Civil Society successes in scaling up nutrition
SUN Movement May 2015
Over 2100 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) participate in Civil Society Alliances (CSAs) across 34 SUN countries improving nutrition from grass-roots to a national level.

**Civil Society is well placed to energize and shape subnational efforts**

24 CSAs (77%) are working at the subnational level through decentralised structures and efforts.*

**Civil Society is vital to advancing multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral nutrition efforts in countries**

26 CSAs (84%) are engaging in multi-stakeholder efforts.*

25 CSAs (81%) are part of multi-stakeholder platforms.*

All CSAs bring the voices of the populations directly affected by malnutrition, ensure active participation of social movements, in nutrition efforts – e.g. consensus-building forums in Peru.

24 CSAs (77%) have taken part in the 6-weekly SUN country calls as part of multi-stakeholder platforms.*

**Civil Society efforts effectively transcend political cycles**

Civil Society Alliances in many countries work with parliamentarians helps prioritize nutrition regardless of the party in power (Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe) and obtain signed commitments for nutrition improvements from presidential candidates, ensuring that nutrition remains a priority (Zambia, Malawi, Peru). These efforts are also replicated at sub-national levels.

**CSAs aggregate efforts and ensure alignment of goals and nutrition prioritisation across ALL stakeholder groups**

17 CSAs report being aligned / aligning - 55%.*

All mobilising CSOs, coordinating efforts towards harmonised and strengthened Civil Society contributions to multi-stakeholder multi-sectoral efforts – starting with mapping efforts (e.g. Ghana) and promoting alignment (e.g. Kenya, Nigeria).

All sensitizing Civil Society and others to the importance of nutrition and strengthen capacity of CSOs to deliver nutrition driven programmes (e.g. Kenya, Nepal).
**Key achievements**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>BANGLADESH</td>
<td>Position papers, public mobilization, participation in strategic meetings and events.</td>
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<td>ZAMBIA</td>
<td>Constructive support to government goals, advocacy has successfully raised the profile of nutrition.</td>
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<td>UGANDA</td>
<td>Increased community awareness and demand for better nutrition.</td>
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<td>MADAGASCAR</td>
<td>Commitments to increasing resources for nutrition.</td>
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<td>PERU</td>
<td>Regular data collection for improved impact tracking through annual DHS surveys.</td>
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<td>KENYA AND EL SALVADOR</td>
<td>Shaped nutrition sensitive and rights based government.</td>
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<td>GUATEMALA, UGANDA &amp; SIERRA LEONE</td>
<td>Promoting and multiplying nutrition champions.</td>
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**CSAs have also contributed to:**

- Bringing perspectives from the field to shape post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.
- Obtaining global resource commitments through key events such as Nutrition for Growth and ensure their delivery.

19 CSAs (61%) are contributing to policy, legal and implementation processes.*

**CSAs have shared evidence of impact of these efforts.**

Most CSAs are undertaking advocacy to shape nutrition-sensitive policies and 9 CSAs have shared evidence of impact of these efforts.*

### Accountability contribute to better accountability in SUN countries

Accountability is improving in some countries and Civil Society is playing a key role to ensure ALL stakeholders are mutually accountable and accountable to the populations and communities suffering from malnutrition through:

- Monitoring the implementation, impact of policies and programmes and promoting accountability to malnourished people.

For example, in Guatemala, Civil Society contributes to the social auditing of the 1,000 days plan at national and sub-national levels to inform improvements and address challenges and bottlenecks.

- Contributing to the annual Global Nutrition Report (bringing evidence from the ground and disseminating back out through launch events).
- Advocating for the systematisation of mutual accountability through formal national and sub-national accountability mechanisms. More progress is needed in this area.

CSAs are also being accountable to their own constituency and promote internal accountability through improved members engagement.

12 CSAs are engaged in accountability efforts – 39%.*

* These numbers are based on 31 CSAs - information not available for 3 CSAs - and are accurate as of April 2015.
The SUN Civil Society Network is a facilitator, a knowledge broker, supports national Civil Society efforts, and fosters cross-learning towards accelerated CSA efforts across the Movement and as a mean to innovate in nutrition.

SUN CSN responds to 83.6% of 244 requests for support received by the SUN CSN secretariat.

However the sustainability of CSN and CSA activities and impacts depends on the sustainability of their resourcing.

As one participant in the 2014 SUN Global Gathering pointed out, it is ironic that national CSA’s through their advocacy are contributing to sustained political commitment to nutrition across political cycles, but find it difficult to attract the adequate and long-term resources that they need to sustain their activities and impact.

Extract from the Independent Comprehensive Evaluation (ICE) report.
In 2013 - Civil Society Alliances were established in 11 countries gathering 500 CSOs. In 2014 - 34 countries now have established CSAs with over 2000 CSOs engaging in the SUN movement efforts.

* These numbers are based on 33 countries providing information in a survey conducted by the SUN CSN in November 2014 on status of national SUN CSAs. These included three countries without official CSAs but with coalitions of Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) working towards the creation of an alliance.
WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Go to www.scalingupnutrition.org for more information about the SUN Movement and the SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN). Follow us on Twitter https://twitter.com/SUNCSN and https://twitter.com/SUN_Movement Read the SUN CSN blog http://suncivilsocietynet.wix.com/suncsnblog

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