

## A glimpse on the Global Gathering 2019 of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement

**From 4 to 7 November 2019, the SUN Movement Global Gathering took place in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Global Gathering brought together more than 1000 participants – a broad mix of government representatives from SUN and donor countries, representatives from civil society, private sector and academia, but also chefs, parliamentarians, and youth representatives – to share their stories on successes and challenges in tackling malnutrition in all its forms [read more...]**

The SUN Global Gathering (SUNGG) is the flagship event of the SUN Movement. Previous SUN Movement Global Gatherings have been held in New York (2013), Rome (2014), Milan (2015), and in Abidjan (2017).

The overall theme of the 2019 SUN Movement Global Gathering was “Nourishing People and Planet Together”. The programme offered a wide array of plenaries, workshops and meetings and created an important moment for the Movement to take stock of progress and challenges and facilitate the sharing of country experiences and insights on how to improve nutrition through multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships. It also provided opportunities to contribute to the ongoing strategic review process on the SUN Movement, to participate in the visioning towards the third phase of SUN and to prepare for the Tokyo 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit. Recurrent topics were how to address the failings of current food systems, malnutrition in all forms, private sector engagement, financing, women and youth empowerment, and climate-resilience.



Photo by: SUN Movement

During the SUNGG, also the SUN Progress Report was released which tracks the progress of the 61 countries and 4 Indian States towards improving nutrition through multi-sectoral nutrition programming. The report shows SUN countries are more or less moving in the right direction and that several SUN countries are making progress in meeting global nutrition targets. 11 SUN countries have successfully reduced the number of stunted children under age 5 by 40% - a key WHA target. But challenges are complex and enduring. The report shows that many SUN countries are off-track to meet other WHA goals. For example: no SUN country is likely to reach the WHA goal on reducing anemia in women of reproductive age and nearly half of the countries are expected to see no rise in childhood overweight, while only about a third are on track to increase exclusive breastfeeding for infants in the first 6 months of life up to at least 50%.

The SUNGG gave the impression that across the movement, SUN countries stand at different points in addressing malnutrition but overall are moving forward by increasingly

formalizing multi-stakeholder platforms, increasing high-level political engagement, involving more sectors and stakeholders to scale and strengthen nutrition action, increasingly working at sub-national level, identifying nutrition leaders and nutrition champions to advocate for good nutrition. However, the scaling up, alignment and disbursements of funding for nutrition remains a major challenge in many SUN countries.

The progress report supports this overall impression: 42 SUN countries have national nutrition plans that bring together different sectors and stakeholders in a government-wide approach to addressing malnutrition. 55 SUN countries have active multi-stakeholder platforms at national level, 42 also work at sub-national level.

The 2019 SUN Global Gathering gave a taste of the future work to come. The SUN Movement is entering an exciting period that will be marked by the shaping the new strategy for SUN's third phase (2021-2023) based on the options that will be provided by the Strategic Review Team early next year and the preparations to renew political, financial and operational commitments at the Tokyo 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit as we enter the final decade of the SDGs.