

Minutes of the 55th Nutrition Working Group Meeting

14:00 – 16:00

Wednesday, 4 April 2018

Venue: National Institute of Nutrition

Agenda:

1. Introduction
2. Review of previous minutes and action points
3. Programme updates
 - a) Updates on the SUN
 - Introduction and discussion on 2018 SUN Movement Joint-Assessment in line with the SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system
 - Presentation on the strategy for development of SUN Business Network in Viet Nam
 - Updates on the financial tracking of the SUN progress
 - Next steps of the SUN implementation in Viet Nam after high level SUN launching
 - b) Update on the preparation for the upcoming General Nutrition Survey
 - c) Updates on other policies/regulations related to nutrition
4. Discussion
 - a) Review of nutrition policies for ethnic minority children
 - b) Updates on Food security interventions

Discussion and Action points:

| Agenda item | Discussions | Action points |
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| 1. Introductions | | |
| 2. Review of previous minutes and action points | | |
| 3. Updates on the SUN | | |
| <p>Introduction and discussion on 2018 SUN Movement Joint-Assessment in line with the SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short introduction to explain the assessment tool • Joint assessment needs to be done for 2018: there are 4 processes and each process has 5 progress markers <p>Collective exercise where members of the TWGN were asked to provide inputs on the joint assessment process by process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Process 1: Bringing people together in the same space for action Improvement on leadership engagement as SUN movement reaches high level in Vietnam: a) High Level SUN launching last January 31st 2018, b) SUN movement is now included in the Prime Minister’s Directive and in the Communist Party resolution, which is a big achievement. Thus, score of the progress marker 1.5 could be increased from 2 to 3. 2. Process 2: Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework Enabling environment for policy and legal framework as SUN movement gets more political commitment from the government. 3. Process 3: Aligning actions around common results No new improvement. 4. Process 4: Tracking Finance and mobilising resources No improvements and 3 main difficulties expressed to track finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SUN focal point for Vietnam is NIN, and since | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To send back the joint assessment questionnaire to Huynh Nam Phuong by Friday 7th April acknowledging that it would require time to review relevant documents to score some markers. 2. Phuong to compile all comments and send back to members the joint assessment before finalization. 3. Need to list the items required for financial |

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| | <p>NIN is under MOH and therefore at a lower level than ministries it is difficult for NIN to collect data from MOH and other ministries relating to finances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phuong (NIN): There is a tool developed by NIN but a lack of mechanisms to track data, especially for non-health sector and the informations got are too general • Mai (NIN): Finally, it's difficult to do financial tracking on nutrition sensitive intervention. It is relatively easy to track finances on nutrition specific intervention. However, the expenses on nutrition sensitive intervention which is not directly relevant to nutrition are hard to be tracked. <p>About mobilising resources, NIN expressed concerns that NIN is not empowered enough to leverage funding and is seeking advice on how to be more relevant for that.</p> <p>Comments from TWGN members to improve the Process 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Mrs Huynh Thi Thanh Tuyen (CGIAR): Resources allocation for nutrition have recently changed in Vietnam, less donor based and more decentralized with government allocating budget directly to provinces, each one being responsible for its own budget on science technology resources. So one solution for financial tracking could be to ask for financial report from the department of health in each of the 63 provinces of Vietnam. → Roger (A&T): At provincial level, there are people's committees. As MCN department and NIN are in charge of paying our staffs, change of their TOR to provide technical assistance including budget allocation for subnational planning to those committees is needed so that there is more efficient allocation of existing resources including those from international donors into, for example, health insurance scheme. → Dr Friday (UNICEF): It is important to do advocacy. The | <p>tracking</p> <p>4. Process/how to leverage to appropriate high level to request support for financial tracking</p> |
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| | <p>first step is to go to a highest possible level (Prime Minister) and ask help for inter-ministry financial tracking. The second step is to bring more ministries to the TWGN meetings. MPI, MARD, MOLISA, etc. can be brought to SUN Network and NTWG meetings to discuss on what SUN Movement can do in this country.</p> <p>→ Dr Quang (UNICEF): The process could be 1) NIN focal point to go to the Minister of Health with a letter requesting support for financial tracking, and 2) the Minister of Health will send the letter to other relevant ministries. If support from MOH is not working, NIN should go to a higher level (Prime Minister).</p> <p>→ Mrs Huong (World Bank): It is important to drive awareness and increase information about nutrition sensitive interventions for ministries. SUN could help by having document developed and shared with ministries.</p> <p>→ Roger (A&T): For breastfeeding, we need to create enabling environment and seek for the way to incentivise nutrition to health insurance scheme, etc.</p> <p>→ Friday (UNICEF): Exclusive breast feeding rate is as low as 24.9 %.</p> | <p>5. Develop a brief to explain nutrition sensitive intervention</p> |
| SUN Business Network | <p>General presentation of the SUN Business Network (SBN). What is SBN, its objectives, why engaging the private sector in nutrition, who can be a member of SBN, the principles of engagements for private sector to join SBN and the challenges and opportunities for private sector.</p> | <p>6. Intensify the SBN and leverage it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft concept note/strategy for SBN in Vietnam • Date for the 1st meeting with the private partners in the TWGN to be set • High level meeting with government and private sector to be set |

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| Updates on Financial tracking of SUN progress | See above section Process 4. | |
| Next steps of SUN implementation in Vietnam following up the high-level SUN launching | <p>Priority for SUN in 2018:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tracking financial data for nutrition 2. Enabling environment for breastfeeding to increase exclusive breastfeeding rate in Vietnam 3. High level of coordination for SUN movement with the involvement of different key ministries (MARD, MOLISA, Education etc...) 4. Set up the SUN Business Network in Vietnam | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Follow up on the workshop of the SUN launching last January with ministries, to remind them of their commitment. To prepare: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplan • Key priorities • Multi-sectorial activities. List the activities that ministries have committed to do for SUN during the workshop in January 2018 <p>These documents to be developed asap (ideally within one week).</p> 8. Coordination mechanism of the SUN to draft 9. SUN focal point to meet with Minister of Health and brief her with the documents prepared (Cf. Action Points 2,3,4 and 6) to seek her support and commitment. 10. Prepare and send to the Minister of Health a proposal for the SUN, which will include the membership, coordination |

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| | | mechanisms and key priorities for SUN Vietnam in 2018. The Minister of Health would then leverage it and share with other ministries. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on the preparation for the upcoming General Nutrition Survey - Updates on other policies/regulations related to nutrition | The exercise on 2018 SUN Movement Joint-Assessment in line with the SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system took more time than planned. Since it is an important exercise, the participants agreed to discuss and agree on highlights of processes and priorities. The updates on preparation for upcoming GNS and on other policies related to nutrition will be moved to the agenda of the next NWG meeting | |
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| 4. Updates on Food security interventions | | |
| | Presentation of the implementation of agriculture programme named Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) contributing to health and nutrition by CIAT. | |
| 5. AOB | | |

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