A Status Report on The Ghana Civil Society Coalition for Scaling Nutrition (GHACSSUN) and its role in scaling up of national nutrition programs in the context of the SUN Movement (Dr. Frank McAvor)

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outline

• Objectives of GHACSSUN
• Background
• Process
• Achievements
• Key challenges
• The Way Forward
Objectives of GHACSSUN in Supporting the Scaling up National Nutrition Programmes

• Leading nutrition advocacy and policy dialogue, supporting the design and implementation of national multi-sectoral nutrition strategic plans, promoting multi-stakeholders coordination mechanisms

• building national capacities and monitoring various actors to ensure consistency and accountability in nutrition policies across Ghana.
Background

• In context of the SUN movement, GHACSSUN was formed to build on existing policies and programmes, increase stakeholder engagement and amplify the current political commitment in the Ghana.

• GHACSSUN is a national civil society coalition encompassing all relevant and interested CSOs, donors, non-state actors and state actors involved directly/indirectly in the fight against malnutrition.

• GHACSSUN believes peer capacity building will ensure consistency and accountability in nutrition policies in Ghana.
Relevance of GHACSSUN in the SUN Movement

The role of GHACSSUN and Civil society is crucial in advocating and sustaining political will for Government Action, in monitoring and Accountability of both the public and private sectors, as well as in delivery nutrition services.
Process

• Needs assessment of all CSOs involved in nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive actions.
• Creating strong links with donor community and other national alliances worldwide and identify and document best practices and disseminate.
• Identifying and document private sector partners.
• Build capacity of the Coalition based on results of needs assessment.
• Establish Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism.
Process – Activities currently being undertaken by GHACSSUN

• Needs
  – Mapping of CSOs in Ghana
  – Resource mobilization
  – Developing unified advocacy framework
  – Efficient M & E System

• Actions
  – Organizing and bringing CSOs together on to CSO platform
  – Formation & strengthening of CSO governance structures
  – Develop a plan of action for identified needs
  – Mapping of CSOs in Ghana
  – Resource mobilization
  – Developing unified advocacy framework
  – Working Monitoring & Evaluation System developed
Status of GHACSSUN in the Process

- CSO Participation in meeting GHACSSUN in Feb 2012
- High level meeting on Governance structure of GHACSSUN in Accra, Sept 2012
- Meeting to announce the commencement of Strengthening of GHACSSUN Project May 2013
- Official Launch of GHACSSUN in Aug 2013
- Full implementation of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund sponsored Project on course on.
Achievements

– Baseline Study of CSOs involved in nutrition in Ghana
  • Commenced in all 10 regions of Ghana

– Mapping of CSOs in Ghana
  • In progress in the three Northern Regions and Greater Accra (4 Regions)
  • Continuing mobilization of CSOs

– Resource mobilization
  • Planned local fund raising commenced
  • Arrangements for a Musical Concert to raise fund completed
  • Event Planner recruited to organise series of fund raising activities

– Unified advocacy framework
  • Consultants commenced work GHACSSUN Advocacy Strategy Plan
  • Working with GHS to develop common advocacy strategy

Reorganisations of Parliamentarians Against Hunger & Malnutrition
• Backstopping the Mobilization of Parliamentarians to join the Caucus. Number of members has increased from 12 to 28
3-year Plan of action for GHACSSUN

- GHACSSUN Strengthening Project supported by Multi-Donor Trust Fund initiated and programmed to run for 3 years

- Key strategic objectives
  - Establish an independent multi-sectoral CSO coalition
  - Raise the profile of nutrition as a development issue in Ghana through sustained advocacy program
  - Build the capacity of CSOs to be able to sustain Nutrition advocacy towards SUN in Ghana
  - Create forum for exchange of best practices among CSOs involved in Nutrition
Key contributions of GHACSSUN to Ghana SUN efforts

• Representation on the national & international SUN forum
• WFP has been nominated and accepted as GHACSSUN UN partner
• Contributed to National Nutrition policy drafting, validation and finalization
• Participation in the Cross-Sectoral Planning Group
  – Selection of a Nutrition Ambassadors
Nutrition Ambassadors

Abrantie Amakye Dede

Joyce Aryee
Key Challenges

• Funding from local sources is essential but a huge challenge

• Grassroots participation in nutrition action is a huge challenge but achievable target

• Harmonization of Country players in an efforts to avoid duplication (REACH)
acknowledgements