

Nutrition for Growth Accountability **DRAFT 3: 18/09/2013**

Summary

This short paper describes how the commitments made at the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) event on June 8 will be tracked and how the tracking process will be used to strengthen accountability for tackling undernutrition.

The key elements of the accountability framework are as follows:

1. Creation of a senior group, within the SUN movement, focused on N4G follow-up (the N4G Follow-up Group);
2. Creation of a Consortium of Expert agencies to review the monitoring data and author a biennial State of World Nutrition report which will bring together data on the World Health Assembly's six global nutrition targets, progress within the SUN movement and progress against N4G commitments, as well as create opportunities for learning to be captured.
3. Integration of the tracking of N4G commitments within the monitoring and evaluation system of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement;
4. Supporting the strengthening of country information systems for nutrition as well as other new data initiatives to address critical data gaps;
5. A strong focus on improving the quality of statistics and information available to citizens by using new technology and connectivity and thereby contributing to the Post 2015 Data Revolution.

Introduction

On June 8 at the Nutrition for Growth event, convened by the UK, Government of Brazil and CIFF, governments, businesses, UN agencies, CSOs and scientific institutions all made commitments to do more to tackle undernutrition. These commitments are captured in the Nutrition for Growth Compact and in the accompanying Commitments document. The collective ambition of those who committed was to:

- Ensure that at least 500 million pregnant women and children under two are reached with effective nutrition interventions.
- Prevent at least 20 million children under five from being stunted.
- Save at least 1.7m lives by reducing stunting, by increasing breastfeeding, and through the treatment of severe acute malnutrition.

This paper outlines how these commitments will be tracked.

Current status of tracking progress on nutrition

There are currently two major processes in place for tracking and reporting progress on nutrition. First the World Health Assembly will receive a report in

May 2014, which will be produced by WHO, on global progress against the 6 WHA targets (agreed in 2012) and thereafter every 2-4 years. This report will be generated from the WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition which aggregates national surveys which meet set standards.

Second, the Scaling Up Nutrition movement has put in place a monitoring and evaluation system

- to gather and report data on the outputs of the SUN Secretariat,
- to gather and report data on the outcomes of the SUN movement (reported by the key constituency groups – SUN countries, the Donor Network, the Business Network, the UN Network and the CSO Network),
- and to track secondary data on impacts (including from the WHO Global database mentioned above).

It reports on these annually in a SUN Progress Report submitted to the SUN Lead Group in September.

In addition to these key processes there are a number of other annual or periodic reports which help to provide additional information on progress:

1. The annual Global Hunger Index published by IFPRI, Welthungerhilfe and Concern which publishes an index of secondary data on mortality, underweight and undernourishment.
2. The annual report of the Hunger and Nutrition Commitments Index (HANCI), produced by the Institute of Development Studies which ranks governments on their political commitment to tackling hunger and undernutrition.
3. Periodic UNICEF reports on progress on nutrition which provide more detailed reporting on national surveys which are included in the WHO Global Database as well as more analysis and case studies.
4. The annual periodic Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Countdown to 2015 report which tracks coverage levels for health interventions proven to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality and reports a range of indicators including underweight, stunting and exclusive breastfeeding.

Key principles for accountability for Nutrition for Growth commitments

There are a number of key principles:

1. The process for tracking progress minimises transaction costs and reporting requirements and as far as possible builds on existing country and global processes (described above).
2. Commitments are measurable and time bound so that progress can be reported periodically. Data generated needs to be reliable, valid and interoperable (ie standardised where possible to allow comparison).
3. Data generated are accessible and as useable as possible, allowing it to be used to help drive efforts to ensure commitments are followed through, and to inform research, policy and programming

4. Tracking progress against commitments is done in a manner which is transparent, allowing multiple stakeholders to scrutinise progress. Open source data platforms will be promoted.
5. Stakeholders who made commitments feel strong ownership over the data generated to track them.
6. The process of gathering and reporting data is done in a manner which maximises commitments made and helps build momentum for new commitments.

Overseeing the accountability process

The UK Government will convene an N4G Follow-up Group who will oversee the process of tracking progress against commitments made on June 8 and driving progress towards 2016. The group will have very strong linkages with the SUN Lead Group in terms of membership and will include at least one representative from a SUN country, a CSO, a business and the SUN Movement Coordinator. The Group will meet at Director level every 6 months.

Tracking Nutrition for Growth commitments

The overall event target on the reduction of stunting was developed to be in line with the global World Health Assembly target agreed by Ministers of Health in May 2012 (http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/nutrition_globaltargets2025/en/index.html).

The mortality target is directly linked to the stunting reduction target and to the WHA breastfeeding target, as well as being based on increased coverage of Community Management of Acute Malnutrition and therapeutic zinc supplementation.

The reach target will be tracked indirectly through reporting coverage of specific nutrition programmes (see below). This target was important for communicating the numbers of women and children that can be reached by up-scaled investment, underscoring the cost effective nature of nutrition investment.

The N4G Follow-up Group will commission, at least biennially, a State of World Nutrition report, in collaboration with the SUN Lead Group and relevant UN agencies, which will have the following objectives:

- To provide a global update on progress in tackling undernutrition for SUN countries and beyond
- To provide data to drive accountability for commitments made.

Specifically it will:

- 1) Report progress against all the global targets for all countries (not just those in the SUN movement) in comparison to the 2012 baseline when the targets were set. This will draw directly on the biennial reporting to the World Health Assembly which will commence in 2014.

- 2) Report against a series of indicators which measure key outcomes required to deliver the global targets. These indicators will be discussed at a meeting convened by WHO for member states at the end September 2013 and will be presented to and discussed by the World Health Assembly in 2014.
- 3) Report on progress within SUN countries against the four SUN processes identified in the SUN M&E Framework.
- 4) Report examples of how countries have successfully scaled up, mobilising multi-sectoral approaches and effective governance and report on failures to generate learning and experience sharing.
- 5) Report examples of how businesses have effectively improved nutrition through core business activity, the results achieved and on the nature of successful partnerships with the public sector.
- 6) Report on specific commitments made in the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact and Commitments document by governments addressing undernutrition, donors and development agencies, businesses, and civil society. Where possible indicators will be agreed to allow comparison between commitments.
- 7) Draw as necessary on other global reports (SUN Progress Report, Periodic UNICEF reports, Global Hunger index, Hunger and Nutrition Commitments Index) to tell a consistent story about nutrition progress.

In developing the scope of the report, we will review the existing reports produced and identify critical gaps. The differences between the State of World Nutrition report, SUN Progress Report and WHA reporting is described below. Every two years, starting in 2014, the State of World Nutrition and the SUN Progress report will converge into one overarching report. During the interim years the SUN progress report and a short report of progress against N4G commitments will be published.

	State of World Nutrition Report	SUN Progress report	Biennial reporting to World Health Assembly
Geography	Global and by country	SUN countries	Global
Processes in place to support national scale up	Yes and reviewed by CEA	Yes	
Outcomes and Impacts	Yes and opportunity for more detailed analysis from country information systems for nutrition	Yes	Yes
Lesson learning	Reporting on successes and	Case study examples of	No

	failures of scaling up	success from SUN countries	
Tracking of N4G commitments	Yes	No	No

Data will be compiled and analysed and the report will be written by a Consortium of Expert Agencies (CEA) with an identified lead. The consortium will be funded by the UK Government (ideally with other members of the N4G Follow-up Group) and commissioned by the N4G Follow-up Group in consultation with key UN agencies. This group would provide an independent verification of the data and expert opinion on progress being made. We would look to make direct links between this group and those directing the work to strengthen country information systems for nutrition (see below). The exact timing of the report release each year will be decided in due course.

Data sources

For the most part, the impact and outcome data reported in the Global Progress Report will be collated from multiple secondary sources (notably the WHO Global Database), rather than relying on primary data collection, though specific data gaps may be addressed through ad hoc primary data collection exercises. See below for how critical data gaps will be addressed.

A number of steps will be taken to track individual commitments made on June 8. In order to embed the commitments within the SUN monitoring and evaluation process we propose to:

1. Invite each of the respective SUN networks to take responsibility for tracking the commitments made by their constituent members in a consistent, comparable manner. The source of the data used for tracking the commitment will also be agreed.
2. SUN countries will report their progress periodically to the SUN Secretariat through the SUN M&E framework.
3. If needed, the UK will help support the respective networks to ensure that the data can be effectively gathered by helping to support a technical assistance facility to draw down on.
4. The monitoring data will be reviewed by the Consortium of Expert Agencies producing the State of World Nutrition Report, validated and compiled in the report.

Transparency and Accountability

We aim to ensure that accountability process for Nutrition for Growth commitments is at the forefront of the Data Revolution being called for by the High Level Panel Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We will promote investments in critical data gaps as well as use the accountability process to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens by using new technology and connectivity. We will put

particular emphasis on disaggregating data so that progress among the most marginalised and excluded populations can be actively tracked.

The report will be an online, interactive document produced in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese with specific elements aimed at citizens, policy makers and the media.

A core data set will be published in a very accessible form, ideally on the SUN website, for each country:

- a) Levels of stunting
- b) Levels of spending (donor and government)

The N4G Follow-up Group will review and make recommendations to act on the findings.

Addressing data gaps on outcomes and impact

The data currently available in many countries is insufficient to make comprehensive judgements on progress in terms of scaling up. The key challenges with the data available currently are as follows:

- a) Data on impacts is produced infrequently (every 3-5 years through national surveys). Data which is produced more frequently through routine monitoring is of varying quality and often unstandardised. This is especially problematic in settings which are affected by frequent emergencies.
- b) Data on outcomes e.g. programme coverage is not gathered and reported in a comprehensive manner. Data on outputs e.g. programme quality is even less frequently gathered and reported.
- c) Data on inputs (particularly financing) is not reported consistently or in a standardised manner though the SUN Donor Network is working on a standardised way of reporting ODA for nutrition.
- d) Attribution of progress to different types of investment is very difficult. For example, very little is known about the impact of business investments in nutrition, or of nutrition sensitive investments in agriculture, social protection etc.
- e) Data is not readily available or transparently reported and communicated making it difficult to use to support accountability.

In order to help address these gaps...

- 1) CIDA, EC and UK will support governments, in collaboration with the SUN multi-stakeholder platform and academic networks to strengthen country information systems for nutrition through the development of National Evaluation Platforms, which will serve as hubs for the reporting, collation and analysis of multiple sources of data on public and private sector inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact with a view to learning about what works and transparently reporting progress. These would feed data into a Global Networked Information System for Nutrition. We would look to ensure that the global structures set up to support the country information systems for nutrition have direct links to

the CEA. Support will be provided immediately in Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique (and one further country in West Africa). In these countries we will examine critical data gaps to determine whether further investment in primary data collection is needed to ensure there is a critical mass of data for the first years of reporting in the State of World Nutrition report.

- 2) In a number of countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh) mobile phone operators will develop mobile nutrition services which will allow for the rapid reporting of data on children's nutritional status (by health workers).
- 3) DFID will support FAO to gather annual data on perceptions of hunger using the Household Food Insecurity Score – this will provide more frequent data on levels of hunger to complement data on undernutrition.

Many others will have initiatives planned or ongoing to address data gaps.

Overview of elements of tracking N4G progress and links to SUN

The figure below explains how the various elements of data reporting and analysis complement one another to help drive accountability and transparency for Nutrition for Growth Commitments.

