



Bi-annual Narrative Report

STRENGTHENING SUN CSA CAPACITY FOR ADVOCACY AND DOMESTIC FINANCING FOR NUTRITION IN KENYA



Reporting Period:

April 2023 – September 2023

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List of Acronyms	
APHRC	Africa Population Health Research Center
CRF	Common Result Framework
CFLA	County First Ladies Association
CNAP	County Nutrition Action Plan
CSA	Civil Society Alliance
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CS-SUNN	Civil Society- Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GMT	Graca Machel Trust
HENNET	Health NGO Network
HKI	Helen Keller International
KEMRI	Kenya Medical Research Institute
KeWoPa	Kenya Women Parliamentarians
KNAP	Kenya Nutrition Action Plan
MNCHN	Maternal New-born, Child Health and Nutrition
MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Platform
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
OAY	Organization of African Youth
PINNS	Partnership for Improving Nigeria Nutrition Systems
RAG	Red-Amber-Green
SARN	SUN Academia and Research Network
SBN	Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
SUN CSA	Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance
TA	Technical Assistance
OP	Office of the president
WVK	World Vision Kenya

Background

Kenya joined the SUN Movement in September 2012 and has since set up various SUN networks (Government Network, United Nations (UN) Network, Civil Society Alliance (CSA), SUN Business Network (SBN), Academic and Research Network (ARN), Youth Network and Donor network). Through advocacy by these SUN networks, considerable effort has gone into pushing nutrition agenda at national and county level.

The SUN CSA in Kenya was established in 2013 with mandate to mobilize and develop the capacity of civil societies; inform the public on food and nutrition and hold the government accountable. The CSA works to empower the youth and women at community level on demand for nutritious foods. The CSA has a membership of 408 civil society organizations and a youth chapter of 38 youth groups with 1,054 members. The SUN CSA has been at the center of nutrition advocacy efforts in Kenya.

The partnership between SUN CSA Kenya and Civil Society- Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) has continued to enhance the alliance's capacity for effective nutrition policy and budget advocacy, resource mobilization, peer reviews of alliance structure, and policies. Through the continued collaboration SUN CSA in Kenya has improved its internal systems and external appeal and approach.

Introduction

Kenya is experiencing the “triple burden” of malnutrition: undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and over nutrition. 18% of children under 5 are stunted, 5% are wasted and 3% overweight or obese, 42% of women experience iron deficiency anaemia during pregnancy. It was estimated that Kenya lost Ksh. 373.9 Bn (6.9% of the GPD) due to malnutrition related to health, education and productivity impacts.

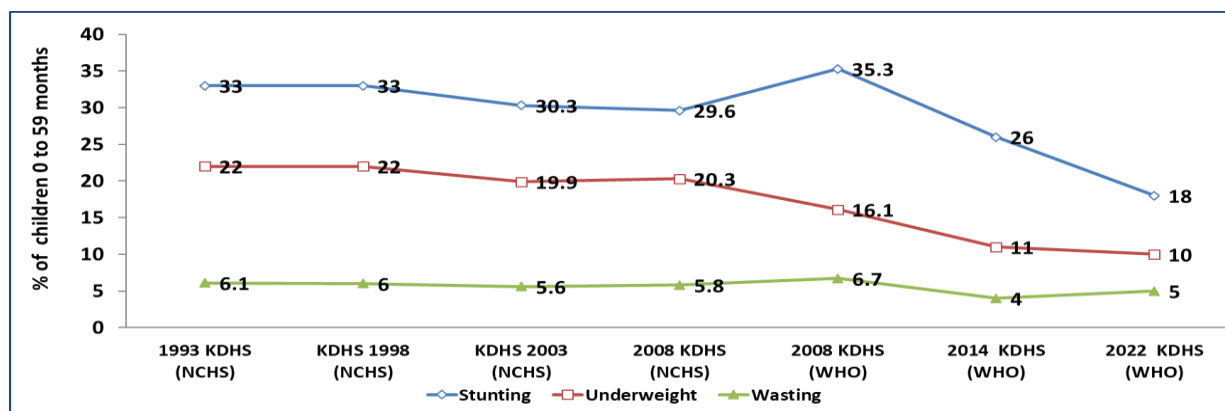


Figure 1: Malnutrition trends, KDHS 1993-2022

Food insecurity in Kenya has remained a perennial problem (Route to Food, 2022) and is further worsened by dominant and industrialized food systems which are majorly based on media perception and classification on what is nutritious and healthy and what is not. The media and the global food brands continue to define the food systems in Kenya and is heavily borrowed from the commercialized food systems.

The Government of Kenya has prioritized a bottom-up economic transformation plan 2022-2027 and seeks innovative policy solutions to food systems while working closely with national and county governments to promote consumption of indigenous foods. Both levels of government are working to ensure there is a stronger focus on coherence in policy design and the interface between science and policy.

The Food Security bill (2014) obligates national and county governments to promote childhood nutrition to the extent of their mandate as set out under the constitution. Kenya has also advanced in creating an enabling policy environment to support multisectoral nutrition interventions. These include implementation of Kenya Food and Nutrition security policy (2018-2022), Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP) 2018-2022 and translated into various sub-national action plans at County level.

The Project Context

In view of the current and future food system disruptions; vagaries of weather due to climate change issues, geo-political instability and increased post-harvest losses, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, its therefore imperative to support programs that facilitate strengthening healthy and sustainable diets as well as sustainable production and consumption behavior, to ensure availability and affordability of nutritious and safe foods. This in the long-run contributes to lowering the burden of malnutrition, particularly for the most vulnerable.

The opportunity to influence and guide policy implementation to position food and nutrition actors to increase the efficiency of service delivery and promote collaborations needs the urgent attention of both state and non-state actors. Policy at national and county government levels should create an enabling environment for private sector and other actors to promote the production, agro-processing, marketing, distribution and consumption of nutritious foods in a sustainable pathway.

What has changed (big-picture results / achievements) at national/sub-national level during the reporting period in relation to your priorities?

- The partnership enabled 3 counties to identify, document and cost nutrition priorities (Specific and Sensitive) to be implemented in multiple years. The priorities were documented in form of County Nutrition Action Plans.
- The grant enabled us to mobilize political commitment from 4 counties- Homabay, Kisii, Isiolo and Kakamega- towards implementation of county nutrition action plans and county agri-nutrition strategy. Commitments followed sensitization and round table discussion with members of county assemblies.
- To build and sustain political and programmatic commitments, we trained 16 nutrition champions drawn from 10 counties. The champions were from County assemblies, County first ladies and head of organizations implementing nutrition in the counties.

- Through the partnership and technical guidance from Nigeria team, we are in the process of reviewing and re-formulating the priorities and approaches of SUN CSA Kenya to demonstrate value proposition.

The activities under this grant were implemented under 3 objectives

Objective 1: Strengthen policy environment for nutrition programming at National and County level.

- Conduct policy tracking to identify policy gaps and update policy landscape.*
- Develop a framework for the review and development of a new National Food and Nutrition Security Policy.*
- Develop a roadmap for the review and development of 2023-2027 Kenya Nutrition Action Plan.*
- Support the development of 3 County Nutrition Action Plans.*

On this objective, two activities were completed a) Policy tracking to identify policy gaps and update policy landscape. This activity was conducted over a 3-day period from **22nd to 24th May 2023** in Busia county. The training on policy landscape analysis on child health in Busia County took place at the ChefWest Hotel, Busia County and brought together 33 participants drawn from different organizations supporting child health programs in different capacities.

Objectives:

- To understand Busia County Nutrition situation
- To understand Busia County Child Health situation
- To understand how to identify issues affecting Child Health and nutrition.
- To create understanding on the policy landscape analysis

The second activity to be completed under this objective was the development of 3 county nutrition action plans (CNAPs). During the development process, the counties ensured that the team was multisectoral to ensure county ownership but also representation from all sectors contributing to nutrition. The 3 CNAPs were developed with 1 being launched. The Homabay CNAP was completed and launched on **26th June 2023** led by the governor and her team. The Governor led her team in making a commitment to finance nutrition over the next 3 years. Kisii county developed and validated their CNAP awaiting design, printing and launch, while Migori county have developed the CNAP awaiting validation, design, printing and launch.



Signing board and Homabay CNAP dummy



Dr Martha- CSA Chair with Prof. Olive Mugenda- Chair KU teaching and referral hospital, H.E Gladys- Homabay Governor and H.E Magwanga deputy governor launching CNAP



H.E Gladys- Homabay Governor publicly signing commitment to fund the Homabay CNAP



Dr Martha- CSA Chair publicly signing commitment on behalf of all CSOs to support implementation of Homabay CNAP.

Objective 2: Strengthened coordination and engagement among nutrition stakeholders around national and County nutrition action plans.

Under this objective, 3 activities were implemented in various counties to strengthen multi-sectoral engagement for nutrition.

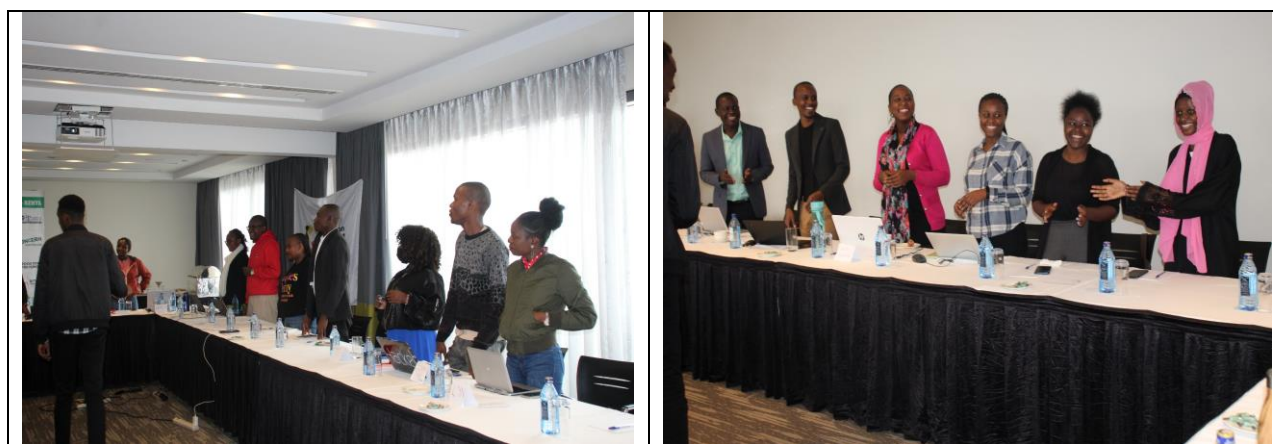
- i. Advocate for reformulation of the NICC in line with the ToR reflected in National food and nutrition security policy implementation framework.
- ii. Quarterly All SUN Network meetings at National level.
- iii. Strengthen technical and institutional capacity on the established chapters.

The project supported the first ever Multi-sectorial platform (MSP) for nutrition in Nairobi county that created a platform where different sectors and stakeholders in Nairobi county discuss interventions to scale up nutrition and food security in the county. The stakeholders met on **12th June 2023** and reviewed and adopted a terms of reference (ToR) that is currently in use.

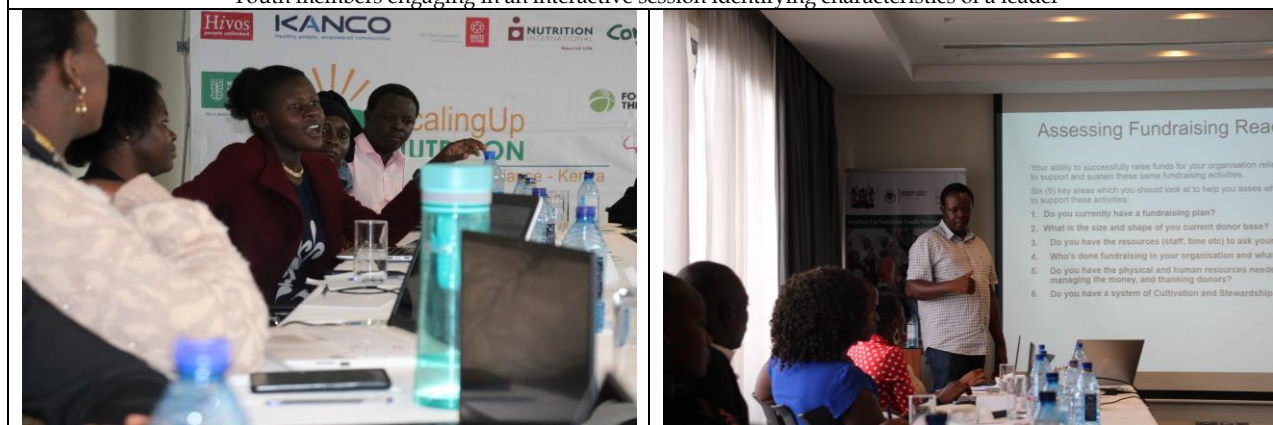
During the quarterly SUN country meeting, the youth were supported to finalize their operational documents to fully anchor the youth network as the seventh chapter in

Kenya. The two days' workshop was organized by SUN CSA with participation from other SUN networks like. The meeting had the following objectives.

- a) To sensitize youth on the SUN movement and the Country SUN strategy.
- b) To Strengthen the capacity of youth on managing networks and working with government.
- c) To set up the secretariat for the SUN Youth Network.
- d) To review and adapt SUN YN TOR and 2023 work plan.
- e) To brainstorming on a Resource mobilization strategy.



Youth members engaging in an interactive session identifying characteristics of a leader



Dorah a youth member contributing during ToR development

Edgar- SUN CSA coordinator having a session on fundraising

Capacity building of chapter members on advocacy skills is critical at ensuring effective and efficient engagement at county and community level. 5 counties (Nairobi, Homabay, Migori, Busia and Kisii) were capacity built during the reporting period.

The trainings focused on advocacy opportunities during critical components of nurturing care for children at early stages of life, this will enhance child development in totality both physical, emotional, cognitive, intellectual, socially and communications.

Through these engagement, Homabay county on their own initiative committed to establishing a child health and nutrition MSP to bring decision makers together to discuss issues affecting child health and rights.



Hon Betty Samburu and Hon Julius Nyerere representing Migori County executives in a training



Participants keenly following up on the deliberations during training session in Migori county.



Participants during advocacy training for nurturing and care in Homabay county



Edgar- SUN CSA coordinator having a session on advocacy for nurturing and care.

Objective 3: Mobilize and Secure financial commitments from CSOs and county government in support of CNAP.

- i. *Facilitate identification and training of Nutrition champions.*
- ii. *Round table discussion with policy makers and implementers on financing for nutrition from relevant stakeholders.*
- iii. *Advocacy meetings with members of National and County Assembly.*

To achieve global, continental and country targets, countries require mix of funding opportunities from domestic allocations from country governments, development assistance and other financing mechanisms. Sustainable financing for nutrition often occurs when nutrition activities and investments are incorporated into government-managed budgets and backed by predictable financing from domestic revenues.

Under this objective, three activities were successfully implemented in various parts of the country. The first round table discussions were carried out on **29th June 2023** to rally

political support for the implementation of Homabay county nutrition action plan, the second round table discussion was held on **3rd July 2023** with policy makers to enhance buy-in among the political class to support the roll-out of the Kakamega county agri-nutrition strategy. The third and fourth round table discussions were held on **25th and 29th September 2023** in Isiolo and Kisii counties respectively. During these discussions, the members of the county assemblies made a commitment to support nutrition and this was captured in written statements signed by all county assembly members present and this was later released through a press statement.



Hon Abdirashid- majority leader and Hon Lorot- Majority Whip in Isiolo county Assembly signing a statement to support nutrition



Group photo with all participants of the round table discussion in Isiolo county.



Group photo with all participants of the round table discussion in Kisii county.



HE Governor Gladys Wanga with her team during Homabay county round table discussion.

During the reporting period we convened a meeting on **28th July 2023** with 8 members of national assembly, 2 clerks and 19 MoH staff and partners on the importance of breastfeeding and how parliamentarians can play a role in ensuring that caregivers are supported at the workplace. The sensitization was an activity in the lead up to the world breastfeeding celebrations.



Dr Lenai- Director of Preventive and Promotive health at MoH making remarks



MPs keenly following on the presentations and discussion.



Hon Charles Kamuren- Chair Parliamentary Caucus for nutrition giving remarks and commitment on behalf of all MPs.



Ms Laura Kiige from UNICEF leading a session on breastfeeding and workplace support.

Nutrition Champions are key promoters in ensuring that nutrition remains a priority agenda at the national and county/sub-national level. Champions have been identified in Kenya based on their personal experience and commitment to nutrition but are never sensitized enough on their roles and responsibilities. In recognition of the importance of leadership in the fight against malnutrition, SUN CSA identified 30 Nutrition Champions at national and county level. The CSA organized a 3-day training from **19th to 21st September 2023** for 16 champions to support promotion of optimal nutrition in the country.



Participants during a group presentation



Participants having an energizer in the course of the training



Mr George Ouma-one of the facilitators engaging with participants during the training session.



Participants reacting during a training session.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- Consistent engagement of policy makers and implementers is critical at securing political and financial commitment. Policy makers need to understand the basic nutrition concepts and how they can support full implementation of nutrition interventions at national and county level.
- As a network, demonstrating value proposition to network members will make it attractive for them to join the network. The SUN CSA has embarked on reviewing critical operational documents (constitution and technical strategy) to reflect the current situation and how to demonstrate value add to members.
- SUN CSA has a huge potential to act as a force multiplier in Kenya, at National and County level.
- We have started engaging SUN networks early in the day to ensure formulation and active participation by country delegation to the next SUN global gathering as opposed to previous SUN global gathering.

Sustainability and Way-Forward

- The CSA is mobilizing and engaging with county chapters to support implementation of activities. We have developed a county charter that will be signed by all county chapters highlighting their roles and responsibilities.
- The CSA is in discussion with network members to support in implementing specific activities in the technical strategy, jointly resource mobilize and partner in implementing specific activities.
- The CSA is positioning as a go to organization when it comes to issues advocacy (Policy and Budget), capacity building and multi-stakeholder engagement.



Group photo with members of Parliament, MoH and Partners after nutrition sensitization



Group photo with 16 nutrition champions, Nigeria team, SUN CSA secretariat and workshop facilitators.