

## MORE ABOUT PARALLEL SESSION:

### NOURISHING THE SDGS – THE POWER OF INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPROVING DIETS AS MALNUTRITION TO NOURISH SDG2 AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT GOALS

#### **Organised by:**

The Netherlands Working Group of International Nutrition (NWGN)<sup>1</sup>

#### **Background:**

Poor diets and malnutrition in all its forms constitute the number-one driver of the global burden of disease and are driven by the current transformation in food systems. The 2017 Global Nutrition Report shows that there is an exciting opportunity to achieving global nutrition targets while catalyzing other development goals through potential ‘triple duty’ actions, which tackle more than one form of malnutrition and other development challenges at once, yielding multiple benefits across the SDGs.

There are five core areas of development that run through the SDGs which nutrition can contribute to, and in turn, benefit from:

1. sustainable food supply systems
2. infrastructure
3. health systems
4. equity and inclusion
5. peace and stability

Through these areas, improving diets and nutrition can have a powerful multiplier effect across the SDGs. Simultaneously, poverty and inequality, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, sustainable food supply systems, climate change, social protection, and agriculture all have an important impact on nutrition outcomes. (IFPRI, GNR, 2016). This calls for multi-stakeholder innovative partnerships in which academics, private sector, civil society, multilateral organisations and governments team up for integrated approaches to improve diets and nutrition globally. However, whether these approaches can advance progress in SDG2 without trade-offs in some other development goals, remains a topic of debate. Systematic approaches are needed to fill these data-gaps in order to make informed decisions at the policy level.

#### **The objectives of this session are to:**

- (1) Inform the audience on the key messages from the Global Nutrition Report 2017
- (2) Identify lessons learned from integrated approaches to advance SDG2 and determine implications for progress in other development goals through innovative partnerships within the “Dutch Diamond”: government, civil society, private sector and knowledge institutes.

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<sup>1</sup> The NWGN’s mission is to promote inclusion of nutrition specific as well as nutrition sensitive approaches in development policies and strategies of Dutch stakeholders. Members of the NWGN include: DSM, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ETC Foundation, Free University Amsterdam, GAIN NL, ICCO Cooperation, International Medical Corps, Royal Tropical Institute KIT, Save the Children NL, SNV, UNICEF NL, Unilever Research & Development Vlaardingen BV, Wageningen University & Research - Center for Development Innovation, Wageningen University & Research - Division of Human Nutrition, United Nations World Food Programme NL

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**Programme:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
14.00-14.02	Welcome and introduction	Saskia Osendarp (Co-Chair NWGN)
14.02-14.12	Nourishing the SDGs – Messages from the Global Nutrition Report 2017 (10 minutes)	Lawrence Haddad
14.12-14.22	The Dutch Diamond Approach (10 minutes)	Reina Buijs (DG International Cooperation Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
14.22-14.37	Panel: introduction pitch to 3 case-studies (5 minutes each)	Lawrence Haddad, panel moderator (GAIN and World Food Prize 2018 Laureate)
	1: Enabling Healthier Diets and Increasing Access to Vital Nutrients. Partnership DSM/ UNICEF/ SAL	Fokko Wientjes (DSM) Zakaria Fusheini (UNICEF Nigeria)
	2: The power of multi-sectoral governance in addressing malnutrition and other SDG goals: experiences from Uganda and Zambia. Partnership SNV/WUR/KIT/Swiss Development Cooperation	Musanda Mofu (National Food and Nutrition Commission Zambia)
	3: Seeds of Prosperity. Partnership Unilever/GAIN/IDH	Bärbel Weiligmann (GAIN) Reina Buijs (Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
14.37-14.57	Panel discussion on pre-defined propositions/questions & interaction with audience's opinion on propositions (Sly-Do) (20 minutes)	Panelists and moderator
14.57-15.20	Interactive plenary discussion with panel on questions raised by audience (23 minutes)	All attendees and moderator
15.20-15.28	Reflection on main lessons learned (8 minutes)	David Nabarro (World Food Prize 2018 Laureate)
15.28-15.30	Closing	

In the first 20 minutes of the discussion, the panel will be asked to respond to 4 or 5 propositions. In addition the audience will be asked interactively to indicate whether they agree or disagree with the propositions.

In the final 23 minutes of the discussion, the audience will be able to formulate questions to the panelists, and can vote for questions of interest. The questions with the most votes will be addressed at the panelists by the moderator.

Questions and votes on propositions will be captured by the software for further sharing.

Finally, in the final 8 minutes David Nabarro (tbc) will be asked to reflect on the most important conclusions and lessons learned, after which the Chair will close the session.

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#### Case-study 1

**Enabling Healthier Diets and Increasing Access to Vital Nutrients, experiences from Nigeria. Partnership DSM/ UNICEF/ Sight and Life , in further collaborating also with the SUN Networks in Nigeria.**

*Bringing together complementary competencies to contribute to SDG 2, and developing scalable models to increase access to vital nutrients for children and mothers in Nigeria.*

DSM and UNICEF, together with Sight and Life, have partnered to deliver better nutrition to at-risk children and mothers in Nigeria. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goal's target **#2 of ending hunger and improving nutrition everywhere**, the partnership focuses on reaching mothers and children with micro-nutrition interventions during the crucial first 1,000 days of children's lives, from conception to age 2. Together, the partners develop scalable models and drive innovation to improve the quality of food and nutrition in Nigeria, with the goal of spurring similar action in other countries where malnutrition is a critical concern. The partners will also advocate on a global scale for best practices in micronutrient supplementation.

#### **Combined Resources = Greater Impact**

##### **Nigeria Program:**

Royal DSM, a purpose-led, global science-based company active in nutrition, health and sustainable living, UN children's agency UNICEF, and Swiss-based humanitarian nutrition think tank Sight and Life (SAL), have joined hands to deliver better nutrition to at-risk children and mothers in Nigeria. In Nigeria the partnership successfully endorsed Micro Nutrient Powders (MNP) as a key nutrition priority within governmental programs, to support reaching the 11 million children under the age of five who are stunted, and another 2.5 million children who are severely malnourished. With such a large challenge, the solutions also need to be large.

##### **Building on a successful partnership since 2013**

The new phase in this partnership builds **on joint activity by DSM and UNICEF from 2013-2016**. In September 2013 DSM and UNICEF signed a Memorandum to jointly support the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. Under this MoU Nigeria was selected as a focus country with the aim of improving awareness on malnutrition, advocating for greater political commitment, developing solutions and to scaling up the use of micronutrient supplements for children and pregnant women.

In Nigeria the partnership successfully endorsed **Micronutrient Powder (MNP) as a key nutrition action within governmental programs**. Formative research providing insights into cultural context and local food environment, eating behaviors, infant and young child feeding practices, helped to ensure the MNP program is a culturally appropriate, integrated nutrition intervention that is both accepted and wanted by the community. Increased MNP access in Nigeria has improved the dietary quality of complementary foods.

With such a large issue to tackle, the time is over for small pilots. In this next phase of the partnership the partners will draw on their individual resources and skills to help end hunger and improve nutrition, from conception through adolescence. Good nutrition during this period plays a vital role in supporting children's physical and cognitive development with lifelong benefits. The partners will also **advocate on a global level to highlight the importance of increasing access to vital nutrients for children**.

A new agreement has also been signed that the partners will support the UNICEF India nutrition program by seeking to engage private sector stakeholders as part of the Government of India's "Social Movement

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on Nutrition” program, from 2018 onwards. The cooperation in India will focus on awareness raising to mobilize the private sector around nutrition literacy. DSM and SAL will support UNICEF with the set up of the ImpAct4Nutrition Coalition to enhance nutrition literacy (incl business network).

**SDGs addressed by this partnership:**

SDG 2 Zero Hunger

SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals.

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#### Case-study 2

#### **The power of multi-sectoral governance in addressing malnutrition and other SDG goals: experiences from Uganda and Zambia. Partnership SNV/WUR/KIT/Swiss Development Cooperation.**

##### **Background and rationale:**

Improved nutrition is critical to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Malnutrition is an important example of a global challenge that spans multiple sectors, including health, agriculture, gender, water and sanitation. Addressing malnutrition requires a strong focus on governance, involving coordinated actions by many actors across sectors and across levels of government. There is a recognition that nutrition-specific interventions, although critical, can only go so far in addressing undernutrition, and a much stronger focus on multi-sectoral programming, including nutrition sensitive interventions is needed.<sup>2</sup> In recent years, with initiatives such as Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement, a strong political momentum has been created around inter-sectoral programming, as reflected in national policies and strategies in Uganda and Zambia. Increasingly, attention is being placed on how political leadership and national strategies are translated at the subnational level, and ultimately, how they can lead to tangible impact on the ground.

This case study draws on valuable experiences from national and local governance structures in Zambia and Uganda to highlight the importance of taking a multi-sectoral approach, and to distil the enablers and constraints of multi-sectoral governance and implementation, from national to sub-national level. It is imperative that coordination frameworks are endorsed by national leaders. Experiences at the district and sub-district level are extremely important for understanding the operational realities, challenges and opportunities. A representative from the National Food and Nutrition Commission of Zambia will share learnings from the national perspective and learnings at the district and implementation level.

##### **Zambia and Uganda – national and subnational governance:**

Recognising the multifaceted nature of malnutrition, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, in partnership with the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation of Wageningen University and Research (WCDI) and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) developed and implemented Phase 1 of the Sustainable Nutrition for All (SN4A) project in Zambia and Uganda. A key pillar of SN4A is to strengthen national governance capacity by developing a coherent district wide approach to service delivery for improved nutrition. District and sub-district (sub-county in Uganda and hub in Zambia) staff are involved in the implementation, reflections, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the approach. At the district level, SN4A brings together key stakeholders to develop and implement a unified nutrition action plan with targets for improved nutrition; costed action plans for demand triggering and behavioural change; improved supply of nutrient rich foods; and a structure for implementation, outlining roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. This is in line with SDG 2, to improve sustainable agriculture and address malnutrition. Moving forward, these district level platforms could be used to escalate the discussion and lessons learned to the national level. Although DNCCs, SNCCs/ Hub NCCs have been created and progress has been made in terms of capacity building and other nutrition activities, a gap still remains between national policies and local governance. Working across sectors requires a different set of strategies and skills, including the ability and authority to coordinate between sectors. Capacities and skills should not only be technical in nature but also strategic, particularly in how to work across a range of sectors with different stakeholders. At the district level, key skills required include planning, advocacy, support supervision and M&E. At the sub-district level, technical and facilitation skills are particularly important, and sectors need to have additional

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<sup>2</sup> Lancet 2008 and 2013.

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training on nutrition implementation. Adequate funding is the glue that holds vertical and horizontal implementation of nutrition policies. Inter-sectoral coordination needs leadership and involves time, energy, funds and skills and managing these requires resources. It also takes time to build alliances and systems to support a broad-based effort in addressing malnutrition.

#### **SDGs addressed by this partnership:**

SDG 2 Zero Hunger  
SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being  
SDG 5 Gender Equality  
SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production  
SDG 17 Partnerships to achieve the Goal

#### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the case study are to share learnings and insights from national and local governance structures and partners on multi-sectoral governance in line with the SDGs (in particular SDG2), and outline key areas that need to be considered when upscaling nutrition coordination committees/frameworks.

#### **Additional References:**

Technical Briefs:  
FANTA, 2018. DNCCs  
SNV et al., 2017. The power of multisectoral governance in addressing malnutrition. Insights from Uganda and Zambia.

**Link to Presentations and Recording:** <https://www.spring-nutrition.org/events/ag2nut-call-multi-sectoral-nutrition-governance-experiences-uganda-and-zambia>

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#### Case-study 3

#### **Seeds of prosperity. Partnership Unilever/GAIN/IDH**

**Mission:** Seeds of Prosperity (SoP) aims to educate and promote behaviour change among tea supply chain households in the two areas of nutrition and hygiene, specifically dietary diversity and handwashing. Evidence suggests diverse diets improve an individual's likelihood of meeting micronutrient requirements for good health, and handwashing reduces infections.

#### **Two SDGs mainly addressed by SoP:**

##### #2 Zero Hunger:

- Improve **food practices** through behaviour change.
- **Bring foods into the household** through kitchen gardens and purchase of foods.

##### #6 Clean water & sanitation:

- Improve **handwashing with soap** through behaviour change.

SoP builds on activities related to #1 No poverty:

- Certification programmes that aim to **increase income** for farmers.
- **Existing delivery mechanisms** in supply chains, making use of organized groups and trusted trainers.

#### **The program:**

Seeds of Prosperity is a 9-week 1-hour training combined with the promotion of home gardening using the existing supply chain training structure to implement the program. It has an appealing BCC approach based on the five levers of change from Lifebuoy (Awareness, Make it easy, Commitment, Reinforcement, Reward)

**Target group:** Estate workers, small holder farmers and workers of small holder farmers in three sites, including Assam & Tamil Nadu in India and Kenya

#### **Impact evaluation:**

Baseline and end line measurements in intervention and control areas:

- Self reported behaviours, including dietary diversity scores, hand washing practices and existence of home gardens.
- Qualitative analysis on loyalty, trust, usefulness, health costs and empowerment
- End line measurements were conducted one year after baseline in Kenya and Tamil Nadu, lowering the risk of seasonal influences. In Assam, mid line measurements were conducted half a year after baseline.

#### **Outcomes:**

- Outcomes were mixed across the different study sites, for example dietary diversity scores improved among estate workers in Assam (+0.7) and farm workers in Kenya (0.3), but no net change was seen in any worker type in Tamil Nadu and there was a net decline in dietary diversity among farmers in Kenya (-0.3).
- Handwashing behaviour did not improve (Tamil Nadu), were already quite high at baseline (Kenya) or improved in both control and intervention group (Assam).

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#### Learnings:

- Using business delivery platforms to deliver an intervention is an important entry point for workplace nutrition of vulnerable supply chain workers and farmers.
- Programs cannot be scaled up without **local adaption** in each setting in both the messages and the delivery approach.
- Dietary diversity is just one element of a healthy diet, and may also not be the most limiting factor to a healthy diet in all settings. Recommended dietary approaches should follow the national dietary guidelines in each country setting, so we aren't sending mixed messages.
- Handwashing behaviors might not be relevant to address in each context. Messages should be tailored towards the needs of the target group.

#### Recommendations for SoP 2.0:

- Invest in a formative research and a **design iterative approach** to understand drivers and constraints to demand for and access to nutritious and safe foods and help inform and allow for dynamic adaptations in each context.
- Bring in more **communication expertise** to help design the duration and/or intensity of the communication strategy including multiple channels for message reinforcement.
- Explore viable alternatives for the **integration of direct interventions** to increase access of nutritious and safe foods, such as the inclusion of fortified food at rations shops on tea estates.
- Improve ownership and **involvement of business** (estate management, buyers from farmers etc.) to find solutions sustainable solutions to access and channels for demand creation



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Propositions to be discussed at panel discussion (these can be changed)

- 1: **Effective partnerships addressing SDG2 can only work if all partners have reducing malnutrition as their primary objective.** Conflicting agenda's of public and private sector partners will remain an important barrier for success. Effective partnerships rely on trust and personal relationships between partners.
- 2: **Trying to address multiple SDGs in one partnership program goes at the expense of quick and effective progress on SDG2.** For instance can we promote local SMEs and ensure that they can produce enough good quality supplementary foods and food supplements to fulfill the needs in situations of famine or extreme food insecurity?
- 3: **Only the local government can ensure that partners contribute to integrated programs addressing multiple SDGs.** Good governance is a pre-requisite to ensure progress of integrated programs. Donors, local and international private sector, and local and international NGOs each have too many conflicting goals and objectives.
- 4: **Successfully addressing SDG2 (ZeroHunger) will not be possible without addressing (gender) inequalities (SDG 5).** Impacting these inequalities and understanding how it contributes to malnutrition, is an essential aspect of all nutrition related programs.
- 5: **Recognition of auxiliary benefits of programs is an opportunity to target multiple SDGs –** Programs can have unforeseen benefits targeting other SDGs, recognizing them and making use of existing infrastructures can be an effective way to achieve targets of multiple SDGs.
- 6: **Sustainable solutions at scale require collective action –** For programs to work at scale, multiple companies / organizations in a region should invest and therefore it should be made attractive (cost and time efficient, using existing delivery mechanisms) for them to join forces.

Other suggestions for propositions:

- **To achieve the best nutrition outcomes, behavior change needs to work in conjunction with other interventions –** It is needed to develop a holistic view of people centered support and integrate and align the different interventions/programs running in the field to achieve the most.