

SUN Business Network Myanmar Newsletter

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Introducing the SUN Business Network Myanmar

The Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement is a global movement that started in 2008 and became fully operational in 2011. Its Secretariat is based in Geneva and it operates under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General. SUN unites Governments, UN agencies, Civil Society, donors, business community and academia, in an effort to improve nutrition and end malnutrition in all its forms.

The global SUN Business Network (SBN), established in 2012, is one of the SUN movement's four networks: Donor Network, UN Systems Network, Civil Society Network and the Business Network. It has its own Secretariat in London and it manages country networks.

The SUN Business Networks in countries are unique platforms for engaging businesses within a multi-stakeholder, country-owned, approach, to scaling up nutrition.



'Businesses (from farmers, to food producers, to service suppliers and large employers) need to play a role in fighting malnutrition. They impact the affordability, accessibility, availability and desirability of all kinds of food in the market but also in the workplace.'

In 2013, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar joined the SUN Movement and established the Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP). The National Nutrition Centre (NNC) in the Department of Public Health, with its main partner UNICEF, is leading the implementation and coordination with other relevant ministries and with the Myanmar Nutrition Technical Network.

In 2018, plans to engage the private sector through setting up a Myanmar SUN Business Network emerged. This was put forward by WFP Myanmar, the national convener of the SBN Myanmar.

The Phase I strategy 2020-2021 was designed in 2019. Through desk-research, stakeholder mapping and various bilateral and group consultations with public, non-profit and private actors, the SBN Myanmar strategy for 2020 and 2021 was shaped. In addition an Advisory Committee was formed to give strategic advice to the SUN Business Network Myanmar and to promote the Network among future members and stakeholders. The final step, before launching the SUN Business Network and expanding its membership base, is to approve endorsing the strategy by the Union Minister of Health. This is planned to happen early March after which the launch event will be held in April (see the Agenda for February-May on the next page).

By becoming the focal point for private sector engagement on nutrition, the SUN Business Network Myanmar has the ability to make a positive impact on nutrition through business.

The mission of the SBN Myanmar is to mobilize business across the food system to act, invest and innovate, in support of the SUN Movement and, as such, to improve and strengthen the private sector's contribution towards improving nutrition and health in Myanmar.



1/3 Myanmar households are food insecure



27% kids <5 years old are stunted



An estimated 30% of female workers (age 15-49) have anemia



Myanmar will have >1 million obese school kids by 2030



1 out of 2 Myanmar manufacturers is food related

How will the SBN Myanmar support businesses in Myanmar?

SBN Myanmar will engage and support both SMEs and larger food-related businesses by:

- ◇ Offering a **forum for dialogue** between private sector, government and other nutrition stakeholders;
- ◇ Sharing **best-practices and nutrition knowledge**, among others through the global SBN network;
- ◇ **Assessing business needs for** improving nutrition and **facilitating in accessing technical, financial and other support**;
- ◇ Facilitating in **building nutrition partnerships** (B2B and Public-Private Partnerships);
- ◇ **Advocating the role of business in addressing nutrition** in Myanmar.

Focus themes SBN Myanmar

Based on the consultations for 2020-2021, the SUN Business Network in Myanmar will focus on 4 areas:



Food fortification: with the high level of micro-nutrient deficiencies in Myanmar, food fortification can contribute to fighting malnutrition. The SUN Business Network aims to be the voice of the private sector in developing national food fortification standards and in promoting fortified food production and consumption.



Food safety: in 2017, Myanmar ranked 71 out of 113 countries in the EIU Global Food Security Index. Many companies think food safety in the agri-food supply chains is the biggest risk for nutrition. The SBN can contribute to capacity building as well as improving the enabling environment.



Health and Nutrition in the workplace: Large food and non-food companies can contribute to improving access to nutrition in the workplace by investing in healthy food supply and awareness creation, e.g. in the garments industry that contributes to app. 30% of all manufacturing jobs, mostly for women. The SBN will promote workplace nutrition among its members.



Nutrition awareness and education: Limited knowledge exists among business and consumers about the importance of healthy and responsible eating. As a result more Myanmar are getting overweight and obese, are suffering from micro-nutrient deficiencies and from non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes. The SUN Business Network aims to contribute to creating company and consumer awareness on the importance of nutrition.

Governance structure

The SUN Business Network will be guided by two levels of governance: by the SBN National Convener (WFP) and by the multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee. Members, for the first two years, have been selected based on experience and expertise in nutrition related fields. The Advisory Committee 2020-2021 will consist of:

SECTOR	ORGANIZATIONS
Government	Ministry of Health & Sports (National Nutrition Center and FDA); Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC)
Private Sector	BASF; METRO Wholesale; Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association (MFPEA); Rice Federation/UMFCCI
Not for profit organisations	Save the Children and UNICEF
Observers	LIFT Fund; SUN Civil Society; SUN UN,

Agenda Feb - May 2020

Jan - Feb	First Advisory Committee meeting
Feb - March	Preparation meetings focus-groups
	Membership subscription starts
Early April	SUN Business Network Launch event in Yangon
April - May	Needs assessments focus-groups and SBN activities starting up

Contact

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