

Scaling Up Nutrition Multi-partners Trust Funds (SUN MPTF) for Civil Society Mobilization
MPTF OFFICE ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT – YEAR 2013
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2013
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD – 1 APRIL -31 DECEMBER 2013

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: “Strengthening the role of Civil Society in Scaling-up nutrition in Malawi” Programme Number (if applicable) SUN02/MWI/004 <p>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ #00084721 SUN 02/MWI/004 “Civil Society”</p>	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p>(if applicable) Country/Region Malawi</p> <p>Priority area/ strategic results Civil Society Mobilization</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme  <p>World Food Programme</p> <p>United Nations World Food Programme, Malawi Country Office</p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations <p>Concern Worldwide, Malawi</p>
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: US\$428,000 US\$428,000</p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency (if applicable) Agency Contribution by Agency (if applicable) Government Contribution (if applicable) 	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (months): 36 months</p> <p>Start Date⁵ (dd.mm.yyyy): 11 December 2012</p> <p>Original End Date⁶ (dd.mm.yyyy): 31 December 2015</p>

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

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i>	
TOTAL:	US\$428,000
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.	
Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>	
Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>	

Current End date ⁷ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>):	31 December 2015
Report Submitted By	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Tisungeni Zimpita ○ Title: Project Manager, Concern Worldwide ○ Participating Organization (Lead): WFP ○ Email address: Tisungeni.zimpita@concern.net 	

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

NARRATIVE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the first year of implementation of this project, the Civil Society Organization Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) has been founded and now has a secretariat comprised of a Project Manager and a Partnership Supporting Officer. With a current membership of 22 civil society organizations, the alliance has adopted a Terms of Reference (TOR) that govern the alliance's scope of work and organizational structure. The alliance holds monthly national nutrition platform meetings, and through these, there is increased coordination of efforts across civil society, as well as an increase in the exchange of information and best practices, both across civil society partners, and from civil society to government.

Much of the work this year has focused on raising awareness of CSONA as an entity, and on strategically placing CSONA on key national platforms and bodies. Through an introductory letter that was circulated to heads of mission and country directors of different CSO, the alliance was invited to make a presentation at the INGO forum where an awareness of SUN was raised and CSONA's scope of work was highlighted. Having profiled itself in several multi-sectoral platforms at a national level, the alliance is now a member of the National Nutrition Committee (NNC), Development Partners for Nutrition Security (DoNuts) group as well as the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) taskforce. Following these multi-sectoral platforms CSONA was endorsed by the Principal Secretary (PS) of the Department of Nutrition and HIV/AIDS (DNHA) as crucial partner to coordinate CSO nutrition efforts in the country.

CSONA efforts have resulted in greater civil society input into national policies, plans, and programs. For example, CSONA members were given an opportunity to comment and develop an issue paper on the National Nutrition Policy (NNP) Priority areas and statement, and CSONA also contributed to the national Micronutrient Strategy. Through the expertise that was led by Save the Children International, a CSONA member, a budget analysis was carried out in September 2013 of which the findings were shared with other CSONA members.

CSONA has initiated the process of establishing district nutrition platforms by making presentations and introducing the alliance at 2 District Executive Committees (DEC). Preparatory meetings for establishing district nutrition platforms have also been made in 3 districts where key interest has been showed by District Planning Directors (DPD).

I. Purpose

The purpose of the MPTF grant is to facilitate the establishment and running of an influential platform to bring together various civil society actors to advocate for and implement improved programs for nutrition. The grant will facilitate the CSO alliance 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 SUN 1000 Days movement. The program is expected to establish a civil society nutrition alliance that is effective in advocacy efforts, increasing resource allocation and commitment to nutrition programs through effective public awareness as well as engaging households in aligned interventions that result in uptake of best practices.

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

Outcomes:

The primary expected outcomes for this project are:

- Improved coordination and coherence of nutrition programming and policy through the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition
- Increased resource allocation for nutrition
- Strengthened coordination and delivery of nutrition services at the district level

Although outcome-level data are not yet available, the formation of a national platform for nutrition, the CSO Nutrition Alliance (CSONA), has been an important step in improving coordination of civil society in nutrition. Over the year, CSONA has become increasingly involved in policy review and development across sectors, including food security and the health sector. CSONA now has a secretariat comprising of a full time Project Manager and Project Support Officer. The alliance has a TOR which was adopted by its members. Plans are underway to revamp the steering committee through the country Director/heads of mission meeting and platform meetings were conducted. Registration of CSONA as a network is in the process through consultations with its members and well established CSO networks. It is however, not a one-off activity but a process that can take half a year depending on the type of registration.

Advocacy and lobbying activities initiatives for CSONA are still at the initial stages and as yet have not had a noticeable influence on resource allocation. However the CSONA is envisaging to kick-start its advocacy activities in 2014 where a lot of opportunities exist to not only involve nutrition champions and parliamentarians but also to involve the media in dialogues and debates. The alliance is planning to formally launch CSONA in March as well as initiate an advocacy campaign through its lead advocacy member Save the Children International.

Activities at the district level have been slow to start, due to delays in carrying out the stakeholder mapping exercise, which is waiting for government approval and input. However, six of CSONA's members, Concern Worldwide, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Feed the Children, Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) and Save the Children International (SCI) are to align their nutrition interventions within the Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy (NECS) which is based on the 1000 Special Days initiative.

Outputs:

Outcome 1:

- *Mapping of existing civil society actors and identification of potential CSOs interested in forming an Platform conducted by month 3*

The alliance is currently made up of 22 CSO members who mostly consist of International NGOs with a few local NGOs. At the moment, CSONA membership is drawn largely from the INGO community. CSONA is aware of this limitation and has been trying to actively seek out more local CSO members. It is hoped that once CSONA is formally launched and activities are rolled out at the district level, local CSOs will become more involved.

Mapping of nutrition actors and programs is underway by the Malawi Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA). The Permanent Secretary of the DNHA has reiterated that CSONA should contribute to the already existing efforts of department's nationwide mapping exercise. Discussions are still underway with DNHA on how CSONA can best collaborate with the department.

- *Organizational capacity assessment of the identified CSOs and training needs requirement conducted by month 9*

Through an appreciative inquiry that is scheduled in March, the alliance hopes to identify the capacities and the gaps that exists within CSONA as well as map out the way forward.

- *Focal organization to facilitate the formation of the Platform by end of year 1*

The alliance has a secretariat that is being coordinated by a Project Manager and a Partnership Supporting Officer. Guided by its interim steering committee, the alliance coordinates and facilitates nutrition platforms. CSONA has had 2 nutrition platforms meeting since project start-up. Through these meetings, CSONA has encouraged exchange of information and best practices by allocating a slot where members can provide updates from their interventions and organizations. Key updates are thus shared at other platforms for instance the DoNuts group. Other than a quarterly monthly update bulletin, the alliance has also developed a quarterly 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 has strengthened its communication strategy by channeling 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.

- *Constitution to govern CSO Platform in place by end of year 1.*

After constructive input from key members as well as other relevant stakeholders from the DoNuts group, the TORs for the CSONA have been developed, finalized and were adopted by its members. The TORs are inclusive of a proposed organizational structure that governs the alliances as well as its members' scope of work.

- *Steering committee meetings held every quarter*

From a presentation that was made at the International NGO (INGO) Forum, the alliance has seen an increase in active members by 10% since June 2013. A recommendation was made by INGO forum members to have a follow-up meeting of interested Country Directors/Heads of Mission of interested INGOs and NGOs where the scope of work and what is expected from members can be fully deliberated. The INGO forum is made up of key decision makers of different international NGOs in the country who are key people in influencing policy. In essence, from this meeting the alliance hopes to identify and elicit a steering committee who will act as the board of directors as well as put CSO within their capacity at task. From this meeting we envisage a clear process that CSONA should take towards becoming an independent entity. Currently the alliance is in the process of organizing the follow-up meeting.

- *Preliminary support for set up of functional website by 2013 with regular updated information.*

Activities of setting a website have not started, however the alliance is looking for other ways of sharing information and raising awareness through other forms of social media for instance Twitter and Facebook. Other than the social media the alliance has developed a bulletin where it will provide regular updates to its members.

- *Advocacy materials available at National, District and community level*

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 as well as hold meetings with government to develop a monitoring framework towards these commitments.

Outcome 2

- *Champions from Parliament, public and private sector including Malawian Personalities identified by end of year 1, to raise nutrition issues with decision makers and lobby for equitable resource allocation for nutrition programmes*

With the establishment of parliament and cabinet nutrition committees, the alliance is in the process of identifying key champions to raise nutrition issues as well as lobby for equitable resource allocation for nutrition programs. However with the coming of the tripartite elections on May 20th 2014, the cabinet and parliament nutrition committees have been dissolved. Nonetheless, bearing in mind the advocacy opportunity that exists during this period, CSONA will organize a debate and dialogue amongst identified champions to

discuss national nutrition issues. This will feed into the development of key nutrition messages for candidates or key spokespeople as they prepare for the elections and also for newly elected officials to voice out during the SUN Global Day of Action which will involve the media.

- *Annual budget tracking & expenditure monitoring reports produced & presented prior to the presentation of the national budget*

Led by Save the Children international (CSONA member), a budget analysis was carried out in September 2013. While a follow-up and further analysis was made, the budget analysis was done after the National Budget for the 2013/2014 had already been passed by Parliament. With Save the Children (in its capacity) taking a leading role, the alliance will carry out its budget analysis in 2014 which will feed into Parliament's national budget sitting. However the findings of the September 2013 budget analysis will be used in the CSONA's advocacy launch 2014 as well as national budget consultation meetings and press dialogues with parliamentarians. The launch will include position budget statements.

- *Clearly defined nutrition activities included in the District Implementation Plans each year*

The alliance has only started rolling out its district nutrition platforms in 2 districts (Mchinji and Dedza). However through government efforts to establish District Nutrition Coordination Committees, CSONA will play a significant role in advocating and lobbying for clearly defined nutrition activities in district implementation plans.

Outcome 3

- *Analysis of linkages across sectors for maximizing synergies for effective information sharing conducted*

The alliance has scheduled an appreciative inquiry exercise that will strengthen and maximize its synergies for effective implementation as well as information sharing. Through this exercise CSONA will focus on identifying and analyzing what is working well and what is not working within the alliance. This will assist to develop an implementation modality matrix highlighting members core strengths and contributions to CSONA. Currently CSONA is identifying a consultant and drafting TOR for the exercise.

- *Functional Coordination structures across sectors at community level identified and in place by end of year 1*

Currently CSONA is laying the foundation for a strong central national platform which will facilitate harmonized nutrition messages at community level as well as community engagement. Initial development of two district nutrition platforms is currently under way, but progress has been slower than planned due to delays in staff recruitment.

- **Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices:**

The process of establishing a functional CSONA has been slow because of delays in the start-up of funding. From the point when the MPTF was approved (November 2012) to disbursement of funds (May 2013), a good deal of the initial momentum amongst civil society was lost, which consequently led to fewer members being active and contributing to nutrition efforts organized by CSONA. Reinvigorating the CSONA has been a major focus of the past six months, but another challenge is that the initial individuals who were part of drafting the concept note and envisioning what the alliance will be, have either been moved or are no longer working for that particular CSO. As a result, some advocacy opportunities were missed (e.g. commitments made during the Nutrition for Growth Summit), and also engagement with government (e.g. the review of the National Nutrition policy priority statement) was not as effective as hoped. However efforts were made to profile the CSONA at different high level forums and platforms to kick start some of the activities. For instance, seeking an invitation and participation at the INGO forum, DoNuts and the National Nutrition

Committee have led to an increase in membership as well as attendance at the national nutrition platform. The Project Manager for CSONA has also been proactive in seeking out opportunities for CSONA to engage in nutrition-sensitive policy development and working groups, and over time, we have seen a greater awareness of CSONA and a better understanding of its role.

The Partnership Support Officer (PSO) who was initially offered employment to join CSONA secretariat turned down the offer. The post thus had to be re-advertised. Without a PSO in place the district mapping exercise and establishment of district nutrition platforms was delayed. In addition, the Malawi Government denied CSONA's request to conduct a mapping exercise, explaining that they planned to do the activity themselves, which has led to delays in understanding the nutrition landscape of Malawi and which local CSOs that the alliance needs to target for its membership. Discussions are still underway with DNHA on how the CSONA can contribute to its efforts.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

The project has had a slow start, due to delays in funding and challenges in recruitment, but has picked up steam over the past few months. The CSONA secretariat is increasingly being asked to participate in national-level working groups and technical bodies, and CSONA has been proactive in pushing for opportunities for CSONA members to participate in policy developments and reviews.

The overall achievement of the programme has been fair given the governance structures that had to be put in place prior to roll-out and scale-up of activities. Given the challenges during the start-up phase, the alliance has built relationships with government and DoNuts group through the nutrition platforms which have helped to profile and gain mandatory recognition on the nutrition arena. Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) joined the CSONA from which the alliance is being mentored in establishing a CSO network as well as and lobbying for resource allocation. CISANET is a well-established CSO network that was worked in Malawi over 12 years advocating and influencing agricultural related policies. On the other hand CISANET offers an opportunity for CSONA to table and advocate for nutrition sensitive initiatives within the country. In addition engagement with other CSAs at a global and regional level has assisted CSONA to build relationships that have resulted in opportunities for extra funding. For instance 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 possibility of placing a Communication & Advocacy Specialist within CSONA's secretariat.

Following the foundation that has been laid in the first six months, there is now much work to be done in rolling out activities. In the next year, CSONA will raise awareness of the alliance, finalize its strategy and branding expand membership, and greatly increase communications and advocacy activities.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p>Outcome 1⁸ CSO Platform established and effective in advocacy efforts to influence policy making Indicator: Secretariat, steering committee, membership composition, TOR, CSO registered as an independent entity, number of policies/legislation engagement Baseline: N/A Planned Target:</p>	<p>CSONA secretariat is in place with an adopted TOR. Plans are underway to revamp the steering committee through the Country director/heads of mission meeting and platform meetings were conducted.</p>	<p>Registration of CSONA as a network is in the process through consultations with its members. The registration process takes a long time to finalize in Malawi.</p>	<p>TOR Certificate of registration</p>
<p>Output 1.1 Quarterly district and national review meetings for SUN implementation conducted Indicator 1.1.1 Baseline: N/A Planned Target:6 districts</p>	<p>Not yet</p>	<p>Establishment of district nutrition platforms is still at its preparatory stages. Involvement with district SUN core teams have not been yet established</p>	
<p>Output 1.2 Best practices for CSO SUN implementation produced and widely shared Indicator 1.1.2: Number of reports produced & shared Baseline: Planned Target:6</p>	<p>2 MPTF progress reports shared to CSONA members, December 2013 bulletin update produced & shared, 1 SUN September 2013 global gathering report shared, 1 SUN CSN side meeting minutes shared to CSONA members, links to annual SUN movement shared</p>		<p>Reports</p>

⁸ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p>Output 1.3. CSOs that could be possible implementers of SUN activities mapped and identified Indicator 1.3.1: Number of CSO identified Baseline:5 Planned Target:10 local NGOs, CBOs, FBO in each 6 districts</p>	None	Mapping exercise has been put on hold after DNHA denied the alliance to carry out its own mapping exercise.	Membership
<p>Output 1.4 Organizational capacity assessment of identified CSO in terms of programmatic and financial capacities conducted Indicator 1.4.1: Number of organizations with financial and programmatic capacities assessed. Baseline: N/A Planned Target:</p>	None	This is an activity that follows the mapping exercise	
<p>Output 1.5 Action plans for improving CSO capacity in relation to identified gaps developed and supported Indicator 1.5.1: Number of CSOs supported with action plans in place Baseline: N/A Planned Target:</p>	None	This is an activity that follows the organizational capacity	Action plans
<p>Output 1.6: Monthly meetings with CSOs at national level conducted Indicator 1.6.1: Number of meetings Baseline: Planned Target:6 national platforms</p>	2 national platforms	Funds were only disbursed in May and nutrition platforms started in August. Delays in funds which led to delays in recruitment which consequently led to late start-up of activities as well as mobilization of members.	Minutes
<p>Output 1.7: National meetings and forums CSONA participated Indicator 1.7.1 Number of meetings or forums Baseline:0 Planned Target:6</p>	4 DoNuts meetings, 1 National nutrition committee, 2 SUN taskforce meetings		Minutes

<p>Outcome 2⁹ Increased resource allocation and commitment to nutrition programs through effective public awareness and advocacy campaigns Indicator: Government budget allocation and expenditure on nutrition Baseline:0.1% allocation to nutrition Planned Target:0.3% (according to Nutrition for growth)</p>	None	Advocacy initiatives for CSONA are still at their planning stage.	Advocacy strategy
<p>Output 2.1 Support district executive committees to include SUN activities in District implementation plans (DIPS) Indicator 2.1.1: nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive activities in DIPS Baseline: Planned Target:6 districts</p>	None	Activities at district level are still in their infancy stages. Once district nutrition platforms are established, activities will be fast-tracked	
<p>Output 2.2 Monitoring & Evaluation of the implementation of SUN activities that have been included in DIPS Indicator 2.2.1: Number of meetings conducted Baseline: Planned Target:6</p>	None	Relates to output 2.1	
<p>Output 2.3 Lobby meetings & advocacy campaigns with parliamentarians and representatives of donors , government sectors and treasury on increase in resource allocation conducted</p> <p>Indicator 2.3.1: Number of meetings conducted, budget analysis exercise Baseline:</p>	One budget analysis exercise	Plans are underway	

⁹ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

Planned Target:2			
Output 2.4 Finalization and enforcement of legislation and nutrition act advocated for Indicator 2.4.1: Enforced nutrition act with standards Baseline: N/A Planned Target:1	N/A	CSONA was part of the initial presentation of the Nutrition Act. The government is still in the process of developing its nutrition act.	
Output 2.5 Advocacy materials for policy makers developed in line with national advocacy strategy Indicator 2.5.1: number and type of advocacy materials Baseline: Planned Target:2	None	Through its advocacy launch that is led by Save the children International CSONA, plans are underway to develop advocacy material that will focus on commitments made at a global level as well as findings from the budget analysis	
Outcome 3¹⁰ Households engage in aligned nutrition interventions that result in uptake of best practices Baseline: Indicator: Number of districts with evidence of improved programming Baseline: N/A Planned Target:6	None	Roll-out of district level activities has not yet started due to delays in recruitment.	

¹⁰ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p>Output 3.1 CSO action plans for ensuring follow up mechanisms for improved maternal, infant and young child nutrition developed and implemented. Indicator 3.1.1 number of household visitations, number of community meetings Baseline:NA Planned Target:</p>	None	Roll out of district level activities are at preparatory stage	
<p>Output 3.2 Analysis of linkages across sectors for maximizing synergies for effective information sharing Indicator 3.2.1 coordination structures established and strengthened Baseline:NA Planned Target:28</p>	14 districts	Through the NECS, DNHA has 14 out of 28 district nutrition coordination committees established.	
<p>Output 3.3 Functional coordination structures across sectors at community level identified Indicator 3.3.1 channels of communication established and strengthened Baseline:NA Planned Target:6</p>	Community sensitization meetings geared towards nutrition-related campaigns and involving village level structures will be conducted once a plan of action has been developed by district nutrition platforms members.	At a community level there are village development committees and area development committees. The alliance is exploring way son how to engage these structures to lobby and advocate for specific nutrition issues	
<p>Output 3.4: IEC materials regularly available and distributed at community level to educate and promote uptake of appropriate practices in nutrition Indicator 3.41.1: number and type of IEC materials distributed Baseline:NA Planned Target:6</p>	None	Government has taken the responsibility to develop IEC through the NECS. However, CSONA it is not clear to what extent these IEC materials are accessible to the community. This will be an issue to taken up by local CSO, operating through district nutrition platforms once they are functional.	
<p>Output 3.5 Popular mobilization activities conducted each year in communities engaging grassroots CSO nutrition champions Indicator 3.5.1:number of advocacy materials distributed, number and type of advocacy events Baseline: NA</p>	None	The alliance is planning a sports day event for the Global Day of Action in which football nutrition champions will be involved in raising awareness.	

Planned Target:2			

iii) A Specific Story (Optional)

Problem / Challenge faced:

From its conception and launch in 2011, the SUN movement installed a glimpse of hope and opportunities for the nation to effectively reduce the high levels of stunting in Malawi. The multi-sectoral approach gave an opportunity for different stakeholders to join forces in tackling nutrition issues. While in country SUN networks were organizing and aligning themselves to the SUN movement the CSA's momentum once big and promising was slowly dying down with little or no mention of existence of a nutrition alliance. In July 2013, there was a Nutrition Joint Review meeting that saw government, development partners and CSOs come together to discuss nutrition activities in the country. In her opening and closing remarks, the PS of DNHA highlighted that she was unaware of any existence of an alliance, if there was one, -noted that it had been silent. This meant the CSA was not recognized and highly regarded on the national nutrition arena but efforts continue to redress this shortfall.

Programme Interventions:

Realizing the crucial role that CSOs have to play in implementing SUN 1000 days initiative, the alliance recognized the need to profile itself to the different platforms forums so it is taken more seriously as a coalition. Contact was made with government by organizing face to face introductory meetings with government focal persons, different members of the DoNuts group, chairman of the INGO forum as well as well as previous members that had fallen off the wagon. Introductory letters and emails were sent out to stakeholders as well as requests to make presentations when the platforms/forums convened.

Result (if applicable):

Through these efforts the PS of DNHA asked for a side meeting to discuss efforts of the alliance. In a SUN taskforce meeting that followed the side meeting, the PS herself announced and endorsed the CSO nutrition alliance as a crucial and mandatory partner in national nutrition efforts. Following this announcement, the alliance is now a member of the National Nutrition Committee, DoNuts group as well as the SUN taskforce. In addition, the CSONA is now invited to national nutrition events as well as meetings/workshops.

Lessons Learned:

- Being part/members of these forums has given the CSONA an opportunity to be aware of what is happening on the nutrition arena and plan its engagement as well as its advocacy efforts.
- Nutrition efforts downstream are still fragmented and will require effort from the civil society to raise demand for structures and delivery of interventions
- Some local platforms may need to be leveraged such as farmer groups, women groups, or faith based organizations

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

- None

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

- None

V. Resources (Optional)

- Provide any information on financial management, procurement and human resources.
- Indicate if the Programme mobilized any additional resources or interventions from other partners.