



Recorded by: Joshua (M&E Specialist)

Meeting profile	
Date and time	21 <sup>st</sup> August, 2018
Venue	British Council, Accra
Purpose	Project Inception Meeting
Programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction</li> <li>2. Welcome Address</li> <li>3. Chairman's remarks</li> <li>4. Statement from National Development Planning Commission. (NDPC)</li> <li>5. Presentation on project overview</li> <li>6. Discussions and Emerging Issues</li> <li>7. Closing remarks.</li> </ol>
Participants	Government, Civil Society, Development Partners, Media. <b>(Full list of attendees attached).</b>
Discussions	
<p><b>1. Introduction:</b></p> <p>The Hunger Alliance of Ghana organized a project inception meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018, at British Council, Accra. The meeting was to introduce the SUN pooled fund project and help stakeholders understand the modalities and the conceptualization of the project, its goals and impact. It was also to help stakeholders to recognize their roles in a collective effort to make the project achieve its goal. The inception meeting was attended by over forty (40) participants including representatives from National Development Planning Commission, SUN Civil Society Alliance members, the Local Government Service, development partners, other Government agencies and the media.</p> <p><b>2. Welcome Address:</b></p> <p>Dr. Frank Mcavor, the Chairman of the Ghana SUN CSA gave the welcome address at the meeting. He briefly explained that although Ghana had attained some successes in the fight against malnutrition, more effort was needed to address critical issues like anaemia which was on the increase in Ghana. He reiterated that the Ghana SUN CSA over the past six (6) years has been advocating for an improved nutrition outcomes in deprived districts across the country and at the national level through policy</p>	

advocacy, nutrition dialogues and consultations. The pooled fund grant would provide the opportunity for the SUN CSA to influence twenty (20) selected high burden malnutrition districts to mainstream nutrition interventions into their Medium-Term Development Plans while influencing national nutrition funding priorities through sustained advocacy for increased budgetary allocations for nutrition sectors. This would enable government to be more committed in terms of funding such nutrition critical interventions in the face of dwindling donor support. Dr. Mcavor encouraged stakeholders to make meaningful contributions at the meeting to ensure that the pooled fund project makes the needed impact at the sub national level.

### 3. **Chairperson remarks:**

Dr Edith Tetteh, a former national SUN Focal Person chaired the project inception meeting. In a brief remark she expressed her delight to chair such an important meeting. She said there was the need for Civil Society Organizations such as the Hunger Alliance of Ghana to help in the promotion and protection of all human rights as well as the realization of the right to nutrition through effective advocacy. Improved nutritional outcomes should be a legitimate concern of the Government of Ghana, the international community and members of the civil society in Ghana. She was optimistic that the Alliance would bring stakeholders together to collaborate effectively to make the needed impact at the sub-national level through the pooled fund project.

### 4. **Statement from NDPC:**

In a speech delivered on behalf of Mrs. Mary Mpereh, the National SUN Coordinator by the Policy Analyst of National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) Jerry Odotei Nii, she mentioned that nutrition was a multi-sectorial issue and emphasized how pressing nutrition issues were to the overall development of the country. She indicated that Ghana has made valuable efforts at reducing malnutrition looking at the global SUN indicators, however, there remained more to be done to maintain this feat, while looking at the quality of investments accruing from the budgetary allocation being made on nutrition to human development. Districts were being encouraged to mainstream nutrition into their medium-term development plans, and nutrition was a component the NDPC would look out for before district plans were validated. She was happy about the timeliness of the pooled fund project which would provide the SUN CSA the opportunity to partner with the NDPC to continue to influence the inclusion of nutrition in district plans and monitor district plans in 2019.

## 5. Project Overview:

Nana Ayim Poakwah, the SUN CSA Coordinator and also the Project Team Leader gave a brief presentation on the pooled fund project. He took stakeholders through the grant process, selection of districts, selection of Project Implementing Partners, key activities to be executed and some expected outcomes. Project implementing partners who had already commenced district engagements also shared some of their experiences at the meeting to give some perspectives and some lessons learnt. These partners were Concerned Health Ghana, Well Being Foundation and African Farming Families. This helped to enrich the discussions which followed after the presentation.

## 6. Discussions and Emerging Issues

General discussions at the meeting included the following key points:

- A question on how the districts were selected was asked by a participant. Nana Ayim said the districts selection criteria was informed by the Ghana Poverty Profile 2016 document. This document showed areas where food insecurity was high, subsequently exacerbating malnutrition. He said the Alliance would be required to scale up the project to cover other high burden malnutrition districts after the first phase of project implementation.
- There was the need for CSOs to step out of their comfort zones and use such opportunities to advocate for improved nutrition by enlightening District Chief Executives to know that nutrition is the bedrock of development.
- A representative from Farm Radio International said there was the need to reach out to other Non-Government Organizations for example World Vision, Hunger Project etc who were already doing some nutrition work in the selected districts. The SUN CSA needs to collaborate with these organizations in order to avoid duplication of efforts.
- A representative from the Local Government Service Dr. Charles Kesse deemed it necessary for the Alliance to consult his outfit so as to also use their existing structures at the district level to also influence the inclusion of nutrition in the medium-term development plans of the selected districts. He encouraged the Alliance to follow up with his outfit after the meeting since using his outfit was the most effective medium to get the full attention of the District Chief Executives for the project.
- It was agreed that a critical area to focus on under this project was how to carry out research to provide unquestionable data for nutrition planning and budgeting at the district level. There was the need to do evidence-based advocacy at the district level to influence nutrition financing through budget analysis.

- Participants agreed that the national budget structure should be well understood by stakeholders especially civil society organizations before it goes to the district assemblies. Hence, there is the need for the Project Technical Team to do some analysis of the budgets of district assemblies before engaging them.
- Participants agreed that CSOs who are investing in nutrition should document their experiences and impact to show their commitment to nutrition financing and to also encourage government to invest more in nutrition.

## 7. Closing remarks

In her closing remarks, Dr. Edith Tetteh thanked participants for the enthusiasm and meaningful contributions made at the meeting. She said the ideas gathered from the deliberations should not be shelved but should be translated into meaningful actions that would ensure the success of the project.

## Pictures

