

**UGANDA CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION ON THE SCALING UP NUTRITION
(UCCOSUN)**

STATEMENT FOR THE GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION

A call on governments and donors to scale up interventions for Nutrition

Date: 6th June 2013

Kampala, Uganda

Malnutrition in all its forms imposes unacceptable high costs on society in human and economic terms. In Uganda one in 19 children die before their first birthday and one in eleven die before their fifth birthday, and malnutrition contributes to 60% of these deaths, making malnutrition one of the most significant contributors to child mortality in the country (MOH, 2010; UDHS, 2011). Malnutrition is associated with almost a quarter of all maternal deaths. This is highly unacceptable given that malnutrition is preventable. Such preventable deaths reduce Uganda's gross domestic product by about 4.1 percent, costing US\$ 310 million lost in economic productivity every year (PROFILES 2010 WHO).

The causes of malnutrition in Uganda are well known and documented and these are in line with inadequate information about nutrition, low resources allocation and sectoral action to scaling up nutrition. This contributes to food insecurity and inadequate maternal and child health care thus leading to malnutrition. The Government of Uganda also acknowledges the limited leadership commitment to improve nutrition, with little or no budget allocation to scale up high-impact nutrition actions; and activities to improve nutrition not considered as priority expenditure.

The challenges is that the Ugandan Government commits less than 10% of the national budget to health differing from its commitment to the Abuja Declaration of allocating 15% of the national budget to Health, the Government also still offers **tax** holidays to investors yet the governments revenue that would finance such a budget is mainly tax based. Whereas **aid** contributes 35% of the health financing in Uganda, donor countries have not met their obligation of contributing 0.7% of their GNP to developing countries, including Uganda, as Official Development Assistance (WHO, 2011). There has also been questions regarding **transparency** and accountability of this donor aid in Uganda that has seen even the 'fewer' aid resources being withdrawn. Ultimately, these affect funding for nutrition and hurting the health of our children, mothers and the entire country; and grossly leading to poverty as a result of resources lost in treatment of malnutrition and associated illnesses, income lost due to lessened productivity and deaths.

As Civil Society in Uganda, we associate ourselves with international efforts particularly the Hunger Summit on June 8th 2013 in UK and the International CSO Conference in Washington on June 10th 2013 to sustain political commitment to scaling up nutrition. Through the "**FOOD FOR EVERY ONE IF**", campaign we remind governments to take action and fix the broken food system. The year 2013 should mark the beginning of the end for global hunger and under nutrition

We declare that addressing malnutrition and its consequences requires renewed global, regional and national political commitment. We hereby call upon our leaders to take action and tackle the root causes of hunger and malnutrition through funding and implementing effective nutrition interventions to improve nutrition status.

Call for action:

Under nutrition has complex set of political, social and economic causes none of which are amenable to easy solutions that fit within the time frame of a single political cycle.

We specifically call into action the following:

- The Government of Uganda increase the health budget allocation from the persistent 9% to 15% of the total national budget in the FY 2013/14 as per the Abuja Declaration.
- The Government of Uganda prioritises investment in implementation the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan.
- The Government of Uganda makes reforms to ensure equitable access to land by citizens and protect the citizens from land grabbing.
- The Government of Uganda strengthens and implements transparency and accountability initiatives in all systems and at all levels of administration.
- The G8 leaders meet their obligation of committing 0.7% of their GNP to developing countries as ODA.
- Renewed commitment of the global leaders to the 2005 Paris commitment to aid effectiveness by insuring transparency and accountability

We as CSOs pledge to continue, to support government efforts to scale up nutrition through:

- Advocacy for nutrition at all levels
- Resource mobilization for nutrition investments
- Community mobilization
- Media engagement

**The time to act is now!
We need to tackle global hunger and malnutrition.**