

SUN Movement Multi-Partner Trust Fund



Final ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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Participating UN Organization:	The World Food Programme				
Implementing Partner(s):	Civil Society Alliance for SUN, Bangladesh (CSA for SUN)				
Programme Number:	SUN-Window 2-001				
Programme Title:	Scaling up nutrition by civil society in Bangladesh				
Total Approved Programme Budget:	US\$ 535,000				
Location:	BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh				
MC Approval Date:	August 28, 2012				
Programme Duration:	36 months	Starting Date:	October 2012	Completion Date:	September 2015
Funds Committed:	US\$ 535,000			Percentage of Approved:	100%
Funds Disbursed:	US\$ 535,000			Percentage of Approved:	100%
Expected Programme Duration:	36 months	Forecast Final Date:	September 2015	Delay (Months):	----

List of abbreviations

CSA for SUN	Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
FANTA-III	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MPTF	Multi-partner Trust Fund
NGO	Non-government Organizations
NNS	National Nutrition Survey
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN REACH	United Nations Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Nutrition
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

In 2015, CSA for SUN BD captures progress across the funded projects during the period in order to promote sustainable improvement in nutritional status aligned with SUN Movement emphasizing 1000 Days and multi-sectoral approach. We strives to create a strong, coordinated and vibrant civil society constituency alliance to support development and implementation of the Nutrition agenda under the leadership of National Nutrition Services and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

During 2015, CSA for SUN, BD worked closely with Government agencies - SUN country focal point, UN agencies, donors, academia, private and public sectors aligned with various nutrition policies, plan and programs in a coordinated manner to accelerate the progress in nutritional status of mother and children.

The network of civil society (as a member) has played an integral part in the activities of CSA for SUN BD this year, proactive in their district level activities, participating in events organized by the Alliance. Activities were implemented at different levels. Nationally, the emphasis was on engaging high level Government stakeholders and policymakers in various sectors (particularly, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs) and raising awareness using media and journalists (such as, TV talk shows, broadcasting '1000' days messages and orientation of journalists). CSA for SUN has been involved in the development of the revised National Nutrition Policy, working closely with the Government and other players. At a sub-national level, CSA for SUN was involved in advocacy events involving local government, community people and multiple stakeholders. CSA for SUN has also actively engaged with the global Civil Society and increased its linkages and networks.

CSA for SUN, BD assisted Government by involving all sectors throughout the country to track progress with evidence based research data and identify gaps and issues during each annual planning review meeting on nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific interventions. Moreover CSA for SUN, BD continued to follow the guidelines by NNS and work at the grassroots level.

In summary, CSA for SUN BD has been successful in bringing together different stakeholders into a common forum and brought into light the nutrition agenda from high level to grassroots. There is a clear need to invest in strengthening the activities of the CSA for SUN in Bangladesh as CSAs are the key contributors to enabling effective, equitable and sustainable scaling up of nutrition at all levels and essentially play a crucial role in promoting the mandate of the SUN movement in Bangladesh.

I. Purpose

In the decades since Independence, NGOs and CSOs in Bangladesh have contributed to successful implementation of large-scale government interventions (like Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP) and National Nutrition Program (NNP) gathering experiences and learning. Despite this, by 2012, there were still, relatively few CSOs with focus or capacity related to nutrition as a development sector. CSOs did not have any formal platform to raise their voice in the nutrition policy arena. Although there is a network entitled the “Nutrition Working Group”, it is largely driven by government agencies, donors, bilateral partners, international NGOs and UN organizations and does not represent CSOs exclusively.

Although there is considerable potential for the CSOs sector to contribute to the policy and designing of nutrition interventions/programs and tracking the progress of implementation, until 2012 there was no formal representative forum for CSOs working in nutrition in Bangladesh. There was no scope for CSOs to take part in designing national interventions and strategies or helping to track the implementation status of planned interventions.

CSA for SUN, BD has been formed in October 2012 as a representative body of relevant CSOs to improve their participation in dialogues with governments and international organizations and enable them to contribute and participate effectively.

The alliance seeks to create a strong, coordinated and vibrant civil society constituency in support of the further development and wider implementation of a nutrition agenda that will result in the sustainable improvement in the nutrition status of the people of Bangladesh.

II. Results

(i) Narrative reporting on results (Outcomes and outputs)

Outcome 1: A CSO Network in Bangladesh that is fully operational and successfully influencing policy making by 2015

There has been considerable progress on Outcome 1. In 2015, CSA for SUN, BD continued to document and disseminate evidence-based best practices in scaling up nutrition for adaption and action nationally. The network gathered evidences from the work of its General Committee (GC) members. CSA for SUN, BD, in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh has provided orientation to journalists to inform, educate and build their skills to enable them publicise the nutrition situation, the complex causes of undernutrition, persisting challenges and success stories in tackling undernutrition.

Meeting with the Parliamentarians: CSA for SUN, BD successfully organized a Round Table Discussion with Members of the Parliament on improving nutrition situation through Collective Efforts. The discussion has sensitized the policymakers and decision-makers of the country regarding nutrition issues. This event was considered as a landmark event to enhance the awareness of 1000 days and multi-sectoral approach among policy/lawmakers of the country.

Divisional level training held: CSA for SUN, BD continued to document and disseminate evidence-based best practices in scaling up nutrition. In partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, CSA for SUN, BD continued to provide training to journalists and grassroots NGOs to do nutrition advocacy at country level.

CSA for SUN, BD participated in Nutrition Fair in Durgapur Upazila of Rangpur with one of its General Committee member known as PROOFS. The key message of the SUN Movement emphasizing the 1000 Days approach were disseminated through communication materials. Moreover, nutrition-based folk songs, street drama and videos were shown to pregnant mothers and mothers of children under 2.

Interchurch Organization for Development (ICCO) Cooperation: ICCO Cooperation arranged a Bazaar to mark their 50years anniversary. CSA for SUN, BD participated in the programme along with NGOs coming from all over the country with advocacy and communications materials. Undernutrition deprives affected children of the capacity to reach their full potential. The right to being well nourished, the right to adequate food and the right to health services are integral to the

realization of the human right of every child. Undernutrition is a sign that these rights are not yet being fulfilled. There are disparities in the levels of undernutrition between the different regions of Bangladesh, and between rural and urban areas.

Keeping the GDA 2015 in fore front, we took initiatives of arranging a media campaign among the school children through various activities which were likely to have a deeper impact in the minds of these children and created a greater awareness of nutrition among them as well as teachers, parents and community influential attended the events.

Outcome 2: Enhanced sharing of evidence based information, research findings and resources among stakeholders to achieve effective implementation of nutrition programs

In collaboration with GOB, CSA for SUN, BD continued to play a critical role in disseminating information on maternal and young children nutrition through campaigns in print and electronic media.

A set of 3 comic books were provided to 9,000 Adolescent Clubs (membership of 30-35 reaching nearly 100,000 adolescent girls). The comic books are written on the 1000 Days approach and the importance of nutrition for adolescents. Through these comic books, they became more aware and enhanced knowledge and skills of adolescents on 1000 day nutrition, including the impact on brain development and physical growth of young children. They also learnt why adolescents, especially girl's nutrition played a critical role in the development of the country. Adolescents were trained to transfer this knowledge and skills to their peers and in the community.

E-Toolkit CDs, with Nutrition Communication materials, were provided to the government's Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) program. A Job Aid was given to WFP, Care Bangladesh and PROOFS, containing messages on maternal and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF).

CSA for SUN BD enhanced its presence in the media in 2015 to convey the importance of ensuring scaling up nutrition in the public eye. A 60-second TV Spot was developed by CSA for SUN using popular author and Professor Dr. Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, regarding the importance of 1000 days nutrition for brain development.

As the civil society network of the SUN Movement, CSA for SUN, BD endeavoured to raise the agenda of malnutrition issues at the community level. CSA for SUN had the opportunity to do so during the SUN CSN World Health Day, when discussions, quiz competitions regarding nutrition were held across Bangladesh. The participants were adolescent girls and boys from more than 42 (forty-two) schools nationwide. Holding of events mentioned above was a continuous work process of CSA for SUN, BD, as it has been involved in doing so from its inception.

Outcome 3: Comprehensive, coherent and adequately financed national nutrition plan adopted by mid of 2015 and implemented by the Government

In 2015, CSA for SUN has organized the Global Day of Action in all Divisional cities and bigger District towns with local government bodies, government officials, NGOs, media and community influentials. During the program, the participants made commitment to scaling up nutrition in their respective areas. Due to the involvement of Members of the Parliament in CSA for SUN, BDs activities at Divisional and District levels is increasing opportunity to garner commitment from them.

CSA for SUN requested inclusion in the country delegation to attend the SUN Financial Tracking Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand. Government participants were nominated and participated.

CSA for SUN has participated in active policy discussions with relevant policymakers. After the Round Table Discussion with the honourable Members of the Parliament, space was created to garner commitment from the ministries, especially attending SUN Global Gathering 2015, doing ICN2 follow up and translating commitment into actions through developing country nutrition action plan.

Outcome 4: A joint tracking system established to monitor progress of NNS with the active support from CSA for SUN by mid-2015

Increased interactions occurred to monitor progress of NNS with the active support from CSA for SUN, BD through regular updates through events information sharing, nutrition-related local and international news, meetings.

CSA for SUN, BD assisted Government by involving all sectors throughout the country to track progress with evidence based research data to share gaps and issues during each annual planning review meeting regarding nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific interventions. Moreover CSA for SUN, BD continued to follow the guidelines by NNS and work at the grassroots level.

One of CSA for SUN's objective is to assist the Government develop a joint action plan involving all sectors for the country to track progress. Progress towards this outcome included meeting with high-profile members of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Woman & Child Affairs and made recommendations for the policy makers like the member of the Parliament taking the message of 1000 days and multi-sectoral approach to community level.

Delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned and best practices

Due to unavoidable circumstances (nationwide transport blockade and regular hartals/strikes), not much progress was made in the first quarter of 2015. Most of the planned activities outside Dhaka had to be rescheduled as the security situation did not permit free movement of staff. As a result,

a number of advocacy orientation and advocacy meetings were postponed. As the situation started to improve at the end of March, activities restarted.

Qualitative assessment

CSA for SUN, BD has offered significant efforts to unite and mobilize stakeholders to advocate for nutrition with a common voice, bearing key audiences in mind and using clear messages on 1000 days approach. Global Day of Action, World Health Day and Meeting with the Parliaments Members were successfully completed.

CSA for SUN, BD had a meeting regarding future activities, future plans, exploring the opportunity of funds for the CSA for SUN, BD with local development partners, such as, DFID and UNICEF.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment

Outcome 1: A CSO Network in Bangladesh that is fully operational and successfully influencing policy making by 2015			
	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 1.1. Functioning structure and management for CSA for SUN	1.1.1: National Executive Committee of representative forum of CSOs formed Baseline: none Target: An executive committee of 9-11 members formed.	Activity completed No variance	SUN CSN website
	1.1.2: Executive Committee election held every two years and Constitution and governance agreed Baseline: none Target: 1 election every two years	Activity completed No variance	Information available on request
	1.1.3: Executive Committee meet 6 times a year Baseline: none Target: bi-monthly (6 per year)	No variance. Meetings were held in 2015.	Meeting minutes of the 6 Executive Committee meetings available upon request.
	1.1.4: A 3 year work plan drafted and agreed Baseline: none Target: 1	Activity completed No variance	Annex to the MPTF Project Document
	1.1.5: Key staff recruited Baseline: none Target: 1 National Coordinator and 1 Program Support Assistant/Communications Officer	The National Coordinator was in post till August 2015, There was also a 2 month gap between the second and third Communications Officer.	Appointment letters of the Alliance staff available upon request

	1.1.6: National CSA meetings held annually Baseline: none Target: 1	Activity completed No variance	Annual General Meeting report
1.2. Strong and vibrant membership of diverse national and sub-national organisations under CSA for SUN	1.2.1: A shared space as a CSO representative forum Baseline: none Target: Only 1 group in the network	CSA for SUN BD is the official affiliate of the SUN Movement and represents 191 organizations across Bangladesh as of 2015	
	1.2.2: A growing civil society membership list Baseline: none Target: steady annual growth in membership	Ongoing activity	Alliance members list http://sunca.org/index.php/about-us/alliance-members
1.3. National outreach to facilitate influence on policy	1.3.1: National level launching of the SUN Movement Baseline: none Target: 1	The national level launching has yet to be finalised due to unavailability of the Prime Minister.	EC members of CSA for SUN, BD
	1.3.2: District workshops in hard to reach and most nutritionally vulnerable districts of the country Baseline: none Target: 10	District level workshops were held in 2015	Information available in the quarterly report
	1.3.3: Conduction of divisional seminars on SUN Movement Baseline: none Target: 1	Activity completed divisional workshop No variance	For details please, see Appendix 1 of MPTF 1st Quarterly Report January March, 2015)

	1.3.4: World Breastfeeding Week observed at local and national level per year Baseline: none Target: 1	Participated through member NGOs, but, could not participate directly due to lack of fund	Quarterly report and EC members on request
Outcome 2: Enhanced sharing of evidence based information, research findings and resources among stakeholders to achieve effective implementation of nutrition programs			
	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 2.1. information and evidence sharing	2.2.1: Key global evidence research findings disseminated to membership e.g. Lancet Series 2013 Baseline: none Target: 1	Ongoing activity	Research findings shared via electronic mail and monthly newsletter “SUN Buzz”
	2.2.2: Media training on SUN messages Baseline: none Target: 2	Media training commenced in January 2015	Quarterly report
	2.2.3: Inter-ministerial meetings every quarter Baseline: none Target: 3	Inter-ministerial meetings held 2015.	Quarterly report
	2.2.4: Attended regular meetings with other Networks in the SUN Multistakeholder Platform Baseline: none	Meeting every 6 weeks for the global country call with SUN Secretariat (positive variance).	Teleconference meeting minutes recorded by Global SUN

	Target: 4		
	2.2.5: General Committee meet 1 year Baseline: none Target: 1 meeting every year	Did happen in Dec 2015 after the project period of MPTF.	EC members
2.3. resource sharing	2.3.1: allocated funds to national launch of SUN Baseline: none Target: 1	Funds was allocated in the work plan in the first and second year, but as the launch did not happen, the money was shifted to the World Breastfeeding Week Celebration in 2014.	Quarterly reports of pervious years
	2.3.2: Collaborations with General Committee member organizations for grassroots involvement Baseline: none Target: Ongoing	Ongoing activity	
	2.3.3: Monitoring and evaluation workshop Baseline: none Target: Ongoing	Workshop was held in collaboration with member NGOs	For details, please see Appendix 3 of the MPTF 3 rd quarterly report (October-December 2013)

Outcome 3: Comprehensive, coherent and adequately financed national nutrition plan adopted by mid of 2015 and implemented by the Government by mid-2016			
	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 3.1 Nutrition policy analysis conducted and updated	3.1.1: Feedback provided on the draft National Nutrition Policy circulated by NNS Baseline: none Target: Ongoing	CSA for SUN contributed to the government-led process.	EC members will respond on request
	3.1.2: Advocacy strategy for CSO network developed Baseline: none Target: 1 common strategy	CSA for SUN BD has drafted one comprehensive communication plan for CSOs. The joint National Advocacy and Communications Strategy, facilitated by UN REACH in which CSA for SUN has contributed for finalization.	
Output 3.2 Ensuring public pressure to motivate policy makers	3.2.1: Policy roundtable to present report and promote debate amongst key stakeholders Baseline: none Target: 1	One roundtable was conducted in 2015;	For details, please see Appendix 1 of the MPTF 2 nd quarterly report (April-June 2015)
	3.2.2: Multi stakeholder forums initiated to discuss issues Baseline: none Target: ongoing	CSA for SUN Chair and Secretariat staff supported Government and UN REACH joint multi-stakeholder forum. This was a strategic	

		opportunity with no budgetary commitment.	
	3.2.3: Talk shows aired on national television Baseline: none Target: 4	1 TV spot was aired in 2015	For details, please see the Appendix 3 to the MPTF 2 nd quarterly report (January-March 2015)
Outcome 4: A joint tracking system established to monitor progress of NNS with the active support from CSA for SUN by mid-2015			
	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 4.1 Improve the capacity of monitoring and evaluation of government and other stakeholders	4.1.1 Workshop to improve the M&E capacity of the Government and identify their monitoring gaps Baseline: none Target: 3	Participated in the joined M&E capacity development of the government staff, which later led to develop National plan of Action on Nutrition which is still on-going. No budgetary implications	
	4.1.2 Organize stakeholder consultation meetings to draft, pretest, and finalize the tracking mechanism of government programs in different ministries. Baseline: none Target: 5	On-going without budgetary implications	

iii) A Specific Story

The Roundtable Discussion with Members of Parliament on Improving Nutrition through Collective Efforts has successfully been organized at the CIRDAP Auditorium on May 31, 2015. Various aspects of nutrition situation of Bangladesh have been discussed in the Roundtable. Seventeen (17) Members of Parliament were present in the program along with the Chief Guest, Mohammed Nasim MP, Honorable Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Guest of Honor, Advocate Md. Fazle Rabbi Miah MP, Honorable Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor and Chief Whip of National Parliament A.S.M. Feroz. Apart from the guests, Director General of Health Services, organizing members from CSA for SUN, Bangladesh, higher level government officials, stakeholders, UN Network representatives and journalists were also present in the Roundtable.

The Roundtable Discussion has been very lively and fruitful with the interaction of the participants. Various interesting points have been raised by the Chief Guest, Guests of Honor and the MPs. In an announcement, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim MP said that a National Nutritional Policy will be made soon in order to eradicate malnutrition problem from Bangladesh. He further said that the government is working for a country free from nutrition problem and concerted efforts of all ministries concerned and members of parliament would help combat nutrition problem. "I will discuss the health and nutrition issue in parliament and urge the people to maintain a healthy food habit" said the Health Minister.

Deputy Speaker Mr. Fazle Rabbi Miah, emphasizing on the need for policy or parliamentary caucus, says that a policy on nutrition will help address the problem and way out of the nutrition in the country. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor suggested giving more importance in raising awareness among the people about nutrition knowledge.

All participating MPs shared their views on the topic and placed their commitment for improving the nutrition status of the Country. The MPs also committed that they would raise the issue in the parliament.

Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Secretary of CSA for SUN, Bangladesh, and Dr. Jahangir Hossain, EC Member of CSA for SUN, Bangladesh presented two separate papers addressing the nutrition situation of Bangladesh in the Roundtable.

The Roundtable has sensitized the decision-makers and the policy-makers of the country regarding nutrition issues and will be considered as a landmark in terms of improving nutrition situation in Bangladesh at the policy level. The initiative of CSA for SUN would continue in future

and SUN movement in Bangladesh would get a permanent look through its activities. Dr. AKM Musha, Co-Chair concluded the event with vote of thanks to the distinguished participants.

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

CSA for SUN has not carried out any assessments, evaluations or studies in 2015

IV. Programmatic Revisions

Revision in work plan: As the MPTF finished in September 2015, BRAC has continued activities for the next three months. CSA for SUN BD has revised its work plan. The new work plan incorporates developing proposal on undertaking nutrition advocacy based on the lessons learned in previous years and meeting with development partners for fund raising to continue the activities of the SUN in Bangladesh.

