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CFS OEWG-Nutrition Meeting # 2

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Location: WFP Auditorium

Webcast link:

Information Note Overview of some important actors in nutrition

At CFS 42, in October 2015, all CFS constituencies confirmed their support for CFS engagement in advancing nutrition, stressing the need to take into careful consideration CFS mandate and comparative advantages, and the work conducted by other institutions and bodies. CFS mandate, governance structure and roles are summarized in Table 1, based on CFS Reform Document. At the request of the Open Ended Working Group on Nutrition, this information note was prepared by the CFS Secretariat to provide an overview of some important actors in nutrition. There are a large number of actors involved in nutrition and there is no possible way to include them all. Those listed in Tables 2 and 3 only include the actors most frequently involved in CFS discussions.

The note is based on the information provided in the UN Global Nutrition Agenda for FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO (Table 2) and information provided by the concerned actors for UNSCN, HLTF, UN System Network for SUN and REACH (Table 3).

Table 1: CFS mandate, governance structure and roles

	Overall mandate	Governance structure	Roles
CFS – Committee on World Food Security	CFS aims to be “ <i>the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings</i> ” ¹	Member states (139 presently) take decisions after consultation and negotiation with multistakeholders; the results of the annual Plenary Sessions are reported to the FAO Conference and the UN General Assembly through ECOSOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination to strengthen collaborative action among all actors at global, regional and national levels; - Policy convergence, including through the development of international strategies and policy guidelines in key areas for food security and nutrition; - Support and advice to countries and regions in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their own plans for the achievement of food security and nutrition.

At global level the UN General Assembly has the overall mandate to set global goals, targets and indicators (such as the 2030 Agenda). The High Level Political Forum (meeting annually under the auspices of ECOSOC, quadrennially under the auspices of the UNGA) and the meetings of ECOSOC monitor these targets, performance and outcomes, facilitate experience sharing and learning and identify emerging issues (and propose new actions). The SDG targets on nutrition in the 2030

¹ Reform document, paragraph 4 CFS:2009/2 Rev.2

Agenda build on the 2025 targets of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the outcomes of the ICN2 and the WHO Action Plan on Non Communicable diseases.

Table 2: Mandates, Governance Structure, Goals and Roles of UN Agencies in Nutrition (extracted from the UN Global Nutrition Agenda²)

Agency	Overall mandate as relevant to nutrition	Governance structure	Specific nutrition-related goals and roles
FAO	Raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy	FAO conference (member states)	<p>To help improve diets and raise levels of nutrition of the poorest and most nutritionally vulnerable in gender-sensitive and sustainable ways, through nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food-based approaches.</p> <p>Support member nations in their efforts to increase the effectiveness of food and agricultural systems in improving nutrition across the life cycle for their populations, working with partners at global, regional and national levels.</p> <p>As a knowledge leader, provider of public goods and trusted presence at country level, create and share knowledge, bring stakeholders in nutrition together and help align their actions for greatest impact.</p> <p>Strengthen the capacity of countries to evaluate and monitor the nutrition situation, analyse options and act effectively to improve nutrition.</p> <p>Provide tools, guidance and support for scaling up nutrition education and consumer awareness, at national and local levels</p>
IFAD	<p>IFAD contributes to nutrition and rural development through its support to agriculture, which improves access to nutritious foods and high-quality diets and supplies essential food-based micronutrients to poor and marginal groups</p> <p>IFAD is the only international financial institution mandated to contribute exclusively to reducing poverty and food insecurity in the rural areas of developing countries. (IFAD Strategic Plan, p. 13). IFAD's mandate specifically underlines "the importance of improving the nutritional level of the poorest populations in developing</p>	IFAD Governing Council (member states)	<p>IFAD aims to improve the nutritional impact of investments in agriculture, while maintaining the conventional aims of agricultural programmes. IFAD works to increase the nutrition-sensitivity of agriculture and supply chain investments, with a strong focus on gender issues in smallholder agriculture.</p> <p>IFAD provides the following services: investment through low-interest loans and grants; partnerships and policy engagement, knowledge management and advocacy</p>

² UN Global Nutrition Agenda: "Delivering on the commitment to eradicate malnutrition in all its forms: the role of the UN System", Chapter 5, UNGNA V.1.0., available at www.unscn.org

	countries and the conditions of their lives".		
UNICEF	To support the realization of the rights of children, particularly the most disadvantaged	Executive board, elected by ECOSOC	<p>The improved and equitable use of nutrition support and improved nutrition and care practices.</p> <p>Combines normative and operational work.</p> <p>Strong focus on equity, sustainability and resilience.</p> <p>Support delivery of vitamin and micronutrient supplementation and fortification (including of staple foods and iodization of salt).</p> <p>Focus on early childhood – including protecting, promoting and supporting optimal infant and young child feeding.</p> <p>Scale-up and integration of management of severe acute malnutrition.</p> <p>Increasing country capacity to ensure protection of the nutritional status of children in humanitarian situations; preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV.</p> <p>Strategic interventions relate to: capacity development; evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy; partnerships, South-South and triangular cooperation and cross-sectoral nutrition-sensitive interventions through health and WASH. Identification and promotion of innovation; support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages.</p> <p>Service delivery.</p>
WFP	<p>To ensure access to nutrients among vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, in both emergency and development contexts, as well as to support economic and social development and end global hunger</p> <p>WFP pursues four strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies; ii) Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies; iii) Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs; and 	Executive Board (36 members – 18 appointed by ECOSOC, 18 appointed by Council of FAO);	<p>With regard to nutrition, WFP works with partners to improve nutrition along the value chain via nutrition-specific interventions and nutrition-sensitive approaches. To reach nutrition goals, WFP focuses on improving availability and accessibility to a nutritious and age-appropriate diet, supports households and communities in utilizing food adequately, promotes nutrition situation analysis, enhances capacity development, supports national governments, engages in policy formation and creates demand for nutritious diets.</p> <p>WFP ensures access to the right nutrients, at the right place, at the right time, throughout the lifecycle (from pre-pregnancy – including during adolescence –, pregnancy and the first 2 years of life). This strategy is applied towards treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, prevention of acute and chronic malnutrition, addressing micronutrient deficiencies, and nutrition-sensitive programming, which are the priority areas of focus identified in WFP’s Nutrition Policy.</p>

	iv) Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger. WFP will pursue its strategic objectives in line with international humanitarian law, the core humanitarian principles and its Fit for Purpose plan for organizational strengthening.		
WHO	As a specialized agency, WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations System. Responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.	The World Health Assembly is the supreme decision making body, with 194 member states, an Executive Board of 34 Members	Mission statement includes specific reference to promoting, in cooperation with other agencies, the improvement of nutrition. Development of sound food and nutrition policies in countries with greatest malnutrition burden. Monitoring global trends in malnutrition to inform decision-making; providing scientific advice and supporting the implementation of approved strategies, including: Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child feeding, the Global strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, Action plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable diseases. Revised WHO guidelines for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Table 3: Mandates, Governance Structure, Goals and Roles of Committees, Task Forces and Platforms in Nutrition (all entries cleared by concerned actors)

	Overall mandate as relevant to nutrition	Governance structure	Specific nutrition-related goals and roles
UNSCN – UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition	Keep under review the overall direction, scale, coherence and impact of the UN system response to the nutritional problems of the world Be a point of convergence in harmonizing the policies and activities in the UN system Provide initiative in the development and harmonization of concepts, policies and strategies and programmes in the UN system in response to the nutritional needs of countries Appraise experience and progress towards	Reports to ECOSOC, composed of UN agencies	Global, universal (all countries), intersectoral, all forms of malnutrition. Roles ⁴ : - Provide global strategic leadership and advocacy in nutrition - Enhance dialogue and linkages, fostering joint nutrition action, partnerships and mutual accountability between UN agencies; - Harmonize concepts in response to the nutritional needs of countries; - Facilitate knowledge exchange, enhancing coherence of the global nutrition public goods agenda and identifying emerging issues; - Report on global trends, progress and results and to enhance communications and global advocacy through networks and platforms;

⁴ UNSCN, Activity report 2012, p.3; being revised in the new UNSCN Strategic Plan 2016-20 which is being finalized.

	achievement of objectives, and lay down guidelines for mutually supporting action at interagency and country levels ³ .		- Engage in and facilitate dialogue with stakeholders across health, food security and social protection constituencies
HLTF - UN Secretary-General's High Level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security	Supports coordinated and comprehensive positions on issues related to Food and Nutrition Security among its members.	HLTF – 23 entities mainly UN Agencies, Funds, Programs and other International Organizations. HLTF reports directly to UNSG and to its members.	- Encourage joint responses by its Members to requests from Member States and other stakeholders to advance the Zero Hunger Challenge, including its nutrition elements. - Facilitate the organization and articulation of joint responses and of joint communication on the Zero Hunger Challenge.
UN System Network for SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition)	<p>The SUN UN network provides a platform for strengthening inter-agency coordination and coherence in SUN countries.</p> <p>The UN Network brings together UN Agencies in pursuit of the SUN Movement priorities of accelerating improvements in shared global nutrition targets, in participating SUN countries. SUN UN Network aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the harmonization, coordination and effectiveness of United Nations agencies' activities in support of country nutrition efforts, and - Align with, and articulate UN nutrition efforts, to those of national governments, other SUN Networks and nutrition stakeholders at global and country levels, and - Advance the aims of the SUN Movement. 	<p>A Lead Group appointed by the UN Secretary-General, as well as an 15-member Executive Committee, appointed by the Chair of the Lead Group, provide high-level guidance and oversight to the SUN Movement; the UN Network is represented in the SUN Lead Group by WFP's Executive Director and UNICEF's Executive Director is Chair of the Lead Group.</p> <p>The Lead Group reports on SUN's progress to the UN Secretary General.</p> <p>The UN Network for SUN is accountable to a Steering Committee including FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, (IFAD as advisor) of which two (WHO, WFP)</p>	<p>The SUN UN network contributes to the SUN movement strategic objectives for 2016 – 2020, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand and sustain an enabling political environment - Prioritize effective actions that contribute to good nutrition - Implement actions aligned with national Common Results Frameworks - Effectively use, and significantly increase, financial resources for nutrition <p>UN support will focus on the four capabilities that have been identified by the countries of the SUN Movement in 2016 – 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuous improvements in the policy and budget cycle management – from planning to accounting for results. 2. Advocacy, social mobilization and communication to sustain political commitment, support multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches and to tell a powerful nutrition story at all levels. 3. Coordination of relevant action across sectors, among stakeholders and between levels of government through improved functional capacities. 4. Ensuring that the Movement offers maximum value to those who engage within it.

³ From ECOSOC resolution 1977

		are currently on the SUN Ex.Com Accountability to the agencies' UN intergovernmental body or process	
REACH – Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger	Assist governments of countries with a high burden of child and maternal undernutrition to accelerate the scale-up of food and nutrition actions	Reports to a Steering Committee including FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO (IFAD is an advisor)	<p>REACH Partnership outcomes are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increased awareness of the underlying problem of hunger and undernutrition and potential solutions; - strengthened, resourced and effectively monitored national policies and programmes; - increased capacity to support the scaling up of nutrition actions at the national and community levels; and - increased efficiency and accountability of national efforts to reduce child hunger and undernutrition.

Source: Developed by the CFS Secretariat with inputs from the concerned actors