

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Standing Committee on Nutrition



UN Standing Committee on Nutrition Working together to fight all forms of malnutrition

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Chair SCN Working Group on Household Food
Security

Why the SCN?

Set up by ECOSOC in 1977

- To **promote cooperation** among UN agencies and partner organizations **in support of national, regional, and international efforts** to end malnutrition in all of its forms in this generation.
- By:
 - **refining the direction, increasing the scale and strengthening the coherence and impact of actions** against malnutrition world wide,
 - and **raise awareness of nutrition problems and mobilize commitment to solve them** at **global, regional and national levels**



How does the SCN operate?

- Secretariat: secretary Roger Shrimpton, Geneva
- Steering Committee
 - Chair plus 8 members
 - Un agencies (WHO, FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WB, UNU/IFAD)
 - Bilateral (Norway/Denmark/Brazil)
 - NGO/CSO
 - Regular meetings (minutes)
- Open to all
- Three constituencies:
 - UN
 - Bilateral partners (includes governments)
 - NGOs

SCN Working Groups

- **Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding**
- **Capacity Development in Food and Nutrition**
- **Household Food Security**
- **Micro-Nutrients**
- **Nutrition in Emergencies**
- **Nutrition, Ethics and Human Rights**
- **Nutrition and HIV/AIDS**
- **Nutrition of School age Children**
- **Nutrition through the Life Cycle**



How does the SCN operate?

- Annual Sessions
 - Symposia (first day)
 - Working Groups (9)
 - Business meetings (UN/ bilateral/ NGO)
 - Last session in Rome co-hosted FAO/IFAD/WFP + Bioversity International
 - Next session Hanoi on reduction of stunting
- Advocacy documents and events
 - Report of the Commission on Nutrition Challenges for the 21st Century
 - 5th Report on the World Nutrition Situation
- Has agreed a Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2006-10



UNSCN What does it propose to do?

- *SCN Action Plan: 3 objectives*
 - Establish regional and country level mechanisms for strengthening food and nutrition considerations and interventions into PRSPs as well as national development strategies at the country level
 - Establish across all UN agencies, ministerial sectors and development actors a common vision, language and understanding of the causes of hunger and malnutrition
 - Mobilize increased support for all food and nutrition agencies of the UN in the context of realizing the right to safe, nutritionally adequate, available and culturally acceptable food.



UNSCN How does it propose to do it?

Three Task Forces

- Advocacy, Communication and Partnership Building
- Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Development of Integrated Approaches

Have met for the first time at this year's annual session



Why is the SCN important?

- Policy Harmonization is a challenge for any single agency at any level (regional, national and international).
- Nutrition is about the "joining up" of "health", "agriculture", "education" and "social welfare" sectors.
- Nutritional improvement is about "Good Governance" at all levels
- The SCN is even more relevant today because of the UN Reform, CCA and UNDAF processes

SCN and ECHUI

- ECHUI adopted in June 2007 by UNICEF's Executive Board after WFP's
- Discussed at SCN annual session: critical review but endorse goal and agree on key outcomes
- SCN task forces to provide technical advice
- Plan of work to be agreed at the next Partners group meeting
- Sahel likely to be pilot area

In conclusion

- Forum for harmonisation
- Not implementation
- The SCN is us
- It has gone a long way since 2000
- Its effectiveness will depend on how we use it
- Visit and contribute to www.unsystem.org/scn