



Nutrition is Key

“Take up your role, Act now”

PROJECT TITLE	Mobilizing Civil Society in Kenya to champion Scaling up Nutrition
NAME OF IMPLEMENTING CSO ALLIANCE/ORGANISATION	Kenya SUN Civil Society Alliance Host Organization: World Vision Kenya
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PROJECT DURATION and LOCATION	2 years Nairobi- Kenya
AMOUNT REQUESTED	USD 280,000

B: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Kenya made a commitment to accelerate reduction of malnutrition by signing up to the global SUN movement in November 2012 as the 30th country member. Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) is a unique movement founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. It unites people from governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses & researchers in a collective effort to improve nutrition

In Kenya, one in every 3 children under five years suffer from chronic malnutrition, one in 10 children suffer from acute malnutrition, a situation that has remained constantly high for over two decades. In alignment with the national nutrition action plan 2012- 2017, Kenya aims to reduce chronic malnutrition to less than 14% and underweight to less than 10% from the current 35% and 16% respectively. These ambitious targets will be achieved if all actors including Civil Society Organizations (CSO) are coordinated. However, under the current SUN framework in Kenya, there is a gap in a coordinated CSO engagement. Currently CSOs are actively engaged in the Ministry of Health under the nutrition technical forum but more needs to be done to organize the CSOs themselves to form a strong voice that can advocate effectively.

It is therefore important to establish a strong Civil Society Network that will bring together multi- sector local and international CSOs, towards a common goal under the SUN Movement.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: To contribute to the national goal of having a healthy Kenya, with human resources that effectively contribute to economic growth and development of the country.

Objectives

1. Mobilize and organize the civil society in Kenya, working in nutrition relevant fields, to join and engage in the SUN Civil Society Alliance (CSA)
2. Strengthen the Kenyan civil society alliance to engage in the SUN Movement.
3. Develop strong advocacy mechanisms to increase public participation in nutrition programmes and interventions

Outcomes and Main Activities

Outcome 1: Civil Society Alliance established and strengthened to scale up nutrition in Kenya.

Outcome 2: Effective participation of the CSOs in the SUN movement

Outcome 3: CSA advocates for increased commitment and accountability in scaling up nutrition

Main Activities

1. Mobilize and coordinate civil society organizations to join SUN CSA
2. Establish CSA coordination forums and participate in the SUN Country Multi- Stakeholder Platform to support scale up nutrition
3. Build advocacy capacity among CSA members, coordinate advocacy actions and dialogues with decision makers from national to grassroots levels

C: THEORY OF CHANGE

Strategy to Support SUN Movement

Over the years, coordination of the nutrition activities in Kenya has been spearheaded by the Nutrition Technical Forum (NTF) which brings together different stakeholders among them the Ministry of Health (MoH), United Nations, local and international civil societies and donors. The NTF has made great strides in scaling up nutrition, through the leadership of the MoH, Human Nutrition and Dietetics Unit and SUN Government Focal Point. CSOs have been actively involved in various technical working groups of the NTF and work closely with the Government of Kenya and other partners in implementing nutrition activities countrywide.

However, currently there is no sustainable framework for the mobilization and participation of multi- sectoral CSOs in the SUN movement. The only CSOs that have been active in SUN are the members of the NTF and this has left out a critical mass of other non- nutrition specific CSO actors at both national and local level who are crucial for scaling up nutrition. Based on this reality it will be challenging to implement the several nutrition specific and sensitive policies and strategies like the Kenya National Nutrition Action Plan, School Health Programme, Child Survival and Development Strategy, Food and Nutrition Security Policy among others. One of the key approaches is the establishment of a representative and vibrant SUN CSA with membership from both national and county levels. It is worth noting that the NTF which is a government led nutrition technical forum at national and sub national level continues to exist for purposes of participation in providing nutrition policy direction and developing national guidelines. The CSA nutrition technical organizations will continue to participate in the NTF as well as provide technical support to its working groups.

CSOs in Kenya have inadequate skills and capacity to engage in progressive advocacy initiatives in issues related to nutrition. Their participation in policy processes and engagement with the government has not been structured but is rather reactionary in nature. Their participation is not based on evidence that is able to influence policy direction and the language used in expressing policy opinions is not well packaged to effectively communicate to decision makers. In this regard, the CSA members will be empowered with skills to gather evidence, package information and present them in a format that can be used to influence a wide range of decision makers including government officials and donors.

At present there is no framework for CSOs to monitor and provide feedback to government and other stakeholders in the implementation of the national nutrition action plan. The existence of an institutionalized accountability and feedback mechanism will act as a catalyst for the operationalization and implementation of the nutrition action plan at national and county levels. Based on the foregoing, the project will utilize social accountability and other approaches to enhance dialogue and collective action by stakeholders on nutrition issues.

Formation of a CSA in Kenya will complement the other SUN pillars i.e. the Business Network, UN Network, Donor Network and Government focal point.

Additional Benefits to Receiving the SUN MPTF Grant

The MPTF grant specifically provides an opportunity for the establishment and strengthening of the SUN CSA which is not provided by any other existing funding mechanisms. Once the structure of the CSA has been set up and made functional through the MPTF, it will open up opportunities to support and sustain activities of the alliance. Capacity building of CSOs through this grant will enhance their skills to lobby and advocate for policy and legislative processes in coordinated manner. Currently, there is fragmented engagement among CSOs from across the sectors and this grant will enable the establishment of multi-sectoral platforms for scaling up nutrition

The MPTF provides an opportunity for networking with other SUN country CSAs and the global SUN CSA network as well as others pillar of SUN.

Engagement with other Alliances

During the project implementation alliances will be sought with the following organizations among others: International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), Consumer Federation of Kenya (COFEK), Health NGOs Network (HENNET), Confederation of Trade Unions (COTU), Kenya Health Care Federation, Association for Disabled People in Kenya (APDK), Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition (AAHM).

Farmer groups are critical organizations in the SUN movement and therefore the Kenya CSA will during the CSOs mapping exercise seek to identify existing farmer groups to participate in the alliance. Contacts have already been established with some of the existing networks like the AAHM which has a broad network of agriculture organizations.

Engagement with relevant government line ministries will be coordinated with the government SUN focal point.

Risk Factors Likely to Come Through During the Project Life

While the participation of the CSOs in the SUN Movement in Kenya provides a good avenue for the realization of the CSA's goals, a number of risk factors may come in play during the project period, among them:

- The project envisages protracted decision making process in relation to harmonization of a nutrition agenda especially across nutrition specific and sensitive sectors. This is due to the fact that the process will involve a multiplicity of actors with competing interests and objectives. Government bureaucratic process may also affect coordination of nutrition actions across sectors. The CSA promote the principle of shared responsibility among actors through joint operational planning and coordination of project with clear communication strategy addressing the mutual needs of actors.
- Staggered policy adoption and formulation of county legislation by newly devolved governance structures may affect implementation of the national nutrition action plan. Currently the country is undergoing transition from a centralized governance system to a more devolved system and it will take time for the transition process to be completed and requisite policies and legislations to be in place. To mitigate this, the CSA will encourage its members to support government in ensuring the transitional process is smoothly handled

including supporting capacity building as may be possible. Capacity building of counties to prioritize nutrition agenda during county legislation will be a key strategy for long term response.

D: PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

D1. Situational Analysis

Nutrition Situation

The goal of Kenya Vision 2030 is to “transform Kenya into a globally competitive and prosperous nation with a high quality of life by 2030”. Unfortunately, malnutrition is amongst the biggest threats to this Vision 2030 and Kenya’s achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Malnutrition greatly affects Kenya’s socio-economic development and potential to reduce poverty. Economically, Kenya loses about Kshs 147 billion every year due to productivity losses as a result of malnutrition. Vision 2030 and many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – particularly MDG 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger); MDG 4 (reduce child deaths); and MDG 5 (improve maternal health) – will not be reached unless the nutrition of women and children is prioritized in the national development programmes and strategies.

In Kenya, over 10 million people (32% of the total population) suffer from chronic food insecurity (A study ‘*Reconciling Agriculture and Nutrition, Case study on agricultural policies and nutrition in Kenya, July 2013*’). Chronic malnutrition affects close to 35% i.e. over 2.1million children under the age of 5 years while underweight and wasting levels are not acceptable either at 16% and 7% respectively. All the three forms of under nutrition have remained unchanged for the last 2 decades as shown in Figure 1 below.

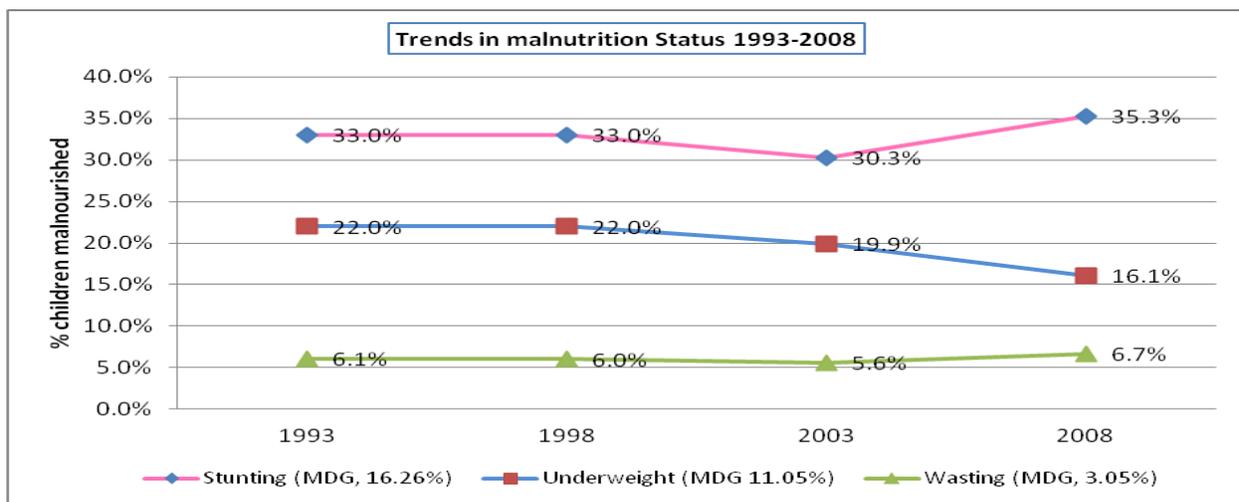


Figure 1: Malnutrition trends in Kenya

In the recent past, a double burden of under nutrition and over nutrition has been experienced. New emerging trends of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), overweight and obesity in children

and adults have been observed with women in urban areas twice as likely to be overweight than in rural areas.

Multi-sectoral Approach in Nutrition

While Kenya has made some progress in efforts to tackle malnutrition, harmonization of nutrition initiatives between the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and other line ministries has not been effective. The Ministry of Health has given priority to the High Impact Nutrition Interventions (HiNi) comprising of prevention and management of acute malnutrition, micronutrient supplementation including industrial and home food fortification as well as maternal and child nutrition practices and the nutrition action plan has been developed to actualize this. The challenge with effective implementation of the costed nutrition action plan will be funding for it considering most of the nutrition funding is mainly from donors through CSOs and majorly targeting the arid and semi- arid areas. This funding position has left a critical mass of vulnerable children because a huge burden of chronic malnutrition is not among the arid areas. The urban poor and children in semi- arid and even more food secure areas suffer more from stunting. The SUN CSA with a diverse representation will aim to collaborate with government decision makers and donors to ensure increase funding allocation while ensuring regional disparities are taken into consideration.

On the other hand, nutrition sensitive programmes have not been designed to target the population that is most affected by malnutrition i.e. women and children. Moreover, there are no deliberate and intentional measurements to assess the impact of such programmes on nutritional status.

The country's initiatives and efforts to address malnutrition should therefore be diversified to include other line ministries such as Agriculture, Education, Water, Women Empowerment, Social Protection and Economic Empowerment to ensure they are nutrition sensitive.

At present there are no formal multi-sectoral coordinating platforms to discuss nutrition-sensitive programmes and this would be a priority. To be effective and avoid duplication of efforts, existing networks/ alliances both at national and county levels will be the entry points to introduce the nutrition agenda.

It is in view of this, that the SUN Civil Society Alliance would like to address the institutionalization of nutrition beyond the Ministry of Health and make it a multi-sectoral agenda. The SUN Civil Society Network therefore aims to promote an understanding that nutrition is not the primary responsibility of the health sector, but all the sectors. The Government SUN Focal Point will be a key ally in this agenda

Political Framework and Nutrition Governance

For many years, nutrition in Kenya has attracted minimal funding from the exchequer. The inclusion of nutrition indicator(s) in key government developmental blue-print documents (Vision 2030, Kenya Health Sector Strategic Plan) that guarantees commitment for funding has been unsuccessful, until 2012 and therefore the nutrition agenda has largely been supported by donor funding. However, there is observed incremental allocation of resources for nutrition [0.04% (2004) to 2% (2012)] of total health budget (8% of total government budget) but still below the levels that would have an impact.

In this project, the Civil Society Alliance aims to advocate for a multi- sectoral tracking mechanism to track investment on nutrition interventions across sectors of government.

The Impact of Devolution on Scaling up Nutrition

The passing of a new constitution in Kenya in 2010 changed the legislative and constitutional framework, and brought with it radical shift from the then centralized system of governance to a more progressive, people centred and devolved system. Some of the functions that were initially the preserve of the central government were devolved to the Counties and these include the provision of primary healthcare services as well as reclassifying of the health facilities. The constitution also ensures that that a rights-based approach to health is adopted and applied in the delivery of health services.

The devolution of the governance functions to the County Governments has had its own share of challenges, particularly in relation to the operationalization of the nutrition action plan. Most of the County Governments have no clear policy frameworks, which would ordinarily include interventions for scaling up nutrition. This makes it very difficult to institutionalize and operationalize the nutrition action plan.

The existence of a vibrant and active CSA would ensure that both the National and County Governments not only formulate and/or implement requisite and supportive policy frameworks but also increase investment in related nutrition interventions. The CSA will engage the legislature both at national and county levels to prioritize investment in nutrition not only within health but also the related sectors.

D2. Description of Project Outcomes, Outputs and Activities

Goal: To contribute to the national goal of having a healthy Kenya, with human resources that effectively contributes to economic growth and development of the country.

The centrality of health in the development of the Country need not be emphasized. Kenya's long term development plan, Vision 2030, has identified improved health status of its citizens as one the enablers for the envisaged prosperity and development of the Country. Through the social pillar in the Vision, a number of initiatives have been formulated that target health information systems, improve healthcare financing and community health strategy, among other, all which have linkages with nutrition issues. The CSA will work with Government and other stakeholders, through advocacy and engagement to ensure that the ideals of Vision 2030 and requisite multi-sectoral frameworks that support improvement of health and nutrition status of the citizens are not only formulated but also implemented.

Objectives of the Project

The project is hinged on three key objectives as highlighted below:

Objective 1: Mobilize and organize the civil society in Kenya, working in nutrition relevant fields, to join and engage in the SUN Civil Society Alliance

Currently more than 30 CSOs are active members of the Nutrition Technical Forum (NTF). However, there is no recognizable or sustainable framework for the mobilization and participation of multi- sectoral CSOs in the SUN movement. The project will seek to mobilize, coordinate and sustain the effective participation CSOs in nutrition issues through the establishment of the SUN Civil Society Alliance in Kenya, which will be representative and multi-sectoral in nature.

Objective 2: Strengthen the Kenyan civil society alliance to engage in the SUN Movement

Apart from the members of the NTF, the participation of CSOs in relation to the nutrition sector in Kenya in has been unstructured, non- strategic and reactionary. In addition, use of evidence as means to influence policy and engage with policy makers has not been effective and this is attributed to a number of factors. These include inadequate skills and capacity in policy research, packaging of information and advocacy. The project will seek to strengthen the skills and capacity of CSA members to engage in progressive advocacy initiatives related to nutrition. This will be achieved through training, mentorship and peer learning processes.

Objective 3: Develop strong advocacy mechanisms to increase public participation and accountability in nutrition programmes and interventions

At present there is no structured framework for CSOs to monitor and provide feedback to government and other stakeholders in the implementation of the national nutrition action plan and other interventions. The existence of an institutionalized accountability and feedback

mechanism would be expected to promote the operationalization and implementation of the nutrition action plan at national and county levels. The project will seek to build capacity and create opportunities and linkages for the CSA members to provide regular and evidence based feedback to the government, donor community and other actors on the implementation of commitments, plans and strategies. The project will utilize social accountability and other approaches to enhance dialogue and collective action by stakeholders on nutrition issues.

Description of Project Outcomes Outputs and Activities

Outcome 1: Civil Society Alliance established and strengthened to scale up nutrition in Kenya

At the end of the project we will expect to have in place a CSA that is functional, strategic and with capacity to undertake scaling up nutrition interventions. The project will not merely focus on establishing the CSA but will also ensure that the CSA becomes the recognized and authoritative entity for mobilization and coordination of CSOs around nutrition issues. A number of interconnected activities will be implemented in this regard, key among them the undertaking of mapping exercise to clearly identify CSOs in all the 47 counties and their work, and contribution in the nutrition sector. The project will also facilitate the formation of the CSA governance and management structures as well as development and finalization of strategic plan, constitution and MOU with the host organization. These processes will enable the CSA to clearly identify, strengthen and implement its strategic focus and mandate. The CSA will also build capacity of the members on policy and advocacy issues as well nutrition specific and sensitive programming. This will empower members to drive nutrition advocacy initiatives at national and county levels. It will also enable members and other actors to integrate nutrition across different sectors in their programmes.

Outcome 2: Effective participation of the CSOs in the SUN movement

The other key deliverable of the project is enabling of the CSOs to effectively engage with the SUN movement, particularly effective participation in the formulation and implementation of sound nutrition strategies and policies. This will be discharged through a number of approaches including information sharing and engagement with media, multi-sectoral forums, legislative assemblies at the County and national levels engagement as well as strengthening of the CSA membership at the County levels. Based on the resources available through the MPTF, this project will engage with 6 counties but from which learning can be replicated in other counties with other CSO and donor support. The criteria for selection of these 6 priority counties will be based on stunting levels, geographical disparities in terms of arid, semi- arid, high potential areas, urban and rural contexts as well CSO presence to steer the process.

The project will purpose to build the capacity of journalists in nutrition reporting and facilitate media visits and documentation exercises to profile stories on SUN, nutrition action plan, which will lead to increased media coverage of nutrition issues on national and grassroots media outlets. The project will also facilitate CSA members and communities in the development and presentation of alternative citizen's budgets to the legislative assemblies and executive at the

national and county levels. This will contribute to increased budgetary allocation to nutrition related sectors, including agriculture, health, education and social protection.

The project will also provide the platform for CSA members to network and share information with the SUN Movement through production and dissemination of semi- annual SUN CSA e-bulletin and newsletter. This will promote sharing of best practices and other learning's on nutrition programming and interventions.

Outcome 3: CSA advocates for increased commitment and accountability in scaling up nutrition

The third outcome envisages having in place mechanisms and systems that would ensure the government and other actors are accountable in regard to the scaling up of nutrition initiatives. Different roles and deliverables have been placed on Kenya to domesticate and implement sound nutrition interventions as per its commitment to the SUN movement. Some key activities will be undertaken by the project and will focus on promoting understanding of the SUN movement commitments and strengthening accountability and feedback mechanisms on the implementation of nutrition interventions and programs.

The project will facilitate the production of simplified IEC materials on SUN and the national nutrition action plan, which will ensure that nutrition issues are communicated in community friendly language and simplified manner. The project will facilitate the CSA members to develop very simple tracking tools which will be used to monitor the implementation of the nutrition action plan and other nutrition interventions. This will lead to increased accountability and dialogue among stakeholders on nutrition.

To promote evidence based advocacy initiatives, the project will facilitate budget review and analysis on investment in nutrition across different sectors. The results of the review will be shared with the County and National Assemblies as well as at multi-stakeholders forums and will generate policy proposals to influence allocation of resources to nutrition interventions.

D3. Project Management

Staffing: The CSA coordinator will be the only staff hired under the MPTF grant to oversee the CSA activities. The coordinator will be reportable to the secretariat which is housed under the host organization but accountable to the executive committee. An advocacy officer would be hired if additional funding is secured from other sources

Administration: World Vision Kenya as the host organization will provide office space for the CSA secretariat and Coordinator to be based in Nairobi.

Technical support: CSA member organizations will be mobilized to provide technical support to the CSA both at national and county levels where they operate

UN Participating Organization: UNICEF will be the participating agency through which the MPTF proposal will be submitted and funding channeled to World Vision Kenya.

D4. Monitoring and Evaluation

A detailed monitoring & evaluation framework in line with the national SUN Monitoring and Evaluation framework will be adopted at the onset of the project. The Executive will establish an effective monitoring and evaluation plan for the entire project.

Key activities in the monitoring plan will include:

- Implementation schedule of the activities as per results framework approved by the CSA membership and MPTF
- Development and sharing of progress reports with the membership, MPTF, SUN CSN and SUN Multi-stakeholder Platform as guided by the CSA work plan
- Monthly updates from the CSA secretariat
- Quarterly updates submitted to the CSA Executive Committee
- Mid- term review of the CSA progress as per set work plan, document lessons so far and recommend changes
- End of project a final evaluation to determine CSA results, document lessons learnt and provide recommendations and guidance for the future activities of the CSA

D5. CSA formation, Proposal Development Process and Membership

During the Nutrition Technical Forum meeting of October 14th 2013, ACF, CONCERN Worldwide, Save the Children International and World Vision Kenya were mandated to spearhead the process of forming the SUN CSA in Kenya and development of the MPTF proposal. The four under the leadership of ACF invited Feed the Children and COFEK to join the process. UNICEF who is also the nutrition sector technical lead played a fundamental role in this process especially in establishing the relationship between the CSA and the UN Network. UNICEF and WFP were part of the peer review team for the proposal to ensure alignment with national strategies and action and that the proposed CSA project is filling existing gaps in scaling up nutrition.

On November, 5th 2013, through a democratic voting process by CSOs under the NTF and coordinated by the nutrition sector with UNICEF representing the UN as an observer, World Vision Kenya was elected and endorsed by government as the Interim SUN civil society host organization responsible for submitting the MPTF proposal and to coordinate key actions for establishing the Kenya CSA. The funds for the MPTF will be channeled through the host organization. In the same meeting, Action Against Hunger (ACF) was elected the interim CSA focal point organization responsible to communicate, represent and promote the CSA in Kenya. In the interim period, ACF will play the role of the Executive chair until the CSA members elect substantive office holders.

The interim governance period is initially within 6 months by the end of which the CSA members should have decided on the EC.

The current CSA membership under the leadership of the host organization will offer initial support including consultative meetings between the CSOs, meetings with government focal point, the donor and UN networks before the disbursement of MPTF funds

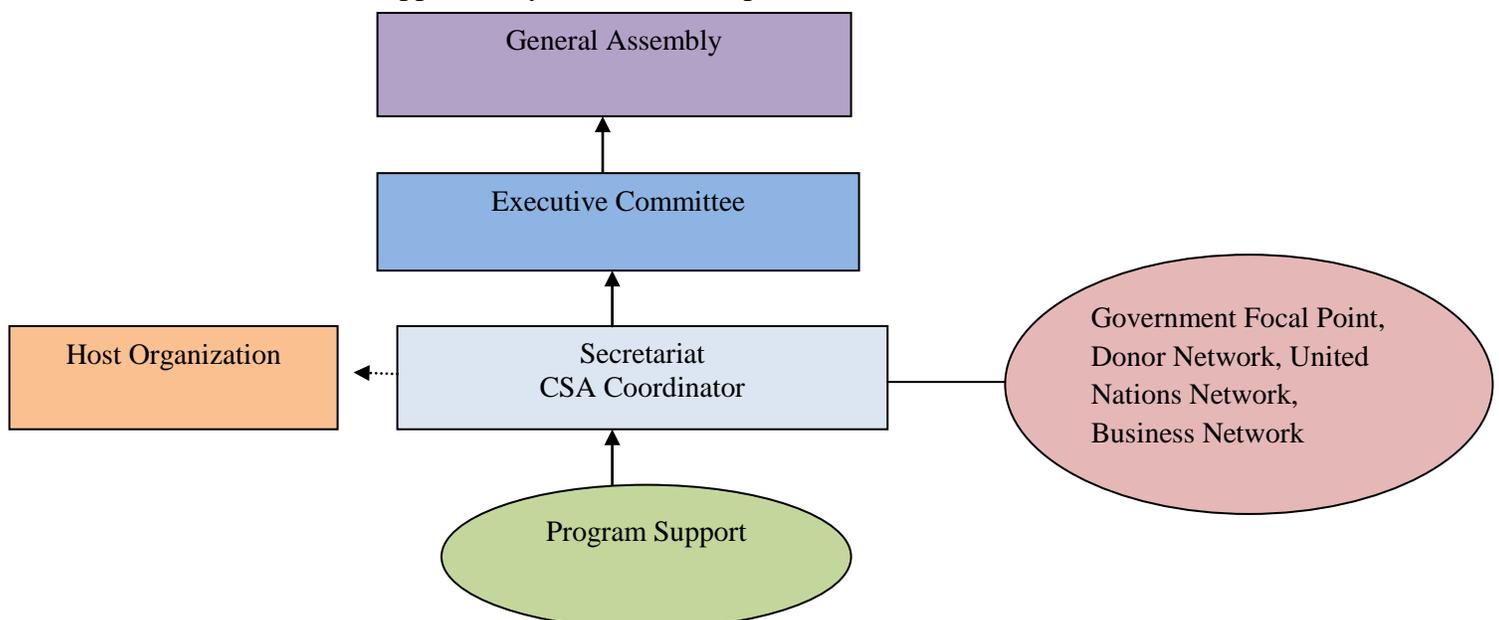
Current CSA Membership

Action Against Hunger, Save the Children International, World Vision Kenya, Feed the Children, CONCERN Worldwide, Mercy USA, Food for the Hungry Kenya, Samaritans Purse, Merlin, Micronutrient Initiative, International Rescue Committee, Islamic Relief Kenya, MSF Belgium, MSF France, MSF Spain, Terre des Hommes Foundation, International Medical Corps, PATH, COSV, German Agro Action, Plan International, MedicinsdAfriquekenya, PSI Kenya, Family Health International, Helen Keller International, GAIN, COOPI, CAFOD, AMREF, Kenya Red Cross Society DSW Kenya, Uzima Aid, Total Lifestyle Change, KANCO (Kenya Aids NGOs Consortium), ZamZam Medical Services, Health Poverty Action, APDK (Association for the Disabled Person of Kenya), NOPE (National Organization of Peer Educators, Pastoralists Against Hunger, Foundation for Health and Social Economic Development Africa (HESED), Real Impact, Grace Africa, Concern Universal, Kenya Freedom From Hunger Council

During the project period, other CSOs and alliances related to scaling up nutrition, especially among CSOs undertaking nutrition sensitive projects will be invited to join the CSA. For effective coordination, there will be a national CSA and CSA nodes at County levels. The CSA nodes will be responsible for implementation of CSA activities as per the CSA work plan and with guidance from the national CSA.

CSA Governance Structures

The management of the CSA shall be guided by the CSA Terms of Reference (*annexed as attachment 4*) when approved by the Membership.



The General Assembly brings together all CSA members to make policy and programme decisions. The Assembly is the overall decision making organ of CSA.

The Executive Committee hereby referring to officials who will be charged with overall coordination of activities of the Alliance shall the highest governance structure for the CSA and shall be selected by the CSA members. The Executive will be responsible for the overall strategy direction for the CSA, management of the MPTF and other funds and ensure accountability. Fundraising for the CSA will also be spearheaded by the executive. The Kenya SUN CSA Executive will comprise of an Executive Chair, Executive Co-chair, Secretary/ CSA Coordinator and Executive members.

The SUN CSA Coordinator who is also the secretary to the EC will be recruited by the Executive Committee and housed by the host organization. The coordinator will be for the day to day running of CSA activities as per the work plan and will be accountable to the executive rather than the host organization. His/ she will also be responsible for to liaising with the SUN government focal point, donor network, UN network, business network and the global SUN network. The Coordinator will report to the secretariat housed at the host organization but accountable to the executive committee.

E. Attachment 1: Results Framework and Logframe (excel sheet)

F. Attachment 2: Detailed Budget and Summary (excel sheet)

Attachment 3: Letters of Support

Attachment 4: Draft CSA ToR