

# East African Civil Society Organizations Launch Global Nutrition Report

May 29, 2015, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



East Africa region's representatives display the Global Nutrition Report 2014 after the launch in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



Hon. Ledian Mung'ong'o (MP), Chair of the Tanzania's Parliamentary Group on Nutrition, Food Security and Children's Rights .

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Nutrition Programme  
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Consortium, Kenya.

## Global Nutrition Report 2014

Theme: Tracking Progress, Strengthening Accountability  
and Accelerating Reduction of Malnutrition





*Dr. Million Shebeshi of Ethiopia SUN CSN leads East African CSO representatives in reading out their pledge*

## Key Messages



Good nutrition is key to sustainable development and to ensuring economic growth. In all of our countries, investment levels and political commitment should reflect this shared truth, as well as the startling burdens of malnutrition in many of our contexts.



East African countries must accelerate their efforts to improve nutrition, aligning work with the ambition of Goal 2 of the draft Sustainable Development Goals: to end hunger and achieve food security by improving nutrition and sustainable agriculture.



Most East African countries are currently not on track to meet the World Health Assembly targets by 2025; governments must step up their contributions to nutrition and broader health to meet these targets on or ahead of schedule. A specific opportunity for this will be the second Nutrition for Growth Summit in Rio de



Janeiro, Brazil in June 2016, when the global community will come together to take stock. We ask that they also pick up the pace by making new, ambitious financial and political commitments.



To address underlying causes of malnutrition, governments must also increase investment in 'nutrition-sensitive' sectors such as agriculture, water and sanitation, social protection, gender, and others. Policies and budgets within these areas of programming should reflect nutrition, as well.





We must act now. With one in four children stunted (short for age) globally, and as many as one in two in East African countries, we are facing a chronic emergency that will not wait for our attention. For the healthy future of our countries and communities, we ask our governments to make political and financial commitments that match the scale of the challenge set before us.



On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the East Africa launch of the Global Nutrition Report (GNR) was hosted in Dar es Salaam by the SUN Civil Society Networks of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Burundi, and Rwanda, along with government, UN representatives, donors, private sector, Tanzania political aspirants and media. The event brought together about 50 participants from six countries with active SUN Networks, and similar nutrition profiles, to highlight shared challenges and successes in working to defeat malnutrition in the region and chart a course for improved action on nutrition in the region.

### Objectives of the roundtable:

-  Review the Global Nutrition Report 2014 in comparison to the region's status
-  Enhance accountability on the East African situation and advocate for increased commitment and accountability towards nutrition

The annual GNR provides a global profile and country profiles on nutrition for each of the United Nations' 193 member states, and includes specific progress for each country. The GNR contributes to country-led efforts to strengthen accountability, shares learning about what is working, and highlights bottlenecks to progress and how they may be overcome.

### *SUN Civil Society representatives' commitment to achieve shared global nutrition targets by 2025*

The report provides a one-stop composite of the often fragmented and disparate information available on global nutrition, and fills in some critical gaps in knowledge and data collection. It covers

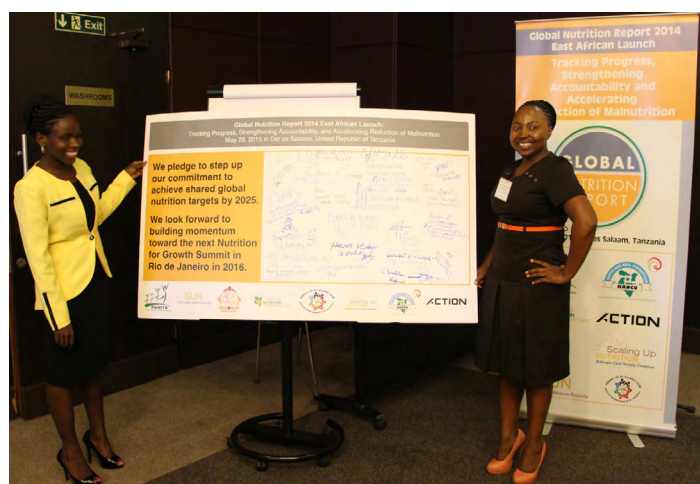
nutrition status outcomes, program coverage, and underlying determinants, such as food security and water, sanitation and hygiene, resource allocations, and institutional and policy transformations.

The challenge of improving nutritional status resonates the world over: Nearly every country experiences a level of malnutrition that constitutes a serious public health risk. Between 2 and 3 billion people are malnourished - meaning they experience

some form of under nutrition, are overweight or obese, or have some sort of micronutrient deficiency (GNR 2014).

The faces of poor nutrition are many: From children living under famine conditions who appear to be made of skin and bone, to obese adults who have trouble breathing, to infants who do not live to see their first birthday as a result of a combination of poor diets, poor infant feeding practices, and exposure to infectious diseases.

This challenge casts a long shadow: the consequences of malnutrition flow throughout the life cycle and cascade down the generations affecting everyone - but especially children, adolescent girls, and women - and include mortality, infection, cognitive impairment, lower work productivity, early onset and higher risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), stigma, and depression.



Kenya's SUN CSA Coordinator Grace Gitau (right) and KANCO's Manaana Mumma, stand before the signed pledge.



# Global Nutrition Report 2014

The fight against malnutrition requires effective action across a number of sectors and areas (food, health, social welfare, education, water, sanitation, and women) and across a number of actors (government, civil society, business, research, and international development partners). Strong alliances for action are much more effective than silver bullets, and the multiple causes of malnutrition represent multiple opportunities to sustainably improve nutrition.

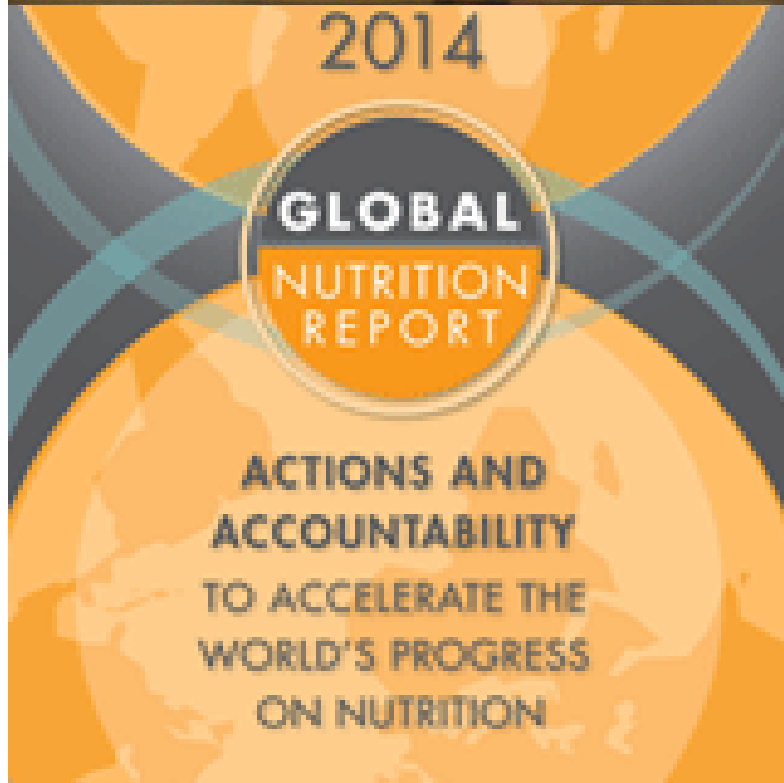
The inaugural Global Nutrition Report was launched officially on November 20th, 2014 at the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in Rome, alongside the 2014 Global Hunger Index. The event showcased the main findings of the Global Nutrition Report and highlighted key data on the state of the world's nutrition. Through an inspiring keynote address, presentations, a lively panel discussion and audience interaction, the global and sectoral implications of the Report's findings were reflected upon by members of government, donor agencies, academia, and civil society.

Across East African countries, stunting (short height for age due to chronic malnutrition) ranges from 1 in every 3 children to as high as 1 in every 2. Malnutrition has severe consequences on the survival and lifelong mental and physical abilities of individuals, and also on national economies. Despite this massive challenge, resources to nutrition-specific programs in East Africa amount to only a small fraction of national health budgets.

*"We are facing a chronic emergency that will not wait for our attention. For the healthy future of our countries and communities, we must act now and encourage the governments of our region to make political and financial commitments that match the scale of the challenge set before us,"* said Dr. Aristide Madagasha of the Burundi Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) at the event.

**Dr. Million Shibeshi** of the Ethiopia Civil Society Coalition - Scaling Up Nutrition (ECSC-SUN) further added that *"Most East African countries are not on track to meet globally-agreed World Health Assembly targets on nutrition. In just one year the global community will come together at the second Nutrition for Growth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2016 to take stock of global progress. The East African community must make new and ambitious financial and political commitments to ensure we do not fall behind in efforts to defeat malnutrition."*

**GNR provides a global profile and country profiles on nutrition**



*Hon. Ledian Mung'ong'o (MP), Chair of the Tanzania's Parliamentary Group on Nutrition, Food Security and Children's Rights, presents the report to Kate Goertzen, Senior Associate Nutrition at ACTION.*



*Hon. Ledian Mung'ong'o (MP) addresses participants during the launch of the Global Nutrition Report 2014.*





Addressing the participants, **Hon. Ledian Mung'ong'o** (MP) the Chair of Tanzania's Parliamentary Group on Food Security, Nutrition, and Child Rights urged East African leaders especially parliamentarians to ensure nutrition was at the top of their political agendas as parliamentarians can hold governments to account to provide for Nutrition budgets. She further stated that if there are no Nutrition champions in parliament-there is no voice for Nutrition.

The highlight of the event was the signing of a pledge by the Civil Society representatives to step up their commitment to achieve shared global nutrition targets by 2025 and to building momentum towards nutrition. They called on their governments to come to the table with new funding for nutrition and encourage other leaders to do the same.

While the Global Nutrition Report (GNR) was launched globally in November 2014, the East African launch provided a useful evidence base for discussions during the event on what more is needed to meet shared targets. Participants agreed that cross-cutting discussions across the region are needed to reaffirm commitments to good nutrition. With just one year left before the next Nutrition for Growth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (June 2016), now is the time to discuss what each of our countries can bring to the table.

*Uganda SUN CSA Coordinator Christine Muyama makes her remarks.*



*A section of participants during the media training in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.*



# Global Nutrition Report 2014



Representatives of civil societies sign the pledge board. From left, Dr. Million Shebeshi, Kate Goertzen and Manaan Mumma



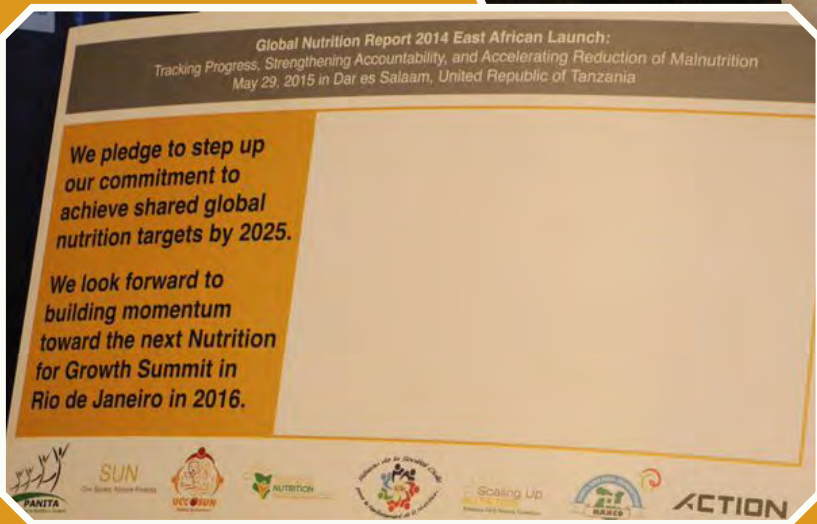
Above, Hon. Ledian Mung'ong'o (MP) the Chair of Tanzania's Parliamentary Group on Food Security, Nutrition, and Child Rights signs the pledge board on behalf of MPs.



Above, Tumaini Mikindo Executive Director of PANITA receives Global Nutrition Report from Hon. Ledian Mung'ong'o (MP) the Chair of Tanzania's Parliamentary Group on Food Security, Nutrition, and Child Rights.



Left, Grace Gitau signs the pledge board



The SUN CSOs pledge board before and after being signed in Tanzania.