

SUN Movement Multi-Partner Trust Fund



2nd PROGRAMME¹ QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – Year 2015

Reporting period: April – June 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"> As a follow-up to the brainstorming session, a meeting was held to prioritize and strategize on advocacy issue which has led to the drafting of CSONA’s Advocacy & Communication strategy An Advocacy & Communication Advisor was recruited through Progressio’s Development Partner initiative CSONA has identified a consultant to carry out a capacity and landscape analysis as part of its advocacy priority area to assess district coordination mechanisms A learning visit is being organized between Ntchisi and Zomba districts as cross-learning for district coordination 	NA

	within the National Education & Communication strategy (NECS) framework	
Outcome 2.1 Advocacy: Increased resource allocation and commitment to nutrition programmes through effective public awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSONA was part of the Eastern Africa Global Nutrition Report (GNR) Launch as observers as well as gave an overview presentation of the GNR in Dar Es Salaam • A Press Briefing was organized by CSONA as a way of building momentum towards the Global Day of Action (GDA) event in May. • A CSO and Member of Parliament Meeting was organized by CSONA to build relationships as well create an interface with MPs on the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) as they relate to the National Budget 	NA
Outcome 3.1 Communication: Households engage in aligned interventions that result in uptake of best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A GDA main event was held in Mulanje which had the Minister of Agriculture Irrigation & Water Development as the guest of honour. • CSONA video in stunting is being aired on the Malawi Broadcasting corporation Television (MBCTv) station • CSO district Nutrition platform meetings were held in Balaka and Mchinji as follow-ups. Initiation meetings were organized in Mulanje and Blantyre where introductory presentations were made to District Executive Committee (DEC) members 	NA

Qualitative achievements against outcomes and results:

Civil Society Organization Nutrition Alliance Nutrition Platforms

- Highlights from CSONA Secretariat
 - A Nutrition platform meeting was held in June to update members on the secretariat's progress on governance issues as well as outcomes from the main events carried out in the past months namely the GDA and CSO & MP engagement meeting. Of interest to members was the EU call for proposal where the secretariat and its chair encouraged members to consider building a support cost for CSONA efforts and infrastructure.
- Capacity building and assessments
 - A consultant has been identified to carry out a capacity assessment and landscape analysis as part of ascertaining lead district CSO who assist in facilitating district level coordination. The consultancy is aimed at assessing the existing nutrition capacities of CSOs and district inter-sectorial nutrition coordination structures which will assist CSONA in understanding the landscape as well as identifying CSO coordination models that work within the framework of the NECS. The assessment is in line with one of CSONA's advocacy priority area which looks at effective and coherent mechanisms for district-level coordination and communication on nutrition, and support the adoption of the most effective models of coordination at the district and national level.
- Partnerships and Registration

- In light of its registration process CSONA has a constitution and has 4 trustees who will be part of the board of directors. In liaison with a lawyer CSONA is yet to convene the board members so that a chair can be elected as well as all members to sign the constitution.
- Advocacy and Communication Advisor was hired through Progressio's development worker placement initiative to facilitate the process of building the capacity of the networks and its member organisations in communications and advocacy issues. Having worked 3 months the advisor has resigned and discussions are underway with the Partner organization on how to move forward.
- Through the Graca Machel Trust Foundation CSONA has been awarded a scholarship to attend the RESULTS international conference in Washington DC. The international conference aims to bring together grassroots activist from the United States & other countries to advocate for funding and improved policies on global health and childhood under-nutrition. With several side meetings before and after, the scholarship aims to strengthen CSONA capacity to advocate for nutrition to be addressed as a development priority in Malawi and the broader Southern African Region. The project manager of CSONA will be part of the panellists sharing stories and experiences on reaching women and children with nutrition interventions in Africa.

Advocacy & Communication Initiatives

- CSONA's advocacy and communication strategy
 - As a follow-up to the advocacy strategy brainstorming session a subsequent meeting was held to streamline the advocacy priority areas. Three advocacy priority areas were identified as issues CSONA is to take forward, these include
 - **Objective 1:** To influence Malawi government to increase investments in nutrition by establishing a system to track and monitor budget allocations and financial resources as it relates national policies of relevant sectors as well as global commitments.
 - **Objective 2:** To identify effective and coherent mechanisms for district-level coordination and communication on nutrition, and support the adoption of the most effective models of coordination at the district and national level.
 - **Objective 3:** To strengthen the adoption of a nutrition-sensitive national strategy for social protection that positively reinforces multi-sectorial approaches in addressing malnutrition.
 - The priorities have been drafted into an advocacy and communication strategy with tactics, targets and key allies.
- Global Day of Action Press Briefing
 - A press briefing conference took place on the 30th April 2015 ahead of the GDA main event in May. The aim of the conference was to create hype and to raise awareness amongst media houses on the importance of nutrition in the country and to build momentum and commitment on coverage of this year's GDA by the media. The event had representative from DNHA, the DoNuts Group as well as the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Nutrition who was the guest of honor and the Chairman of the National Media Association of Malawi.
 - As an outcome of the event CSONA was featured in 9 articles and programs which included 2 print Medias, 5 national radio programs and 2 electronic Media.
- Global Day of Action Main event
 - Following a press briefing conference CSONA organized an open day event in collaboration and support from its members including World Vision, Progressio, and Plan Malawi. The event started solidarity walk with over 100 participants who waked from a distance of 6km to the Mulanje District Park where the main event was held. Participants together the Minister of Agriculture who was the guest of honor inspected marquees of 6 CSONA members as well as CLAN groups in Mulanje who had set out pavilions showcasing their nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive strategies and practices.
 - The event followed a speech from the Traditional leaders, Mulanje District Commissioner, CSONA Program Manager, the guest of honor, community representatives as well performances from the

community and Malawian celebrated. The event ended with a game between a team from the national league and the district team. (attached bulletin)

- CSO & Members of Parliament Engagement Meeting

- In collaboration with Save the Children International Malawi, Civil Society Organization Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) held a lobby meeting with Members of Parliament (MPs) during the 2015 National Budget Sitting. The aim of the meeting was establish an interface and build relationships with MPs for future engagement as well as present the preliminary results from CSO Budget analysis exercise and highlight the progress this far as it relates to Malawi's Nutrition for Growth Commitments (N4G).
- With 20 representatives from the Parliamentary Committee on Nutrition, HIV/AIDS as well as 8 chair persons from the Parliamentary Committee on Budget & Finance, Agriculture, Health and Gender & Social committees the next steps agreed upon were to; develop a clear MP roadmap with benchmarks to help the Parliamentary Committees to monitor Nutrition budget allocation ; a CSO and Parliamentarians workshop in August 2015 to build further on a stronger relation and a mechanism on how MPs can work with CSO at a district level and feed into the national level and; the Parliamentary Committee Chair persons to share calendar on opportunities for CSONA to influence government on nutrition issues.

Engagement within other stakeholders and platforms

- East African Global Nutrition Report

- Through support from the Graca Machel Trust, CSONA secretariat and a member attended the Easter Global Nutrition Report (GNR) launch in Dar Es Salaam which aimed to create visibility among East African countries as a way of starting engagement at regional level. The meeting had representatives (CSO, Government, Donors, business media and academia) from 7 countries (Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Malawi). CSONA Malawi being in the central/southern region was invited to as observers to ideally think about a similar launch at the SADC regional level. However the Project Manager for CSONA gave an overview presentation of the GNR in the Eastern African context and how these can be leveraged to ensure there is a voice for nutrition in Africa.
- Prior to the meeting a Civil Society Alliance (CSA) meeting was held as a strategic planning meeting among CSO representatives from the 7 Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) countries. The meeting which was an open forum aimed to strategize on; working together – shared objectives and shared tactics, mobilizing and protecting funds for nutrition, mobilizing pledges – nutrition for growth and achieving the World Health Assembly Targets by 2025. Discussions on how to better engage at a regional level and ensure that there is added level of accountability were made done thoroughly including challenges that individual CSA in specific countries were shared. The meeting was an opportunity for cross country learning as well as networks for collaboration.

- CSONA presentation at LUANAR 4th Year Nutrition Students

- CSONA was invited to make a presentation at LUANAR. The presentation aimed at introducing CSONA to the 4th Year nutrition students as a way of sensitizing them on actions towards nutrition currently taking place in the country. In attendance were 62 students who are in their final year of study. This was a meaningful interaction for CSONA in terms of raising its profile. It also offered an opportunity for CSONA to shine within its work and also to network with the students and build working relationships for future collaborations and internships.

Dialogue and engagement with government

- SUN Country Calls

- CSONA participated in the SUN country call that was scheduled in May 2015. Work on the collaborative work that CSONA is doing with the governmental focal point was highlighted.

- Nutrition Policy Advisory Team

- CSONA contributed to FANTA advocacy and communication planning consultations that will form part of the planning process of national campaign on nutrition. A follow-up meeting is to be scheduled in July where scope of work, roles, responsibilities, materials and tactics will be discussed and agreed upon.

District Level advocacy and coordination efforts

- Establishment of District Nutrition Platforms

- Follow-up and monitoring meetings were held with Mchinji as part of CSONA's initiative to facilitate the development of a nutrition thematic group. However the nutrition thematic group has become dormant following the relocation of World Vision offices as well its officers as they were the lead NGO who were chairing the platform.
- CSONA attended the Ntchisi NSA meeting which was held in Nthisi district. The Ntchisi NSA is a generic CSO network which CSONA is working with to establish a CSO nutrition thematic group within the network.
 - o CSONA attended this meeting so as to brief the network members about CSONA but also to discuss on CSO learning visit that CSONA is organizing for the Zomba nutrition platform as well as members of the DNCC in Zomba.
 - o As a next step CSONA attended Nthisi DNCC meeting which was held at Crossroads hotel on 12th June 2015. This was a way of CSONA to have an interface meeting between the NSA and DNCC. This meeting which was organised by World relief scaling up nutrition project, aimed to discuss key activities for the DNCC in relation to the SNIC project. . CSONA secretariat gave a presentation on CSONA and current initiatives at district level which include working with the CSOs network to strengthen coordination in the area of nutrition. The presentation also pointed out CSONA's efforts and plans for the CSO learning visit between Zomba and Ntchisi to learn about coordination efforts.
- Follow-up meeting was organized with Balaka generic CSO on formation of a nutrition thematic group. The meeting was attended by CSOs from Balaka as well as representatives from the District health office. The network executive had nominated 15 NGOs as members of the thematic group with PCI as the lead organization for the platform and will be supported by Chinansi foundation. An Interface meeting between CSO nutrition platform and DNCC is to be organized and PCI to draft work plan and send to CSONA secretariat.
- CSONA presented at the Blantyre District Executive Committee as an initiatives.

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

- Results Foundation International conference
- CSO & MP engagement meeting (Ms Graca Machel to be guest of honor & Tanzania MP champion)
- CSO capacity assessment exercise
- Learning Visits (Ntchisi, Zomba and Zambia)
- Board of Trustees Meeting & Submission of registration forms
- District Level Advocacy Trainings
- National Budget Tracking and analysis exercise
- Facilitate formation of nutrition platforms in Rumphu and Chitipa



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