

Concept Note
Civil Society Advocacy SUN Initiative Mozambique

Title of project

Advocacy for Scaling Up Nutrition in Mozambique (2012-2014)

Location

Mozambique

Details of focal point organisation

ANSA is a not for profit Mozambican NGO that works in the area of food security and nutrition with a view to contributing to inclusive development in the country. ANSA is staffed by qualified nutritionists with long standing experience in government and NGOs.

ANSA aims to provide high quality technical assistance to organizations and institutions at national and regional level working in the areas of agriculture, food security, nutrition and social protection. Working in partnership with implementing agencies, the goal of the organization is to improve interventions and contribute positively to nutrition and food security in the country.

Areas of competency.

ANSA works in the field of nutrition (including clinical nutrition and dietetics), food security, public health and social protection and has the following competencies:

- Training and curriculum development
- Research
- Advocacy
- Design, monitoring and evaluation of the projects/programs;
- Management and programme planning

During the last 10 years, ANSA has provided technical assistance to organizations that operate in Mozambique, in Portuguese speaking African countries, and in the Southern African region. Organisations with whom ANSA collaborates include; UNICEF and FAO, IOM, Save the Children, Concern, Elizabeth Glazer Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Care International, HKI and the Aga Khan Foundation. ANSA also works with a network of local NGOs providing training and capacity building in nutrition with the support of a German NGO - EED (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst).

Key areas where ANSA has contributed to nutrition and food security at national and regional level:

- Technical assistance in the areas of policy/strategy formulation, for example, Poverty Reduction Strategy II, National Food security and Nutrition Strategy (ESAN) II, the National Infant Feeding Policy and the National Strategy for Basic Social Security.
- Monitoring and evaluation guidelines in the areas of food security and nutrition (ex: SETSAN monitoring and evaluation systems)

- Collaboration with the Emergency Response Committees in the design of nutrition modules for emergency situation and participation in the National Emergency Cluster systems (Nutrition and Food Security).
- Research in the area of adolescent girls' nutrition status, dietary quality, nutrition evaluation and social protection mechanisms.

Examples of working with others, success in advocacy/campaigning

ANSA has a strong working relationship with the Government of Mozambique, particularly the Ministry of Health and the National Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat (SETSAN - created in 1998), both through its current set up and through the work of its staff prior to joining ANSA, often via participation in technical working groups and other fora.

Outside of its technical support to various institutions, ANSA has also played a key role in the area of policy and strategy development, ensuring the inclusion of food security and nutrition in key policy papers and campaigning for the adoption of appropriate grassroots solutions to reduce vulnerability and nutrition insecurity. Examples include:

- inclusion of food security and nutrition in the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PARPA);
- design of the National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy II (ESAN II).
- drafting of the national infant feeding policy
- drafting of the National Strategy for Basic Social Security;
- drafting of the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes;
- successful promotion of orange-fleshed sweet potato to reduce vitamin A deficiency.

ANSA has experience developing promotional materials, using theatre, music and community talks as tools for popular mobilization and working with the media.

Purpose of the grant

The project will focus on building the capacity of civil society to monitor and support the implementation of the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan for the Reduction of Chronic Undernutrition (hereby referred to by its Portuguese acronym PAMRDC) and advocate effectively for the adequate allocation of resources for effective nutrition action. The civil society platform will address issues linked to resource allocation; the reach and coverage of nutrition interventions; and the relevance and expected results of the priority actions in the Action Plan and other major interventions.

Description of the nutrition situation

In Mozambique, 44%¹ of children suffer from stunting or low height for age; one in every two children under 5 years of age will not achieve their potential physical growth, mental and cognitive development. A study carried out in 2002² showed that approximately three quarters

¹ MICS, 2008

² MISAU, Inquérito Nacional sobre a Deficiência de Vitamina A, Prevalência de Anemia e Malária em

(74%) of children under five years of age were anaemic, with a higher prevalence and severity of anaemia in children under two years of age. The same study shows that 69% of children (6 to 59 months) had vitamin A deficiency; of these 14% had severe deficiency and 55% moderate deficiency. Iodine deficiency³ is endemic in the country, with 15% of school age children (6-12 years) having goitre and a median urinary iodine level of 60 micrograms/liter. Three provinces (Niassa, Zambezia and Nampula) had levels below 50 micrograms/liter.

The Government of Mozambique recognizes that stunting and micronutrient deficiencies, are the main nutrition problems in the country, leading to reduced economic productivity nationwide, and in collaboration with partner organizations prepared the Multi-sectoral Action Plan for the Reduction of Chronic Under nutrition (2011-2020).

The 10 year Action Plan aims to reduce stunting to 30% in 2015 and 20% in 2020. The Action Plan uses a multi-sectoral approach to address the problem of chronic undernutrition. The Action Plan indicates that there are factors crucial for the implementation of the plan, namely; inter-sectoral collaboration and coordination; ensuring adequate financial and human resources; and guaranteeing national capacity to implement the plan.

The Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security (SETSAN) is the Government's coordinating body for the Plan. A senior level Government focal point is still being identified. The donor convenors for SUN in Mozambique are DANIDA and UNICEF.

Description of Project including problems to be addressed

The project "mobilizing civil society in support of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)" arrives at an important time in Mozambique where both government and partners are committed to the implementation of a comprehensive Nutrition Action Plan with the aim of tackling the high levels of chronic undernutrition. Civil society in Mozambique is nascent and, as such, its capacity to organize, mobilize and influence nutrition-related policies and decisions is still quite weak. Participation by civil society in the area of nutrition, particularly, has so far largely been dominated by a small number of international non-governmental organizations with little to no participation by national organizations and community-based organizations. Many organizations are Maputo-based and their interventions often focus on the central level with little engagement from the provinces. Despite the existence of a plan and funding commitments for its implementation, there is little accountability. There is insufficient awareness of undernutrition, i.e. the causes, consequences but also solutions, not only among key policy makers and opinion leaders but even technical staff of international and national civil society organizations, community leaders and religious leaders.

This project aims to create a civil society platform at national and provincial level and build the capacity of members of that platform to monitor the roll out of the Action Plan; liaise with relevant government sectors to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to implementation and expected sectoral activities are implemented; lobby with donors and funding agencies to ensure that appropriate levels of funding are timely available for the Action Plan and for other nutrition related interventions; monitor the compliance with their commitments; and mobilize NGOs and other actors (in particular the platform members) for the inclusion of nutrition related

Crianças dos 6-59 meses e Respectivas Mães, 2003

³ MISAU, Estudo Nacional sobre a Deficiência em Iodo nas Crianças dos 6 aos 12 anos de Idade, 2006

interventions in their plans and projects in the country. The districts will be reached through the organizations based at provincial level with programs been implemented at district level and through mass media. It is expected that some initiatives may have national coverage, while some provincial initiatives may have spill over effects in neighboring provinces.

As much as possible, the platform will reach out to existing networks (for example, the network of organizations working in food security and the network of organizations working on children's issues) to learn from their experiences and involve them in the platform's activities. Another group to target will be religious groups who are organized into a network (COREM).

As both ANSA and HKI represent civil society on the Technical Working Group of the PAMRDC (a multi-sector multi-stakeholder platform which aims to coordinate the planning, implementation and monitoring of the PAMRDC) and the Nutrition Partner Forum (composed of donors supporting key areas of the PAMRDC), it will provide an excellent opportunity for members of the platform to directly or indirectly provide input on ongoing government-led initiatives such as the drafting of a national advocacy and communications strategy on undernutrition, the development of a monitoring framework of PAMRDC and activities planned under REACH (mapping of nutrition interventions and stakeholders; advocacy; capacity building; data collection on nutrition governance and management indicators including budget and expenditure tracking).

Key targets/allies

The key target groups for the advocacy initiatives will be the Parliament, through its specialized committees, the provincial assemblies (provincial "parliaments"), Government sectors' signatories to the Multi-sectoral Action Plan and other cooperating partners.

Allies will also be sought in the UN Agencies (notably UNICEF, WFP, FAO and WHO) and the wider donor community and non-state actors committed to working towards the reduction of chronic malnutrition. Universities and research institutions will also be mobilized as allies. Links will also be established with the CAADP (Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan) and with the private sector task force under SUN (to be created under the leadership of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition/GAIN).

The project will also link with platforms such as the Development Observatories (previously known as Poverty Observatories), a donor-supported government initiative to encourage and support national policy dialogue on poverty and development with a special focus on the national poverty reduction plan and the MDGs. While systematic budget monitoring is a new exercise in Mozambique, the platform will reach out to the civil society organizations (e.g. the Center for Public Integrity) which comprise the Budget Monitoring Forum (BMF), which was established with support from UNICEF in 2010 with the aim of promoting government transparency in the management of public funds. Its activities focus on budget monitoring and public expenditure tracking.

Key partners

Key partners are civil society organizations in Mozambique organized as part of the platform (to

be created) and coordinated by ANSA, in partnership with Helen Keller International. These organizations include, amongst others, Save the Children, Concern, Food for the Hungry, World Vision and ROSA (network of organizations working in food security). The steering committee of the Civil Society Platform will include these partners and other representatives from key civil society sectors, such as local, national women, children, farmers networks and international NGOs, universities, research institutions, and the media. Whenever possible, the project will reach out to existing networks, learn from their experiences with organization/mobilization and build on what already exists. Rather than create duplicate structures or build a complex multi-layered platform, the project will optimize existing networks or coordination structures to mobilize members around nutrition.

A number of these key partners participated in consultative meetings for the elaboration of this concept note. This note was also shared with key members of the Nutrition Partner Forum (a donor/technical partner forum which includes key donors and the SUN donor convenor).

Goal

A vibrant and politically engaged civil society contributing to a reduction in under nutrition in Mozambique.

Outcomes and Outputs

Please see below the main outcomes and outputs for each of the problems to be addressed by the project, including the approaches to be used.

Problem 1: Civil society is weak and not coordinated around nutrition			
Outcome 1: An effective, inclusive and productive civil society that maintains strong relationships with key stakeholders			
Approach	Targets	Allies	Outputs
Conducting mapping of organizations working in the field of nutrition and related areas (link with provincial mapping processes planned for early 2013 using REACH mapping tool)	CSOs and CBOs working at central, provincial and district level in food security and nutrition related areas	Development partners engaged in SUN movement; REACH	Summary of mapping reports
Drafting of TOR for CS platform to specify membership, roles and responsibilities, creation of Steering Committee		Existing networks	
Travel to provinces to present SUN movement, mobilize CS members and			

<p>identify focal points who will provide critical CS leadership during and after this grant</p> <p>CS platform at central level (Maputo) and expanding to 3 provinces.</p> <p>Drafting of National Plan of Action, including strategic directions, key objectives and activities of the platform (including advocacy)</p> <p>Meetings every four months at central and provincial level to monitor ongoing implementation of CS advocacy and monitoring activities</p>			<p>Roll out plan for provincial platforms</p> <p>National Plan of Action and provincial plans</p> <p>Meetings and meeting minutes</p>
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Problem 2: Little participation by civil society in policy engagement, analysis and funding around nutrition

Outcome 2: A stronger and more visible civil society that actively participates in the development of nutrition and nutrition-sensitive policies and plans across all sectors, including advocacy for resource allocation

Approach	Targets	Allies	Outputs
<p>Capacity building of platform members on formal and informal policy dialogue, policy analysis, monitoring and advocacy</p> <p>Provide technical assistance to CS members to support their engagement with policy makers through membership in</p>	<p>CSOs, CBOs, Government at national and provincial level including Council of Ministers, Parliament, Provincial Assemblies, Community leaders, traditional leaders</p>	<p>Development partners engaged in SUN movement</p> <p>Existing networks</p>	<p>Training conducted</p> <p>Increased CS membership and participation in technical working groups, fora, workshops and</p>

<p>technical working groups and donor/partner fora and participation in meetings organized by Government sectors).</p> <p>Provide technical assistance to CS members to support their engagement with policy and decision makers at local levels, such as Provincial Assemblies, Councils, Local Development Forum, to discuss and influence nutrition related issues</p> <p>Liaise and lobby concerned Ministries, donors and development partners to ensure appropriate funding levels.</p> <p>Provincial platform members to lobby members of the provincial assemblies to influence inclusion of undernutrition reduction targets in provincial plans and budgets</p>			<p>meetings with donors, government sectors, technical partners at all levels</p> <p>Increased funding for nutrition across relevant sectors</p> <p>Undernutrition addressed in provincial plans and budgets</p>
<p>Problem 3: Low accountability on political and financial commitments to address under nutrition in the country</p>			
<p>Outcome 3: Operationalization, funding and implementation of PAMRDC and other national and regional strategies and plans on nutrition monitored</p>			
<p>Approach</p>	<p>Targets</p>	<p>Allies</p>	<p>Outputs</p>
<p>Support the development of a monitoring system including the definition of key indicators, data and information to be collected, information flow, and processing</p>	<p>Government at national and provincial level including Council of Ministers, Parliament, Provincial Assemblies</p>	<p>Development partners engaged in SUN movement</p>	<p>Monitoring system in place</p>

<p>Design tools for data collection</p> <p>Monitor inclusion of nutrition on the agenda of different sectors/actors;</p> <p>Build capacity of CS members to monitor adequate allocation of resources for implementation of PAMRDC and other relevant nutrition interventions.</p> <p>Monitor the decentralization process and allocation of provincial resources to nutrition.</p> <p>Feedback on monitoring findings to concerned sectors through dedicated meetings, media articles, and other appropriate communication tools.</p>			<p>Increased integration of nutrition issues in sectorial plans and strategies</p> <p>Increased allocation of funding to nutrition at all levels</p> <p>Increased provincial awareness and commitment to nutrition issues</p> <p>Monitoring findings disseminated using different media</p>
<p>Outcome 4: The work of the different CSO at the various levels results in increased public awareness about nutrition, nutrition policies and monitoring and advocacy interventions</p>			
<p>Approach</p>	<p>Targets</p>	<p>Allies</p>	<p>Outputs</p>
<p>Engagement of the media at national and provincial level (number of articles, broadcasts, debates)</p> <p>Popular mobilization</p>	<p>General public</p>	<p>Media</p>	<p>Articles, Participation in debates and radio interviews</p> <p>Increased visibility of nutrition at health fairs, food fairs, sporting events, cultural days</p>

Outline of action plan for reaching these objectives, including activities and timelines

See attached log frame detailing activities per objective and respective timeline.

Monitoring and evaluation plan

A monitoring and evaluation plan will be designed during the first year of the project implementation. Initial monitoring will be done by ANSA, with support from other partners, such as staff of Helen Keller International and others to be identified in due time. Monitoring will focus on the implementation of the present project, focusing on activities, timeline and planned budgets. Additionally, ANSA staff will monitor implementation of activities by Provincial Focal Points and the use of advanced funds.

Annual reports – thematic and financial – will be submitted by ANSA to the Annual Conference. The reports will include inputs and information from provincial and district level platforms and focal points. Approved/improved reports will in turn be submitted to the donors. The Annual Conference procedures will also be a moment of monitoring and evaluation of the project implementation.

An annual audit will be contracted for accountability. Additionally, an independent evaluation will be contracted towards the end of the project cycle.

Detailed budget in local currency and pounds sterling

See budget attached. Whenever possible, ANSA will request assistance from platform members for logistics (e.g. use of meeting room) to minimize cost. Likewise, participating organizations will be asked to cover their own transportation costs to meetings including the annual conference. The use of national consultants will be kept to a minimum and most of the work will be conducted by ANSA's national advocacy officer (to be recruited) and the provincial focal points.

Management arrangements

ANSA will be the lead civil society organization (focal point) and will be responsible for the management of the project, including financial and narrative reporting. ANSA will report to the Civil Society Platform on a quarterly basis. For management of this project ANSA will recruit/appoint a dedicated staff to coordinate project implementation with particular focus on monitoring and advocacy interventions. This person will receive technical support/ from staff of HKI. ANSA administrative staff will oversee the financial and logistics management of the project.

HKI will provide technical support with the building of the platform, drafting the TOR, the advocacy strategy and the action plans. HKI recently recruited a new promotion officer for an Orange Flesh Sweet Potato project, whose role will be to draft a national OFSP advocacy strategy, create partner networks around OFSP, mobilize resources and engage with policy makers, donors and implementing agencies. His skills and experience can contribute significantly to the platform, including even training on advocacy. The intention is to gradually phase out HKI support as the platform gets stronger and more capable.