

SUN Movement Multi-Partner Trust Fund



PROGRAMME¹ QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE

As of Quarter no 2: July – September 2013

Submission Date: October 2013

Participating UN Organization:	 World Food Programme wfp.org				
Implementing Partner(s):	Concern Worldwide Malawi				
Programme Number:	#00084721 SUN 02/MWI/004 “Civil Society”				
Programme Title:	“Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Scaling UP Nutrition in Malawi”				
Total Approved Programme Budget:	US\$ 428,000				
Location:	Malawi				
MC Approval Date:	28 th August 2012				
Programme Duration:	3 years	Starting Date:	1 st May 2013	Completion Date:	30 th November 2015
Funds Committed:	US \$400,000 US \$28,000 (ISC)			Percentage of Approved:	100%
Funds Disbursed:	US \$103,183 US \$16,462 (ISC)			Percentage of Approved:	28%
Expected Programme Duration:	3 years	Forecast Final Date:	30/11/ 2015	Delay (Months):	4 months

Outcomes:	Achievements/Results:	Percentage of planned:
Outcome 1.1. CSO alliance established and effective in advocacy efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The terms of reference (TORs) for the Civil Society Organization Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) were finalized and have been adopted by members. •Two monthly CSONA national meetings took place in the last quarter. Currently the alliance has 20 member organisations. •The CSONA actively participated in two Donor Nutrition Security (DoNuts) group monthly meetings, the National Nutrition Committee quarterly meeting, and the SUN taskforce meeting •The CSONA Project Manager shared 	N/A

	<p>experiences and learning on civil society engagement at the SUN Global Gathering and SUN global Civil Society Network (CSN) side meeting in New York.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A profile presentation was made at the International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) forum highlighting the CSONA’s scope of work. • Through its monthly meetings the CSONA has a section dedicated to sharing updates from various partners to encourage sharing of best practices and lessons learned. At a central level the CSONA is responsible for channelling information to all its members for coordination purposes • The alliance participated in the consensus building meeting of the nutrition policy and nutrition act that was organized by DNHA 	
<p>Outcome 2.1 Increased resource allocation and commitment to nutrition programmes through effective public awareness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSONA made comments and recommendations in the National Nutrition policy priority areas and policy statements that were circulated by the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) in August 2013. 	N/A
<p>Outcome 3.1 Households engage in aligned interventions that result in uptake of best practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO Platforms have not been established at district level as yet. However, preparatory meetings with District Health Officers (DHO) have been made with Mchinji and Nkhotakota districts. 	N/A

Qualitative achievements against outcomes and results:

Finalization of TORs

- After constructive input from key members as well as other relevant stakeholders the TORs for the CSONA are finalized and were adopted by members at the last CSONA monthly meeting. The TORs are inclusive of a clear organizational structure that governs the alliance’s scope of work.

Civil society Organization Nutrition Alliance Monthly meetings

- Through its national nutrition platform that meets monthly, CSONA has encouraged exchange of information and best practices by allocating a slot where members can provide updates from their interventions and organizations.
- Currently the alliance is in the process of designing a regular update template which members will input their scaling-up nutrition efforts and activities. This will feed into a harmonized monitoring framework for the CSOs.
- At a central level the alliance is strengthening its communication strategy by channelling nutrition information and knowledge to its all members as well as coordinating CSOs through its emails to enhance sharing of best practices and lessons learnt.

Advocacy initiatives

- The CSONA is in the process of strategizing its activities towards advocacy by seeking input from members so as to have a collaborative and representative voice on the national arena. The advocacy initiative will be geared towards monitoring and holding government accountable to the commitments that were made at the Nutrition for Growth Summit in June 2013. The alliance is to develop a position paper towards this end.

Engagement within other stakeholders and platforms

- Through an introductory letter that was circulated to heads of mission and country directors of different CSO, the alliance was invited and made a presentation at the INGO forum where an awareness of SUN was raised and CSONA's scope of work was highlighted. The INGO forum is made up of key decision makers of different international NGOs in the country who are key people in influencing policy. The presentation was made with intent to identify champions, solicit steering committee members who will act as board of directors for the alliance, spark interest among CSOs and mobilize as well as increase its membership.
- Contact has been made with the Donor Nutrition Group (DoNuts) whereby as a CSONA we have a seat in the monthly meetings that take place. Our role in these meetings is to act as an informant and also advocate for funding gaps as well as provide feedback on policy output and outcomes from a CSO perspective. It also gives us an opportunity to ensure civil society issues are incorporated in policy and guidelines
- The Project Manager participated in the SUN Global Gathering and SUN CSN side meeting that was held in September in New York. The Principal Secretary of DNHA elected the alliance to be part of its delegate when attending the gathering. Malawi was highly profiled during the gathering with examples from a government and CSO level. Presentations were made in the breakout sessions by both the government and the CSONA.
- Following the Washington DC launch of the SUN CSN, sub-networks of the SUN CSN has been organized to share best practices and encourage networking. CSONA participates in the sub-group made up of 6 countries, Zambia, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Uganda and Malawi. The CSONA has since shared some of its best practices and TOR documents to the sub-group.
- The alliance is engaging with Progressio a UK-based NGO to assess extra funding for its governance and advocacy activities. Progressio has shown keen interest in CSONA and meetings are underway to explore the working relationship.

Dialogue and engagement with government

- The alliance recently met with the Deputy Director of DNHA to explore the working relationship and areas of coordination. We are discussing a fixed day that we meet each month for both parties (government & CSONA) to share progress and be updated on what has been done that month.
- The CSONA made a presentation at National Nutrition Committee meeting where the alliance highlighted its planned activities and scope of work.
- The CSONA is participant in the SUN taskforce meeting where the input of alliance is highly solicited to provide feedback on policy outcomes.
- The Principal Secretary (PS) of DNHA endorsed the alliance and encouraged its participation and engagement in the national arena.

Mapping of CSO

- CSONA is in the process of aligning with existing efforts of mapping exercises in the country. The alliance is collaborating/utilizing relevant institutions and other CSO members that have already done a district mapping exercise to get a pre-landscape so as to cover more districts other than the early risers. The Ministry of Local government is being used to get comprehensive district profiles as part of its mapping exercise.
- Preparatory meetings of establishing district nutrition platforms have been conducted in Mchinji and Nkhosakota districts. Positive response and keen interest have been showed by the DHOs of the 2 districts.

Nutrition-relevant legislation and policies

- On August 14th 2013, the alliance was given provided feedback by providing an issue paper on the policy priority areas and statement paper that the DNHA issued through its National Nutrition Policy review process.
- The Alliance has since participated and contributed to the consensus building involving the national nutrition policy and the nutrition act.

Challenges

- The Partnership Support Officer (PSO) who was initially offered employment turned down the offer. The post thus had to be re-advertised. Interviews have been carried out and a PSO has been identified.

Processes are underway in making an offer.

- Without a PSO in place the district mapping exercise and establishment of district nutrition platforms has been delayed.

Way forward

- Mapping of CSOs in the pilot districts
- Registering of the CSONA as a network as well as branding and development of a CSONA logo
- Conduct a briefing meeting of stakeholders to mobilize and reach out to potential members.
- Development of an annual work plan for 2014.
- Establishment of CSO platforms in 2 pilot districts as well as the 7 districts that World Bank is rolling out its SUN activities. The CSO nutrition alliance will look at how coordination and facilitation with District Nutrition Coordinating Committees can be maximized.
- Establishing coordination at Regional CSO network to learn best practices of establishing nutrition platforms and rolling out of SUN activities.
- Feed into the process of reviewing and analysing the National Nutrition policy
- CSO nutrition alliance will develop a position paper and accountability framework to assist government to progress and fulfil the commitments made at the commitments made by the State President at G8 Nutrition Summit on the Global Nutrition for growth compact in June.

¹ The term “programme” is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes.