

# Ghana Hunger Alliance against Hunger & Malnutrition

## Scaling Up Nutrition

Newsletter 2014

### Message from the Coordinator



Indeed this is the defining moment for nutrition. At the global and national level, Stakeholders are working more closely together than ever before, ever united more than before and much more focused than ever to push the nutrition agenda forward. Ghana is not in isolation. Stakeholders in Ghana are more excited in their work than before and SUN has dawned upon us. Indeed there is life under SUN. Today one of the products of the SUN initiative is the national nutrition policy. The policy is now in its final draft and very soon we the Stakeholders shall meet to validate it. As Civil Society Organizations, we want to see this important document with its fine content rolled out into implementation. The strategies and the objectives are well spelled out and we cannot wait for its implementation. We shall not countenance delays and inaction from any person or institution that may jeopardize the effective implementation of this document. There is much work to be done in Ghana if we are to achieve a well-nourished and hunger-free society and it all begins with this policy and plan of action that shall be prepared in the wake of national consultations.

I am extremely happy that SUN continues to bring us closer as Stakeholders to appreciate the gravity of the task ahead of us. Through the existing national structures, some of which were set up quiet recently with the advent of SUN, we are more challenged and determined to make our voices heard and our efforts to rapidly transform the approach and systems set up for tackling nutrition problems in Ghana. Civil Society Organizations shall continue to take advantage of ground-breaking new evidence and are committed to policy and institutional changes to make nutrition a national priority in Ghana. My Colleagues and I shall continue to intensify our advocacy and campaign activities across the country to make Government and the people of Ghana see the value in investing in nutrition.

I have always maintained that good nutrition is a priority for national prosperity, social justice, stability and development and many people share this opinion. We are fortunate that we have the full support of the Ghana Parliamentarians Against Hunger and Malnutrition Caucus. Our Members of Parliament are resolved and challenged to support this effort in a bi-partisan approach. We are going to work closely with them to tackle the problems of nutrition head-on. As we work together to find common solutions for malnutrition in Ghana, we are saving lives today and in the future. We are avoiding premature deaths and securing the foundation for the prosperity of Ghana.

On this note, I wish to express my appreciation to Colleagues and friends, especially to the Co-Chair of Ghana Parliamentarians Against Hunger and Malnutrition Caucus, the Honourable Kwabena Appiah Pinkrah who is the Member of Parliament for Akrofuom, and the National Focal Person for SUN in Ghana, Dr Edith Tetteh, who have worked tirelessly with us for many long months and

years. Let me also thank the team at the National Development Planning Commission and Mrs. Mary Mpereh for her support, Mrs. Mina Okwabi and her team at the Ghana Health Service and our friends at the World Food Programme, not forgetting the REACH Facilitator in Ghana, Mrs. Victoria Wise. So far so good. To our Colleagues in civil society and members of GHACCSSUN, you have done exceptionally well. I am confident that if continue to work together in this way, Ghana shall achieve its nutrition targets sooner.

May God continue to bless us all.

## **SECOND MEDIA PRACTITIONERS TRAINING WORKSHOP-COCCONUT GROOVE REGENCY HOTEL, ACCRA (17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2014)**



Hunger Alliance of Ghana organized the second Media Practitioners training workshop at Coconut Groove Regency Hotel, Accra on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. The training workshop brought Journalists from forty Press Houses together to be schooled on nutrition. As a follow up to the maiden event which was held in 2013, the second training workshop was used to assess the impact of the maiden training workshop on media practitioners in their reportage and influence. The second training workshop was also used to strengthen the network that had been built for media practitioners for nutrition in Ghana and to prepare them to become

nutrition champions in Ghana. Present at the workshop was Mrs. Magdalena Moshi, WFP Deputy Country Director, Victoria Wise, UN REACH Country Facilitator and the Representatives of the various SUN platforms in Ghana. Resource persons from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana Health Service, National Development Planning Commission and the SUN Business Network supported the event. This was facilitated by Dr. John Nene Azu from the Africa LEAD.

Going forward, the training workshop will continue to make a considerable impact on media practitioners to carry out accurate nutrition stories in the print and electronic media and to help shape nutrition debate in Ghana.

## **GHANA CAOLITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FOR SCALING UP NUTRITION REVIEWS ITS CONSTITUTION**



In August and September, 2014, the SUN CSO Platform in Ghana under the leadership of Hunger Alliance of Ghana reviewed the constitution for the platform for the second time. The need to review the constitution was instigated by other suggestions from the Global SUN CSO Network. In one of the meetings on the review process, Claire Blanchard, the Coordinator of Global SUN CSO Network and Carolyn MacDonald who is also the Global SUN CSO Steering Committee member attended and made useful suggestions to guide the review process.

The constitution has been well finalized. Thanks to the SEND Foundation that played a lead role and facilitated the finalization of the constitution.

The revised constitution has been shared with all members of the platform and other stakeholders.



## HUNGER ALLIANCE OF GHANA LEADS NGOs TO REVISE SUN CSOs ADVOCACY STRATEGY DOCUMENT

As part of the activities for 2013, Hunger Alliance of Ghana Secretariat and other members of the SUN CSO Platform reviewed the SUN CSO advocacy strategy document. One of the meetings on the review process was held at World Vision, Accra. The review process was facilitated by Mrs. Wilhelmina Okwabi, the Technical Facilitator of the SUN CSO Platform and the member of the Steering Committee of the platform. The revision of the advocacy strategy was to ensure that the document is simplified for use by members of the platform and to make it easier to use it as a training document to train members of the SUN CSO platform at the community level. Hunger Alliance of Ghana Secretariat and the entire members of the SUN CSO platform extend the biggest appreciation to Mrs. Okwabi for leading the process and also thank World Vision so much for supporting the process.

### VISIT OF MS. TANYA GREN OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (UK)



From 27<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014, Ms. Tanya Green visited Ghana to familiarize herself with the progress of the SUN CSO Platform and Hunger Alliance of Ghana as the lead organization. Ms Tanya spent the whole week interacting with stakeholders in Ghana and actually attended meetings at World Food Programme, FAO, National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Ghana Health Service and Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Ms. Tanya also attended two meetings of the SUN CSO Platform, one for the Steering Committee and for the General Assembly. She also visited Hunger Alliance of Ghana Secretariat and had a meeting with the Executive Director. Her visit was very important. It was intended to assess the progress and challenges of the SUN CSO Platform as a beneficiary of the MPTF grant which DFID made significant contributions. She also made some useful suggestions that would strengthen the SUN SCO network in Ghana and globally.



## **USA AGRICORPS VISIT HUNGER ALLIANCE-26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2014**



The USA Agricornps sent ten volunteers to Ghana to work with Hunger Alliance of Ghana and 4H Ghana. The team had further training at Atiwa in the Eastern Region where they were given a thorough practical training in local farming practices. The team would work with Hunger Alliance and its twelve farmer-based organizations to provide nutrition education in about four districts while supporting farmers to increase production and income.

## **MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZES WORKSHOP ON NUTRITION AND AGRICULTURE LINKAGE**

Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) organized a well attended workshop in September, 2014 on agriculture and nutrition linkage as part of the effort to make its medium agriculture sector investment plan and other interventions nutrition sensitive. The well attended workshop was graced by the Deputy Minister in charge of crops and Member of Parliament for Mion constituency Dr. Alhassan Yakubu. The Deputy Minister on behalf of the Minister of Food and Agriculture Honourable Fifi Quartey pledged the commitment of the Ministry to ensure that production of food especially staples becomes nutrition sensitive. The Ministry will invest in research and food fortification.