The Civil Society- Scaling up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) is currently implementing the Partnership for Improving Nigeria Nutrition Systems (PINNS). A project designed to strengthen the Nigeria nutrition systems to be more Result-driven, Effective, Serviceable, Efficient and Transparent (RESET) in delivering on their mandate and to hold government accountable on commitments made to allocate, release and use transparently funds for implementation of high impact Nutrition interventions in Nigeria through evidence-based advocacy. PINNS project adopts a systems approach to strengthening bodies burdened with the responsibility of reducing malnutrition in Nigeria. It pays attention to the unpredictable interaction among factors, sectors, disciplines and determinants of nutrition, bringing to the table key tools and technical support required for the effective coordination and implementation of programs.

The overall goal of the PINNS project is to contribute to the reduction of malnutrition among women and under 5 children by strengthening the Nigeria Nutrition Systems.

Specific project outcomes that contribute to attaining the goal are as follows:

1. Improved implementation of the National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (NMSPAN) with focus on high impact nutrition interventions in the Health and Agriculture sector strategic plans designed to contribute to reduction in maternal and child malnutrition at national and focal states.

2. Improved funding for Health and Nutrition (with reference to 1% consolidated revenue fund for nutrition- EBF, Maternal nutrition, IYCF and staple food fortification) at national level and in focal states.

3. Momentum for Scaling up Nutrition in Nigeria, through concerted Civil Society Action increased.

ADVOCACY PRAYERS

CS-SUNN calls on the Government at the Federal and in Kaduna, Kano, Niger, Nasarawa and Lagos states;

- To increase funding to the health sector and to make adequate provisions for Nutrition in Health and all nutrition line Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the 2019 budget and beyond.

- To implement the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (NSPAN) and the Agric Sector nutrition Strategy in the context of the National Multisectoral Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (NMSPAN).

- To ensure timely release of funds allocated for nutrition in all nutrition line ministries in the 2019 budget.
The Civil Society - Scaling up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) is a non-governmental, non-profit making coalition, made up of organizations and individuals with a shared vision.

Our Vision:
A country where every citizen has food and is nutrition secured.

Our Mission:
To mobilize Non-State Actors to generate evidence, build capacity, advocate and stimulate communities to scale up nutrition in Nigeria.

Our Objectives:
• To create a platform through which Civil Society Organizations can effectively advocate for improved nutrition in Nigeria
• To advocate for effective coordination of all nutrition stakeholders and programs in Nigeria;
• To advocate and engage government to create nutrition budget lines in relevant Federal and State Ministries in Nigeria;
• To encourage and strongly advocate for the establishment of an effective and functional nutrition surveillance monitoring and evaluation systems;
• To build the capacity of CS-SUNN members to effectively engage in the pursuit of improved nutrition in Nigeria.

CS-SUNN is working assiduously to position the Nigerian government and citizens to be at a level where every citizen is food and nutrition secured. We have vigorously pursued this task through Partnership, Advocacy, Capacity Building, Evidence Generation and Institutionalization of the coalition (PACEI).

Through this edition, we hope to update you on developments/successes from some of our on-going projects and introduce you to our new state chapters. We have included a special segment on update from state chapters.

This edition showcases highlights from The Partnership for Improving Nigeria Nutrition Systems (PINNS) project, which is designed to make Nigeria Nutrition systems more Result-Driven, Effective, Serviceable, Efficient and Transparent (RESET). CS-SUNN has scaled-up to establish state chapters in Rivers, Kwara, Oyo and Imo states under the SUN Movement Pooled Fund project.

Though 2018 has been challenging for nutrition players, we look forward to a purposeful delivery of our mandate in 2019 and beyond.

I will like to thank the Board of Trustees, the Steering Committee, Donors, Staff at 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!

Dr. David Olayemi (Chairman, CS-SUNN)
KANO EMMIRATE COUNCIL, STATE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & BUDGET COMMIT TO IMPROVING NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF KANO RESIDENTS:

CS-SUNN on the 11th of July 2018 conducted advocacy visit to the Commissioner of Planning and Budget and the Emir of Kano on Health of Kano State. The visit was done in collaboration with the National Committee on Nutrition Secretariat of the Ministry of Budget and National Planning and the International Potato Centre (CIP).

The objectives of the visits were to advocate for improved funding for nutrition in the 2019 budget, release and effective utilization of allocated fund as well as for investment in high impact nutrition interventions in the state.

Receiving the advocacy team, the Honourable Commissioner and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Planning and Budget made commitments to operationalize and fund the existing state specific plan of action for nutrition in the state. CS-SUNN got the state government's commitment to improve the nutritional status of its people.

At the Kano Emirate Council, His Royal Highness Abba Yusuf who represented His Eminence, Alhaji Sanusi Lamido pledged the support of the Emirate Council on Health to contribute to nutrition education and promotion of Infant and Young Child Feeding with focus on Exclusive Breastfeeding.

THE BIRTH OF CS-SUNN LAGOS STATE CHAPTER:

A week-long Training of Trainers (ToT) was held from the 27th-31st August 2018 by CS-SUNN (National) in collaboration with the CS-SUNN Local Working Group in Lagos. It was aimed at raising change agents who will drive transformation of the nutrition situation in Nigeria through effective advocacy.

The highpoint of the training was the scale-up of the Local Working Group (LWG) and its formal launch into an established state chapter with state executives elected to run with CS-SUNN’s vision in the state.

It is expected that the new state chapter will chart ways forward for the coalition and come up with an action plan that will support the nutrition advocacy push in the state.
Working together to attain a country where every citizen has food and is nutrition secured
CS-SUNN SC CHAIRMAN ENGAGING LAGOS STATE NUTRITION OFFICER DURING PRE-BUDGET MEETING IN ABUJA.

GROUP WORK SESSION DURING ONE OF CS-SUNN CAPACITY BUILDING MEETINGS IN LAGOS.

CS-SUNN SUPPORTS FINALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL MULTISECTORIAL STRATEGY AND PLAN FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION IN NASARAWA.

CS-SUNN SC CHAIRMAN ADDRESSING PARTICIPANTS AT THE 2018 WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK IN ABUJA.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT ON PINNS ISSUES IN LAGOS STATE.

Working together to attain a country where every citizen has food and is nutrition secured.
CS-SUNN convened her 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 28th of July, 2018 in Abuja. The Steering Committee Chairman, Dr. David Olayemi while presenting an annual report stated that CS-SUNN has been positioned to support the Nigerian Government and people to a level where every Nigerian is food and nutrition secured. He disclosed that the task of CS-SUNN was hinged on an acronym PACEI, meaning Partnership, Advocacy, Capacity Building, Evidence Generation, Institutionalization and growing CS-SUNN to become an enviable platform of Non-state actors in Nigeria that everyone will be proud of.

The AGM achieved the following objectives:
- Presentation of the Annual/Financial reports of the year under review
- Review of 2018 Workplan and Budget
- Determination of Annual Membership Fees
- Amendment of CS-SUNN constitution
- Appointment of Trustees/Auditor
- Election of Internal Audit Committee of 5-member Organization to audit CS-SUNN account.

A key resolution reached by the assembly to be adopted upon ratification of the amended constitution, is that the coalition will be addressed as an alliance. This is in alignment with the global SUN CSN body.

Some recommendations drawn from a communique issued at the end of the training are that:
- Government should adopt preventive rather than curative measures to address malnutrition in Nigeria.
- Government should scale up and sustain existing interventions on nutrition.
- Media should explore key components of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to bring to the fore requisite solutions to the plights of women, children and other vulnerable groups.

30 Health journalists drawn from Kaduna, Nasarawa, Niger, Kano, Lagos states and the national level have become equipped with skills to develop stories around transparency and accountability in allocation and use of health/nutrition funds in Nigeria.

The 3-days media training organized by CS-SUNN from 29th October - 31st October 2018 in Abuja, also included a field visit to the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Site at Kwali Primary Health Care Centre, Abuja. This gave journalists first-hand information on the state of malnourished children in the FCT.

Children receiving treatment at a CMAM Centre in Kwali PHC, Abuja.
As part of efforts to generate evidence for advocacy engagements with policy makers, CS-SUNN in collaboration with Save the Children and Alive and Thrive engaged a consultant to collect and analyse Health and Nutrition budget of the Federal and focal states governments (Kaduna, Lagos, Niger, Nasarawa and Kano) in the last five years (2014-2018).

The document captures the 2018 Federal Government approved budget, the budgetary allocation for the health sector, nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive allocations with their breakdowns. It also shows budgetary allocation for the 5 PINNS focal states, actual spending and budget performance.

At the validation meeting held on 24th August, 2018 in Abuja, the draft document was reviewed. Inputs from stakeholders answered questions on nutrition specific interventions in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 and their budgetary allocations as well as nutrition sensitive interventions in the last 5 years and their budgetary allocations. Inputs on spending from the nutrition sensitive interventions were also made.

CS-SUNN, PARTNERS, STAKEHOLDERS VALIDATE 5-YEAR TREND ANALYSIS OF HEALTH/NUTRITION BUDGETS:

CS-SUNN SPEAKS ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT THE WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING NUTRITION SERVICES IN THE CARE OF THE ILL & VULNERABLE NEWBORN & CHILD IN ACCRA, GHANA:

CS-SUNN's Executive Secretary, Beatrice Eluaka was part of the Nigerian delegation alongside other country delegates who participated in the Improving Nutrition Services in the Care of the Ill and Vulnerable Newborn and Child Workshop held from October 30 – November 2, 2018 in Ghana.

The 4-day workshop was hosted by USAID in collaboration with UNICEF, USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) and WHO with the following objectives:

a) to share best practices in implementing current policies and guidelines.
b) to identify barriers and opportunities for the provision of adequate nutrition interventions.
c) to prioritize actions to implement and develop short term country action plans.

At the end of the workshop countries were urged to:

a) address health system issues including strengthening community linkages and human resource development.
b) build accountability mechanisms
c) Aim for functional integration.

EXCERPT: TREND ANALYSIS OF HEALTH AND NUTRITION BUDGET IN NIGERIA (2014-2018)
CS-SUNN PARTICIPATES IN DEVELOPMENT OF KADUNA STATE MATERNAL-INFANT & YOUNG CHILD NUTRITION STRATEGIC PLAN:

CS-SUNN participated in a meeting to develop the Kaduna State M-IYCN Strategic Plan. The meeting also set a stage for costing of the draft plan. The M-IYCN strategy is a blueprint for implementing the national/state policy on food and nutrition which will contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Some of the challenges identified by stakeholders during the meeting include inadequate manpower, unfavourable workplace policy for the nursing mother and poor functionality and reportage of activities of the State/Local Government Committee on Food and Nutrition (SCFN/LGCFN) among others.

At the end of the 3 days critical stakeholders meeting, a draft strategic plan on M-IYCN and an operational plan for Kaduna State was developed. The meeting also gave insight to some of the challenges that may hinder the domestication of the strategic plan on M-IYCN for Kaduna state and came up with ways to mitigate those challenges.

CS-SUNN OYO FORMALLY ADMITTED INTO SCFN:

The State Committee on Food and Nutrition (SCFN) is the established viable system and structure for guiding and coordinating food and nutrition activities undertaken in the various sectors at the state level. It is expected that membership of this Committee should include representatives from relevant sectors working in nutrition in the state.

CS-SUNN Oyo state with the support of the Pooled Fund Project engaged with the UNICEF Nutrition Specialist for Oyo state to initiate the process of admittance into the SCFN.

The State chapter participated at the validation of the Oyo State Multi-Sectorial Nutrition Action Plan at a two-day meeting which had the State Planning Commission, Oyo State Primary Healthcare Board, members of the SCFN and UNICEF, Akure Office in attendance.

As a member of the SCFN, CS-SUNN’s efforts towards engaging multi-stakeholder, multi-sectorial nutrition stakeholders will be heightened with an increased opportunity to push for implementation nutrition plans in the state.

CS-SUNN FCT CHAPTER UPDATE:

This chapter shelters a membership of over 30 CSOs implementing diverse interventions and programs like IYCF, Deworming, vitamin supplementation, Household Economic strengthening etc. It also participates actively during planning and implementation of government activities like the MNCH week, Nutrition week and Monitoring (Integrated Supportive Supervision).

As a result of the growth and expansion of the chapter, newly registered members of the coalition are currently undergoing assessment in order to close the capacity gaps that may exist within these organizations to enable them contribute their quota effectively.
CS-SUNN NASARAWA CHAPTER CONDUCTS OUTREACH TO IDPS IN SOME LGAs:

The Nasarawa state coalition embarked on an outreach to IDPs in Azuba/Shabu in Lafia north-Nasarawa state in June 2018. Several displaced persons were observed to be hanging around within Shabu and Azuba environs under poor living environmental conditions which could predispose them (especially the women and children) to health hazards.

The objectives of the outreach were to empathize with the IDPs, sensitize the IDPs on the importance of personal and environmental hygiene, administer vitamin A supplementation and de-worming tablets.

The activities during the day covered a health talk on personal and environmental hygiene, De-worming tablet administered by trained personnel to children and adults, Vitamin A supplementation (under 5 years), Distribution of raw food items (rice, Maggi, salt) and clothing.

A total population of 137 persons including children under-3 and caregivers were reached.

NIGER STATE HOLDS ONE-DAY NUTRITION TOWN HALL MEETING:

CS-SUNN Niger State chapter participated in a one-day nutrition town hall meeting in Niger state which has as Theme: Malnutrition a Lurking Challenge: which way for Niger State?

The objective of the meeting was to provide stakeholders the opportunity to brainstorm on Food and Nutrition issues and to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders for improved implementation of Food and Nutrition related activities in the State.

In a welcome address the Permanent Secretary Niger State Planning Commission Alhaji Usman Musa Dalau, charged all representatives of local government areas present to uphold proper enlightenment about the nutritional content/value of various local foods that are in abundance and the need to consume them.

The Assistant Coordinator, of CS-SUNN Niger state, Mr. Igba Felix, made a presentation on the state of Nutrition in the state: Malnutrition, causes (Challenges) and strategies in curbing the menace of malnutrition in Niger State and Nigeria at large.

Some next steps agreed on by stakeholders at the end of the meeting include:

• Integrating other relevant MDAs, CBOs undertaking health related programs / projects to enable good Nutrition through adequate sensitization.

• Sensitization of men to support their spouses to guarantee nutrition secure farming.

• Strengthening collaboration among Local government Committees on food and Nutrition.
THE SUN MOVEMENT POOLED FUND

The Civil Society - Scaling up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) is currently implementing the SUN Movement pooled fund, a catalytic and last resort source of grants to support multi-stakeholder platforms in Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Countries, in order to increase the effectiveness and impact of national efforts to end malnutrition.

The SUN Movement Pooled Fund Concept was developed in 2017 with the aim to strengthen the capacity of non-governmental systems in SUN countries. The Civil Society Alliance in Nigeria (herein referred to as CSA) is one of the 17 beneficiaries of the 2018 SUN Movement Pooled Fund Grant.

For Nigeria, CS-SUNN is implementing the Pooled Fund project in the five focal states (Kwara, Imo, Oyo, Gombe and Rivers) plus FCT.

• Outcome 1: SMART planning & legislation. This is geared towards ensuring that Nigeria has SMART, costed, multi stakeholder, multi-sectoral Nutrition Plans in place.

• Outcome 2: Financial resourcing. This will ensure better mobilization of international and domestic resources to finance national nutrition plans.

• Outcome 3: Effective implementation and accountability. This will put CS-SUNN on track in implementing nutrition commitments and making a demonstrable contribution to reducing malnutrition at state levels.

The overall objective of this grant is to strengthen participation by in-country non-state stakeholders and parliamentarians in national multi-stakeholder platforms, to implement scale-up nutrition plans. Its specific project outcomes include:

THE SUN MOVEMENT POOLED FUND

Participants at the end of Four (4) Days Workshop on Advocacy and Budget Tracking in Kwara State.

Participants at the end of Four (4) Days Workshop on Advocacy and Budget Tracking in Imo State.