NEWSLETTER

HUNGER ALLIANCE OF GHANA
SCALING UP NUTRITION POOLED FUND PROJECT

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Advocating for the mainstreaming of nutrition in the medium-term development plans of twenty (20) targeted high burden malnutrition districts and re-enforcing capacity of sub national actors for change in nutrition outcomes at the sub national level is the main objective of this project which is being funded by the SUN Pooled fund. The project is being implemented in 20 districts namely:Nabdam, Bongo and Builsa South in Upper East Region , East Gonja, Central Gonja, North Gonja and Kpandai in Northern Region, Wa West, Wa East, Sissala West and Jirapa in Upper West Region , Kwahu South, Upper Manya, Akyem Mansa and Ayensuano in Eastern Region and Mfantsiman, Agona East, Ewutu Senya, Ekumfi and Upper Denkyira East from the Central Region with the support of 4 (four) implementing partners namely: Wellbeing foundation ,Water and Sanitation Alliance, African Farming Families Foundation and Savannah Integrated and Rural Development Aid . The one year project is from August 2018 to August 2019.

Nana Ayim Poakwah

Word from the Executive Director

It is with great delight that I welcome readers to the first edition of the SUN Pooled fund project newsletter in Ghana. This newsletter, compiled by the Project Implementation Team, is to provide project information and updates to our partners and stakeholders on the various stages of the project implementation processes . The Government of Ghana through the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) is pleased to be associated with this project. This project is being implemented through sustained engagements and advocacy at the national and sub-national level to shore up commitment of policy makers (District Planners, Budget Officers, District Chief Executives etc) to prioritize and provide adequate budgetary support to nutrition through their plans.

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We thank the SUN secretariat and UNOPs for their support and partnership. We are hopeful that this project shall bring the desired change in nutrition outcomes in these 20 districts.

High level district engagements

Implementing Partners under the leadership of the Hunger Alliance of Ghana embarked on high level district engagements to help key stakeholders at the sub-national level ie District Budget Officers, District Planners , District Chief Executives understand the project modalities and the need to prioritize nutrition in their medium term development plans. This activity also enabled IPs to have a deeper understanding of the nutrition profile of the 20 selected districts in which the project is being implemented.

Inception meeting

The Alliance organized a project inception meeting on 21st August 2018, at British Council, Accra. The meeting was to amongst others, introduce the project and help stakeholders understand the modalities and the conceptualization of the project, its goals and impact. It was also to help stakeholders recognize their roles in a collective effort to make the project achieve its goal.

News from the field

Nutrition Champions

A total of 20 persons have been identified during the district engagements and will be trained to become nutrition champions from 2019.

The training will sensitize these champions about the importance of sustaining advocacy efforts in their districts even after the project has ended. They shall also serve as change agents and monitoring agents for the pooled fund activities at the sub-national level. 20 more shall be identified and added to this number.

A total of Forty-five (45) persons are expected to benefit from the training of nutrition champions by the end of the project.

Scaling Up NUTRITION

ENGAGE • INSPIRE • INVEST

UNOPS MISSION TO GHANA

Mr. Bhushan SHRESTHA , the M&E Specialist of UNOPS embarked on a monitoring mission to Ghana from 18th to 20th September 2018. The purpose of his mission was to understand Ghana's food and nutrition security context and also to learn from the project implementers about challenges and opportunities in the course of project implementation so far. Mr SHRESTHA also had meetings with the Ministry of Food Agriculture -Women in Agriculture Development Directorate, NDPC and UNICEF.

Budget Tracking and Analysis

The Alliance's project technical team working with a consultant, commissioned a budget tracking and analysis of the 2017 and 2018 national budgets. The findings from the analysis was shared and discussed at the stakeholder dialogue on nutrition financing. The report from the analysis has been widely disseminated with stakeholders to serve as an evidenced based tool for advocacy to influence government to increase budgetary allocation to nutrition.

Dialogue on nutrition financing

National Dialogue on Nutrition Financing

A stakeholder dialogue on nutrition financing was organized on 21st November 2018.The dialogue discussed critical issues bothering on nutrition funding including but not limited to;

- The extent at which the 2019 national budget was nutrition sensitive
- The exact allocation or funds for nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive sectors to understand the level of progression in fund allocation for nutrition from 2017-2018 in the national budget.
- Learn about the challenges in addressing nutrition funding constraints and how to address these challenges.

Multi-Sectoral Engagements

MEETING WITH SUN DONOR NETWORK

Nana Ayim Poakwah, on behalf of the SUN CSA network had a meeting with the SUN Donor Network on 9th September 2018. The meeting was to introduce the project to the donor network and identify key areas of collaboration. Mr. Ayim made a presentation of th project to the appreciation of the donor network members who were present at the meeting. Members collectively resolved to work together to create awareness about SUN implementation in Ghana, resolve some challenges, and consolidate gains made . The meeting was attended by SUN Donor platform representatives from the World Bank, USAID, UNICEF and JICA.

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