

# SUN Movement Multi-Partner Trust Fund



## PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – YEAR 2014

*as of Quarter no3 of Year 2014: July to September 2014*

*Submitted: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014*

<b>Participating UN Organization:</b>	 <b>World Food Programme</b> wfp.org				
<b>Implementing Partner(s):</b>	Concern Worldwide Malawi				
<b>Programme Number:</b>	#00084721 SUN 02/MWI/004 “Civil Society”				
<b>Programme Title:</b>	“Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Scaling UP Nutrition in Malawi”				
<b>Total Approved Programme Budget:</b>	US\$ 428,000				
<b>Location:</b>	Malawi				
<b>MC Approval Date:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2012				
<b>Programme Duration:</b>	3 years	<b>Starting Date:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2013	<b>Completion Date:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015
<b>Funds Committed:</b>	US\$ 400,000 project US\$ 28,000 ISC			<b>Percentage of Approved:</b>	100%
<b>Funds Disbursed:</b>	US\$ 103,183			<b>Percentage of Approved:</b>	26%
<b>Expected Programme Duration:</b>	3 years	<b>Forecast Final Date:</b>	30/04/2016	<b>Delay (Months):</b>	4 months foreseen behind end date

<b>Outcomes:</b>	<b>Achievements/Results:</b>	<b>Percentage of planned:</b>
<b>Outcome 1.1. CSO alliance established and effective in advocacy efforts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly CSONA meetings have taken place, and are documented and shared with all member organisations</li> <li>Organisation strategic planning workshop and draft strategic plan developed</li> <li>Joint collaboration with Development partners to advocate that Department of Nutrition HIV and AIDS (DNHA) remains in the Office of the President.</li> <li>Successful partnership with Progressio and UNICEF</li> </ul>	100% of platform meeting held and engagement on multi-sectoral platforms

<b>Outcome 2.1 Increased resource allocation and commitment to nutrition programmes through effective public awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government is considering reversing their decision to place the Department of Nutrition HIV &amp; AIDS (DNHA) in Ministry of Health (MoH)</li> <li>• Engagement with other forums to cement our advocacy efforts on the DNHA restructuring at the INGO forum, Malawi Health Equity Network (MHEN) and Malawi Human Rights Commission</li> <li>• National Policy Dialogue on Hunger and Nutrition Climate Change (HANCI)</li> <li>• Coordinating with the Graca Machel Trust to host an Advocacy workshop</li> <li>• CSONA part of the sub-committee visibility for The 2014 World Food Day Commemoration</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Outcome 3.1 Households engage in aligned interventions that result in uptake of best practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping exercises scaled up to 3 districts</li> </ul>	N/A

### **Qualitative achievements against outcomes and results:**

#### **Civil society Organization Nutrition Alliance Nutrition Platforms**

#### **Highlights from the Nutrition Platform meetings**

The July platform meeting;

- The secretariat gave feedback to members on the Regional Advocacy nutrition meeting that the programme manager attended in South.
- The DNHA restructuring was also discussed. The secretariat gave an update to members on the series of meetings it had with the Donor community in regards to the DNHA restructuring to build a common understanding of the issue. While the donors advised that CSONA maintains a low profile in regards to the issue, CSONA members felt there is need to give the Donors a timeframe in which they are to provide feedback on the outcome of the meeting they had with the Minister of Health. CSONA formed a taskforce which focussed on strategically engaging itself in the issue by maintain and continuing its communication with the donors and the Private Sector

The August the platform

- Created an opportunity to discuss and prepare for the World Food Day. Through National Small Holder Farmers Association of Malawi (NASFAM), CSONA worked on ways to be part of the national committee in which issues of nutrition can be raised and highlighted.
- The secretariat presented its plans and options for registering CSONA as a network, members were on board and supported the idea as it is difficult for CSONA to access funding in its own right if it is not registered.

- Members of the taskforce presented their updates in regards to the DNHA restructuring and members expressed their urgency in moving the issue forward to government to pen dialogue. At present there is an advocacy strategy that the taskforce members have developed.

The September nutrition platform meeting:

- Did not take place due to the Organizational development workshop which coincided with the meeting. Instead a CSONA update bulletin has been developed to update members on activities, outcomes and upcoming events which will be circulated. The bulletin helps to maintain interest from members  
Organizational Development workshop.

### **Organizational Development Workshop**

- CSONA organized its first strategic planning meeting from the 30<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014. The aim was to develop an organizational mission, vision, goals and draft plan of action in order to advance and strengthen its role and operations in the national arena. The workshop will form a basis of assessing the organizations direction in response to the changing environment, re-define its governance arrangements, membership, and its course of action as well as establish agreement around intended outcomes/results. The workshop had an attendance of 18 members who came from CRS, Save the children, CHAI, Concern Worldwide, Self Help Africa, AfriCare, Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN), National Initiative for Civic Education, National Smallholder Farmer association of Malawi, World Vision international, Goal Intentional, Journalist Against AIDS, Progressio and Concern Universal.
- A report on the key findings from interviews from members key findings and recommendations as well as a workshop report will be finalized once consolidated by the consultant

### **Registration process for CSONA**

- As part of its registration process, CSONA has identified a lawyer who will assist in attaining its legality. The consensus among members is that the alliance be registered as an alliance with a board of trustees. Further discussions will be carried once the Organizational development workshop report is finalized.

### **Advocacy initiatives**

#### **DNHA restructuring**

- Following the memo circulation by the OPC highlighting its pursuit to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of the Civil Service, His Excellency the State President Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, directed that the Office will be restructured by relocating some of its current functions to their relevant sectorial ministries. In the first phase DNHA was relocated to MoH. CSONA believes the move would have set Malawi back 10 years in its coordination and nutrition cross-cutting efforts. CSONA saw this as an opportunity for CSONA to influence despite the outcome. Coordination meetings were held with Donors for Nutrition Security (DoNUTS) on how to take the issue forward. While coordination was enhanced with the DoNuts who shared the same position, it was agreed that CSONA secretariat set up a taskforce whose main aim was to analyze the problem and discuss the best way of taking it forward. The taskforce gathered information to build a strong case. Observations and analysis were coordinated and shared with DoNuts. A joint position paper was developed which we will include key questions and solution/alternatives, tactics

to engage considering the political environment as well as targets were developed.

- CSONA also identified and reached out to other networks and forums to rally support and open dialogue and generate feedback on how CSONA's position can be strengthened. CSONA made a presentation at the INGO Forum, the MHEN policy brief planning meeting, the Civil Society Agricultural Network (CISANET) nutrition thematic HANCI workshop, MEJN and MHRCC. From these engagements it was clear that a significant proportion of people understood the importance of DNHA remaining in OPC. While networks like CISANET and MEJN agreed to write a joint position paper several networks required that our position be argued from their perspective for it to be supported. This highlighted the need for a comprehensive public awareness of nutrition as a cross cutting issue.
- In conjunction with the Donor Nutrition group, CSONA wrote joint nutrition position papers that seek to ensure multi-sectorial coordination of nutrition in Malawi. The paper aimed to seek clarification of how nutrition governance and policy guidance coordination, sector integration and global commitments would be maintained if DNHA was to move to Ministry of health. The paper was a first step towards advocating for DNHA to remain in OPC and had input from both donors, CSONA and CISANET. Before presenting the position paper, the paper was presented to the Heads of Commission as a body of influence who are in a position to take up the issue with the government. However, the feedback from the HOCs was not in line with what the paper intended to achieve.
- After the presentation from the HOCs it was verbally communicated that the OPC restructuring committee had reversed the move. Even though there has not been any official communication DNHA is still operating under OPC. As a way forward CSONA is investigating where the influence came from and whether or not the OPC is still harboring thoughts and what advocacy work should be done around that. This will ensure that DNHA is not operating on unstable ground in so far as SUN is concerned.

#### **Engagement within other stakeholders and platforms**

##### **Stakeholder Consultation for Progressio Strategic Plan**

CSONA participated in Progressio's Stakeholder Consultation Strategic Plan meeting in July. The meeting highlighted the priority areas for Progressio in the Malawian context. Progressio's Development Worker model was reviewed. The model which is to be used in CSONA secretariat involves the recruitment and placement of experienced and committed professionals as development workers (DWs) with local partner organizations. DWs are recruited to specific placements which aim to strengthen Progressio's partner organization's capacity, knowledge and skills, allowing them to be more effective in tackling development issues.

##### **National Policy Dialogue on Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Change**

CSONA participated in the National Policy Dialogue on Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Change as part of the Nutrition Thematic Area of CISANET, a local Agriculture network which is a member of CSONA. Participants were mainly from civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) but also included SUN donor convenors Irish Aid and USAID, and was facilitated by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) from the UK.

IDS presented the findings of the Hunger and commitment Nutrition index (HANCI). It consists of (community voices, expert surveys, and secondary data, basis aspects of scores developed and what it aims to measure), key advocacy messages indicated as Hunger Reduction Commitment index (HRCI) and Nutrition commitment index, were made. The HANCI compares 45 developing countries for their performance on 22 indicators of political commitment to reduce hunger and under nutrition. All the countries compared in the index have high rates of hunger and under nutrition. Malawi was placed third implying that Malawi is doing well in terms of commitment and policy formulation. However, it is worth noting that it was in second place the previous year. From the plenary discussions the presentations were viewed as contradictory to the high levels of under

nutrition seen. Despite the high level of commitment high levels of stunting persist. IDS was asked whether research could be done to look at whether high levels of political commitment translated to improved nutrition outcomes.

Through a series of group sessions, 3 advocacy messages were developed for Malawi for the coming year. On the second day of the meeting government representatives were invited so that could be presented and to engage the governments in discussions on issues of concern for CSO's.

#### **UNICEF - Malawi Consultation with CSO Networks and Coalitions**

UNICEF organized a consultation meeting with CSO Networks and Coalitions to discuss specific challenges CSO networks face and to determine how UNICEF Malawi can provide guidance and support. The meeting focused on four discussion themes which highlighted practices that are working well for the CSO networks, areas that need improvement, and suggested actions for UNICEF's consideration as part of the Mid Term Review. The following were highlighted as areas where networks need Improvement

- Most networks have not conducted a thorough mapping of CSOs working in their respective sectors and they indicated that this key area where support is required.
- Several networks do not have advocacy strategies and identified capacity building on advocacy strategy development as a key need for themselves as well as their members. While they may have related Charters or issue-specific ad-hoc advocacy plans, there is not necessarily an over-arching strategy.

The following were highlighted as areas where UNICEF can provide support to networks

- Provide capacity building around; advocacy strategy development and implementation, influencing political change and partner/member sensitization
- Reinforcing advocacy messages and asks through UNICEF government relationships and other relevant channels
- Facilitate peer-to-peer links among various Networks by mapping the wider CSO network landscape and linking networks working on common issues or helping with coordination around key meetings or common advocacy issues.
- Facilitating quarterly inter-Network/Alliance meetings/consultations
- Sharing UNICEF advocacy calendar
- Facilitate multi-issue consultations/advocacy with religious leaders

UNICEF will use the information collected from the various CSO networks and coalitions to inform its wider partnerships strategy for the remaining two years of the country programme.

#### **National Smallholder Farmer Association of Malawi Annual Gender Conference**

CSONA was asked to participate in the National Smallholder farmer Association of Malawi (NASFAM) gender conference with the theme "Gender Integration: key for effective agricultural marketing and sustainable food and nutrition security".

Highlights of the conference: Presentations were made on the following topics: Introduction to NASFAM Gender Program, relevance of the Gender integration to Effective Marketing and Food Security, NASFAM Gender Action and Learning Systems (GALS) Initiative, WASAA-Women in Agribusiness in Sub-Saharan Africa Alliance, Food Security, HIV/AIDS and Gender and Panel discussion on the relevance of gender integration to effective marketing and food security

CSONA was request by NASFAM to support them on how to integrate nutrition into smallholder farmer's activities.

#### **Social Mobilization, Advocacy and Communication**

Through the SUN movement secretariat, CSONA participated in a Social Mobilization Advocacy and Communication (SMAC) workshop which was held in Dar es Salaam – Tanzania from 23rd to 25th September

2014. The workshop was organised in collaboration with PANITA and World Vision Tanzania. In attendance were representatives from various SUN Civil society alliances and government (Rwanda, Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe) as well as representatives from SUN civil society Network, UN REACH, SUN movement secretariat, Action, Alive and Thrive, GAIN, and PATH.

Country priorities for the upcoming year and how SMAC might help advance progress were identified. These included:

- Increase government funding for nutrition
- Strengthen human resource capacity in nutrition SMAC
- Strengthen the functionality of coordinating structures
- Launch Nutrition SMAC strategy
- Mobilize funding for SMAC strategy
- Establish Parliamentary Forums
- Strengthening cross-sectoral working arrangements
- Increase budgetary allocation for nutrition at district level

The workshop was a great opportunity for participants to share lessons on SMAC from their respective countries and some SMAC skills were acquired. The course was also relevant to CSONA in terms of enhancing the SMAC knowledge of CSONA's programme support officer who attended the workshop. The knowledge gained will help CSONA in its SMAC activities moving forward.

### **Dialogue and engagement with government**

#### **Preparatory Meeting for The 2014 World Food Day Commemoration**

In Malawi, this year's World Food Day theme is "Family farming: Feeding the world, caring for the earth". The aim of the day is to raise public awareness about the problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. This year's event will be merged with the International Rural Women Day which falls on 15th October as well as Africa Food and Nutrition Day (AFNSD) which falls on the 30th of October. World Food Day will be commemorated on October 24<sup>th</sup>. CSONA is part of the taskforce team and will use the opportunity to raise its profile. In terms of roles, CSONA has been selected to be part of the media and publicity committee to create momentum for the upcoming event. Songs CSONA had developed for the Global Day of Action will be performed during the event.

#### **District Nutrition platforms**

A district nutrition platform meeting was conducted in Nkhosakota District where CSOs working in nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions came together to establish district nutrition platforms. Nkhosakota already has already a generic platform which CSONA used as an entry point to influence relevant members to form nutrition a sub-group where issues of nutrition in the district can be discussed. The following action points were agreed with by the 22 members that were present;

- CSONA will provide a mapping template for CSOs to fill out as a preamble to a mapping exercise.
- The mapping exercise is to be done in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Office
- The generic CSO is to form a nutrition subcommittee of the Nkhosakota CSO network which is to nominate a chair and a co-chair of which CSONA can liaise with.

#### **Challenges for CSONA**

- Secretariat staff numbers are small, and commitments from member organisations are sometimes inconsistent or not always followed through, leaving few people available to actually carry out activities. A clear governance structure is expected to help with this.
- With no clear structures and commitment from members – misunderstanding of roles and obligation, mapping exercise has been problematic
- Most of CSONA's advocacy initiatives have been ad hoc. Without a clear advocacy and communication strategy, CSONA is only engaging in advocacy initiatives on the peripheral by

identifying already existing platforms to air out its issues.

- Clear mission, objectives, and identification of a common and shared framework are essential for attracting members, and must be communicated clearly through different channels. In addition roles of member organization as well as membership of CSONA should be clearly defined and mainstreamed within different nutrition efforts of members

**Way forward**

- Identification of advocacy priority areas through a 2-day workshop 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> October 2014 - initiative facilitated by the Graca Machel Trust
- Budget tracking exercise
- Press releases and briefing for the World Food Day from 16<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014
- Identification of 3 board of trustees to lead into the registration of CSONA
- ENN Technical Meeting on Nutrition in Oxford UK 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014