

# Quarterly Member Newsletter

January 2016



## Greetings from the SUN CSA Myanmar Secretariat

Happy New Year to all SUN CSA members and supporters! We look forward to working together to improve the nutrition of individuals, families and communities in Myanmar in 2016, and wish you all the best in the coming year.

It has been a busy few months for the CSA. We have been strengthening our Alliance through a mapping exercise aimed at better understanding what our members are doing to improve nutrition in Myanmar. At the same time, we have been working closely with the other SUN Networks to strengthen the Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) and contribute to policy discussions related to Myanmar National Action Plan on Food and Nutrition Security (MNAPFNS). In December, we also conducted our first Training of Trainers (ToT) program on monitoring the Order of Marketing of Formulated Food for Infants and Young Children.

Thank you for your kind attention and continued support!

### In this issue:

1. Greetings from the SUN CSA Secretariat
2. New member organizations
3. Update on mapping of CSA members
4. Monitoring the Order of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes
5. SUN CSA participates in meeting to strengthen the SUN MSP
6. Exchange visit opportunity for CBOs
7. Updates from the SUN Movement
8. Updates from the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN)
9. Coming up this quarter

### New member organizations

The SUN CSA Myanmar is composed of 47 different members: 31 local NGOs, 14 international NGOs, and 2 semi-autonomous government associations. Please join us in welcoming four new local organizations that joined the CSA this quarter:

- *Gold Myanmar*
- *Rhododendron Farmers Association (RFA)*
- *Cho Youth Development*
- *Kumi Women Development*

We look forward to working with you to scale up nutrition in Myanmar!

## Update on mapping of CSA Members

In October, the SUN CSA Secretariat began a mapping exercise to collect information on the work that CSA members are doing using a brief survey. To date, we have received responses from 34 organizations. Thank you to those who responded, and if you have not yet responded, please submit your survey as soon as possible. We are currently compiling results into a useable format before sharing with all CSA members.



## Monitoring the Order of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

The SUN CSA Myanmar has been actively supporting the implementation and monitoring of the “Order of Marketing of Formulated Food for Infant and Young Child”, which was released under the National Food Law in August 2014 in order to:

- Support breastfeeding;
- Ensure appropriate and safe use of breastmilk substitutes and introduction of complementary foods at the appropriate time; and
- Ensure the availability of adequate correct and comprehensive information on breastmilk substitutes.

In September 2015, the SUN CSA received a grant from the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) to support activities to strengthen monitoring and implementation of the Order, including: training on how to monitor the Order, IEC materials development and distribution, advocacy with government partners and the private sector, and awareness-raising in communities where CSA members are working. Key activities from this quarter included:

### *Training of Trainers (ToT) in Yangon*

The SUN CSA hosted a *Training of Trainers (ToT) on Monitoring of the “Order of Marketing of Formulated Food for Infant & Young Child”* in Yangon from December 15 – 17, 2015. Ten representatives from five different NGOs and two government agencies participated in the ToT. The goal of the training program was to equip participants with the knowledge and skills they need to a) monitor the Order of Marketing of Formulated Food for Infant and Young Child, and b) and to train others to monitor. Participants in this ToT will be responsible for conducting four follow-on training programs for Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in different States and Regions of Myanmar.



**New awareness-raising tool: “The Order in Cartoons”**

Also as a part of the CIFF-funded activities on the Order, the SUN CSA developed an awareness-raising tool called the “Order in Cartoons.” This booklet uses cartoons and simple language to present an overview of the Order of Marketing of Formulated Food for Infant and Young Child, why it is important, what it covers, and what individuals can do to support breastfeeding. Using the IBFAN “Code in Cartoons” document as a reference and incorporating feedback from participants during the ToT in December, a draft document was created and shared with the National Nutrition Center (NNC) and the SUN CSA Steering Committee for their feedback and approval.

We will be sharing copies of the booklet with all CSA members soon!



**CBOs nominated and selected to participate in follow-on ToT on the Order**

We are happy to announce that the SUN CSA will support training programs on the Order of Marketing of Formulated Food for Infant and Young Child for the following CBOs in 2016:

- Freeland Organization (Shan State)
- Green Network (Magway Region)
- Chan Myae Metta Cooperative Society (CMMCS) (Rakhine State)
- Rhododendron Integrated Development Association (RID) (Chin State)

After an inclusive and participatory nomination process, these CBOs were selected based on the following criteria:

- Interest in participating;
- Ability to contribute adequate number of staff;
- Current implementation of nutrition activities;
- Geographic area.

To CBOs that were not selected for this round, we will prioritize your participation in our next training opportunity!

**SUN CSA participates in meeting to strengthen the SUN Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP)**

The SUN Movement recognizes the importance of involving multiple sectors to address malnutrition. The causes of malnutrition are complex and inter-connected. Sustainable solutions therefore rely on different sectors of government- together with other stakeholders that support them- working in a coherent and coordinated fashion. In SUN countries, stakeholders work together to improve nutrition in multi-stakeholder groups or platforms (MSPs). SUN countries take their own unique approach to setting up MSPs. There is no prescribed method.

The MSP in Myanmar is convened by the country focal point, Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein, Director General of the Department of Public Health in the Ministry of Health. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the SUN CSA participated in a meeting with other SUN Networks in Naypyitaw to strengthen the MSP. At this event, the SUN CSA was invited to share its experiences in setting up the Alliance with all participants.



### **Exchange visit opportunity for CBOs**

The SUN CSA has funds to support exchange visits between civil society organizations in order to foster cross-learning and experience-sharing aimed at strengthening coordination among CSA members and improving the implementation of nutrition activities. We have invited CBOs to express their interest in conducting an exchange visit in the coming months. Once the Secretariat receives all the applications from CBOs, we will work with the Steering Committee to choose four or more CBOs to conduct exchange visits.

### **Updates from SUN Movement**

The SUN Movement Secretariat is currently collecting feedback from SUN Countries on the SUN Movement Roadmap 2016-2020. The Roadmap will detail how different partners in the SUN Movement can support the progress towards the achievement of the strategic objectives. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the CSA participated in the SUN Country Call to discuss the Roadmap, along with representatives from the other SUN Networks in Myanmar.

**For more information about the SUN Movement as well as the latest news and helpful resources, please visit <http://scalingupnutrition.org>.**

### **Updates from SUN Civil Society Network (CSN)**

The SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) conducted its annual meeting at the SUN Global Gathering in Milan on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The meeting was well attended by CSAs, with 31 out of 37 countries with established CSAs participating. The main aim of the meeting was to begin discussions around civil society's contribution to SUN 2.0 (2016 – 2020).

Over the three days of the SUN Global Gathering 2015, regional groups of CSA representatives met to discuss setting up formal regional sub-networks. Overall, the consensus in these meetings was that formalized regional groups would help develop cross-learning and coordinated regional advocacy, while being aligned with SUN strategic priorities and adapted to regional context.

Four groups are now in the process of being established: West Africa (with some francophone African colleagues from East / Southern Africa), East and Southern Africa, Latin America and Asia. The groups discussed different models for regional networks – with all wanting to gain from greater regional coordination without adding to workload or bureaucracy.

For more information about the role of civil society in the SUN Movement, please visit the SUN CSN blog: <http://suncivilsociety.net.wix.com/suncsnblog>

### **Coming up this quarter**

Key activities for the SUN CSA in the upcoming quarter include:

- Revision of the SUN CSA Terms of Reference (ToR), including the roles and responsibilities of Steering Committee members and chairpersons;
- Nominations and elections for a new Steering Committee;
- Continued engagement with other SUN Networks to strengthen the MSP;
- ToT programs on the Order in States/Regions where selected CBOs are working.

### **Interested in becoming a member of the SUN CSA? Any additional questions or feedback?**

Please contact us!

SUN CSA Program Officer

Khin Khak Khak Khaing Khaing Chaw

[khinkhekkhekkhaingkhaing.chaw@savethechildren.org](mailto:khinkhekkhekkhaingkhaing.chaw@savethechildren.org)

09450021282

SUN CSA Consultant: Jennifer Cashin

[Jennifer.cashin1@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.cashin1@gmail.com); 09250150427