

SUN Movement Multi-Partner Trust Fund



ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT COVER PAGE

Participating Organization: World Vision International Burundi	Priority Sector covered: Advocacy
Programme¹ No. : MPTF- Window2 – 023 Program Title: Strengthening Civil Society’s Role in Scaling Up Nutrition in Burundi	Report Number:
Reporting Period: January 2015 – January 2016	Programme Budget: US\$ 209,059
List Implementing Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- World Vision International Burundi- Concern Worldwide- Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition	Programme Coverage/Scope: Burundi
Abbreviations and acronyms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- FARN: Foyer d’Apprentissage et de Réhabilitation Nutritionnelle- CSA : Civil Society Alliance- CSO : Civil society Organisation- NGO : Non Governmental Organisation- GNR : Global Nutrition Report- SUN : Scaling Up Nutrition <i>List the main abbreviations and acronyms that are used in the report.</i>	Programme Duration/Closed Programme: 18 Months (from May 01th, 2014 to October 30 th , 2015) + 3 months of no cost extension period (November 1st, 2015 to January 31st, 2016). Total programme duration: 21 months.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Burundi remains one of the countries in the world most affected by chronic malnutrition, with an estimated 49% of children in under five suffering from stunting in 2014. Burundi is officially a Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) country since 2013, and is one of the countries that has been selected to benefit from the Scaling Up Nutrition Multi Partners Trust Funds (SUN MPTF) to implement an 18 months project aiming at strengthening the role of civil society in addressing challenges related to poor nutrition. The project called "Strengthening Civil Society's Role in Scaling Up Nutrition in Burundi" is implemented by World Vision International Burundi in partnership with Concern Worldwide and the Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition.

This report covers the period from 1st January 2015 to 31st January 2016. During this period, some major achievements were attained, such as the set up and official launch of the Civil Society Network for SUN in the presence of the first lady on January 29, 2015, the set-up of decentralized nutrition coalition committees in two pilot provinces (Muyinga and Karusi) and the implementation of capacity building activities on nutrition advocacy both at national level and provincial levels. The project also sensitized other key stakeholders such as the representatives of the private sector and parliament members, and supported these to set up their network as part of the multi-sectoral platform for nutrition. The project further organized, in collaboration with the SUN secretariat, a joint field visit of nutrition interventions implemented by members of the Civil Society Network. The field visit included a multi-sectoral team composed of members of government, including the SUN focal point, members of parliament, members of CSOs, members of the private sector network, representatives of the academic network, etc.

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

The project is implemented by World Vision Burundi in partnership with Concern Worldwide and the Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition. All implementing partners have signed a MoU outlining their shared responsibilities in the implementation of the project activities. World Vision is leading the project implementation and hosts the project staff and assets.

WFP is the UN participating agency and supports the project by providing the appropriate budget needed for the implementation of project activities according to the agreed action plan. World Vision provides quarterly progress reports to WFP. Project stakeholders meet on a quarterly basis in coordination meetings to review the progress in regards to implementation of activities and make recommendations for the following period.

The main project outcomes and outputs implemented in 2015 are summarized below:

Outcome 1: Establish an effective, inclusive, & integrated CSA that contributes to the implementation of the national priorities in nutrition

Output 2: Establish the CSA

Following the successful set-up of the national civil society network for SUN launched in January 2015 by the first lady, the project initiated various consultations and sensitization events in 2 pilot provinces,

namely Karusi and Muyinga, for the set-up of provincial nutrition coalition committees. 40 organizations in Karusi and 21 in Muyinga attended the sensitization events facilitated by the SUN secretary at National level. These provincial coalitions committees were successfully established in April, from 14th to 17th, 2015. The project supported the newly established committees to develop their action plan and supported the strengthening of their capacities in nutrition advocacy.



Set up of Karusi provincial nutrition coalition committees

Output 3: Put in place the CSA communication & coordination mechanisms

The project supported the newly established civil society network to develop its action plan and facilitated quarterly coordination meetings to evaluate and to reflect on the progress made in regards to the plan, and to agree on future priorities. 7 members of executive committees at national level, and 5 members of coalition committees at provincial levels in each of Karusi and Muyinga provinces took part in the coordination meetings.



MPTF SUN project coordination meeting



Civil Society Network for SUN coordination meeting

Outcome 2: Contribute to multi-stakeholder national dialogue, public awareness, & consensus about under-nutrition & its solutions

Output 2: Engage the First Lady to champion for SUN

Thanks to the project's lobbying efforts, the First Lady accepted to become a national champion for nutrition and the SUN initiative, and was the guest of honor for the official launch of the civil society

network for the nutrition project in January 2015. In her speech, she committed herself to support the country's efforts to reduce the burden of malnutrition in Burundi.

The official launch of the civil society network gathered high level authorities and representatives of key international organizations involved in nutrition and development in Burundi. The launch was attended, among others, by the Minister of Health, the Minister of Agriculture, the SUN focal point, members of the Parliament, representatives of UN agencies, representatives of Development Agencies, and representatives of local and international NGOs with a high media coverage.



View of the participants at the official launch of the Civil Society Network for SUN



Speech of H.E the First Lady at the official launch of the Civil Society Network for SUN

The official launch was also an opportunity for the various NGOs involved in nutrition activities to share some of their achievements through a gallery-exhibition



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launch.doc

Output 4: Capacity building for CSO-CCs

Forty members of provincial coalition committees in Karusi and Muyinga provinces benefited from a 2 day training activity facilitated by WV staff. The training aimed at building their capacity in the area of nutrition advocacy in October 2015, using the Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) principles. Citizen Voice and Action is an approach used in World Vision programs to engage community members in their own development agenda, including awareness raising and holding authorities accountable.



View of a group of participants during the nutrition advocacy workshop held in Muyinga province (October 2015)

In partnership with the SUN Secretariat, the SUN/MPTF project supported a sensitization meeting facilitated by the SUN focal person, aiming at raising the awareness of the private sector on its important role to support the nutrition agenda in the country. At the end of the workshop, 14 participants from the private sector decided to set up their own network and to join the multi-sectoral platform. The project supported the nascent network to develop their terms of reference.



Nutrition workshop with representatives of the private sector

Outcome 3: Strengthen country accountability for progress in tackling under-nutrition

Output 4: Sensitize the media on nutrition issues & their role in nutrition promotion & advocacy

A 2- day sensitization session for media editors to raise their awareness on their key role in the prevention of malnutrition during the first 1,000 days of life was conducted. 38 participants attended the workshop, including 28 journalists. At the end of the workshop, the participants committed themselves to reinforce their engagement in the fight against malnutrition through advocacy and sensitization actions in their programs.



A journalist shares her views about fighting child malnutrition during a nutrition workshop for media representatives.

A Media synergy program of 2 hours was conducted with the participation of 4 local radio stations (National Radio, Radio Maria Burundi, Radio Nderagakura and Radio Culture) on issues related to nutrition. The audience (population from different provinces) had the opportunity to participate live on air and to ask questions and clarifications on different issues related to malnutrition and child care.

Output 5: Organize meetings, with the Key ministries, Parliament & Senate and support national nutrition events and campaigns

In collaboration with the SUN Secretariat, the project supported a sensitization workshop for 28 members of the parliament on aspects related to malnutrition in Burundi. Representatives of the civil society network, UN agencies network, and private sector network participated in the workshop as opened by the vice president of the Senate and facilitated by the SUN secretariat. The overall objective of the workshop was to initiate the process of the establishment of the Burundian parliamentary network to support the activities of the National Multi-sectoral Platform.



The Vice-President of the Senate giving his opening remarks at the workshop



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The project supported a national workshop on the costing of the National Multisectoral Plan in collaboration with the SUN Secretariat. The objective of the workshop was to define the priorities in terms of interventions under the National Multi-sectoral Plan and to have a clear idea on the costing process. The 29 participants came from various technical departments of the government that are involved in the costing process. The workshop was facilitated by SUN Secretariat in collaboration with the Finance Ministry consultant who produced the final costing for the multi- sectoral plan.

The project worked with other World Vision projects towards addressing a number of root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition through advocacy and sensitization efforts. Communities were therefore sensitized on Family planning, modern farming, hygiene and sanitation, but also on gender equality as ways of fighting malnutrition. In some areas, the number of couples adhering to modern

contraception methods more than doubled due to sensitization efforts.



A senior Advisor to the Governor of Muyinga speaks to the population of Gashoho Commune during a Family Planning campaign in February 2015



The project supported the 2015 "Stop at Nothing Campaign" calling World leaders to ensure Zero Child deaths.

Outcome 4: Enhance networking & learning of member organizations from other networks, SUN countries in the region, & global SUN Movement

Output 4: Carry out exchange learning with other networks in-country and regional and global SUN

The Chairman of the Civil Society Network for SUN Burundi, Sylvestre Mugabarabona from Burundi National Red Cross, had the opportunity to conduct an exchange visit to the Civil Society Alliance for SUN of Zambia. Zambia CSA is ahead and has already gained a lot of experience in networking that a nascent CSA like Burundi could benefit from. The visit was an opportunity to learn also about the coordination mechanisms put in place according to the various actors and organizations that are part of the Alliance, and to learn from the overall involvement of the alliance in the nutrition advocacy agenda at country level.

The project supported the participation of Burundi delegation (including a representative from the Civil Society Network for SUN and the SUN focal point) in the official regional launch of the 2014 Global Nutrition Report (GNR) for East African countries held in Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania) on May 29, 2015. The official launch of the GNR was also an opportunity for the representatives from the civil society alliances in the region to have their first face to face meeting where they discussed how to enhance their levels of collaboration at regional and global levels.

The participants finally signed a pledge committing themselves to support the achievement of the 2025 WHO global nutrition targets. The civil society alliances made a call at the end of the event for their respective government representatives to renew and strengthen their commitment for the upcoming Nutrition for growth summit to be held in Rio de Janeiro this year.



View of participants from East African Civil Society Alliances at the official regional launch of the GNR 2014.

Output 2: Document and share with CSOs evidence on nutrition sensitive and specific activities

A delegation made of representatives from different networks including the government network, the UN network, the parliament network, the private sector network, the researchers network and members of the civil society network of the SUN movement in Burundi conducted a field visit in the northern provinces of Ngozi and Muyinga to learn about best practices implemented in the communities by the members of the civil society network and by the United Nations agencies in a joint project with the Government of Burundi, with funding from the Swiss Cooperation for Development. This field visit was an opportunity to witness the tremendous work done in rural communities by various actors of the civil society and to share some of the challenges related to their daily activities. Some interventions relying on the use of available resources in the community to enhance the nutrition of the children like the positive deviance hearth programs and promotion of soya milk consumption were particularly appreciated by the visitors.



Participants in the field visit learn how to make a soya milk



The SUN focal point giving soya milk to a child in a FARN session

The project also supported the organization of an advocacy workshop for the members of the Civil Society Network for SUN, with the support of WFP and the Kenya SUN CSA, which provided the facilitators: Mrs Manaana Mumma, from the Regional WFP office based in Nairobi and Mr Titus Mung'ou, the chairman of Kenya SUN Civil Society Alliance. The objective of the workshop was to support SUN civil society organizations to develop a shared understanding of advocacy, to explore how advocacy can help to achieve nutrition objectives, to review best practices in communicating nutrition issues to non-technical audiences, to ensure that all 22 participants are able to learn from each other's experiences of nutrition advocacy and to build the skills and understanding of participants in selected advocacy tools.



Participants in the National Nutrition Advocacy workshop

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

- The project benefited as planned from matching fund provided by World Vision for the implementation of some activities. There were no budget revisions although the project was extended for 3 additional months as no cost extension.

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

- The civil society network has elected an executive committee in charge of the coordination of the activities. The executive committee met every 3 months to discuss issues related to the implementation of the action plan and the engagement of the civil society in nutrition advocacy both at national and regional level
- Socio-political instability with security implications is prevailing in Burundi since May 2015, and has affected the work of the network in the country. Few activities were thus implemented later as planned, or had to be adjusted such as the planned local engagement with donors for the support of the civil society network at the end of the MPTF/SUN project.
- A documentation of nutrition best practices implemented by CSOs in Burundi has been conducted with the support of the project. A soft copy of the document is provided below:

IV. Results

The project was able to meet most of its objectives.

- A civil society network for SUN is now in place and functional with more than 40 organizations with members from both national and international NGOs, with an executive committee elected for 2 years lead by the National Red Cross and hosted by World Vision Burundi.
- The project was able to mobilize the national authorities on the issues related to malnutrition and has engaged the First Lady to champion for nutrition
- The project initiated decentralized nutrition coalition committees in 2 pilot provinces and has built their capacities on nutrition and local advocacy
- The project supported the Civil Society Network to engage with other key stakeholders, with specific focus on the private sector and members of parliament. The project supported the set-up of their network for their engagement in the multi-sectoral platform
- The project was able to engage local media on the issue related to malnutrition with a workshop organized for media editors and journalists on the 1,000 days approach and the role of media in nutrition advocacy.
- The project supported the Civil Society Alliance to engage at regional level with its participation in the official launch of the Global Nutrition report in East Africa in May 2015 and the exchange visit with the Zambia CSA.
- SUN MPTF supported advocacy actions that led to the issuing of a Presidential decree on food fortification. The law renders mandatory the fortification of some food items and manufactured food product (maize flour, wheat flour, cassava flour, oil, etc.).

One of the lessons learnt are the necessity to work in coordination with other key actors involved in nutrition at country level including government, UN agencies, donor's community, CSOs for a greater impact. The collaboration with the SUN secretariat was another key success factor as it was easy to mobilize and engage more stakeholders through the SUN secretariat in the implementation of project activities.

The main challenge is the support of the Civil Society Network activities at the end of the MPTF project. The network hoped to engage with donors at local level, targeting mainly the EU, one of the biggest contributors in the development agenda at country level, but the current political and security crisis has affected these engagement plans for the moment.

V. Future Work Plan

The project came to its end with the reporting period.