

W1C4 Grants Progress Review

Lessons Learned Workshop



SCALING UP NUTRITION (SUN) MOVEMENT'S POOLED FUND

MAY 2021

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OBJECTIVES

Identify lessons learnt, gaps and opportunities that were leveraged and used to catalyze and or build back better specifically through the grant.

Strengthen peer-to-peer learning and knowledge and experience sharing

Focus on responses to COVID-19 and leveraging government and multi-stakeholder engagement at policy, financing and implementation levels.

Identify lessons learnt and what could be done better to enhance support, speed of response, effective coordination, and joint planning.

AGENDA

Introduction	
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Welcome Objective of the review workshop Using SUN Movement Pooled Fund Social Media handles
Part 1 : Lobbying Advocacy and Communication	
10:45-11:15 AM	Plenary discussion on lobbying and advocating for government support to nutrition in response to COVID-19: <i>Cambodia & Namibia</i>
11:15-11:40 AM	Plenary discussion on communication and messaging and behavior change communication: <i>Sri Lanka</i>
Part 2 : Partnership, community engagement and innovation	
11:40 AM-12:00 PM	Plenary discussion on working in partnership with other stakeholders: <i>Mali</i>
12:00-12:20 PM	Plenary discussion on how community engagement and accountability were ensured: <i>South Sudan</i>
12:20 AM-12:40 PM	Plenary discussion on innovative approaches (focusing but not limited to COVID): <i>Senegal</i>
Part 3: Way forward	
12:40-1:00 PM	Plenary presentation on summary of common challenges and recommendations/focus for the coming years
1:00-1:10 PM	Closing remarks and thanks

QUICK FACTS

Date: 4 May 2021

Duration: 3 hours

Target audience: Pooled Fund-supported CSAs from Africa and Asia

Implementation period covered:
2020 - Present (W1C4)

Total number of countries invited: 14

<u>Africa (10)</u>	<u>Asia (3)</u>
Cameroon	Cambodia
Chad	Pakistan
Ghana	Sri Lanka
Kenya	
Liberia	<u>Latin America (1)</u>
Madagascar	Peru
Mali	
Namibia	
Senegal	
South Sudan	

Total number of attendees: 37

Total number of countries attended: 14

Key presenters:

Cambodia, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Mali, South Sudan, Senegal

Facilitated by: PF M&E Team

Rationale for having the session now

In July 2020, a competitive Call-for-Proposals for a small grant was solicited for CSA's who had previously received a Pooled Fund grant. In their applications, they had to demonstrate how they planned to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. It has been a year since then, and this workshop offers grantees an opportunity to share lessons learnt, gaps and opportunities of addressing nutrition as part of Covid-19 national crisis response and leveraging government and multi-stakeholder engagement. The workshop was conceived in a highly interactive way, where grantees would take the lead in the presentations, and moderation of discussions, strengthening peer-to-peer learning, experience and knowledge sharing.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Fiona Wabui Gatere, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, Pooled Fund, UNOPS gave the opening remarks and introduced the Pooled Fund's M&E Team to the participants.
- ⇒ The grantees that had volunteered themselves gave presentations on assigned thematic, each presentation was followed by an open discussion. Key messages from the presentations, as well as questions asked by the participants are summarized here below.

Topic 1: "Lobbying and advocating for government support to nutrition in response to COVID-19" presented by Cambodia and Namibia

1. Presenter 1: Cambodia

Key activities:

- CSA offered technical support to draft a government statement on Food Security and Nutrition priorities during COVID-19, including civil society input and priorities in the statement. Six topics were prioritized: (1) healthy diet; (2) maternal and infant nutrition; (3) management of severe malnutrition; (4) micronutrients supplementation; (5) school nutrition; and (6) nutritional balance.

Key lessons learned:

- Advocate for government champion's buy-in and support towards nutrition by using evidence of its impact on human's immune system to combat infectious diseases, such as Covid-19.
- Ensure advocacy in favour of nutrition is conducted in a holistic, multisectoral approach during all phases (concept, assessment, implementation, recovery). Joint collaboration and coordination with other stakeholders is critical.
- Strengthen the capacity of the government's structures in order to protect the health of key front line workers.

Participants' interventions: How did you advocate for government support for nutrition during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- *Kenya*
 - Highlighted the importance of being part of the decision-making process. Kenya CSA was part of the national Covid-19 response team to ensure their input on nutrition is taken into account/incorporated.
 - Participated in the elaboration of nutrition guidelines during Covid-19 crisis.
- *Pakistan*
 - Worked on securing Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) as a constitutional right.
- *Chad*
 - Multisectoral efforts and partnership with academia were prioritized by the CSA in the process of advocating for nutrition during the Covid-19 crisis.
 - Drafted a contingency plan and a technical plan in collaboration with the CTPNA platform, a multi stakeholder, technical platform.
 - In addition to this, they partnered with a scientific network and academia to organize a conference about nutrition and food security during Covid 19.

2. Presenter 2: Namibia

Key activities:

- Due to the low impact of Covid-19 in Namibia, activities focused on prevention of Covid-19 through nutrition and food security.
- Organized workshops to train the local actors/NGOs on urban permaculture gardens and nutrition in informal settlements. This way, local NGOs were in a position to implement/replicate these activities in other regions of Namibia.
- Elaborated informational posters in local languages and distributed them during the workshops.
- Advocated for other objectives in the agenda: increase of maternal leave days, a Basic Income Grant for all Namibians etc.

Key lessons learned:

- Capacity building of local NGOs is crucial to inform about the importance of strengthening the immune system and prevention of infectious diseases.
- Harmonization of messages and use of local languages is very important to convey key messages at the community level.

Participants' interventions:

- *Senegal*
 - The response of each country is a reflection of the local Covid-19 situation. The actions taken in the countries that were less affected by the pandemic are very different from those in severely affected countries, such as Senegal.
- *Kenya*
 - The participants also implemented a kitchen garden/urban garden program. Capacity building is essential to ensure these programs are sustainable.

Topic 2: “Communication & messaging and behavior change communication” presented by Sri Lanka

Key activities:

- Partnered with the Ministry of Health to elaborate a Covid-19 nutritious leaflet in three languages.
- Trained civil society members at the district level to create awareness on the role of nutrition in the prevention of Covid-19.
- Worked with other partners, such as UN organizations, to create specific messages about nutrition on key dates, such as Women’s day, Earth day, etc.
- Partnered with celebrities to disseminate videos for the promotion of healthy eating.
- Advocated for food security by promoting urban gardening during the Covid-19 crisis.

Key lessons learned:

- Importance of partnerships during the elaboration of communication and messaging.

Participants' interventions:

- *Kenya*
 - Lessons learned from Kenya’s experience: (1) It is very important to communicate on the role of nutrition in building immunity; (2) use local languages to communicate important messages; and (3) identify key people, such as youth nutrition champions, in order to reach and influence the community.
- *Pakistan*
 - Lessons learned from Pakistan’s experience: (1) Highlighted again the importance of communicating in local languages; (2) share the information with grassroots organizations.

Participants' interventions: How to deal with misinformation?

- *Cambodia*
 - It is important to address the rapidly changing information about the Covid-19 vaccine, especially for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Currently there are conflicting messages across healthcare workers, media, government statements, etc.
- *Senegal*
 - It is crucial to pay special attention to government messages about pandemic measures, as they can have opposite effects. For instance, Senegal's Government urged the population to stay at home. As a result, pregnant women, newborns and chronic patients missed their medical check-ups.

Topic 3: "Working in partnership with other stakeholders" presented by Mali

Key activities:

- Established partnerships with the government, collectivities and multisectoral platforms, secured South-to-South partnerships, e.g. with Benin, Ivory Coast.

Participants' interventions:

- *Madagascar*
 - Worked in close collaboration with other civil society organizations and with members of the parliament, to decide how to integrate nutrition issues into public policies and emergency policies.
- *Ghana*
 - Partnered with USAID Advancing Nutrition Project and engaged with subnational level actors to prioritize and mainstream nutrition. Highlighted the importance of engaging at that level, because it is where implementation takes place.
- *Pakistan*
 - Established partnerships with the SUN Academia Network to elaborate nutritionally balanced emergency packages during Covid-19.

Topic 4: "Community engagement and accountability" presented by South Sudan

Key activities:

- Established partnerships with grassroots organizations, in order to conduct consultations sessions to best identify community's needs.
- To ensure accountability, they brought up tangible evidence of how Covid-19 had impacted the delivery of national nutritional services.

Participants' interventions:

- *Kenya*
 - Stressed the importance of working within the community. They trained (and advocated for) community assembly members to get insights from community meetings. They also worked with youth champions to mobilize the community, and encourage peer-to-peer learning.
- *Liberia*
 - Worked with members of CSOs in different counties to reach local structures.

Topic 5: "Innovative approaches (focusing on, but not limited to COVID)" presented by Senegal

Key activities:

- First innovative approach: Use of “smart theater”, a method that helped sensitize the population at community-level, as well as the government and State representatives about the existing gaps and challenges in nutrition.
- Second innovative approach: round table sessions with local actors to exchange ideas about the Covid-19 response and elaborate recommendations to create awareness about nutrition and food security.
- Third innovative approach: meetings with high-level authorities and stakeholders to analyze the role of nutrition in the Covid-19 response and resilience plans.

Summary of common challenges and recommendations for the coming years

- The grant has allowed achievements that had immediate, but also long-lasting impact.
- Results have shown that there are different entry points to address similar issues, and the grant has allowed grantees to adequate their responses to the situation of their country.
- It is important to highlight the results achieved in terms of engagement with the community and use of local languages.

WAY FORWARD

● Role of nutrition in emergency-response

- **Create awareness of the role of nutrition** in the prevention of diseases and the strengthening of the immune system.

● Adequate solutions for each situation

- There is no one-size-fits-all solution to put nutrition on the agenda during emergency situations.
- Analyze the current context, conduct assessment, consult the population to understand local needs and address issues.

● Capacity-building local CSOs and actors

● Partnership at both national & sub-national levels

- Establish partnerships with high-level authorities in the government, as well as local actors, in order to transmit the local needs into government statements and plans.
- Collaborate with academia to advocate with tangible evidence to politicians and other stakeholders.

● Harmonization of messages across actors

● Be part of the decision-making processes

- Advocate to be part of the emergency-response team-s and incorporate nutrition into the agenda.
- Be part of the elaboration of statements that include the population’s needs and concerns.

ANNEX

List of participating countries (W1C4 grantees)

1. Cameroon
2. Chad
3. Ghana
4. Kenya
5. Liberia
6. Madagascar
7. Mali
8. Namibia
9. Pakistan
10. Peru
11. Senegal
12. South Sudan
13. Sri Lanka