



PROJECT REPORT FOR: NUTRITION ADVOCACY FUND

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: Conduct nutrition advocacy campaigns to provincial authorities for increased multi-sectoral coordination backed by increased financing.

SUBMITTED BY:
BUTERA JOHN R. MUGABE
CHAIRMAN SCALING UP NUTRITION (SUN) ALLIANCE
PLOT 99, 543 Street, Kacyiru | E: info@sunalliancerwanda.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Progress Report.....	2
EASTERN PROVINCE:	3
WESTERN PROVINCE:	4
NORTHERN PROVINCE:	6
SOUTHERN PROVINCE:	8
Budget	10

Introduction

The year 2014 was a historic turning point for the establishment of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Alliance; a registered umbrella of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Rwanda promoting nutrition sensitive and specific actions. During this year, 79 Civil Society Organizations in the fight against malnutrition in Rwanda championed by Society for Family Health (SFH) Rwanda and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) endorsed the establishment of the Alliance. The Alliance was established with an aim of strengthening the coordination between nutrition actors, through tracking results and aligning strategies, programs and resources of its members with country plans to eliminate all forms of Malnutrition.

Since establishment, the Alliance has over the years been collaborating with partners to implement programmes with shared nutrition goals, through collectively mobilizing resources to effectively scale up nutrition- with a core focus on advocacy, empowering women and children in addressing malnutrition.

As a result, SUN Alliance has facilitated various rich and concerted knowledge exchange among provincial and district leadership in four provinces nationally through Advocacy workshops bringing together district leadership into a single room to learn and share experiences over ending malnutrition. This cemented the foundation for sharing and learning beyond national boundaries with focus on SUN Civil Society Alliances across African Countries. Guided by this exchange, more practical guidance and support is envisioned to be generated to help inform the paths Civil Society Organizations may choose in the fight against Malnutrition.

The Alliance approach, has helped raise awareness about the vital importance of nutrition as a universal move; one that is integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to have a world without hunger and malnutrition.

Progress Report

Since the reception of the grant on 22nd July 2016, the Alliance has helped highlight the vital importance of nutrition through social mobilization, advocacy and communication among policy makers as a universal move; one that is integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to have a world without hunger and malnutrition.

Thus, the Alliance for two months has organized and conducted multi-sectoral advocacy coordination meetings on the fight against malnutrition in all provinces bringing together districts leaders. In all provincial meetings, the common objective was to; raise the awareness on about malnutrition in the country and to advocate for increased nutrition coordination mechanisms backed by increased financing.

As previously highlighted, SUN Alliance was able to achieve and accomplish the following advocacy meetings in the respective provinces as seen below;

EASTERN PROVINCE:

SUN Alliance conducted an advocacy meeting in Eastern Province on 18th of August 2016. The province harbours 7 districts which include Rwamagana, Nyagatare, Kirehe, Ngoma, Bugesera, Kayonza and Gatsibo respectively. The advocacy meeting brought together different provincial and district officials from the above districts to discuss the need for increased multi-sectoral coordination of nutrition actors backed by increased financing or other investments such as human resource investment. The Alliance made a number of presentations to illuminate and educate new leaders elect about cases of malnutrition by and large in their respective districts. It's from these presentations that discussions to increase funding emanated from and the following commitments were made by the leaders;

The advocacy meeting previously targeted 66 officials from Government, SUN Alliance district representatives, JADF, private sector representatives, religious representatives and the media but only 21 officials were reached. This is because another urgent government meeting came up, and thus some officials did not manage to show up, while others claimed to have not been informed by the Province on time. Nonetheless, the leaders in attendance managed to commit the following;

- The leaders committed to increase their health related budget with greater focus on behaviour change communications for WASH, Nutrition and Family Planning.
- Leaders committed to work with Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Alliance to fight malnutrition by making sure CSOs in nutrition align with government needs and priorities.
- Leaders committed to put nutrition in the district performance contracts among others.
- Leaders committed to always conduct provincial reviews aimed at gauging the status of each district.

Other outcomes

- Enhanced and increased awareness about the nutrition situation at country level and district level.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of SUN Alliance objectives and goals
- Increased knowledge exchange between districts representatives and other participants.
- Increased momentum to commit efforts in scaling up nutrition.

Challenges

- SUN Alliance encountered a challenge of changing agendas none commitment to one agenda. This is because, the Alliance was convinced that there was no any other meeting but this changed on the last minute and thus affecting attendance and participation. Some people were told to come late in the afternoon, while others were communicated to arrive early in the morning.

WESTERN PROVINCE:

The nutrition advocacy meeting to increase funding and multi-sectoral coordination was conducted in the western province of Rwanda on 6th September 2016. The province has the first and second leading districts (Nyabihu & Ngororero) in terms of stunting with 59%and 55.5% respectively for children under five. Thus, the advocacy meeting brought together different provincial and district officials from the above districts to discuss the need for increased multi-sectoral coordination of nutrition actors backed by increased financing or other investments such as human resource investment. '



The Alliance made a number of presentations to illuminate and educate new leaders elect about cases of malnutrition by and large in their respective districts. During this meeting 123 people were reached out of 66 that were previously planned. The overachievement is due to the fact that, the Governor suggested that the target audience be extended given the importance of the topic to reach everyone concerned. It's from these presentations that discussions to increase funding emanated from and the following commitments were made;

- Increase behaviour change interventions using various approaches

- Strengthen the recognition of SUN Alliance representatives to champion and coordinate nutrition related interventions in collaboration with DPEM coordinator.
- Strengthen community dialogues even at cell level.
- Strengthen Early Childhood development centres (ECDs)
- Increase budget aimed at fighting nutrition which shall be done by including nutrition sensitive and specific interventions in the performance contracts.
- Sensitise people including employers about the New Law on Maternity leave; this shall give liberty to employees to breastfeed their children without fear.
- Sensitise the target audiences to read information on Nutrition
- Encourage schools to teach about good nutrition

Other outcomes

- Enhanced and increased awareness about the nutrition situation at country level and district level.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of SUN Alliance objectives and goals
- Increased knowledge exchange between districts representatives and other participants.
- Increased momentum to commit efforts in scaling up nutrition.

Challenges

- **Budget issue:** The budget previously planned for the activity before heading to the conference room was limited to only 66 people but this was reversed by the turn up as the Alliance had to use extra resources to cater for everyone's transport. This is because the Province did not communicate changes to this effect as suggested by the Governor.

NORTHERN PROVINCE:

Northern Province advocacy meeting was conducted on 20th September, and 5th October 2016 respectively. The meeting was conducted twice simply because the Governor required the Alliance to conduct a similar meeting with a wide group of government agencies working in the Province as well as other partners other than districts and provincial officials among others on a wide scale. Thus, the advocacy meetings brought together different provincial and district officials from the above districts to discuss the need for increased multi-sectoral coordination of nutrition actors backed by increased financing or other investments such as human resource investment.



Nutrition Advocacy meeting with all districts leaders among other target audiences

In Northern Province, 52 people were targeted but 80 people were reached in all the meetings. The overachievement is due to the fact that, we conducted two advocacy meetings as per the request from the Governor to include other leaders of the province and districts such as executive secretaries and planners at district level. The Governor noted that it's important for all people within his province that is, all the districts that make up the province to have the knowledge about nutrition. Therefore, the Alliance made a number of presentations to illuminate and educate new leaders elect about cases of malnutrition by and large in their respective districts. It's from these presentations that discussions to increase funding emanated from and the following commitments were made;

- Increase budget aimed at fighting nutrition which shall be done by including nutrition sensitive and specific interventions in the performance contracts.

- Northern Province being a hub of food will increase behaviour change interventions using various approaches and techniques.
- Sensitise people including employers about the New Law on Maternity leave; this shall give liberty to employees to breastfeed their children without fear.
- Strengthen community dialogues at least weekly from sector level to village level.
- Sensitise the target audiences to read information on Nutrition
- Encourage schools to teach about good nutrition
- Work with Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Alliance to fight malnutrition by making sure CSOs in nutrition align with its objectives and those of government
- Finally, the leaders committed to find budget or lobby for nutritionists for all health centres who will work with Community Health Workers in partnership with SUN Alliance.

Other outcomes

- Enhanced and increased awareness about the nutrition situation at country level and district level.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of SUN Alliance objectives and goals
- Increased knowledge exchange between districts representatives and other participants.
- Increased momentum to commit efforts in scaling up nutrition.

Challenges

The only challenge was the doubling of meetings yet the organisation had planned for one advocacy meeting per a province. This raised the budget and logistics from what the Alliance had planned but again, the major aim and objective was to influence and advocate for increased resources to implement nutrition related interventions.

SOUTHERN PROVINCE:

Like in other provinces, SUN Alliance conducted an advocacy meeting in Southern Province on 11th of October, 2016. The province is home for 8 districts which include Huye, Nyanza, Ruhango, Nyamagabe, Gisagara, Kamonyi, and Nyaruguru respectively. The province also has the third leading district (Nyamagabe) in terms of stunting with 51.8% of children under five suffering from stunting. Thus, the advocacy meeting brought together different provincial and district officials from the above districts to discuss the need for increased multi-sectoral coordination of nutrition actors backed by increased financing or other investments such as human resource investment. The Alliance made a number of presentations to illuminate and educate new leaders elect about cases of malnutrition by and large in their respective districts. It's from these presentations that discussions to increase funding emanated from and the following commitments were made by the leaders;



Nutrition Advocacy meeting with all districts leaders among other target audiences

In the southern province, 73 people were targeted and thus 73 officials from government, SUN Alliance, Private sector, Women council, and Joint Action Development Forum (JADF) were reached. This is because the Provincial leadership prepared and organised the meeting informing the targeted officials in advance and in partnership with SUN Alliance. This did not happen in the Eastern province, as they solely did it and late. As a result, the leaders in attendance managed to commit to the following;

- Establish strategies for quick service delivery of nutritional messages and other health information.
- Strengthen Early Childhood development centres (ECDs)

- Increase budget aimed at fighting nutrition which shall be done by including nutrition sensitive and specific interventions in the performance contracts.
- Increase behaviour change interventions using various approaches
- Sensitise people including employers about the New Law on Maternity leave; this shall give liberty to employees to breastfeed their children without fear.
- Call upon families to leave in harmony
- Strengthen community dialogues even at cell level.
- Sensitise the target audiences to read information on Nutrition
- Encourage schools to teach about good nutrition
- Work with Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Alliance to fight malnutrition by making sure CSOs in nutrition align with its objectives and those of government

Other outcomes

- Enhanced and increased awareness about the nutrition situation at country level and district level.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of SUN Alliance objectives and goals
- Increased knowledge exchange between districts representatives and other participants.
- Increased momentum to commit efforts in scaling up nutrition.

Challenges

- Interruptive case: some leaders did not finish the meeting as previously scheduled due to other equally important issues in their respective districts such as performance evaluations which were underway by the time of the meeting. Some had other agendas including preparations for the handover ceremony between Governors as the de facto was handing over to the new appointed.

In all provinces the situation of food and nutrition presented were followed by these statistics or data for emphasis;

- Today, there are more stunted children U5 (739,100=38% of 1,945,000) in Rwanda than 10 years ago.
- Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) rates among children 6-23 months are still very low (17.8% now 16.8% in 2010), and progress is slow (1% in five years)
- Stunting increases drastically from when a child is 6 to 24 months(50%) old
- Only 2% have a handwashing facility with soap & water
- Only 1 out of every 3 children with under-nutrition is estimated to be receiving proper health attention
- Most of the health costs associated with under-nutrition occur before the child turns 1 year-old.
- 21.9% of all child mortality cases in Rwanda are associated with under-nutrition.
- 12.7% of all repetitions in primary school are associated with stunting
- Stunted children achieve 1.1 years less in school education.
- Child mortality associated with under-nutrition has reduced Rwandans workforce by 9.4%
- 49.2% of the adult population in Rwanda suffered from stunting as children.
- The annual costs associated with child under-nutrition are estimated at 503.6 billion RWF, which is equivalent to 11.5%of GDP
- Eliminating stunting in Rwanda is a necessary step for inclusive development in the country
- 36.5% of children 6-59months and 19.2% of women are anemic

And the Call for actions has been:

- We need to increase financial investment to address malnutrition
- Increase Human resource and capacity building
- Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination
- Implement Actions to Address Malnutrition in All Its Forms for sustainable Development
- Strengthen National and District Accountability on Nutrition Targets.
- Deliver Better Nutrition Outcomes with Existing Funding
- Strengthen alliances between Nutrition partners.
- Identify the Data Gaps that Hinder Effective Action- and Fill Them.

Budget

The total budget used for the implementation process of the nutrition advocacy meetings is equivalent to Ten Million, Seven hundred seventy two thousand one hundred thirty nine point six cents Rwanda francs. However, only Seven million two hundred sixty seven thousand, two hundred thirty nine point sixty cents Rwanda francs was paid to the service providers.

In conclusion, all the meetings were successful and leaders were interested with the topic of stunting as most of them had no idea of what the stunting was. There was great support of the Alliance's efforts and pledge to commit more resources towards eliminating of malnutrition in the next financial year or through the implementing partners.