REACH is a key part of broader UN efforts on nutrition. Together, the Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN) and REACH have played a prominent role in supporting the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and now work together as the ‘UN Network’ of the SUN movement. REACH builds on the political commitments pledged through SUN and acts as a vehicle for country level action. REACH provides a platform for the UN to act as “One”, to raise awareness on the long term implications of child undernutrition and food insecurity, to promote multi-sector policies and to establish multi-sector coordination mechanisms in government.

**Why REACH?**

At country level, a common approach in dealing with problems of malnutrition is often lacking. There may not be agreement on the scope and nature of malnutrition, its causes and consequences and the solutions to address the problem. There is often a lack of coordination and capacity to develop a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach. Hence, nutrition activities can remain fragmented and uncoordinated, thus resulting in limited impact and sustainability.

To move faster and further in the reduction of child and maternal undernutrition, there is a need to raise awareness, scale up programmes and better monitor and evaluate nutrition actions. REACH is focusing on strengthening government capacity to scale-up nutrition actions and improve nutrition management and governance, and on supporting nutrition sensitive, multi-sectoral approaches. REACH is anchored in the UN system and draws on the vast expertise of the UN agencies while also catalysing increased efficiency and collaboration between the main UN partners on nutrition at country level (FAO, WHO, UNICEF, WFP).

**REACH mechanism**

Using facilitation, diagnostic and analytical tools and drawing on shared knowledge, REACH supports the capacity of local decision-makers and stakeholders to implement nutrition actions and to make effective resource allocations grounded in evidence-based selection of nutrition actions.

**At country level, REACH pursues four primary outcomes leading to developmental impact**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If we address these issues ...</th>
<th>with these strategies ...</th>
<th>then we can achieve ...</th>
<th>this impact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little consensus on the causal problems of undernutrition</td>
<td>REACH outcomes</td>
<td>Governance impact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited political commitment</td>
<td>1 Increased awareness and consensus of stakeholders</td>
<td>Improved nutrition for women and children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak coordination of gov’ts with UN agencies and other stakeholders</td>
<td>2 Strengthened national policies and programmes</td>
<td>Nutritional impact and coverage</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition is not seen as a multi-sectoral issue</td>
<td>3 Increased human and institutional capacity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor capacity development</td>
<td>4 Increased effectiveness and accountability</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accountability and responsibility is undervalued</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

REACH Theory of Change

Source: REACH Secretariat
REACH practical interventions on the ground are structured by four objectives:

1. **Increase awareness of nutrition problems and their solutions.**
   Policy-makers often have a partial picture of the nutrition situation, and consequently a limited understanding of undernutrition and its irreversible consequences on child development and on a nation’s economy. REACH works to increase awareness, promoting investments in nutrition as investments in future generations. REACH facilitators support national governments by conducting in-depth scoping and analysis which bring a comprehensive agreed upon snapshot of the country’s nutrition situation and identify which actions should be prioritized and brought to scale.

2. **Strengthen national nutrition policies and programmes.**
   REACH brings a wealth of experience for ensuring that the inter-sectoral approach to nutrition is integrated into policy documents and plans at the government level. REACH supports governments to provide multi-sector responses to address the root causes of undernutrition, bringing together stakeholders from different sectors to have a common vision.

3. **Increase capacity at all levels.**
   Once policies and plans are in place, the capacity to implement these interventions must be ensured. REACH, in coordination with other development partners, helps governments to establish the multi-sectoral coordination structures that are required to increase coherence in existing programs and optimize best use of resources. REACH helps assess capacity gaps to effectively manage nutrition interventions.

4. **Increase efficiency and accountability.**
   One important aspect of the REACH approach is to ensure progress and impact are achieved at the country level. REACH created an M&E logical framework that can measure the change in nutrition governance and management in concrete terms, while measuring the contributions and effectiveness of REACH.

Since all countries are different, REACH support is tailored to specific circumstances, based on good practices and key principles. By documenting these different situations, REACH hopes to build a knowledge-sharing platform of case studies that will be relevant in understanding governance and management processes in nutrition.

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**REACH COUNTRIES**

The REACH process is being implemented in 13 countries through 20 national and international facilitators. The countries are Bangladesh, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Burkina Faso, Comoros, the Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Malawi, ROC, Senegal and Zambia are in the preparatory phase. REACH has transitioned out of Lao and Sierra Leone which now receive support from local structures.

Currently, direct REACH funding is provided by DFATD–formerly CIDA (8 countries), USAID and EU (1 country each). The other 3 countries with facilitators receive funding from the UN country team.

Many other countries have expressed their interest in REACH. DFATD has committed to funding an additional 4-5 countries.