THE PACFaH PROJECT SUCCESS STORY!

The Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health (PACFaH) Project is a social accountability investment implemented through the strategy of coalition building to achieve the goal of catalyzing government’s responsiveness on policies, budgets and administration on the most daunting challenges to Child and Family Health (CFH) at national and state levels in Nigeria. The project was implemented by a coalition of 8 indigenous Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working in Child and Family Health from 2014-2017.

CS-SUNN under the PACFaH project was the nutrition issue lead with the mandate to advocate for the adoption/increased implementation of the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (NSPAN) with a focus on Maternal and Child Nutrition (in Kaduna, Niger and Nasarawa states) and for increase in the 2017 health sector budget.

- Increased performance of the health sector in the 3 states. In Kaduna state performance increased from 39.1% in 2015 to 63.9% in 2016, in Niger, this increased from 50.8% in 2015 to 52.8% in 2016 while in Nasarawa the state’s performance increased from 43.7% in 2015 to 56.8% in 2016.

- Our activities also contributed to a significant budgetary allocation to nutrition this year in Nigeria with the allocation hitting and exceeding the 1 billion naira mark in 2017, the first time ever in over 7 years.

Also, CS-SUNN through its capacity and coalition building activities under the PACFaH project was able to create strong nutrition/health sector budget coalitions who through their activities are still engaging with the state government for improved nutrition interventions. These interventions led to among other things;

- CS-SUNN’s National and state chapters becoming members of the National and State Committees of Food and Nutrition, thus contributing to ensure coordination of nutrition activities at the national and focal states.

In addition CS-SUNN’s innovative engagement with the media and training of media personnel led to increased reportage of nutrition/PACFaH issues and created increased visibility for the coalition and the PACFaH project.

“There is need to tackle health issues as they have proven to be recurrent in nature. How I wish this meeting came before the submission of Kaduna state 2017 budget, we would have worked with the State Ministry of Health and Human Services and allocated more funds for health programs. I promise not to slash health budgets any longer, rather I will advocate for more in the future”. (Quote from Mrs. Jummai Bako (Director of Budget, Kaduna state Ministry of Budget and Planning-during the November 2016 Pre-budget meeting organized by CS-SUNN under the PACFaH project).
I am delighted to share with you the 5th edition of “Nigeria Nutrition Update”, the newsletter of the Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria. Globally and in Nigeria, Food and nutrition insecurity continue to contribute to malnutrition which is closely linked to under-development.

However, in line with our vision; we have sustained our engagements with relevant stakeholders, thus contributing to enhanced Nutrition interventions in the country.

This Edition is to disseminate successes recorded under the Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health Project from 2014-2017, which include:

- The Creation of Nutrition Budget lines
- Enhanced multi-sectorial responses on food and nutrition insecurity.
- Increased salience of nutrition issues through our engagements with the media.

It also showcases highlights from the UNICEF Project grant (2017) to establish and strengthen coalitions in Eleven (11) States, targeting 220 Civil Society Organizations. Let me announce that CS-SUNN has scaled-up to establish state nutrition coalitions (State Chapters) in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Yobe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Zamfara, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, and Sokoto states for improved nutrition outcomes.

I will like to thank the Board of Trustees, the Steering Committee, Donors, Staff of CS-SUNN Secretariat and state leaders whose commitments led to the achievement of these milestones. I strongly encourage those with experiences and learning that can be shared to make contributions in our subsequent editions!

Let’s document and share achievements and successes from the CS-SUNN Network!!!
since the enactment of the National Health Act in 2014, there have been several efforts targeted at providing quality and affordable health care for Nigerians in line with the goals of Universal Health Coverage.

It is against this background that the Federal Government convened the National Health Dialogue from 24th to 25th August 2017 at Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja. The Dialogue had in attendance, Director General of Voice of Nigeria, Osita Okechukwu as representative of Vice President of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole amongst others.

CS-SUNN alongside other PACFaH Partners also participated in the dialogue with theme “Challenges and Prospects of Universal Health Coverage in Nigeria”

The dialogue explored the role of legislature in guaranteeing Universal Health Coverage, The Funding Question in UHC, Inter-ministerial Coordination for health Sector financing and Media Advocacy and Accountability Strategies for achieving UHC.

“I am more than excited to work with CS-SUNN. Once we can sit and map out how to address malnutrition in Kaduna, funding will be made available for activities. CS-SUNN has advanced in so many issues regarding nutrition; drawing attention to challenges and disturbing data and figures, I will work with them”.

These were the words of the Chairperson of the Kaduna State Emergency Nutrition Action Programme (KADENAP) Hajiya Aisha Ummi Garba El-Rufai when she received CS-SUNN during an advocacy visit on the 17th July, 2017 in Kaduna.

She directed that CS-SUNN be drafted into the KADENAP Steering Committee as project partner especially in the area of data provision and community sensitization.

Earlier, Project Director, CS-SUNN, Beatrice Eluaka said CS-SUNN looks forward to a “KADNAP” (that is without an E) getting to the point where malnutrition is no longer an emergency in Kaduna.

The aim of the visit was to advocate for timely releases of funds for nutrition interventions and speedy domestication, dissemination and implementation of the Kaduna State Food and Nutrition Policy.

The visit also saw the presentation of a plaque titled “Nutrition Champion” to the Wife of the Executive Governor of Kaduna State by CS-SUNN in recognition of her exemplary and inspiring contribution in combating malnutrition in Kaduna State.

CS-SUNN Speaks on Best Practices in NGO Advocacy at the 2017 National Health Dialogue

CS-SUNN's Project Director, Beatrice Eluaka while speaking alongside other PACFaH partners on lessons learnt from the PACFaH Project's advocacy for health policy change urged Government to fully implement the NSPAN through adequate funding allocation and timely releases of same

Recall: The investiture of wife of the President, Mrs Aisha Buhari, as the Nutrition Ambassador of Nigeria in 2016 flanked by Minister of State, MNBP, Mrs. Zainab S. Ahmed.

Cross Section of Legislators at the end of the Summit on Legislative Network for Universal Health Coverage held in Abuja. (Nov. 24, 2017)

Nigeria’s Nutrition Ambassador, Her Excellency, Hajjiya Aisha Buhari represented by Former Deputy Governor, Plateau State Dame Pauline Tallen unveiling the Nutrition Platform during the 2017 National Nutrition Week in Abuja. (Oct. 5)

Wife of Kaduna State Governor and Chairperson of KADENAP Hajjiya Aisha Ummi Garba El-Rufai speaking while receiving CS-SUNN during an advocacy visit in Kaduna (Jul. 17, 2017)

Nigerian Delegation at the 2017 Scaling Up Nutrition Global Gathering held in Abidjan. (Nov. 7 - 9, 2017)

Deputy Director, Food & Nutrition, MBNP, Mrs. Roselyn Gabriel addressing participants during the NCFN Quarterly meeting in Kaduna. (Mar. 9, 2017)

Cross Section of Participants at CS-SUNN’s Infographics and State Specific Score card dissemination meeting held in Abuja (Jun. 30, 2017)

Cross section of participants during CS-SUNN’s Media Training on Effective Nutrition Reportage held in Kaduna State. (May 8 - 10, 2017)


Participants at Pre-Budget meeting with DHPRS and Directors of Finance from SMOH and line ministries on appropriate budgeting for the health sector held at Niger State. ()

Working together to attain a country where every citizen has food and is nutrition secured
CS-SUNN Builds Media Capacity on Effective Nutrition Reportage; Media Explore Field Visits

CS-SUNN organized a 3-day capacity building workshop and field visit for 30 health editors and senior health reporters to promote effective reporting of health and nutrition related issues from 8th-10th May, 2017 in Kaduna State.

With support from the Kaduna State Ministry of Health, Mr. Lawal Jibrin led field visits to Tudun Wada Primary Health Care Facility, an OTP centre (CMAM Site) at Makama Abbas Primary Health Centre and an IYCF centre in Angwan Fatika, Zaria which gave participants a first-hand experience of malnutrition cases and challenges.

Media practitioners described the training as apt and timely saying it gave them a first-hand experience of the malnutrition situation, exposed them to the nitty-gritty of nutrition and has equipped them with requisite capacity and knowledge needed to bring health and nutrition to the front burners of public discourse.

They also came up with a strategic action plan and made various commitments (airtime for interviews, talk shows, health programmes, special reports, documentaries and space for columns, interviews, exclusives) to put health and nutrition issues in the spotlight on their various media.

CS-SUNN Supports MBNP in Validation of Advocacy Briefs/Newsletter

The Ministry of Budget and National Planning (MBNP) in collaboration with CS-SUNN hosted a three day meeting from 19th-21st April, 2017 in Nasarawa State to validate and finalize advocacy briefs and Nutrition Newsletter for relevant stakeholders especially Government Ministries and her MDA’s in the nutrition circle.

The meeting led to the production of over 1000 copies of advocacy briefs to be used as tools for advocacy to the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Health, Water Resources, Science and Technology, Women Affairs and Social Development and MBNP.

CS-SUNN Sensitizes CSOs on the AFSNS (2016-2025)

CS-SUNN on the 24th of May, 2017 sensitized over 10 CSOs on the Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (AFSNS) launched on May 9th, 2017 by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The overall objective of the strategy is to improve the food and nutrition security of all Nigerians while empowering women and promoting resilience of the most vulnerable through sustainable agricultural livelihood.

Participants were drawn from Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association, Medical Women Association of Nigeria, Heal the Youth Foundation, The Paul’s Mission INC, amongst others.
Niger State Lawmakers Pledge to Surpass 15% Abuja Declaration On Health Before End Of 8th Assembly

CS-SUNN in line with her goal of engendering government’s responsiveness on policies, budgets and administration on child and family health in Nigeria paid an advocacy visit to the Niger state Assembly on the 24th February, 2017 urging the lawmakers to uphold their commitments and push for an increased 2017 health budget.

Speaker, Niger State House of Assembly, Hon. Ahmed Marafa represented by Deputy Speaker, Hon. Hussaini Ibrahim described CS-SUNN's visit as timely saying that it will add value to the budget process. He pledged the commitment of Niger State lawmakers to surpass the Abuja 2001 Africa Union Declaration of 15 percent provision for the health sector before the end of the 8th Assembly.

He identified the underlying factor affecting nutrition in the state as lack of information on appropriate foods and feeding and tasked CS-SUNN and PACFaH to come up with approaches to educate Niger State residents on proper nutrition in order to reduce stunting and other nutrition-related diseases.

On increase in the 2017 Health budget, he said “judge us by the end of the calendar". He added that Niger State has graduated from 8% to 11% of the Abuja declaration and told CS-SUNN to expect a positive outcome when the budget is finally released with regards to an increased allocation to health.

The Speaker however advised Health MDAs experiencing delay in release of allocated funds to collaborate with Chairmen of relevant committees to address the challenge.

USAID Hosts Workshop on Hunger Reduction, Malnutrition and Poverty in Nigeria

USAID hosted relevant stakeholders in the Agricultural sector from October 10-11, 2017 in Abuja to develop a strategy to reduce Hunger, Malnutrition and Poverty in Nigeria.

The workshop took a comprehensive approach to joint strategic planning and included power mapping of issues related to poverty.

Discussions about multi sector nutrition policies helped stakeholders to understand the power of a shared agenda for reducing poverty and malnutrition.

CS-SUNN’s contribution to the strategy was around; increasing the capacity of CSOs to hold Government to commit to funding nutrition, strengthening multi-sectorial coordination and implementation of nutrition related policies.

Short and long term action steps from the meeting includes; access to finance for farmers and other value chain actors, the need to strengthen market systems and value chains while improving access to agricultural inputs and training for farmer, the importance of making healthy and nutritious food available and accessible, (especially for lactating and pregnant mothers and children) improved implementation of food and nutrition related policies and increased coordination among sectors.

The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) forecasts that agriculture will continue to be a stable driver of GDP growth, with an average growth rate of 6.9 percent over the plan period. In 2015, agriculture accounted for 23.1 percent of GDP and employed 38 percent of the working population.
CS-SUNN with support and funding from UNICEF has established and strengthened Nutrition coalitions in 11 new states.

The project which was implemented from September 2017 – December, 2017 resulted in the establishment of new state chapters in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Yobe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Zamfara and Sokoto states.

The goal of the project was to map Civil Society Organizations working in the Nutrition space, build their capacities to adequately advocate for improved nutrition interventions and to establish 11 new nutrition coalitions in the North-East and West states of Nigeria.

Under the project over 220 CSOs working in both nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific space across these states were mapped and their capacities on nutrition advocacy for scale-up of nutrition interventions were built.

The capacities of these CSOs on effective advocacy for improved Nutrition outcomes for women and children have been built and they now have a better understanding on how to translate research to evidence for effective engagement with advocacy targets.