

**Scaling Up Nutrition Multi-partners Trust Funds (SUN MPTF) for Civil Society
Mobilization**

**MPTF OFFICE ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
YEAR 2014**

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2014

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD – 1 JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2014

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Scaling up nutrition by civil society in Bangladesh Programme Number: SUN02/BDG/001 MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 00084692 SUN02/BGD/001/Civil Society 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i> Country/Region: Bangladesh</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, Country Office of Bangladesh</p>	<p align="center"><i>Priority area/ strategic results</i> Civil Society Mobilization</p>
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRAC And the National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations Civil Society Alliance for SUN, Bangladesh (CSA for SUN),B
	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p>

Total approved budget as per project document: **US\$ 535,000**

MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:

- *by Agency (if applicable)*

Agency Contribution

- *by Agency (if applicable)*

Government Contribution

(if applicable)

Other Contributions (donors)

(if applicable)

TOTAL: US\$ 535,000

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Overall Duration (*months*) :

36 months

Start Date⁵ (*dd.mm.yyyy*)

7 December 2012

Original End Date⁶ (*dd.mm.yyyy*)

31 December 2015

Current End date⁷(*dd.mm.yyyy*)

31 December 2015

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&

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List of abbreviations

CSA for SUN BD	Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DPs	Development Partners
GC	General Committee of the CSA for SUN
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
IPHN	Institute of Public Health Nutrition
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
MOHFW	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPTF	Multi-partner Trust Fund
NGO	Non-government Organizations
NNS	National Nutrition Survey
TOR	Terms of Reference

UN REACH	Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Nutrition (United Nations Joint Initiative of FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO)
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Fund
UCEP	Underprivileged Children’s Educational Program
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

After establishing itself as a credible alliance advocating for nutrition in 2013, CSA for SUN BD spent the duration of 2014 carrying out advocacy and awareness campaigns throughout the country implementing activities at different levels.

Nationally, the Alliance worked together with the SUN Focal Point in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on outlining strategies, representing Bangladesh at a SUN Global Gathering in Rome (November 2014), participating and supporting the regular teleconference calls with the SUN Movement Secretariat. In line with SUN multisectoral approach, the Alliance engaged with high level officials from the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Education. CSA for SUN BD has also had a strong media presence in 2014 through talk shows, published newspaper articles on the multisectoral approach and the airing of a public service announcement on the 1000 Days featuring a famous academic. Throughout 2014, the Alliance was a key partner in the participatory consultative process to draft the first Nutrition Advocacy and Communications Strategy for Bangladesh, which was facilitated by UN REACH, but has recently been endorsed by the Government (MoHFW) currently take on ownership and implementation.

At the sub-national level, the Alliance carried out advocacy events in 21 districts, including workshops and community level activities.

Key Alliance personnel stayed in post in 2014. The Executive Committee and General Committee members met regularly in various events and meetings. General Committee membership continues to grow rapidly and reached at 187 organizations by the end of 2014. The majority of new memberships in 2014 are local NGOs across the country who are not exclusive to health, further reflecting the success of the Alliance as recognition of a multisectoral platform and catalyzing interest in nutrition at grassroots level.

In summary, CSA for SUN BD was able to carry out its activities at both the national and sub-national level due to the political stability of the country in 2014. The Alliance has been successful in bringing together different stakeholders into a common forum and starting the discussion on the nutrition agenda in various sectors and at multiple levels.

I. Purpose

In the decades since Independence, NGOs and CSOs in Bangladesh have contributed to successful implementation of large-scale government interventions (like Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP) and National Nutrition Program (NNP) gathering experiences and learning. Despite this, by 2012, there were still relatively few CSOs with focus or capacity related to nutrition as a development sector. Although there is a network entitled the “Nutrition Working Group”, it is largely driven by Government agencies, development Partners (DPs), international NGOs and UN organizations and does not represent CSOs exclusively.

Although there is considerable potential for the CSOs sector to contribute to the policy and designing of nutrition interventions/programs and tracking the progress of implementation, until 2012 there was no formal representative platform for CSOs working in nutrition in Bangladesh. There was no scope for CSOs to take part in designing national interventions and strategies or help to track the implementation status of planned interventions.

CSA for SUN was formed in October 2012 as a representative body of relevant CSOs to improve their participation in dialogues with Governments and DPs and enable them to contribute effectively. The Alliance seeks to create a strong, coordinated and vibrant civil society constituency in support of the further development and wider implementation of a nutrition agenda that will result in the sustainable improvement in the nutrition status of the people of Bangladesh.

II. Results

(i) Narrative reporting on results (Outcomes and outputs)

Outcome 1: A CSO Network in Bangladesh that is fully operational and successfully influencing policy making by 2013

There has been considerable progress on Outcome. The Alliance has expanded, been more visible in its operations and played a proactive role in policy and strategy engagement and influencing. Due to political instability during 2013, the current timeline of this outcome should more realistically be changed to 2015.

Expanding and diverse membership:

On January 2014, the Alliance had 110 members. By December 2014, the membership increased to 187, a 69% increase. This is a result of the Alliance establishing itself at the national and sub-national levels, with increased involvement in nutritionally vulnerable districts. When CSA for SUN BD was first formed, the membership consisted of INGO’s working specifically in the health and nutrition sector. With time, however, the membership has changed reflecting the Alliance’s advocacy of nutrition sensitive approaches, leading to a larger mix of organizations with focus on Rights and Women’s empowerment, the Adolescents girl (e.g Girl Guides), Education and Water Sanitation & Hygiene. Of the current membership, 57% based outside of Dhaka.

The staff base was consistent in 2014, as key officials of the Secretariat stayed in post. There were some changes in the Executive Committee members due to resignations of individuals from the posts, but the organizations remained committed and the individuals were replaced by their successors in their specific posts.

Operations - communication and capacity building:

In 2014, the Alliance met 12 times in various settings, from committee meetings to special day observation events and orientations for district level activities. The Second Annual General Meeting was held in December 2014.

GC members contact the Secretariat for a number of reasons, such as requesting communication and advocacy materials, participating in Request for Proposal rounds for conducting district level activities, technical advice and details of other GC members in the same region for increased networking. Besides supporting CSA for SUN BD, GC members have also taken their own initiatives to advocate for nutrition, disseminating messages through local newspapers, folk songs and community radio.

The full membership has played an integral part of the activities of CSA for SUN BD this year, proactive in their district level activities and participating in other events organized by the Alliance.

Operations - partnerships and networking:

CSA for SUN BD continues to engage with other stakeholders of the SUN Multi-stakeholder Platform, particularly Government, UN and DPs. CSA for SUB BD played an active role throughout 2014 in the consultative process, facilitated by UN REACH, to draft a Nutrition Advocacy and Communication Strategy for Bangladesh that is now endorsed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and taken over by Government for implementation.

The National Coordinator of CSA for SUN BD joined the government-led Bangladesh SUN Multi-stakeholder Platform delegation to the SUN Global Gathering, held at WFP Headquarters in Rome in November 2014. The Alliance was one of the first fully functioning civil society networks under the SUN Movement participating at this global event. Representatives from Government, the Alliance and UN REACH all made presentations at the event and displayed Bangladesh material on nutrition at the Market Place.

The Alliance hosted a visit from the Executive Committee of the Nepal Civil Society Network for Nutrition and several government officials from 14th to 18th October 2014 for experience sharing and mutual learning. A return cross-visit by the CSA for SUN BD to Nepal is being planned for the second quarter of 2015.

Influencing policy, strategies and plans:

CSA for SUN, BD secretariat staff participate in all the policy making and dissemination meetings organized by IPHN/NNS, UN and DPs.

The Alliance worked closely with UN REACH to develop a template for an advocacy strategy and plan for nutrition at district level, using REACH's case district of Satkhira in the South West. The Alliance visited Satkhira district with UN REACH as part of the strategy development. Recently finalized, the Satkhira advocacy strategy and plan has been transferred to CSA for SUN BD from UN REACH in order to sustain nutrition advocacy work in the district.

The district level activities conducted through the membership of the Alliance follow a systematic process. At first, a Request for Proposal is launched via email to the General Committee member list of CSA for SUN BD. Interested members then submit project proposals in response, and a selection process is undertaken based on quality of proposal, strength of the organization and proposed budget. The selected member organizations then participate in a daylong orientation in Dhaka and then begin activities in their district with constant communication and coordination with the Secretariat staff.

Outcome 2: Enhanced sharing of evidenced based information, research findings and resources among stakeholders to achieve effective implementation of nutrition programs

Progress in Outcome 2 has gone from strength to strength, as the sharing of information is an important element of the Alliance's daily activities. The large membership of the Alliance has enabled the dissemination of information, messages and materials to a diverse audience. A range of communication materials was developed by the Alliance to supplement its advocacy efforts, including brochures, advocacy video, policy brief, public service announcements, newsletters and guidelines for district level activities. In addition, a set of comic books on 1000 day concept and adolescent nutrition and a 1000 Days Job Aid were reprinted by the Alliance for dissemination among community members. Communication materials are not only used by the Alliance in workshops, orientations and other events, but also distributed to other organizations for use in their own programmes. The 1000 Days Job Aid has been disseminated to BRAC for use in their community clinics, to Micronutrient Initiative for use among community members, and to UNICEF for hand over to District Women Affairs officers and to WFP for use in the training of government officials under the Vulnerable Group Development program. In addition, sets of comic books on 1000 day concept and adolescent nutrition have been distributed to UCEP Bangladesh (Underprivileged Educational Program) for the students of their technical school from Class 7 to 9.

CSA for SUN BD enhanced its presence in the media in 2014 to bring the Scaling up nutrition into the public eye. Two TV Talk shows were broadcasted involving popular academics, celebrities and high-level government officials. A public Service Announcement (PSA) on the strong link between nutrition during the 1000 Days and brain development featuring a famous academic Sir Jafor Iqbal is being televised in three TV channels including the national television channel BTV. Information sharing at the sub-national level took place through orientations for Alliance members, training of community health workers, district level advocacy seminars and community level activities. Global SUN messages and national publications on nutrition are also shared with all the members.

Outcome 3: Comprehensive, coherent and adequately financed national nutrition plan adopted by mid of 2013 and implemented by the Government by mid-2014

CSA for SUN BD continues to engage with the Bangladesh SUN Focal Person where possible prior to conducting major events in order to involve relevant ministries as part of the multi-stakeholder forum. The expanding membership of the Alliance continues to actively advocate for nutrition in the sub-national level. Members of Parliament and District Commissioners participate in the district level advocacy workshops.

Outcome 4: A joint tracking system established to monitor progress of NNS with the active support from CSA for SUN by mid-2013

There has been limited progress on Outcome 4 as most of the indicators related to this outcome are beyond the scope of the Alliance. The establishment of the joint tracking system is dependent on the decisions made by the Government leadership of the SUN Multi-stakeholder Platform in

the country. However, the Alliance has also tried to be proactive.

In order to improve the capacity of monitoring and evaluation of government and other stakeholders, an Indicators Development Workshop took place involving the Executive Committee and some General Committee members. Nutrition sensitive indicators were developed in the workshop, which are to be shared with relevant government stakeholders.

Delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned and best practices

Outcomes 3 and 4 have not had much progress as they depend heavily on the leadership and involvement of the Government in the SUN Movement without the endorsement of the Prime Minister and a visible high-level national launch of SUN in the country, it remains a challenging environment in which to influence government policy.

Qualitative assessment

While 2013 was an uncertain year of political unrest, 2014 saw CSA for SUN BD working actively at both the national and sub-national levels. Excellent progress was made during the year in to highlight nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive issues in the public arena.

Key partnerships were established at the district level and a wide variety of stakeholders were briefed on the SUN Movement and the 1000 Days Approach. There was wider recognition of the work of the Alliance at both the national level and global level. The rise in membership applications and the expansion in membership reflects the effectiveness of the outreach of the Alliance. The diversity in partnerships has positively contributed to the increasing visibility of nutrition as a key social and economic development issue for the country.

RESULTS ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment

Outcome 1			
A CSO Network in Bangladesh that is fully operational and successfully influencing nutrition policy making by 2015			
	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 1.1. Functioning structure and management for CSA for SUN	1.1.1: National Executive Committee of representative forum of CSOs formed and operational Baseline: none Target: An executive committee of 9-11 members formed.	Activity completed No variance	
	1.1.2: Executive Committee election held every two years and Constitution and governance agreed Baseline: none Target: 1 election every two years	Activity completed No variance	
	1.1.3: Executive Committee meet 6 times a year Baseline: none Target: bi-monthly (6 per year)	4 Executive Committee meetings were held in 2014, as the Executive Committee was brought together for other Alliance events numerous times.	Meeting minutes of the 4 Executive Committee meetings available upon request.
	1.1.4: A 3 year work plan drafted and agreed Baseline: none Target: 1	The work plan was revised to incorporate grassroots activities and the communication and advocacy strategy.	Please refer to Appendix 1
	1.1.5: Key staff recruited Baseline: none Target: 1 National Coordinator and 1 Program Support Assistant/Communications Officer	No variance. The National Coordinator, Communications Officer and Consultant stayed in post.	Appointment letters of the Alliance staff available upon request.

	1.1.6: National CSA meetings held annually Baseline: none Target: 1	Activity completed No variance	2 nd Annual General Meeting report (Appendix to the MPTF 7 th Quarterly report October-December 2014)
1.2. Strong and vibrant membership of diverse national and sub-national organisations under CSA for SUN	1.2.1: A shared space as a CSO representative forum Baseline: none Target: Only 1 group in the network	CSA for SUN BD is the official affiliate of the SUN Movement, representing 187 organizations across Bangladesh by December 2014.	
	1.2.2: A growing civil society membership list Baseline: none Target: steady annual growth in membership	Ongoing activity; a 69% increase in membership in 2014.	Alliance members list Available upon request.
1.3. National outreach to facilitate influence on policy	1.3.1: National level launching of the SUN Movement Baseline: none Target: 1	The national level launching yet to be finalised due to unavailability of the Prime Minister.	
	1.3.2: District workshops in hard to reach and most nutritionally vulnerable districts of the country Baseline: none Target: 10	Positive variance. 15 district level workshops were held in 2014.	For details, please see Appendices to the MPTF Quarterly Reports Appendix 3 of 4 th Quarterly report (January-March 2014)

			Appendix 1 of 5 th Quarterly Report (April-June 2014) Appendix 1 of 7 th Quarterly Report (October-December 2014)
	1.3.3: Conduction of divisional seminars on SUN Movement Baseline: none Target: 1	Divisional seminar was not conducted; instead, 5 more district seminars were held for further outreach.	For details, please see the documents mentioned in 1.3.2
	1.3.4: World Breastfeeding Week observed at local and national level per year Baseline: none Target: 1	Activity completed No variance	For details, see Appendix 1 of MPTF 6 th Quarterly Report (July-September 2014) http://www.thedailystar.net/breastfeeding-can-fight-malnutrition-38051
Outcome 2			
Enhanced sharing of evidenced based information, research findings and resources among stakeholders to achieve effective implementation of nutrition programs			
	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 2.1. information and evidence sharing	2.2.1: Key global evidence research findings disseminated to membership e.g. Lancet Series 2013 Baseline: none Target: 1	Ongoing activity	Research findings shared via electronic mail and monthly newsletter “SUN Buzz”

	2.2.2: Media training on SUN messages Baseline: none Target: 2	Media training procurement procedure carried out in 2014. Media training will commence in January 2015 in 6 divisional towns except Dhaka.	
	2.2.3: Inter-ministerial meetings every quarter Baseline: none Target: 3	Inter-ministerial meeting procurement procedure carried out in 2014. Meeting will be held in February 2015.	
	2.2.4: Attended regular meetings with other Networks in the SUN Multistakeholder Platform Baseline: none Target: 4	Meeting every 6 weeks for the global country call with SUN Secretariat (positive variance).	Teleconference meeting minutes recorded by Global SUN
	2.2.5: General Committee meet 1 year Baseline: none Target: 1 meeting every year	Annual General Committee meeting held on 10 December 2014.	For details, please see 2 nd Annual General Meeting report (Appendix to the MPTF 7 th Quarterly report October-December 2014)
2.3. resource sharing	2.3.1: allocated funds to national launch of SUN Baseline: none Target: 1	Funds allocated in the work plan.	
	2.3.2: Collaborations with General Committee member organizations for grassroots involvement Baseline: none	Ongoing activity.	For details, please see the Appendices to the MPTF Quarterly Reports

	Target: Ongoing		
	2.3.3: Monitoring and evaluation workshop Baseline: none Target: Ongoing	One workshop held.	For details, please see Appendix 1 of MPTF 4 th Quarterly Report (January-March 2014)
Outcome 3			
Comprehensive, coherent and adequately financed national nutrition plan adopted by mid-2013 and implemented by the Government by mid-2014			
	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 3.1 Nutrition policy analysis conducted and updated	3.1.1: Feedback provided on the draft National Nutrition Policy circulated by NNS Baseline: none Target: Ongoing	CSA for SUN BD is contributing to the government-led process.	
	3.1.2: Advocacy strategy for CSO network developed Baseline: none Target: 1 common strategy	CSA for SUN BD has drafted 1 comprehensive communication plan for CSOs. The joint National Advocacy and Communications Strategy, facilitated by UN REACH which CSA for SUN has contributed to is finalized.	
Output 3.2 Ensuring public pressure to motivate policy makers	3.2.1: Policy roundtable to present report and promote debate amongst key stakeholders Baseline: none Target: 1	No roundtable was conducted in 2014.	
	3.2.2: Multi-stakeholder forums initiated to discuss issues	CSA for SUN BD participates regularly in SUN Multi-	

	Baseline: none Target: ongoing	stakeholder Platform meetings/calls.	
	3.2.3: Talk shows aired on national television Baseline: none Target: 4	2 talk shows aired in 2014.	For details, please see the Appendix 6 of 4 th quarterly report (January-March 2014) and Appendix 5 of 5 th quarterly report (April-June 2014)
Outcome 4			
A joint tracking system established to monitor progress of NNS with the active support from CSA for SUN by mid-2013			
	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 4.1 Improve the capacity of monitoring and evaluation of government and other stakeholders	4.1.1 Workshop to improve the M&E capacity of the Government and identify their monitoring gaps Baseline: none Target: 3	One nutrition sensitive indicators development workshop completed.	For details, please see Appendix 1 to MPTF 4 th Quarterly Report (January-March 2014).
	4.1.2 Organize stakeholder consultation meetings to draft, pre-test, and finalize the tracking mechanism of government programs in different ministries. Baseline: none Target: 5	Activity not completed.	

iii) A Specific Story

Khagrachari is an extremely remote, hilly area in Chittagong Division populated by indigenous groups which interactions with the Bengali speaking people are limited. There is political tension between the two groups, resulting in random acts of violence. Adolescent girls in the indigenous groups are married off at a young age for fear of abduction. They become mothers at a very young age, and as they themselves are undernourished, this reflects on the children they give birth to.

National Coordinator of CSA for SUN BD conducted an orientation for health personnel in Khagrachari with the assistance of the Khagrachari Civil Surgeon. Alongside the training of community health workers, CSA for SUN BD staff also visited a small community in Ruiluipara, Sajek, for a mother's group meeting.

During her visit to the mother's group, CSA for SUN BD elaborated on the essential foods required to maintain a balanced diet. During discussion, it was discovered that the people of Ruiluipara did not eat eggs because they believed eggs are bad for eyesight. When asked about the source of their beliefs, the mothers said that it was passed on from their forefathers and they accepted such advice without question.

This illustrates how important behavior change communication will be in improving the nutrition situation of the country. There are still so many food habit misconceptions, superstitions regarding food habits and care during pregnancy and for newborns, and lack of care for adolescent girls and pregnant women. More work needs to be done in remote, hard-to-reach areas where there is a minimal presence of NGO's and limited access to information. CSA for SUN BD is planning to focus more on the nutritionally vulnerable districts in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in 2015.

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

An Independent Comprehensive Evaluation (ICE) of the SUN Movement was conducted by Mokoro Ltd. who visited 8 SUN counties including Bangladesh. The evaluation team met with CSA for SUN BD Secretariat regarding the overall contribution of the SUN Movement in improving the nutrition situation of Bangladesh.

IV. Programmatic Revisions

Revision in work plan: CSA for SUN BD has revised its work plan and shared it with SUN MPTF. The new work plan incorporates some key changes without any financial adjustments. Grassroots activities have been given more emphasis due to nutrition knowledge gaps in the community level. The CSA for SUN BD Communication and Advocacy plan developed by the Consultant required a work plan revision to incorporate the activities outlined in the strategy and needs to be aligned with the recently finalized

Nutrition Advocacy and Communications Strategy for Bangladesh. The revised work plan was recently approved by the SUN MPTF Secretariat.