

SUN Movement Multi-Partner Trust Fund



ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT COVER PAGE

Participating Organization: Catholic Relief Services	Priority Sector covered: Nutrition
Programme¹ No. and Programme : MPTF- Window2 – 024 Title: Establishing Coordinated Rwandan Civil Society Alliance Engagement in Scaling Up Nutrition	Report Number:
Reporting Period: From 01/06/2014 to 31/12/2015	Programme Budget: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US\$ 291,269 (275,519 Direct Costs + 15,750 Indirect Costs to WFP): 2. Grant amount : US\$240,742 3. Cost share: US\$50,527
List Implementing Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Participating UN or Non-UN Organization: WFP</i> • <i>Other International Organizations: Catholic Relief Services (CRS)</i> • <i>National (government, private, NGOs & CSOs): Society for Family Health(SFH)</i> 	Programme Coverage/Scope: <i>Specify in which region and/or national coverage/scope of the programme</i> National coverage

<p>Abbreviations and acronyms:</p> <p>BCC: Behavior Change Communication CiSA: Civil Society Alliance Rwanda CSOs : Civil Society Organization DPEM: District Plan to Eliminate Malnutrition MoH : Ministry of Health RNS: Rwanda Nutritionists Society SFH: Society for Family Health SUN: Scaling Up Nutrition</p>	<p>Programme Duration/Closed Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide the programme duration. 19 months</i> • <i>Report on budget revisions and extensions and provide the new dates.</i> • <i>Indicate if the programme has been operationally closed during the reporting period.</i> <p><i>The Programme has been closed</i></p>

Report Formatting Instructions

Kindly review the instructions below and follow them in the preparation of your report

- Do not put the narrative text into boxes and do not incorporate boxes, graphs, etc into the narrative report.
- Add additional information including charts, graphs, etc. as annexes to the report and clearly reference the annexes using footnotes or endnotes within the body of the narrative.
- Number all sections and paragraphs as indicated below.
- Format the entire document using the following font: 12point Times New Roman & do not use colours.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SUN Global Multi-partner Trust Fund (MPTF), through the World Food Programme, provided financial support for the initial establishment of a Civil Society Alliance for Scaling up Nutrition in Rwanda, co-led by Catholic Relief Services/Rwanda (CRS) and the Society for Family Health (SFH) with the collaboration of Rwanda Nutritionists Society (RNS). The project lasted for 19 months from June 2014 to December 2015, and focused on three strategic objectives:

- SO1: A Rwandan civil society alliance for nutrition is established.
- SO2: Rwandan civil society stakeholders contribute to scaling up nutrition:
- SO3: Rwandan nutrition civil society actors are linked to SUN stakeholders

Main achievements are summarized as follows:

- The Civil Society Alliance Rwanda (CiSA Rwanda) was established through several steps, including:
- Mobilization around Scaling Up Nutrition of civil society organizations working or supporting nutrition in 29 districts and CBOs in the community
 - Conducting a mapping exercise to understand all nutrition stakeholders across districts in Rwanda;
 - Drafting and validating initial Terms of Reference for the Alliance as well as organizational statutes;
 - Establishing 29 SUN committees at district level, consisting of local organizations involved in nutrition.

- Convening two National General Assemblies of 70 civil society organizations. During the General Assembly, members signed statutes with the notary agreement and elected an executive committee. The General assembly have elected the committee for the alliance

The TORs and organizational statutes were included in the Alliance's application to the Rwanda Governance Board for formal recognition as a platform (which is ongoing).

To assure engagement of the new district SUN committees and to provide financial support for creative approaches to addressing nutrition problems in communities, the project also issued competitive small grants to 12 district-level SUN committees to organize mobilization, coordination and advocacy activities. These events were successful in increasing visibility and awareness of the SUN movement locally among populations and/or local officials; and in disseminating nutrition behavior change messages to residents of communities with high rates of malnutrition.

Additionally, the project ensured that a broad cross section of civil society could contribute to scaling up nutrition activities through a BCC program organized in community to reinforce multi-sectoral partnership.

- interpersonal communication events, reaching 42 communities composed of 1,001 persons, with events ranging from 25 to 83 participants each;
- 12 mobile video unit sessions reaching 3166 persons were carried out;
- 30 meetings promoting *1,000 Days* promotion were organized at district level and 38 at community level. Those well-attended events further assured the visibility of the nascent movement in Rwanda while supporting the nutrition behavior change efforts specified in Rwanda's national plans and the District Plans to Eliminate Malnutrition (DPEMs).

Throughout the year, SUN Rwanda was engaged in a dialogue with the SUN Global movement and was able to collaborate and take lessons learned from other SUN countries' experiences. Specifically, during the project period the Civil Society Alliance sent delegates to the SUN East Africa Regional Meeting and also took part in conference calls and events organized by SUN Global. These actions helped to solidify the links between Rwanda's efforts and the global movement, assuring communication remains strong beyond the life of this start up project.

With a strong Civil Society Alliance Rwanda (CiSA) membership and a full Executive Board in place, and with the mobilization, advocacy and behavior change communication work which occurred in nearly all of the districts of Rwanda during the life of the project, the Rwanda SUN Civil Society Alliance got off to a strong start.

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

I.1. Provide the main outcomes and outputs of the programme implementation.

The Rwandan government joined SUN in 2011 and in 2014, Catholic Relief Services received support from SUN Global Multi-partner Trust Fund to establish a National SUN Civil Society Alliance. The goal of the Rwanda SUN Project is that “**Nutrition civil society actors are mobilized to effectively support the Government in scaling up nutrition in Rwanda.**”

The project pursues this goal across three strategic objectives:

- **Strategic Objective 1:** A Rwandan Civil Society Alliance for nutrition is established.
- **Strategic Objective 2:** Rwandan civil society actors contribute to scaling up nutrition.
- **Strategic Objective 3:** Rwandan nutrition civil society actors are linked to SUN stakeholders.

Each of the following outcomes contributed to the Strategic Objectives above.

- **Outcome 1.1:** Inclusive map of civil society stakeholders by district established and updated
Output 1.1.1: CS stakeholders by district identified
- **Outcome 1.2:** Rwanda SUN Civil Society Alliance establishes and approves foundational documents for registration as a platform
Output 1.2.1: Terms of reference that incorporate membership criteria, roles and responsibilities
Output 1.2.2: Organizational statutes are developed for the Rwanda SUN CiSA and approved by the General Assembly
- **Outcome 1.3:** CS Alliance coordinating mechanisms established and functional
Output 1.3.1.: Platform events are conducted at district level
Output 1.3.2.: CS Alliance coordinating mechanisms established and functional
- **Outcome 2.1:** CS Alliance strengthens national and multisectoral partnerships towards scaling up nutrition
Output 2.1.1. Nutrition related discussion activities and presentations take place at the community level
Output 2.1.2. Advocacy sessions are held
Output 2.1.3: District SUN Committees organize their own district-level SUN events
- **Outcome: 3.1:** Alliance members participate in SUN Learning Network with other SUN CSAs
Output 3.1.1.: Participation in global Scaling Up Nutrition events
Output: 3.1.2.: Rwanda Nutrition CS alliance coordinates with SUN UN and donor networks.

I.2.: Indicate the main implementing partners, their roles and responsibilities, and their interaction with the Participating UN or Non-UN Organization.

This project, has been implemented by CRS in collaboration with the Society for Family Health (SFH) and Rwanda Nutritionists Society (RNS).

- CRS served as the coordinating focal point organization to initially coordinate the establishment of the Alliance and collaborated with RNS in the mapping and sensitization of civil society organizations at the district level
- SFH/Rwanda was in charge of mobilization of stakeholders through different communications channels and advocacy workshops, led the development of a communication and advocacy strategy, and engage private sector stakeholders.
- RNS engaged district-level government and civil society stakeholders to form district-level CiSA committees.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

- The total budget for the program: US\$291,269 (\$275,519 Direct Costs + \$15,750 Indirect Costs to WFP):
- Grant amount: US\$240,742
- Cost share: US\$50,527

There was no budget revision. However a no-cost extension of one month was requested and obtained to provide more support to reinforce the new Alliance, particularly at district level.

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

III.1.: Summarize how national alliances and/or other governance mechanisms are being primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context.

Many organizations and government actors are implicated in the issue of reducing chronic malnutrition in Rwanda, and the government has a strong Strategic Plan and National Food and Nutrition Policy to accelerate these efforts, with clear roles and guidance for civil society actions. However, coordination amongst entities acting in this domain has not been optimal. Without centralized information about what all nutrition actors are doing and where, there has been strong potential for significant duplication of effort and uneven coverage, both in terms of geographic areas and specific nutrition actions addressed by interventions. Furthermore, it is difficult to advocate effectively for increased investment in nutrition at different levels when reliable information about the current situation has not been available.

The Civil Society Alliance in Rwanda was established in October 2015 during the SUN second General Assembly. The alliance began by requesting to be recognized by the Rwanda Governance Board as a platform.

At the local level, in addition to mobilization meetings in the community, the CiSA district committees' efforts to organize mobilization events with a small budget was an effective tool for engaging stakeholders at the local level in activities to scale up nutrition. Districts used small grant funds for a wide variety of worthwhile advocacy, planning, and community mobilization activities to advance the movement, while raising awareness of local authorities and other stakeholders on the nutrition situation in the district.

III.2.: Provide details on alert/monitoring/tracking system(s) that are being used to identify and possibly mitigate risk factors and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing programme.

After the mapping activity, the report of mapping results was presented to CiSA district committees. The presentation includes attractive and discussion-provoking visuals highlighting differences across districts. The district-level detailed information is particularly valuable in terms of local advocacy, allowing each district to understand what organizations operate in their area and where gaps in coverage exist, both in terms of geographic coverage of interventions and technical coverage of different nutrition actions. In the district stakeholder workshop where results were presented, they generated a good deal of interest and discussion around the reasons behind stark differences in district indicators and what can be done to see improvement. It is expected that the results of the study will continue to be utilized as an advocacy tool by the SUN Civil Society Alliance beyond the project period. District-specific briefs were developed for this purpose.

The nature of the objectives, focused on high-level coalition building and coordination, and the short time period of the project (just 18 months), did not lend themselves to formal evaluation or assessment of changes in nutritional outcomes or behavior change (with regards to feeding practices, for example). The stunting rate in Rwanda is indeed on a downward trajectory according to the most recent DHS figures, and while this gradual and nationwide decline could certainly not be attributable to the actions of one particular short project, it is reasonable to say that the awareness-raising and mobilization activities carried out under SUN have made a strong contribution to this collective effort. During activities conducted at community level, both by district committees and by SFH, it was clear that knowledge of 1,000 Days practices improved in the population attending mobilization and sensitization events.

III.3.: Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

No assessment done.

IV. Results

Information in this section includes:

IV.1.: An assessment of the extent to which the programme component is progressing in relation to the outcomes and outputs expected for the reporting period.

Most outcomes and outputs set out in Rwanda's SUN project documents were 100% met during the project period. Below is a qualitative analysis of the progress made on each outcome and achieved results.

Outcome 1.1 Inclusive map of CS stakeholders by district established and updated

1.1.1 Mapping civil society stakeholders

30 districts of 30 are mapped and nutrition and the REACH report available. This outcome was 100% achieved through following activities:

An updated and inclusive map of nutrition stakeholders was an important aspect of this project as a means of directing nutrition advocacy and coordination efforts. This was carried out between Q2 and Q3 of the project period. To carry out this mapping exercise of stakeholders and civil society organizations contributing to nutrition-sensitive or nutrition-specific actions at both national and decentralized (district) levels, SUN civil society partners worked closely with UN REACH. The mapping was finalized in Q3 and was approved by the Ministry of Health through the National Food and Nutrition Technical Working Group. The UN REACH consultant who assisted with the study presented the results in various forums related to nutrition, including to SUN district stakeholders and at the SUN General Assembly meeting, both organized by CRS with the SUN Executive Committee. The mapping provides:

- an overview of the principal stakeholders in nutrition,
- where they work,
- the core nutrition actions they are supporting,
- estimates of the targeted population they are reaching
- and the core actions which need to be scaled up.

Institutions mapped during the exercise included six ministries, six UN agencies, 22 main NGOs, 18 supporting NGOs, 13 bi/multilateral donors and over 40 food and nutrition stakeholders mentioned as implementing partners. Among the findings related to coverage, the mapping study revealed that some districts have more stakeholders than others, and some core nutrition actions are not completely covered.

Three actions are being implemented at scale in all provinces: providing iron and folic acid supplements to pregnant women; providing Vitamin A Supplements to children 6-59 months; providing deworming tablets to children 12-59 months and 5-15 years

At the same time, certain other nutritional interventions have much more uneven coverage—such as interventions to address and prevent diarrheal disease in children, which has a strong link to malnutrition. It is important to note where intervention coverage is weaker so that organizations can support efforts to strengthen these areas.

Although participation in the mapping exercise was good, it did not aim to be 100% comprehensive, particularly at the grassroots (below district) level. Thus, the mapping of small local civil society organizations at district level is considered a continuous exercise; as more information is obtained, district SUN Committees have been encouraged in workshops with the mapping consultant to add these and include them in mapping materials, making the report a “living document.”

Outcome 1.2.: Rwanda SUN Civil Society Alliance establishes and approves foundational documents for registration as a platform

One hundred percent of the target was met since TORs were complete and validated by the SUN CiSA. The finalized SUN CiSA TOR document with signatures of member organizations is available.

1.2.1. Terms of reference that incorporate membership criteria, roles and responsibilities

The terms of reference were an important initial document to clarify the role of the Civil Society Alliance. These were drafted in advance of the first General Assembly meeting which was held in

Kigali on March 25, 2015. At the meeting, attendees were able to validate the TORs and suggested revisions were made before the document was signed by around 70 attending organizations.

1.2.2. Organizational statutes are developed for Rwanda SUN Civil Society Alliance and approved by General Assembly

As recommended by the first meeting of the General Assembly of the Rwanda SUN Civil Society Alliance, the elected Executive Committee received support to develop the organizational statutes and all legal documentation required in order to proceed with the official registration of the alliance with the Rwanda Governance Board.

To this end, in Q4, the Executive Committee enlisted a local lawyer with expertise in the area of legal registration of organizations in Rwanda. The lawyer helped to produce the draft statutes ensuring that all required issues were covered in the statutes, such as the voting process, composition of committees, and roles and responsibilities. Once these statutes were initially produced in Kinyarwanda, French and English, the Executive Committee members reviewed them in close detail and made additional changes.

Further advancing the registration process, the second meeting of the SUN CiSA General Assembly allowed for the member CSOs to review the statutes as a group and to provide further feedback and comments. These comments were incorporated and changes made before organizations officially signed onto the statutes. The list of all organizational member signatories was added to the application for registration of the SUN CiSA.

The registration process is ongoing because approval of organizational applications depends on the timeline of the Rwanda Governance Board. However, necessary steps are being taken and the registration process is expected to proceed without issues.

Outcome 1.3: CS Alliance coordinating mechanisms established and functional

- 29 out of 30 districts were mobilized (96.6%). One district (Rubavu) was non-responsive to multiple requests for meetings with SUN mobilizers (from both RNS and CRS).
- The target was two national-level events. The target was met 100%.

This was achieved through the following activities.

1.3.1 Mobilization of district-level platforms

To put in place a civil society network for CSOs implementing nutrition-specific and -sensitive interventions, and to raise interest around the fight against malnutrition in the district with the aim to involve them in the fight against malnutrition, 29 district SUN events were organized and carried out with local partner RNS, inviting civil society actors within the districts. With the support of district local authorities, district SUN committees were elected in each district composed of the chair, co-chair, secretary, and advisors. These meetings were used to create synergies and networking among CSOs. Participating civil society organizations committed to support this network for an effective fight against malnutrition and achieve tangible and sustainable results in promoting awareness of and commitment to improved nutrition practices in their communities.

Elected district SUN focal points from 29 of 30 districts then led the process of ensuring engagement of their district's nutrition activities. During Q4, a call for applications was released for district committees to propose nutrition events to be carried out in their districts (see output 2.1.3 below), and the focal points were designated to lead this process. As the initial SUN project transitions out, the focal points will continue to lead civil society engagement from their district in the alliance, and will represent the district in national coordination and advocacy efforts which are part of the SUN CiSA's work plan moving forward. A meeting with District focal points just before project closeout allowed for Executive Committee members to keep districts engaged and to discuss their very important role in Rwanda's SUN activities into the future.

1.3.2 Mobilization of national level platforms

Nationally, the SUN CiSA General Assembly forms the core decision-making body for SUN civil society. The General Assembly is composed of all organizations which are signatory to the statutes of the SUN Civil Society Alliance in Rwanda. During the project period, the General Assembly was convened on two occasions to solidify the organization and functioning of the CiSA as an independent platform to advance nutrition.

The first convening of the General Assembly took place on March 25, 2015 and included 59 representatives of organizations working on nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. The meeting focused on presenting the goals and objectives of the SUN Movement globally and in Rwanda, and presenting the draft Terms of Reference for comment and revision by the larger group. Out of this first meeting came a finalized Terms of Reference and the election of three of the Executive Committee positions: Chair (SFH), Co-Chair (CRS), and Interim Secretariat (Catholic University of Rwanda).

The second General Assembly meeting was organized on October 15, 2015, in partnership with SFH, RNS, and CRS. This meeting included all of the CiSA organizations present at the first meeting, in addition to new local organizations not yet registered, as well as participants from the donor community and members of local media outlets covering the event. The main objectives of this meeting were to present SUN activities thus far, to elect the additional committee members and to present and revise the organizational statutes for submission to the government.

From this meeting, additional revisions were made to the statutes and a total of 70 organizations are now signatories to the SUN CiSA. The following additional Executive Committee positions were elected and office holders are in place, with representation of both local and international CSOs.

Secretary: Catholic University of Rwanda (CUR)

Sector Advisor, Health: Rwanda Nutritionists Society (RNS)

Sector Advisor, Agriculture: Concern

Sector Advisor, Education: ADEPR

Sector Advisor, Social Protection: FIOM Rwanda

Sector Advisor, Women's Empowerment: Land o' Lakes Foundation

Sector Advisor, Development and Poverty Reduction: African Evangelistic Enterprise (AEE)

Additional committees were elected based on the terms laid out in the organizational statutes, as follows:

Audit Committee:

Chair: ASOFERWA (Chair); ATEDEC, Rural Development Initiative (RDI) (Members)

Dispute Resolution Committee: FAASI Rwanda, ARDI, VCO

With these members now in place, the first meeting of the full Executive Committee took place in November 2015. This meeting allowed for action planning and for a discussion of where to seeking new sources of financial support to ensure sustainability of SUN CiSA activities.

Outcome 2.1: Civil Society Alliance strengthens national and multi-sectoral partnerships toward scaling up nutrition

One hundred percent of events and advocacy meetings at community level was met through following activities

2.1.1 CSO members organize and conduct interpersonal communication (IPC) sessions at community level through CBO cooking demonstrations.

IPC events, which deliver behavior change messages in a small-group format, were important to raise the visibility of SUN activities in the general public as well as to provide behavior change messaging around malnutrition. A total of 42 IPC sessions, coordinated by implementing partner SFH, were held in communities, exceeding overall target of 40 sessions. The IPC sessions on scaling up nutrition were conducted in districts across the country and reached 1001 participants with the objective of supporting positive behavioral changes and good nutritional practices to contribute to the reduction of stunting and wasting as indicated in the National Nutrition Strategic Plan. Additionally, behavior change communication material was printed and distributed to support the objectives of these sessions (5,000 copies).

IPC sessions presented focused messages targeted towards caregivers of children under five years of age and pregnant women. Key messages focused on consumption of a balanced diet during pregnancy; exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life; maintenance of hygiene and good sanitation practices in the household; immunization of children against preventable diseases, and demonstration of how to prepare nutritious food within the family.

2.1.1.2 CSO members organize mobile video unit sessions at community level

The mobile video unit allows for behavior change messages to reach a wide audience in a compelling, interesting video narrative format. For this reason, the MVU was incorporated into BCC actions for the SUN project. MVU sessions took place in communities in public meeting places where large groups of people could gather for viewing. These sessions occurred in the evening, after the daytime hours were spent notifying local communities of the time and location of the sessions. Messages in the mobile video center around and reinforce the First 1,000 Days Nutrition campaign, and interpersonal communication always accompanied the video sessions. Throughout the project, mobile video unit session reached a total of **3,166 persons**. Additionally, 5,352 people were reached via live mobilization prior to the video events, in which the participation of local celebrities and community leaders served to draw participants to hear the message.

A total of twelve MVU sessions were carried out in different district, meeting project targets.

2.1.2. Meetings are organized at community and district level to engage CBOs, FBOs, women’s organizations, and Right to Food groups in the Scaling Up Nutrition movement with 1,000 days messages.

A total of 38 meetings were organized at community level, and 30 meetings at district level, in different districts. These meetings served to sensitize participants about the 1000 days campaign and prevention of child stunting as well as to mobilize and bring together and engage nutrition focused Civil Society Organizations in scaling up nutrition. The community meetings targeted CBOs leaders, FBOs, women’s organization and Right to Food Groups on scaling up nutrition (SUN). Furthermore, other concerned members for example, those in charge of nutrition at health centers, hospitals and local leaders were also invited to these meetings. The district meetings focused on the main actors in nutrition at district level but had the same focus on the 1,000 Days campaign.

The message provided during these meetings focused on working together to scale up nutrition and discussed about the composition of balanced diet and on the planning of activities needed to reach the government’s set goals around nutrition. One of the recommendations from these meetings was the inclusion of men in target groups as their willingness and support can make a positive impact. In addition, including messaging for young girls in the future, for better sustainability of good nutrition practices, future was discussed. These meetings continue to improve coordination and ensured that nutrition civil societies, stakeholders and other involved members of the community understand the needs and priorities of communities and motivated them to collaborate more in scaling up nutrition.

2.1.3. District SUN Committees organize their own district-level SUN events with small grants

In total, 29 of 30 districts in the country were sensitized and mobilized through partner RNS to elect SUN Committees, including designating a focal point as described above. This focal point was charged with ensuring continued engagement of members at the district level. To ensure strong initial engagement and to support this process of mobilization from the start, the SUN project included a small-grants program, whereby district SUN committees could submit an application to the SUN CiSA for funding to organize an event to advance nutrition in their area. Grants were not to exceed \$1,500 USD in value, and the application process was competitive—not all districts could be funded, and proposals were judged and ultimately selected for funding by a team including the CiSA Executive Committee and several others on the basis of their quality, feasibility and relevance, including evidence of understanding of the demonstrated link between the nutrition situation in their district and the proposed intervention. A wide range of events received funding: public community events on nutrition-related topics (community discussions, theatrical events, concerts and educational competitions around topics such as 1000 Days, methods for promoting dietary diversity at the household level; cooking/food transformation demonstrations; growth monitoring, linkages between good hygiene and nutrition, promotion of male engagement in household nutrition) and events aimed more towards mobilization of civil society and government, such as conferences on government actions on nutrition, and advocacy meetings with district government officials around nutrition, particularly around District Plans to Eliminate Malnutrition (DPEMs)).

Two rounds of competition took place. In the first round, a total of thirteen districts submitted project proposals and six projects were selected for funding. In the second round, eleven districts applied and six of these received funds. Events were as follows:

- **Muhanga:** The Muhanga SUN committee chose three sectors within the District and organized one event per day to mobilize key actors (local authorities, health and development workers, and religious or community leaders, national and local NGO representatives) in support of the SUN movement. Committee members introduced the SUN movement and then the participants strategized about supporting the key nutrition messages around 1,000 Days and male engagement within their sectors. These events were well received amongst participants and expressed a desire to continue to meet regularly to discuss progress.
- **Kirehe:** The Kirehe SUN committee organized an awareness meeting on SUN and nutrition with different civil society organizations working in Kirehe and local authorities. The meeting was attended by 62 participants, who were informed on: the nutrition situation in the District, actions that the government has put in place to fight malnutrition, the SUN movement and the role of SUN civil Society Alliance in supporting the government to eliminate malnutrition. At the end of the meeting, a district action plan for civil societies was developed and a SUN focal point in each sector was elected. The elected candidate promised to support the Scaling Up Nutrition up to the village level through the DPEM.
- **Kicukiro:** Kicukiro's event took the form of a meeting engaging 48 diverse stakeholders (including CSOs/FBOs, CHWs, women's organizations, and youth council members) in strategizing on ways to reduce the burden of malnutrition in Kicukiro district. After presenting the district's specific nutrition situation and discussing the SUN platform as well as ways that local organizations have been historically engaged, the bulk of the meeting consisted of group work where different types of stakeholders discussed and then presented on underlying causes of the problem, potential best practices, and points of action. A work plan with specific and tangible actions at different levels was developed and will be further elaborated and put into action by the District's SUN Committee.
- **Gakenke:** The event for Gakenke district focused on the revision of the the Gakenke district DPEM. This activity involved different civil society working in Nutrition in Gakenke district and district officials including: District Social Affairs Officer, director in charge of Health, Hospital Director, District Nutritionist, and the health centers representative, The event was carried out over two days and participant civil society organizations committed to .
- **Kamonyi:** The Kamonyi SUN Committee implemented a soy transformation demonstration and education day. Community-level staff of COCOF, a local CSO, facilitated the demonstration at the local health center, which had over a hundred participants. They demonstrated step-by-step how soy can be transformed into tofu as a rich source of protein, including preparing a vegetable-based sauce to further improve the taste and nutritional value of the tofu. Once the dish was prepared, the participants and their children each received small portions to eat.
- **Rwamagana :** Rwamagana SUN committee organized two events: a district mobilization meeting and a community event

- A one-day meeting with CSOs had an objective to mobilize civil Society organization on SUN. Thirty-two participants attended the meeting including local authorities and civil society organizations.

- Public community mobilization through competitions (song and poetry) around 1000 days as a window of opportunity to fight against malnutrition. The event was attended by about 200 community members. The 3 best songs and poems received prizes and will be used to mobilize the population around 1,000 days

- **Kayonza :** The Kayonza district SUN committee carried out two different events: a one-day meeting and a community mobilization event. The meeting to mobilize CSOs around SUN was organized at district level and 30 participants attended. The Community mobilization was done through a bicycle competition and theatre. Many people came out to follow the bicycle competition and theatres and the three top winners received prizes . The winners were also designated as Nutrition Champions to continue to support CSOs mobilization around 1000 days
- **Gicumbi:** The Gicumbi SUN Committee implemented a multi-day event in the sectors of Kageyo and Mutete. During these events, members of the SUN Committee and JADF led community demonstrations on cultivating a kitchen garden. A total of 213 people participated and 50 gardens were started. Additionally, eight local dance and theater groups were engaged in competitions to present nutrition messages through their art with prizes for top performers; 465 community members participated as competitors or observers. Twelve CSOs were implicated in the event. Additionally, during the event in Mutute, 25 malnourished children were identified and referred for follow-up. A follow-up meeting with Committee members allowed for reflection on the event and next steps.
- **Nyaruguru:** The Nyaruguru District SUN Committee organized a tiered competition for local dance and theater groups in the four sectors of Cyahinga, Muganze, Busanza, and Kibeho. Over the course of two days, initial competitions were held in each of these sectors with 3-4 competing groups in each sector. Six evaluators from the SUN Committee ranked the groups in terms of the quality of performance, clarity of the behavior change message, sector turnout/participation and use of additional material to present the message. The four best groups were invited to a District showcase on the fourth day, where each finalist group was awarded a monetary prize. The Representative of the District was also present to support and to reinforce the importance of the messages being conveyed to the competitors and the rest of the audience.
- **Gisagara:** The Gisagara SUN Committee, led by Catholic University of Rwanda as focal point, organized a community mobilization event including nutrition education with a cooking demonstration (incorporating micronutrient powders), live sensitization sessions and competitions for dance and drama. The event also included a competition testing knowledge of maternal and child nutrition with rewards for the winners. These events took place in four different sites within Gishubi sector. Events were well-attended and feedback from community members was positive. Also, many participants brought ingredients as a personal contribution to the cooking demonstration, where pregnant and lactating women and children were fed.
- **Rusizi:** The Rusizi SUN Committee organized two events for community mobilization using theater: one on Nkombo Island, a marginalized sector on Lake Kivu, and the other in Bugarama sector. Prior to the event the Committee organized a very well-received radio show which publicized the event and the SUN movement throughout the district. Both events were

well-attended and included performances by local theater groups. The Nkombo event took place at the Health Center where participants watched a performance about household decision making around nutrition and discussed why husbands sometimes do not reserve resources for the health of their families, instead spending the money on drinking or other pursuits. After the performance, health center staff gave a short talk on balanced diets for young children.

- **Ngororero:** coordinated a consultative meeting of 60 diverse participants, from District authorities, hospital employees and JADF members to representatives of the different sectors. The objectives of the meeting included familiarizing all participants with the nutrition situation in the district, mobilizing partners for improvement in this situation, and developing a concrete action plan including an M&E mechanism for achieving reduction in malnutrition. As a result of the meeting, among other commitments, the participants agreed to carry out regular coordination meetings on at least a quarterly basis and to harmonize communication channels among nutrition stakeholders
- **Gasabo:** The Gasabo District SUN Committee coordinated a consultative meeting of 60 diverse participants, from District authorities, hospital employees and JADF members to representatives of the different sectors. The objectives of the meeting included familiarizing all participants with the nutrition situation in the district, mobilizing partners for improvement in this situation, and developing a concrete action plan including an M&E mechanism for achieving reduction in malnutrition. As a result of the meeting, among other commitments, the participants agreed to carry out regular coordination meetings on at least a quarterly basis and to harmonize communication channels among nutrition stakeholders.

Outcome: 3.1: Alliance members participate in SUN Learning Network with other SUN CSAs

- 100% of Participation in global Scaling Up Nutrition events and
- 100% of SUN Global Conference calls and meetings were attended by Rwanda SUN Representatives

3.1.1.1 Participation in global Scaling Up Nutrition Launch meeting for East Africa

The SUN Regional Launch meeting in Tanzania was an important event to encourage information sharing and exchange of best practices among nascent SUN National Civil Society Alliances in East Africa (Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania Malawi, Kenya, and Rwanda). The SUN project sent three Rwanda civil society delegates and CiSA executive committee members to attend this meeting in May 2015. The overarching objective of the meeting was to share achievements, challenges, and to develop action plans based on the specific nutrition situation in East Africa. The discussion focused on the SUN civil society strategies used to prevent malnutrition and child stunting in East African countries. Each represented country shared their approaches, experiences, challenges and action plans on nutrition. Based on the the discussions during the meeting, it was determined that in Rwanda, there is a need to strengthen the SUN civil society as an independent and registered platform distinct from its member organizations; to establish an office and a permanent coordinator to follow up regularly on SUN activities and operations; and to put more effort towards local and international collaboration amongst stakeholders. After the meeting, the SUN CiSA-Rwanda intensified the process of developing statutes and becoming registered, and has taken further steps to brand itself as an independent entity

and ensure an effective internal operational structure as the initial funding period closes. As a result of attending the meeting, SUN CiSA members now have active SUN contacts within the region; they can retain contact and share information and ideas.

3.1.1.2. Communication with the SUN Global Movement

Regular communication by online correspondence was done in order to share with the SUN Global Office achievements and milestones in the establishment of the Rwanda SUN Civil Society Alliance. These achievements were featured on the SUN Global web page following the first meeting of the General Assembly in March of 2015.

There was also regular participation in conference calls organized by SUN Global, which provided another avenue for new information to be shared with SUN country movements worldwide.

IV.2.: Implementation constraints, lessons learned from addressing these and knowledge gained in the course of the reporting period.

- One of the challenges of the programme, which ultimately led to some implementation delays, related to the capacity of local partner organizations with regards to financial management and the organizational procedures required of CRS partners. Working in partnership is a cornerstone of CRS's programs worldwide and CRS/Rwanda remains committed to this paradigm, building capacity of local organizations while more effectively serving local populations. Nonetheless, the large number of local events to be carried out through implementing partner Rwanda Nutritionists Society (RNS), a voluntary professional organization without previous experience in this kind of implementation, presented a challenge, stretching the human resource capacities of RNS and necessitating more support and accompaniment than had been anticipated.
- Delays in partner reporting and financial liquidations, often requiring significant assistance from CRS, meant that many mobilization events within districts had to be postponed. Although the timeline of the initial mobilization activities extended beyond what was expected, 29 of Rwanda's 30 districts were still effectively mobilized by the end of the project period (the last one was contacted on multiple occasions, but showed no interest in participating in SUN activities). Despite some of the administrative issues related to a lack of paid staff, RNS was a strategic partner in terms of their work in nutrition and recognized presence in this area. It was thus useful to have this particular professional organization at the forefront of SUN activities within districts.
- Although participation in the mapping exercise was good, it did not aim to be 100% comprehensive, particularly at the grassroots (below district) level.

IV.3.: Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.

Going through the process of carrying out and disseminating the results of the mapping study have shown the power and importance of gathering and sharing data for successful advocacy. Having access to detailed information about each district's nutrition situation, as well as information about the actors involved in nutrition and what they are doing, has been an excellent starting point for the

SUN Civil Society Alliance's efforts to better engage actors from the national to district level. The findings will continue to be a valuable tool into the next phase of the CiSA's existence, as efforts to elaborate and carry out an evidence-based advocacy strategy are intensified.

V. Future Work Plan

- Looking into the next phase of its existence, the Rwanda SUN CiSA will work to increase its advocacy activities, provide more capacity-building and networking opportunities for member organizations, and assure financial and management sustainability as a platform. All of this will facilitate continued action and active participation in the Scaling Up Nutrition movement in Rwanda, supporting the actions of a growing number of partners towards the shared goal of eliminating malnutrition. Indication of any major adjustments in the strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned in the programme.