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

**ANNUAL NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORT COVER PAGE**

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| **Participating UN Organization:**UNICEF Kyrgyzstan |  | **Priority Sector covered:**Nutrition  |
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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:** January, 2014 to March, 2015 |  | **Programme Budget:** SUN Movement MPTF: USD $220,000 (programme cost)USD$ 15,400 (indirect cost) Other: USD$ 19,800 (NGOs Contribution);USD$ 62,000 (UNICEF Contribution) **TOTAL (USD): 317, 200.00** |
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| **List Implementing Partners:** |  | **Programme Coverage/Scope:**Kyrgyz Republic (countrywide) |
| * **Participating UN** *- UNICEF Kyrgyzstan*
* **National government** *- Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration, National MCH Centre? Ministry of Education and Science*
* **Private** *- Kyrgyz Association of salt producer; Association of millers;*
* **NGOs & CSO** *-*

Public Fund “Innovative Solution”,Public Union “Center of Monitoring”,Kyrgyz Association of Salt producers |  |  |

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| **Abbreviations and acronyms:**Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Kyrgyz Republic (KR)National Expert Group (NEG)Non-Government Organizations (NGO)Ministry of Health (MoH)Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration (MoAM)Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN) Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)Millennium Development Goals (MDG)Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)Food Security and Nutrition (FS&N)Village Health Committees (VHCs) |  | **Programme Duration/**24 months January, 2014 to December, 2015  |
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**Executive Summary**

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan had been working with CSOs in nutrition area since 2007. A few NGOs were involved in promoting nutrition related laws and policies, and some NGOs in working with wider population to promote consumer’s right, i.e. checking the quality of iodized salts in the markets and shops. UNICEF jointly with Ministry of Health working closely with Association of Salt Producers and Association of Millers, and building their capacity on conducting internal and external monitoring, to provide quality nutritious food for the entire population. Starting from 2009, when UNICEF initiated the new home fortification program “Gulazyk” for children 6-24 months, where role of NGOs, particular association of Village Health Committees (VHC) in working with mothers and families at community level opened up new means. VHCs played significant role in raising awareness of mothers on use and value of vitamins and minerals for child physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development.

The project was 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 closely supervised by the SUN Focal point and National Expert Group, which served as a SUN Network for Kyrgyzstan . As it was planned within this project CSO Alliance/network working in the Nutrition was established and further institutionalization is expected.

The project activities started from April, 2014. This report cover activities period from April, 2014 to March 2015. Within this period several parallel activities to analyse the current situation, to learn the common understanding of the situation, 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 and Outcome 2 highlighted in Project proposal were implemented;

**Objectives off the project are:**

- 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;

- 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;

- 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;

- 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;

- Raising awareness of the policies developed in nutrition and benefits for development through media campaign;

- 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;

- 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;

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 will be conducted, which will help to develop data base, 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 in the nutrition.

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

Main achievements of the project within reporting period are; establishment of CSO Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition uniting more than 40 NGOs countrywide and working in the area of Nutrition. This Alliance has its independent Steering Committee and Executive Board and clear Action Plan.

Alliance has joined SUN CSA Network in January, 2015

Amendments into existing law on Flour Fortification was endorsed with active involvement of the Alliance;

More than 50 members of the Allice are trained on Food Security and Nutrition and its Monitoring

1. **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 March 2015. Within this period several parallel activities to analyse the current situation, to learn the common understanding of the situation, 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 and Outcome 2 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

* 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. Three CSO organizations: **Kyrgyzstan with Public Fund “Innovative Solution”,**  **Public Union “Center of Monitoring” and** **Kyrgyz Association of Salt producers** were the implementation partners. 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”. From the Government side, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration were actively informed. Association of Millers which unite more than 55 private milling companies countrywide and Kyrgyz Association of salt producers with more 14 companies members.

1. **Resources**

*Financial Resources:*

* Provide information on other funding resources available to the programme, if applicable.

UNICEF CO has contributed $ USD$ 62,000 from its ORR funds in addition to SUN Funds mainly for capacity building and monitoring activities and USD$ 19,800 was NGOs Contribution);

* Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable. N/A
1. **Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements**
* 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 (annex 1a). 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. As a next steps we see dialogue and information sharing between CSO Forum and existing under Prime Minister the Food Security Council.
* 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.
* 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 discussion and capacity building of key players and members can help to mitigate risks.
* Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

Since beginning of the project the following studies and surveys were undertaken;

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

1. **Results**

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 has begun its action and recognised by the policy and decision makers, technical experts and donors.

* **Main activities undertaken and achievements (detailed report is attached)**
* The National Working/ Expert Group (NEG) was established and endorsed by the Government and which 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 and Development Agencies;
* 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, workshops
* Conduction of Functional analysis of stakeholders;

**Key Achievements:**

1. Establishment of CSO Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition uniting more than 40 NGOs countrywide and working in the area of Nutrition. This Alliance has its independent Steering Committee and Executive Board and clear Action Plan.
2. Alliance has joined SUN CSA Network in January, 2015
3. Amendments into existing law on Flour Fortification was endrosend with active involvement of the Alliance;
4. More than 50 members of the Allice are trained on Food Security and Nutrition and its Monitoring;

**Constraints and lesson learned**

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 were limited. It took sometimes 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.

**Key partnerships**

Within the project implementation period key partnership was developed with MoH KR and Ministry of Agriculture as a main leading sectors for Food Security and Nutrition. 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.

1. **Future Work Plan**

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 od a national Multi stakeholders platform and endorsement of Food Security and Nutrition Program
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

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 Parliamentarian Election and change of structure of the Government. Overall budget for remaining activities is around $ 150 000, and budget shortfall is around $50 000 USD.