ROLE OF CSOs IN GALVANIZING ACTION FOR INNOVATIVE NUTRITION FINANCING IN NIGERIA

A Presentation @ the 2017 NSN Conference by Beatrice Eluaka-Project Director- CS-SUNN
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

• Introduction
• Effective nutrition interventions
• Cost of implementation interventions
• Innovative financing mechanisms for nutrition
• Examples of Innovative financing mechanisms for nutrition
• CSOs evolving social influence
• Role of CSOs in galvanizing action
INTRODUCTION

• Nutrition is the intake of food, considered in relation to the body’s dietary needs (WHO).

• “Nutrition Security exists when all people at all times, consume food of sufficient quantity and quality, in terms of variety, diversity, nutrient content and safety to meet their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life coupled with a sanitary environment, adequate health, education and care” (FAO/AGN, March 2012).

• Unfortunately, Nigeria is still very far from achieving nutrition security as malnutrition continues to ravage our mothers and children contributing to the deaths of about half a million children each year and imposing a staggering cost to the nation.
Malnutrition: The Magnitude of the Problem
Dimensions of malnutrition.

- Stunting
- Wasting
- Underweight
- Micronutrient Deficiencies
- Over nutrition/Obesity.
## UNDER 5 NUTRITIONAL INDICES 1990-2013 (NDHS) (NNHS 2015)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stunting</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wasting</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>EBF</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%(2014)</td>
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In 2008 the medical journal of reference The Lancet identified 13 key direct nutritional interventions that would yield significant results if implemented.

These specific nutritional interventions promote practices to:
- improve nutrition (breastfeeding, progressive and appropriate complementary feeding, hand washing)
- reduce deficiencies in essential micronutrients in high risk populations (vitamin A supplements, therapeutic zinc, iron and folic acid, iron fortification of staple foods, etc.)
- prevent and treat moderately malnourished children from the age of 6 to 23 months with the help of complementary feeding and treat severe acute malnutrition through therapeutic feeding (children between the ages of 6 and 59 months).
EFFEVTIVE NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS (2/2)

• According to the World Bank, implementing these direct interventions in the 36 countries most severely affected by undernutrition (including Nigeria), requires an additional annual investment of USD 11.8 billion.

• Considering the current insignificant investments in nutrition coming mostly from donors and government in Nigeria, we may never attain Nutrition security unless adequate investment is channelled towards high impact nutrition specific and sensitive interventions.
Nutrition Targets 2025

In 2012, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) agreed on a set of six nutrition targets to be achieved by 2025.

- A 40% reduction in the global number of children under age 5 who are stunted;
- 50% reduction in anemia among women of reproductive age;
- 30% reduction in low birth weight;
- No increase in childhood overweight;
- An increase to 50% in the proportion of infants breastfed exclusively (no other food or water) for the first 6 months;
- A reduction of childhood wasting to 5% and maintenance of the rate at 5% or lower.
COST OF IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERVENTIONS

• Recent estimates suggest that governments as a whole must invest an additional $70 billion over ten years to achieve the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets on stunting, anaemia and exclusive breastfeeding by 2025 and treat at scale severe acute malnutrition.

• Nigeria is a member nation of the World Health Assembly and also endorsed these targets.

• While several studies have shown that Nigeria is a major contributor to the current high global undernutrition rate, the country is yet to show its readiness to contribute its part in the global cost for reducing undernutrition by adequately funding nutrition interventions.
COST OF IMPLEMENTATION INTERVENTIONS

• The Nigerian government has over the years with the support of INGOs, Donors and NGOs developed costed nutrition sector plans;
  – Agriculture and Nutrition Sector plan
  – The National Multi-sectoral plan for Nutrition currently being developed.

• THE MAJOR CHALLENGE TO IMPLEMENTING THESE PLANS IS LACK OF FUNDING.

• A case in point is the over $ 912 USD needed to fully implement the Health sector component of the National Food and Nutrition Policy as costed in its National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (2014-2019), for which the country has committed next to nothing to ensure its full implementation.

• Nigeria’s healthcare financing system stems predominantly from general taxation by the government which is never sufficient for the provision of good health care service delivery (of which nutrition is a component) and is also largely dependent on international donor funding which is not sustainable.
COST OF IMPLEMENTATION INTERVENTIONS

• Nigeria’s funding for nutrition has largely been through donor funding.

• Even when international commitment to fund nutrition are made by policy makers, following through has always been a challenge.

• Also, allocations made in the annual budgets at the national and sub-national levels do not match the requirements for addressing the burden of malnutrition prevalent in most parts of the country.

• Considering these challenges, new sources of funding must be urgently mobilized for the fight against undernutrition.
INNOVATIVE FINANCING MECHANISMS FOR NUTRITION

• Innovative financing refers to a range of non-traditional mechanisms to raise additional funds for development aid through "innovative" projects such as:
  – Micro-contributions
  – Taxes
  – Public-private partnerships and
  – Market-based financial transactions.

• Innovative financing is inherently stable and predictable, complementary to traditional Official Development Assistance (ODA) and must ensure that sectors and activities which have benefited the most from globalization participate in building international solidarity.
Innovative Financing

• Gives rise to new partnerships eg. (between States, NGOs and international organizations, between the public and private sectors) with the support of civil society.

• These mechanisms and partnerships enhance requirements for aid effectiveness and results-based management, as illustrated by the example of nutritional impact bonds described below, where the volume of funds invested in a program is proportional to the effectiveness of the program.

• Innovative financing mechanisms optimize transparency and visibility, which ensures their sustainability.
1-NUTRITIONAL IMPACT BOND

• Nutritional impact bonds are a variation of “Development Impact Bonds” (DIBs), a results-based mechanism through which private investors participate (partially or totally) in financing certain services that have a high social impact.

• The principle is as follows: a government wants to achieve a specific quantifiable objective (i.e. reduction in the rate of acute malnutrition or micronutrient deficiency in a population) through the implementation of interventions that are known to be efficient.

• The government issues bonds, which are purchased by private investors. The money collected will be invested to implement the program by a service provider. Investors make the upfront investment and are paid according to the results obtained by the program. Payment is made by the government benefitting from the program and/or the donor states, international organizations or foundations involved in the initiative.

• The main advantage of the mechanism is that it combines payment and results, which provides a strong incentive to maximize impact of the programs and improve cost-effectiveness.
2- MATCHED FUND

• “Matched funds” are used to double the sums committed to a given objective by others who wish to support this commitment.

• They can be created by donor states, foundations, etc.
3-FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX

• The financial transactions tax (FTT) is a very small tax levied on the purchase, sale or transfer of the four major categories of financial assets: stocks and bonds, foreign exchange transactions and derivatives.

• The economic justification for such a tax is recognized.

• The measured increase in transaction costs generated by a tax would freeing up new sources of funding for global public goods.

• The idea of an FTT for development has been widely accepted by the international fora (G8, G20, UN, etc.) but has had no effect so far.
4- HFSS (High Fat, Sugar, Salt Content) Tax

• A tax on food and beverages high in fat (fat or saturated fat), salt and sugar (“HFSS” products) would raise resources for the fight against undernutrition.

• The tax serves as a reminder to the citizens about the negative consequences of an overly rich diet on their health and the mechanism is working in some Northern countries (Hungary, Finland, France, several U.S. states), and others are under consideration in Belgium, Ireland, Romania, Great Britain and Italy.
5-LOTTERY

• A solidarity lottery created in one or more volunteer countries, whose profits would be allocated to the implementation of programs to fight against undernutrition.

• Players would thus become stakeholders in international solidarity.

• An example is the “Postcode Lotteries”, in the Netherlands and Switzerland, which have collected more than 3 billion Euros since their inception in 1989.

• In partnership with the World Food Program (WFP), these lotteries support school cafeteria programs or programs to improve access to primary education, especially for girls, in nomadic food-insecure areas in Niger as well as other WFP activities, such as grain banks in Niger and “Food for work” projects in Mali.

• They also helped to raise 4 million Euros in 2012 to benefit the United Nations agency for refugees (UNHCR) to improve education in the refugee camps in Dadaab, Kenya.
CSOs EVOLVING SOCIAL INFLUENCE (1/2)

• CSOs are a collection of non-state, not for profit organisations that share similar values, purposes and interests and take action for the good of the society and whose activity is not associated with major institutional systems such as Government & administration, but exists as grassroots organizations.

• The past decade has witnessed the rapid rise of civil society organizations and NGOs contributing to influencing individual behaviour and government institutions that are involved in health and nutrition interventions. CSOs in the recent years have become more prominent, visible and diverse.

• Historically, CSO is a product of a specific historical evolution associated with the enlightenment and subsequent elements of modernization notably urbanization, industrialization, and the rise of modern capitalism.

• As a result, CSO networks have been formed within and across countries to promote a wider and more transnational support of public interests on global policy issues such as human rights, environment, democracy, development and health.
CSOs EVOLVING SOCIAL INFLUENCE (2/2)

• They aim at fostering improved service delivery, democracy, social and economic development.

• In Asia and Latin America, CSOs have been involved in mobilizing effective demand for services, building awareness of community needs and experimenting in innovative approaches to service delivery that are later replicated by the government sector.

• In Africa, African states had failed to foster sustainable development hence causing the re-emergence of the idea of CSOs.

• CSO represents a sustained political reform, legitimate states and governments, improved governance and service delivery systems.

• CSOs as agents of positive change and innovation in governance are well positioned to champion a non-traditional means of funding nutrition in Nigeria.
Roles of CSOs

• 1. INFLUENCE THE BUDGET PROCESS FOR INNOVATIVE NUTRITION FINANCING

• 2. PROMOTE TRANSPERANCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

• 3. CONDUCT EVIDENCE-BASED NUTRITION BUDGET ADVOCACY

• 4. BECOME ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE NUTRITION FINANCING
1. INFLUENCE THE BUDGET PROCESS

• CSOs have a role to play in supporting fiscal transparency amongst senior government officials in Nigeria especially in funding mechanism for nutrition.

• A country’s budget is basically a mechanism for estimating income and expenditure for a period of time. CSOs’ engaging during and after the budget circle will contribute to improved nutrition financing by pushing for inclusion of adequate allocation for nutrition and also following up the money to ensure efficient usage and transparency in the utilization of public funds.

• Civil society can contribute at various stages of the budget cycle before and after the Appropriation Act is signed into law.

• They can assist in the budget formulation process by making contributions at the drafting stages.

• They can also lobby legislators to ensure adequate funding for health and nutrition programs.

• They can ensure the effective implementation of the nutrition budget allocations via expenditure tracking and performance monitoring activities.
2. PROMOTE TRANSPERANCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Accountability is all about being answerable to those who have invested their trust, faith, and resources to you.

- Adegite (2010) defined accountability as the obligation to demonstrate that work has been conducted in accordance with agreed rules and standards and the officer reports fairly and accurately on performance results vis-à-vis mandated roles and or/plans.

- It means doing things transparently in line with due process and the provision of feedback.

- Johnson (2004) says that public accountability is an essential component for the functioning of our political system, as accountability means that those who are charged with drafting and/or carrying out policy should be obliged to give an explanation of their actions to their electorate.
PROMOTE TRANSPERANCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

• CSOs hold government accountable on behalf of the general public and consistent engagement with the government promotes accountability and transparency in funding for nutrition.

• Furthermore, wastages and fraud will be eliminated when government becomes accountable in the usage of public fund, thus more fund would be available for investment in high impact interventions that will promote the nutritional status of Nigerians.
CONDUCT EVIDENCE-BASED NUTRITION BUDGET ADVOCACY

• Advocacy is a systematic succession of actions designed to persuade those in power to bring a change to a specified issue of public concern.

• It is a deliberate effort to deliver particular messages to decision makers who develop laws or policies for effective distribution of resources that affect people’s lives.

• Advocacy forms the bedrock of driving and empowering nutrition outcomes.

• It is through advocacy that policy changes are influenced and communities sensitised.
2. CONDUCT EVIDENCE-BASED NUTRITION BUDGET ADVOCACY (2/3)

- Budget advocacy is a strategic approach to influence governments' budget choices, aimed at achieving clear and specific outcomes—e.g., healthier people, less poverty, or improved governance.

- Evidence-based budget advocacy can be used to:
  - Empower ordinary people to participate in the budget process by demystifying the budget.
  - Inform public debates by providing objective analysis of budget and policy proposals.
  - Bring about policy changes, such as greater allocations for programs to fight poverty, by using data to demonstrate the effectiveness and financial viability of such efforts
3. CONDUCT EVIDENCE-BASED NUTRITION BUDGET ADVOCACY (3/3)

- Improve the delivery of public services by using evidence of poor service provision gathered through monitoring budget implementation to hold government accountable.

- Promote more transparent, participatory, and accountable budget processes by demonstrating how civil society can use budget information and public participation to strengthen and increase support for policies and contribute to oversight.

- To promote funding for nutrition which is one of the major goals of innovative nutrition financing, CSOs must engage with government using evidence (Budget analysis, budget performance, adequacy of allocated nutrition fund, percentage allocation to nutrition as against other sectors etc.) to engender positive decisions from policy makers that ensures more funding for nutrition in the country.
BECOME ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE NUTRITION FINANCING

• CSOs knowing that the ODA and national resources is not enough to fight against undernutrition can work with both government and other sectors as partners to come up with workable financing mechanism(s) that can generate additional fund to combat malnutrition.
5. COMMON VOICE FOR NUTRITION-THE ROLE OF MEDIA

• The media has the potential to boost the efforts of stakeholders in innovative nutrition financing.

• It is recognized that the media has a massive role to play in:
  – raising awareness and communicating messages around good nutrition and healthy diets to the masses
  – conducting advocacy efforts to ensure that nutrition and innovative funding for nutrition remains high on the political agenda and that the right policies, governance structures and actions are put in place to foster accountability across stakeholders.
Conclusion

• Availability of adequate fund for urgent and continuous implementation of identified high impact nutrition interventions is the only way to combat malnutrition and improve nutrition in Nigeria.

• The kind of money required to scale up nutrition cannot come from government alone.

• It requires other sources and this can be achieved through evolving workable financing mechanisms and with CSOs playing key roles in ensuring its workability, sustainability and impact on those who are affected in the society.
THANK YOU