

# SUN Movement Multi-Partner Trust Fund



## ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

### REPORT COVER PAGE

<p><b>Participating Organization:</b> World Health Organization</p>	<p><b>Priority Sector covered:</b> Scaling Up Nutrition</p>
<p><b>Programme<sup>1</sup> No. and Programme Title:</b> Program number – SUN – Window 2-010  Programme title – Strengthening Uganda Civil Society capacity to strengthen the scaling up Nutrition (SUN)</p>	<p><b>Report Number:</b>  01</p>
<p><b>Reporting Period:</b>  February , 2013 to March 2014</p>	<p><b>Programme Budget:</b> USD 321,000</p>
<p><b>List Implementing Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Health Organization</li> <li>• World Vision Uganda</li> </ul>	<p><b>Programme Coverage/Scope:</b>  National coverage and focuses on nutrition advocacy.</p>

**Abbreviations and acronyms:**

CSOs - Civil Society Organizations  
RMNCH -Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health  
SUN - Scaling Up Nutrition  
UCCOSUN -Uganda Civil Society Coalition on Scaling Up Nutrition  
UDHS - Uganda Demographic and Health Survey  
UHCA -Uganda Health Communication Alliance  
UGAN - Uganda Action for Nutrition  
UNAP -Uganda Nutrition Action Plan  
WHA -World Health Assembly  
WHO -World Health Organization  
NGO - Non Government Organization  
MPTF - Multi Partner Trust Fund

**Programme Duration/Closed Programme:**

- The program duration is three years from February, 2013 to March 2016.

**Report Formatting Instructions**

*Kindly review the instructions below and follow them in the preparation of your report*

- Do not put the narrative text into boxes and do not incorporate boxes, graphs, etc into the narrative report.
- Add additional information including charts, graphs, etc. as annexes to the report and clearly reference the annexes using footnotes or endnotes within the body of the narrative.
- Number all sections and paragraphs as indicated below.
- Format the entire document using the following font: 12point Times New Roman & do not use colours.

**NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT****I. Purpose**

In 2010, a selected number of civil society organizations with a stake in reducing malnutrition in Uganda, nurtured a coalition called UCCOSUN. The coalition has since contributed towards scaling up nutrition in Uganda, through collective advocacy. The vision of UCCOSUN is a Uganda free from hunger and malnutrition. With the approval of the Multi Partner Trust Fund Grant in August 2012, UCCOSUN's momentum to fight against malnutrition doubled, especially among children below 5 years of age.

As per the approved work plan, the coalition set out to contribute towards 4 broad outcomes in a period of three years as outlined below;

- A functional CSO platform with harmonized information and capacity to influence nutrition policy and action in favor of mothers and children by 2014
- An effective policy and legal frame-work from national level to the grassroots for improved nutrition governance by 2014 to support the scale-up of proven interventions in country
- A stronger and sustainable multi-stakeholder dialogue from national level to the grassroots for better government accountability on nutrition investments by 2014.
- A constituency with capacity to demand for the scale up of nutrition activities at the grassroots by 2014

### **The main implementing partner**

For report period, World Vision Uganda remained the key implementing partners. The primary role of WVU continued supporting processes that facilitated implementation of the planned activities under the MPTF grand. WVU facilitate establishment of institutional arrangements including a functional steering committee.

WVU kept in close touch with the Participating UN agency. The WHO nutrition expert participated in all coalition coordination meetings by providing technical guidance and also linkages with WHO for handling administrative concerns. Also keeping our communications lines open, WHO teams provided timely guidance and responses to specific issues.

### **Financial Resources**

- **Information on other funding resources**

The MPTF grant continued to be the main sources of funding and our ambition is that it will go a long way in supporting the UCCOSUN institutional strengthening into a credible player in the national efforts to scale up nutrition. However, some of the current 24 registered members also contributed to various UCCOSUN activities especially where there were overlaps with grant planned activities.

The coalition also received some funding from the SUN secretariat that was spent during the 2013 Global Day of Action on Scaling-up Nutrition

## **II. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements**

- **Summary of how national alliances and/or other governance mechanisms are being primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context.**

UCCOSUN is one of the national alliances that brings together nutrition actors to advocacy for improved nutrition outcomes. The coalition works closely with the Office

of the Prime Minister, the UN agencies and development partners to profile the scaling up nutrition agenda in Uganda. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), that leads government business and also hosts the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan, provides oversight as well as institutional coordination to ensure multi-sectoral approach to scaling up nutrition in Uganda.

For example, towards the end of 2012, the OPM organized the first National Nutrition Forum which brought together slightly over 1000 stakeholders. During the event members took stock of progress in implementing the UNAP, identified bottle-necks and also plotted strategies to address them. UCCOSUN contributed to the organization of the event and also submitted a statement with key recommendation that was received by the Prime Minister. Plans are under way to follow up on the commitments made by the duty bearer and other stakeholders.

- **An update on risk factors the alliance/governance structure faces in implementing the proposal**

Outlined below are some of the potential risk factors that are likely to affect the smooth implementation of the planned activities;

- a) Uganda is gearing up for the next election of leaders at all levels and since the coalition uses mobilization as one of its strategies, there are likely to be political interferences.
- b) For the third time, the Government is amending the NGO Registration Act (2008) and provisions in the draft bill are threatening the NGO operating spaces by becoming more restrictive than playing a facilitating role.

**Interface with the theory of change underpinning the original proposal.**

At the beginning of the grant implementation period in October, 2012, an interim steering committee working closely with World Vision Uganda, the implementing agency, facilitated processes of institutional strengthening. Through a series of meetings to build rapport and cultivate a sense of ownership, members appreciated the shared vision along with understanding the coalition nutrition advocacy agenda. Through consensus building, a formal steering committee emerged and it steered clear the implementation of the planned activities, in close collaboration with the focal point agency.

The implementation process during the report period was participatory, with active involvement of coalition members, in close collaboration with the implementation agency. The key intervention arenas included; the community, local government and national levels, with strategic linkages to global policy processes. Furthermore, the coalition capitalized on advocacy moments to mobilize and build awareness among stakeholders on malnutrition, its impact and practical solutions to address it. For example, working in collaboration with other actors, UCCOSUN members contributed to national level policy debates and government position papers during the preparatory processes of the World Health Assembly in May, 2013 and the June Hunger Summit held in London.

In both cases, UCCOSUN ensured that scaling up nutrition remained on the agenda of the two international level processes highlighted above.

- **Alert/monitoring/tracking system(s)**

UCCOSUN develop an alert monitoring and tracking systems through regular coordination meetings where an item on landscape analysis is maintained on the agenda. Throughout last year, members of the steering committee met on a monthly basis and the wider membership convened on meeting towards the end of the year. Mitigation measures against the identified risk factors were factored into subsequent program activities. Furthermore, the membership list serve provided another avenue for tracking potential risk factors and alerting the wider coalition of any emerging risk.

- **Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.**

At the beginning of 2014, UCCOSUN planned to assess the nutrition advocacy capacity among stakeholders and the process is continuing.

### **III. Results**

#### **Major achievements**

The major achievements for the year 2013 are structured according to the four outcomes as outlined below;

- a) A functional CSO platform with nutrition advocacy capacity**

During the reporting period, UCCOSUN members undertook a number of activities that contributed to the achievement of the above indicated outcome.

#### **Annual General Meeting held and Election of Steering Committee completed**

The coalition held its Annual General Meeting in April 2013 and 25 members participated in the deliberations. UCCOSUN members reviewed and later adopted the constitution which elaborated the objectives of the coalition, the rights and obligations of members, the organization structures and their respective roles.

Members also elected the UCCOSUN steering committee comprising of 13 members. These include Uganda Health Communications Alliance (UHCA), Uganda Network for Nutrition, World Vision Uganda (WVU), Food Talk Uganda, Makerere School of Public Health, FHI 360, Kyambogo University, THETA Uganda and the Uganda Action for Nutrition (UGAN). The General Assembly also elected the Uganda Action for Nutrition (UGAN) to chair the steering committee and deputized by Uganda Health Communication Alliance (UHCA).

#### **Formalization of relationships with host agency**

UCCOSUN formalized its relations with World Vision Uganda, the earlier agreed-upon Civil Society SUN Focal Point Organization. WVU in turn signed a letter of understanding with the World Health Organization to facilitate the flow of funding for implementation of the planned activities.

Building on the rapport created with the host agency by the Steering Committee, WVU pre-financed a number of UCCOSUN activities at the start of grant implementation as WHO processed transfer of the first installment of the funds.

### **Agreement on implementation modalities**

After a series of meetings and negotiations with WVU, modalities for implementation of the Multi-Partner Fund Grant (MPTF) were agreed-upon between the steering committee and WVU. The document elaborated on a set of hybrid procedures to fit within the host agencies' systems and procedures.

### **Strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the Steering Committee**

The UCCOSUN steering committee formed functional committees to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness, comprising of; the program committee, the finance and administrative committee and the monitoring and reporting committee. The program committee is charged with reviewing all concept notes of activities and recommend for approval by the steering committee. On the other hand, the finance and administrative committee is tasked with overseeing transactions and operational support. The monitoring and reporting committee was assigned the role of quality control and accountability.

To further strengthen coordination, the steering committee finalized the process of recruiting a Coordinator to be hosted by the World Vision Uganda, in the last quarter of 2013. Similarly, in January 2014, UCCOSUN Steering Committee held a retreat to build team work, reflect on 2013 and also lay strategies for 2014. At the time of reporting, WVU noted significant improvement in the rate of implementation of the planned activities despite some delays in transferring resources.

### **Mapping of members and Partners in Uganda**

This has been partially done starting with Partners at National level in Kampala and Bushenyi (western), Tororo (Eastern) and Lira districts (Northern). There are currently 30 national level partners, and 45 partners from the aforementioned districts.

### **Areas of improvement**

In year one, UCCOSUN invested more time and effort in setting grounds for effective and efficient implementation of the grant, including formalizing relationships and defining the structure of the coalition. Some of the activities planned but not implemented included; the "state of art" technical nutrition workshops for CSOs; development of the UCCO-SUN web portal and

e-newsletter and establishment of sub-regional information platforms with farmer groups and other community groups

### **c) An effective policy and legal frame-work for better nutrition governance**

The sections below highlight UCCOSUN's contribution to effective policy and legal frame-work.

#### **Implementation of the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP)**

In 2011, UCCOSUN members contributed significantly to the formulation and subsequent launch of the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP). The coalition continued following-up implementation of the plan throughout 2013. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), SUN secretariat in Uganda, selected UCCOSUN to sit on an institutional committee that worked out strategies to roll-out the UNAP. By the end of February, 2014, the committee had completed an advocacy and communication strategy as well as drafts of advocacy materials.

The purpose of the advocacy strategy and plan is to strengthen and harmonize the multi-sectoral approach towards sustainable nutrition outcomes in Uganda. This drafting process included determining key audiences and developing advocacy objectives for each audience to address the desired changes, perceived barriers, and benefits of those changes. In addition, the advocacy strategy and plan included planned nutrition advocacy activities, needed materials, indicators, a timeline, and responsible/supporting organizations for each audience. The activities outlined in the advocacy strategy and plan aim to increase visibility, commitment, action, and resources for nutrition in the health, agriculture, education, and social development sectors, as well as public sector management. The plan targets media; Parliamentarians; members of government ministries, departments, and agencies and the Cabinet; local government; development partners; the private sector; and civil society.

#### **High level policy dialogue to mark the Global Day of Action**

On June 7<sup>th</sup> 2013, UCCO-SUN joined other SUN civil society organizations across the world to show global solidarity on the need to tackle global hunger and malnutrition. This presented a golden opportunity for SUN countries to amplify and direct attention to nutrition at national and the global level. The theme was "Food for Everyone". This was attended by over 40 people including policy makers, CSO representative and community members.

#### **High level policy dialogue on nutrition**

On August 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, the coalition partnered with the Ministry of Health to organize a high level policy dialogue under the theme **Enhancing community support for mothers to practice optimal breastfeeding towards a healthy, well nourished and HIV free generation**. During the policy dialogue, the policy makers promised to fast track the food and nutrition bill. They also committed to sensitize community members on the dangers of malnutrition. This was attended by 76 people and officiated over by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Jacob Oulanya. The Minister for Health, Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda attended and encouraged working mothers to practice better breastfeeding practices.

#### **Capacity building in nutrition advocacy**

Last year, UCCOSUN enhanced the capacity of over 50 CSOs representatives in Nutrition Advocacy from Kampala and Bushenyi districts. The CSO representatives developed strategies and made commitments towards the implementation of the UNAP from national to community levels and the plan is follow-up and review progress in 2014. To further raise awareness about nutrition, UCCOSUN members participated in orientation of UNAP at local government and community levels, using guidelines developed by OPM. Related to the above, an estimated 5000 copies of UNAP were printed and disseminated at different to help district consider nutrition while allocating budgetary resources.

### **Budget reviews**

Regarding budget advocacy activities at national and district levels, UCCOSUN members continued profiling nutrition among budget priorities, especially for maternal and child survival.

The coalition representatives contributed to debates in three district level budget conferences of Gulu, Kyankwanzi and Kiboga. From the field reports, it became clear that without a dedicated budget line for nutrition, local government still found a lot of difficulties to allocate money for nutrition within other sectoral budgets. After reflection on the issues from community, members agreed to make resource nutrition for advocacy as one of the priority advocacy agenda for 2014.

### **Media engagement**

The media continued to be a key ally in the elimination of malnutrition and improved financing for nutrition activities. In June 2013, the coalition conducted a media briefing to raise media awareness on nutrition challenges in the country. Over 30 media representatives participated in the training. This was followed by numerous media engagements with coalition members to share key messages on nutrition in the country.

#### **d) Effective and sustainable government nutrition accountability mechanisms**

For the last one year, UCCOSUN advocacy efforts towards establishment of effective and sustainable government nutrition accountability mechanism are presented in the following sections.

#### **The Multi-sectoral national nutrition forum**

The Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with UCCOSUN and other nutrition actors organized the first ever national nutritional forum for Uganda. The two day forum focused on taking stock of progress of UNAP implementation and drew strategies for accelerating reduction of malnutrition especially among children and mothers in Uganda. Over 1000 people participated in the three phase event that involved; stakeholders exhibitions, a multi-stakeholder reflection meeting and a high level policy dialogues presided over by the Honorable Prime Minister of Uganda.

During the high level policy dialogue, the Prime Minister recommitted to support the SUN movement in Uganda and the multi-sectoral approach. Donors and United Nations also pledged continued support to Scaling Up Nutrition in Uganda.

#### **e) Citizen's mobilization for awareness and social accountability**

##### **Bushenyi Nutrition Marathon**

In November 2013, the coalition was among the chief organizers of the Bushenyi Nutrition Marathon. The Marathon aimed at increasing awareness on the challenges of malnutrition in the country. This was attended by over ten thousand community members, policy and decision makers. The chief runner was Uganda's Olympic Champion, Stephen Kiprotich.

##### **Activities to mark the World Breastfeeding week in Lira, Tororo and Namutumba Districts**

The coalition took advantage of the Breast Feeding week to raise awareness on the importance of breastfeeding and improved nutrition in the country and engage leaders for action to improve child health, specifically ending malnutrition. The global theme for 2013 breast feeding week was **"Breast feeding support: Close to mothers"**, and UCCOSUN members actively participated in district mobilization activities in Lira and Tororo districts. National and Local Leaders committed to end malnutrition in the community. In Lira district for example, the Woman MP urged the District Leadership to enact a bylaw on Food and nutrition to curb the high rates of malnutrition in the district. She advised that, in the long term, children would be well nourished and protected from diseases and malnutrition.

##### **Children's participation in demanding for accountability**

Over 200 children in Tororo and Lira districts participated in inter school debate competitions on nutrition. The topic was **"This house supports breastfeeding"**. In Tororo the children were given free airtime to debate on Rock Mambo FM. During the global day of action, the coalition organized 150 children from Kitante Primary School in Kampala. Over 150 children participated in the exercise and raised their concerns on malnutrition with specific reference to inadequate mechanisms to guarantee school mid-day meals.

##### **Involvement of cultural institution in profiling nutrition**

UCCOSUN in collaboration with Kabarole Research Center and other child nutrition actors in western Uganda, organized a nutrition awareness event that coincided with the annual Tooro King Dom cultural celebrations called Empango. Over 1500 participate in matching and a citizens rally whereby children nominated the Omukama of Tooro as their Good Will Ambassador. The King accepted the nomination and committed to mobilize his subjects to play their roles in ending child malnutrition.

#### **Areas of underperformance**

- i. **Mapping of partners:** This was only partially done in 2013 and work will continue in 2014.
- ii. Citizens empowerment to demand for improved nutrition services: Most activities under this outcome were postponed to 2014 to allow laying a strong foundation for implementation.

### **Lessons learnt**

- a) Through strengthening the Civil Society alliance on scaling up nutrition, issues of maternal and child malnutrition are gradually becoming public concerns in Uganda. However, there is still need for demonstrated government intentionality and political will by deliberately increasing investment in proven high impact nutrition interventions.
- b) To effectively enhance the shift from rhetoric to action in promoting multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches in fighting malnutrition, the coalition needs to aggressively broaden its membership.

- Key partnerships and inter-agency collaboration: impact on results.

UCCOSUN worked very closely with other civil society coalitions like Civil society coalition on maternal newborn and child health to advocate for the survival of mothers and children.

### **IV. Future Work Plan**

UCCOSUN priorities for 2014 are as follows;

- a) Continue with institutional strengthening through establishing appropriate systems.
- b) Prioritize evidence building for influencing policy processes and practices
- c) Building knowledge and skills in nutrition advocacy among members and other stakeholders
- d) Raise awareness on prevention and treatment of malnutrition especially among mothers and children including building their confidence to demands for accountability.