

Civil Society Alliance for Nutrition, Nepal (CSANN)

*My dear Aamaa,
do you know about
Golden 1000
days ? It is very
precious period in
life...*



What is CSANN?

Civil Society Alliance for Nutrition, Nepal (CSANN) is the network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to contribute directly and indirectly on nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive areas at national and district level. The network was established on 26 March 2014 as a part of Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement. The SUN movement focuses on the 1000 days window of opportunity between the start of pregnancy and the child's second birthday. The network includes organizations implementing community level nutrition and related interventions on different sectors such as nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, livelihood, education, urban development and local development.



Why is CSANN established?

The myriad of nutrition problems call to a strong voice from CSOs to advocate the government to take the right decision for improving nutritional status of women and children in Nepal. The CSANN has been established with the aim of providing CSOs a platform. In this regard to make unanimous voice for advocating and coordinating civil society activities related to nutrition in Nepal.

Purpose of CSANN

The purpose is to ensure qualitative, extensive and inclusive participation of CSOs in the nutrition movement of Nepal, in order to raise the attention of policy makers in line with multi-sectoral nutrition agenda. It also aims to increase public and relevant sectors' awareness on nutrition, ensure increased funding and improve nutrition governance leading to human, social and economic development. CSANN will advocate for an increased focus on nutritional outcome in national policies and programmes.



How it is established?

A number of consultation meetings and participatory discussions were conducted among CSOs on formal establishment and selection of CSANN Executive Committee. The existing committee was formed for 2 years in a democratic way considering multi-sectoral representation. Most of the potential CSOs participated with massive discussion on the different events.

First, an Adhock committee was formed with mandate to expand network an prepare a ToR for CSANN. After finalization of ToR, it was disseminated in a wider group where more than 32 NGOs were present. Then at the same time present formal executive committee of 9 different NGOs was established.

Collaboration with different constituencies for SUN Movement and beyond

The CSANN works closely with Government agencies including National Planning Commission (NPC) - SUN country focal point, the National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS), UN agencies, donors, academia, private and public sectors aligned with various nutrition policies, plans and programs in a coordinated manner to accelerate the progress in nutritional status of mothers and children. The CSANN will work beyond the SUN movement in coordination with multi sector government agencies.

CSANN Executive Committee:

- ▶ Nepal Nutrition Foundation (NNF) **Executive - Chair**
- ▶ South Asia Infant Feeding Research Network (SAIFRN) **Co-Chair**
- ▶ Nepali Technical Assistance Group (NTAG) **Member Secretary**

Members:

- ▶ BHORE
- ▶ ECARDS-Nepal
- ▶ Food First and Action Network (FIAN)
- ▶ Maxpro Social Marketing and Communication
- ▶ Mother and Infant Research Activities (MIRA)
- ▶ Nutrition Promotion and Consultancy Service (NPCS)
- ▶ Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF)
- ▶ Safe Motherhood Network Federation (SMNF-Nepal)

Dr. Aruna Uprety, as an expert/activist has been nominated as advisor.

Note: In reference to the CSANN ToR, the INGOs can be the CSANN general members and their role is to provide technical/financial support, build capacity of CSOs and support on advocacy and campaigning activities when needed.

Golden 1,000 days

The 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's 2nd birthday offer a unique window of opportunity to shape healthier and more prosperous futures. The right nutrition during this 1,000s day window can have a profound impact on a child's ability to grow, learn, and rise out of poverty. It can also shape a society's long-term health, stability and prosperity. CSANN targets on golden thousand days for advocacy and campaigning with multi sector aspect..

CSANN Activities (January to June 2014)

1. Developed a detail mapping matrix of CSOs working on Nutrition

Mapping report has been prepared with detail matrix of CSOs working on nutrition in Nepal. The mapping was done at national level for listing/records of CSOs in order to establish a strong, sustainable and inclusive Civil Society Alliance on Nutrition from all sectors (both nutrition sensitive and specific). This exercise has helped to identify potential CSOs and networks who can be partners of the Alliance.

(Note: The report is the product of the advice, contribution and insights of many experts from different organizations contributing on Nutrition in Nepal.)



2. Conducted the consultation meeting with CSOs

An individual consultation meeting with identified CSOs working on Nutrition issue (Health, WASH, Livelihood, and Education) and Nutrition Experts was conducted for the process of Alliance establishment. Guiding questions were developed and

used for the meetings. Half day wider consultation meeting was conducted on 26 January 2014 with objectives to disseminate the consolidated findings and have participatory discussion on process for CSO alliance establishment.



3. Developed Alliance TOR

An interim committee drafted Term of Reference (ToR) and membership criteria which was finalized with inputs from the wider meeting. The final ToR is widely accepted.

4. CSANN Members selection

Membership form was circulated among potential CSOs and collected from interested organizations. There are about 29 organizations which shown interest to be part of CSANN members till the date. There is no membership fee; however authority is given to executive committee for decision.

5. CSANN Executive Committee Formation

CSANN Members' Meeting was held on 26 March 2014 and Executive Committee was selected with participatory discussion. The EC was selected for 2 years on democratic way with multi sectoral representation.

6. CSANN secretariat establishment

CSANN secretariat was established in Nepal Nutrition Foundation (NNF) – CSANN Executive Chair located in the NTAG office building, Thapathali height with support from Save the Children International. One staff has been recruited as “Network Support Officer in CSANN Secretariat.

7. SUN Tele Conference meeting

This is a regular activity of SUN Secretariat to conduct a tele-conference among the SUN member countries in every two months. Dr. Nabaro facilitates the meeting where every country updates and the progress. In Nepal, it is coordinated by National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS), National Planning Commission; where government and other concerned ministries, donors, academia and civil society represent and update.

The executive chair is regularly representing in the meeting to share the progress on civil society engagement in Nepal. As well, regular representation from CSANN has been ensured on meeting onwards.

8. Regular CSANN executive committee meeting

The CSANN executive committee has monthly meeting on the last Friday of every month according to Nepali calendar. The update and decision is regularly shared to CSANN members.

9. Civil society presence on Multi Sectors committees

National Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee (NNFSS) has formed 3 committees. Civil Society presence has been ensured on two committees which include Multi-Sector Advocacy and Communication Committee and Monitoring and Evaluation Committee.

10. Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (HANCI): Evidence for Policy Advocacy

CSANN Members participated on HANCI workshop which was facilitated by Institute of Development Studies (IDS). The workshop supported CSOs to identify key target audiences for advocacy on nutrition issues with development of 3 key messages as workshop output. The CSANN members have plan to refine the draft messages and share with politicians and policy makers.

11. Meeting with National Planning Commission (NPC) and Child Health Division (CHD)

The main objective of the meeting was familiarization/update of CSANN establishment and its scope of work for joint commitment on advocating to priorities nutrition as an important national development agenda from different level. Joint Secretary highlighted that CSANN need to have linkage and chain up to the grassroots level, need to bring community issues to national level and advocate/lobby with relevant stakeholders to address properly.

12. Conducted two days advocacy and strategy development workshop

The CSANN organized two days' workshop entitled "Advocacy and Communication Strategy Development Workshop" on May 2014 at Hotel View Bhrikuti, Godavari in the presence of National planning Commission (NPC), Nepal Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS)

and Child Health Division (CHD). The workshop was technically and financially supported by Save the Children International and the members from different Civil Society organizations including media were participated in the workshop. The workshop helps to identify key issues on nutrition and target groups for advocacy at national, district and VDC/community levels with communication messages.



13. Exploratory field visit

The main purpose of the exploratory visit was to understand the nutrition architecture in Saptari district and to explore the possibility of establishing CSO alliance at district to bring the nutrition issues from grass root level and advocate fighting against under nutrition at the district and national level. It has been recommended that the common platform

is needed to raise the unheard nutrition related voice at the district. There are many advocacy issues in the district such as food adulteration, use of "carbide" in fruit ripening.

CSANN Membership

The membership to the CSANN is open to local, national CSOs, community-based organisations (CBOs), INGOs, and other non-profit organisations (such as academia, research institutions and professional associations). Each member has equal status having a contributory role to play. The criteria for CSANN membership include:

- ▶ Contributing towards nutrition focused programs/interventions (Specific and Sensitive),
- ▶ Organizations having a legal status (not applicable in case of network and alliance) Operating in Nepal.
- ▶ Approved by CSANN Executive Committee

CSANN Structure



- ▶ Appointment of CSANN Secretariat
- ▶ Strategic Guidance
- ▶ Fundraising
- ▶ Monthly meeting of organisation



- ▶ Coordination of CSANN
- ▶ Organising and facilitating the activities of CSANN
- ▶ Liaise with SUN Government focal points, SUN donor conveners and other SUN stakeholders (e.g. private sector actors), in support of the SUN activities
- ▶ Liaise with the Global CSO Network when required
- ▶ Capture and disseminate lessons learned on civil society engagement in nutrition and from initiatives in other sectors.

CSANN General Member organizations:

1. Water Aid Nepal
2. Action Against Hunger
3. Social Awareness and Development Academy (SADDA)-Nepal
4. Nutrition Health Research and Community Services (NHRCS)
5. CARE International Nepal
6. CCS Italy
7. Friends Service Council Nepal (FSCN)
8. Research Input and Development Action (RIDA)
9. Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), Nepal
10. Chhimeki Sanstha Nepal
11. Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)
12. World Vision International Nepal
13. LI-BIRD
14. Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V
15. Save the Children International
16. RECID
17. Karnali College of Health Science
18. School Health and Nutrition Network

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