ANNEX 4

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|  | SUN Movement  Multi-Partner Trust Fund | UN Logo |

**ANNUAL NARRATIVE progress report**

# REPORT COVER PAGE

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| Participating Organization:  Public Fund “Innovative Solution”  Kyrgyz Association of Salt Producers  Public Union “Centre of Monitoring”  Public Association“Alliance of Civil Society for Nutrition and Food Security” |  | Priority Sector covered: Health care, Agriculture, Coordination in Nutrition and Food Security, Business, CSO |
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| Programme1 No. and Programme Title: Creating of enabling environment/structural support to improve nutrition for the sake of justice and future generations in the Kyrgyz Republic |  | Report Number: |
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| Reporting Period:1 January – 31 st June, 2016 |  | Programme Budget: US$ 235,000 |
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| List Implementing Partners: |  | Programme Coverage/Scope: |
| * *UNICEF* * *Ministry of Health, National Mother and Child Health Center (NMHC), Republican Medical Information Centre (RMIC), Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration,* * *Members of Alliance of Civil Society for Nutrition and Food Security, Association of Communicators of Kyrgyzstan, millers, salt producers.* |  | *Specify in which region and/or national coverage/scope of the programme*  National coverage |

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| Abbreviations and acronyms: |  | Programme Duration/Closed Programme: |
| *List the main abbreviations and acronyms that are used in the report.*  *CSO – Civil Society Organisation*  *MoAM -Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration*  *MDG – Millenium Development Goals*  *MoH – Ministry of Health*  *NEG – National Expert Group*  *NGO – Nongovernment Organization*  *NMHC–National Mother&Child Health Center*  *NTD - Neural Tube Defect*  *FF – Flour Fortification*  *FS&N - Food Security and Nutrition*  *RMIC - Republican Medical Information Center*  *SUN - Scaling up Nutrition*  *UN – United Nations*  *UNICEF - United Nations Children’s Fund*  *VHC – Village Health Committees* |  | * *1 January, 2014 – 31 December, 2015* * *Programme extended till June, 2016* |

**Report Formatting Instructions**

**K*indly 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.

# NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

**Executive Summary**

This Annual Report covers activities of the period from April 2014 to December 2015 and describes key activities and achievements of the Project “Creating of enabling environment/structural support to improve nutrition for the sake of justice and future generations in the Kyrgyz Republic”.

The project activities are implemented at the national level, targeting high-level officials, advocacy and coordination between different networks and government sectors, although some critical activities are conducted at regional, districts and community levels as well.

From the total amount received, the first part $99,662 USD of the funds are implemented through three NGOs; and second part, $ 87,530 USD implemented by Kyrgyz CSO Alliance for Nutrition and Food Security.

In recent years, to achieve the MDG 4 and MDG 5 (reducing child mortality by two thirds and maternal mortality by ¾ till 2015) the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has focused its attention on nutrition of children and women and supported strategies to improve nutrition such as food fortification, supplementation and nutrition behavior change, and complementary feeding.

Although many evidences are provided for the multisectorality of the nutrition, in Kyrgyzstan it is mostly under Health sector responsibility.

The underlying causes of malnutrition lie beyond the health system domain. Main barriers to improvement and expansion of nutrition in Kyrgyzstan include:

- Lack of cross-sectoral coordination in nutrition and clear understanding and division of role and responsibilities between involved sectors;

- Lack of cross-sectoral policy document to improve nutrition;   
- Poor enabling environment and absence of fundamental nutrition legislation;

- Lack of understanding of importance of nutrition investment for the nation among decision-makers, non-government organizations, private sector, and general population.

It appeared that the state machine at the moment cannot provide effective communications both internally and among the population. Information flows are stuck at different levels and importance of nutrition is underestimated. Creation of a common space where can meet on a regular basis the business community, public sector, civil sector, and partners will facilitate participation in discussions, adoption of common goals, sharing commitment and collaborative solutions in nutrition.

The following data from the WB and UNICEF report[[1]](#footnote-1), *which proves that “improving the population’s nutrition through a combination of behavior changes, and strengthening and scaling up of existing nutrition programs, will recoup losses and actually improve economic performance. Further, direct nutrition interventions bring very high development returns. Effective, evidence-based interventions addressing the immediate causes of under nutrition are ready for scaling up. The estimated future economic gains in productivity and workforce size, if nutrition intervention packages scaled up are US$ 6.25 million in the Kyrgyz Republic*”, was very well accepted and discussed at high political level, and was a first step to talk about multisectoral nature of the nutrition.

Following the launch of this Report, Kyrgyzstan has joined the SUN global movement in December, 2011. UNICEF was identified as one of the Donor conveners. Currently regular conference calls, meetings, and reporting’s are organized and lead by UNICEF team, not by the Government.

The project consists of three main components that aimed to create and support institutional conditions to maintain national policies aimed at access of vulnerable population to quality nutrition in context of equity and fairness.

First component focused on establishing national, political, sustainable state structures and platforms for developing, monitoring of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive Policies in the country. Within this component the detailed analysis of an existing situation, namely available resources, capacity, budget allocation were conducted, which helped to develop database, plan of action and tools for scaling up nutrition interventions.

Second component ensures creating enabling environment for nutrition in the country. Main activities within these components are inventory of all existing laws and regulative documents directly and indirectly related to nutrition and quality of life.

Third component includes activities designed to strengthen the capacity of main stakeholders and raising awareness of the population in the nutrition.

The project aimed at finding CSO’s role in established sustainable multisectoral platform/mechanism for coordination and promoting nutrition in the country. All activities are planned in line and complimentary to the activities outlined in the National Nutrition Plan and was and are closely coordinated by the SUN Focal point and National Expert Group, which served as a SUN Network for Kyrgyzstan .

UNICEF as PO UN worked as a main facilitator between all networks including other UN Agencies, mainly WFP, Government, development partners, academia, business and CSOs.

**Main objectives of the project are:**

1. Coordination of efforts of government agencies, CSOs, business community, academic institutions, donor agencies and organizations through establishment of a multisectoral/cross-sectoral platform for integrating nutrition into mandates and institutional design and operation;
2. Harmonize efforts of donor organizations, development organizations, government, NGOs sector, business community, local government bodies on issues related to nutrition, including water supply, hygiene and sanitation, provision of services through mapping of actors, resources, achievements / practices;
3. Inventory of the national legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic for compliance with international obligations of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of human rights and development (including legal obligations, MDGs), synchronization of sectoral policies, development of legal mechanisms for implementation of nutrition policy of the Kyrgyz Republic through review and analysis of and changes in laws;
4. Increase capacity of state bodies, local self-government, CSOs, business structures in the competence and mandates that include issues on quality of life, human rights, provision of services;
5. Raising awareness of the policies developed in nutrition and benefits for development through media campaign;
6. Lobbying for a national coordination structure (Council, Committee, etc.) and mechanisms (Secretariat, Commission, etc.) to develop and monitor a coherent national nutrition policy through advocacy campaign;
7. Promoting the inclusion into national budget of the Kyrgyz Republic the budget programs of ministries and departments, implementation of sectoral nutrition policy and activities indirectly affecting the quality of nutrition (access to water, sanitation, hygiene, medical services) through budget analysis and monitoring;

**Key Achievements of the project so far:**

1. As it was planned within this project, the CSO Alliance had been established uniting more than 40 NGOs countrywide with its regional networks and further institutionalization is expected. This Alliance has its independent Steering Committee and Executive Board and clear Action Plan, which supports the National Nutrition Plan. Kyrgyz CSOs Alliance has joined SUN CSA Network in January, 2015;
2. Amendments into existing law on Flour Fortification was endorsed with active involvement of the CSOs Alliance;
3. The SUN Academia Network has been established, bringing more 30 scientists and national universities together, with the leadership of First lady.
4. The Business Network has joined the SUN Network, with representative of food and agriculture sectors.
5. Kyrgyzstan has approved its first State Food Security and Nutrition Program for 2015-2017, with clear role and responsibilities of the Government, DPs, as well as business and CSO network with common goal to improve nutritional status of the population.
6. All analysis conducted within this project are presented, discussed publically, and serving as policy advocacy tools;
7. The Kyrgyzstan SUN Website is created with link to Global SUN Movement site;
8. Multisectorality of the Nutrition is accepted at very high political level, and Food Security and Nutrition Coordination Body and link to SUN Movement is under discussion;

The project is expected to end in June, 2016. The main event National Nutrition Forum is planned for May-June, 2016. The event is going to be organised at the high level, with active involvement of all Networks. All analysis conducted within the Project will be presented. As main outcome of the Forum, it is expected the formalisation of the national SUN/ Multisectoral Platfrom of the country and signing of MoU with all key stakeholders and representatives of the networks on coordinated work on Nutrition to achieve concrete results.

To continue those efforts and sustain achieved results it is necessary to continue funding of the CSO Alliance. As the results if this project demonstrated, the CSOs with close collaboration with the Government is the best conveyer of the messages to all levels of the Government, and also could bring and unite all Networks (|Academia, Business, DPs, and Government) around SUN Movement.

# Purpose

* Provide the main outcomes and outputs of the programme implementation.

The project activities started from April, 2014. This report cover activities period from April, 2014 to January, 2016. Within this period several parallel activities has been conducted: to analyse the current situation, to learn the common understanding of the situation, and commitment of the stakeholders and capacity to deliver the services and work together, to improve the nutrition status of the neediest population through better coordinated and effective use of scarce resources. In parallel, the project aimed to raise awareness of the key experts from all relevant sectors of the government, Development Partners, Business, Academia and Civil Society on role of the Nutrition and Food Security in general and how SUN Movement with its principles can help.

Within the project period activities under Outcome 1, Outcome 2 and Outcome 3 highlighted in

Project proposal were implemented;

Outcome 1.

It is established the national, political, state structures and mechanisms for developing, coordinating, monitoring of nutrition policy

Output1. Mapping of institutions, resources, accomplishments/results / practices in the field of nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, access to water and health services

Output 2. Creating of a cross-sectoral platform of CSO representatives, business community, government agencies, donor agencies and development agencies, and academic institutions.

Outcome 2.

It is established national regulatory mechanisms for implementing nutrition policy

Output 1. Inventory of the national legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic for compliance with the international obligations of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of human rights and development (including legal obligations on MDGs), synchronization of sectoral policies, development of legal mechanisms for implementation of nutrition policy of the Kyrgyz Republic through examination and analysis of and changes in laws

Outcome 3.

It is created a favorable environment and structural support in society at national and local levels to implement nutrition policies.

Output 1. It is increased the capacity of state bodies, local self-governments, CSOs, and business structures that have competence and mandates for quality of life, human rights, provision of services.

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

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan as Donor Convener for SUN Movement for Kyrgyz Republic identified by the Government facilitated in this project as Participating UN Organization. All activities in the project were planned and implemented jointly with key stakeholders at all levels. To ensure the project implementation, monitoring and channel the funds UNICEF used internal procedures. One year contract was signed with three CSOs with leadership of PF “Innovative solutions”. In June, 2015 the Contract was signed with Public Association “Alliance of Civil Society for Nutrition and Food Security”. The project task was divided between two organisations; however, they are complimenting each other. The PF ”Innovative Solution” is responsible for conducting analysis, and assessments mostly, whereas CSO Alliance, are dealing with advocacy, nutrition campaigns and working in the regions.

1. **Resources**

In addition to SUN MTPF UNICEF contributed $ 62,000 USD to support the work of the Experts, translation of the documents, organisation of the event and development of materials.

1. **Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements**

* 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.

Conducted in December 2013 the first CSO Forum on Nutrition become a main starting point for CSO SUN Movement and key driving force towards establishing of multi stakeholders platform uniting more than 40 CSOs in the country around Food Security and Nutrition. Regular meetings, participation in SUN teleconference calls and involvement in advocacy campaigns and monitoring helped to understand its role and to establish legal CSO Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in KR.

CSO Movement in Nutrition and Food Security is a new phenomenon for Kyrgyzstan. Most of the information provided by the CSO is accepted by the Government either as not serious or simply critique. Use of evidence based and up to date information, professionally articulated and knowledge of global tendency, big network of supporters from national to grassroots level is helping to find own niche.

National MCH Centre jointly with the CSOs has developed the integrated monitoring tools of three main Nutrition laws in the country.

The representatives of CSOs are taking active part in the technical Working group organized by different Government Sectors in the area on monitoring and evaluation, as well as development of different by-laws.

* Provide an update on risk factors the alliance/governance structure faces in implementing the proposal and how they interface with the theory of change underpinning the original proposal.
* It is a big challenge to come to one vision and strategy for all. Each organisation has own mission and agenda and sometimes conflicting. Regular meetings, open discussions and capacity building of key players and members can help to mitigate risks.
* Most of the activities of the Project were linked to National Nutrition Plan, and approval of the Food Security and Nutrition Program, and were delayed (building of the National Coordination Platform, development of Strategy of MCP);
* The Government’s capacity is still weak to lead and coordinate all Networks. The existing Government structure is not allowing DPs, CSO and Business sectors be an equal partners.
* Most of the findings of the studies were accepted as a critique rather than lesson learn or tools for improvement, it took a lot of time, energy and resources to convince and promote.
* Due to uniqueness of the Movement – it is not easy to change the mindset of the people involved to work in coordinated, inclusive way;
* Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

Since beginning of the project the following studies and surveys were undertaken, all documents are in Russian.

1. Mapping exercises of the main stakeholders - Analytical Report and Interactive Map
2. Assessment of knowledge and understanding of Nutrition – Analytical report
3. Inventory of Regulative documents in the rea of FS and N - Analytical paper
4. The Functional Analysis of the existing coordination mechanisms in the country.
5. **Results**

Information in this section includes:

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

The most of the programme components are progressing as planned in relation to the outcomes and outputs expected for the reporting period. Due to delays of the endorsement of the State Food Security and Nutrition Program the exercises related to financial tracking are postponed. A lot of very useful analytical work is done and information collected which is going to be presented and used. CSO Movement in Food Security and Nutrition area has begun its action and recognised by the policy and decision makers, technical experts and donors.

* **Main activities undertaken**
* The National Working/ Expert Group (NEG) to develop relevant documents and strategies on Food Security and Nutrition Coordination mechanisms was established and endorsed by the Government. The NEG included experts from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, State Sanitary Inspection on Veterinary and Phytosanitary, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Emergency Preparedness, State Agency for Local Governance and interethnic relationship, and representatives from the Civil Society Organizations, Development Agencies and UN.
* Establishment of a research/expert group on mapping from the NEG
* Development of mapping methodology, testing,
* Conduction of baseline for mapping, data collection and data processing,
* Development of semantic map of nutrition problems
* Development of interactive software to visualise mapping
* Establishment of an expert group from the NEG to conduct inventory of KR legislation for compliance with the international obligations of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of human rights and development
* Analysis of sectoral policies on issues related to nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, access to water and health services;
* Inventory and analysis of legislation
* Public discussions on amendments to the legislation
* Regional Round tables, meetings
* Trainings, workshop
* Conduction of Functional analysis of stakeholders;
* Development and printing of leaflet on Multi sectoral platform on Nutrition;
* Involvement of new business partners in the network;
* The improved information system on flour fortification program through establishment of NTD Surveillance system;
* Development of the SUN Movement Strategy for Kyrgyzstan
* Development of implementation mechanism of the FF Law;
* Meetings, discussion to establish the SUN Academia;
* Development of the Communication Strategy for promotion of the Fortified Flour as example of multisectoral approach;
* Development of the wevsite of the Mulrisectoral Nutrition Plarform
* Advocacy work on National Nutrition Platform with Parliamentarians;
* Development of the Monitoring Guideline and instruments on realization of three Laws on Nutrition (Breastfeeding, salt iodization and flour fortification);

**Key Achievements of the project:**

1. The CSO Alliance had been established uniting more than 40 NGOs countrywide with its regional networks and further institutionalization is expected. This Alliance has its independent Steering Committee and Executive Board and clear Action Plan, which supports the National Nutrition Plan. Kyrgyz CSOs Alliance has joined SUN CSA Network in January, 2015;
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* Implementation constraints, lessons learned from addressing these and knowledge gained in the course of the reporting period.
* Most of the analysis related to Food Security and Nutrition are conducted at the very first time; very broad and involved many players and sectors; capacity of experts were also limited. It took some time to develop common understanding and approach. Most of the Experts were Government Employees and do not want to recognise own mistakes, lack of intersectoral coordination and lack of capacity.
* Another constraints were that fact that most of the NGO leaders are involved in other activities or projects and could not allocate full time.
* Due to high political and government staff turnover, more time was spent on re-training, re-involving and identifying new people;
* The pre-post- process of the Parliamentarian Election of the country, postponed and cancelled most of the planned activities;
* Still weak capacity and commitment from the Government;
* Lack of financial sustainability for the Project and for the further development of CSA Movement in nutrition.
* Key partnerships and inter-agency collaboration: impact on results.

Within the project implementation period key partnership was developed with MoH KR and Ministry of Agriculture as a main leading Government sectors for Food Security and Nutrition UNICEF is closely working with WFP, FAO, WB and USAID, as well as with Mercy Corp. Within UN Agencies, SUN UN Network was established and facilitated by WFP and FAO.

As a result of this partnership the new Amendments in the law of Flour Fortification was endorsed. Good partnership and understanding was develop with mass media, TV and Radio channels. Several presentations were made and will continue to collaborate with organisations working on Gender Equality and Human Rights within and outside UN network. Key partnership was developed with Academia and Agriculture/ farmers advisory services, business and media experts.

* Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.
* The CSOs Alliance for Nutrition and Food Security is very active on advocacy work with decision makers regarding not only the national goals but also Global Commitments.
* In the frame of Civil Society Initiatives the CSO Alliance developed and promoted with Parliamentarians the inclusion of issues related to Nutrition into their Election programs;

1. **Future Work Plan**

Information in this section includes:

* Priority actions planned for the following reporting period to overcome constraints, build on achievements and partnerships, and use lessons learned during the previous reporting period.

Priorities for the next period is the work toward creation of multi stakeholder’s platform, which will involve the following:

1. Finalisation of all surveys, exercises and sharing with key experts
2. Organising Stakeholders meeting to present the finding and agree on results;
3. Advocacy of establishing of a national Multi stakeholders platform, involvement of the Parliamentarians into Multisectoral Coordination Platform;
4. Communication campaign to support above mentioned activities
5. Capacity building of partners
6. Strengthening M&E system
7. National Forum on Nutrition with all stakeholders
8. National Information Nutrition campaign
9. Finalisation of the Strategy for Multisectoral Nutrition platform for 2016-2020.
10. Fundrasing

* Indication of any major adjustments in the strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned in the programme.

Experience shows that to get commitment from high decision makers (Prime Minister Office, and Parliament) make take longer time than is indicated in the proposal. As challenges for the establishing, the platform may be the upcoming Presidential Election and change/rotation of the Government.

* Estimated Budget required (including any major funding shortfalls).

To continue those efforts and sustain achieved results it is necessary to continue funding of the project. Additional $ 250, 000 USD for the next two years would require.

1. WB/UNICEF, Situation Analysis, Improving economic outcomes by expanding nutrition programming in the Kyrgyz Republic, 2011 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)