



# Malnutrition "Reality and the dream of confrontation"

## Introduction

In light of the worsening humanitarian situation in Yemen, as a result of the continued conflict since 2011, the humanitarian needs have increased as a result of the disruption of livelihoods and reduced income, which negatively affected the fragile livelihood of the Yemeni family. This in turn led to a lack of food intake and reduced the number of meals. The results of the latest EFSNA 2016 surveys show that 17 million Yemeni citizens require emergency humanitarian assistance and that 2.3 million children are malnourished.

## WHY NUTRITION ?



## Read in the issue:

- ➔ *What is the Global Scaling Up Nutrition Initiative ?*
- ➔ *Yemen's accession to the SUN initiative, and why it joined?*
- ➔ *SUN-Yemen prioritizes its work, challenges and difficulties.*
- ➔ *The Role of the Coordination Secretariat SUN-Yemen*



## Malnutrition "Reality and the dream of confrontation"

Currently, Yemen is facing a complex humanitarian crisis. According to the reports, about 80% of Yemen's population need some kind of humanitarian or protection assistance and create one of the highest rates of malnutrition and food insecurity in the world. The conflict has also displaced more than 4.1 million people, a rate of 52% higher than the level reported in May 2015.

Yemenis suffer from the inadequate access to water and sanitation, which increases the risk of disease and limited access to health and education services that has directly led to a decline in the nutritional status of children and women.

In this context, Yemen has sought to join the global initiative to scale up the level of nutrition and to cope with other countries in terms of coping with malnutrition and addressing this disease, which directly affects children and women and, consequently, the future of Yemen's generations and may result in a handicapped generation unable to produce and participate in development.

## YEMEN AND SCALING UP NUTRITION

### (SUN)

On 1 November 2012, Yemen joined the SUN Movement with a letter of commitment from the Prime Minister. At the time, attention had been brought to the scale of the problem of malnutrition when an emergency response was launched due to conflict. The high level commitment of Yemen to address malnutrition issues was seen with the immediate appointment of the vice Minister of Planning and International Cooperation was assigned as the National Coordinator of SUN Movement, and the Deputy Minister of Development Plans and Programs Sector as the Deputy National Coordinator for the SUN Movement. The SUN Steering Committee was established consisting members from all relevant constituencies (the government and relevant ministries, civil society & academicians, United Nations Development Program, UNICEF, World Food Program, World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development IFAD and donors - United Kingdom, World Bank, European Union, and private sector) under the leadership of MOPIC.

The SUN Secretariat was established to coordinate and communicate with all parties involved and then was supported by the Multi-Sectorial Steering Committee with duty to:

- Choose the sectorial interventions for the national plans;
- Identify the common ground for the target sectors;
- Prioritize interventions;
- Determine the cost of interventions;
- Determine the period of implementation of the Multi-sectorial plan;
- Identify interventions for each sector;
- Identify the target areas (145) Directorate in all governorates;
- Determine the cost per activity
- Formulate the Multi-sectorial plan.

### Why did Yemen join the initiative?

- ✓ Raise awareness about the issues of malnutrition in Yemen within the framework of the annual global report issued by SUN Secretariat, which is an essential support for mobilizing resources to address malnutrition.
- ✓ Support Yemen with the technical assistance by the SUN secretariat (MQSUN).
- ✓ Exchange of experiences and knowledge and benefit from the initiative's member states in the in how to address malnutrition.
- ✓ The Scaling Up Nutrition Initiative also seeks to assist member states in achieving the goals of sustainable development.
- ✓ Promote the Multi-sectoral plan locally and externally in order to mobilize resources and obtain support to implement the activities.

## WHAT IS SCALING UP NUTRITION ?

The Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is a renewed effort to eliminate malnutrition, based on the principle that everyone has a right to food and good nutrition. The Movement's vision is to ,by 2030, ensure a world free from malnutrition in all its forms. Led by governments and supported by organizations and individuals – collective action ensures every child, adolescent, mother and family can realise their right to food and nutrition, reach their full potential and shape sustainable and prosperous societies. The Movement is unique by bringing different groups of people together – governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and scientists. It is transforming the way in which people work together by empowering people to put in place effective systems and to increase investments. SUN Countries and their supporters are working towards the World Health Assembly targets on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition by 2025, in addition to relevant targets for preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases.

**THE VISION OF THE SUN MOVEMENT  
BY 2030, A world free  
from malnutrition in all its forms**

### Reaching the SUN Movement's strategic objectives

1. **Bringing people together** to work effectively through functioning multi-sector, multi-stakeholder platforms;
2. **Putting policies and laws in place** to establish a coherent policy and legal framework;
3. **Implementing and aligning programmes** with common objectives and an agreed framework for results .
4. **Mobilising resources** from domestic sources supplemented by external assistance.

### Global Nutrition Targets

SUN Countries are aiming collectively to reach the global targets to be reached by 2025 agreed by the **World Health Assembly in 2012**

- Target 1:** 40% reduction of the global number of children under 5 who are stunted .
- Target 2:** 50% reduction of anemia in women of reproductive age .
- Target 3:** 30% reduction of low birth weight .
- Target 4:** Increase exclusive breastfeeding rates in the first 6 months up to at least 50%
- Target 5:** No increase in childhood overweight .
- Target 6:** Reducing and maintaining childhood wasting to less than 5% .

## What is the Role of the Coordinating Secretariat for Scaling up Nutrition in Yemen (SUN-Yemen)

The Coordinating Secretariat for Scaling up Nutrition in Yemen plays an important role in coordinating and bringing together all national efforts as well as tracking and communicating progress being made in line with the strategic objectives of the SUN Movement to achieve the national goals aiming at creating healthy and free from malnutrition generations who are able to reach their full potential and shape sustainable and prosperous societies. This goal is achieved by consolidating efforts and interventions on malnutrition issues through: Developing an integrated and national multisectoral plan for nutrition. All relevant ministries are assigned as the focal points to work on the common results framework based on their priorities and to identify target areas and key nutrition interventions with cost determination in collaboration with international organizations (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, GIZ) and the technical assistance of the SUN Secretariat in Geneva .

Specific Actions for Nutrition	Nutrition-Sensitive Strategies
<p><b>Feeding practices &amp; behaviours:</b> Encouraging exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months of age and continued breastfeeding together with appropriate and nutritious food up to 2 years of age and beyond .</p> <p><b>Fortification of foods:</b> Enabling access to nutrients through incorporating them into foods .</p> <p><b>Micronutrient supplementation:</b> Direct provision of extra nutrients</p> <p><b>Treatment of acute malnutrition:</b> Enabling persons with moderate and severe malnutrition to access effective treatment .</p>	<p><b>Agriculture:</b> Making nutritious food more accessible to everyone, and supporting small farms as a source of income for women and families.</p> <p><b>Clean water &amp; sanitation:</b> Improving access to reduce infection and disease</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Making sure children have the nutrition needed to learn and earn a decent income as adults</p> <p><b>Employment &amp; social protection:</b> Ensuring employment practices and social protection schemes support good nutrition</p> <p><b>Health care:</b> Access to services that enable women &amp; children to be healthy</p> <p><b>Support for resilience:</b> Establishing a stronger, healthier population and sustained prosperity to better endure emergencies and conflict .</p>

## Scale-Up Nutrition Secretariat SUN-Yemen The Priorities and Challenges

### Priorities

- ✚ Develop the multi-sectoral plan for nutrition into a comprehensive national plan.
- ✚ Bridge the gap between the humanitarian and development interventions.
- ✚ Coordinate between the Government, international organizations and civil society organizations in relation to nutrition activities.
- ✚ Raise advocacy opportunities to influence policymakers and economists to harmonize all policies to combat hunger and malnutrition.
- ✚ Promote the multi- sectoral plan locally and internationally to mobilize resources for the implementation of urgent activities and interventions.



### Challenges and difficulties:

- ✚ The current crisis in Yemen.
- ✚ The direction of all activities for humanitarian response and aid.
- ✚ Poor community awareness of the dangers of malnutrition.
- ✚ Lack of sufficient political support for malnutrition issues in Yemen.
- ✚ Lack of a single coordinating mechanism for all malnutrition interventions.
- ✚ Scarcity of financial resources, to responds to the malnutrition issues

**EVENTS AND PARTICIPATIONS OF THE COORDINATING SECRETARIAT FOR SUN-Yemen**

**Previous Events and Activities:**

- Twenty-six meetings were held between the Coordinating Secretariat and the Nutrition Movement in Geneva (Call-Conference).
- Two annual meetings to prepare the progress report.
- The country budget analysis exercise for nutrition .
- Participating in the Joint-Assessment by National Multi-Stakeholder Platforms in line with the SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) System.
- Participating in the preparation of the Yemen Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA) 2016.
- Participation in the workshop with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and within the integrated sectoral plans to scale up nutrition.
- Participation in the meetings of the Nutrition clusters.
- Participating in preparing the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC, where SUN is considered to be a member of the IPC National Team.
- The Coordinating Secretariat for Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN-Yemen) has become a partner in the preparation of nutrition plans and programs with all line ministries: Ministry of Public Health and Population, civil society organizations and international organizations.



**External and international partnerships:**

- International Conference of the Member States of the Global Initiative for the Improvement of Nutrition **Scaling Up Nutrition** in Italy, Rome, 2013
- World Nutrition Conference (ICN2), which is held every ten years in Italy – Rome .
- International Conference of the Member States of the Global Initiative for the Improvement' of Nutrition (**Scaling Up Nutrition**) in Italy - Milano 2014
- Meeting of member states in the initiative to follow up budgets for nutrition at the level of World countries in Indonesia – Jakarta



**International Conference of the Member States SUN Italy, Rome, 2013**

**Nutrition and food security terminology**

<b>Food security</b>	A situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Based on this definition, four food security dimensions can be identified: food availability, economic and physical access to food, food utilization and stability over time.
<b>Nutrition security</b>	A situation that exists when secure access to an appropriately nutritious diet is coupled with a sanitary environment, adequate health services and care, in order to ensure a healthy and active life for all household members. Nutrition security differs from food security in that it also considers the aspects of adequate caring practices, health and hygiene in addition to dietary adequacy.
<b>Food insecurity</b>	A situation that exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. It may be caused by unavailability of food, insufficient purchasing power, inappropriate distribution or inadequate use of food at the household level. Food insecurity, poor conditions of health and sanitation and inappropriate care and feeding practices are the major causes of poor nutritional status. Food insecurity may be chronic, seasonal or transitory.
<b>Malnutrition</b>	An abnormal physiological condition caused by inadequate, unbalanced or excessive consumption of macronutrients and/or micronutrients. Malnutrition includes under nutrition and over nutrition as well as micronutrient deficiencies
<b>Severe acute malnutrition</b>	Severe acute malnutrition is defined by a very low weight for height (below -3z scores of the median WHO growth standards), by visible severe wasting, or by the presence of nutritional edema .and the most extreme and visible form of under nutrition. Its face is a child – frail and skeletal – who requires urgent treatment to survive.
<b>Undernourishment</b>	. A state, lasting for at least one year, of inability to acquire enough food, defined as a level of food intake insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements. For the purposes of this report, hunger was defined as being synonymous with chronic undernourishment.
<b>Under nutrition</b>	. The outcome of poor nutritional intake in terms of quantity and/or quality and/or poor absorption and/or poor biological use of nutrients consumed as a result of repeated disease. It includes being underweight for one's age, too short for one's age (stunted), dangerously thin for one's height (wasted) and deficient in vitamins and minerals (micronutrient malnutrition).