



SUN CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK

MONTHLY UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2013

SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) Activities

- An inaugural meeting in Washington DC, USA on June 11, 2013 – http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/SUN-Civil-Society-Network-meeting_Executive-Summary_EN.pdf
- A declaration reaffirming SUN CS commitment – http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/FINALDeclaration_Civil-SocietyNetwork_SUN_11Jun2013_EN.pdf



- A six-month activity plan - http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/SUN-CSN-6-month-Activity-plan-July-Dec2013_FOR-WEB.pdf
- A mapping exercise to better understand the situation on the ground, and ultimately aims to be about supporting the Civil Society Alliance's work being done in SUN countries at the national and, most importantly, at the community level. The objective is to allow the identification of areas where capacity support is most needed from the SUN CSN perspective in order to extend services for nutrition to the underserved, build capacity for community level nutrition interventions, increase demand from the communities, improve integration of services at community level, building capacity for monitoring of nutrition services at community level to increase accountability for delivery to the community level. However the mapping exercise will also enable the SUN CSN to get a better understanding of the capacity of the global CSN for supporting advocacy and accountability efforts in country, holding others throughout the SUN movement accountable, and global advocacy.

In order to advance in the initial phase of the mapping, a consultant was hired to lead on this. More news on this later!

- Discussions with DFID on role of the SUN CSN in the follow up of the Nutrition for Growth commitments – discussion item at SUN Global gathering
- A document presenting the network – final typeset version to be announced very soon and uploaded on SUN CSN webpage. Language versions will come soon after.
- A guidance note on establishing and strengthening a SUN CSA– final typeset version to be announced very soon and uploaded on SUN CSN webpage. Language versions will come soon after.

Any clarification and additional information, please contact
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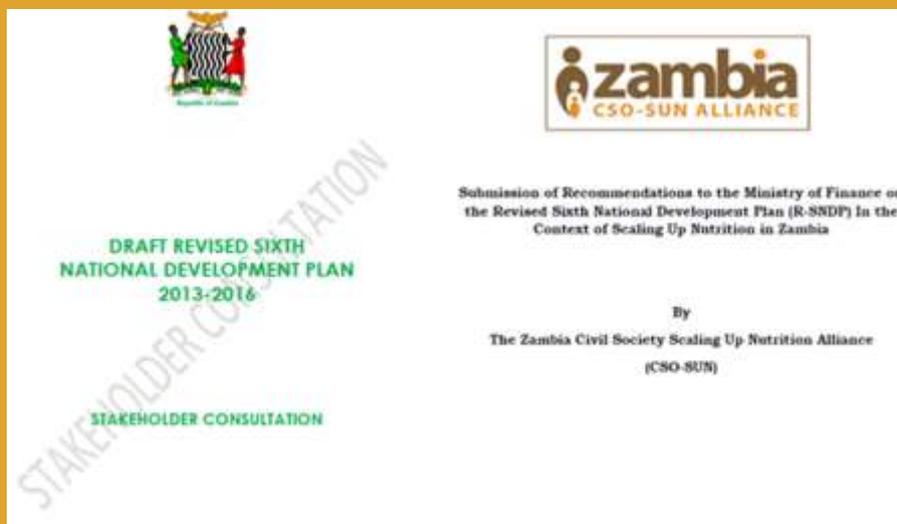
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News from SUN Civil Society Alliances

Civil Society can play an important role not only in terms of holding governments to account but also in terms of supporting governments in achieving commitments made.

In Zambia, for example, following the government pledge made during the Nutrition for Growth summit, the CSO-SUN in Zambia and key stakeholders developed recommendations to the Ministry of Finance on how to take these commitments forward and transform the pledge into concrete deliverable actions and financial investments, particularly in five key sectors (Agriculture, Health, Education, Community Development Mother and Child Health and Local Government). Moreover, the CSO-SUN in Zambia also recently developed a Joint Civil Society Submission to the Ministry of Finance and National planning around tax justice and CSO support in building effective tax systems in Zambia for the benefit of greater society.

In fact the SUN CSN is coordinating a session on the occasion of the SUN global gathering to illustrate types of efforts that can be led by civil society to support governments in their efforts to scaling up nutrition. The session will feature examples from Zambia and Bangladesh and discussions will ensure perspectives from Guatemala, Niger, Uganda and Peru, amongst others are shared. These examples will serve to trigger debate and discussions in order to start identifying and capturing ways in which Civil Society can assist and support governments in these efforts.



A piece from Bangladesh SUN CSA published on Scaling up national nutrition status by Kazi Amit Imran.

Scaling up national nutrition status

Kazi Amit Imran

THE city of Sylhet is known for its inherited richness and cultural heritage and as a land of religious monuments. Sylhet has branded itself as one of the richest and tourist attractive area of Bangladesh. Multiple shopping malls, branded restaurants, luxurious hotels and retail outlets reflect the posh lifestyle of Sylhet although on the contrary nutrition indicators mirror that Sylhet is one of the worst regions with high level malnutrition.

Despite progress in most MDG indicators, Bangladesh is considered as one of the 36 high burden countries for malnutrition. About 41% children are stunted, 36% underweight and 16% wasted showing Bangladesh in emergency situation. Although exclusive breastfeeding rate has improved to 64 per cent, the quality of complementary feeding still remains at 21 per cent. In order to bring nutrition to the forefront as a priority policy agenda, Bangladesh's Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the Founding Chairperson of BRAC, have been nominated as the Lead Group members of Global SUN Movement, an initiative of UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

The SUN Movement is composed of representatives from the government, UN cluster, donor agencies, civil society networks and private sectors pushes for country led, owned, cost effective scaled up interventions and multi-sectoral approaches to end malnutrition and hunger. Aligned with the Global SUN Movement and the commitments made by the country representatives, Bangladesh has formed the Civil Society Alliance for Scaling up Nutrition in Bangladesh

(CSA for SUN, BD). It promotes sustainable improvement in nutritional status of adolescents, women and children of Bangladesh by creating a strong, coordinated and vibrant civil society constituency alliance to support development and implementation of the nutrition agenda, under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh.

Aligned with the global SUN movement standpoint to improve the nutritional status of the highly malnourished country, the civil society alliance is actively working to push up nutrition as a priority agenda of the government of Bangladesh. In line with its continuing effort to advocate for

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better nutrition policies to the government and policymakers, CSA for SUN, BD in association with a grassroots non-government organization, Voluntary Association for Rural Development (WARD), member of CSA for SUN, BD organized a sub-national level meeting at Sylhet division to orient the local key stakeholders on 1000 days and multi-sectoral approaches. As the meeting was held on August 1 - the first day of Breastfeeding Week, the introductory address was started with celebrating breastfeeding week, reiterating the importance of breast milk for health and development of children less than two years of age. The event was participated by high officials and representatives of different government agencies, non-government organizations, health sec-

tors and population sectors, educational institutes, private sectors and UN REACH. Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet, Mr. NM Ziaul Alam attended the meeting as the chief guest whereas Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Secretary of CSA for SUN, BD and Director, BRAC Health Nutrition and Population chaired and moderated the session. In a brief presentation, Dr. Ferdousi Begum, Executive member of CSA for SUN, BD and Country Programme Manager of Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA-III) project, FHI 360, highlighted the background of the global SUN Movement and the role of CSA for SUN, BD and its key activities. The participants came up with various ideas using multi-sectoral approaches to reduce malnutrition of children using 1,000 days from conception to under-two children.

Relevant secondary reports including lancet series, world bank's recent publications mirror that nutrition is no more an issue to be targeted solely rather a multi-sectoral approach bringing all stakeholders under one umbrella needs to be designed to uplift the nutritional status of the country through an effective and time befitting policy.

Moreover, studies presented in the Hunger Summit 2013 and published in the Lancet series and by the World Bank reflect that high level of malnutrition acts as an obstacle to the economic emancipation of the country and research has revealed that any investment made on nutrition today would bring about a ten times benefit in the future which would foster economic growth of Bangladesh.

Therefore, it is high time that the civil society, government, private sector and media collectively work together to combat malnutrition and push nutrition as the highest national priority with actionable acts from multi-sectoral platform.

(Kazi Amit Imran is currently working in BRAC as Senior Sector Specialist and had previously worked in World Bank as DPCG's delegated Project Manager)

Budget analysis efforts – Zambia, Ghana and Malawi currently engaged in conducting or supporting budget analysis efforts

Budget estimates analysis to inform civil society nutrition efforts in the country – an important annual exercise needed in SUN countries and in which SUN CSAs can play a crucial role. If you are aware or involved/contributing to similar efforts in your country, please do share with the SUN CSN Coordinator.

Key documents can assist this process, such as for example the Save the Children Health Sector Budget Advocacy Guide-<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/resources/online-library/healthsector-budget-advocacy-guide-civil-society-organisations>

SecureNutrition Spotlight

August 2013



SecureNutrition Spotlight
Highlights in the Agriculture, Nutrition and Food Security Community

Interview with the SUN CSN Chair

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Network - a force for Boosting Nutrition through Agriculture by Brendan Cox (SUN CSN Chair)

For me, as for many others in the nutrition community, the last few months have been an extremely important, impressive, and exciting time. Things that would have been completely unthinkable just two years ago, from pledges of over \$23billion for nutrition-specific and –sensitive interventions, to 41 countries now signed up to being part of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement have become reality. The advances of the last couple of years represent a hugely positive shift whose impacts will be felt for years to come, and the estimated Nutrition for Growth summit is just one measure of our community's recent successes.

But we also know that the scale of the problem remains large –malnutrition is a death sentence for over 3 million children every year and a life sentence for millions more, crushing their life-long ability to learn and to earn and costing the global economy as much as \$125billion per year.

That's why one of the most exciting moments of the past few months for me was the Inaugural Meeting of the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network which took place in Washington DC on June 11. The meeting counted over 66 representatives from civil society in over 32 countries from across the SUN movement. Participants agreed on priorities for how civil society around the world will work together to ensure our recent successes continue to increase and to meet the challenge that remains. We agreed to a declaration setting out what we will focus on, what we demand of others, and how we will make it happen. We must now ensure recent

advocacy successes are followed through ensuring commitments are met and goals achieved. The Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network is a key player in making this happen.

As well as making impressive gains last month, we also learned a lot. The new Lancet series on nutrition highlighted once again the importance of nutrition-sensitive interventions, including agricultural programmes, as well as giving us key insights as to ways to improve their nutritional impact. The outcomes from Nutrition for Growth highlighted, once again, that governments and donors still need to clarify and unify their approaches to nutrition-sensitive actions. And finally, for me, at the Inaugural Meeting, I heard voices around the table again and again talking not only about the untapped potential of agriculture presenting a real opportunity for further gains to be made against malnutrition, but also about how civil society is already working to reach out to farmers groups and influence agriculture in order to boost balanced and sustainable nutrition.

This SecureNutrition spotlight highlights some of the key actions already being taken from civil society as part of efforts to scale up nutrition. It highlights how, of all parts of the SUN movement, it is civil society whose fluidity and independence allows us to do the essential job of reaching out to other sectors, including agriculture, encouraging them to boost nutrition. The Zambian Civil Society Network's work is a good example of this at the national level, while internationally, the Asian Farmer's Association (AFA) show how they are actively involved in influencing regional Asian processes to boost nutrition through agriculture.

As chair of the Network, I see three particular opportunities for civil society involved in Scaling Up Nutrition to have impact in the area of nutrition-agriculture linkages. Most immediately this year's CFS-40, where there is already talk of a civil society side event focusing on a rights-based approach to nutrition in food systems. Then next year the African Union will focus on African agricultural programmes, including CAADP, as part of its "year of agriculture", and influencing reform of these to better highlight nutrition is of course a key opportunity. In the longer term, the post 2015 process of course presents an opportunity to increase the nutritional impact, equity, sustainability and resilience of food systems. The SUN civil society network will be working to influence all of these processes. Civil society's involvement in the SUN movement has already been incredibly impressive, and I am excited to see how we further strengthen recent gains in nutrition and reach to include others from across the movement. I hope that this SecureNutrition spotlight sparks yet more ideas, inspiration and energy, of the type which has helped us to get so far already in impacting malnutrition.



Resources

Now Available! DRAFT Progress Report of the SUN Movement (September 2013)

This draft annual report focuses on the advances made by the countries in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement since September 2012; governments of these SUN countries have together committed to improve nutrition for millions of children and their mothers. The report examines the benefits of investing in improved nutrition, the transformations needed for effective action, the four processes through which they are achieved, and the ways in which governments, and their in-country partners, are working to secure impact. Go to <http://scalingupnutrition.org/news/now-available-draft-state-of-the-sun-movement-progress-report-september-2013#.Uj0Mfj-E7L>

Relationships and Partnerships

Over the past couple of months, the SUN CSN has been busy connecting and engaging with key stakeholders keen to work with us. Connections have been made and partnerships are starting to be built with ([1000 days](#), [Accountability & Transparency for Human Rights \(AT4HR\) Foundation](#), [ACTION](#), [Africa Platform for Social Protection](#), [ALL-MA](#), [CWS global](#), [Development Initiatives](#), [DFID](#), [Emergency Nutrition Network](#), [GRET – Professionals for Fair Development](#), [Hunger and Nutrition blog](#), [Institute of Development studies](#), [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](#), [Nutrition Advocacy Group](#), [OLAM](#), [RESULTS](#), [Saving Humans](#), [Secure Nutrition Spotlight – World Bank](#), [The Chicago Council on Global Affairs](#), [UN REACH](#), [UN SCN](#), [UNICEF](#), [US Department of State Office of Global Food Security](#), [WA-BA -World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action](#), [WASH Advocates](#).

The SUN CSN is also attempting connections with the [African Biodiversity Network](#) and [Alive & Thrive](#).

These relationships and potential partnerships are being developed to be mutually beneficial and strengthen our efforts.

Communications

- * Twitter account now set up – follow us @SUNCSN
- * Google groups set up for Steering Group, for all SUN CSAs, for Francophone African discussions and exchange, for Anglophone African discussions and exchange, for Asian discussions and exchange – Please use these spaces more actively
- * A bi-weekly update to Steering Group members of the SUN CSN
- * A web page in process of being revamped - <http://scalingupnutrition.org/the-sun-network/civil-society-network> – watch that space!
- * Contribution to the SUN movement Advocacy and Communications Team – SUNACT
- * A small sub-group of the SUN CSN comprising SUN CSN coordinator, SUN CSA representatives, SUN SG members – the result of open nominations process
- * Contribution to 2 calls since June 2013
- * Key messages for SUN movement to sing the same song sheet in the pipeline.
- * A monthly update for the SUN CSN developed – welcome to this first edition.

Calendar of Events

PAST & CURRENT	UPCOMING
<p>Budget tracking workshop to sharpen accountability efforts by civil society, parliaments, media - 27-30 AUGUST 2013 Nairobi, Kenya - http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/events/2013/meeting_nairobi/en/index.html</p>	<p>Save the Children Regional Health and Nutrition Meeting West and Central Africa - Cross-building capacities between countries, the regional office and headquarters – Dakar, Senegal - 30TH September to 3rd October 2013</p>
<p>ACF Advocacy training for Nutrition Champion - Dakar, Senegal – Sep 2-6, 2013</p>	<p>ACTION ‘Championing Nutrition’ Workshop – Nairobi, Kenya – Oct 9-11, 2013 –a process currently underway to get high SUN CSA participation</p>
<p>G20, Constantine Palace, St. Petersburg, Russia - Summit 5-6 September 2013 - Additional Information on the Event</p>	<p>Global Donor Platform for Rural Development – 34th International Conference on Food Security and Nutrition, Rome, Italy - 7 October 2013</p>
<p>International Congress on Nutrition, Granada, Spain - 15-20 September 2013; Side Event: Symposium on Scaling Up Nutrition, Granada, Spain - 16 September 2013 - Additional Information on the Event - SUN CSN presence</p>	<p>Committee on World Food Security, Rome, Italy - 7-11 October, 2013 - SUN CSN Steering group members working towards ensuring SUN CSA contribution</p>
<p>68th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 68)- New York, USA - 17 September - 2 October 2013 - http://www.un.org/en/ga/</p>	<p>International Day of Rural Women - 15 October 2013</p>
<p>Select nutrition-related events aligning with UNGA 68: September UNGA Event Calendar</p>	<p>World Food Day - 16 October 2013</p>
<p>Clinton Global Initiative, New York, NY, USA - 23-26 September - Additional Information on the Event</p>	<p>What We Know Now: A Decade of Community-based Treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition, London, UK - 17-18 October 2013 - Additional Information</p>
<p>SUN Movement Global Gathering, New York, USA - 23-24 September 2013 - http://scalingupnutrition.org/resources-archive/sun-movement-global-gathering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Large SUN CS representation at SUN Global Gathering, New York, USA - 23-24 September 2013 ➤ SUN CSN contribution to drafting a joint statement from the Lead Group ➤ 2 SUN CSN network led sessions on : Supporting the implementation of commitments and investments (financial, capacity, ...) in nutrition – Country examples (Zambia and Bangladesh) and broader cross-learning & Developing a multi-sectoral plan – Roles of UN and CSOs and working together towards strengthened country plans. ➤ A side meeting of SUN CSN Steering Group members, SUN CSA representatives and observer partners to advance SUN CSN efforts 	<p>International Course on Agriculture Nutrition Linkages, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - 18-29 November 2013 - Additional Information</p>



Group Photo
ACF Advocacy training for Nutrition Champion
Dakar, Senegal – Sep 2-6, 2013

Multi-Partner Trust Fund call for applications - opening soon. Watch this space!

Coordinated Civil Society, with a powerful and harmonised voice, can bring the essential grass-root support to scale up nutrition at the local level

