

SUN Movement Multi-Partner Trust Fund



ANNUAL AND FINAL NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Participating Organization: World Food Programme

Priority Sector covered: Nutrition

Programme No: MPTF Window2-002

Programme Title: Formation of Civil Society Organizations Coalitions to support Scale up Nutrition in Ghana

Report number:

Reporting period: 1st April 2013 to 31st December 2015

Programme budget: \$374,500

Implementing partners: Hunger Alliance of Ghana

Participating UN or Non-UN Organization
World Food Programme

Programme coverage/scope:

Ghana (nationwide)

Abbreviations and acronyms:

List the main abbreviations and acronyms that are used in the report.

CSO Civil Society Organization
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization
GHS Ghana Health Service
GLSS Ghana Living Standards Survey
HAG Hunger Alliance of Ghana
MDA Ministries Departments and Agencies
MDG Millennium Development Goals
MOFA Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MOH Ministry of Health
NGO Non-Governmental Organization
SUN Scaling up Nutrition
UG University of Ghana
UN United Nations
WFP World Food Programme
WHO World Health Organization

Programme Duration/Closed Programme:

36 months

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the project entitled “formation of coalition of civil society organizations to support scale up nutrition in Ghana” was to initiate and facilitate active and sustained CSO engagement in nutrition issues in Ghana that will ultimately result in improved nutrition outcomes in the country. The project sought to do this through the framework of a coalition. Currently, there are many CSOs implementing a variety of nutrition activities in Ghana. The CSO coalition was expected to harmonize and collate the different shades of CSO advocacy activities to ensure coherence and unity in achieving optimal outcomes in nutrition. Ultimately, it is envisioned that a strong and active CSO coalition will be more capable at engaging in the process of demanding accountability in public and private investment in nutrition. This broad purpose arises from the fact that although nutrition is recognized across all sectors as an important ingredient for development, the burden of malnutrition that remains to be addressed far outstrips the current investment in nutrition.

In the three years of project implementation, significant gains were made in the effort to raise the visibility of nutrition in Ghana. Through the project, various key Stakeholders were able to work together to address some of the key challenges that confronted Ghana in the effort to prioritize nutrition in Ghana’s development agenda. To achieve the stated objectives of the project, various far reaching activities were undertaken; these include training of Media Practitioners in Ghana where media practitioners from all the 10 regions were schooled on nutrition for the first time in Ghana. This initiative created the necessary space for effective public discourse on nutrition issues in Ghana. Indeed the result of this was the unprecedented reportage on nutrition related issues in Ghanaian media. Another significant feat is the current rapport achieved with Members of Ghanaian Legislature through the Ghana Parliamentarians Against Hunger and Malnutrition Caucus and the Select Committees on Agriculture and Health on nutrition issues. As a result of this nutrition which hitherto was a low profile issue, suddenly found itself at the centre of governance for effective national deliberation. Another milestone achievement in this project was the successful baseline survey and mapping of all relevant CSOs in all the 10 regions of Ghana. Over 130 organizations at national and grassroots level were surveyed and mapped. This activity has helped harmonized and coalesced the different shades of CSO advocacy activities to ensure coherence and unity in achieving optimal outcomes in nutrition. The development of a strategic advocacy document for use by CSOs and nutrition celebrities acting on behalf of the coalition was also an important milestone achievement.

Over the past three year, the CSOs Coalition has participated in a number of activities that have eventually culminated in the formulation of A National Nutrition Policy document in Ghana in reference to one of the important SUN process indicators. A national Nutrition Action Plan is being costed with support of the MQSUN and the Global SUN Secretariat. A costed plan as such being developed will be very useful for Civil Society who must ensure that all stakeholders are held accountable. The challenge however, is advocacy to ensure speedy endorsement of the national nutrition policy to become working document by the Ghanaian Cabinet and the Legislature.

1. PROJECT PURPOSE

I. Purpose

The main purpose of this project as indicated in the executive summary is to initiate and facilitate active and sustained CSO engagement in nutrition issues in Ghana that will ultimately result in improved nutrition outcomes in the country. The CSO coalition is expected to harmonize and coalesce the different shades of CSO advocacy activities to ensure coherence and unity in achieving optimal outcomes in nutrition. Ultimately, it is envisioned that a strong and active CSO coalition will be more capable at engaging in the process of demanding accountability in public and private investment in nutrition. This broad purpose arises from the fact that although nutrition is recognized across all sectors as an important ingredient for development, the burden of malnutrition that remains to be addressed far outstrips the current investment in nutrition.

KEY PARTNERSHIP AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

The Ghana SUN CSA platform thrives on partnership and inter-agency collaboration to achieve maximum impact. By working with the National Development Planning Commission which acts as the Focal Point for SUN in Ghana and the established inter-ministerial platform called the National Cross Sectoral Planning Group (CSPG), the UN Participating Organization (WFP), UN REACH, Ghana Health Service (GHS) and other allied agencies, Hunger Alliance of Ghana and the Ghana SUN CSA platform recognized that inter-agency collaboration was very central in the implementation of its activities. For instance, this inter-agency collaboration ensured that consensus was built on the National Nutrition Policy including the promotion of Stakeholder consultation on the policy by Hunger Alliance of Ghana. Partnership and inter-agency collaboration was also very central in the execution of all the major activities of Hunger Alliance of Ghana and the Ghana CSA Platform from 2013 to 2015.

Category	Implementing Partners	Roles & Responsibilities
National Government	NDPC SUN FP	As the National SUN Coordinating Agency, Hunger Alliance of Ghana Worked with the National Development Planning Commission at various levels in the implementation of the Project. Hunger Alliance of Ghana Provided periodic update and report to the NDPC on the status of project implementation to ensure that CSOs Were aligning their efforts with the national nutrition scale up strategy. Such reports were also incorporated in the national SUN progress report. The collaboration also included the Participation of CSOs in all the national meetings that were convened by

	<p>Ministry of Health - Policy Planning Monitoring & Evaluation Directorate</p> <p>Ministry of Local government and rural development</p>	<p>the NDPC as well as other national activities that were consistent with the Project implementation.</p> <p>There was also a very strong collaboration with the Ministry of Health's PPME and the GHS Nutrition Department. The agency continued to provide relevant data and information on the current nutrition situation to the CSOs which helped in CSOs advocacy strategy development, dissemination and awareness creation.</p> <p>Some of the community level actions especially the engagement with District Assemblies were facilitated By the Ministry of Local Government And Rural Development. The ministry's facilitation role In CSOs community outreach and advocacy was very supportive.</p>
UN	<p>Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO) &FAO-regional office</p>	<p>Through this project, the Ghana SUN CSO platform collaborated with FAO through the various initiatives and activities that were pursued by The National SUN Platform through The Cross Sectoral Planning Group. These included national meetings and various SUN teleconferences that both Hunger Alliance of Ghana and FAO participated and contributed to the national discussions on SUN. On other platforms, CSOs invited FAO to share presentations on SUN at CSOs SUN conferences.</p>

	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	<p>Through this project, the Ghana SUN CSO platform collaborated with UNICEF through the various initiatives and activities that were pursued by the National SUN Platform through the Cross Sectoral Planning Group including the participation of UNICEF and CSOs team in SUN national meetings and teleconferences. UNICEF officials also supported Hunger Alliance of Ghana in project implementation by attending all CSOs conferences and workshops and contributed to the discussions on SUN at that level. This was helpful in the smooth implementation of the project.</p>
	World Food Programme (WFP)	<p>The World Food Programme continued to serve as the UN Participating Organization for this project. WFP worked closely with the Hunger Alliance of Ghana for the successful execution of the project. It provided the needed supervisory role for project execution.</p>
	REACH	<p>UN REACH served as the UN technical ally of Hunger Alliance of Ghana and the Ghana SUN CSO platform for the execution of this project including. The review of some of the guidelines of the CSO platform and its advocacy Strategy was supported by UN REACH technically.</p>
Development Partners	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	<p>USAID serves the SUN Donor Convener in Ghana. Hunger Alliance of Ghana continued to share all relevant reports on SUN with USAID and</p>

		had meetings with USAID to update USAID officials on the status of the project and how funding could be raised for project sustainability.	
CSOs	Several CSO alliance members	CSO Alliance members actively participated in project implementation. Members continued to provide support to move the project forward and to develop a plan that shall sustain the coalition.	
Academia, Nutrition Champions	School of Public Health, University of Ghana	Provision of evidence – based research and academic work that helped the SUN civil society in advocacy. This included budget analysis.	

II. RESOURCES

Financial Resources:

Apart from the sum USD 350,000 from MPTF, no other funding or resources were made available to the project

III. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

Monitoring and evaluation plan:

At the commencement of the project, a rapid appraisal of CSO involved in nutrition activities was carried out to serve as a baseline upon which the project will be evaluated. Throughout the lifetime of this project, the period under consideration, the indicators and targets included in the logic frame to monitor progress towards achieving the objectives were used to monitor and evaluate project implementation described above. A survey of CSOs and relevant stakeholders (internal and external) was carried out each year to monitor performance of the coalition’s activities. The SUN movements’ Monitoring and evaluation tool (indicators for CSO engagement) was adopted and adapted to guide monitoring and evaluation of the project. In addition, an external independent evaluator has been tasked to assess impact of the project on the priority level of nutrition and scale up of nutrition interventions.

Management arrangements

The Executive Council, the overall governing body of the coalition was hosted by Hunger Alliance of Ghana. An Executive Council of seven members was formed to administer the coalition with the Secretary of the Council acting as the Coordinator. Three sub-committees (Advocacy and Communication, Technical and Resource Mobilization) were also put in place to assist the Executive Council. Representation on the Executive Committees and Sub-Committees considered the diverse nature of the coalition taking into consideration gender, technical competence of the nominees and not forgetting nominees' demonstrated high level of skills and expertise in advocacy and policy making.

Multi-Sectoral Framework and Regional and District Level Coordination

In order to implement all the activities under the MTFP, coordination at national, regional and District level became necessary. Existing coordination platforms such as CSPG at national level, Regional Coordinating Councils (RCC) and District Assemblies (DAs) were utilized. The CSPG, the platform for bringing together stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society organizations, development partners and UN were very instrumental in the implementation of most the coalition's programme as partners. The Cross Sectoral Planning Group (CSPG) was a strong ally of CSOs that also helped to monitor progress against the objectives set out in our implementation plan. Accountability for implementing the nutrition specific and sensitive activities was however the prerogative of the respective sectors and these sectors were expected to report via the technical working groups to the CSPG Chairperson. Implementation of programmed activities was monitored at regional and District level by the Coalitions representatives at those levels.

Risk factors faced in project implementation include lack of adequate finances to sustain the project and how to ensure that the four committees of the CSA were able to utilize all the appropriate avenues available to be fully involved in the core aspects of project implementation. By the end of 2015, the Resource Mobilization committee could not raise any additional funds to support project implementation though attempts were made to do so in 2013 and 2015. The Technical and Communication committees were however very active in the technical and communication activities of the coalition especially in the development of its advocacy strategy, mapping and baseline survey.

STUDIES, ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

In the course of the three years, various studies, assessments and impact studies have been conducted. These include the following:

1. A rapid appraisal of CSO involvement in nutrition activities was carried out to serve as a baseline upon which the project will be evaluated.
2. Mapping of CSOs engaged in Nutrition Sensitive and Nutrition specific action in Ghana. The mapping exercise ensured that CSOs efforts within the National SUN Movement to make nutrition a national development priority were not duplicated. In moving forward, the mapping exercise is expected to ensure that CSOs are able to align their efforts at grassroots level with national level actions to scale up nutrition in Ghana.
3. Hunger Alliance of Ghana and the Ghana CSA platform developed advocacy strategy document for use by members of the CSA platform which were also shared with relevant

Stakeholders within the national SUN Movement. The advocacy strategy is expected to guide Members of the Ghana SUN CSOs platform to address the same issues, intensify joint advocacy and improve their communication and reportage on nutrition in Ghana. This is to ensure the harmonization of nutrition messages for the Ghanaian populace in 2015 and beyond.

4. Hunger Alliance of Ghana produced a Television health and nutrition education awareness programme called “Tomorrow Today” which brings various Resource persons in an encounter with audience mainly school pupils to deliberate on wide range of nutrition and nutrition sensitive topics from hygiene to food safety and to balanced diets. “Tomorrow today” took Hunger Alliance of Ghana and PAABEC Foundation three months to produce the first 20 episodes which were telecasted on TV Africa during the third quarter of 2013 and on Ghana Television in 2014. These initiatives were part of Ghana SUN CSOs platform’s contribution to develop acceptable media messages for nutrition and to help create awareness about nutrition situation in Ghana.

IV. Results

In this section, we provide an assessment of the extent to which the project has progressed in relation to the outcomes and outputs expected for the three-year lifespan (the reporting period) of the project.

OUTCOME ONE

- *Independent and sustainable multi sectoral coalition of civil society organizations involved/with interest in agriculture, nutrition, health and media seeks to advocate for making nutrition a high priority development issue in Ghana. In reference to this outcome, the following activities were undertaken during the 3 year implementation of the project and the major outputs are given below.*
 - **Activity 1.1**
National mapping of CSOs involved in nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programming in Ghana was commissioned in 2013. By this, the functional capacities of CSOs involved in nutrition as well as their geographical location were identified.
 - **Output 1.1.1** All CSOs involved in nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programming in Ghana were identified and characterized. A system was then set up to enable routine updating.
 - **Results 1.1.2** As a result of this, the CSOs that are working on nutrition issues have harmonized their programmes in support of the national effort to scale up nutrition in Ghana. This has as much as possible reduced duplication of roles.
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- **Activity 1.2** Membership drive to attract CSOs and other partners with interest in food and nutrition as listed in the mapping was initiated in 2013 and helped to influence a number of CSOs operating at the grassroots level to join the CSOs coalition for scaling up nutrition.

- **Output 1.2.1** A critical mass of CSOs involved in nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programming identified and are involved in the coalition; a membership drive activity plan and tools have also been developed to ensure continuity of efforts at maintaining coalition's objectives.
- **Results 1.2.2.** There has been tremendous growth in the membership of the CSO platform for Scaling Up Nutrition in Ghana. Membership has grown from 30 CSOs at the beginning of the project to over 130 members over the three years period.

- **Activity 1.3.** Operating guidelines and constitution for CSOs coalition for SUN was developed and endorsed by members of the coalition in 2013.
- **Output 1.3.1** Operating guidelines and constitution for coalition developed, approved and endorsed by members.
- **Results 1.3.2.**The coalition has been founded and strengthened by constitution thereby deepening internal democracy and participation of all members. This has also ensured high level of integrity and transparency in the coordination and management of the coalition.

- **Activity 1.4** Various leadership structures for the coalition was set up including its executive council and other sub committees in 2013.
- **Output 1.4.1** Leadership was put in place to steer affairs of the CSOs coalition for SUN and governance mechanisms put in place
- **Result 1.4.2** Leadership had managed to steer the affairs of the coalition for the past three years with utmost respect, transparency and participation of all members.

- **Activity 1.5** Another major activity was the launching of the CSO coalition for SUN as part of a high visibility media event with the development of a logo and a brand name called Ghana Coalition of Civil Society Organizations on Scaling Up Nutrition on 1st August, 2013.
- **Output 1.5.1** Coalition of CSOs for SUN in Ghana given visibility and recognition at the popular and the political level in Ghana.
- **Result 1.5.2** As a result of this, the CSO platform was given adequate recognition right from the beginning.

- **Activity 1.6** A secretariat within the premises of Hunger Alliance of Ghana was set up for the SUN CSO platform in Ghana in 2013 to ensure the day to day coordination of activities of the coalition.
- **Output 1.6.1** An equipped office to administer activities of the coalition of the platform was established.
- **Result 1.1.2** Coordination of the activities of the coalition was strengthened thereby ensuring effective harmonization of activities of all coalition members in the process.

- **Activity 1.7** A website was created and managed from 2013 to 2015 as part of strategies for corporate communication and visibility
- **Output 1.7.1** A functioning and regularly updated website ensured effective dissemination about activities of the coalition.
- **Result 1.7.2** Even in the absence of a national SUN movement website, the website of the civil society platform became the obvious alternative for the dissemination of information electronically on the activities of the national SUN movement as a whole

- **Activity 1.8** In 2013 and 2015, efforts were made to raise funds to ensure the sustainability of the SUN CSO coalition beyond MPTF project. The various attempts made did not yield much though attendances at these events were quite substantial. These events were the 1000 days of a child campaign concert held in Tamale on 15th October, 2013 and a fund raising dinner on 26th of July 2015 at African Regent Hotel, Accra.
- **Output 1.8.1** Long term fundraising agenda for the coalition had been put in place but needed to be made more effective.
- **Results 1.8.2** Efforts are still being made to improve funding arrangement for the SUN CSA platforms with long term projects.

OUTCOME TWO: Popular demand for the scale up nutrition interventions in Ghana promoted through a national awareness raising campaign to support the SUN movement and the 1000 days campaign

- **Activity 2.1** Two nutrition champions were appointed in 2013 by the Hunger Alliance of Ghana to support the agenda of making nutrition a priority development agenda. These champions used the available media platforms to propagate nutrition messages for making a strong case for nutrition.
- **Output 2.1.1.** Nutrition champions identified and promoted nutrition advocacy and awareness using the mass media

- **Activity 2.2.** Two nutrition celebrities were also identified in 2013 to support the agenda of creating awareness on nutrition and the 1,000 days of the child campaign among the general public.
- **Output 2.2.1.** Nutrition celebrities identified, empowered and promoted nutrition advocacy and awareness
- **Result 2.2.2.** The involvement of celebrities in the dissemination of nutrition messages from 2013 to 2015 became one of the most effective strategies to send nutrition messages to large audiences because celebrities have large following.
- **Activity 2.3** Appropriate media messages were disseminated through different models

such as T.V jingles, drama and publicity materials. In 2013 and 2014, the Hunger Alliance of Ghana initiated a television health and nutrition awareness program targeting the youth called ‘Tomorrow, Today’. The Alliance again produced the 1,000 days of the child campaign theme song and a video that was aired on television in 2014 and 2015.

- **Output 2.3.1** Consistent evidence based messages developed to inform and raise awareness on nutrition issues in Ghana.
- **Results 2.3.2.** These media messages disseminated by using television were able to inform and educate large Ghanaian audience on nutrition thereby ensuring behavioral change and influencing people’s perception about nutrition issues. It also contributed in raising the visibility of nutrition in the media.

- **Activity 2.4.** Hunger Alliance of Ghana and the Ghana SUN CSA platform developed a nutrition advocacy strategy document to be used by members of the coalition in 2013. This document was further revised in 2015.
- **Output 2.4.1.** The advocacy strategy served as the alliances’ main advocacy guidelines to promote nutrition using best practices.
- **Result 2.4.2** For the first time, CSOs in Ghana were able to speak from the same hymn book on the same nutrition issues thereby ensuring that messages were consistent and this enhanced effective advocacy at the national and community level.

- **Activity 2.5** The 1,000 days of a child campaign was launched and promoted in Tamale with a concert on 15th October 2013 aimed at promoting child nutrition and creating

awareness on the high rate of under nutrition among children under five.

- **Output 2.5.1** 1000 days of the child was held and 1000 days concert was popularized in Ghana.

- **Activity 2.6** The capacity of CSOs on nutrition was built in 2013 through a CSO nutrition capacity building workshop that was held on 14th October 2013 in Tamale. This led to the formation of a CSO think tank to promote nutrition policy and programme in Ghana.

- **Output 2.6.1** Members of the coalition were sensitized on nutrition and their capacities strengthened with relevant skills and tools to support SUN agenda in Ghana.

- **Result 2.6.2.** The training programmes organized for the Ghana CSA platform ensured that CSOs were able to effectively organized and their activities harmonized at the national and community level in support of SUN implementation in Ghana.

- **Activity 2.7.** Training programme to build the capacity of the media to enhance interest

and sustain awareness of nutrition issues in Ghana were organized in 2013 and 2014

- **Output 2.7.** A cross section of the media trained on investigating and communicating issues on nutrition interest.
- **Result 2.7.2.** An unprecedented reportage on nutrition issues in the media in recent times

***OUTCOME 3** Nutrition is recognized as both a health and a developmental issue secured through the adoption and implementation of a strong national nutrition policy which is supported through appropriate budgetary allocation by government and other stakeholders. In reference to this outcome, the following activities, outputs and results were realized under the project.*

- **Activity 3.1.** Hunger Alliance of Ghana organized a parliamentarian's round table dialogue in 2013, 2014 and 2015 on making nutrition a priority issue in development discourse
- **Output 3.1.1.** Key players in government (parliamentarians) were lobbied into prioritizing nutrition as a development agenda. Increased interest in issues of nutrition in parliamentary discourse and strengthening nutrition issues.

- **Result 3.1.2** Nutrition issues had been raised in central government level including recent debates on nutrition on Ghana's legislature is gradually making nutrition a relevant national issue that requires national attention.
- **Activity 3.2** Under the MPTF project implementation, a round table dialogue on nutrition financing in Ghana was organized as part of Ghana's budget hearing (2014, 2015) to push the agenda of making adequate budgetary provisions for nutrition. The 2015 event was held on 2nd December 2015 at the College of Surgeons and Physicians.

- **Output 3.2.1.** Nutrition is now recognized as both health and developmental issue and appropriate budgetary allocation by government is made
- **Result 3.2.2.** Stakeholders are making the required effort to influence the budgetary allocations for nutrition in the 2016 national budget and CSOs platform is leading that

crusade.

- **Activity 3.4** CSOs in Ghana supported the development and finalization of the National Nutrition Policy by organizing a validation workshop on the policy in 2013
- **Output 3.4.1** National Nutrition Policy developed and about to be implemented
- **Result 3.4.2** As a result of CSOs involvement in the policy formulation there was a national consensus and ownership of the policy as participation of stakeholders in the policy formulation was deepened.

IMPLEMENTATION CONSTRAINTS, LESSONS LEARNED FROM ADDRESSING THESE AND KNOWLEDGE GAINED IN THE COURSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD.

This project has inspired Civil Society Organization Coalition to achieve certain relevant targets and the extent it has complied with the relevant SUN process indicators is an indication of the success the project. These indicators include the following:

- a) Bringing people together for common action
- b) Working on a national nutrition policy
- c) Development of a coasted nutrition plan
- d) Facilitating the promulgation of appropriate legal regime to address nutrition challenges.

- As country, Ghana has set as a target, to use SUN as the opportunity to build the capacity of relevant institutions involved in nutrition programming. The project therefore was expected to develop an appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems to guide the implementation of SUN at country level and intensify resource mobilization to improve nutrition outcomes. On the basis of this, stakeholders foresaw an opportunity to work together for the first time with civil society to tackle the problems associated with under nutrition in Ghana. The CSPG has worked successfully to provide leadership for this important initiative. Various meetings at the CSPG level were organized and stakeholders from diverse relevant background including Civil Society, Private Sector, Academia,

Government, UN Agencies, Development Partners and Donors saw this as an opportunity to share ideas, strategize, plan and give adequate leadership for the implementation of a broad spectrum of nutrition and nutrition sensitive interventions all on one radar for the attainment of evidence -based results.

- It is therefore not a coincidence, that for the first time, Ghana has developed a national nutrition policy. The policy had inputs from all relevant stakeholders and is now before Cabinet for consideration. It has been a fruitful effort and it is important to indicate here that had it not been SUN, Ghana would not have promulgated a national nutrition policy. This is a commendable achievement and the contribution of the Ghana SUN CSA platform and MPTF sponsored project cannot be underestimated. It is also commendable to realize that the National Nutrition Policy will be supported by the appropriate legislations that will make its implementation possible. The role of Ghana's Legislature in the process and the efforts of the Ghana CSA platform to backstop the Parliamentary Caucus against Hunger and Malnutrition are also commendable.
- Whiles commending Ghana CSA Platform and the National SUN Leadership for the above mentioned achievements, it must be noted that Ghana has not realized the essence to use SUN as an opportunity to build capacity of its relevant institutions and to institute an effective monitoring and evaluation system that will guide the SUN implementation process. In area of resource mobilization, there is a lot to be done in Ghana. In some countries such as Zambia, a national SUN fund has been established to mobilize funds outside the main Government budget to support SUN activities. In Ghana, not much is mentioned or indicated in the 2016 Government budget for SUN or nutrition. Ghana will have to explore other available options to raise funds for nutrition instead of depending so much on donors. That in essence, requires that all players including Hunger Alliance of Ghana and the SUN CSA platform muster the necessary political commitment to ensure that nutrition issues become central to the national development agenda.
- Another area that needs to be highlighted is the lack of clarity in the decentralization process of SUN activities. As the structure are now, the NDPC works through the Regional and District Planning Units which then becomes the hub of SUN decentralization processes. It is our considered opinion that at the community level where the real action is needed, there will be no cohesion in the work of SUN, as using the planning units of NDPC may wipe out the spirit of inclusiveness and participation by other local stakeholders such as Civil Society.
- Ghana SUN CSA platform has generated a lot of visibility and public support for nutrition programmes that are very fundamental for achieving results. Apart from the Civil Society Coalition, Government and other SUN Stakeholders have not carried the public along through routine engagement and participation. The media's participation in the activities of SUN has therefore been very limited. Civil Society under its Media training modules has built the capacity of the Media Practitioners to propagate the positive side of SUN.
- Another missing link in this whole process of scaling up of nutrition is the role of community actors in the process. Although this is an obvious responsibility of Civil Society

organizations, Government and the SUN leadership at National level are yet to cede that responsibility to CSOs with the required empowerment to mobilize community actors for action. With a successful mapping of community organizations by Hunger Alliance of Ghana, Government and the SUN leadership need to work closely with Ghana SUN CSA Platform to deepen community ownership and participation in the process.

- During the period under review, there has been a sign of alignment, as Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Ministry of Health are working with other Stakeholders to ensure harmonization of programmes. MoFA is pursuing a dietary diversification programme in line with SUN objectives. This has been one of the limiting factors in our advocacy strategy. CSOs find this as an important step forward.
- Also, for the first time, Ghana has commissioned a nutrition governance capacity assessment to identify the gaps in Ghana's nutrition governance systems with the support of UN REACH. The report, it is hoped, will address a number of issues that are missing in Ghana's nutrition governance capacity.
- A number of programmes were organized since the beginning of the project to help strengthen the process at the global and national level and these must be highlighted. Ghana has participated in a number of internal SUN teleconferences to understand the process better and to learn from other countries experiences. Since the inception of the SUN, there have been several teleconferences in which Ghana SUN CSA has been an active participant. Ghana SUN CSA Alliance has also been represented adequately at the Global SUN gatherings in which useful presentations were made and lessons were learnt. Other global events such as SUN conflict of interest international workshops of which Ghana was the host in 2013 also helped to shape the implementation process one way or the other. It must also be indicated that the SUN learning route programmes that were organized by the SUN Secretariat also helped to build the capacity of the National team including the CSOs representatives to speed up the implementation of the project.
- In conclusion, we wish state here for the avoidance all doubts that, Ghana's quest to ensure that SUN is situated in the national development planning agenda through a careful integration process in the planning system can be a long, complex and time consuming venture. Effort must be made to speed up the process especially the engagement of the sectors in the planning process and to ensure an effective decentralization process. This is an area that Ghana SUN CSA platform can make a major contribution.

V. FUTURE WORK PLAN

Going forward in 2016, Hunger Alliance of Ghana will work diligently with all its stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of the coalition and therefore will make the following priority actions:

- a) Ghana CSA platform Executive Council shall work to consolidate the governance structures of the platform by encouraging other members to host the Secretariat of the coalition as agreed in the governing document.

- b) Communication between the Secretariat and members of the platform at the community level shall be improved and be sustained.
- c) Networking with other existing platforms in nutrition areas shall be consolidated. For example the relations between the CSA Platform and the Private Sector platform shall be deepened through the Cross Sectoral Planning Group and the National Focal Point.
- d) Having revised and harmonized Ghana SUN CSA platform's advocacy strategy, its future work plan shall mainly be based on nutrition advocacy
- e) Strengthening coordination efforts for the implementation of the nutrition programmes.
- f) Continuous training, sensitization and advocacy of stakeholders at all levels.
- g) Support the enforcement of the regulations
- h) Further improve the data management and reporting system
- I) Continuous engagement and updating partner institution on progress