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**PROGRAMME1 QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE**

***As of September 2015***

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| **Participating UN Organization:** | **The United Nations World Food Programme** | | | | |
| **Implementing Partner(s):** | **Concern Worldwide Malawi** | | | | |
| **Programme Number:** | **SUN-Window2-004** | | | | |
| **Programme Title:** | **“Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Scaling UP Nutrition in Malawi”** | | | | |
| **Total Approved Programme Budget:** | **US$ 428,000** | | | | |
| **Location:** | **Malawi** | | | | |
| **MC Approval Date:** | **28th August 2012** | | | | |
| **Programme Duration:** | **3 years** | **Starting Date:** | **1st May 2013** | **Completion Date:** | **31st December 2015** |
| **Funds Committed:** | **US$ 428,000** | | | **Percentage of Approved:** | **100%** |
| **Funds Disbursed:** | **US$ 302,587** | | | **Percentage of Approved:** |  |
| **Expected Programme Duration:** | **3 years** | **Forecast Final Date:** | **30/04/2016** | **Delay (Months):** | **4 months** |

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| **Outcomes:** | **Achievements/Results:** | **Percentage of planned:** |
| **Outcome 1.1. Capacity Building: CSO alliance established and effective in advocacy efforts** | * Data collection for the capacity assessment and landscape analysis has been completed. A draft report is being reviewed and will be disseminated * CSONA has submitted its application forms to the Registrar General office * Non Cost Extension for MPTF was submitted to WFP in August. | NA |
| **Outcome 2.1 Advocacy: Increased resource allocation and commitment to nutrition programmes through effective public awareness** | * Contributed to the Right to Food dissemination meeting where the nutrition bill in comparison to the Food bill was presented * Carried out a nutrition champion building workshop for MPs and CSONA members where Graca Machel made an appearance to reiterate the importance of nutrition * CSONA attended the RESULTS International Conference and was part of the panel sharing experiences on nutrition advocacy | NA |
| **Outcome 3.1 Communication: Households engage in aligned interventions that result in uptake of best practices** | * Part of the SUN learning forum organized by the government focal point DNHA * CSONA is developing a 2 minute promotional video that lay out the Nutrition for growth commitments and the need for their fulfilment * A presentation was made at Blantyre District Executive Committee as a way of introducing CSONA at district level. Blantyre is one of the districts that is supported by the Support for Nutrition Improvement Component (SNIC). | NA |

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| **Qualitative achievements against outcomes and results:** |
| **Civil Society Organization Nutrition Alliance Nutrition Platforms**   * Highlights from CSONA Secretariat * Activities for the Children’s Investment Fund foundation grant under Save the Children have kicked off. Save the children has drafted Memorandum of Understanding which is currently being reviewed. * In line with one of CSONA’s advocacy priority area which looks at effective and coherent mechanisms for district-level coordination and communication on nutrition, a Capacity Assessment and Landscape analysis was conducted between August and September. The assessment aims to bring out data collection tools and questionnaires for mapping out districts as well as mechanisms which CSONA can engage at district level within the framework of Nutrition Education Communication Strategy * CSONA has submitted its registration documents to the Ministry of Justice. It is expected that a certificate would be issued by the end of the year.   **Advocacy & Communication Initiatives**   * CSONA’s advocacy and communication strategy * An Advocacy and Communication Strategy document has been drafted. The document is under circulation and will be shared once approved by partners. * Objective one of the strategy that looks at increasing investments in nutrition by establishing a system to track and monitor budget allocations and financial resources as it relates national policies of relevant sectors as well as global commitments is supported by Save the Children under the CIFF project. Through the CIFF project a monitoring and evaluation tool has been developed to track progress towards the objective. * Nutrition Champion Building Workshop * In collaboration with the Graca Machel Trust, Save the Children (CIFF fund) and RESULTS Educational fund - ACTION's US partner, the Civil Society Organization Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) held a two days nutrition champion building workshop. The aim of the workshop was to identify mechanisms at which CSOs and parliamentarians can fully engage as nutrition champions at district level and feed into the national level. The meeting had 30 CSONA members, 13 Members of Parliament (MPs) in attendance that included representatives from the Parliamentary Committee on Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and Parliamentary Committee on Budget & Finance as well as Gender & Social committee. * To inspire and reinvigorate discussions, CSONA was privileged to have Mrs Graca Machel present during the morning deliberations to emphasize how important it was to advance nutrition and what role both international and national Civil Society has to enable success. She emphasized the need to be convincing enough for people who we debate with - our messages have to be clear, concise and understandable to the people we are trying to influence. Everybody has to be accountable- not only government – but also as CSOs we have a role to play in putting in place implementation mechanisms for the policy to be implemented. * The sessions ended with Chairman leading his fellow MPs in signing pledges to commit themselves to champion nutrition issues at all levels but also to continue advocate increase nutrition budget allocation towards the Road to Rio. * Next steps included;   + CSONA to liaise with MP Chair of Budget & Finance Committee to present the Nutrition situation against the budget allocation and N4G   + Organize MP Nutrition Budget tracking workshop to enable MPs to track commitments against allocations   + Develop an engagement road map for MPs and CSOs towards the Road to Rio   + MPs fact finding mission * Right to Food Dissemination Meeting * CSONA attended the Right to food research dissemination meeting that was held on 14 August 2015 at Capital hotel in Lilongwe. In attendance were representatives from Ministry of Justice, Trocaire, Land net, UN women High court commissions, OXFAM and CISANET. The aim of this meeting was for consultant from high court to present a report on gaps in the two draft bills- food security bill vs the nutrition Bill.With funding from FICA CSONA reviewed the Food Security Bill and Nutrition Security Bill. This dissemination meeting aimed to present gaps/similarities in the two draft bills. (N.B. There are two bills being developed in parallel. The nutrition bill is drafted by DNHA whilst the Food security bill was developed by OXFAM, CADECOM, Action Aid, Human rights commission who received funds from UNDP). * Highlights of the meeting   + The report recommends that the two bills should be merged because they share a common goal and there are similarities. Most of the members present were in agreement to this idea since there were mostly Agriculturists. However CSONA voted against the merge as it reduces the importance and prominence of nutrition security especially in an environment where the country still views food security as equal to nutrition security. Instead of margining we should look at how the bills can strengthened so that issues of nutrition are very visible. There is a need to be cautious – how are we going to balance the two that both their interests are addressed.   + However the meeting felt short as there was no representation from government to address views and perspectives being discussed.   + Other issues in the report that were discussed were around issues of marketing and regulation of prices where the report recommends that the bill should advocate for regulation of prices for nutritious foods. The meeting decided that this is an area that needs to be researched further.   **Engagement within other stakeholders and platforms**   * RESULTS International Conference * Through support from the Graca Machel Trust (GMT) and RESULTS CSONA attended RESULTS 35th International Conference (IC) in Washington DC. The RESULTS IC brought together more than 500 advocates from the U.S. and more than a dozen from international countries aimed to build skills, advance issue knowledge with world-renowned speakers, and was a chance to voice support for the end of poverty during an advocacy day on Capitol Hill or at the World Bank. This was an opportune moment r to learn even more about what our work and to share experiences. * As part of ACTION’s “Voices from the Field: Reaching the Hardest to Reach” I was part of the panellist shared CSONA’s experiences working in nutrition both from the advocacy side and working women and children in communities. Aside from the IC, several side meetings took place for international allies to share their experiences as well as networking opportunities. * Highlights from the conference   + The international allies’ workshop and constant check-ins during the IC was valuable. Since the allies came from different contexts (Africa, Asia & America) it brought about a range of perspective, diversity and a more in-depth discussion on what could possibly work in what context and further explored how certain challenges would be encountered.   + The first day of the international allies campaigning planning workshop which was focused on integrating citizen advocacy into campaign was beneficial and relevant. It oriented allies about the model that RESULTS uses to push its agenda as well as how it leverages voices from the field through its grass root volunteers. This was something that could be adopted in the Malawi and modified to fit the context.   + Of practical importance were the lobby meetings with Senate Houses at the Capitol Hill which showed a lot of preparation that goes into ensuring that lobby meetings are most effective. Volunteers certainly put a lot of effort in structuring the meetings, understanding the gravity of an issue, the accountability so far, the allies, the budgets, the member of congress who they are lobbying to and their history on voting for a specific bill/legislation and how that has translated into actual change. It was also an opportunity for us to share our experiences on the ground.   **Dialogue and engagement with government**   * National Nutrition Committee * CSONA attended the National Nutrition Committee meeting in July which is multi-sectorial platform for nutrition. Representatives from all country SUN networks were present as well as academia. The meeting aimed at providing feedback and updates on what has occurred in scaling up nutrition in the DNHA but also on the various technical working groups. The meeting was the first since DNHA was moved to Ministry of Health last year. The Principle Secretary of MoH mentioned that the coordination and oversight would not be compromised * One of the updates given by DNHA was that the national nutrition policy has been reviewed and is currently being edited and is expected to be approved by cabinet in November 2015. * Nutrition Emergency Cluster Meeting * CSONA attended the nutrition cluster meeting which was organized by DNHA following the humanitarian response meeting organized by the office of the vice president where the nutrition cluster was among the few invited clusters. The Vice President is very much interested in seeing the nutrition cluster championing the emergency response especially with regards to the impending hunger and malnutrition. He thus made a call that the nutrition cluster should be vibrant and submit an operational plan to his office.   **District Level advocacy and coordination efforts**   * Establishment of District Nutrition Platforms * A Scaling up Nutrition learning forum was held in July 2015 by DNHA. The meeting brought together nutrition experts from the government, NGOs and development partners across the country. In attendance were also district representatives from NGOs and Government who are implementing the scaling up nutrition project in their respective districts. * This was a meaningful interaction for CSONA to network with the various stakeholders in the SUN movement, especially from the district level and build working relationships for future collaborations and partnership. Moving forward the experience and lessons learnt will strengthen CSONA involvement and engagement in the district and national nutrition arena to ensure that it exercises its mandate effectively and efficiently. There is need for CSONA to discuss with DNHA to make a presentation in the next SUN learning forum session as it would be an opportunity for CSONA to raise its visibility but also to lobby support especially from the district people.   **Challenges**   * Learning visits between Zomba and Ntchisi district has proven to be challenge. Although a lot of preparation has gone into it, there some challenges with DNCC over DSA. * District nutrition platform for CSOs are being viewed as separate structure within the DNHA governance according to the NECS. There is fear among district CSOs of duplicating the roles of already existing district structures (District Nutrition Coordination Committee). It is envisaged that the capacity assessment will inform CSONA what mechanisms it should follow and put in place to avoid duplication or plug itself within the DNCC. * Resignation of the Advocacy and Communication Officer from Progressio – since the post is to build the capacity of CSONA; candidates do not fit the profile of a development worker. Discussions are being made with Progressio to ensure that such is avoided.   **Plan for the next quarter**   * Document & Policy Analysis to inform CSONA of nutrition environment and its enabling factors * CSO Budget Analysis Training workshop * Capacity assessment and Landscape analysis dissemination meeting * Learning Visits (Ntchisi, Zomba and Zambia) * National Budget Tracking and analysis exercise (Zomba, Mwanza, Karonga and Mchinji) * Facilitate formation of nutrition platforms in Rumphi and Chitipa * Web development consultancy * SUN global Gathering in Milan * The 6th African Day of Food and Nutrition Security in Uganda – activity supported by Graca Machel where plans are there to send MPs who signed Nutrition Champion pledges. |
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The term “programme” is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes.