

Action Brief:

Engaging for better nutrition in Ghana: Collaboration among the Civil Society Alliance, SUN Government Focal Point and wider Multi-Stakeholder Platform members

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Country: Ghana

Themes: Strengthening multisectoral collaboration to improve food and nutrition security in Ghana

Sub-themes: Strengthening capacities for better coordination

Date: 2023



Overview



Guaranteeing food and nutrition security for Ghanaians is a step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and continental targets for agriculture, nutrition, health and development. Among these targets are those included in the African Union 2003 Maputo Declaration, the 2014 Malabo Declaration, the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy 2015–2025, the African Common Position on Food Systems, and the African Union’s Agenda 2063. To meet these commitments, Ghana needs to generate a

great deal of momentum in all sectors of Government and ensure that key sectors work collaboratively to achieve better outcomes for food and nutrition. To mobilize national investments to scale up nutrition, stakeholders must work together to initiate policies and agree on and harmonize action plans.

Promoting stakeholder dialogues and consultations within the SUN Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) is key to increasing the visibility of food and nutrition security. This collaborative focus can help sustain momentum and shore up the necessary political commitment to achieve nutrition targets. The inclusion of the SUN Civil Society Alliance (CSA) in Ghana in all consultative meetings, dialogues and conferences – and its active participation in national MSPs – has helped intensify national-level advocacy for improved food and nutrition security outcomes.



Objectives of the action brief

The objective of this action brief is to highlight the spirit of inclusiveness and team work in relation to Civil Society collaboration with the SUN National Focal Point (National Development Planning Commission) and other members of the National SUN Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) in support of Government's effort to make nutrition a national development priority. By actively participating

in all MSPs meetings, and actively working with all MSP members through the working groups for the past ten years, Ghana SUN CSA has effectively collaborated with all other networks that are represented on the Ghana SUN Multi Stakeholder Platform in charting a common course to make nutrition visible and relevant in national development agenda.



Period covered

This brief covers 2011 to present.



What action was taken?

The SUN Government Focal Point in Ghana has involved the Ghana SUN CSA in national dialogues and deliberations on food and nutrition since 2011. In 2022, the SUN Government Focal Point, housed in the National Development Planning Commission, collaborated with the World Food Programme to work towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) in Ghana. This was done through strengthening the capacities of Government institutions and forming strategic partnerships with the Ghana SUN CSA to address the root causes of food and nutrition insecurity, in line with the Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (2022–2025). National-level consultations were organised in preparation for the United Nations Food Systems Summit. Activities included the organisation of workshops and round-table conferences for key ministries, departments and agencies, including the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources and the Ghana Health Service. The Ghana SUN CSA has played a major role in efforts to discuss food security and nutrition and develop a Zero Hunger Strategic Report.

Nationwide dialogues involving a broad range of participants have set the stage for multi-stakeholder participation in the implementation of programmes to achieve Government commitments. In consolidating this effort at the national level, with the support of the SUN Government Focal Point, the Ghana SUN CSA engaged district-level policy influencers in embracing the SUN Movement and worked with the SUN CSA to form new

multi-stakeholder structures focused on nutrition to align district plans and structures with the national MSP. Twenty ad hoc nutrition committees have been formed and are active in district planning, budget, nutrition, agriculture, sanitation and health. The Ghana SUN CSA also has worked with the United States Agency for International Development Advancing Nutrition Project and the SUN Government Focal Point to form similar structures in three regions of the country.

The dialogues have led to the development and validation of the Ghana Food Systems Investment Plan (2022), which received input from the Ghana SUN CSA. The SUN CSA also took part in an interministerial dialogue in March 2021 that resulted in a “consensus statement” by the Government acknowledging the value of the food systems approach in delivering healthy diets and better nutrition. The Ghana SUN CSA helped draft this statement and was among the key lobbyists acting ahead of the dialogue. At the dialogue, the First Lady of Ghana, H.E. Rebecca Akufo-Addo, called for a paradigm shift that repositions the Ghanaian food system from “feeding” the people to “nourishing” them, and this statement has become central to the CSA's advocacy and communication.

The Ghana SUN CSA has also encouraged and supported the formation of the Business Network which has struggled for more than five years through sharing of ideas on network formation and membership drive. Ghana CSA continue to support the national MSP in technical work



by providing inputs and useful suggestions in the drafting of all nutrition and food security policy documents as well other investment plans such as the Ghana Food Systems Strategy and Investment Plan. With the Ghana CSA becoming very vibrant in the national MSP for several years, the network has indeed made a significant contribution in the consolidation of Ghana's SUN MSP to address nutrition challenges holistically and inclusively.

Other notable documents developed by the working group, with active participation of the Ghana SUN CSA, included the Ghana Food System Strategy and Investment Plan and a commitment paper on the country's food system transformation agenda, presented at the United Nations Food Systems Summit.



What would the country do differently?

In working closely with the national SUN Focal Point and other SUN networks through the national MSP for over ten years and by strengthening such collaboration during the COVID-19 period and beyond when Ghana intensified the effort to prioritise nutrition and food security, Ghana SUN CSA could not have done anything different other than its continued engagements with the SUN Focal Point and other SUN networks through the national MSP. It is through such engagements that makes the Ghana SUN CSA an able partner of the SUN Focal Point for the past ten years.



Adaptation and applicability

SUN CSAs in other countries would benefit from the Ghana SUN CSA's working relations with SUN Government Focal Point and other MSP members, as this would help deepen CSA inclusion in decision-making processes at national and subnational levels . SUN CSAs should promote cooperation and dialogues through SUN MSPs.



Further information

Hunger Alliance Ghana



<https://www.hungeralliancegh.org/>

This Good Practice was developed in collaboration with the SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN). For more information about the SUN CSN, please visit their website: <https://www.suncivilsociety.com/>

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