



شراكة جديدة، قيادة وطنية، استدامة
NEW PARTNERSHIP, NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, SUSTAINABILITY

SUN Yemen National Gathering

*Towards Sustainable Food and Nutrition
Interventions in Yemen*

04th – 06th June 2023



1. Executive Summary

SUN Yemen National Gathering was held in Amman, Jordan during the 04th – 06th of June, 2023, to enable representatives from the government, UN, and donors to participate and contribute to bringing together the SUN Yemen Multi-Stakeholder Platform and agree on the best joint actions to bridge the gaps and enhance the collective outcomes based on the value added of all the relevant actors. The SUN-Yemen Secretariat (SYS) plays a vital role in **bridging the fragmented national institutions** and facilitating national technical linkages with partners from the UN, INGOs, and donors.

SUN Yemen National Gathering was designed and implemented by MOPIC in partnership with UNRCO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO, and N4D with the aim to review nutrition coordination, planning, implementation, and financing mechanisms with the purpose of developing a road map that ensures joint efforts of all stakeholders.

1. The following **principles emerged** from the discussions to guide Yemen's approach to tackling malnutrition:
 - **Alignment** with collective outcomes, i.e., all stakeholders align their investments and actions with collectively agreed outcomes and priorities.
 - **Multistakeholder**, the approach draws on the comparative advantages.
 - **Multisectoral** actions that prevent as well as treat malnutrition.
 - **Coherence**, all actors ensure that their investments and actions are coherent with national and sub-national priorities, policies, and with each other.
 - **Multi-year investments** and actions adopted are guided by long-term plans.
 - **Predictable, flexible, and shock responsive**, investments and actions are predictable but flexible to respond to changing circumstances, including the impact of shocks.
 - **National leadership**, multistakeholder, and multisectoral actions are led and coordinated by Government structures at national and sub-national levels.
 - **Needs-based**, all investments and actions are guided by the needs of the Yemeni people.

2. **Road-map development**, informed by the recommendations of the SYNG, the SUN Yemen Secretariat will convene stakeholders through the SUN Technical Team in order to draft the Roadmap for further operationalising the MSNAP, food systems pathways and other frameworks. The Roadmap will describe the processes for:
 - Agreeing Yemen's national and subnational coordination and accountability mechanisms for nutrition and food systems transformation.
 - Strengthening/establishing SUN-Yemen Networks (UN, donor, civil society, and business sector).
 - Planning, i.e., updating the MSNAP.
 - Resource mobilization.
 - Systems Strengthening.
 - Agreeing on implementation modalities.
 - Further developing the SUN-Yemen monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework and information system.
 - Ensuring mutual accountability.

Participants:

- **57 in-person participants** from the government: technical participants from Aden and Sana'a, UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs, and donors.
- **35 virtual participants** from the private/business sector, UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs, and donors.

2. Introduction

The major challenge in conflict-affected contexts lies in creating a supportive work ecosystem to implement interventions that will mitigate the effects of conflict on vulnerable groups, ensure sustainability, and enhance the programming aspect by finding common ground through high-level coordination mechanisms that contribute to reducing the underlying causes that hinder the implementation of programs and interventions.

On the other hand, creating a space for dialogue between the various stakeholders is vital for consensus on work mechanisms and program directions. Eventually, it enhances effective coordination, national ownership and the humanitarian-development nexus.

In Yemen an estimated 20.7 million people depended on humanitarian assistance, Yemen presently constitutes the largest humanitarian crisis globally where levels of food insecurity remain high, with 56 % of Yemen's population experiencing severe levels of food insecurity, classified as either a crisis, emergency, or famine. Those most affected are households in rural and conflict-affected areas, displaced populations, small or female-headed households, and families with illiterate heads of household. Food insecurity is driven by high food prices, unemployment, and disrupted livelihoods, which are exacerbated by the economic crisis.

Despite the challenging context, and besides the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MSNAP), Yemen managed to be part of the global momentum on the food systems dialogues and successfully participated in the Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G) and Food Systems Summits held in 2021 which was marked as Nutrition Year of Action.

Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), represented by the Scaling Up Nutrition Secretariat -SUN-Yemen (SYS), observed the local dynamics. It was obvious that Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus is shaping in Yemen with minimal contribution from the government. To bridge this gap, SUN Yemen National Gathering was designed to create a dialogue space to ensure the contributions of all actors with a focus on the Systems approach for food and nutrition security in Yemen.

The fragmented government structure is a challenge for the time being. Considering this, SUN Yemen National Gathering was held in Amman, Jordan, to enable technical representatives from both sides to participate and contribute to bringing the SUN Yemen Multi-Stakeholder Platform and agree on best joint actions to bridge the gaps and enhance the collective outcomes based on the value added of all the relevant actors. The SYS plays a vital role in **bridging the fragmented national institutions**; this is another window of opportunity that needs to be exploited.

SUN Yemen National Gathering was designed and implemented by MOPIC in partnership with UNRCO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO, and N4D.



3. SUN Yemen National Gathering (SYNG)

Goal:

Review nutrition coordination, planning, implementation, and financing mechanisms for a road map that ensures joint efforts of all stakeholders.

Specific Objectives:

- Country-level stakeholders to demonstrate their contributions to overall progress, document alignment of energy and investments with country priorities;
- Advocacy for nutrition within the country, by including a wide range of stakeholders and influencing senior leaders, and advocacy at the global level through demonstrating the country's ongoing commitment to nutrition and sharing pivotal learning, good practices, and challenges.
- Ensure joint efforts of all of the stakeholders.

Outputs:

1. A set of **recommendations for the way forward/Roadmap** (reviewing the coordination, planning, implementation, M&E, Financing, and networking mechanisms for food and nutrition security in Yemen);
2. A set of **reference presentations** were developed for SYNG and discussed during the event;
 - Sectors' presentations (Economy, Health, agriculture, Fisheries, Education, and Water and Environment): introduce the national priorities for food and nutrition security in Yemen, the challenges, opportunities, and recommendations;
 - Partners presentations: UN initiative for HDP Nexus was presented for the first time to the government's officials; Lessons learned from SUN-Zambia (UNICEF);
 - Other presentations: on financial mechanisms in Yemen (by N4D); the Nutrition Accountability Framework in Yemen (by SUN Movement); Bridging Fragmented Public Institutions in Yemen (By Study results, Dr Alaya), g7+ contributions to HDP Nexus (By Vice GS of g7+)

4. Recommendations:

General Recommendations:

- **Multistakeholder and multisectoral:** inclusive of all sectors, humanitarian & development actors, civil society, businesses, UN agencies, doors and other partners working together in a NEW PARTNERSHIP in which they analyse, plan, implement and review progress together. For this, effective coordination mechanisms are required.
- **NATIONAL LEADERSHIP:** the Government of Yemen should be leading the scale-up and implementation sectoral and multisectoral processes and actions.
- **Support SUN-Yemen Secretariat's** plans and structures which provide the policy frameworks and spaces for all stakeholders to work together under national leadership.
- **SUSTAINABILITY:** increase investment in the prevention of malnutrition if the results of treatment are to be sustained and to be reducing levels of malnutrition. There is a need to be investing in local and national systems to ensure sustainable implementation.
- **ALIGNMENT:** it goes beyond implementing national priorities to ensuring joint planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- Whilst through the collective efforts of actors who are responding to some of the most severe humanitarian needs, there is a need to be doing much more to address the underlying causes of malnutrition through stronger local and national systems.

- To address the resource constraints for national institutions which pressure their ability to play their leadership and implementation roles.
- Invest in government structures that have the potential and provide opportunities for more coordination mechanisms.
- When reviewing progress and planning for the future, inadequate information is a prominent constraint. It is required to track the flow of information between stakeholders on what they are doing, where, the results they are achieving and the constraints they are facing.
- Increase the awareness of how the MSNAP provides an overarching policy framework that connects what relevant actors are doing in different sectors and across humanitarian and development systems.
- Clarify and strengthen the coordination structures and the planning, implementation and MEL processes through which actors can work together to achieve the collective goals.
- Identify and invest in the opportunities within the sectors which are considered game-changers.
- Leverage the investments in sectors' plans that combine humanitarian, development, and peace interventions and ensure resilience and sustainability.
- More is required for intersectoral coordination which MSNAP provides.
- Sustainability can be obtained by development financing.
- There is a need to procedurize terminologies, such as alignment, sustainability, national ownership and nexus into measurable mechanisms.
- Partnerships with the private/business sector (SUN Business Network) and CSOs (SON CSOs Network) have pivotal potentials for nutrition.

Coordination Mechanisms:

- Sensitise Government relevant sectors and other stakeholders on their role for improved nutrition.
- Advocate and sensitize key stakeholders (national and international); UN, Cluster, civil society, private sectors, and donors on nutrition priorities, MSNAP, and other nutrition-relevant strategies. Explore further coordination and linkages with nutrition-sensitive initiatives within each cluster.
- Update and endorse the SUN Steering Committee decree list of line Ministries and coordinate ministries for joint Planning/Programming and Implementation
- SUN-Yemen Secretariat should analyze how each sector governance document is reflected in MSNAP and make sure MSNAP actions are being integrated in any document development in the line ministries.
- National coordination mechanism should be complemented by an action-oriented sub-national coordination mechanism that promotes joint planning, programming, and convergence.
- Joint UN planning and programming to support fundraising efforts for MSNAP implementation which includes support to the functionality of SUN;
- Report in an integrated manner nutrition actions in UN coordination bodies meetings
- Support dedicated technical assistance to the SUN Secretariat.
- Operationalize SUN Coordination structures; ensure regular meetings, regular multi-sectoral data compilation, review, analysis, and compilation for advocacy.
- Explore ways to create linkages with forthcoming YPTT/NWG coordination structures as actions of SUN in the process of HD and P nexus and with development working groups through UNCT/PMT (outcome groups)
- Identify and Engage Yemenis Nutrition Champions involved in Advocacy.

Planning Mechanisms:

- Planning references are:
 - Plans and strategies related to nutrition: the national nutrition strategy, the health strategy, the agriculture and fisheries strategy, the water sector strategy, the humanitarian response plan, and the joint framework with the United Nations (UNDCF).
 - Identify gaps in nutrition interventions.
- Ensure the availability of data and information by establishing a unified and updated database of relevant sectors.
- Adding a nutrition component/unit within the line ministries: (Providing the necessary capabilities for this component according to terms of reference that define the tasks and responsibilities in coordination with the relevant sectors, defining interventions and priorities in all sectors.) etc.
- Identify the mutual Roles and responsibilities, each sector continuously updates the sectoral plan and informs SUN-Yemen Secretariat so that the implemented plan for the sectors is a plan in line with the changes.
- Update the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan, taking into account the previous references, according to the existing mechanisms, unified models and guidelines, and reflect the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The update process could be:
 - Establish a component/working group in the sectors for nutrition planning - each sector separately during the third quarter 2023.
 - Update the gaps in the related sectors - during the fourth quarter 2023.
 - Update the sectoral plans during the first quarter of 2024.
 - Launching and circulating the updated MSNAP plan during the second quarter of 2024.
- Update the MSNAP every two years with the SUN-Yemen Secretariat.

Implementation Mechanisms:

- Enhance coordination among relevant actors from the government and the implementer partners.
- Support the establishment of integrated information systems that serve all partners, fed by information collected from all partners, and benefited by all.
- Involve the line-ministries in the planning and implementation of the interventions provided by the partners.
- Ensure to implement evidence-based interventions.
- Update the guidelines of the line ministries.
- Design a national service and response package.

Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms:

- Review the logical framework for the MSNAP, especially the indicators, results, and outputs within the framework of the multi-sectoral plan, and build agreement on these indicators among relevant actors.
- Reassess the ability of government institutions to collect information on outcome indicators and build their technical and institutional capacities.
- Determine the main role of SUN-Yemen Secretariat as a platform responsible for improving the nutritional situation in Yemen.
- Assess the role of all clusters responsible for coordinating and managing the interventions of international organizations.
- Coordination with the implementing agencies so that all their plans and objectives are designed within the framework of the MSNAP in Yemen.
- Support the establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation System for SUN-Yemen Secretariat so that it is linked to all sectors at the central and local levels, international donor organizations, international non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, for example, the NIPN system, which has been used in several countries and has achieved remarkable success in the field of monitoring, evaluation and correction of policies related to nutrition.

Financing:

- Funding should be based on technical and financial analysis supervised by the government (eg IPC analysis and SMART survey).
- The results of the technical and financial analysis should be discussed with the SUN-Yemen Secretariat's Technical Team and then presented to the Steering Committee/decision makers.
- Benefit from the results of evaluating the actually implemented projects, and conducting the financial assessment accordingly.
- Establish a Trust Fund co-managed by the SUN-Yemen Secretariat.
- Mobilize financial resources, by making use of the available international financing mechanisms and institutions, in coordination with SUN-Yemen Secretariat.
- The decision-making mechanism regarding the distribution of funds for interventions must be based on needs assessment data approved by the government (the results of technical and financial analysis).
- Support SUN-Yemen Secretariat technically and financially (experts in aspects of information, nutrition, MEAL), including tracking the progress of grants, according to performance indicators, and to actual need.
- Sustainable financing mechanisms (future government support and taking advantage of the opportunity for humanitarian-development-peace Nexus to improve financing mechanisms and ensure its balancing).

Networks:

- SUN could convene the all these relevant stakeholders in one platform but take a Humanitarian-Development-Peace-N approach, not solely focused on humanitarian but also development.
- The Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) would convene to support implementation and coordination. The SUN-Yemen Secretariat provides this platform and makes sure it is running, but the networks remain independent. The MSP could convene regularly or on an ad-hoc basis. It includes focal points of the network, sectors, donors, including sectorial focal points.
- SUN-Secretariat could provide the overall framework, including aspects and vision. It sets the scene and then aligns the contributions and activities according to the framework.
- All networks, including donors, should capitalise on existing coordination platforms, instead of creating new ones. Unless there is a need to create a new platform.
- Assessing data needs, and supporting governmental systems to generate evidence to inform planning, implementation, and M&E.
- Actor mapping and stock-taking of what is being done is nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive.
- Sectoral mapping and sectoral analysis to promote multi-sectorial work and convergence.
- It is required to establish the **Business Network** which contributes to promoting food production, and business development.
- Civil society Network is a value-added; CSOs need to be encouraged to initiate this network and do a mapping of what actors are there, and development of a ToR with clear objectives and activities.
- Donor network is vital in aligning donor priorities and funding to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication and ensure support of national priorities.
- Academic network is also important to fill in the gap in research and analysis and enrich the technical discussions by highlighting news areas. The first step for this is to do a mapping of relevant actors.
- UN Network exists to ensure that the work of relevant UN entities is coherent and joined up with clear roles and responsibilities. It is required to revitalize it with a clear ToR, and division of labour, in support of SUN-Yemen.
- For each of the networks they need to define their objectives, activities, management structure, and how they will link to the Multi-stakeholder Platform (MSP).

Sectors' major recommendations:

Health:

- Harmonizing action plans for food and nutrition based on the national plan, and establishing coordination mechanisms between sectors to monitor implementation and financing processes.
- Increase the development funds for nutrition.
- Institutional strengthening: Financial and HR systems; sub-national mechanisms for nutrition.
- Focus on evidence-based interventions that target vulnerable groups, including nutritional measures in emergency and non-emergency cases.
- Increase the engagement of national technical leaders during the fund allocations process to ensure alignment with national priorities.
- Identifying the nutrition-sensitive intervention to ensure the distribution of funds.
- Sustainable funding that allows partners to benefit from national and local capabilities.
- Information systems strengthening, a unified platform to collect data from all sectors, based on agreed national nutrition indicators, taking into account the six nutrition targets, according to national targets, and indicators related to infant and young child feeding.
- Develop a unified advocacy mechanism and sensitize the relevant sectors to focus on addressing malnutrition in all its forms.
- Establish a national task force for nutrition information systems.
- Improve the capabilities of workers in the field of research, information management, analysis, programming and health policies in addition to the basic activities in the provision of services.
- Support embedding the food safety interventions in a sustainable mechanism (nutrition surveillance system).

Agriculture:

- Enhance multisectoral collaboration related to nutrition in order to improve communication and joint action.
- Implementation of the multi-sectoral nutrition plan by all actors, donors, and the private sector, as it is a humanitarian and developmental response plan at the same time.
- Incorporating food safety into food policies and programs on a large scale and in line with international health regulations.
- Support the consumer's protection actions.
- Establish food control systems using structured, transparent, and measurable methods, as well as identify priority areas for capacity development, and measure progress.
- Promote safe food handling through systematic disease prevention and education programs.
- Activate the advocacy strategy that was prepared by the Nutrition Secretariat in Yemen.
- Strengthening partnerships with the private sector through the establishment of the business network.
- Enhance joint leadership between the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Fisheries Wealth and Food Security and Nutrition Cluster.
- Institutional coordination between the MOAIFW, organizations, and the private sector.
- Support the information systems to be able to provide updated statistical data in a timely manner.

Fisheries:

- Strengthen partnerships and engagement of actors from the UN, INGOs, CSOs, and the private sector.
- Enhance cooperation between local authorities and commercial enterprises to increase private sector investment in local initiatives to achieve nutrition goals.
- Supporting the technical secretariat to raise the level of nutrition to enhance the institutional linkage between the technical sectors and stakeholders.
- Enhance cooperation and coordination between the MOAIFW, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, quality control laboratories, and Small and Medium Enterprises.

- Activate coordination between national institutes to improve the curriculum with regard to fishing technology, fish processing, food quality, and safety systems.
- Adopt joint actions between the fisheries sector and the agricultural sector in order to develop the integrated aquaponic fish farming sector, re-marketing of agricultural and fisheries products in areas that lack agricultural food (coastal areas), and likewise in areas that do not reach fish.
- Enhance joint cooperation between research centers and regional countries for shared waters, in order to contribute to preserving the sustainability of fish resources.
- Joint cooperation with international organizations working in the field of marine food systems such as world fish to benefit from global experiences, initiatives, and innovations in the field of healthy food systems of fish products.
- A joint coordination mechanism between the fisheries sector and partners that support the fisheries to support the unification of joint efforts for financing, planning, implementation, and M&E.
- Support the fisheries sector in operating the Fisheries Information Center.
- Conduct all meetings of the Food Security Cluster in the premises of MOAIFW.

Education:

- Implement the activities of the Education sector in the MSNAP.
- Expand the school meals and support its institutionalization.
- Improve coordination and partnership mechanisms between the Ministry of Education and all partners and organizations working in the field of education.
- Strengthen institutional capacities in implementation, follow-up and evaluation at the national and sub-national levels.
- Increase the participation of local communities in monitoring and evaluation.
- Develop an integrated information system for monitoring, evaluating and measuring the impact of implemented plans, projects and programs.
- Use the fund provided by development partners for education to implement the sector's plan.
- Integration of the UN's Education Partners Group's plans into the Ministry's plan.
- Enhance the partnership with the private sector and businessmen as effective national development partners in supporting education.
- Institutional strengthening by building capacities in the areas of planning, M&E, and information systems.
- Mainstream and operate the unified educational information system at the governorate and district levels, to serve as a basis for the data flow of the unified educational information system.

Water and Environment:

- Updating the plans and strategies of the sectors, including the joint ones, especially (the National Water Strategy, the National Strategy for Environmental Development, and the national nutrition multi-sectoral nutrition action plan.
- Preparing implementation programs for these strategies based on the foundations and priorities of the sectors and linking them to the nutrition outputs and the global goals of sustainable development.
- Ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of services.
- Monitoring and continuous evaluation of the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the work methodology in implementing the sectoral plans 2021-2023, including the multisectoral (humanitarian and developmental) and ensuring the extent of its contribution to achieving its results, including its results on nutrition in the targeted districts.
- Establish mechanisms that provide an "opportunity" to influence and motivate donors and financiers to work with the government so that the nutrition interventions are supported. The mechanisms should include the following:
 - Harmonization of financing cycles and schedules.
 - Establish financing arrangements that allow for sectoral co-financing.

- Institutional arrangements for joint implementation.
 - Design monitoring and evaluation frameworks to document and derive evidence-based interventions from program results WASH/Nutrition.
- Document the initiatives and programs that represent good synergy and integration between the WASH and nutrition sectors which can serve as a basis for a better estimate of future program costs and as a tool for effective advocacy to government and donors.
 - Use existing coordination platforms to engage with stakeholders in joint planning and implementation.
 - Involvement of government and relevant partners in the planning and intervention designing processes.
 - Coordinate with the Ministry of Health and Population and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in order to integrate safe water, sanitation and hygiene into health programs, specifically nutrition and maternal, child and newborn health programs.
 - Promote a safe and secure work environment for all workers in the water, environmental, health and nutrition sectors, with an emphasis on the importance of qualifying national and local government staff.
 - Develop a road map according to the national context in each governorate so that all affected communities have access to health facilities, schools and nutrition centers.
 - Mapping WASH and Nutrition 4Ws interventions to see where there is overlap and where the gaps are.
 - Comprehensive assessments should be conducted according to the national context and, to determine the availability of water, sanitation and hygiene services at the household and community levels, health care facilities, feeding centers and schools, in close coordination with the Ministry of Water and Environment, and to deliver its data to the Ministry to improve its services in water and sanitation.
 - Institutional strengthening to ensure the continuity of operation of water supply, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure facilities systems, as well as to carry out effective maintenance (preventive and curative) with the aim of minimizing environmental, health and other impacts and with the aim of maintaining nutrition and public health outcomes.
 - Engage international institutions, non-governmental organizations, academics and researchers to collaborate to implement research that strengthens the evidence base for effective collaboration and integration between nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and seeks to share lessons and good practices.
 - Train health and nutrition staff to promote and demonstrate key WASH practices in ongoing nutrition work and vice versa.
 - Developing an appropriate budget for WASH staff and activities (including focusing on infrastructure improvement interventions) in nutrition proposals, such as improving water and sanitation points and sanitation facilities in feeding centers and schools.
 - Strengthen technical and institutional capabilities and qualifying staff in the information systems field, while ensuring that qualified staff do not leak out of the sector.
 - Support the available information systems and integrate it into a unified and integrated system and benefit from this data in planning for future interventions.

5. The Course of the Event:

Day (1) Sunday, June 04th, 2023

First Session

The first day started with an official opening ceremony from the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, H.E. Dr. Waed Batheeb, followed by opening remarks from the UN Coordinator in Yemen, and representatives of OCHA, UNICEF, WHO, and WFP.

H.E. Dr. Waed Abdullah Batheed - Minister of Planning and International Cooperation opening remarks

H.E. expressed how malnutrition is adding burden on the overloaded crisis in Yemen. He confirmed the government's commitment to fight all forms of malnutrition in Yemen stressing the cruciality of sustainable actions and effective financing considering the multiple crises and their impact on international funds availability. He, also, affirmed the importance of this national gathering that provides a space for dialogue between relevant actors under its purpose "New Partnership, National Leadership, Sustainability", ensuring his personal follow-up on the outcomes of SYNG and his full support for the recommendations and way forward that will be proposed.

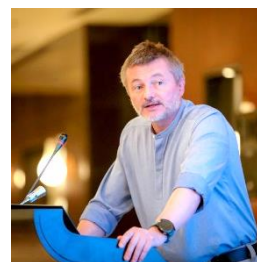


H.E. Dr. Nazar Abdullah Basuhaib - Vice-Minister of Planning and International Cooperation opening remarks

H.E. gave a summary of the SUN-Yemen Secretariat activities during the last two years, affirming the importance of the national policies that came out of these activities: MSNAP and its roadmap, the National Food Systems Pathways, and Yemen N4G Summit Commitments. Moreover, he stressed the need for more collaborative actions in which the government is co-leading. Furthermore, he explained the fact of weaknesses in the government, which need to be bridged and supported not to be avoided through institutional strengthening and information systems building.

On behalf of Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Diego Zorrilla, Pierre Fallavier - Head of UNRCO for Yemen

UNRC highlighted the importance and timely of SYNG to strengthen and prioritize sustainable multisectoral actions in Health, Nutrition, WASH, Food Security, Livelihoods, and Education, and to improve the food and nutrition situation in Yemen. He applauded the work by the SUN-Yemen Secretariat at MOPIC and their partners to drive these efforts, and to organize the event. He gave an overview of the multi-dimensional drivers of malnutrition in Yemen. He assured the essentiality of a coordinated multi-sectoral approach to nutrition to address the root causes and multiple drivers of malnutrition in all its forms.



He confirmed the support for the SUN-Yemen Steering Committee recommendations and commitments for the Yemen Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MSNAP), Action Plan on Child Wasting (YAP), National Food Systems Dialogues outputs, including the FS Pathways, and the Annual Action Plan for SUN Yemen Secretariat. He also highlighted the importance of linking humanitarian and development interventions based on the Call to Action to accelerate the implementation of the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan.

On the other hand, he stressed the role of UN agencies and partners in addressing the impacts and causes of malnutrition: Food security and nutrition are key pillars of the Humanitarian Response Plan that guides the life-saving actions of the UN and its partners but are also central to the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework that guides the UN support to Yemen in moving from emergency to development response; and articulate a common humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach with food security and nutrition as central to it. Finally, he affirmed their commitment to the agenda SYNG to review and document progress towards the national nutrition targets, to share experience and discuss areas for increased collaboration, and to develop elements of a roadmap to continue strengthening national actors' collaboration towards results. He reaffirmed their support to scaling up nutrition sustainably through the Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan and Food Systems Pathways and to the SUN-Yemen Secretariat who are the leading partner, championing this issue.

Mr. Peter Hawkins, UNICEF Representative in Yemen

He extended his gratitude to the SUN-Yemen Secretariat for all their tireless efforts in advocating for the needs of all Yemenis by organizing this SUN-Yemen National Gathering to galvanize all stakeholders towards scaling up nutrition actions more sustainably. He acknowledged its achievements under the leadership of his Excellency the Minister and the Vice Minister of MOPIC who have ably led the development of critical national documents, including the Multi-sectoral Nutrition



Action Plan (MSNAP) 2020 – 2023, the Yemen Action Plan for the prevention of wasting (2021-2023) and the National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation among other notable achievements. Moreover, he confirmed that this meeting offers a significant opportunity to jointly review progress, identify gaps and seek commitments from all relevant stakeholders in taking forward these plans, strategies, and commitments to address all forms of malnutrition comprehensively across sectors, assuring that addressing malnutrition is of utmost priority to UNICEF in Yemen where child stunting rates, at 45 percent, are among the highest in the world. Furthermore, he affirmed the requirement for Joint action from all stakeholders to scale up investments to accelerate and scale up direct and indirect nutrition interventions in the health sector and beyond such as water & sanitation, food systems through agriculture, fisheries, trade, and industry, social protection, and education systems, especially at the community level. He closed his remarks by affirming UNICEF’s support to the SUN-Yemen agenda and specifically to support the operationalization of the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action plan in Yemen.

Mr. Arturo Pesigan, Head of WHO Office

The WHO representative addressed the importance of scaling up nutrition in Yemen and emphasizes the need to ensure that the country does not fall, especially for children and mothers. The development of the National Nutrition Strategy, which aims to assure good nutrition status for all Yemenis over the next eight years, is a significant step toward accomplishing SDGs 2 and 3. This is in line with the paradigm shift in Yemen through the implementation of the Triple Nexus of Humanitarian, Development, and Peace; a pathway for the country toward its development.



He stressed that good nutrition is critical for economic development and prosperity, and malnutrition has far-reaching consequences. The SUN Yemen Gathering is an opportunity for experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to work together to find solutions to the nutrition crisis in Yemen and other countries facing similar challenges.

In addition to that he urged investment in nutrition and commitment to work together, across sectors and disciplines, to find sustainable and scalable solutions.

Mr. Richard Ragan, WFP Country Representative in Yemen

Mr. Ragan highlighted the importance of collaboration between all actors to fight malnutrition in Yemen, which no one organization or actor can do alone. He gave an inspirational story to encourage the participants to think “Me-We” during their discussions.



Second Session

The second session focused on a presentation from SUN Movement Secretariat (Geneva), by Zahra Inayat, The Convergence Hub Coordinator, who introduce the SUN Movement’s 3.0 Strategy as well as the focus and work of the SUN Convergence Hub.



A Situation Overview presentation was introduced by Dr. Ali Al-Mudhwahi, Health and Nutrition Advisor, on the mutual impact between malnutrition and the faltering national economy. Where he explained the impact of malnutrition on the human capital in Yemen, which causes a decline in the potential capabilities of generations, on the one hand, which in turn causes the national economy to stumble and adds a heavy burden on the national economy. On the other hand, how do economic fluctuations and the difficulties associated with them, such as the inability to access services such as education and poor purchasing power, affect the nutritional status and thus cause malnutrition in its various forms in Yemen.



After that, two presentations were introduced by SUN-Yemen Secretariat. The first one is about SUN-Yemen and its achievements, by Abdulkarim Nasser, Head of SYS. The second presentation was introduced by Ahlam Al-Bashiri, the M&E Specialist in SYS, on Snapshot on MSNAP implementation progress.

Third Session

The third session focused on presentations from the line ministries: Ministry of Public Health and Population; Ministry of Agricultural, Irrigation and Fisheries Wealth; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Water and Environment. Representatives of line-ministries from Aden and Sana'a introduced the sectors' current situations and reflected how nutrition is integrated into their sectors. They highlighted the challenges as well as the opportunities stressing on a set of recommendations for the way forward to ensure sustainability and national leadership.



Day (2) Monday, June 05th, 2023

First Session

Opening Speech by Dr. David Nabarro –Strategic Director of 4SD Foundation, Co-Lead of the Food Workstream of the UN Global Crisis Response Group

In his speech, he stressed the importance of such dialogue spaces to discuss and harness coordination mechanisms towards sustainable food and nutrition interventions in Yemen; expressing his admiration for the achievements of the SUN-Yemen Secretariat, mainly Yemeni's national pathway for food systems transformation. He assured the role of climate change and conflict in leading to severe food insecurity impacting women and children. Moreover, he highlighted the importance of nutrition-sensitive social protection programs amidst the increasing food prices which makes it challenging for an increasing part of the population to be able to afford a nutritious and healthy diet. He also stressed the importance of climate-compatible and nutrition-sensitive food systems and so action should focus on the nexus between environment, climate, food, health, and nutrition; the adoption of a holistic food systems approach is fundamental to achieving the development goals of the SDGs, 2030 Agenda, and the African Union's Agenda 2063



On the other hand, he highlighted the importance of investment in production, local transformation, storage, and access to markets for small-holder farmers who need training and benefiting from capacity building, and should be targeted in the efforts to achieve food and nutrition security; as well as women, indigenous people, and younger people should be engaged.

He emphasized the multi-sectoral approach for nutrition, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, resilience building, as well as trust-building between actors that they work towards sustainable Food and nutrition interventions. In closing his speech, he confirmed that the SYNG comes in difficult conditions which set a good example that should be commended.

Second Session

In this session, a presentation on "Yemen's vision on HDP Nexus" was introduced by Karima Al-Hada'a, from SYS-MOPIC. It was followed by a presentation on "Operationalization of Nexus through YPG, YPTT and Nutrition WG, by Saba Albess from UNRCO. Then, results of a study on "Bridging fragmented government institutions during protracted crisis" was introduced By Dr. Mosa Elayah. After that, Ms. Kendra Siekmans, from SUN Movement, introduced the results of "Nutrition Accountability Framework-NAF" in Yemen. Eventually, preliminary results of "Financial Mechanisms Assessment for Nutrition in Yemen" was presented by Chris Leather from N4D.

Third Session

The participants were divided into sectoral break-out groups to discuss the guiding questions for a way forward for sustainable actions in nutrition: Health working group; Agriculture and Fisheries working group; Water and Environment working group; Education working group; Networks working group; Financing Nutrition working group. The session was closed by presenting the outputs of the break-out groups.



Day (3) Tuesday, June 06th, 2023

First Session

The third day opened with an introduction to on **“g7+ and its Impact”** by Habib Ur Rahman. He explained how The g7+ as an intergovernmental organization made up of conflict-affected countries is united by a vision of peace, stability, and development in their countries and everywhere in the world. The g7+ provides a platform to conflict-affected countries to collectively voice the need for national dialogue and reconciliation to address conflicts; advocate for effective development cooperation founded on the principles of country ownership, transparency and mutual accountability between government and development partners; and facilitate sharing of first-hand experience and good development practices with one another.



The next presentation was about **“Good Practices: SUN-II in Zambia”** by Josephine Ippe, UNICEF-Yemen. She gave an overview of SUN Zambia’s structures and coordination mechanisms, as well as the policies and strategies for Improving Nutrition in Zambia, roles and results rreas for UN agencies to implement the SUN-II program, institutional frameworks for food and nutrition, and how the Most Critical Days Program (MCDP-II) is funded.

Second Session

For the purpose of identifying the key building blocks of the Road-map development, the participants were divided into thematic groups: Coordination mechanisms working group; Planning working group; Implementation working group; M&E/NIS working group; Financing working group; and Networks working group;

Third Session

The WGs presented their outputs and discussed the key recommendations for each WG.

The Event was closed after expressing the appreciations for all participants, in-person and virtual participants.

Proposed Building Blocks for Yemen's Way Forward Road-map

