

Ghana Coalition of Civil Society Organisation for Scaling Up Nutrition
Terms of Reference

Advocacy.

Background/Context

The Ghana Coalition of Civil Society Coalition for Scaling up Nutrition (GHACCSUN) is a platform and a network of CSOs that subscribe to the international clarion call to scale up nutrition and to draw attention to nutrition as a developmental issue.

Recent developments in the economy, have identified Ghana as a lower middle income country and one of the fastest growing countries in Africa. The country is also a signatory to a number of international declarations asserting the right of its citizen's to adequate food and nutrition security and to fight malnutrition. Despite this international zeal in making commitments to address her food security and nutrition problems, malnutrition remains a development challenge with low priority on the national policy agenda. In addition, there is inadequate Civil Society participation in nutrition advocacy, policy formulation, and implementation. This creates a situation where there is no body to play a 'watchdog' role in holding relevant public and private institutions accountable for their role in addressing malnutrition in Ghana.

The Ghana Civil Society Coalition for Scaling Up Nutrition (GHACCSUN) was established as an independent multi-sectoral coalition of civil society organisations involved in/with interest in agriculture, nutrition, health, media etc to advocate for making nutrition a high priority development issue in Ghana.

This Project, in addition to building a credible CSOs network with capacity to address the above listed challenges, will also support the implementation of the nutrition policy in Ghana. Ultimately, it is envisioned that a strong and active CSO coalition will be established with a more engaging capacity in the process of demanding accountability in public and private investment in nutrition.

To enable the Coalition perform its roles effectively and efficiently, it needs a comprehensive advocacy plan and strategy that will enable it relate and become equal partners to various arms of state.

Objectives of Advocacy:

Advocacy in all its forms seeks to ensure that people, particularly those who are most vulnerable in society, are able to have their voice heard on issues that are important to them.

Advocacy is therefore a process of supporting and enabling people to:

- Express their views and concerns.
- Access information and services.
- Defend and promote their rights and responsibilities.
- Explore choices and options.

As a CSO coalition, the main objective of our Advocacy Plan or strategy is:

To ensure that nutrition issues are given the needed priority attention not only in policy but also in resource allocation.

Specific Objectives:

- Identify the areas of GHACCSUN advocacy
- Identify appropriate target institutions or groups that advocacy will benefit from GHACCSUN advocacy.
- Identify the mediums of communicating advocacy
- Select content and duration for effective advocacy
- Provide identifiable M & E advocacy tools.

Scope of Work

- Identify existing policy, legislative, customary, and behavioural issues that impact on nutrition message delivery
- Outline various advocacy messages, their target, publicity medium and expected outcomes
- Engage nutrition sector stakeholders in establishing what scaling up advocacy gaps that exist
- Document lessons of success in nutrition scaling up advocacy either locally or international

Expected Deliverables:

- A report on the advocacy strategy for GHACCSUN including existing issues impacting on scaling up of nutrition, areas of advocacy available to CSOs, how advocacy may be led, the necessary medium for communication and target stakeholders
- The report should include but not limited to:
 - i. Executive Summary
 - ii. Introduction
 - iii. Methodology
 - iv. Background
 - v. Findings
 - vi. Analysis of findings
 - vii. Recommendations
 - viii. Conclusion
 - ix. References/Apendixes

The Study duration and areas of study:

The total duration of the study will be 30 calendar days, whose breakdown will be decided by the consultant in collaboration with GHACCSUN. The plan shall cover the whole of Ghana especially areas where customary or traditional practices hinder scaling up nutritio .

Desired Background and Experience of Consultant:

1. An advance Degree in Nutrition, Public Health, or Social Sciences,
2. At least five (5) years of professional and practical hands on experience in nutrition issues, evaluation, research and advocacy,
3. Written communication skills in English,

4. Familiarity with *Ghana's* landscape and practices will be an advantage
5. Experience in conducting interviews and analyzing collected data
6. Experience working with *CSOs* and in advocacy
7. Computer Literacy (Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Internet)