



Scaling Up
NUTRITION

ENGAGE • INSPIRE • INVEST

SUN is a unique Movement founded on the principle that all people have a right to food & good nutrition.

SUN Movement 23rd Series of Country Network

Teleconferences –
Building and Sustaining
Political Commitment for
Nutrition Action –
The Gambia experience

What were the key success factors in securing and sustaining political commitment for nutrition?

- **The Government secured a World Bank Supported Project in 1998 which had the development of a National Nutrition Policy as a condition for continued funding.**
- **The leadership of the MOHSW under the guidance of the then Nutrition Unit formed a Taskforce that began the process of drafting the first policy**
- **The National Nutrition Policy was drafted and finalized and became effective in 2000.**
- **The Government realized that nutrition was a national development issue that was cross cutting hence decide to establish an Agency to coordinate the implementation of this policy.**

What were the political circumstances and key steps taken?

- The Agency was then placed under the Office of the Vice President so that it will be able to carry out that coordination function while at the same give nutrition necessary political support.
- To support the implementation of policy, National Nutrition Council was established comprising of Ministers and chaired by the Vice President
- By 2002, the Agency received a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) from the FAO to strength the National Food Control System.
- This led to the enactment of the country's first Food ACT

Who were the key decision makers engaged, how were they identified and what tools/ methods were used?

- **The Food Act 2005, legalized the establishment of the National Nutrition Agency with the mandate to coordinate the implementation of the National Nutrition Policy and the Act.**
- **Since the creation of the Agency with legal status, NaNA was empowered to mobilize resources for nutrition programming**
- **This function of the Agency was enhanced by the Office Vice President supporting in mobilizing resources and creating visibility for nutrition.**

Which stakeholders were integral to the effort?

- **The Vice President has provided the Agency with the Political recognition of optimal nutrition as a pre-requisite for national development.**
- **She has ever since been the Champion of Nutrition in The Gambia**

Challenges and guidance based on your experiences

- **Sustaining the gains made in the area of nutrition in the past 15 years**
- **Scaling of the proven nutrition interventions to reach all.**