

Lessons Learned Workshop



**SCALING UP NUTRITION
POOLED FUND**

OCTOBER 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Objectives Agenda Quick facts	Page 3
Rationale for having the workshop	Page 4
Key Highlights	Page 4-6
Way forward	Page 7-8
Annexes	Page 9-12

OBJECTIVES

- Sharing of best practices & lessons learned by different grantees (topics will be provided)
- Bringing the grantees together and familiarizing them with PF activities across different cycles and windows
- A wonderful opportunity for UNOPS, SMS as well to learn more about nutrition-sensitive, innovative and successful models that have already been supported by the PF and can be replicated in other regions/contexts
- A great platform for exchanging knowledge and experience that will eventually feed into SUN's Knowledge Management System

AGENDA

Part 1: Introduction	
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome Objective of the lessons learned workshop Using SUN Movement Pooled Fund Social Media Handles
Part 2: Catalytic Role of the PF	
10:10-10:30	Presentation by Zambia (W1C2)
10:30-11:00	Q/A
Part 3: Peer to Peer/Cross-network learning	
11:00-11:10	Interactive session/Group Exercise
11:10-11:30	Presentation by Philippines
11:30-12:00	Q/A
Part 4: Closure	
12:00-12:20	Open Floor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on the new Website of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) - Remarks/Recommendations from the participants - Recommendations from the PF team
12:20-12:30	Way forward Concluding Remarks

QUICK FACTS

Date: October 15, 2020

Duration: 2 Hours and 30 mins

Target audience: English Speaking Countries from Asia and Africa

Implementation period covered: 2017 (W1C1)-PRESENT (W2C1)

Total number of countries invited: 28

<u>Africa (16)</u>	<u>Asia (12)</u>
South Sudan	Bangladesh
Sudan	Myanmar
Liberia	Sri Lanka
Namibia	PNG
Nigeria	Kyrgyzstan
Ghana	Philippines
Somalia	Cambodia
Somaliland	Pakistan
Malawi	Afghanistan
Zambia	Nepal
Zimbabwe	Indonesia
Tanzania	Vietnam
Kenya	
Mozambique	
Ethiopia	
Cameroon	

Total number of attendees: 57

Total number of countries attended: 19

Key presenters:

- 1) Zambia (W1C2)
- 2) Philippines (W1C2)

Facilitated by: PF M&E Team

Rationale for having the workshop now

We have a lot of outstanding achievements but these are not adequately captured in reports for various reasons including the restrictive nature of reports. The current practical lessons learnt are important to share with grantees who are facing similar challenges and to also share our approaches on how we achieved these results. An opportunity to also connect and strengthen the network and see where we can improve. There was also a call to make better use of social media, our website and other means of communication to share our stories targeting different audiences. This was delayed because of COVID-19 related restrictions but we would have wanted to have this throughout the year. We however hope that moving forward, this will become the norm and lessons learning workshops will regularly be organized, bilaterally, at regional level and south to south. It will also be important to expand the sessions to regularly include the other SUN networks with special emphasis on the SUN business network.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Ms. Fiona Wabui Getere, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, Scaling Up Nutrition Pooled Fund, UNOPS made the opening remarks and introduced the Pooled Fund Team to the participants.
- The two key presenters from Zambia (representing Africa) and Philippines (representing Asia) presented on two pre-selected topics.

Topic 01: "Catalytic Role of the PF", presented by Zambia

Guiding questions for the presenter: Being one of the countries that have been successful at the national or sub-national level (specify) in getting the nutrition plan costed and / or got specific budget allocation / or increased budget allocation by the government for nutrition; what lessons can you share in terms of:

- What was the specific role of the CSA?
- What was the role of other stakeholders?
- How did working with champions (particularly from the government) facilitate achievement of results?
- What lessons are there for national versus sub-national level?
- How did the pooled fund particularly aid in this?
- What were the common and special approaches that were used or what did they do differently?
- For those who faced challenges in this area, what lessons can you learn and what could be done differently?

Significant achievements

- Development and Launching of the National Nutrition Strategic Plan which, since 2017, Zambia did not have due to lack of financial support
- In addition to other key stakeholders, UNICEF and Donor network Members supported the process of development and launching of the National Nutrition Strategic Plan by financing.
- CSO-SUN has been able to influence nutrition policies and legislative processes including the National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan and the National Food and Nutrition Bill
- CSO-SUN is part of innovative financing platforms for nutrition including the GFF processes.
- CSO-SUN has been able to build a critical mass for nutrition, including nutrition champion (10 nutrition champions from different backgrounds including celebrities, Influential journalists, community leaders, entrepreneurs of local foods, youth advocates) and media partnerships. CSO-SUN used the media advocacy to build public pressure on the key asks.
- The Government of Zambia established the Covid-19 Emergency Social Cash Transfer Programme to protect vulnerable households from food insecurity in August 2020. Beneficiaries of the Cash are also being given nutrition information.
- With Support from Pooled Fund, CSO-SUN engaged the Zambian government on the need to put in place social protection programmes to safeguard the gains made in reducing malnutrition.

Lessons learned

- Round table engagements with grassroots CSOs are very informative and help shape national effort to address key challenges affecting nutrition.
- Advocacy for marginalized grassroots populations have been helpful in formalizing partnerships with private sector and FBOs.
- Working closely with community gatekeepers gets work done easier while working with champions at national level is ideal.
- Subnational SBCC campaigns should be adapted to respond to the communication channels that work effectively in that geographic area where as the use of mass communication works better at national level.

Topic 02: "Peer to Peer Learning and Cross-Network Learning", presented by Philippines

Guiding questions for the presenter:

1. The Pooled Fund's Catalytic Role/What key results would not have been achieved without Pooled Fund at national or sub-national levels?
2. How has the CSA in your country participated in the following activities?
 - Peer to peer learning/south-south learning
 - Cross-network learning with SUN Business Network and / or the SUN Donor Network? Please outline the main achievements, innovations or challenges in this regard.

Significant achievements

- 8 national guides and 4 sub-national policies that clearly incorporate contributions provided by SUN CSA
- 13 parliamentarian champions and key influencers that speak about nutrition in key decision-making processes related to legislation, policy making, planning and budgeting
- 3394 USD mobilized by the SUN CSA through other sources (other than SUN Movement Pooled Fund) to complement the COVID response of sub-national nutrition-sensitive projects
- 14 Multi-sectoral Platform (MSP) meetings coordinated by SUN government focal point where the SUN CSA participate with quality inputs
- 1,261 people reached through the Behavior Change campaigns organized by CSOs within the CSA network
- Aided the alliance to improve its visibility, internal and external learning exchange, and organizational strengthening
- Technical collaboration for nutrition integration in national government programs through learning events for wider network of audience, and targeted technical collaboration.
- Strengthened capacities of Local Civil Society Organizations to support Local Government units in planning & implementing nutrition-sensitive projects

The PF Effect

- Better understanding of both various government agencies and civil society organizations about Nutrition Sensitive Programming (NSP) was achieved. Through the support of SUN Pooled fund project, we were able to organize learning events i.e. NSP convention and online learning exchange on NSP.
- NSP framework and innovative interventions were developed based on lessons from field-based experiences by select members of SUN CSA PH, in collaboration with community-based organizations and local government units.
- Establishment of Technical Working Group (TWG) on NSP with clear purpose and role (based on the TOR prepared by IIRR in consultation with NNC).

Examples of Peer-to-Peer Learning and Cross-Network exchange

- National Convention on Nutrition-Sensitive Programs (NSP)
- SUN-CSA PH General Assembly
- The first Online Learning Exchange of SUN-CSA PH
- SUN CSA regional meetings
- SUN global gathering
- NNC-led Technical Working Group for NSP
- Informational Materials produced:
 - Handbook on Nutrition-sensitive Programs
 - NSP Primer Highlights
 - Case story videos to highlight each project (advocacy and policy influencing)

WAY FORWARD

Role of SUN CSA

- a) Proactive role and practical commitments by the CSA make a significant difference; the CSA should be open to receiving suggestions/feedback provided by partners.
- b) Compact review meetings should be held periodically to assess CSA performance and their efforts to be more coordinated with the government and other key stakeholders.
- c) It is important for the CSA network to engage more with the Government in the national nutrition budget tracking and analyses.

Role of SUN Focal Points

- a) In some cases, there is a need for more active participation by the SUN Focal points in advocacy and awareness events hosted by SUN CSA at national and subnational levels. Close collaboration with the focal point and government is a strong driver of results.
- b) It is important to identify and engage more parliamentary champions in the process. There is also a need to diversify champions to address challenges when there are changes in political governance. To include technical, academia and social champions
- c) Supporting the SUN Government Network to facilitate meetings and actively engage in reviewing and providing input to the SUN 3.0 strategy

Partnership at both national & sub-national levels

- a) Strengthening partnership at the **sub-national and community level** and **link** these to **national processes**.
- b) More **joint efforts** (including **evidence-based nutrition advocacy initiatives**) and commitments by SBN, the government, donors, CSOs and other key stakeholders towards ensuring better nutrition for all
- c) Engagement with the **decision makers at national and subnational levels** for **improved collaboration** with government for effective malnutrition response
- d) Work closer with the government on the provision of **nutrition data for advocacy** and support to CSA to actively contribute to **Multi-stakeholder decision making processes at the sub national levels**.

Policy-level changes

More **advocacy and research needed** to identify **gaps** and **strengthen existing regulations/policies/laws**, as well as for **inclusion of laws** such as “Breast-Milk Substitutes – CMBS” into the national level policy or action plans.

Process

- a) **Identifying areas** where advocacy will play a crucial role.
- b) **Mapping of key stakeholders** including donors and government agencies to engage in dialogues
- c) Developing **comprehensive advocacy strategies** as required
- d) Ensuring that the new National Action Plans and policies that are being developed and approved are **aligned and harmonized with other national priorities and existing policies**

Catalytic role of media

- a) **Increase the number of radio and Social Media Campaigns** for awareness on Nutrition and its Multi-sectoral linkages, especially for Nutrition sensitive COVID-19 messages
- b) **Enhancing the capacity of the journalists** (editors and reporters) in order to enable them for in-depth reporting on nutrition related matters.

SME support

- a) Analyze the current context, conduct **need assessment/research**, design appropriate activities to enable them **respond to existing demand-supply gaps more efficiently and provide more effective solutions**.
- b) Create a **platform for them to share knowledge and experience** among themselves.
- c) Improve their **capacity** in order to develop and nurture **innovative** business models.

Multi-Stakeholder/Sector Platform (MSPs)

1. MSPs need to be **established or reactivated**, that will include the **SUN Secretariat and decentralized SUN Movement Coordination** at sub-national levels.
2. The **MSP** should **follow Policy Frameworks**, while **coordinating with the Government** on development of National Action Plans and **be engaged in joint supportive supervision**.

Peer-To-Peer learning/knowledge exchange

1. **Cross-sectoral and inter-departmental** (government) **coordination/collaboration with common interest** to address Food Security Nutrition issues
2. **Cross-border exchange** to understand multi-sectoral coordination, CSA's role and innovations; exchange of newsletters, annual reports and periodic reports across the border- with the regional CSN, SUN Global etc.

Enhancing capacity of CSA and target communities

1. Engaging more academia and research organizations for developing **modules for improving behaviour/advocacy at the community level as well as enhancing capacity of CSA members on FSN** for better implementation.
2. Improving **knowledge and information management** for efficient and effective planning for contributing towards nutrition actions at local level
3. More **advocacy at the community level** for improving their behaviour towards production of nutritious foods and consumption of diversified diet

Monitoring and Reporting of Nutrition initiatives both at national and sub-national level

- a) Establish/re-activate Nutrition clusters/Working groups and monitoring cells/mechanisms' regular monitoring and reporting of Nutrition initiatives/joint commitments made at both national and sub-national level.
- b) Establishment of district nutrition committees in the project districts to promote inclusiveness and ownership of MSP members (particularly local government and grassroot level CSO representatives) in the formulation and implementation of nutrition policies and programs.

Youth and Gender mainstreaming

- a) Mobilizing youth events/fora; identify and promote youth advocates for nutrition.
- b) Conduct gender analyses to inform the effect of gender roles and integrating gender perspectives in nutrition policies and strategies.

Fund raising and sustainability

- a) More donor and stakeholder mappings are required for expansion of SUN network at decentralized level.
- b) Identify more domestic and external sources of funds as a way forward/sustainability.
- c) Developing key strategic documents such as the fundraising and sustainability strategies before end of the project

ANNEX 1

List of countries attended

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Cambodia
4. Cameroon
5. Ghana
6. Indonesia
7. Kenya
8. Kyrgyzstan
9. Malawi
10. Nepal
11. Nigeria
12. Pakistan
13. Philippines
14. South Sudan
15. Sri Lanka
16. Tanzania
17. Zambia
18. Zimbabwe
19. Vietnam

ANNEX 2

Q/A sessions

For Zambia

“Catalytic role of the PF and contribution by the key stakeholders”

Question from Vietnam

1. Does your awareness and other coms target men or other key family members or just mothers and women?
2. How has the cross-ministerial and wider collaboration been going (assume that there it also crosses health, some version of rural/ag development, perhaps women/child departments) plus the private sector you mentioned and NGOs?
3. Are you focusing on specific more vulnerable target groups (beyond the geographic considerations you mentioned) or if it is more mainstreamed there?

Response by Zambia: Depending on the issue/topic we are advocating, the target group varies from mothers, women, men to adolescent girls. Surveys and studies are conducted prior to the advocacy campaigns to understand the behavior and identify key target groups (e.g., food consumption surveys before awareness campaigns). When it comes to vulnerability, media intelligence is key and CSA Zambia has a paid media intelligence platform that allows them to capture everything going on so that they can pick up and follow-up those issues in their activities. They are also getting intelligences from the National Youth Network to focus and address key issues in particular areas.

Question from Malawi: Can you share the challenges that you faced in your advocacy efforts in putting up the food and nutrition bill into law. Malawi faced issues where the certain contents/sections of the bill have been left out when the cabinet presented the bill to the parliament. Did you face the same issue? Has the complete content reached the parliament? How did you plan to overcome those challenges?

Response by Zambia: Building good relationships with the government and using these connections to have an insight on the bill before it was presented to parliament. Currently in Zambia, one ministry is overseeing the nutrition sensitive programs of other ministries and the CSA proposed in the bill to shift this role to a higher level. However, this proposal has been omitted when the bill was presented to the parliament. Zambia CSA made this proposal when they were invited to the parliament. In addition, they launched a petition with the support of the Global Citizens and with over 19,000 signatures, this was submitted to the VP office, MoJ and then, to the parliament.

Question from Pakistan: In relation to strengthening membership at the grassroots level, how much are they engaged in contributing to the nutrition agenda in Zambia? What was your strategy for the engagement of grassroot organizations?

Question from Zimbabwe: How the CSA of Zambia was structured from the national level down to the subnational level in terms of implementation? As a follow up to Malawi’s question on the Food and Nutrition Bill, how long did it take to enact the bill into an act and can you share with us a copy of the bill?

Response by Zambia: Grassroot teams are part of the key board members in the General Assembly for decision making. At subnational level, the CSA is supporting to develop and formalize structures for these organizations. With regular/quarterly meetings, the challenges, issues together with the ideas for solutions are identified and presented to the required levels.

Question from the Philippines: Can you share about the innovative financing process and what key benefits do you see for the CSA?

Response by Zambia: For financing facilities such as GFF, the country is expected to develop an investment case, part of which is financed by GFF and partly by the government. The government, among other priorities, usually deprioritize nutrition and that's the benefit of CSA to push for nutrition to remain prioritized for investment.

Question from Indonesia: Can you briefly explain the food and nutrition bill and strategic plan of Zambia? Is the legislation or strategic plan put balance priority between food aspects vs nutrition aspects, or is it more "food heavy" priority as usual?

Response by Zambia: Many recommendations and high impact interventions are embedded in the food and nutrition bill/plan and nutrition strategic plan. The bill focuses more on nutrition but there is a balance between nutrition sensitive and specific interventions.

Sharing by Zimbabwe: Conducted budget analysis through evidence generated and presented to the parliament. The parliament recommended increasing budget allocation towards nutrition this year. Hence, Pooled Fund has supported to ensure domestic investment. Total 14 nutrition champions supported engaging policy makers and decision makers. In terms of regional collaboration, East and South Africa CSA Network organize sharing meetings and technical support on budget analysis exercises. They are currently assisting Zimbabwe to do budget analysis to present to the government. Budget analysis on East and South Africa, the report will be launched and shared with the governments. Zimbabwe also managed to collect subnational level data that informs sociocultural influences in feeding.

For Philippines

"Peer-To-Peer Learning and Cross-Network Exchange"

Question from Cambodia: Can you please tell us a bit more details on how CSA in the Philippines went through the advocacy process for this achievement (increase investment in nutrition)?

Response from the Philippines: We partnered with the local government. After conducting baseline assessment to identify the interventions, the projects were designed together with the local government. Since nutrition sensitive interventions are deified during the assessment, they were included and funded in the local development plans. (e.g., providing honorariums for the local workers who are first 1000 day members). At the national level, the newly established Technical Working Group serves as the platform to monitor the interventions and investment but still need a lot of work to grow.

Question from Indonesia: In addition to the Nutrition sensitive approach/intervention, does the Philippine SUN CSA also actively engage or contribute to Nutrition Specific intervention/program. If so can you elaborate more?

Response from the Philippines: This project focused on Nutrition Sensitive Programming as this is the one left behind in the country. Philippines has the DOH as well as other partners who are the forefront of nutrition specific programming (such as nutrition in emergencies, micronutrient supplementation, etc., and World Vision working with DOH to train mothers on MUAC). This project aimed to advocate other ministries (MOE, Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Trade and Industry, etc.,) as they have the budget to invest in this. One of the achievements of this project was the success in passing the first 1000 days' bill.

Question from Pakistan: Most of the members of CSA Pakistan are working in nutrition sensitive sectors but they are not aware of NSP. Can you share the Philippines' experience of having them capacitated on the NSP?

Response from the Philippines: Most of CSA PH members focus on nutrition specific interventions. They are on their way to integrating NSP. But this project allowed them to rethink and redesign the programs to marry both nutrition sensitive and specific interventions together in innovative ways (e.g., WV has community savings and credit groups and they are introducing home gardening and local food production promotion activities to the group).

Question from Vietnam: Given the disasters you have suffered from this year especially (so sorry!). Has SUN CSA Philippines been able to influence humanitarian response packages to ensure nutritious components in any food support to affected families?

Response from the Philippines: Local project with CSOs and local government was redesigned to include nutrition relief efforts and at the same time, achieving the originally committed results. E.g., putting suggestions to National Nutrition Council to include and encourage to use fresh vegetables in food aid. During the Covid lockdown, recipes on how to make more nutritious food (with the food aid provided) were created and sent to local and national advisories (Nutrelief).
