International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS)

Anna Lartey
IUNS President-elect
IAEA HQ Vienna (March 19-20, 2012)
“The only Global Community of Nutritional sciences”
Mission:
Promote the advancement of the science of nutrition research and development through international cooperation
To live a life without malnutrition is a fundamental human right. The persistence of malnutrition, especially among children and mothers, in this world of plenty is immoral. Nutrition improvement anywhere in the world is not a charity but a societal, household and individual right.
Activities

• 4-Yearly IUNS-International Congress of Nutrition scientific congresses (20th IUNS-ICN will be in Granada, Spain)

• Nutrition Leadership and capacity-building programs in the regions

• Serves as an advisory body of Nutrition scientists to organizations such as WHO, UNICEF, WFP etc

• Work in partnership with organizations to translate the scientific knowledge into practical actions to improve nutrition of vulnerable groups

• IUNS Council members are serving in various capacities on the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement
IUNS Task forces (2009-2013)

1. Diet, Nutrition and long-term health (N Solomons)
2. Traditional, Indigenous and ethnic foods (H Kuhnlein)
3. INFOODS- (IUNS/FAO)
4. Prevention and control of malnutrition (A. Ashwood; A. Jackson)
5. Re-defining food quality (L Allen, S Murphy)
6. Harmonizing nutrient-based guidelines (I Elmadfa)
7. Capacity development and leadership in nutrition (I Elmadfa)
8. Nutrition security and rural-urban transition (O. Galal)
9. Gene-nutrient interactions: Knowledge to action (V. Ommen)
10. Assessing the benefits of nutritional and neutraceutical (V. Prakash)
Guidelines to Taskforces

1. Encouraged to partner with international and regional organizations

2. Must endeavour to involve a young scientist in activities

3. Encouraged to publish their work (ANM will publish full articles and short communications from IUNS TFs)
IUNS Task and SUN
2009 Global Action Plan for Nutrition

- MDGs cannot be achieved without global coordinated action on nutrition.
- Special focus required on mothers and young children.
- Solutions exist that offer the highest possible returns to development.
- Nutrition cannot be an afterthought in development priorities.
- Nutrition should be placed high on the global and development agenda.
What is the global community doing to address undernutrition

Coordinated efforts in the last 2 years:

UN agencies, EC, BMGF, Bilateral agencies, CSO to fight undernutrition has resulted in the release of the SUN documents (SUN=Scaling Up Nutrition)

September 2010- Hi-level meeting involving UN Sec Gen and many World leaders and chaired by Hillary Clinton, committed to tackle undernutrition within the 1000 day window (pregnancy to 24 mo) by supporting the SUN document.
The SUN Documents:

SUN: Scaling Up Nutrition
Scaling Up Nutrition: Framework For Action

What ultimately matters is what happens at the country level.

Sharply scale up evidence-based cost-effective interventions. Priority: minus 9 to 24 month highest-return and window of opportunity.

Take a multi-sectoral approach that includes mainstreaming nutrition in related sectors.

Provide substantially scaled up domestic and external assistance for country-owned nutrition programmes and capacity.
Nutrition is a Multi-Sectoral Problem with Multi-Sectoral Solutions

Think Multi-Sectorally, Act Sectorally

Agriculture & Food Security
Social Protection
Poverty Reduction
Health

Water & Sanitation
Environment & Climate Change
Private Sector
Trade/Fiscal Policies
The SUN Movement:

Is an coalition of international donors, civil society, development agencies, private sector, national actors with the passion and expertise to scale up actions to tackle undernutrition
The **SUN** Transition Team:

David Nabarro, UN Special Representative on Food Security and Nutrition, is currently leading the ‘Transition Team’ working to put the SUN framework and roadmap into action in countries.

*(Emorn is a member of the TT)*

TT is supported by Task forces:
Scaling Up Nutrition:

Task Force A: Country capability and support
Task Force B: Communication for Scaling Up Nutrition
  • Task Force C: Civil society participation
    (A. Lartey & A. Rees are co-Facilitators of TF C)
  • Task Force D: Engagement of development partners
  • Task Force E: Engagement of the business community
  • Task Force F: Monitoring and reporting on in-country progress
These are countries that have formally applied to scale up nutrition and are working with the transition teams and task forces to scale up nutrition:

- Bangladesh
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Peru
- Senegal
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia

Interested:
- Afghanistan
- Burkina Faso
- Indonesia
- Laos
- Mauritania
- Pakistan
SUN Multi-stakeholder platform: Relevant Govt Ministries; Development partners; Civil Society Rep; Private sector; Research Community (Headed by SUN Country Focal Point)
New SUN Leadership structure

Leaders Group: UN Sec Gen
(Prominent persons; including Heads of States)

SUN Secretariat that provides support directly to SUN Countries

Net works
Net works
Net works
Net works
Net works
IUNS involvement:

1. IUNS as a global nutrition Association should offer its opinion on efforts to scale up nutrition.

1. IUNS can come on board by as a member of TF C (civil society to offer guidance in the process)

2. Encourage Adhering bodies in SUN countries to participate fully in their country’s SUN platform.
Conclusion

IUNS has the global reach and is the partner to have when it comes to quickly scaling up nutrition activities