

UN Regional Nutrition Meeting Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, THAILAND, 29-30 June 2015

Concept paper

Draft (version 06 May 2015)

Theme: Strengthened UN Joint Actions in Support of Country Priorities in Nutrition

Organized by: UNSCN and UN Network for SUN, in collaboration with FAO, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, and IFAD.

Funding: Government of Federal Republic of Germany (BMEL) through the UNSCN.
UN agencies, UNSCN and UN Network Secretariats will finance the participation of their respective staff.

Location: Bangkok, Thailand
Hosted by FAO Regional Office

Date: 29-30 June 2015

Duration: 2 days

Relevance to UN Network for SUN workplan:

This meeting will help UN nutrition colleagues in countries to move forward on key elements related to the ICN2 outcomes, the UN Global Nutrition Agenda including on joint UN programming and those elements elaborated as UN Network for SUN workplan priorities 2015.

Participants:

- 80 to max 100 participants. Most of them will be UN country team members from about 12-14 countries in Asia. They will be programme officers working in nutrition and related fields (like food security, health and noncommunicable diseases, etc) from UN agencies with relevant nutrition activities at country level; this will include agencies and UN coordination bodies beyond the 5 initial agencies.
- The countries will include a mix of SUN and non-SUN countries, countries being in the process or soon starting the process of developing new UNDAF. Some will be ONE UN countries and others not.
- In addition, regional directors and advisors and HQs directors, representatives from other UNSCN member agencies, selected government partners from some of the Asian countries such as Government SUN focal points,
- Regional Directors, Representatives of the sub-regional offices, Host country UN agencies Country Representatives, and Government representatives.
- Chair of the UNSCN.

This workshop will build further on the first meeting of the UN System Network for Scaling Up Nutrition in Kenya, in August 2013, the recent discussions of the Nutrition Directors and Senior Officials in Rome in February 2015, the outcomes of the ICN2, and the next phase of the SUN movement. The purpose of the meeting is to accelerate appropriate UN country team responses to countries' needs in fighting malnutrition

in all its forms through better integration and systemic consideration of nutrition in innovative approaches of UN joint programming.

Background:

The first meeting of the UN Network for SUN focused on Africa and took place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 26-28 August 2013. (link to the meeting report: http://www.unscn.org/en/sun_un_network/nairobi-un-network-meeting/). The meeting provided a space to country UN nutrition teams for discussing the roll-out and strengthening of UN actions at country level, agreed on common issues around replying to country needs and division of labour. There were 140 participants from 18 African countries.

A major recent step in strengthening global nutrition is the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), jointly organized by FAO and WHO, in November 2014, in Rome. Under the theme “Better Nutrition, Better Lives”, UN Member States endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action (<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/icn2/en/>), which sets out clear recommended actions that governments may incorporate into their national development and investment plans to achieve better nutrition for all.

Overall objective

The main objective of the meeting is to strengthen the joint support provided by UN agencies to countries for improved nutrition policies and programming, including nutrition-sensitive development and nutrition-specific actions. This will also take endorsed regional plans and strategies into consideration. Sharing lessons learned on successful UN collaboration for improved performance of the UN Network in countries. Furthermore, the meeting will address in very practical terms how the UN country team members can support 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.

Specific objectives

- 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), the new directions of the SUN Movement and the role of the UN Network for SUN, and the adopted UN Global Nutrition Agenda.
- Better guidance to UN country teams on ways to strengthen joint support to national governments for improved nutrition programming - including nutrition-sensitive development and nutrition-specific development.
- Guidance to UN country teams on how the UN can best develop and deliver joint programming in support of national priorities with view to maximizing impact on nutrition.
- Guidance to UN country teams that responds to country needs on how to include other sectors and more actors from the wider UN family with an interest in scaling up nutrition, and on how to mainstream nutrition ensuring that sectoral plans effectively build-in nutrition outcomes from the onset.

Elements of the agenda:

1. Introduction:

Nutrition challenges in the Asian Region, relevance of the outcomes of the ICN2 and links to UN programmatic actions in response to countries’ needs on the new narrative of malnutrition including obesity, its public health implications and the relevance of food and agriculture systems. The new directions of the SUN Movement and the role of the UN Network for SUN and links to the UNSG Zero Hunger Challenge.

2. UN Global Nutrition Agenda (GNA) and its relevance for regional and country level. The GNA is a guiding framework for UN action during the ICN2 proposed Decade for Action. It covers a period of 5 years, and describes the goals and outcomes UN agencies will seek to achieve collectively. It will be rolled out through the development of country nutrition agendas.
3. Main part a) Discussion on UN common programmatic instruments for improved UN programming for nutrition (including on nutrition-sensitive development), such as the CCA and UNDAF.
 - UNDAF as tool for initiating joint programming / UN collaboration on nutrition
 - Results of the review study of UNDAF Guidance Note for Food Security and Nutrition
 - NCDs in UNDAF
 - Role of UN Network for SUN at country level
 - Tools available to strengthen programming for nutrition (including inventory exercise and country UN agenda)
4. Main part b) UN collaboration and joint programming in countries:
 - Highlight success stories of UN collaboration, how to have a well-organized country team
 - Acceleration of UN collaboration / various forms of joint UN programming in countries:
 - Inventory of UN nutrition actions and collaboration in selected countries.
 - Presentation of guidance for annual inventory exercise and discussion on proposed methodology.
 - Next steps regarding the provision of global/regional support functions to UN Networks in countries.
5. Practical next steps for accelerated UN collaboration and joint actions.

Invited Countries include:

Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and Thailand.