

**GUIDELINES FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE OF
GHANA COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATIONS FOR SCALING UP
NUTRITION
(GHACCSSUN)**



**ISSUED ON
20TH JULY, 2013**

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PREAMBLE

Malnutrition is a major development concern in Ghana, affecting all regions of the country and most segments of the population. The current levels of malnutrition hinder Ghana's human, social, and economic development. Although the country has made tremendous progress in economic growth and poverty reduction over the past 20 years, its progress in reducing malnutrition remains very slow. The Government of Ghana has formulated a National Nutrition Policy in May 2013 to address some of these issues. The ultimate objective of the National Nutrition Policy (NNP) is to ensure that all Ghanaians are properly nourished so that they can live healthy and productive lives. However, we as a people, must not leave this onerous task Government alone to tackle; we must work together to ensure that all Ghanaians are properly nourished.

The nature of the underlying causes of child malnutrition is largely dependent on how available resources are distributed within Ghana. The availability of nutrition resources at the household level is linked to a set of basic causes. Basic root causes are a function of how society operates in terms of livelihood opportunities and economic structure, the availability of knowledge both through cultural institutions and formal and informal education, political expectations and policies, the priorities guiding the allocation of public funding and other resources, and the quality of social and political leadership. It is principally in this area of basic causes that action to address child malnutrition moves from the realm of the individual and household to the political arena and where policy, public administration and expenditure, and governance issues come to the fore.

It is this knowledge that has brought Civil Society Organizations involved in health and nutrition sensitive activities in Ghana together in fraternal collaboration to form a common platform to be known and called **Ghana Civil Society Coalition for Scaling up Nutrition (GHACSSUN)** with the aim of working to scale up nutrition in Ghana. In order to ensure good governance and responsible leadership of GHACSSUN, these guidelines have been promulgated to direct its affairs:

SECTION I: NAME OF THE COALITION

This organization shall be known and called Ghana Coalition of Civil Society for Scaling up Nutrition or GHACSSUN.

SECTION II: VISION OF THE COALITION

GHACSSUN envisages a future where all citizens of Ghana have access to quality and nutritious food for a productive and prosperous society.

SECTION III: MISSION OF GHANA COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY FOR SCALING UP NUTRITION

GHACSSUN exists to contribute to the creation of a healthy and prosperous Ghanaian society where nutrition of all citizens is assured.

SECTION IV: OBJECTIVES OF GHACSSUN

The primary objective of the Ghana Coalition of Civil Society for Scaling up Nutrition shall be to assist the Government of Ghana to implement the National Nutrition Policy **(NNP)** of which members have been involved in crafting. The successful implementation of the NNP requires cross-sectoral action involving the health sector as well as other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies including Coalition of CSOs such as GHACSSUN. In this regard, GHACSSUN will assist the Government of Ghana in the following areas:

1. To reposition nutrition as a priority development issue in Ghana.
2. To ensure optimal nutrition among all people living in Ghana.
3. To increase capacity to deliver effective interventions for addressing priority nutrition problems in Ghana.
4. To ensure food and nutrition security for all people living in Ghana.
5. To ensure effective co-ordination, integration, and implementation of nutrition interventions in Ghana.
6. To strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation in nutrition programs in Ghana.
7. To launch a well-coordinated advocacy and communication campaign in line with its objectives, vision and mission.
8. To challenge government to enact scaling up nutrition policies
9. To identify weaknesses in government attention to nutrition issues.

SECTION V: LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE OF GHACSSUN

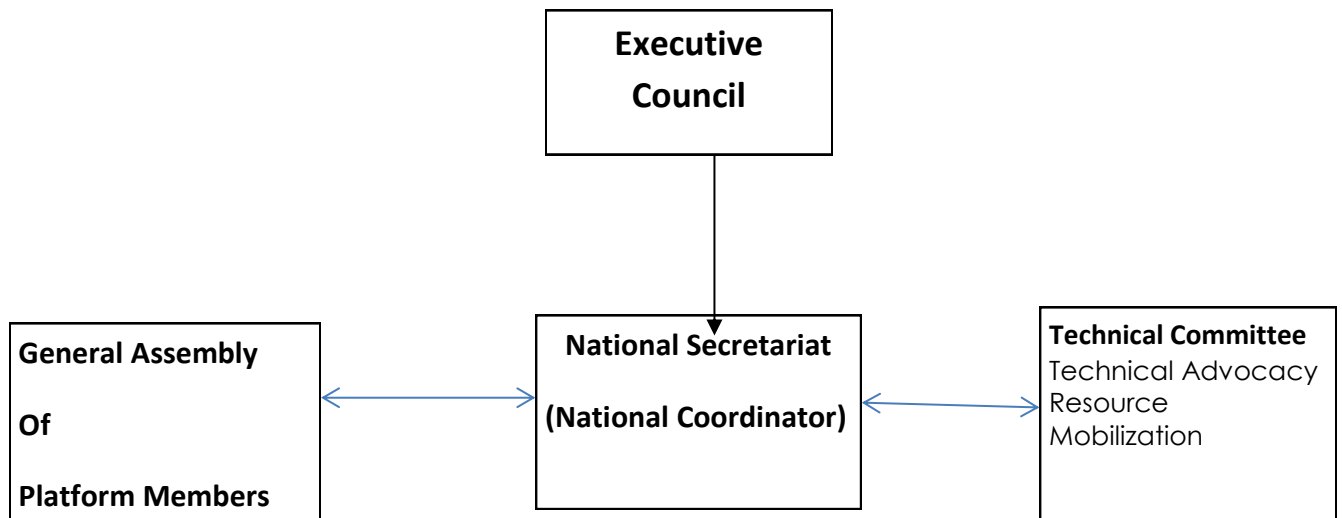
The leadership structure of GHACSSUN shall consist of:

An Executive Council comprising a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Secretary and four other members. The Executive Council shall be assisted in performing its duties by three standing committees selected from the membership of the platform. These are:

- Technical Committee
- Advocacy and Communication Committee
- Resource Mobilization Committee

The appropriate lines of command and authority are as presented in the organogram below:

Organizational Structure for Ghana Civil Society Coalition for Scaling Up Nutrition



VI: FUNCTIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:** The Executive Council shall be the supreme decision making body of GHACCSSUN. It has the powers to make strategic decisions to guide the management of GHACCSSUN.
- **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:** The Technical Committee shall be in charge of all GHACCSSUN research development, data collection and dissemination of all research findings on nutrition in Ghana.
- **ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE:** This committee shall be responsible for all promotional campaigns, education, and training and general public relation engagement of GHACCSSUN.
- **RESOURCE MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE:** The Resource Mobilization Committee shall be responsible for coordinating all human, financial and material resources needed for effective delivery of the activities of GHACCSSUN

SECTION VII: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GHACCSSUN OFFICERS

The **Chairman of the Executive Committee** shall perform the under listed functions:

- He or she shall preside over all GHACCSSUN Executive committee meetings; in his absence, the Vice Chairman shall preside.

Function of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary shall perform the following functions:

Keep record of all meetings of GHACCSSUN and of all matters which shall be ordered by the association.

- Shall be in charge of all correspondence of GHACCSSUN, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their acceptance to join GHACCSSUN and notify new officers of their appointment into offices.
- Shall keep records and data base of all members of GHACCSSUN.
- He or she shall act as the Coordinator of GHACCSSUN and shall coordinate all activities of GHACCSSUN and update members through reports and briefs.
- He or she shall carry out such other duties as may be prescribed by these guidelines.
- All chairpersons of the three sub-committees shall report directly to the Executive secretary.
- He or she shall represent GHACCSSUN at all national and international conferences and meetings and in his absence shall delegate any member with the required capacity.

SECTION VII MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

The various committees shall have their meetings schedules as follows:

- The Executive Council shall meet once a month
- And the sub-committees shall also meet once a month.

SECTION VIII: MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

Ghana Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Scaling up Nutrition or GHACCSSUN Shall be opened to all:

- Civil Society Organizations

- Community Based Organizations
- Faith Based Organizations
- Nongovernmental organizations
- Farmer Based Organization
- And Gender Based Organizations that are involved in nutrition and nutrition sensitive programmes.

SECTION IX: RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

All members of Ghana Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Scaling up Nutrition or GHACCSSUN are required to:

- Join any of the three sub- committees and contribute their expertise to the implementation of SUN in Ghana.
- Take part in all the programmes and events of the coalition
- Supervise implementation and evaluation of projects
- Payment of annual dues
- Commit to projecting GHACCSSUN objectives and annual programs

SECTION X: BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Members of the GHACCSSUN shall benefit from the following:

- Opportunity to contribute to national development and for that matter SUN agenda in Ghana.
- Opportunity to attend international conferences on behalf of the Coalition.
- Gain knowledge and experience through seminars and conferences

SECTION XI: PARTNERS OF THE COALITION

- Ghana Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Scaling up Nutrition(GHACCSSUN) shall implement its activities in partnership with the following Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations:
- Government of Ghana
- National Development Planning Commission
- World Food Programme
- Specialized consultants and or firms

- Ghana Health Service
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Ministry of Health
- World Health Organization
- UNICEF
- FAO
- REACH
- Global SUN Civil Society Network
- Save the Children, UNK
- SUN Secretariat

SECTION XII: GHACCSSUN PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

ADVOCACY

GHACCSSUN shall advocate for the promulgation and implementation of a National nutrition policy and other legislations that can enhance the implementation of SUN in Ghana.

LOBBY

Lobby the relevant Agencies including Government for the increase in budgetary allocation for nutrition.

CAMPAIGN

Campaign for improved nutrition and healthy lifestyle for behavioral change.

GRASSROOT EDUCATION

Embark on community outreach programmes to sensitize Opinion Leaders, women groups, youth groups, the Clergy, Assembly Members and Community based organizations about nutrition.

SECTION XIII: GHACCSSUN SECRETARIAT

The Hunger Alliance of Ghana is the host and the coordinating organization for the coalition. As the coordinating organization of the coalition, HAG's Secretariat shall manage the Coalition on day to day basis through its Coordinator who also acts as the Executive Secretary of the Coalition. HAG shall also function as the administrative secretariat and the point of contact for the Coalition.