

## Web Article/18<sup>th</sup> September 2014

### **SUN CSA holds first county advocacy training**

Kenya's Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance (SUN CSA) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) conducted the first county nutrition and food security advocacy training in West Pokot, North Rift region, from 26-29 August 2014.

The theme of the training was: *'Integration of Nutrition and Food Security Programming'*.

Read more <http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-security-capacity-building/news/detail-events/en/c/241297/>

A half-day advocacy workshop that brought together the county leaders, government officers, representatives of civil societies and non-governmental, preceded the training. SUN CSA and FAO facilitators highlighted the role of SUN Movement, importance of food security and nutrition, consequences of malnutrition to the society, County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and budgets to improve food security and nutrition.

The county leadership recognised that food insecurity and malnutrition are major issues affecting the county. Through different training sessions, participants agreed that each sector has a key role in tackling malnutrition and that the different sectors would work together for improved nutrition outcome in West Pokot County. They pledged to advocate for this with their organizations' leadership.

In his remarks, West Pokot Deputy Governor Titus Lotei affirmed that "Nutrition is a concern of all people and not a health issue only." Although there had been a slight improvement in the county's nutrition status, the Deputy Governor expressed his concern following the findings from the latest nutrition survey which revealed that West Pokot County had the second leading stunting (chronic malnutrition) rates in the country.



The County Speaker Robert Katina (***pictured above***) pledged his support for the legislation on nutrition issues and increase of resources to address malnutrition. He welcomed SUN CSA's call for increased funding in nutrition and pledged to present the same to the Members of County Assembly (MCA) to have their input in strategies to scale up nutrition.

The half-day workshop attracted good media coverage. Below are some links:

- West FM, 28<sup>th</sup> August: <http://westfm.co.ke/index.php?page=news&bid=11601>
- K24 TV, 27<sup>th</sup> August: <http://bit.ly/1vUolxx>
- The Standard newspaper, 27<sup>th</sup> August: <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000132875/alarm-raised-over-increased-cases-of-malnutrition-in-west-pokot>

The 30 participants who were trained on nutrition and food security advocacy and facilitators were drawn from different sectors, among them SUN CSA, UN Network (FAO and UNICEF), Government Network (ministries of Health, Agriculture, Livestock and Water), women empowerment groups, Transparency International and community based organisations.



**Photo:** *SUN CSA National Coordinator Grace Gitau receives her training certificate from Titus Mung'ou (left, SUN CSA Chair) and Angela Kimaini (FAO).*

- *Article compiled by Titus Mung'ou, Chair SUN Civil Society Alliance*