Phoxay gave information regarding the support provided by the UNCT, such as the provision of information, support for policy formulation, and support for the implementation of an Initiative Convergent Approach or support for capacity development. She concluded that the UN system at the global and regional levels should define clear roles, responsibilities, and mandate for each of the UN agencies, at the global, regional and country levels. She expressed the need for the UN system to develop harmonized tools and technical guidance at the global levels, ensuring broad involvement to avoid technical conflicts or gaps. She also recommended the development of harmonized Monitoring and Evaluation systems for nutrition action at the global and country levels and to strengthen the system for data collection and analysis. Support with resource mobilization was also requested. At the country level, she encouraged the UN system to ensure a high technical

competency among its staff and to facilitate stakeholder coordination. She also requested support to map resources with regard to Food and Nutrition Security, among others.

SUN Countries in Different Stages of Scaling up Nutrition - Panel Discussion

Indonesia: *Mr. Pak Entos Zainal, Representative from the Ministry of National Development from Indonesia*, explained that a Presidential Regulation was launched in 2013 regarding the National SUN Movement. The Government also developed a National Medium-Term Development Plan 2015-2019 that includes all 13 ministries that are involved in nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. He also noted that there are strong regulatory coordination mechanisms for SUN in the country, including a High Level Technical Meeting, working groups and different SUN Networks. On the other hand, he requested support from the UN system to generate evidence to develop a M&E framework for nutrition action and to ensure policies, strategies and plans are nutrition-sensitive. Mr. Zainal emphasized that UN agencies should all speak with a common voice when engaging with line ministries on nutrition in order to support a common country approach and avoid confusion with the various global initiatives (SUN, Zero Hunger Challenge, ICN2). Finally, he recommended the UN system focus its support to countries on documentation of best practices, capacity building and development of advocacy materials.

Cambodia: *H.E. Dr. Sok Silo, Deputy Secretary General of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development of Cambodia and SUN Government Focal Point*, noted that improving food security and nutrition is at the highest level of the political agenda. Despite remarkable progress in reducing poverty (18.8 percent in 2013), acute malnutrition is still above the 5 percent threshold targeted by the WHA and stunting remains high at 32 percent in 2014 (CDHS 2014). The Government joined the SUN Movement in July 2014. Dr. Silo also requested support from the UN system to strengthen the multisectoral coordination mechanisms that are already in place, develop the Zero Hunger Challenge Action Plan, improve the information and knowledge management system and mobilize resources and support.

Nepal: *Dr. Yagya B. Karki, focal person from the National Planning Commission Nepal*, explained that nutrition is a high priority programme of the Government. Despite great efforts to reduce undernutrition, stunting is still extremely high (41 percent in 2011) and many women and children are anemic (36 percent and 48 percent, respectively). He noted that Nepal joined the SUN Movement in 2011 and has developed a multisectoral nutrition plan that involves at least six Ministries. REACH initiated its work to assist Nepal Government in 2012. He further explained that, after the earthquakes of April and May 2015, a post disaster needs assessment revealed that undernutrition is higher in earthquake affected districts than in the rest of the country. He then reiterated that the Government has committed to increase the budget to fight malnutrition during coming years. Nonetheless, Dr. Karki requested additional financial and technical support from the UN system through capacity building.

VIII. UN Better Working Together in the Post-2015 Era

Sharing of Lessons Learned and Good Practices

Bangladesh: *Ms. Christa Räder, WFP Country Representative and Chair of the UN network for SUN in Bangladesh*, explained that despite significant progress in the reduction of undernutrition, child mortality and poverty rates during the past few decades, stunting rates are still very high (36 percent of under fives in 2014). Stunting has been associated to the quality of infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, low dietary diversity and household hygiene and hand washing behaviors. She also noted that in Bangladesh, nutrition policy and programming are driven by two main sectors- health and food.

With regard to UN joint work, Ms. Räder explained that between 2010 and 2013, a Joint UN Programme titled “Protecting and promoting food security and nutrition for families and children” was implemented under the Millennium Development Goal Fund (MDG-F). Thereafter, a number of UN agencies have developed a Food Security and Nutrition joint UN programming proposal focusing on government-led efforts using multi-sectoral approaches and adopting a ‘convergence approach’, by working with a range of government agencies. She also stated that a REACH partnership has been in place over the last couple of years and it has been a very effective catalyst for joint action. Among other collaborative efforts, she stressed the importance of a common narrative on undernutrition that was developed in 2014 by the UN agencies and the European Union, USAID and the World Bank, in the framework of REACH. The narrative is an advocacy tool that has been used for discussion with different institutions from the government. She concluded that coming together as a coherent UN has meant a new opportunity to advocate stronger for nutrition.

Philippines: *Ms. Maria Cecilia Pastores, Project team leader from FAO Philippines*, explained that in 2009, five agencies (FAO, ILO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO) participated in a 3-year project under the MDG-F. She stressed that one of the lessons learnt was that building synergies with other Joint Programmes is important to provide a multi-sector perspective. Also, it was identified that using or linking with existing coordinating mechanisms help in ensuring sustainability. She also stressed that good communication among UN agencies was crucial. Lastly, she mentioned that some challenges were also found. For example, different administrative procedures from each of the UN agencies delayed some of the project activities. She finally informed that the current coordination mechanisms in the Philippines are the UNDAF, the National Nutrition Cluster, the UN Network for SUN and the regular reporting.

Group Work Outcomes

Participants discussed in small groups the success factors, good practices and recommended actions for UN agencies’ collaboration and a well-functioning UN Network for SUN, including discussion about some of its tools, such as the UN Network for SUN Dashboard.

The feasibility of creating a regional UN Network for SUN was also discussed. Each group was given a different set of questions. The key points are summarized below.

The group that consisted of regional UN nutrition officers noted that in order to fulfill expectations with regard to the work that the UN regional programme plays in the UN network for SUN, more resources are needed. They stressed that regional offices usually have very limited resources, which allow core funding for a maximum of one professional staff per regional office. They believe the role of UN agencies in the framework of SUN and other initiatives is key and agreed on the importance of focusing not only in undernutrition, but also on overweight, obesity and non-communicable diseases. They also concluded that the main characteristics of the Regional UN Network for Nutrition for the Asia and Pacific region were that it should build on a mechanism that already exists, which is the regional Nutrition Security Coordination Committee and it should build on good collaboration and communication. In addition, the Regional UN Network should build on the UNGNA and on a joint advocacy strategy to push for joint UN agency agendas and work plans. They also agreed that the Regional UN Network for SUN should ensure adequate resources to coordinate regional work in order to jointly support countries, organize technical meetings, and strengthen capacity and knowledge management in different nutrition areas, such as SAM management, costing, legislation, nutrition in emergencies or food fortification.

The two groups that consisted of country UN nutrition officers were given a number of questions with regard to the potential indicators for measuring performance from the UN Network for SUN Dashboard. The group gave a number of recommendations for improvement. They concluded that in general all indicators were relevant. They suggested there is a need to define clear objectives for the dashboard and to align questions and indicators accordingly. They considered it important to include indicators to differentiate the developmental against humanitarian/emergency efforts or interventions. They pointed out the possibility of splitting the information about resources between implementation and technical assistance. The group suggested that a set of guidelines be prepared to explain how to report on the Dashboard. They also considered that contributions from other areas such as nutrition-sensitive actions) and nutrition-specific areas should also be included. With regard to the work that is being carried out at the national and subnational levels within the SUN movement, the group said, “The ‘sun’ is shining at the national level, but not at the subnational level,” They concluded that coordination at the subnational level should greatly improve. While some UNCTs in the region have achieved a great level of coordination, others are lacking a UNDAF or a UN Network for SUN. They therefore recommended that good coordination frameworks be designed and implemented in every country.

One of the groups consisting of UN staff recommended that a UN joint nutrition working group be created in all countries of the region, under the leadership of the UN resident coordinator. It was not considered necessary that this coordination mechanism at the country level is named as ‘the UN Network for SUN’. Both groups suggested names, such as the UN joint nutrition working group or the nutrition coordination mechanism. They recommended that a joint narrative and agenda should be prepared by the UNCT. Similar to other groups, it was also emphasized by the group that the nutrition capacity from UN staff

regarding food security and nutrition be strengthened. They also stressed the importance of setting up institutional arrangement for coordination at the national and subnational levels, ensuring that all relevant sectors are involved. Both groups reiterated that more resources should be mobilized for coordination at the country level. One of the groups recommended capacity building of government authorities and UNCTs. They also stressed that it is important to include IFAD in these coordination processes. Finally, a series of characteristics were considered essential for a successful UN Network for SUN, such as the existence of a clear and good coordinated leadership, clear division of labor, financial capacity in fundraising and fiscal expertise, transparency and willingness to work together, good communication and alignment with government.

The first group that consisted of SUN government focal points recommended that the UN Network for SUN should be coordinative, cooperative and collaborative, with convening capacity, but always aligned with country priorities. They also added that the UN Network for SUN should be able to provide technical and financial resources. They emphasized that the Network should build on existing capacities in order to create an enabling environment where the government can lead the efforts. In addition, they reiterated that the UN has a number of strengths that will ensure that they are responsive to national nutritional plans, such as their technical expertise, timely responses to SUN secretariat and country needs and the ability to link the country with the global agenda. However, they also mentioned that coordination between UN agencies should improve at the country level and commitments to support the government should be long-term so that sustainability is ensured. Lastly, the group explained that there is no value in the UN developing a separate nutrition agenda on how to work together in support of government in terms of nutrition. They also noted that the UNDAF is a valuable tool when properly aligned with the national nutrition priorities. They concluded by emphasizing the need to harmonize all global nutrition ‘calls to action’.

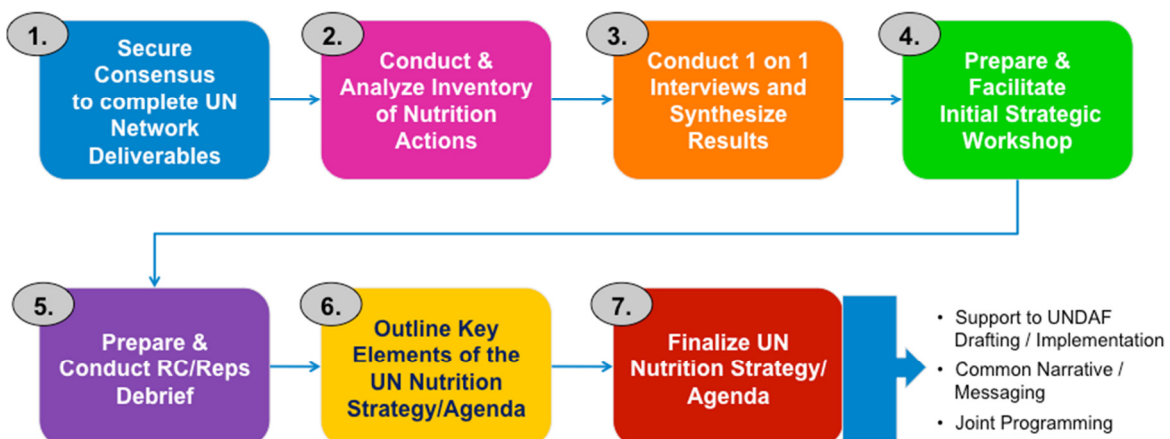
The second group that consisted of SUN government focal points discussed a number of specific country needs, such as the necessity to improve action in non-conventional sectors (e.g. rural development, social protection) through multisectoral coordination, address new nutrition challenges such as obesity and NCDs, strengthen country capacities, ensure UN support to multisectoral policy planning in a harmonised fashion and improve coordination and engagement with the private sector. Lastly, the group agreed that the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition will facilitate country action through cross-country learning and collaboration. They believe the Decade of Action will be useful to fill policy gaps (e.g. food system agenda) and to generate an enabling environment for policy development and implementation.

IX. Strengthened UN Network for SUN in Countries of the Asia and Pacific Region

Mr. Nicolas Bidault, Deputy Coordinator for REACH and the UN Network for SUN, explained that the UN Network for SUN will implement various recommended actions that aim to strengthen the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of UN contributions to nutrition, including the following:

- Mapping or inventory of existing UN agency country level work in nutrition.
- Development of comprehensive UN nutrition strategies.
- Harmonization of nutrition messages, joint advocacy and fund raising for nutrition through a common narrative.
- Development of coherent, complementary nutrition programs (e.g. Joint framework and approaches).
- Response to government requests for technical and functional support and/or identification of an alternate provider.
- Review of network effectiveness and progress against UN nutrition objectives (e.g. UN Network Dashboard, Strategy / Agenda implementation).

He also informed that the key deliverables for the UN Network for SUN are an inventory of UN nutrition actions, a common UN Nutrition Strategy and Agenda and a UN Network Dashboard, as previously mentioned by Ms. Nancy Walters. He further explained that guidance is being developed to support these efforts. The guidance identifies seven key steps that have been identified as critical in order to develop and complete the Inventory of UN Nutrition Actions and to develop a high quality UN Nutrition Strategy and common Agenda at the country level (see illustration below). He stressed that the first four steps are about conducting the UN inventory, interviews, analysis and initial strategic discussions, while the final three steps are necessary to finalize a high quality UN Nutrition Strategy/Agenda, building on initial strategic discussions. He also explained that Myanmar has already carried out the first four steps, while Mozambique is already implementing steps six and seven.



Steps required to complete the Inventory of UN Nutrition Actions and to develop a high quality UN Nutrition Strategy/Agenda at the country level. Source: UN Network for SUN

Case studies

Experience from Myanmar in Completing the Inventory of UN Nutrition Action

Ms. Ilaria Schibba, Nutrition Officer WFP Myanmar, and Ms. Hedy Ip, Nutrition Specialist UNICEF Myanmar, explained that, as mentioned by Mr. Bidault, Myanmar is one of the countries that has tested the Inventory of UN Nutrition actions developed by the UN Network for SUN. They presented a map of UN presence in the different states and regions of Myanmar for nutrition-related actions. This map is useful to determine where there is a high number of UN actions in nutrition in a specific area. They also listed the key questions that the UN system aims to address when there is more than one agency present, such as:

- How complementary are the nutrition actions? Is there combined value added?
- Is there a critical nutrition action missing in each region or state, that the UN is well-placed to deliver?
- Are there opportunities for improved collaboration on joint planning (targeting & geographic focus), implementation, M&E?
- How can the use of delivery mechanisms (e.g. schools, community health volunteers, agricultural extension) be optimized?
- Is there alignment of advocacy, communications, other?

They emphasized that this tool was helpful to stimulate strategic questions as well as discussion and dialogue within the UN and with the government and other stakeholders. They considered it was a great opportunity to carry out joint programming. When displaying the results for Myanmar, they explained that all nutrition actions for which the UN agencies are providing support were aligned to the national nutrition plan. It was also mentioned that most UN agencies carried out actions in nutrition governance, particularly sectoral actions, but not so much in multisectoral facilitation. They also mentioned that the tool had been helpful for the UN agencies in Myanmar to map investments around nutrition-related actions.

Experience from Mozambique in Completing UN Network Deliverables

Mr. Nicolas Bidault, Deputy Coordinator for REACH and the UN Network for SUN, presented the experience of Mozambique in completing two of the deliverables from the UN Network for SUN; the UN inventory of nutrition actions and the UN nutrition agenda and strategy, by following the seven key steps mentioned above. He explained that, despite the initial resistance from the country directors to follow this exercise, the experience was very useful to understand that there were many gaps with regard to interagency and intersectoral coordination and that ultimately the UN in Mozambique decided to develop a UN nutrition strategy as a means to optimize its way of working in nutrition. Part of the work was carried out during a 2-day planning workshop, where initial strategic discussion took place. He also noted that agencies agreed in that it was necessary to identify comparative advantages of the UN system in the country regarding nutrition and that all agencies should work with a common UN vision. They also committed to jointly fund development of a joint UN Nutrition Strategy by September 2015 for inclusion of nutrition in UNDAF, among other agreements.

UN Network for SUN Dashboard and Next Steps

Mr. Bidault mentioned that the utility of the UN Network for SUN dashboard and the indicators had been briefly introduced during Ms. Walter's presentation and further discussed during the group work. He also acknowledged that improvements would be carried out based on all suggestions and recommendations given during the meeting.

Subsequently, he enumerated the resources that are available to complete the recommended UN Network for SUN actions and key deliverables, for which a Guidance Package is being developed. He noted that a number of well-experienced REACH facilitators and pre-identified consultants are available as resources to support these efforts.

Lastly, he concluded with a number of proposed steps: 1) circulate a draft UN inventory tool and Dashboard for further inputs, 2) finalize the UN inventory tool and Dashboard and circulate the final versions to the UN country networks, 3) identify country candidates to conduct an inventory tool and the Nutrition Agenda and Strategy (the Asia and Pacific region will be prioritized), 4) support countries to conduct an inventory tool and 5) support countries to develop a UN Country Nutrition Agenda/Strategy, taking into consideration that the UNGNA target is 75 percent of SUN countries with a Nutrition Agenda/Strategy by 2016 and all SUN countries by 2017.

Discussion by the Meeting Participants

With regard to the presentations of the UN Network for SUN instruments, some comments were made:

- It was recommended that, as with the development of any tool, the inventory and specially the interpretation of the data should be linked to an objective analysis. In addition, interpretation should be linked to the mandates of bureaus.
- Another participant highlighted an issue regarding the way programs are delivered by each UN agency. She explained that it might be difficult to demonstrate the work that some agencies carry out through the government, such as in the case of UNICEF. Therefore, some interventions and activities might not show up in the UN Network for SUN inventory and this should be taken into consideration.
- It was also emphasized that, with regard to the mapping, there is a need to take into account the presence of other stakeholders in the ground. Government structures, NGOs and other stakeholders need to also be mapped. Ideally, it was proposed that this exercise should be carried out together with the government and with other stakeholders.
- The speakers clarified to the audience that the work of agencies in other sectors, such as the work of WHO on NCDs, was not shown in the presentation in order to shorten the presentation.
- The representatives from the UNCT Myanmar explained that the tool will be further revised after the pilots. However, the country team also considered the experience to be very useful to start a dialogue on nutrition strategic issues. They reiterated that this tool can be made as a fit for purpose.

- It was agreed that this dynamic tool will help to have a more coherent communication.

X. Key Outcomes of the Meeting and Next Steps

Dr. Anna Lartey, Director of Nutrition FAO, summarized the main needs identified during the meeting, as follows:

- Clarity of purpose and clarity of language within and among UN agencies.
 - With regard to coordination among UN agencies, there needs to be more clarity from UN HQ and regional offices, and each country needs to coordinate actions based on the specific context of the country (identify what already exists in the country and what the strengths and weaknesses are).
 - UN agencies need to provide clear guidance and speak with one voice to country offices on how to coordinate and harmonize different nutrition ‘calls to action’. Specifically, at country level, there needs to be clarity between ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action, Zero Hunger Challenge, and SUN Movement. The Zero Hunger Challenge and SUN Movement originate from the UN Secretary General while ICN2 outcomes are the commitments adopted by the UN Member States. These ‘calls to action’ should not compete, but be regarded as different entry points to prioritize nutrition actions at the country level.
 - There is a need to improve the flow of communication on nutrition from UN HQ to regional to country level. Both horizontal and vertical communications need to improve. Country teams want to be better informed about new developments at all levels.
- Political commitment of national governments:
 - There is a need for strong political commitment at the highest levels of government, resulting in program ownership, which will in turn translate in mobilization of domestic resources for nutrition. Some countries have shown this commitment in their presentations.
 - The commitments and recommendations of the ICN2 outcomes are of voluntary nature. Each country will decide which commitments to focus on depending on the local context.
- Inclusiveness and broad engagement of stakeholders:
 - Nutrition needs a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach. Therefore it is necessary to include private sector, academia, civil society and UN partners all together. Under the leadership of the national government.
- Complementarity and reinforcement
 - It is important to highlight the comparative advantage of each agency.
 - Different country teams have mentioned the importance of developing a common narrative for all UN agencies in a country for harmonizing advocacy messages on nutrition. This should address all forms of malnutrition, including overweight and obesity.

- It is important to leverage synergies, based on value added from each UN agency. Service delivery can be improved by UN agencies targeting similar geographic areas, increasing convergence and harmonization.
- Accountability and measuring progress
 - The UN agencies play an important role in holding countries accountable for their commitments. Governments are accountable to their communities and to the UN, and the UN is accountable to the national Government.
 - The UN agencies have a role to play in assisting Governments to measure progress, through appropriate M&E systems.
- Country success stories and knowledge sharing:
 - There are a lot of success stories and good practices to be learnt from countries. They need to be documented, shared and widely disseminated among UN agencies and country governments with a view to learn and possibly adapt to the country context where relevant.
- Capacity of UN staff at country level in nutrition.
 - It is important to build strong capacity among UN staff in nutrition for better coordination and advocacy including communication on UN nutrition calls to action, as part of a long-term human resource development plan.
 - UN agencies can offer technical assistance to governments in all relevant areas, including conducting national situational and policy analysis, functional and technical capacity building; M&E: information systems; advising on policy formulation; mapping exercises; etc.

Subsequently, Ms. Nancy Walters, Global Coordinator for REACH and the UN Network for SUN, summarized a number of follow-up points agreed during the meeting.

Next steps and way forward

- Develop and disseminate a clear communication on the ICN2/the UNSG's ZHC / SUN Movement/ the UNGNA by UNSCN/UN network for SUN - September 2015.
- Send a communication from the UN Nutrition Directors (5 main agencies) to countries regarding the UN Network for SUN, its Secretariat and workplan- July 2015.
- Develop coherent accountability instruments (for ICN2 follow up, UN network for SUN actions) by the UN agencies – December 2015.
- Document and disseminate best practices– by SCN and/or its agencies
- Finalize and endorse by agencies the Compendium of Nutrition Actions – October 2015.
- Finalise inventory tools, agenda/strategy and dashboard based on UN country experience in Asia Pacific (volunteers sought) and support countries to implement, by Countries UN network for SUN.
- Support countries to develop a UN common agenda/narrative to explain how the UN is working as one at country level to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms – inventory, roles and responsibilities, by UN network for SUN in country - 2015/2016.
- Focus on improved coordinated UN programming – UN teams in country
- Engage other UN agencies active in nutrition but not yet involved (e.g. UNFPA) in the work by the UN Network for SUN– UN team in country

XI. Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, *Dr. Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific*, noted that those two days had been very productive and helped in paving the way for better coordination of UN efforts on nutrition at global, regional and country levels. He mentioned that all participants acknowledged the need for harmonizing global efforts by allowing countries to take ownership and lead the actions for improving nutrition. He urged UN Agencies to build on their comparative advantages and use them to leverage and achieve better synergies. He suggested that UN agencies may need to come up with common narrative that articulates clearly how these global efforts complement each other.

He also recognized that in some of the Asia and Pacific country offices, there is a need to further strengthen country technical capacity for nutrition, advocacy, communication and promoting nutrition-sensitive as well as nutrition-specific interventions. He hoped that, as a follow up to this meeting, UN agencies should be able to improve communication flow from global, regional to country as well as information sharing from countries to regional and global levels, particularly, in terms of progress being made to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

At country level, he acknowledged there is a need for strong political commitment at the highest levels, which is expected to result in program ownership and in mobilization of domestic resources. He identified that some countries had shown this commitment in their presentations. He also mentioned that government-led multisectoral platform was equally important, particularly broadening the actors to include Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), private sector, research and academia and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

During the meeting, he also identified excellent country success stories showing clearly what works. He noted that this information needed to be shared and widely disseminated among UN agencies and country governments. He encouraged the UN system to assist in measuring progress, through appropriate M&E systems at global and country levels.

He thanked all participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions and all the people who had helped in the preparation and conduct of this meeting. He concluded that it had been a privilege and honor for FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific to be associated with this very important meeting.

He then proceeded to wish everybody a safe journey and he looked forward for closer collaboration with all of the participants.

ANNEX

1. Meeting agenda
2. List of participants

Annex 1- MEETING AGENDA

Strengthening UN Joint Country Support for Improved Nutrition

UN Regional Nutrition Meeting Asia Pacific
Monday and Tuesday 29-30 June 2015, Bangkok
Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, in Ballroom 1

Monday 29th June

Time	Session
08.30-09.00	Participants Registration
09.00-10.00	<p>Welcome Hiroyuki Konuma, ADG and Regional Representative, RAP, FAO Opening Speech: Francesco Branca, UNSCN Executive Secretary a.i. Speech from Tom Arnold, SUN Movement Coordinator a.i. and Director General of the Institute of International and European Affairs</p> <p>The Burden and trends of Malnutrition in Asia Pacific and the drivers for change Christiane Rudert, Regional Nutrition Advisor UNICEF</p> <p>Objectives of the meeting and Introduction of participants Francesco Branca, UNSCN Executive Secretary a.i. and Nancy Walters, Global Coordinator REACH and UN Network for SUN</p>
10:00-11:00	<p>Moderated Discussion: The ICN2 and its relevance for UN agencies' regional and country level support to national governments</p> <p>Moderator: Seán Kennedy, IFAD Senior Technical Advisor</p> <p>Outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2): Anna Lartey, Director Nutrition FAO and Francesco Branca, Director Nutrition WHO</p> <p>Perspectives from UN Member States Government Representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thailand: By Dr Napaphan Viriyautsakul, Director of Bureau of Nutrition, Ministry of Public Health • Germany: By Dr Hanns-Christoph Eiden, President, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Germany <p>Discussion and interventions from the floor</p>
11:00-11:15	COFFEE BREAK

Time	Session
11.15- 12.15	<p>Moderated Panel Discussion: How UN agencies collaboratively support governments in the implementation of the ICN2 outcomes: Regional perspective</p> <p>Moderator: Tom Arnold, SUN Movement Coordinator a.i.</p> <p>Asia Pacific Regional Action Plans – the example of the Western pacific regional action plan. By Katrin Engelhardt, Technical Lead Nutrition, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office</p> <p>Panel of regional representatives: How UN agencies collaboratively support governments in the implementation of the ICN2 outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, Regional Office Asia and Pacific, FAO • Deputy Regional Director UNICEF, Isiye Ndombi, East Asia Pacific Regional Office • WFP represented by Katrien Ghoois, Senior Regional Nutrition Advisor • WHO represented by Francesco Branca, Director Nutrition. <p>Interventions from the floor</p>
12.15-13.00	<p>Roles of UN system agencies in nutrition: Division of labour and complementarities (Part I)</p> <p>Moderator: Hanns-Christoph Eiden, President, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Germany</p> <p>The UN Global Nutrition Agenda: its link to ICN2 outcomes and UN Country Nutrition Agenda By Francesco Branca, UNSCN Executive Secretary a.i. and Director Nutrition WHO</p> <p>Case study: Success story of UN working together in support of country action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal: Supporting nutrition in changing context By Nepal country team represented by Pradiumna Dahal, UNICEF <p>Questions and answers from the floor</p>
13:00- 14:30	LUNCH BREAK

Time	Session
14.30- 15.15	<p>Roles of UN system agencies in nutrition: Division of labour and complementarities and need for harmonization (II):</p> <p>Moderator: Nancy Walters, Global Coordinator REACH and UN Network for SUN</p> <p>Panel Discussants or representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO, Anna Lartey, Director Nutrition • IFAD, Seán Kennedy, Technical Officer • WHO, Francesco Branca, Director Nutrition • UNICEF, Werner Schultink represented by Christiane Rudert, Regional Nutrition Advisor UNICEF • WFP, Martin Bloem represented by Katrien Ghoos, Senior Regional Nutrition Advisor • Other agencies intervene from the floor (IAEA, IASC GNC, UNDP, UNEP) <p>Questions and answers from the floor</p>
15.15.-16.15	<p>Programmatic and other collaborative actions of UN agencies at country level</p> <p>Moderator: Christiane Rudert, Regional Nutrition Advisor UNICEF</p> <p>Introduction: UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as a tool for UN collaboration and for initiation of UN joint programming. Overview of current UNDAF status in countries of Asia Pacific Region By Alka Narang, Assistant Country Director, UNDP India</p> <p>Experience of countries integrating Nutrition in the UNDAF process. Key points from UNSCN supported review study. By Sergio Cooper Teixeira, Consultant</p> <p>Country case study- Successful process integrating nutrition into UNDAF and joint implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan: Nutrition and the UNDAF process (from planning to joint implementation) Pakistan country team represented by Khizar Ashraf, WFP and Syed Saeed Qadir, UNICEF • Sri Lanka: New Joint Programming SDG post 2015 Sri Lanka country team represented by Renuka Jayatissa, UNICEF and Tina Jayaratnam, FAO <p>Facilitated Discussion</p>



Time	Session
16.15-16.30	COFFEE BREAK
16.30-17.30	<p>Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and UNDAF</p> <p>Moderator: Katrien Ghoos, Senior Regional Advisor WFP</p> <p>Nutritional risk factors and multisectoral nature of NCDs pandemic By James Rarick, Technical Officer NCD, WHO Cambodia</p> <p>The Guidance Note on the Integration of Noncommunicable Diseases into the UNDAF By Alka Narang, Assistant Country Director, UNDP India</p> <p>Moderated Discussion</p>
17.30-17.45	<p>Wrap up of Day 1 and conclusions Francesca Erdelmann, Deputy CD WFP Cambodia</p>
18:00- 20:00	BUFFET DINNER

DAY 2
Tuesday 30 June 2015

Time	Session
09.00-9.15	<p>Special Address from Prof M S Swaminathan, Founder Chairman, UNESCO Chair in Ecotechnology</p> <p>Introduction to Day 2 By Anna Lartey, Director Nutrition Division, FAO</p>
9.15-10.00	<p>The Scaling Up Nutrition Movement</p> <p>Moderator: Francesco Branca, UNSCN Executive Secretary a.i. and Director Nutrition WHO</p> <p>New directions of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement By Tom Arnold, SUN Movement Coordinator a.i. and Director General of the Institute of International and European Affairs</p> <p>The UN Network for Scaling Up Nutrition at country level By Nancy Walters, Global Coordinator REACH and UN Network for SUN</p>

Time	Session
	<p>Questions and Answers from the floor</p>
<p>10.00-11.00</p>	<p>Needs and expectations from countries towards the UN Network, for optimal country support</p> <p>Moderator: Emorn Udomkesmalee (Wasantwisut) SUN Government Network Facilitator</p> <p>SUN Movement in Lao PDR: challenges and opportunities of scaling up nutrition and how the UN team can provide optimal support By Chandavone Phoxay, Ministry of Health and Lao PDR SUN Government focal point.</p> <p>Panel: SUN Government Focal Points representing countries in different stages of scaling up nutrition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indonesia SUN Government focal point: Pak Entos Zainal, Ministry of National Development - Cambodia SUN Government focal point: H.E. Sok Silo, Office of the Council of Ministers - Nepal SUN Government focal point: Yagya B. Karki, National Planning Commission. <p>Interventions from the floor (with response to expected support from UN agencies)</p>
<p>11:00-11.15</p>	<p>COFFEE BREAK</p>
<p>11.15-12.15</p>	<p>UN Better Working Together in the Post-2015 era</p> <p>Sharing of lessons learned and good practices from UN country teams</p> <p>Moderator: Seán Kennedy, Senior Technical Advisor, Public Health and Nutrition, IFAD</p> <p>Country experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Bangladesh</u>: Advocacy /Common Nutrition Narrative By Christa Räder , CD WFP and Chair of UN network in Bangladesh • <u>Philippines</u>: Joint Nutrition Programming MDG-F success story By Maria Cecilia Pastores, Project Team Leader, FAO Philippines • <u>Lao PDR</u>: Role of UN network in supporting a multisectoral processes By Viorica Berdaga, Chief of Health and Nutrition UNICEF Lao PDR <p>Interventions from the floor</p>

Time	Session
12.15-13:00	<p>Group Work:</p> <p>Introduction: by Nancy Walters, Global Coordinator REACH and UN Network for SUN</p> <p>Participants will discuss in small groups, about success factors and good practices of UN agencies collaboration and for a well-functioning UN Network for SUN.</p>
13:00- 14.30	LUNCH BREAK
14.30-15.30	<p>Presentation of group work in Plenary, discussion and summary by the moderator</p> <p>Moderator: Christiane Rudert, Regional Nutrition Advisor UNICEF</p>
15.30- 15.45	COFFEE BREAK
15.45-16.30	<p>Strengthened UN Network for SUN in countries of the Asia Pacific Region.</p> <p>Moderator: Katrien Ghoos, Senior Regional Advisor WFP</p> <p>Strengthening the UN Network for SUN in countries By Nicolas Bidault, REACH and UN Network for SUN</p> <p>Country case study: Sharing of country experience in <u>Myanmar</u> By Hedy Ip from UNICEF and Ilaria Schibba from WFP</p> <p>Moderated Discussion and Interventions from the floor</p>
16.30- 17.00	<p>Key outcomes from the meeting and way forward/next steps</p> <p>By Anna Lartey, Nutrition Director FAO and Nancy Walters, Global Coordinator REACH and UN Network for SUN</p>
17.00-17.15	<p>Closing Remarks By Hiroyuki Konuma, ADG and Regional Representative, RAP, FAO</p>

Annex 2

List of Participants
UN Regional Nutrition Meeting Asia and the Pacific
Strengthening UN joint country support for improved nutrition programming
29 and 30 June 2015, in Bangkok, Thailand

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