

DRAFT Concept Note: Using a United Nations Common Methodology for Tracking Nutrition Investments for the Global Nutrition Report

Background

The UN Network for SUN (UNN) has been tasked to report on nutrition investments by United Nations agencies as part of the annual SUN/UN Network progress reporting and the Global Nutrition Report (GNR). The SUN Donor Network (SDN) also committed to report on their budget allocations and expenditures, for which they developed and agreed upon a 3-step approach. This approach has since been adapted and promoted by the SUN Movement Secretariat to support country reporting in the GNR. The United Nations agencies do not yet systematically capture budget allocations and expenditures relevant to both sensitive and specific nutrition actions though many are in the process of adapting their respective financial systems to be able to do so. In the meantime, we are proposing to use a modified 3-step for the UN. The UN agencies (FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, IFAD) have recently reached consensus on a list of nutrition actions (as part of the CAN – Compendium of Nutrition Actions) which will enable the collection of this information in a systematic manner across the agencies.

Objectives

The UNN would like to use a common methodology for tracking budget allocations and expenditures for nutrition by UN agencies as part of the 2016 UNN annual reporting exercise. It is important that a common methodology is used across agencies, in order to capture budget allocations and expenditures relevant to nutrition. The UNN proposes the following methodology, which builds on and simplifies the one developed by the SDN.

Proposed UNN 3-Step Methodology for country-level budget allocations

- **Step one** – identify actions undertaken by UN agencies in their projects/programmes at the country level, using the list of nutrition-related actions elaborated in the CAN (attached the list of actions)
- **Step two** – using the list of actions identified under step 1, clearly assess which actions are:
 - **Nutrition-direct (specific)**, meeting the following criteria:
 - Actions that target the immediate causes of malnutrition; AND
 - Have nutrition as primary objective
 - **Nutrition-indirect (sensitive)**, meeting the following criteria:
 - Actions that target the basic and underlying causes of malnutrition; AND
 - Actions aimed at individuals¹: the actions must intend to improve nutrition for women or adolescent girls or children; AND

¹ This does not necessarily entail targeting women or children because actions targeted at households, communities or nations can also be designed to result in improved nutrition for women and children. It entails, though, an intention to achieve results and measure them at the level of women, adolescent girls or children.

- Have a significant nutrition objective² or nutrition indicator(s); OR
 - Have explicit nutrition outcomes in the project design
- **Step three** – estimate the total annual country level programme planned budgets and expenditures for the actions and then attribute a weighting to the planned budgets and expenditures based on the following:
 - For the **nutrition-direct (specific)** actions, attribute 100% of the allocated programme/project budget
 - For the **nutrition-indirect (sensitive)** actions, determine the intensity of the actions towards nutrition outcomes based on the criteria under step 2 and attribute:
 - 100% of the programme/project budget and expenditures when the action contributes significantly to nutrition outcomes
 - 25% of the programme/project budget and expenditures when the action contributes partially to nutrition outcomes
 - For UN Network related activities (from CAN under Enabling Environment), attribute 100% to planned budgets and expenditures based on agreed UN Network workplan activities.
 - Note for HQ/Regional level: a separate consultation will be organised to agree on how to capture HQ and regional level finances for nutrition.

Source: Readapted from the SUN Donor Network’s Resource Tracking Methodology accessible at http://ucx3x320eshgjxppibt1rqq0.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/RESOURCE_TRACKING_METHODODOLOGY_SUN_DONOR_NETWORK.pdf

² The objective must go beyond just mentioning nutrition and aim to take action(s) to improve nutrition.