

SUN Movement Multi-Partner Trust Fund



1st PROGRAMME¹ QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – YEAR 2015

REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY – MARCH 2015

Participating UN Organization:	 World Food Programme wfp.org				
Implementing Partner(s):	Concern Worldwide Malawi				
Programme Number:	#00084721 SUN 02/MWI/004 “Civil Society”				
Programme Title:	“Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Scaling UP Nutrition in Malawi”				
Total Approved Programme Budget:	US\$ 428,000				
Location:	Malawi				
MC Approval Date:	28 th August 2012				
Programme Duration:	3 years	Starting Date:	1 st May 2013	Completion Date:	31 st December 2015
Funds Committed:	US\$ 400,000 project US\$ 28,000 ISC			Percentage of Approved:	100%
Funds Disbursed:	US\$ 302,617			Percentage of Approved:	
Expected Programme Duration:	3 years	Forecast Final Date:	30/04/2016	Delay (Months):	4 months

Outcomes:	Achievements/Results:	Percentage of planned:
Outcome 1.1. Capacity Building: CSO alliance established and effective in advocacy efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted an Advocacy brainstorming sessions where 6 advocacy issues were identified as potential issues to incorporate in the advocacy and communication strategy Progressio recruitment of a development worker to act as Advocacy and Communication Advisor Through Save the children Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) project Consensus Building Workshop was conducted as part of the Nutrition for Growth Commitments tracking process 	NA
Outcome 2.1 Advocacy: Increased resource allocation and commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSONA and its members are part of the Nutrition disaster cluster CSONA part of the EU National 	NA

<p>to nutrition programmes through effective public awareness</p>	<p>Nutrition Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post 2015 letters were sent to representatives and citizen hearings platforms for the negotiations that are being taken place in the country • Budget Analysis report underway and to be presented at the dissemination meeting • CSONA part of the National Nutrition Policy Advisory Team 	
<p>Outcome 3.1 Communication: Households engage in aligned interventions that result in uptake of best practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District nutrition platforms established in Ntchisi and Mulanje. • Advocacy brainstorming session conducted in Zomba 	<p>NA</p>

Qualitative achievements against outcomes and results:

Civil Society Organization Nutrition Alliance Nutrition Platforms

- Highlights from CSONA Nutrition Platform/Taskforce meetings
 - The first platform meeting for this year focussed on the Nutrition disaster situation as well as coordinating efforts for 2015. The main purpose of the meeting was to establish a calendar of upcoming events that CSONA members can contribute to as well as plan the tactics of engagement.
 - In preparation of Global Day of Action (GDA) that falls in the first week of May 2015, CSONA has formed a taskforce for the specific purpose of planning and organizing events. Two major events have been set-up; a press briefing and a football match (in Mulanje district) which will act as a public awareness campaign on nutrition issues. Several communications initiatives in the form of videos, radio programs as well as telecommunications messages will revolve around the events to generate interest and create awareness.
 - Several members within CSONA pledged to support this year's GDA as part of their campaign budget line
- Capacity building and Assessments
 - CSONA is in the process of identifying consultancy services to assess the existing nutrition capacities of CSOs and inter-sectorial nutrition coordination structures at district level in Malawi, in order to understand the landscape to foster CSO district inter-sectorial action on nutrition. This will assist in establishing district nutrition platforms as a way of bringing together various civil society actors to collectively advocate for and implement improved programs for nutrition.
 - The assessment to assist CSONA to identify which CSOs are working where and what capabilities they possess that can be harnessed through strategic partnership, in order to create nutrition impact at national, district and community level.
- Partnerships and Registration
 - Through partnership with Progressio (CSONA member) an Advocacy and Communication Advisor has been identified and is to commence duties within the secretariat in April 2015. Progressio uses an approach where a development worker is placed to facilitate the process of building the capacity of the networks and its member organisations in communications and advocacy issues. The Advisor will assist in the development of organisational tools and strategies, providing technical oversight and advice to ensure that CSONA advances its work.
 - Having drafted the 2nd copy with the lawyer CSONA's constitution is now being reviewed amongst selected members to ensure that its articles are aligned to Provision 3 of the law which the Registrar

General bases its assessment for issuing a registration certificate. Three board members have accepted their nomination and the first board member is to take place in the next quarter.

- Through the Children Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) project which is being facilitated by Save the Children Malawi, a consensus building workshop took place mid-March. The aim of the workshop was to agree on activities that will be carried out based on the goals of the project. The project aims to pursue 4 (related to policy and investments) out of the 7 Nutrition for Growth commitments made by the Malawi Government. Discussions are still underway on partnerships and agreements.

Advocacy & Communication Initiatives

- CSONA's advocacy brainstorming session
 - A half-day advocacy brainstorming session was facilitated by Concern Worldwide Dublin Advocacy team to assist CSONA in structuring and providing guidance on advocacy initiatives as they fit within the SUN movement and the country context. While relevant aspects of SUN advocacy work which can be integrated within CSONA's strategy were discussed the sessions identified issues on which CSONA could focus its advocacy at district, national, regional & international level as well the criteria for prioritizing a limited number of key issues. The same version of the meeting was held in Zomba district to identify nutrition issues that can be advocated on.
 - Six potential advocacy issues were identified. These will be further refined and populated in CSONA's advocacy strategy. The issues include;
 - Clear roadmap published within the next 12 months by the government showing annual targets in order to reach Nutrition for Growth (N4G) commitments (in relation to SUN costed plans).
 - Rights holders and right to food should advocate for - Finalization and approval of the Nutrition and Food Act
 - Influencing the curriculum and in/pre-service training of extension workers
 - Social protection policies developed adequately integrate nutrition with clear indicators
 - Ensure the Malawian government is advocating for Nutrition to be adequately integrated into the Post 2015 goals – with the right targets and indicators
 - Malawi reviews political ownership of nutrition as expressed by a clear nutrition focal point at the highest level to maintain a stronger oversight and coordination functions.
- Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda
 - Through different focal points, CSONA wrote a letter to the Permanent Representative for Malawi in New York for the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) negotiations which happened on the March 27th 2015 in New York. The letter called to action Malawi government to maintain a strong position on nutrition and an inclusion of all 6 World Health Assembly (WHA) Nutrition Target indicators within the SDF framework. The letter which was sent to the Minister of Health as well as the Council of Non-Governmental organization in Malawi (CONGOMA), who are hosting the CSO conversation on the SDGs in Malawi, was forwarded to the delegates for the negotiations.
- Annual Budget Analysis
 - Through Save the Children, preliminary results of the 2014/2015 National Budget analysis have been completed. CSONA aims to hold a dissemination meeting with the Parliamentary Committee on Nutrition to highlight gaps, make recommendations and develop key questions as they relate to policies and commitments e.g. N4G for the next budget sitting.
 - CSONA is to present budget allocation trends over the years at a National Nutrition Symposium that is being led by DNHA through funding and technical assistance from FANTA.

Engagement within other stakeholders and platforms

- EU National Nutrition Mapping Exercise

- The European Union carried out a national nutrition mapping exercise which fed into the European development fund priority areas. CSONA was invited to be part of the DoNuts team to assist in coordinating CSOs in providing data. Six percent 150million Euros of the funds will cover institutional supports which are to address problems with scaling up of operation, and governance and private sector development research and development process. This an area of interest to CSONA as it showed interests for advocacy and lobbying for nutrition sensitive legislation, multi-sectorial coordination to have integration of nutrition in all polices as well as other key institutional arrangements. This fits within CSONA’s priority areas.
- FAO Panel Discussion on
 - CSONA together with representatives from Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of health, Natural Resources College and Department of Nutrition and HIV/AIDS were the panellists in the panel discussion which aimed to highlight lessons learnt in the two topics on “Strengthening nutrition collaboration between Agriculture & Health at field level in operational research and preparing staff for extension services” And “Strengthening District Coordination for collaboration”. CSONA raised its profile of its work at district level and shared lessons regarding district level coordination from a CSO perspective.
 - The need for partnerships for Inter-sectorial approach to combating hunger and malnutrition and the need to strengthen existing coordination structures at district and community level were some of the key discussion points. It was pointed out that DNCC are not empowered to scrutinize nutrition projects in the districts. Projects come through the Council and DEC, but in most cases it is the highest officers of different institutions who go there and not members of the DNCC, so it is difficult for DNCC to coordinate all nutrition services. This is one of CSONA’s challenges and it fits within the mandate to advocate that DEC approves that DNCC oversees all nutrition projects

Dialogue and engagement with government

- Nutrition Disaster Cluster Meetings
 - As a result of overlaps in nutrition reporting from the various sectors towards the flood disaster, a nutrition cluster was established to plan a nutrition response. The cluster which is coordinated by DNHA is monitoring and gathering nutrition data through the use of different tools and other stakeholders as well. CSONA is sharing the information to its members and encouraging member to update the secretariat.
 - In its January nutrition platform meeting it was agreed that 3 of its members (Concern Worldwide, CHAI and World Vision) who were part of the cluster would represent CSONA at these meetings. NASFAM indicated that it is part of the Food Security Cluster and would be able to bring updates to the platform of the nutrition emergency situation.
- Nutrition For Growth
 - CSONA fed into DNHA’s progress report on Malawi’s N4G. Issues related to nutrition expenditure were highlighted.
- Nutrition Policy Advisory Team
 - CSONA is part of the policy advisory team to develop national level advocacy for the country. The Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project (FANTA) through their field support mechanism aims to assist the DNHA and stakeholders on nutrition advocacy activities. The nutrition advocacy would be conducted from a broad perspective, identifying priority nutrition advocacy issues, utilizing existing information and knowledge to frame the advocacy case. Nutrition activities and priorities would be very much be guided by the need and/or stakeholders. With plans to hold a Nutrition symposium as an immediate primary activity would before May 2015, DNHA is to bring parliamentarians where priority institutional and policy issues around nutrition would be discussed.

CSONA has been assigned to make a presentation on budget analysis and this will be tied to the N4G.

District Level advocacy and coordination efforts

- Establishment of District Nutrition Platforms
 - CSONA conducted an orientation meeting with Mchinji & Balaka CSO networks to introduce CSONA to the generic CSO network and discuss on the establishment of CSOs nutrition district platform. The CSO's are now drafting their TORs which are to be reviewed next month
 - An orientation meeting was conducted with the Ntchisi CSO network executive committee. The generic CSO network was identified as an entry point to influence the network members into forming a nutrition thematic group where issues of nutrition in the district can be discussed. Follow-up visits on TORs are to be conducted in March.
 - A CSO's nutrition meeting was organized with the Nkhotakota CSO network as a follow up with network where a presentation was made to influence the network members into forming a nutrition thematic group where issues of nutrition in the district can be discussed. The meeting aimed to identify and confirm members for the nutrition subcommittee as well as Identify lead person / organization for the subcommittee. The CSO nutrition platform plans to have a brief meeting with DPD and organize an interface meeting between CSO nutrition platform and DNCC.
 - A taskforce had been set up in Mulanje district ahead of the GDA to ensure there is coordination between the national level taskforce and the district level taskforce.
- District Advocacy Brainstorming session
 - A meeting was held with the Zomba CSO network as a follow-up to the brainstorming session in Zomba district. During the meeting feedback about the CIFF project was given to the group. Members confirmed the representatives for the nutrition thematic group as well as reviewed the terms of reference and membership strategy. Further discussions were carried out to refine the previous advocacy issues that were identified. Three advocacy issues were identified which need to be further refined.

Challenges

- Registration process is a slow and not a once-off activity – Other funding opportunities may be missed if CSONA is not independent before the end of MPTF. This will consequently affect the maintenance of CSONA's role within the nutrition arena.
- Members open to funding advocacy activities however would rather fund activities and not operational costs for the secretariat.

Plan for the next quarter

- Budget analysis dissemination meeting through Save the Children
- Parliament hearings with DNHA and FANTA
- District advocacy capacity building workshops and planning meetings
- CSO capacity assessment exercise
- Press briefing
- Exchange visits Ntchisi and Zomba CSO networks
- Global day of Action towards Nutrition
- Post 2015 platform hearings

The term "programme" is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes.