

Global Day of Action 2014



Photo Credit—Zambia Civil Society Organization Scaling Up Nutrition (CSO-SUN) Alliance - Global Day of Action 2014

In May 2014, the second Global Day of Action (GDA) saw momentum increasing as a result of an ever vibrant, active civil society community for scaling up nutrition that is steadily growing across the globe. Twelve civil society alliances coordinated actions in support of the 'Global Day of Action' calling upon their own governments and others around the world to prioritise nutrition. Their activities included public marches, concerts, soccer tournaments and community gardening activities as well as parliamentary meetings, panel discussions and the collection of commitments from politicians and parliamentary candidates. Civil society raised a collective and strong voice for nutrition supported by mass actions demonstrating continued and increasing commitment towards improving nutrition, need for raising awareness of good and adequate nutrition at household level and continued prioritisation and political will for nutrition in country so that children and women are well-nourished. Many of GDA activities demonstrated that civil society organisations are key stakeholders and play a vital role in multi-stakeholder efforts towards addressing the multiple burdens and underlying causes of malnutrition.

The 2014 Global Day of Action follows on from the first Global Day of Action organised in June 2013. The purpose of this initial coordinated event was to highlight the global demand to undertake decisive actions at the Nutrition for Growth Event co-hosted by the Governments of the United Kingdom, Brazil and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation. In 2013, 6 Civil Society Alliances (CSAs) contributed to events in their countries (four of which were supported through the SUN Multi Partner Trust Fund - Bangladesh, Ghana, Nepal and Uganda) including public concerts, media events and panel discussions with parliamentarians. The 2014 Global Day of Action built on this initial interest galvanising action further for greater media presence and political recognition.

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION IN NUMBERS



SUN CIVIL SOCIETY EFFORTS IN NUMBERS

50 countries in the SUN movement

30 countries have **Civil Society Alliances**

24 of which are **funded** through **SUN Multi-Partner Trust Fund** or bi-lateral **Donors** (DFID, Irish Aid)

A growing Civil Society movement

with almost **1000** Civil Society Organisations **CSOs**

Local, National and International CSOs

Farmers, Fisherfolk, Human rights defenders, Women's groups, Humanitarian and Aid assistance agencies, Research entities, Consumer groups, Trade unions and many others

Civil Societies are coordinating efforts for multi-sectoral multi-stakeholder and multi-level nutrition efforts in their countries under the stewardship of governments.

A GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION

12 of the 30 **country** Civil Society Alliances undertook **activities** on the **Global Day of Action - Twice as many as in 2013**

Globally 12,269 people of which **623** were **children** or **adolescents** participated in the Global Day of Action. Participants were local and international civil society, **farmers, journalists**, members of **parliament** and **traditional and religious leaders** with **women** and **children** actively participating. **Government representatives** from **all scales of government** were present **from national ministers to district officers.**

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION - ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES included:

- ◆ Civil Society taking to the streets for nutrition in **Ghana** through a **Walk for Nutrition – walk for Life!** raising awareness of the importance of good nutrition at household level and calling for continued and increased political will and nutrition prioritisation
- ◆ **Soccer tournaments** engaging local communities and their leaders to own and lead nutrition efforts and community gardening promoting diet diversity in **Zambia**.
- ◆ **Pledges for nutrition from parliamentary candidates** in **Malawi** towards ensuring nutrition remained a priority beyond elections and political cycles
- ◆ **High Level Panel discussions** in **Uganda** – a culmination of a week of mass awareness raising and extensive media coverage
- ◆ **Promoting the implementation** of relevant **laws and bills** relating to nutrition in **Uganda** and **Peru**
- ◆ **Calling for capacity building at district-level** to ensure leadership and effective contextually relevant and adapted implementation of nutrition interventions in **Peru**
- ◆ **Youth led debate**, discussion and petition to government on malnutrition in **Guatemala** and a **youth art competition and exhibition** of winning work in the capital **Bangladesh** engaging youth as deans of the nation's nutritional outcomes.
- ◆ **Debate on government and donor investment in nutrition** and the way forward in **Mozambique** calling for continued action.
- ◆ **A workshop recalling commitments made at local elections** calling for the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for the six first months of a child's life, collaboration between communities, local authorities and civil society essential and continued political will in **Cameroon**.

Commitment events with civil society, government and donors pledging their support to nutrition. Coordinate civil societies in 14 countries organised efforts with multiple stakeholders to raise nutrition awareness and call for improved coordinated actions at national level.

12 Civil Society Alliances - Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Peru, Uganda, Zambia

2 countries use GDA as Opportunity for Increased Commitments - Benin & Cameroon had no CSA at the time of the GDA so used this as an opportunity for increased commitment and engagement for nutrition.

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION - HIGHLIGHTS

Key messages

1 Today, because of malnutrition in the critical 1,000 days from pregnancy to age two, over three million women and children die every year. Investments to change this could transform economies, boosting economic growth by as much as 3-11% of GDP.

2 Every woman and child being has the right to a fair chance at life. And all human beings have the right to adequate and nutritious food; to be free from hunger. This right needs to be core to efforts to improve food and nutrition security.

3 For many children that survive, malnutrition results in poor cognitive development, decreased productivity and life expectancy. Because malnutrition affects the poorest most, it is a fundamental driver of poverty and inequality.

4 A year ago, governments made commitments to address this problem; fulfilling these will be essential to tackling malnutrition and mortality. Today we call on our leaders to prioritise this issue, by telling the public what they have done to make a difference in the past year and by ensuring the financial commitments are in place to deliver on their promises.

5 Malnutrition and its adverse impacts can be prevented through coordinated action by government, civil society and businesses. The first step is ensuring that countries have plans and resources in place to Scale up Nutrition. Participatory local democracy is essential and citizens must be empowered to engage directly in setting priorities. The GDA is a crucial step towards such participation.

6 Without concerted and coordinated action across government, progress against malnutrition will be insufficient. We call on leaders to ensure that key ministries, including agriculture, education, health, women and child development and social protection, include improving nutrition as a key aim of their strategies.

7 The SUN Civil Society Network is coming together to show the global demand for continued strong action on nutrition, and for holding governments to account for delivering against commitments they have made.

GDA ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS

Coordinated collective action

- ◆ There was a collective call for coordinated action for nutrition across sectors, organisations and political affiliations ensuring that nutrition is prioritised at all levels from villages to communities to districts to national levels.

Nutrition prioritisation & financing

- * Ensuring Nutrition remains a non-partisan key issue prioritised through political cycles is integral to sustainable efforts for scaling up nutrition in countries. Civil Society is key to such efforts.
- * Multi-sectoral costed nutrition plans are essential. Multiple stakeholders have a responsibility to advocate for and ensure these plans are adequately resourced and that budget lines are put in place and appropriately managed nationally and at district/county-level.
- * Multiple stakeholders of the SUN movement nationally called for nutrition to be represented at the highest political level possible with clear support and leadership from the government.

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION - HIGHLIGHTS

Investing in human resources capacity

- * Capacity strengthening for effective implementation should be integral to national nutrition plans.

Local & sub-national ownership

- * Local and sub-national governments are key to ensuring effective interventions to address malnutrition in the country
- * Multi-stakeholder platforms should be hosted in neutral ministries (e.g. ministry of commissioning and planning, ministry of finance, ministry of devolution) with the capacity and leadership to actively coordinate them.

Legislation, laws and regulations

- * Existing regulations relating to food quality, supply and nutritional value and existing laws on food and nutrition security need to be better enforced and prioritised.
- * Good nutrition is about social justice and human rights. The right to food may not be recognised in national legislation but it can be reflected in national nutrition and food security policies.

Joint accountability mechanisms

- * Commitments that translate into actions must be made by all stakeholders.
- * Clear, transparent mutually accountable monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be jointly developed. These should be established, owned and reported upon with accountability to communities suffering from malnutrition.

Citizen participation

- * Strengthen spaces for citizen participation and promote accountability at all levels.
- * Youth participation in nutrition efforts is important to engage communities and ensure ownership in the future – young leaders champions

Health Services, water and sanitation

- * Health services and water and sanitation, particularly at a local level should be sufficiently funded and access to such services better prioritised to enable nutrition advice and life changing nutrition interventions. This needs to be underpinned by increased investment in human resource capacity to implement plans, better understand nutrition, deliver more competent and better performing services through high quality in-service training.
- * Building proven effective peer counselling for greater uptake of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six-months of a child's life into national plans is key.
- * The 1000 days from conception to a child's second birthday is a key window of opportunity and must be prioritised.

Sustainable and resilient agricultural systems

- ◆ The role of home gardens and local production systems is essential to ensuring sufficient quantities of diverse nutritious food.

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION - HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The importance of family farming in promoting agricultural systems that are sensitive to the local nutritional needs must be recognised. Improving understanding of the nutritional value and resilience of local and indigenous crop varieties is crucial. Agricultural policies promoting family farming and creating enabling environments for market access should be developed and strengthened.
- ◆ The specific barriers to accessing a nutritious diet should be analysed and understood in each context. Barriers may be institutional, cultural or economic but they must be known before they can be tackled directly.

Social Protection

- ◆ Investing in social protection has the potential to reduce people's vulnerabilities to global challenges such as economic shocks, instability in the price of food or other essential commodities, and climate change.

Geographically, socio-economically and culturally sensitive and adapted interventions

- ◆ Strategies and interventions (at design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and review stages) need to be geographically, socio-economically and culturally sensitive and adapted to the local contexts for these to be embedded, owned and sustainable.

Monitoring and information systems

- ◆ Strengthen the mechanisms to guide, accompany and monitor effective interventions through tracer impact indicators, integrated in planning and budgeting efforts.

Civil Society – a legitimate and key stakeholder

- ◆ Civil Society plays a key role in implementation of national nutrition plans, monitoring, evaluation and social auditing as well as multi-stakeholder advocacy, communications and social mobilisation efforts.
- ◆ Civil Society must represent the voice of communities and raise awareness of the reality on the ground for children and mothers suffering from malnutrition.
- ◆ Civil Society is an actor complementing government efforts and should be integrated into multi-stakeholder efforts, uniting efforts, resources, strategies and projects to ensure greater contribution to the reduction of malnutrition.

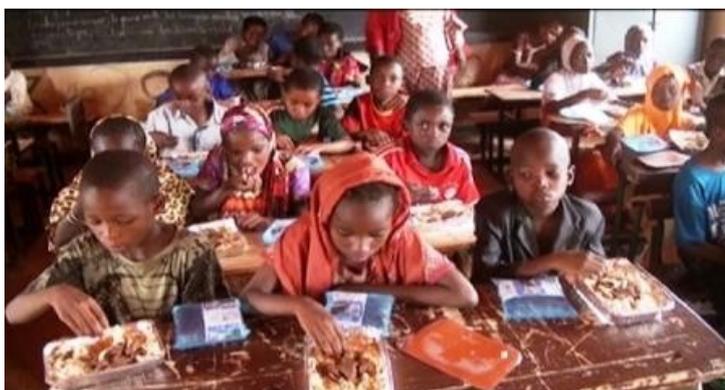


Photo Credit—Tous Uni pour la Nutrition—Niger (TUN-Niger)
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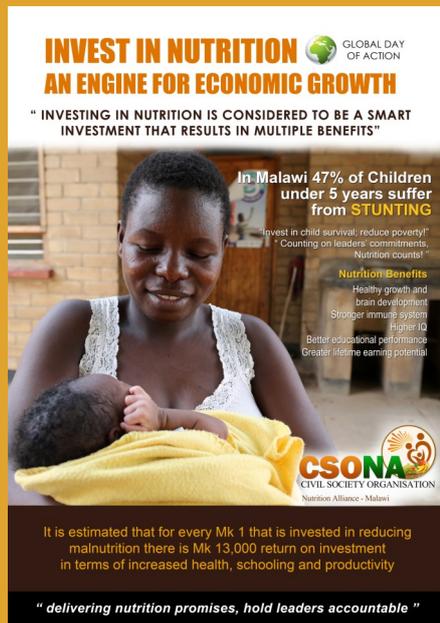


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GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION - MEDIA COVERAGE

MEDIA

An impressive media presence was achieved with videos produced and uploaded onto Youtube, local media groups committed to reporting on events and media tours arranged. Through wide-reaching radio, television, print and social media. The Global Day of Action featured in media reports in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Niger and Malawi.



SOCIAL MEDIA

The presence of the SUN Civil Society Alliances on social media has increased with a high presence on Facebook and Twitter. This has resulted in over **120 tweets** sent for the **Global Day of Action**.

4 CSAs have **facebook** pages (Zambia-Civil-Society-Scaling-Up-Nutrition-Alliance - Coalition of Civil Society Organisations for Scaling Up Nutrition - Scaling Up Nutrition Red de Sociedad Civil Guatemala - Scaling Up Nutrition Société Civil)

7 CSAs have **twitter** accounts (@SUNCSN, @CSOSUN, @SUNCSABD, @CSONA_Malawi, @ghaccsun, @idiperu, @UCCOSUN)

facebook



twitter



Photo Credit—Tous Uni pour la Nutrition—Niger (TUN-Niger), Zambia Civil Society Organization Scaling Up Nutrition (CSO-SUN) Alliance, Ghana Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Scaling Up Nutrition (GHACCSUN), SUN Civil Society Alliance Kenya, Cameroon - Global Day of Action 2014