Sierra Leone Civil Society engagement in Nutrition

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SLAAHM
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Overview: SUN in Sierra Leone

• Nutrition for Growth Compact signed
• Operationalization of SUN secretariat; located in the Office of the Vice President
• Multi-sector food and nutrition security implementation plan (2013-2017) – launched by Vice President
CSP Secretariat established in 2014. Comprised of 2 platforms:  
1. Scaling Up Nutrition (MPTF)  
2. Immunization and system strengthening (GAVI)  

Chair/Lead Organisation: FOCUS1000  
Co-Chair: HKI  

Dynamic group of CSOs and CBOs working in nutrition, food security, health, WASH, governance, social protection etc.  

More than 219 member CSOs (National and International) and CBOs  

Now scaling up activities through partnership with networks such as Sierra Leone Market Women’s Association (over 100,000 members), religious leaders, and traditional healers
Platform Purpose

• **Vision**
To organize civil society into a united force that speaks with one voice and engages with Government and development partners in nutrition, immunization and health systems strengthening activities in Sierra Leone

• **Mission**
To strengthen and coordinate civil society contribution in equitably scaling up nutrition and immunization in Sierra Leone
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Who we are</th>
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<tr>
<td>Change agents and advocates located in communities across the country</td>
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<td>Our work supports government efforts to reduce hunger and malnutrition as well as improve health targets in Sierra Leone</td>
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<td>We advocate to government for policy change</td>
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<td>We advocate to decision makers, implementing partners and donors</td>
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<td>We represent the voices of our communities and ensure that their voices are heard nationally and globally</td>
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<td>We also work to empower the voiceless by keeping them informed and creating avenues for participation</td>
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<td>What we have done</td>
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<td>Set up District Coordinating Bodies (DCBs) in all 14 districts in Sierra Leone</td>
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<td>Platform now has 219 members (178 from CSO/CBOs and 41 from media) - planning to get religious leaders on board as well</td>
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<td>The media network, Kombra Media Network (KMN) was established and registered in March 2015</td>
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<td>Advocacy training on nutrition and immunization for DCBs and media 2014</td>
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<td>Conducted training for media on ethical reporting for nutrition and health</td>
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<td>Trained SLMWA chair women and men for promotion of</td>
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Successes

Policy Advocacy

Examples of Policy Advocacy conducted by the Sierra Leone CSP
Despite the engagements and recent commitments the lack of a higher recognition of the Right to Food creates a legal vacuum.

In the meantime in SL:

- 182/1000 children die before 5 years
- 45% population is food insecure
- 28.8% of children under 5 are stunted, 4.7% wasted; 12.9% are underweight
- There is no equal access to land, education, political participation
Right to Food in the revised National Constitution

2 Position papers and presentations presented (Sept/Oct 2015) to induce Government to include Right to Food in constitution in line with

- 2012: Scaling Up Nutrition Movement
- 2012: Zero Hunger Initiative
- 2013: Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihood
- 2013: Nutrition for Growth Initiative
Right to Food: Recommendations

Civil Society recommends the Constitutional Review Committee to consider including the Right to Food in the 1991 revised Constitution in order to:

• Ensure commitments towards strengthening food and nutrition security for the population are entrusted
• Fulfill the commitment as per Agenda for Prosperity
• Provide an opportunity to not make food and nutrition security a political matter
Successes

Documenting Nutrition for Advocacy
Documenting nutrition for Advocacy

• CSP collaborated with ACF and DFN to develop a short documentary on nutrition
• Launched at VP office in October 2015, the video is an advocacy tool that highlights achievements made by government and its partners to combat malnutrition
• Documentary was aired for 3 months on SLBC (national TV)
Documenting nutrition for Advocacy

High Level Round table Discussion

• Brought together Government departments, UN Agencies, Donors and Civil Society

• Discussed progress made towards SUN, and following Ebola, the work required by all to bring SL back on track

• 2nd anniversary of N4G commitments
Challenges

• Inadequate knowledge on importance of nutrition to national development
• Finance – Inadequate Government / donor funding and timely release of funds
• Data management and reporting impacts on clear picture of nutrition needs and achievements on the ground
• Accountability of partners
• Engaging the Private sector
• Quality of service delivery
Thank you