



# Newsletter 2022

## Strategic Partnership Between SUN-CSA Kenya and the SUN Nigeria

The capacity of Civil Society Alliances to take up advocacy initiatives for nutrition is a major challenge in many African countries, including Kenya; SUN CSA Kenya has partnered with Civil Society- Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) on strengthening the alliance's capacity for effective nutrition policy and budget advocacy, resource mobilization, peer reviews of alliance structure, and policies. Other areas for future collaboration between the two alliances with the CS-SUNN Partnership for Improving Nigeria Nutrition Systems (PINNS 2.0) to contribute to a stronger SUN CSA in Kenya have also been identified. The lessons learnt from this partnership will go along way in inspiring other alliances and networks in other jurisdictions to also forge similar relationships and to leverage on comparative strengths which already exist within many CSAs.



*Kunle Ishola from CS-SUNN facilitating proposal writing session during advocacy workshop*



*Advocacy Training with Support from Nigeria team (CS-SUNN)*



The Kenya SUN CSA coordinator

## Rallying parliament to support UNFSS and N4G

Universal access to nutritious food and healthy diets through a resilient and sustainable food system is key to eliminate all forms of malnutrition and to address interrelated national and global challenges, including poverty, (gender) inequality and climate change, as set out in the sustainable development goals (SDGs). To achieve this huge ambition, the UN Secretary-General, in 2020, called for a transformation of global food systems as the surest way to achieve the SDGs, especially when it is only 10 years to the target time. The UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), dubbed “the People’s Summit” and “the Solutions Summit”, aimed to build more inclusive, equitable, and healthier food systems, while also safeguarding our planet.

Kenya is a member of the UN and a signatory to the SDGs and other global and regional instruments geared towards eliminating malnutrition. However, according to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS 2014) the country’s malnutrition statistics are quite startling; 30% of women of reproductive age are obese; and 4% of children are wasted (low weight for height), 26 % are stunted (low height for age) and 11% are underweight (low weight for age). It is against this backdrop that SUN CSA, in 2021, set out to rally parliamentarians, drawn from a caucus within parliament, to sensitize them on the malnutrition situation in the country as well as to secure their political goodwill and support to ensure Kenya government makes very bold commitments during the summits. SUN CSA emphasized the fact that food systems are vital to ensure the food and nutritional needs are met, our economy is sustained, alleviate poverty and shield our societies from potential crisis of famine and hunger. Further, the food systems are crucial for the realization of the SDGs by 2030.

Another critical process in 2021 was the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, which took place in Tokyo Japan. The N4G Summit also provided a historic opportunity to

transform the way the world tackles the global challenge of malnutrition. The Summit came at a critical time, midway through the United Nations (UN) Decade of



Members of Parliament

Action on Nutrition, with less than five years left to achieve the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, which Kenya also signed up to. SUN CSA Kenya engaged members of parliament to step up and consider allocating sufficient resources to nutrition in line with the costed Kenya National Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP 2018-2022). It is proven that investing in nutrition is one of the best buys in global health and development. For every US\$1 invested in nutrition, US\$22 is returned to the local economy. Yet not enough is being invested by Kenya government. Therefore, the need could not be more urgent since the growing demands on our food system and our planet mean we are facing the irreversible loss of not only human capital, but also of natural resources and energy.

As a result of this engagement and ahead of the two Summits the Kenya members of parliament made commitments.

## Commitments by Kenyan MPs;

1. To strengthen coordination of all nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive efforts in the country by coming up with new law or amending the existing laws with an aim to foster multisectoral collaboration and synergy.
2. Enact the food and nutrition bill to include details for the implementation of the food and nutrition security council.
3. Enact the necessary laws to promote and preserve the use of indigenous quality seed and other agricultural inputs.
4. Recommit to strengthen the parliamentary caucus for nutrition and work closely with the Ministry of Health and other relevant sectors to ensure adequate resources are allocated and defending the same for purposes of research and data generation for nutrition. This would in turn improve evidence for decision making on matters nutrition.
5. To scrutinize budgets with a nutrition lens.
6. To hold the executive accountable on all the nutrition resources and commitment
7. Put in place measures including necessary legislation to curb the rising cases of non-communicable diseases as a result of sale and promotion of unhealthy foods.
8. Support efforts to align policies and legislation that affects the food system towards improved nutrition outcomes and address malnutrition across the entire food value chain in a coherent and holistic manner.
9. Put in place legislations which would support the private sector, especially the SMEs to deliver safe, affordable, adequate and healthy food for all Kenyans.
10. Commit to participate in the development of information, education and communication materials focusing on nutrition issues in the community.
11. To support the Scaling Up Nutrition initiative in the country.

## Supporting counties to put in place Nutrition Action plans



The Ministry of Health, through the Division of Nutrition and Dietetics, developed a national nutrition policy known as the Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP). The main objective of the KNAP is to accelerate and scale up efforts towards the elimination of malnutrition as a public health problem in Kenya by 2030, focusing on specific milestones. The KNAP is a national document hinged on three areas of intervention, namely nutrition-specific; nutrition-sensitive; and enabling environment, putting

emphasis on the need for strengthening multisectoral collaboration in addressing malnutrition. The KNAP addresses the triple burden of malnutrition in Kenya, characterized by the co-existence of under-nutrition as manifested by stunting, wasting, underweight, micro-nutrient deficiencies, and overweight and obesity.

Considering the devolved system of governance, KNAP provides an umbrella framework and guidance to

counties as they develop County Nutrition Action Plans (CNAPs). SUN CSA led the pack in assisting the counties to domesticate the national plan into a county specific plan. A total of 28 counties, out of the 47, were supported by SUN CSA. The SUN CSA provided the much-needed technical support as well as mobilizing financial resources to facilitate the CNAPs development process. A series of dedicated meetings, organized by SUN CSA, were held with counties and their leadership during the entire development process of the 28 CNAPs. Further, the process brought together a broad range of actors that included the UN agencies, academia, the private sector, civil society, and other line ministries from the national government. The actual implementation of these CNAPs require synergy, coordination and commitment from different sectors, donor bodies and development agencies. It also calls for adequate sensitization for ownership by each sector/intervention, coordinated research, education, monitoring and governance, and time and budget allocation. SUN CSA made sure that all the CNAPs are costed and form a strong basis for resource mobilization for the implementation as well as tracking allocations by the county governments. Going forward, SUN CSA will carry out continuous technical assistance to the counties as well as budget tracking and analysis

SUN CSA recognizes that the counties require support and consistent advocacy to enhance nutrition governance, nutrition financing and streamline coordination of multi-sector efforts. There are various coordination mechanisms at the county level that require harmonization to support nutrition-sensitive programming. SUN CSA has also formally signed an MoU with the County First Ladies

## 28 Counties supported to develop CNAPs

Busia, Isiolo, Kakamega, Elgeyo Marakwet, Kajiado, Kwale, Makueni, Nairobi, Nandi, Vihiga, narok, Tharaka Nithi, Nyeri, West Pokot, Muranga, Bomet, Embu, Kiambu, Nakuru, Turkana, Mandera, wajir, Marsabit and Samburu

Association (CFLA) to strengthen nutrition advocacy efforts at the county levels and mobilize the communities to play their role in nutrition and food security initiatives.



Murang'a County Launch of the CNAP

## The Role of SUN CSA in Covid-19 response

In 2020 and 2021, The Covid-19 pandemic posed short-term and long-term health impact to most countries over the world, including Kenya. Kenya was mainly affected due to the existing poor development indicators, and fragile health and food systems. There was a general fear that the recurrent shocks and stresses from Covid-19 would further exacerbate vulnerabilities to food and nutrition insecurity; supply chains for nutritious foods were affected due to movement restrictions and over-stretched general nutrition service delivery.

The situation required that nutrition actions be integrated into COVID-19 national and county short- and long-term socio-economic response plans. It was also crucial to ensure sustainability of ongoing nutrition programs, particularly for the highly vulnerable and under-privileged populations, as identified in the National Nutrition Survey 2018 and other research studies, in districts most affected by Covid-19 pandemic. The SUN CSA came in to fill this gap and worked closely with the Ministry of Health to help in averting major health crisis.

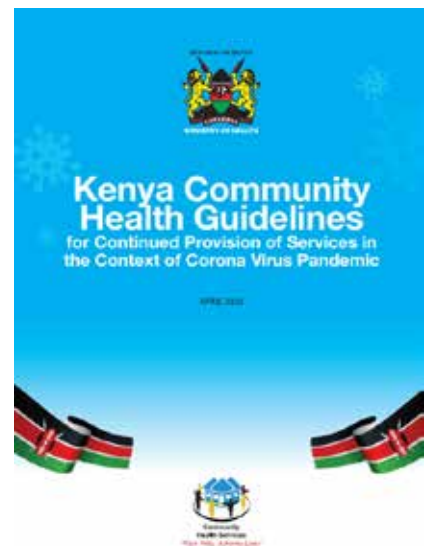
On its part, the Kenya government was able to implement a social protection response to safeguard the

nutrition status of poor and vulnerable communities. The social protection program involved disbursing weekly stipends and food rations, particularly targeting urban areas. However, this response was not adequate. SUN CSA came in to scale-up critical interventions including providing WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) facilities and equipment, distributing face masks and dignity kits to families who were at risk, as well as disseminating Covid-19 prevention messages.

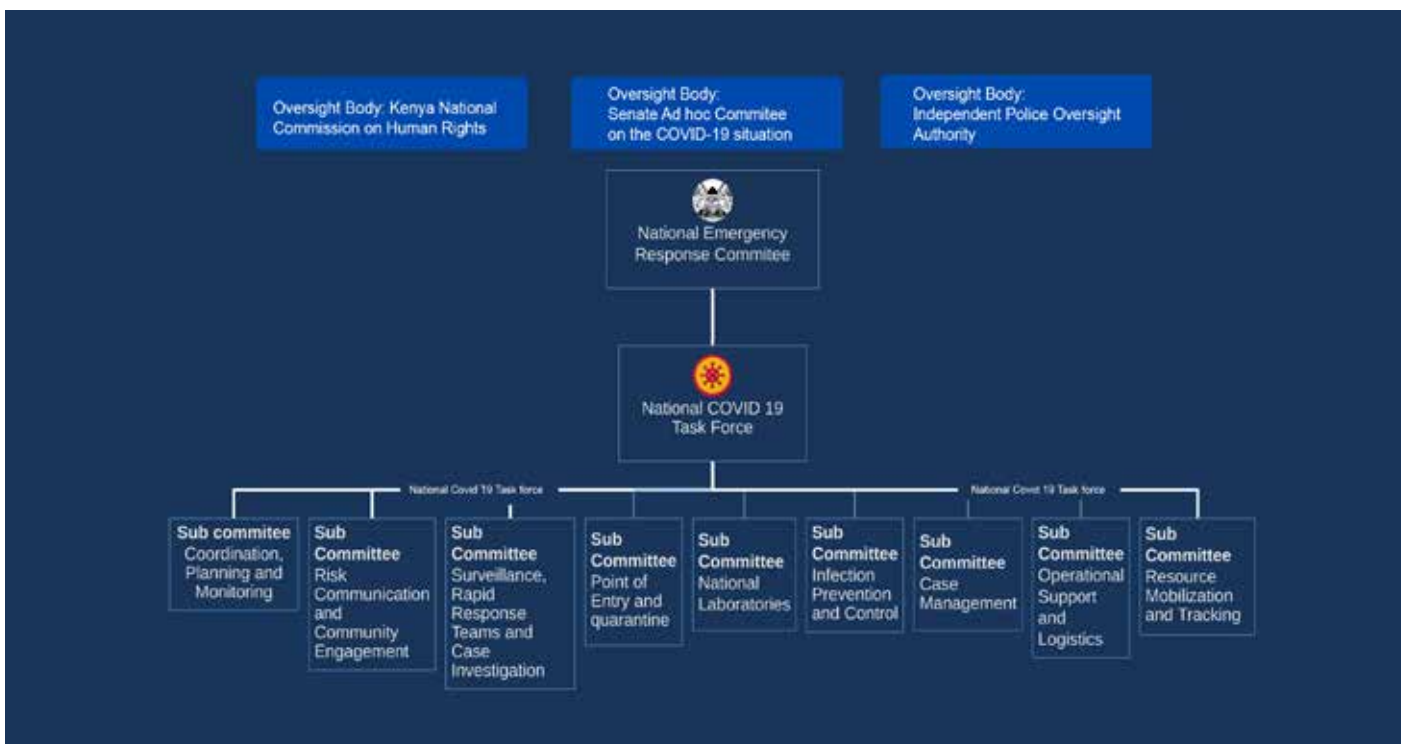
SUN CSA also heightened its advocacy efforts and supported the Ministry of Health in the development and dissemination of necessary nutrition guidelines and information materials up to the community levels. In addition, the network advocated for a budgetary allocation towards the Covid-19 response, which should be clearly articulated in terms of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive sectors. Finally, SUN CSA advocated to ensure the social safety nets programmes considered the needs of women, girls and vulnerable populations including persons with disabilities, the elderly and ethnic minority groups.

## Key achievements under the Covid-19 response

- Technical assistance to the incorporation of nutrition considerations into the Covid-19 response plans and policy guidance at National and County level.
- Supported training of 250 CHVs on home-based care and nutrition considerations in the Covid-19 context.
- Purchased and distributed PPEs for 4,500 CHVs and 500 health workers.
- One gap assessment through KAP study on health workers responding to Covid-19.
- Nutrition messages translated into 10 local languages.
- Dissemination of Covid-19 prevention and nutrition messages through CNC, County First Ladies and youth champions.
- Dissemination of Covid-19 prevention and nutrition messages through radio and TV spots reaching 20 million.



SUN-CSA Engagement with CSOs members in Kisumu



# Building the capacity of its members on advocacy



*Training SUN CSA network members on nutrition advocacy*

The SUN CSA in Kenya was established with the mandate to mobilize and develop the capacity of civil societies to be able to inform the public on food and nutrition and hold the government accountable. The network draws its strength from its members. At the country level, civil society organizations have an important role in strengthening the political will, engaging in policy development/reform; in designing and implementing programs; and in monitoring and feedback, and this calls for capacity building and equipping members with tools to do the job.

**“The evidence is clear that governments can’t do this alone. Momentum for improving nutrition is strong, in large part thanks to our civil society partners who have worked tirelessly to mobilize support around the world behind the evidence that nutrition matters”,**

**Rajiv Sha, USAID.**

In August 2022, and with generous support from SUN Civil Society Network Nigeria, the SUN CSA in Kenya conducted a successful advocacy training for its members. This came at an opportune time when Kenya

was experiencing a transition in its national and county leadership. The training would equip the members to better prepare to carry out advocacy work and influence the development plans for the various levels of government, with the primary focus being inclusion of nutrition in those plans. The 5-day advocacy training was attended by 19 participants drawn from 14 organizations. The participants were introduced to the concept of basic nutrition concepts and advocacy skills. The training also focused on the basics of budget advocacy given the momentous task ahead to influence nutrition financing. Additionally, the participants were taken through how to do resource mobilization and resource mapping, and proposal writing. The team also discussed, at length, issues affecting coordination of nutrition at national and county levels.

The collaboration between the Nigeria Civil Society network and the Kenya CSA is a clear demonstration of convergence of vision and strategic networking with an aim of elevating the discourse on nutrition beyond country boundaries. A lot of the malnutrition challenges faced in Kenya are similar to those in Nigeria.

From the training the Kenyan CSOs appreciated that working with government is key to achieving nutrition advocacy goals at national and county levels. Full implementation of simplified but effective coordination structure is key at unlocking required resources to improve nutrition outcomes.

## Next steps

1. Participants to finish the change agency and advocacy course being offered by CS-SUNN and get a certificate.
2. Development of engagement action plan by November 2022.
3. Further in-depth training on budget analysis and financial tracking by October 2022.
4. Support counties in finalizing County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) by September 2022.

## Advocacy and Policy Engagement for Nutrition: Establishment of a Parliamentary Caucus for Nutrition in Kenya



Health Committee and Members of Parliamentary Caucus for Nutrition

The Constitution of Kenya, Article 43 (1), gives every person the right to the highest attainable standard of health, freedom from hunger, and access to adequate food of acceptable quality. The government is committed to creating an enabling environment for citizens to realize these rights as evidenced in the Vision 2030, Kenya Health Policy (2014–2030), and the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, 2012. The Kenya Health Policy (KHP) and the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) outline some of the key measures the government will put in place for realization of Vision 2030.

Under the leadership and coordination by Nutrition International, The SUN CSA has provided an unprecedented opportunity to build varied levels of political leadership and commitment to address under-nutrition in Kenya. These include realignment of in-country institutional arrangements necessary for SUN and increased support for implementation of newly formulated nutrition action plans at national and sub-national levels. National multi-sector coordination platforms have been established to strengthen an enabling environment to address under-nutrition. Relevant legislation has been enacted with increased investments in domestic and external resources for nutrition.

Despite considerable progress there is need to mobilize continued political support and legislation on nutrition to sustain and increase gains. Political commitment has been noted as a key driver in advancing plans and an essential element in prioritizing the fight against under-nutrition. To facilitate this, engagement with members of parliament is key to championing resource mobilization and implementation of plans. This is the only way we will achieve sustained commitment to address the complex and long-term challenges in the actual implementation of scale-up plans.

Mobilization of the Kenya parliamentary caucus on nutrition is an initiative of the advocacy and policy engagement process funded by UNOPS under the SUN pooled fund and implemented by SUN CSA, between May 2020 and January 2021, in a consortium with Nutrition International, Action Against Hunger, UNICEF, and GAIN.

## The Parliamentary Caucus for Nutrition

Parliament plays a critical role in legislation and budgeting and offers oversight over the executive in line with Article 221 of the Constitution. Parliamentarians can serve as nutrition champions to accelerate commitment to nutrition, ensure nutrition remains a priority agenda at national and county levels, and disseminate nutrition information at the community level.

Members of the Parliamentary Caucus for Nutrition are drawn from both National assembly and Senate. Some of the members are also members of various house committees like Health committee, Budget Committee and Agriculture committee, which are very critical in supporting nutrition in Kenya.

Joining the Parliamentary Caucus for Nutrition is purely voluntary. The team sensitized interested parliamentarians who were later requested to sign up to be engaged on regular basis regarding issues of nutrition in the Country.

The goal of the caucus: To bring like-minded and interested members of parliament and stakeholders together to discuss legislative gaps, budget gaps and program implementation gaps that hinder the achievement of optimal nutrition.

### Objectives

- Integration of nutrition into development strategies across all sectors. Inclusion of nutrition in policy proposals, adoption, funding, and implementation.
- Shifts in social norms: Knowledge, attitudes, values, and behaviors that comprise the normative structure of culture and society.
- Increased funding for nutrition interventions from government and external sources and enhanced capacity for strategic planning and implementation of nutrition actions.

- Strengthened coordination: Alliances among partners may vary in levels of coordination, collaboration, and mission alignment and can include non-traditional alliances.
- Ratification of Caucus.

## Mobilizing Domestic Resource for Nutrition in Kenya

Kenya has made significant commitments to respond to the burden of malnutrition. Government priorities reflect a shift from the hitherto existing focus on infrastructural responses to health and nutrition. Food security and nutrition is one of the 'Big Four' Presidential agenda since 2017. The vision is to ensure that all Kenyans are food secure by the year 2022. 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.

The Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP) 2018–2022 is a costed multi-sectoral plan that identifies nutrition interventions to be implemented by various sectors, coordination framework, a monitoring and accountability framework with targets aligned with WHA, and SDG commitments.

The extent to which nutrition is a local priority determines the extent to which it is locally funded, even by county governments, which currently enjoy budgetary autonomy. Aligned with KNAP, 28 counties have been supported by SUN CSA and partners to develop County Nutrition Action Plans (CNAPs) 2019–2023. The CNAPs identifies and costs context-specific nutrition interventions across sectors, creating a framework for resource mobilization at sub-national level where implementation happens.

SUN CSA has supported resource mobilization and (RM) is targeting not only donors but also national and county government institutions. Advocacy and RM activities target policymakers, planners, and decision-makers in relevant sectors including health, agriculture, social protection, and education among others. The focus is on consolidating information on sources of funding for nutrition, establishing baseline funding levels, addressing fragmentation of resources, facilitating effective use of available resources and advocating for increased budget allocation to nutrition. Resource Mobilization for nutrition at the national level started in 2013 and was led by the government's Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Focal Point and the SUN Secretariat, supported by the national SUN Advisory Committee.

Combating malnutrition requires multisectoral approach from government and donors. The government allocated funding through various sectors such as school health and school meal programmes under the Ministry of Education; agriculture-nutrition activities under the Ministry of Agriculture; and nutrition actions under the Nutrition Division of the Ministry of Health. However, the

development partners and donor commitments were predominantly for nutrition-specific actions.

The SUN-CSA supported CNAPs were used to estimate required budget envelopes across sectors, and coordination frameworks for improving efficiencies in resource utilization. Nutrition investments cases and policy briefs were used to sensitize key legislators and government policymakers on the benefits of investing in nutrition. This was the first time SUN CSA and SUN partners were systematically advocating for and promoting the establishment of specific nutrition budget lines and allocations at the county level, quantifying a baseline figure for each county, and starting a system for monitoring funding and use of the funds. The nutrition financing interventions are being used to evaluate changes against efforts, such as advocacy efforts and events.

**As a result of these efforts by the government and SUN CSA partners, 28 counties have developed their CNAPs. Of the 28 counties, 23 have already launched their plans, all of which have committed to increasing government resources for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes.**

SUN-CSA and Nutrition International under the FCDO Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) programme and the GAC RS programme supported counties of Busia, Vihiga, Makueni, Kiambu, Embu, Murang'a, Nakuru, Bomet, Kajiado, Elgeyo Marakwet and Nandi to consider allocating resources for nutrition. Through a matching fund modality, 11 county governments have committed to financing nutrition to the tune of Kshs. 490 million (approximately US\$4.9 million) for three years, creating clear budget lines to track nutrition expenditure managed under a special purpose account for nutrition. Supported by the SUN pooled grant, similar advocacy efforts were extended to Nairobi, Isiolo, Narok, Samburu, Nyeri, West Pokot, Tharaka Nithi and Kwale led by the SUN CSA to institutionalize nutrition in county planning.



*Round table discussion with Kajiado team, led by Governor Joseph Jama Ole Lenku, on Domestic Resourcing for Nutrition.*



## Methodological approach to Domestic Resource Mobilization

1. The following steps were used to realize the budgetary allocation by County governments.
2. Supported development of County Nutrition Action Plans: The SUN CSA supported the development of costed county-level plans based on the national plan, ensuring evidence-based interventions and county priorities were observed.
3. Budget analysis and financial tracking for nutrition: SUN CSA carried out this work which helped in establishing a baseline analysis of expenditure of nutrition and fund flow analysis. Budget management review was also carried out through review of planning and budgeting processes to identify points of entry and required actions to ensure nutrition is included. Analysis of available fiscal space for nutrition, inefficiencies in planning and budgeting processes for nutrition was critical as well as knowing how and who to target with our advocacy efforts.
4. Development of county investment cases: The SUN CSA supported the development of county advocacy tools to help in sensitizing policymakers to support in mobilizing resources at the county level.
5. Advocacy efforts/sessions with policymakers and members of parliament: The SUN CSA and Nutrition International held several meetings/advocacy sessions with governors (County executive), members of the county assembly, and departments of finance at the county level to ensure the local plans were funded.
6. Development and negotiation of matched funding arrangements with counties reflected in financing agreement.

## Key learning

The following factors are some of the keys to Kenya's success in nutrition Resource Mobilization:

- Kenya's strong dedication to the devolution of administrative, political and financial power to sub-national levels also extends to respective policies, regulations, and capacity support.
- There is continued attention to nutrition matters by the government at national and county levels, combined with recent commitments to acceleration.
- There are national-level strategic documents (multi-sectoral KNAP), which can be contextualized for the sub-national level.
- There is the presence of an active and well-coordinated Civil Society Alliance, with strong technical and facilitation support, skills, and a focus on advocacy efforts.
- There is opportunity for county governments to seek matching grants by partners (such as Nutrition International) to complement county government efforts, in addition, to support grants available from various partners.

# SUN-CSA Engagement with the media

**ktn News**  
Get The Whole Story

**Weekend Express**  
With Dennis Aseto

#FactsFirst  
KTNNewsKenya  
KTNNewsKE  
KTNNews

**Are We Stepping Up Breastfeeding Support?**

**Saturday**  
30<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
9:00am

Guest: **Mary Kimani**  
Program Manager,  
MYC Nutrition,  
Action Against Hunger

Guest: **Irene Nyaicho**  
Program Officer  
Nutrition, Worldvision

#WorldBreastfeedingWeek

Watch us on **GoTV Ch.94** | **Startimes Ch.522** | **Bamba Ch.2** | **DSTV Ch.274** | **Signet Ch.26**

**#Zinga**

**Thur 28th July, 2022**  
Time: 8:00am - 9:00am

**Manufaa ya lishe bora kwa Watoto**

KBC RADIO TAIFA  
12 F SAZI TA MWINYA

Guest: **Peter Ombassa**  
Asst Director,  
Children Services

Guest: **Esther Kwamboka**  
Nutritionist

Hosts: **Mwajuma Chozi & Rashid Mwamkondo**

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NRB 92.9 | ELD88.6 | NYERI 87.6 | MBS 100.8 | KISUMU 104.5 | NKR 104.1

**Morning Cafe**

**tv47**

**IRENE NYAUCHO**  
PROGRAM OFFICER-NUTRITION

**ALPHONCE MUEMA**  
CLINICAL NUTRITIONIST-  
KENYATTA NATIONAL HOSPITAL

**SUSAN KAGIA**  
NUTRITIONIST- NMS  
DAGORETTI SUB COUNTY

**WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK**

WEDNESDAY 8AM-9:00AM 06.07.2022

[f](#) [@](#) [t](#) [@TV47KE](#) | HOST: LINDA ALELA

## About SUN CSA Kenya

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) is a country-led global movement with a mission to end malnutrition in all its forms. Kenya is one of the 61 members of SUN, committed to end malnutrition in all its forms by 2030. Kenya joined the SUN movement in 2012. In Kenya, the movement is structured into various networks with different roles. This includes the government network; the UN network; the academic network; the business network and; the civil society alliance. Kenya's SUN Civil Society Alliance (SUN CSA) was set up in October 2013 to 'mobilize civil societies to champion scaling up nutrition in Kenya. The SUN CSA is registered as a local NGO. This registration gives the network the legal authority and mandate to influence improved nutrition through strategic advocacy, policy engagement and coordination of network members. SUN-CSA works closely with other networks within the larger SUN movement. The SUN CSA leads most of the advocacy for nutrition efforts while the SUN Business network brings in the private sector into the nutrition discourse. The SUN Academia generates considerable body of evidence required for advocacy.

The SUN CSA was officially launched on the first SUN Global Day of Action, on 9th May 2014. The civil society makes a unique contribution to the Scaling up nutrition movement by:

- 1. Advocating** through social mobilization, advocacy, and campaigning to raise awareness of the impact of malnutrition and to encourage governments to make fighting it (malnutrition) a priority. The network primarily undertakes capacity building of civil society organizations and other stakeholders to scale up nutrition advocacy at national and county level.
- 2. Implementing:** Through programming, the network reaches out to affected communities and delivers multi-sectoral nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions.
- 3. Monitoring:** From a local to a global level, SUN CSA tracks progress by monitoring nutrition expenditure, collecting data to ensure no one is left behind and holding governments accountable for their promises.



### Contact:

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