

Nutrition Champions 2013



Source: Gouegnon Thierry/Save the Children

Countries are making significant progress in scaling up nutrition, with many ‘unsung heroes’ and local champions driving this change. The Transform Nutrition Research Programme Consortium, in support of the efforts of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, aims to contribute to country-led efforts to transform thinking and action on nutrition by sharing some of these local experiences and the breadth of work underway to help advance nutrition.

The process

In response to a call for nominations, Transform Nutrition received 53 eligible candidates, who were then reviewed by a selection panel representative of the sectors working across the SUN Movement. Each nomination was reviewed based on:

1. The **extent** to which their achievements and actions have helped accelerate reductions in undernutrition, either directly or indirectly.
2. The degree to which their achievements and actions have **transformed** thinking or action e.g. changed the degree and type of attention to undernutrition, changed public attitudes, institutional structures, or policy-relevant decisions that may have been associated with high levels of undernutrition in the past.
3. The **sustainability** of their achievements – or their likely *durability* -- in terms of longevity, legacy and impact.

From the pool of impressive nominees, a shortlist of 14 was selected. These champions reflect the broad experience and expertise that, together, will help to transform nutrition—working across countries and across sectors. From the short list, three champions were chosen to represent this year’s class of champions at the SUN Global Gathering in New York City.

The champions

The stories of the top 14 nominees are now showcased on the Transform Nutrition website to provide an opportunity for the broader community to both applaud and learn from their work. The stories of the three Nutrition Champions invited to participate in the SUN Global Gathering are shared below.



Ms Terry Wefwafwa, Kenya

When Terry was posted as Provincial Nutritional Lead in Western Province, Kenya in 1977, there were few trained nutritionists in the country, and the issue of nutrition was low on the government's agenda. Faced with growing rates of malnutrition (especially in Western Province, where the sugarcane industry was taking over arable land), local officials were forced to come up with their own responses. As Terry remembers, "We didn't have a national nutrition policy; we didn't have an action plan. You would do things piecemeal, guided by your own initiative." Thirty-four years later, as Head

of the Division of Nutrition for Kenya's Department of Public Health and Nutrition, Terry has not forgotten the challenges of her early days in Western Province. In her work advising the government on nutrition policy, convening partners, and mobilizing resources at the national level, collaboration and coordination have become top priorities.



Mr Luis Enrique Monterroso, Guatemala

Luis Enrique Monterroso has been a deeply committed advocate for stronger nutrition and better access to nutrition for the people of his native Guatemala since he began his public career decades ago. He is now the Secretary of the Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat/SESAN and has been able to successfully bring together political government authorities (such as the President, Vice President and Head Ministries), as well as representatives of International Cooperation, the private sector and civil society, toward the goal of drastically reducing malnutrition and undernutrition in his country through the principles of the Scaling Up

Nutrition (SUN) Movement. Joined by Guatemala's Vice President, Monterroso travels frequently to the remote fields of Guatemala, where malnutrition is most visible, to monitor implementation of SUN efforts and National Zero Hunger Pact projects. These are the very fields where Monterroso, as a young economics student, realized the devastating impact malnutrition was having on Guatemala's poorest farming communities.



Mr Banda Ndiaye, Senegal

In the early 1990s, Banda was working on child survival programs at the community level in Senegal. As he gained more experience working on health issues in communities, he recognized that along with most health problems, malnutrition was also an underlying issue. He realized that it would be difficult to improve health status without seriously addressing malnutrition. The situation was so commonplace and yet, community leaders did not even discuss it. Banda started focusing on nutrition and implemented Senegal's first micronutrient program while at World Vision. He became passionate about the issue, and since then, has focused his

career on nutrition in Senegal and throughout West Africa.

Learn more about the nominated class of Nutrition Champions, the selection panellists and the Transform Nutrition Research Programme Consortium at www.TransformNutrition.org.

Learn more about the national and global efforts to scale up nutrition through the SUN Movement at www.ScalingUpNutrition.org