

Terms of reference for Malawi Civil Society Organisations Nutrition Alliance (CSONA)

Background

Although there have been improvements in maternal and child malnutrition in Malawi, undernutrition remains high with 41% of children stunted, 17% underweight and 3.6% wasted¹. A reduction in maternal and child undernutrition through adequate nutrition is a pre-requisite in achieving the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MDGS) as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS). The Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan (NNPS) clearly stipulate the strategic and standardized steps needed for effective and efficient implementation and monitoring of nutrition activities.

Following the launch of the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative and 1000 special days, Malawi has placed nutrition high on the agenda with the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) in the office of President and Cabinet (OPC) aiming to empower individuals and organizations with technical, advocacy and implementation skills that will translate into improved knowledge, action, and practice during the first 1000 days of a child's life. However, although CSOs have actively been involved in the implementation of nutrition interventions, their efforts have been fragmented and uncoordinated leading to inconsistent messaging to foster up take of best practices in nutrition. The CSO engagement has been more on implementation level with little focus on advocacy for increased resource allocation for nutrition. In order to effectively support already existing commitments by Government to achieving SUN objectives, Malawi established a CSO nutrition alliance to better organize, coordinate and share best practices as well as bring together efforts to leverage resources and maximize impact in nutrition at all levels. The CSO nutrition alliance will facilitate CSOs to take a leading role in influencing and supporting national efforts through meaningful dialogue, advocacy with stakeholders including government, donors and the private sector and thus contribute to a successful roll-out of the national nutrition interventions.

Purpose of the Alliance

- Establish strong, sustainable and influential CSO platforms at national and district level
- Complement government's efforts in ensuring coordinated SUN activities in Malawi at all levels.
- Consult, coordinate and monitor food and nutrition security priorities, policies and objectives of national development plans.

¹ Malawi Demographic and Health Surveys, 2000 and 2010

- Provide a platform for regular and systematic follow-up and monitoring the implementation of nutrition commitments by government ,development partners, CSOs and private sector at national and district levels
- Raise awareness and advocacy for scaling up high impact nutrition interventions at national and district and community levels.
- Build partnerships for sustainable SUN and bring CSO voice as a purpose.
- Provide technical assistance to government and CSOs for SUN at national, district, and community levels emphasizing nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive activities.
- Synergize existing national level nutrition programmes with government and establishing linkages between short-term, mid-term and long-term national development strategies such as the MDGS.
- Mobilize resources for improving coordinated SUN activities among CSOs
- Provide a platform for learning, documentation and sharing promising practices and innovations

Membership of the Alliance

Membership of the Civil Society Organisation Nutrition Alliance will include representatives from NGOs implementing nutrition, health and food security projects/programmes, religious groupings, the media and academic institutions. An exclusive list of members of the alliance will be provided in the annex I below.

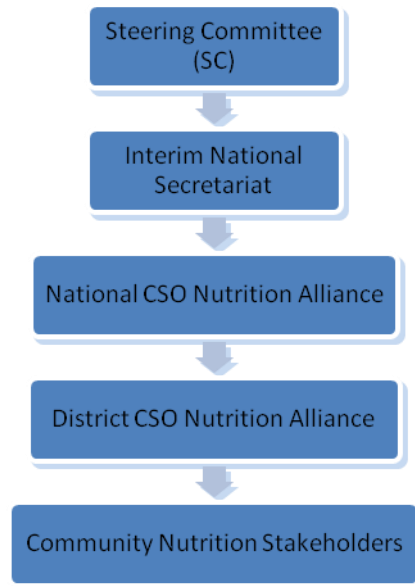
Scope of Work

- Strategic review and mapping of existing CSOs, alliances, and networks.
- Capturing and disseminating lessons learned on civil society engagement in nutrition and food security including initiatives in other sectors
- Formation of a national alliance for improved nutrition
- Annual monitoring and reporting on the inclusion of nutrition into District Development Plans
- Support government efforts to influence key decision-makers, through national level events for Members of Parliament and other key policy makers
- Participate in the relevant sector working groups (ASWAP, HSWAP, ESWAP) influence nutrition integration in the various strategies
- Contribute proactively towards **multi-stakeholder platforms** and nutrition related processes in support of the SUN activities at the national, regional and global level.
- Regularly reporting to the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) and contributing to its efforts and activities
- Lobby meetings with parliamentarians and representatives of donors, government sectors and treasury on gradual increased resource allocation and other issues
- Lobby government to recruit more staff for vacant nutrition positions
- Advocate for the finalization and enforcement of key legislation such as the Nutrition Act

- Development of advocacy materials for policy-makers, in line with national advocacy strategy
- Support monitoring of the adherence to nutrition related acts (code of marketing for IYC Foods, salt iodization, food fortification).
- Hold trainings and awareness-raising meetings for District Executive Committees.
- Conduct nutrition awareness meetings through local partners
- Identify opportunities to raise the profile of the CSO Nutrition Alliance by stimulating interest and excitement of the alliance through outreach and media activities
- Advocate and support implementation of existing nutrition-related campaigns, including World Breastfeeding Week, Africa Food and Nutrition Day, World AIDS Day, Child Health Days, and others
- Develop a system that tracks deliverables and shortcomings in the national implementation of SUN
- Conduct quarterly district and national review meetings for CSO SUN
- Establish a platform for CSO for the annual disseminations aimed at sharing information and experiences of progress made on SUN.

Structure of the Alliance

The following is the proposed structure for CSO alliance Nutrition Alliance in Malawi



Leadership/Management Structure

- Chair: Concern World wide
- Co- Chair: Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI).
- Other members: World Vision International, CARE, Africare, SCUS, PACT, VSO International, Concern Universal, Feed the Children, CRS/Wellness for Agriculture and Livelihood Advancement (WALA), Support for Service Delivery Integration (SSDI).

Operation Modalities

- The alliance will meet once a month, ideally.
- Hosting of meetings and taking of minutes will rotate among alliance members.
- Planning, timing and agenda of the meetings will be organized by the chair and supported by the facilitator.
- The chair and the co-chair will represent the alliance at key meetings at national, regional and global level.
- The CSO nutrition alliance will be reviewed once a year as agreed upon by its members.

Roles of the Steering Committee

- Provide strategic guidance for effective functioning of the CSO nutrition alliance

- Support and participate in the exchange of information, experiences and concerns in respect of CSO support to nutrition security and the rollout of SUN Identify funding, learning and knowledge sharing opportunities
- Promote and advocate for multi-sectoral integration of nutrition in programming
- Participate in discussions relating to policy, rights to food and health and presenting a coherent voice to GOM as matters arise
- Participating in dialogue and advocacy with government supporting nutrition programmes
- Identify strategic issues for discussions with the heads of government`s ministerial and departments

Role of the Secretariat

- Provide support and guidance in establishing the CSO Nutrition Alliance
- Communicate, represent and promote the alliance inside the country and internationally with other country alliances and within the global alliance / SUN movement as a whole.
- Have oversight of the CSO Nutrition alliance project at national level.
- Support and oversee the implementation of the plan of the CSO Nutrition Alliance in a transparent manner.
- Help co-ordinate, plan and strategize CSO SUN-related activities and advocacy by fostering an inclusive, open and transparent process involving all alliance members.
- Liaise with SUN Government focal points, SUN donor conveners and other SUN stakeholders (e.g. private sector actors), to contribute proactively towards multi-stakeholder platforms and nutrition related processes in support of the SUN activities at the national, and possibly regional level.
- Promote a good level of communication, fostering learning and sharing between all members of the alliance.
- Compile **Quarterly updates** on SUN activities at the national level (required by the global SUN CSN) in close consultation with the steering committee and in an open and participatory way by actively eliciting information from the CSO Nutrition Alliance members.
- Liaise with the Global CSO Network when required
- Capture and disseminate lessons learned on civil society engagement in nutrition and from initiatives in other sectors.

Roles of the District CSO Nutrition Alliance Platforms:

The list below highlights some of the roles and responsibilities of the CSO platforms.

- Support and coordinate the implementation of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive activities of CSOs and government at district and community level through district mapping exercise and district CSO nutrition platform meetings.

- Support and engage with the District Nutrition Coordinating Committees (DNCC) in coordinating and advocating for nutrition interventions at district and community level through nutrition platforms by providing technical and institutional support as well as updates and best practices.
- Promote communication, fostering early learning and knowledge sharing among all implementing partners
- Hold quarterly meetings to review SUN activities highlighting challenges and accomplishments
- Lobby and advocate for the expansion for government funding on nutrition interventions at the district level and participate in the development of district plans and budgets, to lobby for budget allocation and implementation.

Coordination Structures

- National Nutrition Committee
- SUN Task Force
- DoNuts
- Sector Working Groups (Health, Gender, Agriculture and Education)
- National Fortification Alliance (NFA)
- National Nutrition Society
- International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO)
- Other discipline specific networks like Farmers Union, CISANET and MHEN

District and lower level structures

- District Executive Committees (DEC)
- DNCC
- SUN District lead teams
- NGOs and Civil Society
- Community-based organizations (CBO)
- Faith-based organizations (FBO)
- Traditional Authorities (TA)
- Area Development Committees (ADC)
- Village Development committees (VDC)

Annex I

NUTRITION NGOS: (Current members)

1. ActionAid International – Malawi
2. Africare Malawi
3. Care Malawi
4. Catholic Relief Services
5. Civil Society for Agriculture Network
6. Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)
7. Concern universal
8. Concern worldwide
9. Development Aid from People to People
(DAPP)
10. Dignitas International
11. DREAM
12. Feed the Children Malawi
13. Gift of givers
14. GOAL Malawi
15. Land O' Lakes
16. Mothers 2 Mothers (m2m)
17. Progressio
18. Save the Children
19. Strengthening Service Delivery Initiative
(SSDI) – USAID funded
20. World Vision International

