



## Technical Note 11

### Countries in the SUN Movement Assess Their Own Progress within Government-Led Multistakeholder Platforms

#### SUN Secretariat

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement represents a new type of multistakeholder collaboration in an effort to create a more coherent and effective response to malnutrition. To date it brings together more than 50 countries and hundreds of development partners including donors, multilateral agencies, nongovernment organizations, universities, and businesses.

By July 2014, 37 countries<sup>1</sup> had conducted a self-assessment of their annual progress along four processes defined in the 2012–2015 SUN Movement Strategy:

1. Bringing people into a shared space for action
2. Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
3. Aligning actions around a common results framework (CRF)
4. Financial tracking and resource mobilization

At the country level, the self-assessment of changes was facilitated by the government focal points and involved participants from different constituencies that are making up the national SUN movement, including representatives from different ministries and parts of governments, donors, civil society organizations, and UN agencies and businesses.

**Outcome mapping**<sup>2</sup> was used to measure changes between 2013 and 2014, recognizing the primary role of actors (people, organizations, networks) in driving progress (see Box 1 below).

#### **Box 1 Outcomes defined**

*Outcomes are defined in terms of changes in behaviors, relationships, activities, actions, policies, and practices of key stakeholders that result from their association with the SUN movement and that are needed to contribute to the defined SUN movement impact for enhanced nutrition among people, especially children and pregnant and lactating women.*

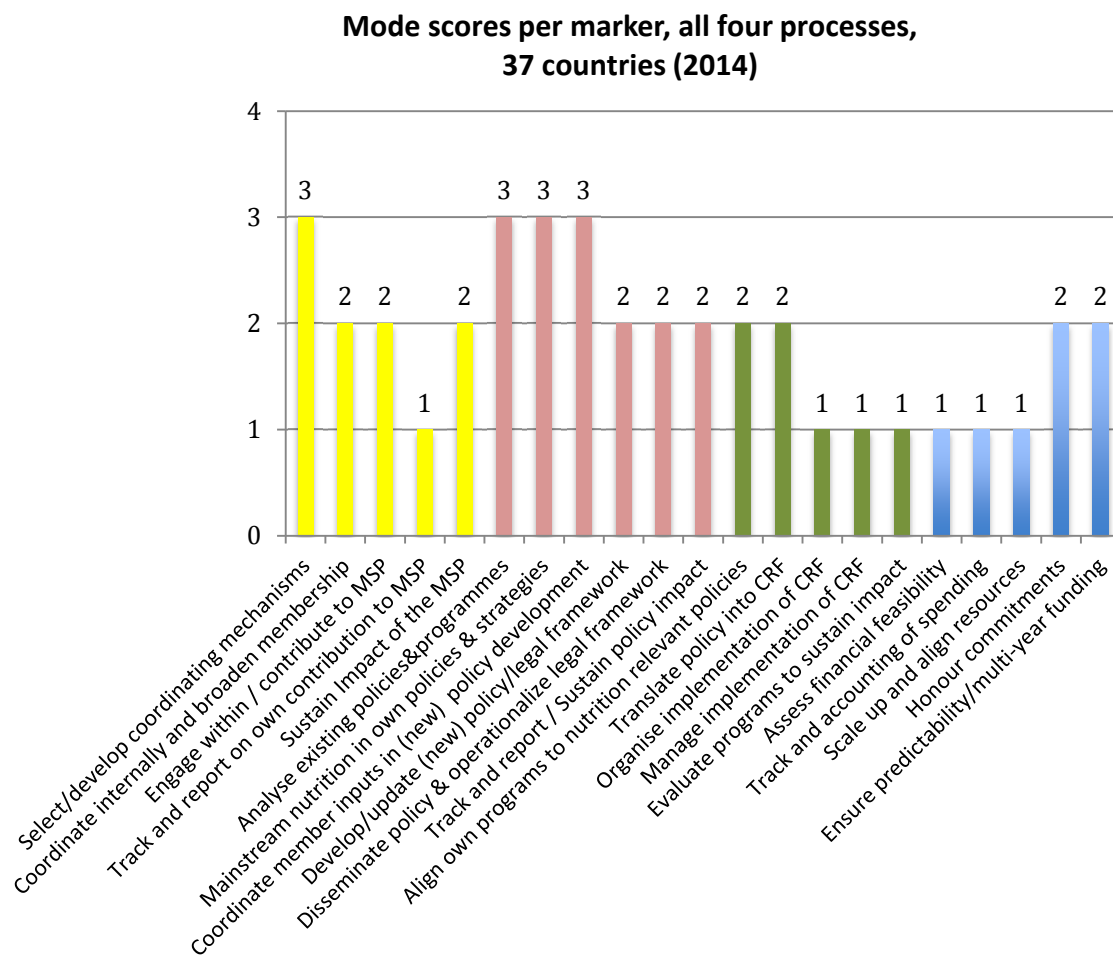
In conducting the self-assessment, displayed in Figure 1, involved participants were asked to collectively agree about a joint score on the extent to which changes described by each progress marker are manifested in the multistakeholder platform (MSP). For the scoring they used a 5-point scale: outcome being absent/not applicable = 0, started = 1, ongoing = 2, nearly completed = 3, or completed = 4.

---

<sup>1</sup> Forty countries that had joined the SUN movement prior to September 2013 were involved in the self-assessment exercise conducted between April and July 2014. Ninety-three percent of countries were able to complete and send their reports and scoring.

<sup>2</sup> <http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/SUN-ME-Framework.pdf>.

Figure 1 Results of self-assessment scoring exercise for 37 countries



For the analysis displayed in the country profiles of the *Global Nutrition Report 2014*, the raw scores provided by countries were added up in a “weighed” total score whereby the early (that is, easier) progress markers in each process were given less weight compared with the more advanced (that is, more challenging) markers. In this way, a maximum score of 100 points per country can be potentially achieved for each process (see weighed scores in the *Global Nutrition Report 2014* country profiles).

Participants highlighted the learning nature of the self-assessment exercise and the opportunity to discuss challenges in an open way and take ownership of potential solutions. Countries that have conducted their first self-assessment in 2014 will repeat the exercise on an annual basis to ensure that this remains a critical moment to collectively identify “pathways of change.”

Two main limitations should be acknowledged when interpreting findings. First, comparison across countries can be misleading and should be avoided. This is due to the subjective nature of the self-assessment exercise, which tends to differ across countries as each group adopts different levels of self-criticism. Second, the scoring patterns in repetitive self-assessments over the years

will still need to be interpreted cautiously due to the expected nonlinearity and unpredictability of progress and the different set of stakeholders involved in each country. The main purpose of the self-assessment is the learning and dialogue. Over time, however, the scores (and especially the reasons given for the specific scores) will be used more consistently for mutual accountability and steering among participants.