EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL SUN CIVIL SOCIETY NUTRITION NETWORK

REPORT OF WORKSHOP ON BUDGET ANALYSIS AND ADVOCACY

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INTRODUCTION

KENYA SUN ALLIANCE and CSONA organised a Budget analysis training workshop at Novablanca Suit in Lilongwe. The training was conducted between 24-29 July 2017. Participants from Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan, Ghana and South Africa attended the training. The training was sponsored with Save the Children UK as the main sponsor for Collaborative Joint Proposal and co-sponsored with Graca Machel Trust, Care International. This reports on how the training was conducted, successes within the workshop, challenges and recommendations.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The regional training workshop was designed to share country experiences on budget analysis as well as to build the capacity of Civil Society Alliance to effectively analyze national budgets as means to advance nutrition at country and regional level with the following delivables

a) Building Consensus on Nutrition in East Africa and Southern Africa
b) Why CSAs should have an interest in Budget analysis and budget tracking
c) Conducting country based budget analysis for all the invited countries and presenting the finding at the workshop and in their respected countries
d) Coming up with the country level strategy for nutrition budget analysis and budget advocacy

TRAINING DURATION AND SCHEDULE

The training duration was scheduled for four days with a day of arrival and departure with most participants arriving on Monday 24th July and all of them departing on the 29th July, 2017. The lead facilitator for the training was Mr Humphrey Dyetseni who is currently the Director of Planning in the Ministry of Information who have done a quiet remarkable number of consulting in Budget analysis with CISANET, Farmers Union Malawi (FUM) and once worked in the Department of Nutrition and HIV/AIDS (DNHA). The facilitator is quiet familiar with the Budget Process in Malawi as well as in a number of Countries in Africa

THE TRAINING PROCESS

Day 1

The training process started with the introduction of all participant, the type of introduction used was that the participants should identify someone whom they have never met before and share personal information such as their Name, which organisation they are working and their passion towards nutrition. Then the participants presented their expectations towards the training after being invited. The
participants shared their expectations which included;

- Being drilled in budget analysis and budget advocacy,
- to share best practices on how budget analysis is done in different countries,
- Developing a regional consensus on budget analysis.

Then the opening remarks were done by CSONA as the hosting alliance to welcome all participants and to encourage the participants to look at the commitments different countries made towards nutrition, and shed some lights on how CSONA is working in Malawi to make sure that the Government is committing resources towards nutrition the speech was done by Tisungeni Zimpita Coordinator for CSONA, Then CARE international which was represented by Vitumbiko Chinoko who explained much on CARE International regional project which is being implemented in a number of countries in Africa, then Graca Machel Trust represented by Christine who shared much on how GMT is implementing nutrition projects in Malawi Tanzania and Mozambique and Finaly George representing both DSW and SURCOD as grant partners.

The workshop Agendas started with George who presented on, Building Consensus on Nutrition in East Africa and Southern Africa on which he introduced the Workshop Objectives, and briefed the participants the projects and shared nutrition advocacy experiences in the region, he enlightened the participants on why CSAs in the region should be interested in the budget and the linkage between the budget and Nutrition. During the facilitation he emphasised much why Eastern and Southern Africa CSAs should focus much on regional budget analysis, why developing the capacities of CSAs in the countries on budget analysis and advocacy, why budget analysis and advocacy should be prioritised and why having a regional nutrition platform for East and Southern Africa

Then the lead Facilitator Mr Dyetseni introduced Government Policy and Framework where the session was opened by asking the participants to define the budget. in this session the budget was defined as resources required to support the org operation or resources expected to be raised/ or to be used for specific activity, quantified in monitory terms prepared and approved.

Then he introduced the importance of policy flow when doing budget analysis and budget advocacy. Much emphasis was centered on relating our advocacy with existing policies starting by looking at the global level and narrow down to the regional level up to the country level. In his presentation he mentioned things like International Policy Frameworks: SDGs, Regional and Sub-regional Policy Frameworks: Africa Agenda 2063, CAADP, Local Policy Frameworks: long term and medium term (Vision 2020; MGDS) Budgeting Frameworks (MTEF; PBB), Sectoral policies and strategies (SWAPs) Institutional Strategies and Other commitments: (international, regional, local)

Then he introduced the Structure of government budgets where he introduced Government revenue, Expenditures and deficits/surplus, the key objective of this topic was to let the participants understand the sources of revenue for government budgeting. The presentation ended up with group work where participants were asked the following questions from their respected countries as their groups

1) What are the formats of budget presentation in participating countries?
2) What purpose does each presentation serve?
3) Which ones are useful to non-public sector practitioners and why?

During the Group Discussion members had the chance to go for Tea Break, after which they came and made the presentation.

After the presentation the facilitator introduced the session of Budget system/ approaches where he introduced the five approaches to budgeting which are line budgeting or known as historical approach, incremental budgeting, Zero based budgeting, Base budgeting and finally, Activity based budgeting. Each budget approach was analysed based on strength and weaknesses.

Later in the afternoon after lunch time the facilitator introduced programme based budget approach which is the common approach being used recently, he introduced the composition of programme based budget approach which is aligned based on Impacts, outcomes, outputs, activity and inputs. The facilitator also insisted that it is also very important as we are conducting our budget analysis to look at the allocations based on the alignment of programme based approach as it gives the linkages from inputs to impacts. He further demonstrated how PBB addresses efficiency, effectiveness and equity. Later on the first day the session concluded with the session looking at the development of strategic policy and plan.

### DAY 2

**BUDGET ANALYSIS MONITORING AND EVALUATION AND PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE ON BUDGET ANALYSIS**

The second day of the training started with recap of previous session. Then the lead facilitator introduced Budget analysis Monitoring and Evaluation where he defined the term Monitoring and evaluation in the context of Budget analysis. Then he introduced Budget Monitoring which includes Financial monitoring, physical monitoring and input and output analysis. He then introduced tools for conducting budget monitoring which included work plan and progress review. He later introduced budget reporting and how it is done.

Later on Budget analysis was introduced, during the session the lead facilitator defined Budget analysis, what it entail and approaches to budget analysis it is during this stage when the participants were asked to elaborate their various countries budget. The following question were used for group discussions.

- Discuss various sampled budget analysis reports (from Malawi and participating countries) in groups focusing on how the various aspects of budget analysis were applied.
- Practice budget analysis for nutrition sector from the 2017/18 Malawi Government budget?

The session was so practical that it took the whole day participants discussing the questions and doing the various practical budget analysis based on the countries they are coming from. The Discussion opened up the participants to have a clear understanding of budget analysis. The country reports were used and the participants analysed them in the context of, policy and strategy alignment from the global level to the country level, relationship based on trend of allocations and finally the calls for action. After doing the exercise all the countries were requested to make a presentation based on their countries budget analysis. The presentation was done on the fourth day from 10.00 to noon.
DAY 3

BUDGET ANALYSIS CONTINUED

The morning up to 10.00 am were for group work, then presentation started at 10 am where all represented countries made a presentation of their respective budget, the assessment panel was chosen within the participating members and it kept on changing everytime. Rwanda scored the highest on the performance in this exercise with 69% followed by Zambia with 64.3 %. The day was more practical that the participants were busy looking at how their previous budget were conducted and try to come up with shortfalls which would improve their country budget analysis in the future. The issue of policy alignment and strategy papers was really emphasised as the key advocacy messages since they represent Government commitment at global, regional and country level.

Then the afternoon session was facilitated by George where he concentrated much on Partnership and media engagement.

DAY 4

BUDGET ADVOCACY

This day was led by Rachel from GMT who facilitated on Budget advocacy. Which was later followed by the graduation ceremony where the participants of the training had a chance to receive their certificate of attendance. The training ended with the group photo later the visit to the Lake Malawi as per the demand of the participants.

TRAINING SUCCESSES

- The training managed to gather participants from 10 different countries this acted as an opportunity for harmonising East and southern Africa regional hub of nutrition
- The training acted as a benchmark of the regional activity which created a face to face interaction of CSA in a number of countries where opportunities for resource mobilisation and strengthening the regional hub were discussed
- The facilitator was so composed that the issues of budget analysis and budget advocacy in Southern and Eastern region will be conducted qualitatively as well as in like with the policies, strategies which would make various government become responsible on their commitment
- The training also acted as an opportunity for the CSAs to understand how other partners such as GMT and CARE international are doing in the region
- Countries were able to focus on previous budget analysis and advocacy with an aim of strengthening good approaches in the coming years which would improve nutritional indicators in the region
TRAINING CHALLENGES

Despise having all the successes the training had its own challenges such as.

- The short notice of the workshop has impacted the preparedness and attendance
- Visa application was challenging and hindered some participant to attend
- The absence of the STC-UK consultant previously expected has affected the workshop quality
- The SUN model of budget analysis was not studied
- Water supply and electricity in the premises were not satisfactory.

RECOMMENDATION

This meeting acted as the genesis of coming up with the strong regional network, it would be very nice for the sponsors in collaborative awards to initiate more awards which would strength regional nutritional networks. It would also be very important for the sponsors to be sponsoring the countries which would host the activities to avoid double bank transfer charges. Hosting countries to be given ample time of organising the activities and making sure that budget issues are communicated well to all the involved countries.