TENACIOUS TEN!!!
Meet the New Change Agents for Nutrition!

What we do in our families and communities may not be as big as what established organizations can do. Change for us is about taking initiatives and addressing something we feel strongly about and for us, that something is nutrition. Nutrition is our passion and as change agents, we want the spotlight to be on nutrition; sub-nationally, nationally and globally and we are ready to do whatever it takes. And that is the reason CS-SUNN is raising Change Agents.

Late February 2019, CS-SUNN sent out a nationwide call for application with selection process conducted based on strict criteria as only ten out of nineteen were successful. Though unknown to the ten, their emergence as winners automatically set their feet on a high tasking journey in which looking back is never a choice if their footprints would be seen on the sands of time.

The Adrenalin in their bloodstream for Nutrition Advocacy rose up!

How did it happen?

From the 8th to the 13th of March 2019, a Training of Trainers (ToT) took place using the CS-SUNN Advocacy and Leadership Manual (CALM), anchored by seasoned and experienced facilitators – Dr. David Olayemi (Steering Committee Chairman, CS-SUNN), Dr. Funmi Akinyele (Chairman, Capacity Building, CS-SUNN) and Mr. Sunday Okoronkwo (Project Manager), with participants from Kaduna, Niger, Nasarawa, Lagos and Kano states.

The workshop sessions covered Policy Advocacy, Budget Advocacy, Leadership, Team Building, Change Agency, Conflict Management, Resource Mobilization and more. Participants were engaged in audio-visual learnings, role plays, discussions, the group works, brainstorming sessions, experience sharing, presentations, debates, questions, answers, and practicum.

The sessions boosted capacities of participants to see nutrition differently as the heart of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and strengthened their passion to serve and willingness to take action starting with their communities.

Tulari Tine (Nasarawa State)
Ihuoma Ozioma (Nasarawa State)
Jessica Bartholomew (Kaduna State)
Silas Spencer Ideva (Kaduna State)
Auwal M. Tahir (Kano State)
Tijani Ahmad Yau (Kano State)
Samuel Akinyode (Lagos State)
Mary Jalingo (Niger State)
Aisha Wakaso (Niger State)
Eberechukwu-Okey Onyema (Lagos State)
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ABOUT CS-SUNN

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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Let me welcome you to the May edition of our Monthly Newsletter “Nigeria Nutrition Update”. The first quarter of 2019 has been very successful for CS-SUNN and we are very excited about what the coming months have in store for us and the Nigerian Nutrition space.

Our mission of mobilizing Civil Societies to address the national problem of malnutrition is on course and we are proud to tell you all about it in this newsletter.

We recently launched the Global Nutrition Report and disseminated the fact sheet on Nigeria. We hope Nigeria stays on course and rigorously pursues the attainment of Global Nutrition targets. This year has seen some key milestones, one of which is the domestication of the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition by Kaduna, Lagos and Kano state governments.

Working with our funders, partners and state chapters, we expect to implement the PINNS project in 2019 and 2020 across the project focal states. We have also received support from UNICEF to contribute to the reduction of maternal and child mortality through strategic advocacy in Adamawa, Bauchi, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Lagos and Jigawa states.

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.

Happy reading!

Dr. David Olayemi (Chairman, CS-SUNN)
CS-SUNN DISSEMINATES GLOBAL NUTRITION FACT SHEET ON NIGERIA:

Government at all levels in Nigeria have been charged to take leadership in generating quality nutrition data and to ensure the appropriate use of such data to inform publications for Nigeria's profile in the Global Nutrition Report (GNR).

This recommendation came on the heels of the dissemination meeting of the 2018 Global Nutrition Report Fact Sheet on Nigeria held by CS-SUNN on the 6th of February 2019 in Abuja.

A presentation by Dr. Chris Osa Isokpunwu, Head of Nutrition, Federal Ministry of Health/SUN Focal point, showed that Nigeria is one of the 48% of countries which are on track for at least one nutrition target.

The dissemination meeting, which drew participants across Civil Society and government parastatals, recommended inclusion of nutrition experts during data collection. It further called for a forum where government and development partners give reports of activities implemented and outcomes across various thematic areas in nutrition.

The Global Nutrition Report (GNR) is the world's leading report on the state of global nutrition. It is data-led and produced independently each year to cast a light on where progress has been made and identify where challenges remain. The report aims to inspire governments, civil society and private sector stakeholders to act to end malnutrition in all its forms. It also plays an important role of helping to hold stakeholders accountable for the commitments they have made towards tackling malnutrition.

Dr. Chris Isokpunwu, Head of Nutrition, FMOH making a presentation during the GNR Launch in Abuja
Working together to attain a country where every citizen has food and is nutrition secured
Working together to attain a country where every citizen has food and is nutrition secured.

Cross Section of Participants at the GNR Launch held in Abuja

Cross Section of participants at the Kaduna State SCFN Meeting

Participants brainstorming during the Domestication of the NPFN in Lagos State

Participants at the end of SUN Pooled fund dissemination meeting in Kwara State

Rivers State Coordinator, Gift Buduzhi Oguzor making a presentation during a 4-day workshop on Budget Advocacy for CSOs in Rivers State

CS-SUNN meets with BMGF’s Senior Program Officer, Andy Rigsby on PINNS Project in Abuja
KADUNA STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO MINIMUM NUTRITION PACKAGE IMPLEMENTATION:

The Kaduna State Government has pledged its commitment to support the actualization of the Minimum Nutrition Package in its Primary Health Care facilities.

“On behalf of the Executive Secretary, we accept and adopt the Minimum Package for Nutrition. We pledge more commitment to reducing malnutrition in the state.” These were the very words of the Executive Secretary (ES), Kaduna State Primary Health Care Development Agency (KSPHCDA) represented by Director, Admin and Finance, Aliyu Zubairu, during an advocacy visit by CS-SUNN in collaboration with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) to the agency.

KANO STATE GOVERNMENT PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR MINIMUM NUTRITION PACKAGE:

Still on the Minimum Nutrition Package, the Executive Secretary, Kano State Primary Health Care Development Agency has described the minimum nutrition package as a welcomed initiative.

The Executive Secretary represented by a Director in the Agency, Amina Musa, while receiving the document during an advocacy visit by CS-SUNN in collaboration with NPHCDA recently in Kano, pledged that it would be distributed and made available for use at the Local Government Areas.

Earlier, CS-SUNN had called for an increased budget for nutrition in Kano State and timely release of the allocated fund as well as the implementation of programmes that target the treatment of malnourished children.

The visit was aimed at:
- Soliciting for the adoption of the Minimum Package for Nutrition in Kaduna state.
- Advocating for increase in funding and cash backing for the full implementation/delivery of the services highlighted in the package.
- Demand creation at the PHC using the Community Volunteers/CHIPS to get people down to the PHCs.

Cross section of participants at CS-SUNN’s advocacy visit in collaboration with NPHCDA to the Kaduna State Primary Health Care Management Board

Cross section of participants at CS-SUNN’s advocacy visit in collaboration with NPHCDA to the Kano State Primary Health Care Management Board
KADUNA STATE GOVERNMENT DEVELOPS STATE MULTI-SECTORAL STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR FOOD & NUTRITION:

The Kaduna State Government is currently adapting key components from the National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Nutrition towards developing the state's Multisectoral Strategic Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition (KADMSPAN) 2019 – 2023.

CS-SUNN alongside other partners in collaboration with the state's Budget and Planning Commission held a 5-day workshop on the development of the KADMSPAN from the 19th to 23rd March 2019 in Hotel, Zaria.

The workshop was aimed at drawing lessons and guidance from the National Multisectoral Strategic Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition (NMSPAN) and adopting best practices for a costed Multisectoral Strategic Plan for the state.

A key next step from the workshop is the directive to the Kaduna State Chapter of CS-SUNN to bring to bear her wealth of experience to collaborate with relevant MDAs, KADENAP and the media to operationalize the strategy.

LAGOS DOMESTICATES NATIONAL FOOD & NUTRITION POLICY & STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION:

CS-SUNN supported the Lagos State Government in the domestication of the National Policy on Food and Nutrition and the development of the State-specific multi-sectoral Strategic Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition during a 5-day meeting held from 14th-18th January 2019.

One of the objectives of the meeting was to provide needed direction for the implementation of nutrition interventions in the state. Its key outcomes are:

- Development of the Lagos State-specific Food and Nutrition Policy.
- Development of the State Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition.

The state chapter also secured the commitments of Permanent Secretaries in relevant MDAs during advocacy visits to support engagement for executive approval of the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan of Action.
CS-SUNN Rivers State Chapter was formally inaugurated on the 1st of February 2019 with Mr. Buduzhi Gift Oguzor as Coordinator, leading a team of other executives. The team of executives was charged with growing the coalition and ensuring that nutrition is advanced in the state.

Some of the achievements of the coalition within the period under review include:

- Hosting of meeting of State Committee on Food and Nutrition after one-year of inactivity.

- Commencement of budget tracking by the Budget Core Group.

- Sustained social media campaigns using our twitter handle and Facebook page for improved funding for nutrition activities.

- Commitment from Chairman Rivers State House of Assembly Committee on Health Hon. Adonye K. Diri to advance the course of nutrition after a parliamentary visit by chapter.

- Advocacy visit to Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture for early release of funds for nutrition programmes and buy-in into the domestication of food and nutrition policy document including the state strategic plan of action for nutrition.

- Nutrition commentary development and airing at the Rivers State Broadcasting Corporation Radio Rivers Fm 99.1.

FROM OUR STATE CHAPTERS!!!

A CHRONICLE OF FEATS BY CS-SUNN RIVERS STATE CHAPTER:

Rivers State Coordinator, Gift Buduzhi Oguzor making a presentation during a 4-days workshop on Budget Advocacy for CSOs in Rivers State
5TH MEMORIAL LECTURE HOLDS IN HONOUR OF LATE PROFESSOR ISAAC O. AKINYELE:

CS-SUNN’s Executive Secretary, Beatrice Eluaka has reiterated that nutrition remains a key factor in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that it requires committed investment by all stakeholders for the development of Nigeria.

The ES gave the remark at the 5th year Memorial Lecture in honour of late Prof. Isaac Olaolu Akinyele held on the 2nd of May 2019 in Ibadan, with theme “Nutrition, Key to Sustainable Development”.

In a Key note address, Country Director, TechnoServe, Larry Umunna called on concerned stakeholders to devise a collective approach in making sure that Nigeria achieves the global recommendations on nutrition.

The event saw the presentation of a Post-Humous Award by CS-SUNN to the Late Professor. The Late Professor Isaac Akinyele, a Professor of Human Nutrition, at the University of Ibadan, was the foundation chairman of CS-SUNN.

LAGOS TAKES LEAD IN PRE-TESTING FINALIZED APPRAISAL TOOL FOR COORDINATION & RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AMONG NUTRITION STAKEHOLDERS:

The Lagos State Committee on Food and Nutrition met on the 1st of February, 2019 to appraise the performance of MDAs and to deliberate and harmonise nutrition activities towards scaling up nutrition in the state.

Another key outcome from the meeting was the pre-testing of the finalized appraisal tool designed to track the coordination and resource mobilization function of various MDAs towards the implementation of the NMSPAN.

Some of the next steps drawn from the meeting include:

- Advocacy to Permanent Secretary to create a specific budget line for nutrition.

- Proposal for the creation of a statewide line for nutrition intervention in the State.
CS-SUNN PUSHES FOR MICRO-NUTRIENT UPTAKE IN NIGERIA WITH SUPPORT FROM UNICEF

CS-SUNN has received support from UNICEF to contribute to improving women and children's health and curbing maternal and childhood deaths through Strategic Advocacy approach.

The project is to be implemented in Adamawa, Bauchi, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Lagos and Jigawa states.

The one-year programme is geared towards addressing the challenge of micronutrient deficiencies which jeopardizes the health, growth, development, and survival of children strategically by:

i. Educating Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) (in collaboration with SUN business network) on their role in combating malnutrition and contributing to scaling up nutrition in focal states.

ii. Creating demand for uptake of iron folate among pregnant mothers through communities/media dialogues in partnership with CS-SUNN networks in focal states; and

iii. Improving uptake/funding of Micronutrient Powder (MNP) by the government through educating and engaging with relevant state actors (Policymakers, Health workers, and Ward Committee Members) in focal states.

The Expected results from the project include:

i. Pregnant mothers and relevant audiences in focal states sensitized through education and awareness creation in readiness for the uptake of iron folate supplements.

ii. Key Government officials and Community leaders mobilized, sensitized and their commitments secured on the need to adopt, support and fund MNP uptakes in their states.

iii. 400 relevant stakeholders (80 per location) reached with education on and promotion of uptake of MNP through community engagement in Town hall meetings across focal states.

iv. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) educated on nutrition issues and their role to scale up nutrition interventions in focal states.

CS-SUNN would work together with the Focal State Governments, State Nutrition Officers (SNOs), Relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), CS-SUNN State chapters, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Influential media outfits and the various Community leaders and ward committee members to execute the project.

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