

Press Release – February 8th, 2018

On February 8TH 2018 at the premises of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Khartoum, the first Network Donors Meeting of the UN Programme Scaling Up Nutrition - SUN - global advocacy effort to mobilise governments, institutions, communities and families to prioritise nutrition as central to national development and imperative to improve maternal and child nutrition - took place in the presence of the Italian Ambassador Fabrizio Lobasso, the AICS Representative Vincenzo Racalbuto, and the representatives of the EU, ECHO, DFID, USAID and Japan, Sweden, France and Netherlands.

The meeting – opened by the Italian Ambassador, Fabrizio Lobasso - has been the occasion to recall that during the last Global Summit held in Abidjan last November Sudan affirmed its commitment in positioning the nutrition agenda as a national priority and strengthened the Movement to reduce malnutrition.

Italy – Donors' Convener for Sudan – recalled the Ambassador – will have a crucial role for reinforcing SUN in Sudan through a regular and efficient communication among Donors, Sudanese institution and Sun members. All the efforts will be in line with the Strategy and the Roadmap (2016-2020) in order to achieve SDG #2 “*Zero Hunger by 2030*”. With 2.2 million of malnourished children below the age of 5, it is urgent a strong SUN mobilization in order o implement efficient and sustainable actions, sharing results, future expectation and economic disbursement with a particular focus on Government responsibility and involvement.

The Italian support to the SUN Movement is part of a wider cooperation plan – recalled the Italian representative of AICS - Vincenzo Racalbuto. In particular, the Italian Cooperation is committed in a number of initiatives in poverty alleviation and nutrition for a total of 12.5 M EURO, both at bilateral and multilateral level with the active participation of WHO, UNIDO, UNICEF and UNWOMEN. The Director - summarizing the meeting – recalled the Italian involvement in fighting the **Double Burden of Disease** characterized by the coexistence of undernutrition along with overweight and obesity, or diet-related noncommunicable diseases and in the support of the **earliest 1.000 days of life** that have a profound impact on a child's ability to grow, learn and thrive — and a lasting effect on a country's health and prosperity.

