



Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria

MPTF Program Progress Report

Reporting period: August – October 2015.

Program Title: Mobilizing and Strengthening Civil Societies to Scale up Nutrition in Nigeria.

Program Scope: The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) ,Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Delta, Enugu, Gombe, Kebbi, Kwara, Lagos and Sokoto states.

Executive Summary

CS-SUNN was awarded a grant by the SUN Global Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) to implement the project titled “**Mobilizing and Strengthening Civil Societies to Scale up Nutrition in Nigeria**”, with a project duration from August 2015 – July 2016. The Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN) is the lead organization for project implementation. The project started August 2015, and this report covers the period August – October 2015. Key achievements so far include:

1. Establishment of the Local Working Groups in 10 States and the FCT; mobilization of the LWG for state level activities, through the Association national leaders;
2. 1 National level Policy Dialogue on Maternal and Child nutrition with public presentation of the National Strategic Action Plan for Nutrition (NSPAN, 2014 -2019) 8th September 2015.
3. Workshop on Advocacy and Nutrition priorities for CSOs from 8 – 11th September 2015.
4. The advocacy visit to Her Excellency, wife of the Executive Governor of Kebbi state, Dr.Zainab Bagudu, on 30th September 2015,and her acceptance to be CS-SUNN Nutrition Champion.
5. Production of the first edition of “Nigeria Nutrition Update” – the CS-SUNN newsletter.
6. The Kebbi state Nutrition advocacy meeting/ Policy dialogue on maternal and child nutrition on 20th October, 2015. The meeting was attended by the Executive Governor, his wife and the Local Government Sole Administrators who committed N100,000 monthly/LGA for nutrition interventions at the LGA level.

1. PURPOSE:

1.1. The Project Objectives are to:

- Strengthen CSOs in Nigeria to scale-up Nutrition through public awareness and campaign
- Support existing policy, legal and budgetary frameworks to be more accountable to meet the nutritional needs of Nigerians
- Enhance experience sharing and learning between and within organizations

1.2 The Project Expected Outcomes:

- CSOs in Nigeria are identified, mapped, and have capacities enhanced to be effective, in integrating nutrition actions into their programs while contributing to the national priorities on Nutrition;
- CS-SUNN contributes to public awareness and national consensus about the problems of malnutrition and their solutions
- CS-SUNN contributes to policy, legal and budgetary frameworks that address the needs of the most vulnerable.
- CS-SUNN strengthen in-country accountability for progress in tackling under-nutrition
- CSO networks enhance learning between organizations and between countries and maximize the effectiveness of their efforts.

2. RESULTS/ ACHIEVEMENTS:

CS-SUNN has been acting as a catalyst to raise awareness, sustain commitment and actions to effectively tackle under-nutrition in Nigeria, in alignment with the Nigeria's National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (NSPAN, 2014 – 2019). Parallel activities were carried out during this period and achievements are highlighted under the Program Outputs 1 to 5.

2.1 Program Output 1: State CS-SUNN focal points identified, Local Working Groups (LWGs) are established and have capacities enhanced on advocacy and nutrition priorities.

Activities and achievements under this stream included:

2.1.1 Mobilization of CSOs for nutrition action: Existing CSOs directories were reviewed, and advertisements in CS-SUNN Website and in the Daily Trust Newspaper on 2 September, 2015. The process is on-going.

27 new CSOs were mobilized and participated in the September Policy Dialogue.

2.1.2 Identification of State CS- SUNN focal points in the FCT and 10 states:

CS-SUNN team engaged the leadership of the Association of Public Health, Medical Women Association, Women in New Nigeria and Nutrition Society of Nigeria to leverage on their state chapters and identify and establish Multi – sectoral Volunteer Local Working Groups (LWG) to advocate for improved Maternal and Child Nutrition at the State levels. The LWGs have an LWG Coordinator and a Deputy LWG Coordinator. The LWG activities are coordinated from the state chapter office of the lead CS-SUNN organization. The states were selected to cover the 6 geo-political zones, and included Enugu state with the least childhood stunting (12%) to Kebbi state with the highest (61%). The states and lead Organizations are:

	Zone	State	Stunting Prevalence % (NDHS 2013)	LWG Coordinator	Deputy LWG Coordinator
1	N/C	FCT	21	APHPN	NSN
2	N/C	Kwara	27	APHPN	MWAN
3	N/E	Adamawa	34	Women in New Nigeria	NSN
4	N/E	Gombe	48	APHPN	MWAN
5	N/W	Kebbi	61	MWAN	Women in New Nigeria
6	N/W	Sokoto	52	APHPN	MWAN
7	S/E	Anambra	18	APHPN	MWAN
8	S/E	Enugu	12	APHPN	NSN
9	S/S	Akwa Ibom	22	APHPN	NSN
10	S/S	Delta	15	MWAN	Women in New Nigeria
11	S/W	Lagos	17	APHPN	NSN

2.1.3 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with National Association on LWGs:

An MOU was developed and signed to guide activities of the LWGs. Funds have been remitted to LWGs through the National associations, to implement state level activities in accordance with project plans. (Copies of MOU & Fund implementation guide attached).

2.1.4 Consultancy services: CS-SUNN engaged a Consultant to provide support in the 4 day Nutrition Advocacy Workshop, development of Advocacy materials and the Communication strategy.

2.2 Program Output 2: CS-SUNN contributes to public awareness and national consensus about the problems of malnutrition and their solutions.

2.2.1 Facts sheet development & dissemination: CS-SUNN worked with the Consultant to develop the Facts Sheet on the Drivers of Malnutrition in Nigeria. Facts sheet printed and disseminated at public events.

2.2.2 Dissemination of Newsletter: CS-SUNN has published the maiden edition of the quarterly “*Nigeria Nutrition Update*”. The dissemination of 500 copies of Newsletter to the 36 states and FCT using the platforms of the Local Working Groups and the States Nutrition Officers has started with the FCT and Kebbi state, and is on-going.

2.2.3 Nutrition Advocacy using existing Platforms: CS-SUNN carried out nutrition advocacy and made presentations on the under-nutrition crisis with a call for action, utilizing existing platforms as follows:

- a) 46th Nutrition Society of Nigeria Annual Conference, on 19th September, 2015 in Lagos. The event provided a platform for a Media engagement with a press release on the malnutrition crisis in Nigeria by Chairman, CS-SUNN Steering Committee, Prof. Ngozi Nnam, in which she highlighted that the implementation of the NSPAN was a key road map to reduce maternal and child under-nutrition in Nigeria.
- b) 27th Professional Association of Public Health Nursing Officers of Nigeria (PAPHNON) on 28th October 2015, in Abuja. CS-SUNN called on PAPHNON to utilize their extensive network to promote Exclusive Breast Feeding, advocate for the provision of Community maternal nutrition and IYCF services, and provide sustained community nutrition education.

2.2.4 Advocacy visits and meetings:

2.2.4.1 Advocacy visit to Senator C. Utazi (Enugu state): CS-SUNN carried out the advocacy visit on 22nd August 2015, to engage the distinguished Senator as a Nutrition champion, especially as Enugu state had the lowest stunting rate in Nigeria. The Senator agreed and promised to present a paper at the CS-SUNN Policy Dialogue.

2.2.4.2 CS-SUNN held a collaborative meeting with the Country Director Micronutrient Initiative (MI) on 14th September, 2015 to discuss the modalities for partnering on Advocacy for the Maternal Newborn & Child Health Weeks (MNCHW).

2.2.4.3 Scaling Up Nutrition in Barracks Communities:

CS-SUNN held an advocacy meeting with the Ministry of Defence Medical Services team on 22nd September, 2015 with the aim of collaborating to scale up nutrition in the barracks

communities. The meeting was chaired by the Director, Medical Services, Dr J Ikoku and in attendance were the heads of the arms of the Defence Medical team. A key outcome of the meeting was that CS-SUNN will partner with the MOD Health Implementation team and the Defence and Police Officers Wives Association (DEPOWA) to carry out nutrition interventions, starting from the Kuje Barracks in Abuja.

2.2.4.4 Advocacy visit to Her Excellency, Dr. Zainab Bagudu, the wife of the Executive Governor of Kebbi State:

CS-SUNN paid an advocacy visit to her Excellency Dr. Zainab Bagudu, the wife of the Executive Governor of Kebbi State on 30th of September, 2015, to enlist her support as to be the Nutrition Champion in the fight against malnutrition in Kebbi state. The tasks for the Nutrition Champion include:

- Advocate for the domestication and implementation of the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (NSPAN) in the state, with emphasis on maternal and child nutrition.
- Advocate for adequate budgetary allocation and timely release of funds for maternal nutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices and interventions, at the state and local government levels
- Advocate for the implementation of extension of Maternity Leave from 3months to 6 months in Kebbi State (as is being done in Lagos State) to protect Exclusive Breastfeeding practices.

Her Excellency graciously accepted to be the Nutrition Champion and pledged her support to commence the Scaling-up Nutrition activities with a Town Hall meeting, scheduled to hold on 20th of October, 2015.

2.3 Program Output 3: CS-SUNN contributes to policy, legal and budgetary frameworks that address the needs of the most vulnerable:

2.3.1 Policy Dialogue on Maternal and Child Nutrition in Abuja:

Civil Society Scaling-Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, convened a Policy Dialogue with the theme “**Investments in Maternal nutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding in Nigeria-critical bridges for sustainable national development**” on 8th September , 2015 in Abuja. 139 people attended the Policy Dialogue with representation as follows: 55 from Government and Partners, 65 from Civil Society Organizations and 19 from the media. Highlights of the event were:

1. The public presentation of the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (NSPAN, 2014-2019) by Mr. Linus Awute, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH).
2. The Agreement on Key action points on Nutrition that included:
 - Nutrition should be given a prime place by the implementation of the NSPAN;
 - Nutrition sensitive programs need to be integrated into agriculture and education sectors;
 - Behavioral change communication needs to be promoted to improve nutrition practices;
 - Participants committed to advocate for the approval of maternity leave extension to six months at the Federal / States levels.

A Press release was issued at the event.

2.3.2 4 –day Nutrition advocacy workshop held to build capacity of member organisations on Nutrition priorities and advocacy.

The workshop was held from 8 – 11th September 2015. The event featured a Policy Dialogue on the first day, followed by the Nutrition Advocacy workshop for 34 participants that represented various Civil Society Organizations from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and CS-SUNN Local Working Group (LWG) Coordinators from 9 states. The states were: Adamawa, Anambra, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Enugu, Gombe, Kwara , Lagos and Sokoto. The LWG Coordinator from Kebbi state could not participate due to logistic challenges arising from the Arik Airlines strike during the period. The participants engaged in the multi-stakeholder Policy dialogue on maternal and child nutrition and their capacity for evidenced based Advocacy and networking skills were enhanced at the end of the workshop.

2.3.3 1–day Nutrition advocacy workshop held to build capacity of Kebbi State Local Working Group on Nutrition priorities.

The workshop was held on 19th October 2015, in Birnin Kebbi , for 9 members of the Kebbi State Local Working Group. The event prepared the LWG for the Town Hall meeting /Policy dialogue on the Adoption of the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition scheduled to hold on 20th October 2015.

2.3.4 Town Hall meeting/ Policy Dialogue on Maternal and Child Nutrition in Kebbi state:

The CS-SUNN Local Working Group in Kebbi state, in collaboration with the Kebbi State Ministry of Health and UNICEF, convened an Advocacy Town Hall meeting / Policy dialogue on adoption and implementation of the NSPAN with focus on maternal nutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding, on 20th October 2015, in Birnin Kebbi.

The Executive Governor of Kebbi State, His Excellency Senator Bagudu, his wife, Her Excellency Dr. Zainab Bagudu, 18 Local Government Sole Administrators, and about 60 other participants drawn from line Ministries, UNICEF, WHO, the key sectors and the LGAs, attended the meeting. The Communiqué issued at the end of the meeting agreed as follows:

- There shall be creation of a nutrition budget line at LGA level
- There is the need to develop a Nutrition Action Plan to address nutrition issues at State and LGA.
- A technical committee comprising Director of PHC- Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Ministry of Health-Nutrition Department, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, State Primary Health Care Development of Agency, UNICEF, Save the Children and MWAN to work out a monthly Nutrition program imprest for CMAM and IYCF and similar Nutrition Activities.
- LGAs to provide a monthly imprest of **One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100, 000)** to support current nutrition interventions while waiting for the budget line creation and funding.
- The State to procure Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to scale-up CMAM program
- All Stakeholders-the Government, Development partners, Civil Society Organizations and the Media agreed to work together towards improvement of Nutrition Situation in the State.

2.4 Program Output 4: CS-SUNN strengthens in-country accountability for progress in tackling under-nutrition.

2.4.1 Printing of Quarterly Newsletter: The maiden edition of CS-SUNN newsletter, “Nigeria Nutrition Update” was developed and 18, 500 copies were printed in October, 2015. This translates to 500 copies to each of the 36 States and FCT in the nation. Dissemination to the states and is in progress.

2.4.2 Analysis of Data on nutrition activities: CS-SUNN is partnering with the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN) to carry out a Desk Review of data on Nutrition activities. The Data to be reviewed are: MNCHW, SMART, NDHS and DHIS. The data will support tracking of nutrition interventions and to help policy makers within the platforms to encourage more effective programming. The report is expected by mid-December.

2.5 Program Output 5: CS-SUNN enhances learning between organizations & states:

2.5.1 Development of Communication and strategy document: CS-SUNN is working with the Consultant to develop the Strategy document. The initial draft document has been reviewed and Zero draft is expected to be circulated by November 2015..

2.5.2 Dissemination of Best practices on nutrition intervention: The CS-SUNN documents best practices and disseminates through the Newsletter conferences and CS-SUNN websites.

2.5.3 Quarterly CS SUN Coordination Meeting: CS-SUNN held the first quarter coordination meeting on 30th October, 2015 to brief partners on project implementation and discuss key steps for the next quarter. The meeting agreed to carry out Advocacy visits to the National Assembly by mid- November 2015 as soon as the Committees have been established.

2.6: Challenges: CS-SUNN has witnessed some challenges, but by God’s grace, the team has been able to achieve the above major steps within the 3 month period. The areas are:

1. Staffing: The development and production of the Newsletter needed more manpower. This was addressed by the engagement of 2 Volunteers to support the Secretariat.
2. The Newsletter is a powerful communication tool and needs professional editorial advice and content management. CS-SUNN has leveraged on colleagues on a voluntary basis but this may not be sustainable as we look forward to produce future editions.
3. The Secretariat needed strengthening and this had to be done through the conversion of the CS-SUNN office kitchen and store to create space for the Network Coordinator and the 2 Volunteers and the procurement of 2 Laptops, Telephone, office tables and chairs.

CONCLUSION: CS-SUNN has been able to meet expected targets within the first 3 months of the project, and as the Local Working Groups commence scale up activities in the various states we believe more milestones will be achieved.

Submitted by:

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1st November 2015