

Nutrition Sensitive Workshop in Kenya

Kenya's Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement networks are prioritising nutrition-sensitive programmes and integration of nutrition in the development agenda. This was underscored during the Action Against Hunger (ACF) *Nutrition Sensitive Programmes Workshop* held in Nairobi on 14th May 2014.

The event brought together 58 participants representing the SUN Movement networks, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, civil societies, donors, UN agencies, private sector, non-governmental organisations and the global SUN Civil Society Network.

ACF launched its case study *'Reconciling Agriculture and Nutrition'* and the Generation Nutrition Campaign that involves eight members of the SUN Civil Society Alliance.

The SUN CSN Coordinator Dr Claire Blanchard made a presentation on the *'Role of SUN Networks in Promoting Nutrition Sensitive Programmes'*. She was accompanied by Cara Flowers the new Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network Country Support Officer.

The key recommendations from the workshop include the need to advocate for inclusion of nutrition in the Food Security and Nutrition Policy, positioning of the SUN Government Focal Point at the highest level in the political structure, establishment of all SUN networks and SUN Multi-stakeholder Platform.

It was also recommended that the ministries of agriculture, education, infrastructure, Finance and the private sector should be involved in nutrition programmes. To scale up nutrition-sensitive programmes in the Ministry of Agriculture, participants called for increased funding for the Nutrition and Home Economics Unit, especially at the county level.

Another important recommendation was the need to build capacity of the local media to report nutrition issues, more so by involving journalists in nutrition workshops and events.

Below are key quotes from the workshop:

Prof Ruth Oniang'o (Workshop Moderator): "We can't ignore the private sector'; we need to engage with other partners too. Let's continue to reach out to them."

Grainne Moloney (UNICEF): "We shall continue with nutrition specific interventions as we think about nutrition sensitive programming."

Anne Chele (FAO): "There is need to use a multi-sectoral approach for nutrition programming."

Dr Claire Blanchard (SUN CSN): "The main challenge is working in a new paradigm. It is difficult having the right governments in place to address some of the issues. Households do not know how to improve nutrition. Thus, SUN CSA aims at improving knowledge through advocacy."

Hjordis Ogendo (ECHO): “I would like to reiterate EU’s commitment to reduction of malnutrition.”

Rosemary Ngururo (MoH): “Alone we cannot solve the problem (malnutrition). It is a complex problem that can’t be solved alone and the need to advocate for positioning of nutrition in the highest level of government is crucial.”

Jonathan Tench (GAIN): “I applaud ACF for bringing people together. Let’s maintain the momentum.”

Jacob Korir (ACF): “Let everyone sign up and be part of the Generation Nutrition.”



***Clockwise:** James Adede of Grace Africa makes his remarks, launch of ACF’s case study and SUN CSN Coordinator Dr Claire Blanchard makes her presentation.*

The writer is Titus Mung’ou, ACF’s Advocacy and Communications Manager and Chair, SUN CSA.