

CSO SUN Nutrition Awards

Mulungushi International Conference Center

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By Mutale Wakunuma

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Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I speak to you this evening on behalf of the Zambian Civil Society Organisation – Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance and its role in supporting Scaling up Nutrition in Zambia.

The Zambia CSO-SUN Alliance brings together diverse local, national and international Civil Society Organizations to increase understanding of the crisis of malnutrition in Zambia, where stunting affects 45.8% of children, and to raise the profile of nutrition on the national agenda.

Among the members of the Alliance at national level include;

- The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR),
- The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR),
- Care International, Concern World Wide,
- CHESSORE,
- Platform for Social Protection Zambia,
- Save the Children,
- Nutrition Association of Zambia (NRDC),
- the Natural Resources and Development College,
- The Agriculture Consultative Forum (ACF),
- The Catholic Relief Service (CRS),
- World Vision among others.

At the district level, we are implementing nutrition interventions in;

- **Mumbwa** hosted by Mumbwa Child Development Agency

- **Lundazi** hosted by Thandizane
- **Samfya** hosted by Community for Care Givers

The Alliance has developed a shared agenda, with 10 Key policy goals, including the following key issues;

- Firstly, to raise political will at the highest possible level, in order to ensure increased resources for and cross-sectoral coordination of nutrition in the country.
- Secondly, the Alliance aims to contribute to policy changes in various Government sectors, to prioritize the implementation of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.
- Thirdly, we are helping to raise and create demand for improved nutrition among the Zambia population, where we still focus on food – primarily maize - and not food and nutrition security.
- Finally the Alliance seeks to promote accountability for improved nutrition, through monitoring of nutrition programme implementation at all levels.

But tackling the crisis of malnutrition requires more than just a short campaign – it will require years of sustained pressure and support to maintain and increase the level of focus and interest in nutrition that is emerging in Zambia.

As civil society, we remain committed to having a Zambia where every child is assured of sufficient nutrition through strengthened policy, financial commitment and adequate programme implementation

Thank you and good evening.