

CALL FOR PROPOSAL: SUN Multi-Partner Trust Fund – October 2013

BACKGROUND: SUN MPTF RATIONALE and OBJECTIVES

Since 2008 a renewed effort for better nutrition is unfolding that looks at the social, economic and environmental impact of under-nutrition in societies and at the potential benefits of specific low-cost interventions in contributing to better nutritional outcomes even in low-income populations. [A Framework for Scaling-Up Nutrition](#), based on this analysis, was developed by practitioners from more than 100 organizations and released in April 2010. A [Road Map](#) for advancing the Framework was developed by a multi-stakeholder team in time for the United Nations General Assembly in September 2010. This recognized that an increasing number of nations seek to prioritize nutrition within their development policies, and proposed that these countries lead a renewed effort for more intensive action with the support of multiple national and international stakeholders. The focus on multiple actors – including government departments, civil society, responsible businesses, donors and UN system agencies – working together and aligning their support for the goals laid out in national plans led to the effort being referred to as a Movement for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN).

By September 2013, *42 countries and the Indian State of Maharashtra* had elected to join the Movement, implementing multi-sectoral nutrition plans through the efforts of many stakeholders at local as well as national levels. Hundreds of different entities are committed to implementing effective actions for improved nutrition, in support of policies endorsed by national leaders.

The SUN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (SUN MPTF) was established in February 2012 as a subsidiary means to provide catalytic support for priority actions by SUN Movement stakeholders. It was set up as a mechanism to channel contributions for priority activities that could not be financed through other channels. The MPTF is not designed to handle funding for large-scale investments in national action. Instead, it enables the initiation and development of a functioning SUN Movement within countries and/or regions, and provides appropriate support for Movement-wide actions when other funds are not available. The SUN MPTF operates through three financing windows designed to support:

- (1) critical in-country actions in relation to national commitments and priorities for SUN;
- (2) mobilization of in-country and global civil society so as to contribute to realizing these commitments and demonstrating results; and
- (3) adequate finance for strategic efforts that contribute to the more effective working of the SUN Movement as a whole.

Governance

The SUN MPTF works under the overall supervision of the SUN Movement Lead Group to provide overall strategic direction for the Movement and hence the priorities for the Fund. **A Management Committee (MC)** is established with the responsibility to review proposals for funding and decide on the allocation of funds. The Coordinator of the SUN Movement will serve as Chairman of the MC. Currently the MC is composed of all UN Organizations participating in the SUN Movement MPTF, including WFP, WHO, and UNOPS and DFID, IrishAid and Swiss SDC as Fund contributors. SUN CSO Network Chair is invited as observer member of the MC. Other organizations may be invited by the MC to join it at any moment.

A **Secretariat** has been established in support of the work of the MC and is tasked with the following activities: (a) review of proposals submitted by participating UN Organizations for consistency with the Terms of Reference (TOR) and the established criteria and guidelines; (b) transmission of proposals to the MC for their review and approval; (c) assessment and compilation of lessons-learned from the programmes and initiatives supported and development and implementation of an effective knowledge management system; and (d) contribution to ensuring that policies and strategies decided by the SUN Lead Group are implemented and adhered to. Finally, the SUN Movement MPTF is administered by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office). The Administrative Agent is the appointed administrative interface between the Participating UN Organizations and the donors. The MPTF Office is an ex officio member of the MC.

The present call for proposals, including the process for selecting the winning proposals and the modalities for eventually accessing the SUN MPTF funds comply with governance structure and administration of the SUN MPTF.

AREAS COVERED BY THE CURRENT CALL

The current call for proposals is issued for **Window 2 of the SUN MPTF**—supporting civil society organizations in SUN countries as they contribute to realizing SUN objectives and commitments at country and regional level. As civil society groups get organized into SUN CSO platforms, they activate multiple actions that lead to the following:

- **Coordinated Civil Society Alliances in SUN countries (CSAs) are established:** these alliances are effective, inclusive, integrate nutrition actions into their programmes and contribute to the national priorities on nutrition in line with national processes. They have established with internal coordinating mechanisms and strengthen/establish links with existing CSO networks, platforms and other national mechanisms so as to avoid duplication. These include international and national non-governmental organisations, faithbased organisations, farmer’s organisations, women’s organisations, community-based organisations, nutrition professionals inter alia and coalitions working to scale up national plans that are nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive. CSAs develop strategic plans and locate finance for longer-term sustainability so that the SUN MPTF is used in its catalytic function. Focus is on the expected increase in the impact rather than on steps to strengthen CSA structures and operations.
- **In-country CSAs advocate effectively:** CSAs contribute to public awareness and national consensus about the issue and potential solutions, including by engaging into a common multi-stakeholder narrative on nutrition. They do so through advocacy campaigns, press coverage and by raising SUN public awareness
- **In country CSAs participate in national platforms for SUN:** CSAs contribute to policy, legal and budgetary frameworks that address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. They produce the evidence for what works with indication of the scale of any good practice and potential to replicate for improved nutrition outcomes, including best practice on relevant links between nutrition and gender, employment, agriculture, food, education, WASH, etc. They facilitate participation and engage in the development and formulation of government commitments and help ensure the voice of local communities are taken into account in national financial, legal, programmatic and political commitment on Scaling-Up Nutrition. They link to regional and global CSO initiatives to have their experiences discussed and their lessons reflected into global debates.
- **CSAs contribute to better accountability in SUN countries:** CSAs strengthen in-country accountability for progress in tackling under-nutrition. In their platforms they establish needed dialogue to bring the voice

of the communities upfront in national policy dialogue. They agree on the data needed to track progress and the relative source(s) and where necessary they initiate tracking processes or link to research institutions as they assist national authorities and their in-country SUN platforms to track progress transparently and use results to help policy makers within the platforms to encourage more effective programming. In addition they help assess the actual access of services by the population (population coverage) and identify barriers to access, including by strengthening communities' voice into what makes access a challenge

- The collective of CSAs are a functioning learning network: CSAs' networks enhance learning between organisations and between countries and maximize the effectiveness of their efforts by sharing good practices via the regional and global CSO hubs. They establish ways of communicating with the global SUN CSO secretariat to enhance sharing of lessons, tools, advocacy strategies, policy advice etc. CSAs produce reports on achievements and contributions to national priorities and to SUN movement that share with other CSAs within the SUN and more widely with SUN Movement.

Those are considered 5 key shifts in the way civil society is organized around nutrition in SUN countries. All proposals responding to the current call will have to address 2 or more of the above mentioned shifts to be considered for funding. In addition all proposals will need to show how they contribute to progressive aligning of own programmes behind national nutrition plans and ensuring more harmonization and coordination by CSOs in support of national nutrition plans. Finally, proposals will set out clearly the additional benefits that will be derived from their receiving a grant through the MPTF as opposed to their seeking contributions from other sources (including international NGOs that are members of their alliances).

ELIGIBLE CIVIL-SOCIETY ORGS and REQUISITES FOR SUN MPTF SUPPORT

To the effect of this call Civil Society Alliances are eligible to apply if:

- (a) They operate in one of the 42 countries currently participating in the SUN (see list at <http://scalingupnutrition.org/sun-countries>) and/or in sub-regions relevant to multiple SUN countries.
- (b) They have NOT, nor have the countries in which they operate, successfully applied for funding in prior call(s) and/or accessed funds locally. Exceptionally, the global CSO network can re-apply given the growing number of countries they will have to serve, given they are able to present a clear case of the additional value of any new grant to the contribution they can receive from their member INGOs.
- (c) They respect the criteria as set by the SUN MPTF Management Committee which include the following:
 - (i) choosing current UN mechanisms for joint agency action such as REACH –where available- is an asset as for the choice of the UN Participating Organization; (ii) technical soundness (situation analysis, institutional clarity, clear deliverables, means of verification, conflict of interest management procedures in place or in process); (iii) clear and measurable results, including results-based focus; (iv) alignment with national policies and strategies for scaling up nutrition as shown by support of the SUN country Focal point on behalf of the national SUN multi-stakeholder platform; (v) support of wider membership of the Civil Society Alliances/Platforms at national level as properly demonstrated by signed letters or similar to demonstrate there will be stronger and more inclusive civil society participation in national SUN platforms as the project is implemented; (vi) budget wise grants will normally not be used for: per diems and other allowances for participation in SUN-relevant events; engagement of international consultants; and communications tools that already exist within SUN (e.g. website) and that can be used at no cost to disseminate results.

- (d) The CSO Alliance has to show evidence a governance structure is already in place by the time of the submission including with some indications on agreement about possibility to access MPTF funds on behalf of the wider alliance by one specific organization of the Alliance.

All submitted proposals will be shared –for information only- with the global secretariat of the CSO network for guidance on two key strengths (and possible weaknesses) of the proposals where possible.

AMOUNT ADMISSIBLE and CO-FUNDING

This call is open for an overall amount up to US\$ three (3) million. To the effect of this call, proposals cannot exceed the **overall amount of US\$ 300.000** (three-hundreds thousands US dollars) each over a period of up **24 months** maximum.

The SUN MPTF Management Committee instructs that indirect costs do not exceed 7% of the approved proposal.

A percentage of co-funding by the participating alliance is desirable (ranging between 5 and 15%) so as to put the alliance in the position to upfront financing –in case of selected proposals- and ensure smooth running of activities during the process to finalize the transfer of SUN MPTF funds. Co-funding is also intended to promote joint financing through the SUN MPTF so as to increase likelihood of sustainability of the CSAs.

PROCESS FOR REQUESTING FUNDING FROM THE FACILITY

All proposals will have to be submitted **by 17:00 CET on 11 November 2013** by email to the following address: nabarro@un.org with copy to stefano.digessa@undp.org.

Please indicate in the title: SUN MPTF call for proposal

Proposals will have to comply with the format annexed to this guidance note (see annex 1). Its main features include: basic information, an executive summary of the proposal, description of why the proposed strategy is the best appropriate and so forth. See annex below.

The SUN MPTF Secretariat will post a list with the titles of all proposals received within 1 week from the closure of the call at: <http://scalingupnutrition.org/resources-archive/sun-mptf>. The Secretariat will then assist the resource allocation decisions of the SUN MPTF Management Committee in its next meeting. All information regarding the decisions of the Management Committee will be communicated back to CSAs applicants and made available on both www.scalingupnutrition.org and <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SUN00>

For any question or query, please write to stefano.digessa@undp.org

ANNEX 1 – Submission format for SUN MPTF Window2

A. Cover Page

PROJECT TITLE

NAME OF the IMPLEMENTING CSO ALLIANCE/Organization

NAME OF THE PARTICIPATING UN ORGANIZATION as CHOSEN by THE CSO ALLIANCE

MAIN CONTACT PERSON(S)

PROJECT DURATION and LOCATION

AMOUNT REQUESTED

B. Executive Summary (max 1 page)

BACKGROUND

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

OUTCOMES and main ACTIVITIES by OUTCOME

C. Theory of change (2 page max)

DESCRIPTION OF WHY THE PROPOSED STRATEGY IS THE BEST APPROPRIATE for SUPPORTING SCALING-UP NUTRITION IN SPECIFIC CONTEXT

DESCRIPTION OF ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM RECEIVING SUN MPTF GRANT as OPPOSED TO ALTERNATIVES (including membership contributions and local leveraging of funds).

EXPLAIN WHICH ALLIANCES (e.g. with other CSO networks such as breastfeeding/health alliances, right to food groups, farmers' organizations, red crosses etc) WILL BE SOUGHT DURING THE PROJECT TO HAVE MORE IMPACT

EXPLAIN WHICH RISK FACTORS MIGHT COME THROUGH DURING PROJECT LIFE

D. Full proposal narrative (10 pages max)

E. Results framework and logframe (excel sheet)

F. Detailed and Summary budget in excel sheet (categorization must be harmonized by the UN agency serving as Participating Organization according to the categories in the table below).

SUN Movement MPTF PROJECT BUDGET*	
CATEGORIES	AMOUNT
1. Staff and other personnel costs	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	
4. Contractual Services	
5. Travel	
6. Transfers and Grants Counterparts	
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	
1. Indirect Support Costs	
TOTAL	