

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

2018 – 2022 REPORT



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Cover photo: Family collecting crops from their community farm
(Photo: Save the Children)

INTRODUCTION

The Civil Society Network (CSN) is part of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), a world-wide Movement to end malnutrition. Our network is made up of civil society organisations – diverse, non-profit groups including human rights defenders, community organisations, women’s groups, small farmers, research entities, child rights organisations and more. The network has 4000+ member organisations who make up 50+ Civil Society Alliances (CSA) in our global network.

The purpose of this report is to highlight the impact of the SUN CSN Small Grants Programme that the grantee organizations have achieved with their projects. The report will also be available for other CSAs and SUN CSN members to use for examples of best practice to learn from and replicate for their contexts. All the projects in the SUN CSN Small Grants Programme have been possible thanks to generous grants from the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Irish Aid and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Background

Since 2018 SUN CSN has run the small grants programme which invites interested and eligible CSAs and their members to apply for small grants of up to £10,000 GBP to implement and pilot small projects for research or innovation purposes over a 6-month period. Prospective grantees apply for funding for an initiative that corresponds with one of the key thematic areas set out in the call for proposals. We look for projects that are, innovative, inclusive, sustainable, cost effective, and scalable. The successful grantees then implement their ideas to increase the effectiveness and impact of national efforts to end malnutrition in all its forms.



PHOTO: SAVE THE CHILDREN

PROJECTS 2018 – 2022

The SUN CSN Small Grants Programme has so far run four cycles of funding each with a specific theme:

Innovation & Research Fund

The Innovation & Research Fund supported CSAs to pilot a small piece of research or innovative practice with the aim of building capacity of local organisations, who are keen to invest in innovation and research and to share their successes with the global network. Grantees applied for the funds for an initiative that corresponded with one of the key thematic areas identified, which were: Enabling social accountability; Civil society engagement in fragile and humanitarian contexts; Equity and ensuring the right to food and nutrition; Engaging the private sector in nutrition; Improving multi-stakeholder coordination and Nutrition sensitive approaches.

Innovation & Research Youth Fund

To supplement the Innovation & Research Fund an additional grant was created which looked to provide funding for youth leaders in the YL4N programme, supporting them to undertake innovative or research projects and campaigns in their respective countries to support their local communities.

MEAL & Sustainability Fund

The MEAL & Sustainability Fund was developed after many CSAs had flagged challenges they were facing with the monitoring, evaluation, accountability, learning (MEAL) and sustainability of their CSAs. Through small grants the SUN CSN wanted to showcase some pilot projects to share across the global network on these two issues. The initiative fostered CSAs' MEAL, communication, and fundraising skills in three key areas; Strengthening CSA MEAL capacity, CSAs' capacity to communicate with impact, and strengthened fundraising and sustainability skills.

Youth Leadership Grants

The Youth Leadership Grant was developed to support the contribution that Youth Leaders for Nutrition are making to the SUN Movement and the fight against malnutrition globally. The grants aimed to enable the implementation of youth-led campaigns and advocacy to contribute to overall SUN CSA advocacy aims.

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The SUN CSN Small Grants Programme has been able to achieve significant, tangible, in-country impact, while also providing examples of scalable and replicable projects across our entire geographical footprint.

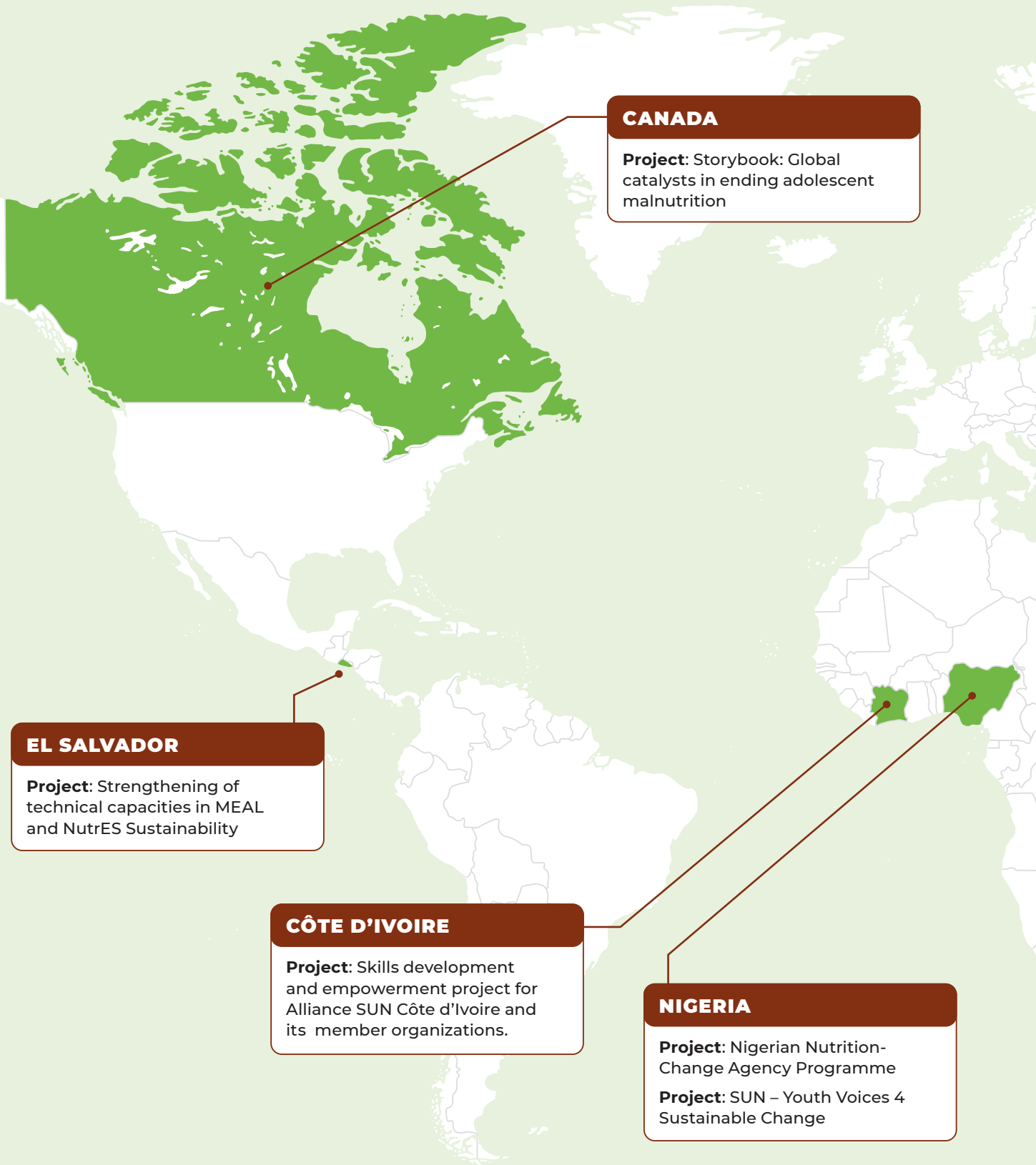
Through an overall investment of £85,000 GBP across 21 grants, our grantees and SUN CSN members have had a significant impact across a variety of projects targeting youth, women, minority groups, private sector, governments, and decision makers whilst strengthening their organisational structures and processes.

With the consequences of the pandemic, climate crisis, conflicts, and the spiralling cost-of-living we are seeing malnutrition and hunger related challenges increase in prevalence. These projects all represent concrete and sustainable actions that were undertaken to tackle malnutrition in their respective countries, and that can be used as best practice examples for other CSAs to learn from and implement.



PHOTO: SAVE THE CHILDREN

MAP DISPLAYING THE LOCATIONS OF THE PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME.



RWANDA

Project: Rwanda Youth Powered Nutrition Project – Strengthening the youth capacity and engagement in adolescent nutrition advocacy

Project: Increasing Media engagement for improved adolescents' nutrition education and advocacy

KENYA

Project: Monitoring & Evaluating Scaling Up Nutrition in Adolescent Girls in Kenya – Nahesabika 'I Count'

Project: Accelerating Power of Nutrition in Adolescents in Kenya

KYRGYZSTAN

Project: Safe student nutrition and investment in health

SRI LANKA

Project: Training and Empowering Youth Leadership to Combat Non-Communicable Diseases

Project: Youth Champions for Nutrition (YCN)

LAO PDR

Project: Study on factors influencing mothers and family members to use BMS products and how it affects health, nutritional behaviour, and economics

CAMBODIA

Project: Youth Nutrition Champions

ZAMBIE

Project: Youth-Led advocacy for better nutrition outcomes in Zambia

MALAWI

Project: Enabling Youth participation in Nutrition platforms to enhance Adolescent Nutrition Awareness throughout Malawi

Project: Monitoring youth participation in community nutrition platforms to assess changes in adolescent nutrition knowledge and enhancing youth engagement in UN Food System Summit Action Track 5

ZIMBABWE

Project: Empowering the parliament of Zimbabwe in taking centre stage in rolling out parent friendly workplaces across the country

Project: Strengthening Adolescent Boys & Girls Voices Through Participation in Nutrition Advocacy in Zimbabwe

Project: Using Creative Documentaries and Podcasts to promote SUN CSO MEAL, Communications and Fundraising in Zimbabwe

Project: Accelerating Scaling Up of Local Fruit Production and Consumption for Food Security and Nutrition in Schools

THE PROJECTS

	FUND CYCLE	COUNTRY	PROJECT
1	Innovation & Research Fund	Lao PDR	Study on factors influencing mothers and family members to use BMS products and how it affects health, nutritional behaviour, and economics
2		Zimbabwe	Empowering the parliament of Zimbabwe in taking centre stage in rolling out parent friendly workplaces across the country
3	Innovation & Research Youth Fund	Rwanda	Rwanda Youth Powered Nutrition Project – Strengthening the youth capacity and engagement in adolescent nutrition advocacy
4		Malawi	Enabling Youth participation in Nutrition platforms to enhance Adolescent Nutrition Awareness throughout Malawi
5		Sri Lanka	Training and Empowering Youth Leadership to Combat Non-Communicable Diseases
6		Zimbabwe	Strengthening Adolescent Boys & Girls Voices Through Participation in Nutrition Advocacy in Zimbabwe
7	MEAL & Sustainability Fund	Zimbabwe	Using Creative Documentaries and Podcasts to promote SUN CSO MEAL, Communications and Fundraising in Zimbabwe
8		Kenya	Monitoring & Evaluating Scaling Up Nutrition in Adolescent Girls in Kenya – Nahesabika 'I Count'
9		Nigeria	Nigerian Nutrition-Change Agency Programme
10		El Salvador	Strengthening of technical capacities in MEAL and NutrES Sustainability
11		Côte d'Ivoire	Skills development and empowerment project for Alliance SUN Côte d'Ivoire and its member organizations.

FUND CYCLE	COUNTRY	PROJECT
12	Canada	Storybook: Global catalysts in ending adolescent malnutrition
13	Kyrgyzstan	Safe student nutrition and investment in health
14	Malawi	Monitoring youth participation in community nutrition platforms to assess changes in adolescent nutrition knowledge and enhancing youth engagement in UN Food System Summit Action Track 5
15	Rwanda	Increasing Media engagement for improved adolescents' nutrition education and advocacy
16	Sri Lanka	Youth Champions for Nutrition (YCN)
17	Cambodia	Youth Nutrition Champions
18	Kenya	Accelerating Power of Nutrition in Adolescents in Kenya
19	Nigeria	SUN – Youth Voices 4 Sustainable Change
20	Zambia	Youth-Led advocacy for better nutrition outcomes in Zambia
21	Zimbabwe	Accelerating Scaling Up of Local Fruit Production and Consumption for Food Security and Nutrition in Schools

1 PROJECT Study on factors influencing mothers and family members to use BMS products and how it affects health, nutritional behaviour, and economics

FUND CYCLE Innovation & Research Fund

COUNTRY Lao PDR

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION CARE International

Project Background

Statistically speaking, Lao PDR has a low prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding and adequate and safe breast milk substitute (BMS) options before the age of six months, despite the 2019 implementation of the Food Product and Feeding Equipment for Infants and Toddlers Decree. Concrete data was needed in order to improve the ability of Lao Civil Society Organizations and Provincial Nutrition Committees to carry out systematic regulation. In order to understand how using BMS goods affected mothers' and family members' health, eating habits, and economics, this research investigated the factors impacting mothers and family members when using BMS products.

Project Achievements

Focus groups, observation and one-on-one in-depth interviews were employed in the project's qualitative research. During the observation, general data about the community, behaviour related to the use of BMS products, and breastfeeding patterns among families were recorded.



The [Research Paper](#) found that among the respondents in the study, the overall rate of exclusive breastfeeding within the first 6 months of life was 40%. None of the respondents continued breastfeeding until their children reached 2 years of age. The mean duration of breastfeeding was 12.7 months. The most common determinants influencing BMS use mentioned in discussions were:

- Work – Mothers who are unable to nurse their children must leave them with grandparents, and the study population seldom ever uses breastmilk pumps.
- Insufficient breastmilk – Some women switch to BMS when their flow of breastmilk is insufficient. The majority of responders were unsure about how to handle the issue of insufficient breastmilk.
- Socio-economic factors – In metropolitan areas, mothers with higher incomes frequently utilise BMS to stop nursing out of concern that it would lead to misshaped breasts.
- Community – Community influence in BMS use is significant, it is common to exchange information through word of mouth. Mothers reported that they have seen their peers feed their children with BMS and found that their children looked healthy without any problems.
- Advertisement – Increases in positive attitudes towards BMS allow people to transition more easily to BMS. advertisements can be found not just in the media but also within health facilities, where healthcare workers advise mothers to use BMS from an early stage.

2 PROJECT Empowering the parliament of Zimbabwe in taking centre stage in rolling out parent friendly workplaces across the country

FUND CYCLE Innovation & Research Fund

COUNTRY Zimbabwe

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION Zimbabwe Civil Society Organisations Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance (ZCSOSUNA)

Project Background

Although breastfeeding is encouraged in Zimbabwe, there is a concern that an increasing number of working women in both the formal and informal sectors would not adhere to the WHO's recommended breastfeeding practises. The majority of working women find it challenging to breastfeed exclusively and continuously due to the length of maternity leave. Along with this difficulty, many institutions lack workplaces that uphold the fundamental principles of supporting, encouraging, and safeguarding breastfeeding.

By working directly with the Zimbabwean Parliament to create a parent-friendly area in the parliament building in Harare, the project sought to address this issue. It is anticipated that other government agencies and the private sector would follow the parliament's lead in adopting this strategy. In order to build the room and spread awareness of the initiative among other employers, the project anticipated including members of parliament, the private sector, and the media. Additionally, it sought to perform a monitoring exercise on the code of marketing for breast milk substitutes in cooperation with research teams from the ministry of health and the parliament.

Project Achievements

To emphasise the necessity for the parliament to take the lead in implementing parent-friendly rooms throughout Zimbabwe, the initiative organised multiple round table conversations with the clerk of the country's parliament.

Members of the parliamentary portfolio committees on labour and social welfare and health and child welfare participated in two sensitization sessions. Through this, both committees came to an agreement to support

and bring up for discussion the creation of a parent-friendly space in parliament. The speaker of the house of representatives informed the members that a room had been designated by the institution. The project furnished the space. During the [handover ceremony](#) the media was essential in [promoting the work](#) to the public, wider government, and the private sector.

As part of the project, government officials, members of the press, and personnel from the parliament received training on how to monitor and apply the International Code of Marketing for Breastmilk Substitutes. The Ministry of Health and Children employed the [online monitoring and reporting tool](#) to monitor for code infractions. Monitoring agencies can now easily notify the ministry when violations occur. This is a crucial step in ensuring that businesses who produce and market breastmilk substitutes do not infringe lactating women's rights.



3 PROJECT Rwanda Youth Powered Nutrition Project – Strengthening the youth capacity and engagement in adolescent nutrition advocacy

FUND CYCLE Innovation & Research Youth Fund

COUNTRY Rwanda

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance Rwanda

YOUTH LEADER Florence Sibomana

Project Background

Those aged 10 to 19 make up 23.3% of the population of Rwanda. There is little to no information on their diet and nutritional status. Approximately 11% of older teenage girls (15 to 19 years old) are underweight, 13.5% are overweight or obese, and 18.8% are anaemic, according to data on older adolescent females. Additionally, 7% of teenage girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are either new mothers or are expecting their first child. According to data on older teenage boys, only 1% of adolescent boys between the ages of 15 and 19 are overweight or obese, yet 30.1% are underweight.

Stunting, an irreversible form of malnutrition, is the focus of many of the SUN CSA's initiatives in Rwanda to combat the problem. For a nation like Rwanda where the number of teen pregnancies is on the rise, adolescent nutrition is essential. The goal of this project was to increase young people's ability for nutrition advocacy, increase their knowledge of nutrition, and change their behaviour to support healthier lifestyles.

Project Achievements

Through the subsequent work, the project met its goals to a 95% degree. The SUN CSA selected three youth lead volunteers to oversee the project. They then identified 30 youth champions, with young females making up 2/3 of them, who represented 30 districts in Rwanda. The engagement and implementation of the activities carried out by the youth champions were managed and observed by the lead volunteers. Throughout their participation in the initiative, the 30 district youth champions got physical and online nutrition training, on advocacy and nutrition-related topics. When the district youth champions returned to their communities, they assessed the needs for nutrition advocacy and created bespoke local community campaigns.

Positive feedback from the participants and their communities, as well as interest from the [news](#) and [media](#), indicated that it was a successful learning model. The project created a [social media account](#) that has given young people in Rwanda a platform to tell their stories and promote nutrition advocacy.



4 PROJECT Enabling Youth participation in Nutrition platforms to enhance Adolescent Nutrition Awareness throughout Malawi

FUND CYCLE Innovation & Research Youth Fund

COUNTRY Malawi

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION Civil Society Organisations Nutrition Alliance (CSONA)

YOUTH LEADER Mike Khunga

Project Background

2011 saw the introduction of the Scaling Up Nutrition platform in Malawi. To enhance the coordination of nutrition activities and encourage multisectoral involvement in the fight against malnutrition, the launch resulted in the development of numerous nutrition structures at the national and subnational levels. Even while the development of these platforms has enhanced cross-sectoral coordination, youth participation, particularly in community-led nutrition platforms, has been lacking. Along with this, there are numerous organisations working to implement nutrition interventions; these organisations mostly focus on young people, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers. To break the intergenerational cycle of hunger, however, youth-specific nutrition interventions are essential, particularly in Malawi where the number of teenage pregnancies is on the rise.

The goal of this project was to encourage young people to participate in platforms at the national and subnational levels. In order to successfully reach all communities, this would be accomplished by improving youth understanding of nutrition and strengthening the nutrition platforms themselves.

Project Achievements

In two areas, the project trained 80 youngsters in nutrition awareness and the functions of community nutrition committees. Through backyard gardening and food demonstrations, the youngsters were able to promote nutrition in their communities. Through the establishment of tree nurseries, which communities purchase and plant inside their residences and at community woods, the youngsters also strengthened local community management of natural resources.

The project sensitized 16 community nutrition platforms (eight in each district) on youth inclusivity. By encouraging more adolescent females to join in their local platforms, the project made sure that there was a gender balance. The interactions and connections between the young people and the local nutrition specialists were improved. Some of the young participants, who are also active in neighbourhood youth organisations, now have small farms that are supported by the professionals they connected with through this project.

Additionally, the project created synergies with other groups pursuing similar initiatives. This was accomplished by encouraging district stakeholders to start giving youth nutrition a higher priority and by highlighting the project's results at district nutrition events. Throughout the entire project, [media involvement](#) and an [online blog](#) were crucial in spreading awareness of the project and Malawi's nutritional problems.



PROJECT Training and Empowering Youth Leadership to Combat Non-Communicable Diseases

FUND CYCLE Innovation & Research Youth Fund

COUNTRY Sri Lanka

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION Scaling Up Nutrition People's Forum (Guaranteed) Limited

YOUTH LEADER Niroj Sudarshan

Project Background

In Sri Lanka, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are one of the top 10 causes of premature death. Despite efforts by the government and other parties to address this issue, NCD prevalence is rising. More interventions are therefore required to solve this issue. Young people leading unhealthy lifestyles in the false belief that NCDs only happen later in life is a significant problem. Therefore, it is crucial that young people in Sri Lanka take an active role in NCD prevention. Through partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, this project worked to prevent NCDs through empowering and training youth club leaders at the national and subnational levels.

Project Achievements

Together with the Ministry of Health and the National Youth Services Council, [two residential training programmes](#) on nutrition and NCDs were held. In total, 78 Youth Club Leaders from 14 Sri Lankan districts – 52 men and 26 women – were trained and given the tools they needed to fight NCDs. Youth Club leaders did not have a strong knowledge of the negative impacts of NCDs on society prior to participation in the programmes. These programmes increased their comprehension of this as well as persuaded them of the need to prevent NCDs, as well as the importance of their role as youth leaders in improving community nutrition.

The project discovered that a significant percentage of the youth leaders who took part in the programmes had poor eating and lifestyle patterns.

There was, however, a growing desire to give up those unhealthy habits and embrace a healthier lifestyle after participating in the programmes. All participants were inspired to share this information with their families, friends, and local communities in order to alter their views on nutrition and lifestyles.

In Sri Lanka, youth clubs engage in a variety of social welfare initiatives, but because they lacked the necessary training, they paid no attention to collaborating with the health sector to help the prevention of NCDs and to promote nutrition. Youth leaders found opportunities for them to contribute to NCD prevention and nutrition programmes through the training. It is now a significant component of the youth clubs' agenda.

This project benefited from the knowledge and experience of the Ministry of Sports, NGOs, business organisations, The Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka, and individual consultants. The project made it possible for the government, professional and social networks, and commercial institutions to enlist the aid of young people in the field to carry out similar initiatives.



6

PROJECT Strengthening Adolescent Boys & Girls Voices Through Participation in Nutrition Advocacy in Zimbabwe

FUND CYCLE Innovation & Research Youth Fund

COUNTRY Zimbabwe

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION Rural Trust of Zimbabwe

YOUTH LEADER Webster Makombe

Project Background

The project aimed to address issues with malnutrition in Zimbabwe, such as stunting and poor youth involvement and engagement in the fight against malnutrition. The project aimed to strengthen the voices of youth by encouraging participation across two schools in youth-led nutrition campaigns designed to catch the attention of important decision and policy makers in Zimbabwe. It also aimed to create an influential network of engaged young advocates for nutrition. The project also sought to teach young people how to grow and consume nutritious foods.

Project Achievements

The project improved the nutrition advocacy abilities of 51 young people. Through the [Identification of young champions](#), nutrition advocacy concerns were taught to them, and they received support to attend high-level national policy events, such as the National Budget Consultation Public Hearings hosted by the Zimbabwean Parliament. The 2021 health

budget was raised from 8% to 13% as a result of the youth advocates' successful demand for an increase in funding for health and nutrition. They collaborated with the Food and Nutrition Council and took part in the creation of the Multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategy 2021-2025. Which in turn made sure that the new youth advocates could meet with the new junior parliamentarians and talk about nutrition.

The youth nutrition advocates launched the [Kick-Out Stunting campaign](#) which raised nutrition awareness through creative arts, national radio engagements, and initiated intergenerational dialogues on local indigenous food systems. Alongside this the youth advocates received digital storytelling through social media training. This campaign sensitized more than 3000 adolescent school children on nutrition and health.

The project established nutrition clubs in three schools and supported and launched the first School Nutrition Orchard so school children can learn, grow, and eat healthy nutritional foods.



7 PROJECT Using Creative Documentaries and Podcasts to promote SUN CSO MEAL, Communications and Fundraising in Zimbabwe

FUND CYCLE MEAL & Sustainability Fund

COUNTRY Zimbabwe

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION Disaster and Environmental Management Trust (DEMT)

Project Background

A major issue in Zimbabwe is the poor communication, invisibility, inefficient monitoring, and reporting of progress by grassroots and subnational civil society organisations (CSO). These underlying issues have an impact on the local CSOs' abilities to obtain the technical and financial assistance necessary to successfully carry out their nutrition-related programmes at the community level in Zimbabwe. Through the production of a creative documentary, the project aimed to effectively communicate key nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive projects, results, challenges, and needs of CSOs at the subnational level in Zimbabwe's Mashonaland East Province to the Zimbabwe Civil Society Organizations Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance (ZCSOSUNA), donors, policy makers, and the general public.

Project Achievements

The project developed a [series of creative documentary films](#) for 15 CSOs in Mashonaland East Province which highlights their work, impact, challenges and needs. Which through a [documentary screening](#) attended by policy makers (members of Parliament of Zimbabwe), and policy implementers (ward councillors, multi-sector government stakeholders from the Mutoko Food and Nutrition Security Committee, and representatives from the Mutoko Rural District Council) increased the visibility of the 15 grassroots CSOs.

The 15 CSOs were [trained and capacitated](#) on fundraising, impact reporting, monitoring and evaluation, and effective communication. 10 of which were also assisted in developing communication strategies through development of logos and the creation of social media accounts to broaden their visibility.

The project enabled the partnership between the [CSO Dorowera Irrigation Cooperative and the Adam Molai Foundation](#) which agreed to purchase their outputs, thus minimizing losses, and ensuring increased profitability from their agri-business activities for long term sustainability.

Together with the CSOs [Svinurai Arts Association](#) and [YAPWE Nutrition and Wellness Foundation](#), the lead organisation [DEMT](#) participated in the Kick-out-stunting campaign organized by the Rural Enterprise Trust of Zimbabwe (RETZ), thus strengthening the collaboration across members of the ZCSOSUNA.



8 PROJECT Monitoring & Evaluating Scaling Up Nutrition in Adolescent Girls in Kenya – Nahesabika ‘I Count’

FUND CYCLE MEAL & Sustainability Fund

COUNTRY Kenya

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION Feed the Children

Project Background

In Kenya, 33% of women are overweight or obese, and 9% of women between the ages of 15 and 49 are underweight or undernourished. This project aimed to facilitate the creation of workable adolescent sensitive nutrition programmes by strengthening project monitoring and evaluation. The goal of the project was to increase the effectiveness of receiving feedback in order to modify the advocacy messaging to better meet the requirements of adolescent girls. The campaign teaches life skills and nutrition education to adolescent girls in and out of school in Matapato North and South in Kajiado Central sub-county, Kajiado Kenya in an effort to enhance their health outcomes.



Project Achievements

The campaign's effect on the target population was monitored and evaluated, alongside determining whether and how their knowledge and skills had an impact on the community's uptake of nutritional services and food intake. Some of the main conclusions were:

It was observed that girls influence on their family's food consumption was minimal, this community is still patriarchal, thus the men still make the majority of such decisions. Highlighting the need of including teenage boys in these programmes in order to develop future change agents in the homes.

The ability of the household to have a source of revenue from either livestock or farming, through which the household can produce food for consumption, was found to be one of the key drivers of change in the household's economic position. Others who responded said that the extra farm and livestock goods would be sold to pay for food.

The respondents saw asset ownership as a sign of better financial standing, and this was connected to being able to provide food for the family. The girls discussed domestic disputes as a root of broken communication that hampered the stability of their financial situation.

On adolescent nutrition and health, there are a number of instructional and learning resources available. It takes time and can be complex to compile and combine various materials for lesson planning. It is necessary to create comprehensive, easy to follow, context-specific learning and teaching resources.

During the [coaching sessions](#) which focused on good behavioural practices for nutrition and health involving more than 721 adolescent girls (403 in school and 318 out of school). It was found that while the adolescents tend to forget theory, they had a strong memory for the food demonstrations and other practical lessons.

School health clubs have proven to be successful and long-lasting methods of educating students and their families and local communities about personal and family food intake, as well as about general cleanliness and sanitation practises. Additionally, effective mobilisation of the adolescents was achieved through collaborations with the local church leaders.

Project Background

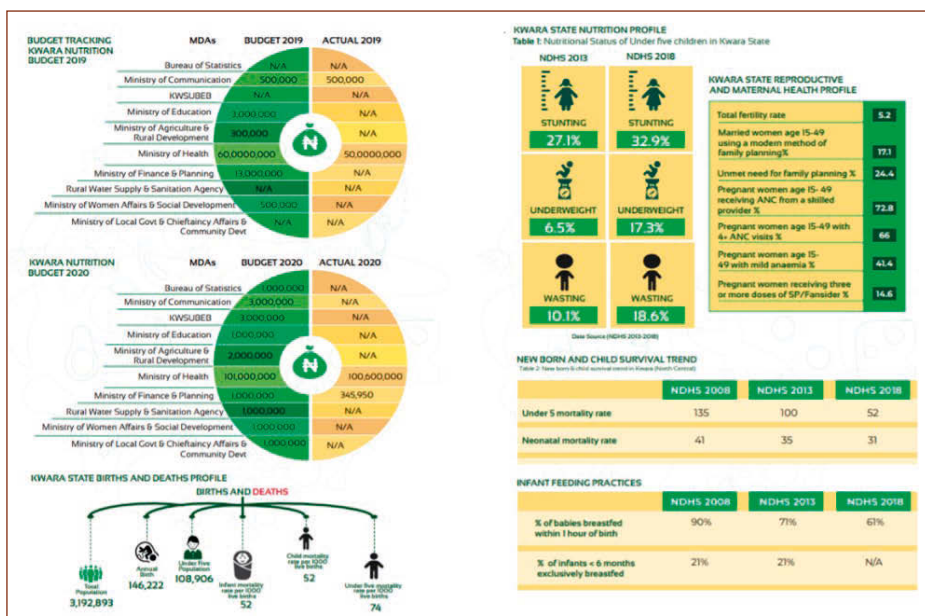
It is crucial for Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) to be in a position where it can effectively advocate on behalf of governments at the national and sub-national levels. By improving Nigeria’s reporting on nutrition, CS-SUNN and Nigeria can be held more responsible for improving nutrition across the country. By establishing a trustworthy, effective, inclusive, and authoritative independent reporting method for nutrition in Nigeria, CS-SUNN has contributed to this. The goal of the project was to improve CS-SUNN’s ability to track and assess Nigeria’s response to malnutrition so that national and local governments would be more proactive in implementing nutrition interventions.

Project Achievements

MEAL, fundraising, and communication clusters include many of CS-SUNN’s member organisations. Members of the clusters take part in multistakeholder, multisectoral decision-making platforms at the subnational level, building relationships between the government and civil society. Each cluster

consists of seven to ten individuals. In the two states of Kwara and Oyo’s clusters, the initiative piloted the construction of better MEAL tools, procedures, and fundraising mechanisms. Both Oyo and Kwara states have Multisectoral Plans of Action for Food and Nutrition prior to the initiative. The creation of MEAL, tools, and strategies gave CS-SUNN the chance to track and monitor implementation as well as to analyse high-quality nutrition data that is influencing conversations about accountability and transparency for improving nutrition outcomes.

State-specific communication briefs were created using the information that members of the MEAL cluster collected using the MEAL platform ([Oyo State](#) and [Kwara State](#)). The communication briefs include budgetary information for nutrition as well as data on maternal, newborn, and infant nutrition at the subnational level as well as a list of coalition accomplishments. The fundraising clusters in both states are mobilising funds for the implementation of nutrition programmes, utilising the fundraising plans they created for the project and the communication briefs.



PROJECT Strengthening of technical capacities in MEAL and NutrES Sustainability

FUND CYCLE MEAL & Sustainability Fund

COUNTRY El Salvador

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION Centro de Apoyo de Lactancia Materna (CALMA)

Project Background

To effectively engage supporters in improving nutrition in El Salvador, a diverse and well-resourced civil society is needed. Through the creation of effective advocacy communication tools this project strengthened the NutrES Alliance in El Salvador by raising funds and boosting membership. Strong monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning techniques were built into these systems.

Project Achievements

The [“Challenges Of Food Security And Nutrition Planning In El Salvador Report”](#) was created as part of the project with the help of decision-makers from organisations in several sectors (government, United Nations, civil society & academia). In order to provide guidance for the design of nutrition actions for early childhood, the results were made public to a large audience, including leaders of the SUN Movement, the SUN Civil Society Network, and the Office of the First Lady of the Republic. The document was created using a thorough review of the difficulties in meal planning for nutrition. This document offers proof of the existing challenges in creating policies, legislation, and other tools that are consistent and coordinated to address the issues of malnutrition.

Two training sessions on monitoring and evaluating public policies were organised, one for technicians and the other for NutrES Alliance management.



To establish connections and foster cooperation, a NutrES management folder was created and distributed to collaborators. Letters were sent to the Business Foundation for Social Action, the European Union Representation in El Salvador, and the International Cooperation Agency of El Salvador (ESCO) from this management folder (FUNDEMÁS). In response to these letters, the ESCO, whose role it is to communicate the work being done by the government and civil society organizations within the framework of cooperation, reached out, which now has led to ESCO and the National Council for Sustainable Development establishing a partnership to work together on continuing this project.

PROJECT Skills development and empowerment project for Alliance SUN Côte d'Ivoire and its member organizations.

FUND CYCLE MEAL & Sustainability Fund

COUNTRY Côte d'Ivoire

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION Alliance SUN Côte d'Ivoire

Project Background

Alliance SUN Côte d'Ivoire and its member organizations looked to have appropriate mechanisms to promote transparency and inclusion in nutrition policies and programmes and achieve community behaviour change through the application of best nutritional practices and sustainable action. The project strengthened the independent monitoring mechanism of the Alliance SUN Côte d'Ivoire and put in place a sustainability plan to improve skills and increase capacity. The project also developed advocacy messages for the mobilization of resources, the improvement of nutrition policies and programmes and the empowerment of its members in order to make the multisectoral nutrition plan more operational.



Project Achievements

The Alliance SUN Côte d'Ivoire and its member organizations now have mechanisms for independent and participatory monitoring and evaluation, a [guide](#) to underpin this and a sustainability action plan, which supports them in ensuring strong MEAL and sustainability for the future of the alliance and its members.

The project developed a feedback mechanism between the populations, regional coordinators, local authorities, other actors, and the Alliance SUN Côte d'Ivoire, increasing trust and transparency between stakeholders.

The 2021–2023 communication plan which included telephone provision for members with Côte d'Ivoire Telecom, a WhatsApp group, YouTube, Facebook, and an improved website have been put in place, expanding their reach and engagement.

Advocacy messages for the mobilization of resources, the improvement of nutrition policies and programmes and the empowerment of its organizations were developed in order to make the multisectoral nutrition plan more operational. In addition, a strategy implementation guide, independent and participatory monitoring plan, and monitoring-evaluation sheets have been produced, giving members the tools to improve their governance and functionality.

Project Background

Millions of lives and voices are absent from our global economy and collective story, when they do not have to be, according to Nutrition International. Therefore, this project produced a digital storybook that highlighted five accounts of young people who had taken the helm of transformational nutrition initiatives. The primary goal was to address the obstacles that young people must overcome in order to have their “story” heard. The storybook was created by young people for young people, yet it appeals to all audiences. Every story has a call to action that encourages the reader to pursue their own nutrition advocacy within their families and communities.

Project Achievements

The project engaged with and collected stories from five youth leaders who have been leading on projects in their communities to help improve nutrition, with a central focus on adolescent nutrition. Through this the Global Citizens For Nutrition Storybook [PART 1](#) and [PART 2](#) was created and shared with their peers.

Ana, the project’s coordinator, also spoke about mindful eating with students in grades 4 and 5. The [Mindful Eating Infographic](#) was made to be distributed to young children in order to assist them in learning about and comprehending mindful eating. The lecture was participatory, and each student was asked to bring a snack they often consume. This provided an opportunity for the students to connect and learn about one another’s cultures and the food they consume, which sparked rich discussions regarding food consumption.

The project engaged youth across ages 6 – 25 about nutrition. The storybook was shared with the global SUN CSN and SUN Movement networks and the ACT4FOOD and ACT4CHANGE networks to engage an even



wider audience of all ages. Through the members of Youth Leaders 4 Nutrition’s social media profiles, the digital storybook has been disseminated.

A deeper comprehension of what it means to be self-reliant in terms of treating hunger and considering nutrition as an individual, group, or community. Additionally, the initiative helped the readers in understanding that nutrition is something they can feel and sense under the concept of self-reliance. It was determined to be pertinent to all readers and as a result gave them a stronger sense of individual agency.

A stronger understanding of what undernutrition means for adolescents and what factors are involved in critically and accurately measuring hunger. Alongside this a deeper understanding of how hunger fits into the sustainable development goals as well as the more recent UN action tracks. From these stories readers were able to view hunger as a complex challenge when it comes to food systems and one that needs to be addressed in all its forms as it connected to other goals/actions.

A second volume of the storybook is currently under development with an additional educational video that will test the reader on their new knowledge surrounding adolescent nutrition.

Project Background

There is a need to spread a variety of safe eating practises throughout Kyrgyzstan. However, recommendations are not followed for several reasons, such as the difficulty for citizens to uphold principles in the absence of a state-standardized approach, a lack of monitoring and reporting, and the fact that they are only recommendations and therefore not legally enforceable. With future ambitions to spread awareness throughout seven regions of Kyrgyzstan, the project's goal was to incorporate a safe nutrition component for pupils in the laws of Bishkek.

Project Achievements

The project organised meetings with key decision-makers from the Ministries of Education, Labour and Social Development, and Education to discuss the necessity to incorporate safe food into the regulating legal acts of the Bishkek mayor's office. To carry out the project's goals, a working group composed of professionals and authorities on issues relating to safe food and public health was established at the level of Bishkek City Hall and authorised by the vice mayor of the city.

An audit of selected legal acts of Bishkek was carried out to search for safe food principles and their compliance with global recommendations. Recommendations were then proposed for inclusion in the updated legal acts to be adopted by the new deputies of the Bishkek City Council. Considering these recommendations, the Department of Education of Bishkek developed a plan of action on safe school nutrition.

Info-materials were developed on safe nutrition and were adapted into booklets for heads of schools and pre-schools. Which went alongside training provided to schoolchildren, teachers and parents by the youth leader and key experts, which accumulated in the creation of youth teams, peer-to-peer coaches from among high school students on healthy eating. As a result of the project schools can conduct systematic monitoring and evaluation of the application of the principles of safe food in school and preschool institutions.

The project team received support from the Bishkek Vice-Mayor for Social Affairs and The Department of Education of Bishkek, both of whom expressed willingness to continue working with the youth leader on nutrition.



PROJECT Monitoring youth participation in community nutrition platforms to assess changes in adolescent nutrition knowledge and enhancing youth engagement in UN Food System Summit Action Track 5

FUND CYCLE Youth Leadership Grants

COUNTRY Malawi

SUPPORTING ORGANISATION Civil Society Organisations Nutrition Alliance (CSONA)

YOUTH LEADER Mike Khunga

Project Background

The Innovation & Research Youth Fund initiative previously implemented, increased the coordination between young people and important stakeholders and encouraged youth participation in community nutrition decision-making committees. Building on this initiative, this second phase monitored and supported community-based youth-led projects, focusing on expanding the work that young people were already doing to support food security and on enhancing nutrition. The project made sure that young people in the community continued to have a solid understanding of nutrition and that they continue to find a way to combat malnutrition by cooperating with nutrition stakeholders and local nutrition committees. Balaka and Nkhotakota were chosen as the target districts because they have high rates of malnutrition, mostly because of food insecurity and climate change.



in nutrition, community leaders supported and oversaw all youth activities, including cooking demonstrations and community field orientation.

The community's understanding of nutrition has grown thanks to the youth clubs' nutrition initiatives, which have also improved community and club cooperation. In addition, the youth radio shows rekindled the enthusiasm of other youth clubs to conduct more nutrition-related activities.

The project was essential for forging connections among youth organisations, district policymakers, and CSOs in charge of organising agriculture efforts in the district. Youths' understanding of crop production for improved consumption as well as marketing prospects was enhanced through their involvement with stakeholders.

Project Achievements

The project purposefully included youth-led interventions, which gave the young people the knowledge and tools they needed to perform community nutrition outreach through their programmes. To facilitate community-wide behaviour change and adoption of best practice

PROJECT Increasing Media engagement for improved adolescents' nutrition education and advocacy

FUND CYCLE Youth Leadership Grants

COUNTRY Rwanda

SUPPORTING ORGANISATION Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN Alliance) Rwanda

YOUTH LEADER Florence Sibomana

Project Background

Adolescents, a population traditionally ignored by the global health agenda, are now seen to have a critical chance to end the intergenerational cycle of stunting. The prior Innovation & Research Youth project served as a foundation for this initiative. The SUN CSA in Rwanda aimed to reduce stunting, because for a nation like Rwanda, where the number of teen pregnancies is rising, adolescent nutrition is essential. Advocating for better teenage nutrition was the goal of this project, which began by including youth and the media in educating the general public about the need of adolescent nutrition education and advocacy.



Project Achievements

The network of 30 district youth champions that had been created by the previous project received refresher training on adolescent nutrition and advocacy as a result of this project. They created a network of 30 journalists from different media outlets and trained them in general nutrition, adolescent nutrition, and the importance of both in advocacy. A week of online campaigns using several social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube) provided various messages of education and advocacy on adolescent nutrition, empowering the district's young champions. The nutritionist from the World Health Organization's local office participated in a formal advocacy meeting where they reviewed adolescent nutrition awareness, what needed to be done, and potential areas of cooperation.

The district youth champions formed partnerships with the journalists, and supported them in increasing their understanding of adolescent nutrition, which in turn led to the publication of [3 TV shows](#), [3 radio shows](#) and 5 articles from various engaged media outlets, including, [The New Times](#), [The Inspirer](#), [Inetgo](#) and [PressBox](#).

Project Background

In Sri Lanka, young people are one of the most active segments of the labour market since they can apply their skills in a variety of important fields. Youth are involved in a variety of social welfare activities, but more must be done to increase their involvement and participation in the nutrition sector. Due to poor habits, youth are one of the most nutritionally vulnerable groups. This project aimed to strengthen youth networks and build youth leadership skills so they can support and contribute to the prevention of malnutrition. Youth coming forward as a powerful and coordinated network is the long term change we hope to see as a result of this project. With their expanded knowledge and enhanced leadership abilities, the youth can also lead campaigns to advocate for and promote healthy eating in their local communities.

Project Achievements

With 94 youth participants, the project created five youth networks in the districts of Monaragala, Hambantota, Ratnapura, Nuwara Eliya, and Batticaloa. The youth networks ran two virtual sessions, and they also created several communication tools to share nutrition-related information on [social media](#). Members of the youth network participated in 8 training programmes on topics such as physical activity, leadership and communication, media influencing on nutrition, and social behaviour change in young people.

In collaboration with the youth coordinator the youth network members joined 2 external sessions, A workshop on “Organic Farming Concept” organized by Ideal Hub Organization and a Webinar on “Responsibility of the Youth in Prevention of violence conflicts” organized by ‘Ekwemu Lanka’ organization.

Five district level meetings were conducted by five youth networks with the support of youth leaders and the youth coordinator. The selected 10 youth champions conducted 2 meetings. The majority of the youth participants mentioned that they have changed their behavioral practices and food habits and they want to continue to work as change agents. After the programmes, the youth participants were keen to participate and organize more activities. By creating a link with Government and other stakeholders such as the District Secretariat, Office of the Regional Director of Health Services office, Youth Services officers and NGO coordinators, awareness raising will continue to take place.



Project Background

The Cambodia CSA wants to keep pushing for its efforts to include youth in its work on nutrition and food systems. The project's goal was to engage adolescents and important stakeholders in face-to-face discussions, internet forums, and online quizzes about food systems and healthy diets.

The initiative aimed to increase youth awareness of the value of food systems and healthy eating habits, empower them to play a significant role in promoting these concepts in Cambodia, and give them the opportunity to participate in discussions about these topics.

Project Achievements

A number of online activities, such as youth forums on food safety, nutrition, and healthy diets, and debates about food systems attracted over 700 young people. In order to contribute to the National Road Map for Sustainable Food Systems in the years leading up to 2030, youth made sure that their voices were heard. Youth also became aware of the significance of food systems, made dietary modifications, and pledged to share what they learned with their communities.

A total of 1,553 young people aged from 15–35 years participated in the online quizzes on food systems. A larger number of participants than expected which highlighted the strong interest among the younger generation on improving nutrition and food systems.



The project successfully advocated to the sub-national government to include four youth representatives in the sub-national multisectoral nutrition platforms (PWG-FSN) in four different provinces (Oddor Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Stung Treng and Kratie).

At least 150 young people from the Youth Nutrition Champions, college students, young employees from different SUN CSA member organisations, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport, and other institutions participated in the online forums where they discussed, exchanged, and learned about food systems, healthy diets, and other fundamental nutrition content from facilitators and their peers. They then used these lessons to spread the word about these topics among their communities and peer groups to advance the scientific understanding of nutrition.

Project Background

The overarching objective of the initiatives was to improve nutrition knowledge and behaviour among 500 adolescents, both in and out of school, in chosen villages in Kenya's Kajiado County. In all the target schools within the county, this would aim to strengthen the inclusion of nutrition instruction in the already-existing school clubs. The proportion of adolescents in the county who are knowledgeable, skilled, and practised in nutrition should increase rapidly. In order to ensure the sustainability of the adolescent nutrition campaign, it is important to establish youth-friendly services for pregnant and lactating adolescents, improve appropriate health-seeking behaviour among them, and establish an active and effective multi-sectoral committee in handling adolescent nutrition and teenage pregnancy in collaboration with relevant government ministries, youth groups, faith-based organisations, community leaders, and teachers.



Project Achievements

The project's initial phase targeted 10 schools. With the support of the relevant club patrons and headteachers, nutrition education and teen mentoring programmes were formed in the school health clubs. During the mobilisation period, forums on teenage nutrition were held to raise awareness. The team carried out monitoring and evaluation throughout the project, outlining its difficulties and accomplishments, as explained [in this blog](#).

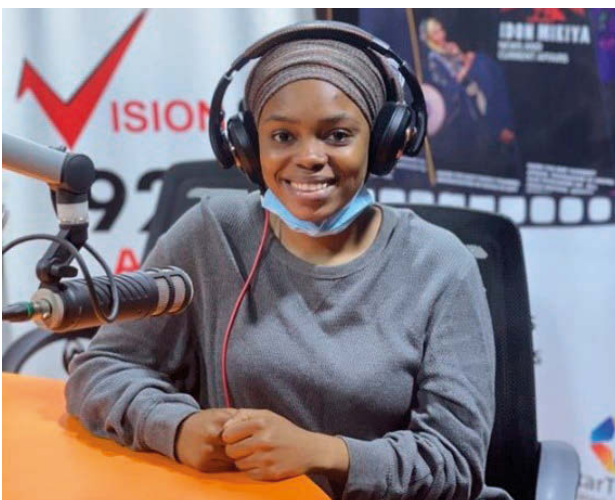
Thanks to the mobilisation work done by the community health volunteers, headteachers, and club patrons, 590 adolescents in school (323 girls and 267 males) were contacted. This is an increase of 68.6% over the objective of 350 adolescents in the 10 chosen schools. Within their individual villages, 100 adolescents who were not attending school were contacted. The adolescents were guided through the stages of adolescent growth and development, which include physical changes in both boys and girls as well as their bodies increased nutritional requirements. The 10 food groups were then explained to them, and they were instructed to include them in their home meals.

The project fostered partnerships through the Kajiado County nutrition multi sectoral meeting and the consultative forums. An adolescent nutrition taskforce was formed to follow up on activities planned to target the adolescents within the county.

Project Background

The Nigerian government aimed to improve the percentage of women who exclusively breastfeed to 65% and cut the rate of malnutrition in Nigeria by 50% by 2025. Malnutrition is a problem that the government has attempted to address locally through a number of programmes. However, youth involvement is one of the gaps in these initiatives to reduce hunger.

This project aimed to raise young people's awareness of nutrition through a variety of social media channels in order to aid national efforts to combat the problem of malnutrition. This established connections between unhealthy eating habits and their effects on the family, community, and future. The study highlighted sustainable nutrition pathways for youth that included tactical components related to gender, micronutrients, child feeding, climate change, agriculture, food/nutrition security and safety, and health. By utilising the available social media platforms, the initiative also attempted to increase the perception of nutrition as a developmental requirement for social protection, as well as for growth and stability in Nigeria.



Project Achievements

By collaborating and engaging with youth organisations, youth-related government ministries, departments, and agencies, social media influencers, radio personalities, and newspaper editors to use powerful messages (including creating and distributing “nutrition newsworthy content with the media”), CS-SUNN was able to:

- Lead momentum towards improved public awareness on nutrition issues and drive actionable commitments and contributions of young people for sustained nutrition
- Survey the impact of the programme with participants which found 33.3% of the respondents were uninformed about youth and nutrition related matters before the programme while 58.3% strongly agreed that CS-SUNN campaigns and activities on youth and nutrition issues increased their knowledge on the issue by the end of the programme.
- Obtain a large audience and increase engagement on their social media platforms via [campaigns](#). which made a total of 233,893 impressions via twitter and recorded an engagement rate of 4,449. The Facebook campaign reached 2,025 people with an engagement rate of 699.
- Engaged media organizations placed youth and nutrition related matters in the spotlight via their [publications](#) and [radio interviews](#).
- A suite of documents, materials, webinar recordings were [created](#) to share with a broader audience.

Project Background

Zambia has a high rate of malnutrition, therefore donor funding has formed a necessary part of the nutrition investments. More than 90% of the country's budget for nutrition comes from cooperating partners. Zambia's youth, who make up around 36.9% of the country's population, are a crucial force, particularly when it comes to keeping governments accountable. The project aimed to strengthen youth-led nutrition advocacy in Zambia, support the work of the National Youth Network on the Sustainable Development Goals, and increase communication with the parliament and other essential actors on the need to improve nutrition financing before the national budget planning process.

Project Achievements

The initiative assisted in the creation of the new Youth Network's five-year strategy, enabling a strengthened plan for the network's future. The project gave the Youth Network the chance to successfully advocate for the addition of nutrition to the Ministry of Health's guidebook on adolescent health training, which is used by educators and different healthcare facilities.

Successful engagements with the parliament and key media outlets from the youth network, especially around [National Youth Day](#). The



Civil Society Pleads With Govt For Policies To Attract Young People To Venture Into Agriculture

National Food and Nutrition Commission, the body of government that oversees nutrition-related issues in Zambia, has officially received an introduction from the youth network. The purpose of the introduction was to establish the network as the legitimate youth advocacy network for healthy eating in Zambia. A total of 40 young people were upskilled in nutrition advocacy thanks to the grant, which also gave the youth nutrition leader the means to conduct a training for educators in Lusaka and Zambia's eastern province.

PROJECT Accelerating Scaling Up of Local Fruit Production and Consumption for Food Security and Nutrition in Schools

FUND CYCLE Youth Leadership Grants

COUNTRY Zimbabwe

SUPPORTING ORGANISATION Rural Enterprise Trust of Zimbabwe

YOUTH LEADER Webster Makombe

Project Background

The project aimed to make a difference in the fight against stunting and malnutrition among adolescent schoolchildren in Zimbabwe. Due to a number of issues, including high fruit prices, limited availability, unfamiliarity of the nutritional benefits of fruits, and negative views of eating wild fruits, there is a low per capita consumption of fruits, particularly among adolescents and schoolchildren. It has been reported that Zimbabwe's fruit crop production is also three times lower than that of other advanced fruit-growing nations. The project therefore wanted to address these challenges through promoting the planting of fruit trees in schools as well as encouraging consumption of local indigenous fruits as a way of combating malnutrition especially during the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown period.

Project Achievements

The project created fruit orchards in selected schools and led to it being expanded to other schools in three more provinces as well as acting as a template for neighbourhood orchards. The project's long-term viability will be ensured by

the relationship with the Forest Commission, who were impressed by the project, offered technical assistance during execution, and showed a readiness to work with others to expand the project to all schools in the country. The government's numerous stakeholders, including key ministries like the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Schools, the Ministry of Youth, and the Ministry of Local Government, expanded their participation and collaboration in the activities the team coordinated. These ministries praised the project's alignment with the government's National Development Strategy and promised to move the project ahead for expansion into further schools.

Adolescents in schools gained more information and understanding of the advantages of eating fruits and how this improves nutrition thanks to the project. While several local officials also pledged to expand the concept to their constituencies, other kids also indicated interest in bringing it to their areas. The project attracted the interest of the [national media](#). And, by highlighting it, significantly increased the project's influence across the country. This, in turn, increased awareness and inspired replication in communities around Zimbabwe.



LEARNINGS AND EVALUATION

Learnings

The SUN CSN Small Grants Programme has been in operation since 2018, and it has changed and grown in that time to fit the needs of grantees and ensure that the work accomplished has the greatest possible impact. Here are the key learnings:

- **Grant flexibility** – As many of the grants were distributed before and during the Covid-19 outbreak, some of the activities had to be changed and the deadlines extended as a result of the restrictions placed on people and organisations. The projects' successful completion depended on remaining adaptable regarding tasks and deadlines.
- **Expansion** – Requests for more funds to expand on the activities already completed were made during some of the projects. Unfortunately, these requests were typically turned down due to limited resources and implementation schedules. In the future, we will investigate if local benefactors might be eager to support any expansion of initial objectives.
- **Grants** – We have experienced delays in sending funds due to lengthy international transfer processes. To ensure timely receipt of the money, we shall in the future set longer lead times and endeavour to improve the sub-granting procedure.
- **Thematic approach** – Each cycle of awards has been associated with a theme that has been noted as being significant to national and international concerns about hunger and malnutrition. In order to have initiatives that are both relevant and efficient, it will be essential to investigate prospective thematic areas for future cycles.

Evaluation

As the report highlights, these projects have achieved strong results for their respective countries and communities, such as:

- **Impactful achievements** – from boosting and integrating young people's involvement in nutrition-related activities in their communities to creating a variety of practical and engaging project-related materials to enhancing their MEAL, communication, and fundraising capabilities. The initiatives have helped to tackle malnutrition in the aforementioned countries.
- **Engaging activities** – The projects have implemented a diverse range of activities that were critical to maintaining participants' engagement, from research papers on breastfeeding uptake in Laos, to establishing parent-friendly rooms in government buildings, and using school orchards to teach and feed schoolchildren in Zimbabwe.
- **Multi-stakeholder engagement** – The grantees have demonstrated the value of collaborating with others to achieve their aims by engaging with government officials, mainstream media, national and local radio and TV shows, private sector enterprises, and youth groups. Those responsible for carrying out the grants have been able to hold fruitful and rich discussions with stakeholders across their nations, involving a greater number of individuals in nutrition and nutrition-related issues.
- **Sustainability** – Each grantee was required to devise their project using a sustainable approach. This guaranteed that the project's impact would last long after the grant period ended. Grant recipients were required to include projects and activities that would demonstrate long-term sustainability, such as communication plans, relationship building, donor relations, and the creation of accessible resources, tools, and platforms.

- **Best practice examples** – All the projects are scalable and replicable, allowing other Civil Society Alliances in the SUN Civil Society Network to use them as models of best practise that they may adapt to their own settings and learn from.

The participating countries of the SUN CSN Small Grants Programme have benefited greatly from the awards through the achievements outlined in this report. By allowing the

countries to carry out projects that reflect their priorities for tackling malnutrition, the programme has been consistent with the SUN strategy of country leadership. This country driven programme emphasises the value of supporting and funding grassroots projects that give countries and CSAs the opportunity for innovative thinking, idea generation, and project implementation that has a low risk and a high impact.



PHOTO: SAVE THE CHILDREN