

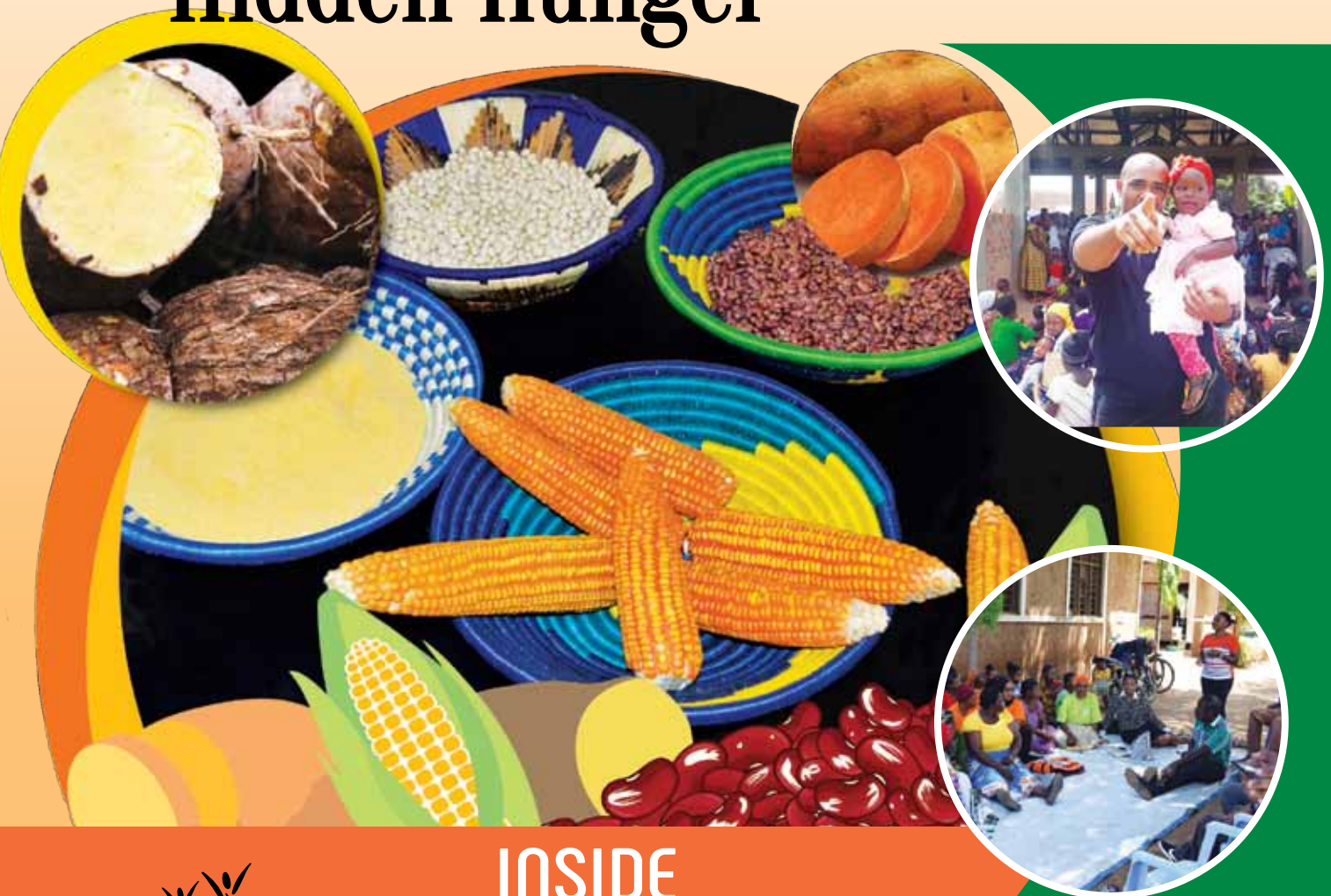
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News

Nutritious Staple Crops: Sustainable Solution to Hidden Hunger



INSIDE



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Message from Executive Director

Dear esteemed reader,

The momentum to improve nutrition is accelerating and transformative change is achievable. In this edition of Lishe News, we are packed with successful advocacy initiatives conducted by PANITA both at national and sub nation levels. It's a well-known fact that, in order to attain the global and national nutrition goals, targets and plans, national resource mobilization remains key and crucial. Increasing investment in nutrition is very urgent and important to tap into human, social and economic development potentials.

PANITA, embarked on various advocacy efforts to push the government to increase domestic funding on nutrition. These among others included, the Joint Statement given by Civil Societies to request the government to increase funding on nutrition intervention; the launch of 2016 Global Nutrition Report which was used as an advocacy platform. The results came swiftly and PANITA applauds the government for

the firm promised to allocate 115 Million US dollars to support the National Multi Sectorial Nutrition Action Plan 2016 – 2021. Also, towards Financial Year 2017/18 Tanzania Government through the Ministry of Finance has issued the directives to each Regional Secretariat (RS) to budget TZS 10M per number of councils, and each Councils should budget TZS. 1000/= per under five population. This is a leap forward toward recommended 20 USD per child per year for realization of 2025 World Health Assembly targets.

Today, there is unprecedented ambition, momentum and collaboration in the battle to end all forms of malnutrition in the country, exemplified by preparation of overarching National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP) 2016-2021. Involving multiple stakeholders, led by Governments, supported by the UN, Civil Society, Business, Academia and Donors. Multiple sectors, including Health, Agriculture, Community Development, Social protection,



Tumaini Mikindo
Executive Director

Education, WASH and more. Multiple levels, from the highest levels of government to the local community.

At subnational and lower community levels, PANITA through capacity building strategy of its members and experience sharing, seeks to broaden knowledge, skills, commitments, responsibilities, accountability and amplify its members' nutrition advocacy efforts.

These aligned and synergistic initiatives, prove without doubt that there is a greater momentum in the country, to make all forms of malnutrition a history and PANITA stand as a catalyst in the middle of it all. Onwards we march!

Enjoy reading.

From the Editor's Desk

Dear reader,

Lishe News is here once again, packed with informing about what PANITA has been up to as the war against malnutrition wages on. We are loaded with advocacy initiative news from national to subnational levels, Members' coordination initiatives and news from other nutrition stakeholders.

The flagship objective of PANITA is advocacy. It is a well-known fact that our country will be very successful in combating malnutrition when the government put it on top of its agenda. This is what PANITA is fighting for and some wins are obvious. The overarching National Multisectoral Nutrition



Deborah Kimaro
Chief Editor

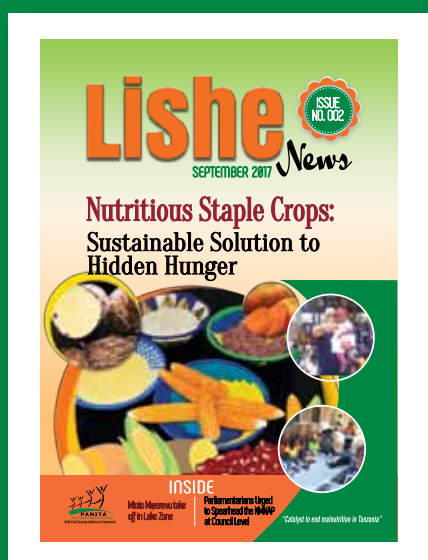
Action plan (NMNAP 2016-2021) is beaming, conveying all nutrition stakeholders from all key sectors and levels towards more coordinated efforts. PANITA conducted momentous high level advocacy initiatives; thanks to the support from Irish Aid and New Venture Fund. The launch of 2016 Global nutrition report put nutrition agenda on the national stage, and our responsible government responded positively. We are proud of our new national

nutrition Champion Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan; she is truly leading the way very sturdily so far. Local level advocacy was also taken aboard, kindly read for yourself initiatives to raise nutrition profile in different District Council; it is amazing indeed.

It is said that, charity begins at home, Mtoto Mwerevu Project kicked off in the Lake zone and our members are among key stakeholders for the success of the project; considering their work with communities. Furthermore, members' capacity building continued; kindly enjoy reading success stories from some of our featured members and also our work with other nutrition stakeholders.

Together we can make malnutrition a history.

Thanks



CHIEF EDITOR
Deborah Kimaro

**EDITORIAL
CONSULTANT**
Asha Mtwangi

CONTRIBUTORS

Aaron Isaack
Faraja Kassim
Florian – Efrem
Frank Msafiri
Husna Munisy
Jane Msagati
Joyce Maru
Lucy Maziku
Magreth Paul
Rose Mgonja

PUBLISHER:

Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA)
Off Rose Garden Road, 6
Rwehabura Road,
Plot No. 305A, Mikocheni A,
P.O. Box 32095, Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania.
Tel: +255 222 701 753
Email: info@panita.or.tz
Website: www.panita.or.tz



The Role of Religious Leaders in Promoting Nutrition



In order to foster collaborations and raise awareness in the quest to fight malnutrition PANITA organized a workshop with national religious leaders from both the Islamic and Christian faiths for the purpose of establishing relationship with religious leaders, familiarization and learn from each other on the importance of nutrition and to see how religious leaders can actively engage in fighting malnutrition in the country.

Religious leaders possess extraordinary credibility and influence on believers, as they have the communication skills, powers of persuasion, opportunity for guaranteed weekly audience, and knowledge of religious texts that promote the benefits of healthy living, as such, they have a God given advantage over other message bearers!

Religious leaders agreed in principle to be part of the

advocacy movement for better nutrition in the country. They accepted to collaborate with PANITA and other nutrition stakeholders to advocate for proper nutrition practices through various avenues that religious institutions provide e.g. Sunday Mass for Christian and Friday prayers for Muslims. Opportunities further exist in counselling sessions and other social activities with the congregations. An important

outcome of the meeting was the identification of messages in the holy books of both faiths that promoted proper nutrition practices for healthy well-being. Furthermore they agreed to work together to reach more religious leaders by conducting joint advocacy initiatives between PANITA and religious leaders who attended the meeting to bring the message to a wider group of religious leaders.





WALK THE TALK

Nutrition Champion in Action

The Vice president of Tanzania Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan is leading the way in fighting malnutrition as a Nutrition champion in Tanzania. During the launch of Global nutrition Report 2016 last year; Her Excellency Suluhu promised that the fifth term government will be in forefront in the war against malnutrition of all forms in the country.

the daily reality of many Tanzanian women as the main hindrance of good nutrition and health in general. "It is time to raise awareness in the rural communities who are in need of nutrition knowledge. Rural women have big workload on reproductive and productive roles; we need to empower them so that they can reach their nutrition goals." Insisted VP Suluhu.

VP Suluhu called upon CSOs to work together in raising awareness to the entire community especially the parents on the effects of consuming processed food products and advised them on the consumption of food with enough nutrients that will improve their nutrition status. The government would in turn ensure that food industries and the entire business sector on food production adhere to the general rules of producing and sale food products that will promote the nutrition status of our country.



The vice president of United Republic of Tanzania Her Excellence Samia Suluhu cutting the ribbon to mark the official launch of 2016 GNR in Tanzania

During the launch of 2016 Global Nutrition Report at country level held in Dar es Salaam; PANITA through the chairman of Parliamentary Group on Nutrition Food Security and Children Right; Hon. Dustan Kitandula (MP) requested

Vice president of Tanzania Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan to be Nutrition champion in Tanzania, a task she accepted without hesitation.

Her Excellency Suluhu who was the guest of honour highlighted

The Launch of GNR 2016 organised by PANITA in collaboration with other stakeholders was High level Advocacy platform used by nutrition stakeholders in the country to raise government attention on the need to prioritize domestic resources for nutrition. The launch was also attended by the Minister of Health, Community development, Gender, Children and Elderly Hon. Ummu Mwalimu (MP) who has also been at the forefront on reducing malnutrition in Tanzania.

Geared by her passion for women and children wellbeing, her Excellency Suluhu has been pushing the agenda of Reproductive, Maternal, and



New-born child, Adolescent,
Health and Nutrition
(RMNCAH + N).

VP has been pushing the agenda through various undertaking by promoting Gender Equality, promoting good working environment for health workers; as shown by the directives she issued to all councils in the country to ensure they construct houses for health workers, especially in rural areas and a top priority must also be midwives as they are the ones who give emergency care to pregnant

women and children.

VP Suluhu also leads the way in the fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In December 2016 at Leaders Club in Dar es Salaam her Excellency Samia Suluhu launched the national physical fitness campaign aimed at curbing the alarming increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as Cancer; diabetes and Heart complications which are also among the types of Malnutrition causing diseases according to GNR 2016.

VP encouraged citizens to form exercise groups and the government would implement its role by providing space for performing exercises across the nation. After the Launch, Vice President issued a three-month ultimatum to all councils in the country, to reclaim all public spaces spared for sporting activities.

The Champ Vice President Suluhu continues to advocate for better nutrition practices and combined efforts to beat malnutrition, PANITA highly commends her.



VP Suluhu called upon CSOs to work together in raising awareness to the entire community especially the parents on the effects of consuming processed food and advised them on the consumption of food with enough nutrients that will improve their nutrition status



A great start for children

Mtoto Mwerevu take off in Lake Zone



Deputy Minister - Ministry of State Regional Administration, Local Government, Public Service and Good Governance Hon. Selemani Said Jafo (MP) officially launches Mtoto Mwerevu (Smart Child) Project.

Addressing Stunting in Tanzania Early (ASTUTE) also known as MTOTO MWEREVU (Smart Kid) is a five year program starting December 2015 to May 2020 seeking to improve early childhood development and reduce the prevalence of stunting (low height for age) among Tanzanian children aged less than 5 years. The focus being on the first 1000 days of life from conception.

The project was officially launched early this year in Kahama - Shinyanga by Deputy Minister of State Regional Administration, Local

Government, Public Service and Good Governance Hon. Selemani Jafo (MP).

Funded by the UK Government through the Department for International Development (DFID) the project will be implemented in five regions of Mwanza, Shinyanga, Geita, Kagera and Kigoma where the estimated sum population is 11.5 million People including 815,500 stunted children.

The project is implemented by a Consortium of IMA World Health, The Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA), Cornell University Division

of Nutrition Science and Development Media International (DMI).

The project aims to train approximately 3600 staff by 2020 and these include district nutritionist, community health workers, agriculture extension agents, community development officers and health facility workers while strengthening the capacity of 50 Civil Society Organizations in their ability to deliver integrated interventions that make a difference in the lives of women and children. The trainings are constructed to increase understanding of adolescent, maternal and infant and young child nutrition, Early Childhood Development (ECD) and WASH. Furthermore the trainings will equip community health workers and other extension agents with the tools they need to positively change behaviours.

In this respect, ASTUTE in Collaboration with Regional and Council Authorities has conducted training for front line Health Workers both from Facilities, CSOs and Community Health Workers in 16 Council (Phase One) out of 36 Councils in the five regions implementing

the project. The trained staffs are expected to deliver education to communities and families through household visits, Support groups and Health facilities in the 5 regions.

What ASTUTE hopes to achieve after its completion is enhanced capacity to support optimal care practices for maternal nutrition and IYCF, WASH and ECD in the target regions, Increased knowledge in the community by targeting pregnant women, caregivers of children under-two years of age, household and community decision makers on IYCF, ECD, WASH and health practices in target regions and Continuous quality improvement and policy engagement.

The significant role of CSOs in the execution of the MTOTO MWEREVU Cannot be ignored as they are expected to do the following:

- Establish and develop support groups (including organizing and strengthening mother-to-mother and possibly fathers' groups as well as identifying and working with



PANITA Executive Director Mr. Tumaini Mikindo holding a baby during the Positive Deviance - Health for Nutrition exercise held in Katoma Community in Bukoba Rural District Kagera Region.

- existing community groups to improve individuals' health practices)
- Increasing household food security and food diversity (Year 2, 2017/2018) by Promoting homestead food production.
- Participation in regional and district training for Community Health Workers(CHWs) and supervision of CHWs
- Participate in the District Steering Committees

PANITA is ready to catalyse processes and implement activities inclusive of CSOs for sustainable outcomes towards improving Nutrition situation in Tanzania



official launch of Mtoto Mwerevu

PANITA applauds Government commitment to improve nutrition

Millions of children under 5 years of age will now benefit from better nutrition following the pledges made by the government to increase its investment in nutrition and early childhood development in the recently concluded World Bank Human Capital Summit in said Tumaini Mikindo, Executive Director of the Partnership for Nutrition Tanzania (PANITA).

He noted that good nutrition, especially during the critical 1,000-day window (from pregnancy to the second birthday) is critical for a child's development; it fuels not just children and their futures, but also a country's economy. According to studies done by World Bank, investing in Nutrition especially in the first 1,000 days can lead to a 12% increase in a country's GDP.

At the ground-breaking Human Capital Summit at the World Bank Group-IMF Annual Meetings, Tanzania through the Minister of Finance and Planning Hon: Philip Mpango (MP); pledged to make a range of major investments designed to enable children to succeed in a fast-changing world. The seven-fold broad based commitments took into consideration the nutritional needs of both pre-natal and post natal children under 5 years.



Minister of Finance and planning Hon. Dr. Philipo Mpango (Centre) poses for group photo during the World Human Capital Summit held in Washington November 2016 others are Hon Ester Matiku (MP) first left, Executive Director of PANITA Mr. Tumaini Mikindo (2nd left) Gayle Martin Program Leader World Bank Group Tanzania 1st right.



Minister of Finance and Planning Hon. Philip Mpango Speaking during World Human Capital Summit – Washington .

future spending on healthcare, but also to increase the country's productivity. Currently, the country spends over USD 518 million – around 2.65 per cent of the country's GDP on deficiencies in Iron, Vitamin A and Folic Acid. Yet an investment to reduce stunting has the potential to provide a return of investment of USD 26, 418 Million to the economy.

To achieve this, there are proven, cost-effective actions countries can take immediately such as Antenatal micronutrient supplementation, Vitamin A supplementation for children, support for the National Breastfeeding promotion campaigns and promotion of good infant and young child nutrition and hygiene practices.

Other interventions will include: the intermittent preventive treatment of malaria, Treatment of severe acute malnutrition, Iron and folic acid supplements for adolescent girls and Staple food fortification.

They include the provision of conditional cash transfers by the Tanzania Social Action Fund to the poorest 15 per cent of households, to promote prenatal care and pre-primary school enrolment.

Secondly the government committed to using Results-Based financing to improve nutrition outcomes, as well as innovative financing initiatives, which leverage the private sector, including the Power of Nutrition. Thirdly, it committed to promote exclusive breast-feeding and complementary feeding programmes.

Moreover, the government promised to allocate 115 Million US dollars to support the National Multi Sectorial Nutrition Action Plan 2016 – 2021. Also, the government pledge to continue participating in the Global initiatives like Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) and implement the Malabo declaration that aims at reducing Hunger & Malnutrition, and

World Health Assembly (WHA) targets to improve maternal Infant and young children nutrition by 2025.

“We the Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) welcomes the commitment given by the fifth term government, led by His Excellency President John Pombe Magufuli to invest in nutrition as part of early childhood development programs. This is an important step that will help save lives; unlock the precious potential of millions of children; and deliver greater economic progress for our country. Despite the notable achievement in reducing stunting, we still have a long way ahead of us to eliminate under nutrition in Tanzania and PANITA stands ready to support the government's efforts.”

With over one-third of child deaths in Tanzania due to under-nutrition, it is crucial that the country invests in good nutrition to not only save lives and avert

We the Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) welcomes the commitment given by the fifth term government, led by His Excellency President John Pombe Magufuli to invest in nutrition as part of early childhood development programs



SHARING SUCCESSES

CSONA comes to Tanzania

PANITA hosted a delegation of Civil Society Organisations Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) from Malawi who were lucky enough to visit Tanzania on a cross learning trip. CSONA came to learn how best PANITA successfully scaled to where it is now in terms of organisational maturity and member's coordination mechanism at grass root level.

"We are deeply humbled and honoured to host the SUN CSA from MALAWI-CSONA. This one of the values of being part of the bigger Movement that embarks on making Malnutrition history. This comes our way as result of spectacular achievement of the platform; from being hosted to now independently managing the platform." Said

Tumaini Mikindo Executive Director of PANITA – SUN CSA in Tanzania.

Mikindo added that, " among SUN Countries, it is only PANITA from Tanzania and the CSA in Peru that are independent and have been chosen by Global SUN Civil Society Alliance as learning models for Maturity and Sustainability for other CSA's Globally".

CSONA Campaign Advocacy Officer Joseph Gausi echoed these sentiments as he said "CSONA has showed great strides at the national level but this has not trickled down to the district level. Therefore, CSONA has proposed to engage district CSO nutrition platform members in a cross-border learning visit to

PANITA as one way of enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, and activeness of the platforms. PANITA is commended for its activeness in its advocacy, communication and lobbying role and it also has a similar operational structure to that of CSONA".

CSONA visit to Tanzania comes as part of Graça Machel Trust (GMT) advocacy promotion efforts in RMNCAH and Nutrition at the global and regional level in Africa, with particular focus on Eastern and Southern Africa. .

The Delegation conducted several meetings with various Nutrition stakeholders to learn and share experience on how PANITA is working with different actors on Nutrition from the government, Donors, UN agencies and Civil Societies both international and Locals.

Among the key actors that CSONA team met is the Director of Government Business from Prime Minister's Office and SUN focal Person Mr. Obey Assery who emphasized the significance of working together with Civil Society to push for government agenda of scaling up nutrition. The delegation then met Director of Save the Children Tanzania



CSONA Team Pose with PANITA Team and Mr Obbey Assery the SUN focal person at PANITA Office on 12 December 2016, Dar es Salam

Steve Thorne who shared with them the process through which PANITA went through during the times it was being hosted by Save the Children and the lessons that have come out of that experience.

The SCONA team had a meeting with Director of Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) Dr. Joyceline Kaganda who shared how TFNC is working closely with PANITA as well as its members in implementation of nutrition programs. TFNC is the oldest serving institution on nutrition in Tanzania. Nutrition Advisor at the Embassy of Ireland Tanzania Ms Neema Shosho shared the role played by Irish Aid to support implementation of PANITA's nutrition projects since its inception.

The delegation attended the Development Partners Group on nutrition (DPG – N) monthly meeting together with PANITA. After deep discussions with (DPG –N) members it was clear that PANITA's presence to the DPG is crucial since it ensure that the voice of its 300 plus members is heard. It is also a platform through which PANITA advocates for resources to be trickled down to its members who are the ones who do the actual implementation of the nutrition intervention.

Malawi delegation concluded their Learning trip by visiting PANITA members in Morogoro, where they experienced first-hand PANITA Zonal Coordination mechanism and actual implementation of PANITA member's activities



Meeting with Dr. Steven Kebwe (Morogoro Regional Commissioner on 16 December 2016.

on the ground. These includes School Nutrition Sensitization program, Education of good nutrition practice at house hold level, Horticulture, Training on good, clean and fair food by encouraging the establishment of community gardens and safe motherhood by reducing maternal anaemia (for women of reproductive age) through the Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) kits.

On the final day of the trip the delegation paid a Courtesy call to the Morogoro Regional Commissioner's office, they had discussion with Morogoro RC Dr Kebwe Stephen Kebwe. He explained how Regional government is working with

CSOs at local level in fighting malnutrition especially in education aspects.

During the SUN Global Gathering in Milan 2015 there was a call for civil society to come together and work in unification, for the purpose of strengthens alliances, advocacy, and social mobilization and communication skills to become stronger advocates for nutrition; CSONA -Malawi learning visit to PANITA - Tanzania is regarded as an example of how CSAs can learn from each other for improved nutrition outcomes across the region.

Karibu tena CSONA!



PANITA Annual General Meeting 2017 – Decided on Strategic Matters of the Partnership towards December 2017



PANITA Executive Director speaking during 5th AGM held April in Dodoma, others are Mr. Edward Mbogo Chairperson of the 5th AGM (Centre) and Chairperson of PANITA BoD Hon. Dr. Rose Rita Kingamkono (Right).

PANITA conducted its 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 21st April 2017 in Dodoma (Morena Hotel). AGM is a supreme organ that decides on Broader and strategic matters of the partnership. The meeting was attended by CSO members from both sides of the Union (Mainland & Zanzibar).

It was a successful gathering where CSOs members were able to fulfil their constitutional mandate, where they deliberated on the 2016 Annual report, Audit report, and endorsed Annual plan and budget for this year (2017)

besides they electing 2 Board members for period of 2 years.

This year's AGM was special as it was graced by the presence of four Board of Directors led by

Hon. Chair of the Board, Dr. Rose Rita Kingamkono; others in attendance were Mr. Abubakar Mohammed Ali, Mr. Joseph Mugyabuso and Mr. Audax Rukonge. The meeting was further graced by the presence of representative of Irish Embassy Ms. Neema Shosho.

The AGM is a cornerstone of institutional governance, as it is a supreme organ of PANITA that decides on the broader strategic issues basing on the medium term strategic plan and the long term objectives as stipulated in PANITA MEMART. It is also an important event where experiences are shared and borrowed.



Parliamentarians Urged to Spearhead the Implementation of NMNAP at Council level



PANITA conducted advocacy meeting for Members of Parliament (Parliamentary Group on Nutrition, Food Security & Children's Rights as implementation of PANITA Strategic Plan 2015-2020. The meeting focused on advocating for improved Nutrition status through prioritizing nutrition in plans and increasing domestic resources allocation.

Essentially the meeting focused on:

1. Feedback from the World Bank Human Capital Summit in Washington DC held in November 2016, where the Government through Minister of Finance made a pledge to increase domestic resources for Nutrition

2. Introducing Members of Parliament to the recently approved National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action plan 2016-21(NMNAP) and the roles of MPs in making this a successful plan.
3. Highlighting Government NMNAP implementation activities , where it has put into plans and budget for TH 2017-18 a total of approximately TZS 11 Billion through PORALG. This has been possible through the directives that were issued by Ministry of Finance that every Council should budget a total of TZS 1000.00 per child who is under 5 years of age. Also it was noted that both local CSOs and international NGOs have set aside for the same FY approximately TZS 27 Billion.

In the course of deliberations it was agreed that MPs will continue to champion for domestic resources for Nutrition beyond Government. Also they will make follow up on the disbursement and use of allocated funds for intended intervention. Besides they resolved to make follow up on functionality of District Nutrition Steering Committees, as it is a critical mechanism for effective implementation of NMNAP at local level. Furthermore they will work on the possibility to ring-fence the allocated resources for Nutrition in future. Most importantly they resolved to work with other MPs who are not part of this group so the can be part of the agenda and so widen the base advocating for more domestic resources for Nutrition.

PANITA would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all MPs for their dedication and support in the quest to improve Nutrition status in the country.

Hidden hunger!

Biofortification: Sustainable cost effective solutions



2015-16 shows that 34% of children are stunted with 12% being severely stunted. Stunting increases with age, peaking at 44% among children aged 24-35 months. Stunting mostly affects children in the rural areas with 38 % being more affected than those in the urban areas (25%).

Iron deficiency is related to majority of anemia cases universally. In Tanzania, anemia prevalence in children aged 6-59 months is at 58% with 26% mildly anemic; 30% moderately anemic; and 2% severely anemic. In some districts the statistics are worrying for example Shinyanga at 71% of children.

Almost half (45%) of Tanzanian women of reproductive age (15-49 years) are anaemic; with 33% being mildly anemic; 11% moderately anemic and 1% severely anemic. Anaemia prevalence is highest in Zanzibar (60%), especially in the Kaskazini Pemba region (72%).

Why Biofortification?

A number of approaches can be employed to address the complex problem of micronutrient malnutrition. These approaches range from the food-based approaches (such as dietary

Micronutrient Malnutrition Status in Tanzania

According to the Global Nutrition Report of 2014; the overall magnitude of vitamin A deficiency (VAD) in Tanzania is 33% mostly affecting preschool age children. At least 45% of women of reproductive age also suffer from anemia as a result of iron deficiency. When the prevalence of VAD is at least 15% in any country, it is considered a major public health problem requiring appropriate nutrition interventions.

The Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Survey Indicator Survey (TDHS-MIS)

Almost a quarter of the people in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) suffer micronutrient malnutrition also known as hidden hunger. This problem disproportionately affects women of reproductive age, infants and young children, many of who suffer multiple deficiencies of essential micronutrients such as vitamin A, iron and zinc, which can result in an array of health problems or even early death. Malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are often related and therefore malnourished children are also variously found to be stunted and to have vitamin A and Iron deficiencies.



Biofortification national advocate and champions

diversification, nutrition education and bio fortification), implementing food fortification and supplementation programs of essential nutrients such as vitamin A, iodine zinc, and iron; inclusion of essential Nutrition Actions in national health and nutrition strategies, to incorporating infant and

grow and consume staple food crops and often obtain 60-70% of their calories from staple food crops. In the long-term, dietary diversification is likely to ensure a balanced diet that includes the necessary micronutrients needed by the rural poor population.

Who is driving efforts towards biofortified crops in Tanzania?

Biofortification is the process of increasing nutritional value of food crops by increasing the density of vitamins and minerals in a crop through either conventional plant breeding and agronomic practices or biotechnology. Examples of these vitamins and minerals that can be increased through biofortification include provitamin A Carotenoids, zinc and iron.

The most produced and consumed biofortified crop in Tanzania is the vitamin A Orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) popularly known as Viasi Lishe. The crop is a great source of beta-carotene, a naturally occurring pigment that the body converts into vitamin A, therefore a priority crop for addressing VAD among children and women. OSFP is mostly grown in the Lake zone, Coastal lowlands, central and southern part of Tanzania. The new regions where OFSP is being introduced, promoted and consumed include Shinyanga, Dodoma, Iringa, Singida, Mbeya, Manyara, Arusha and Kilimanjaro. The efforts are from stakeholders in public sector, private sector and NGOs as well.

To ensure extensive utilization, biofortified seeds and propagated materials are made available through extension programmes, market mechanisms or by programmes targeting nutritionally vulnerable communities and smallholder

young child-feeding training into community health extension programs and water and sanitation programs.

Among these interventions biofortification is considered

one of the most cost-effective intervention especially for developing countries to employ in combating micronutrient malnutrition. Biofortification reaches rural consumers who have limited access to industrially fortified foods, supplementation interventions, and diverse diets. Most rural households already



farmers. National Agricultural Institutes (ARIs) through the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries collaborating with international research organizations for example the International Potato Center (CIP) are driving efforts in breeding, advocating and upscaling OFSP in Tanzania. Examples of ARIS at the forefront of these efforts include Sugar Research Institute-Kibaha (SRI-Kibaha) and the ARI's of Ukiriguru (LZARDI), Hombolo, and Uyole, among others.

Other biofortified crops that have been released or are in the pipeline include the Provitamin A (PVA) Maize and high-iron beans. This work is being done through a collaborative efforts of multiple institutions

including the government of Tanzania, Tanzania National Seed Certification Agency (TOSCI), ARI-Selian (SARI); Seed companies (Meru Agro and Tanseed) and international research organizations and programs for example International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) (PVA maize), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) (high-iron beans) and HarvestPlus.

Two Provitamin A maize varieties Meru VAH517 and Meru VAH519 were released for commercial production by Meru Agro Tours and Consultants in 2016, and new test hybrids are undergoing testing at Tanseed International.

The high-iron beans research and development is jointly carried out by CIAT. What is CiAT? The international Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and three government research institutes (SARI, ARI-Uyole and ARI Maruku) within the framework of the Pan Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA). Efforts have started to engage potential value chain actors of biofortified beans. Two high-iron climbing bean varieties (MAC44 and RWV1129) were submitted to TOSCI for possible release before the end of 2017. However, a fast tracked seed multiplication (targeting one ton) will take place in March –June and August –December 2017 seasons to increase seed availability ahead of the variety release. Further seed multiplication will be mainly through Quality Declared Seed systems in collaboration with farmer groups and seed companies.

If you wish to know more about planting material with trained vine multipliers or national research programs, visit the Sweetpotato Knowledge Portal (www.sweetpotatoknowledge.org)

The Building Nutritious Food Baskets (BNFB) project explores a scaling-up model through a multi-crop (food basket) approach to addressing hidden hunger by catalyzing sustainable investments for the production and utilization of biofortified crops that are ready for scaling up in Tanzania, viz.: OFSP; vitamin A (orange) maize and high iron/zinc beans.





Learning across borders for better nutrition outcome

PANITA wins Innovation Plan Award

The Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) has emerged the first place winner in the SUN Civil Society Alliance Innovation Plan Awards of the Learning Route Rwanda 2016.

Announcing the winners of Innovation Plan, Coordinator of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement United Nations Ms. Gerda Verburg said; “PANITA’s Innovation Plan titled Accountable Districts Nutrition Steering Committees for Scaling Up Nutrition in Tanzania; with the introduction of performance contract, fits exactly in the phase

of SUN Movement, the second phase where implementation of Scaling Up concrete result is crucial and where accountability is more important than ever”

What is Learning Route?

Learning route emerged from discussions among civil society alliances at the SUN Global Gathering in Milan 2015. “There was a call for civil society to come together and work together, for the purpose of strengthening alliances, advocacy, and social mobilization and communication skills to become stronger advocates for nutrition.

Learning Route 2016 was hosted by SUN Alliance Rwanda in collaboration with SUN Civil Society Network and PROCASUR Corporation from 31st October to 5th November 2016. Total of eight civil society alliances from eight countries participated; this includes Tanzania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Ethiopia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Kenya. PANITA was represented by Mr. Faraja Kassim from PANITA Secretariat, Ms. Itika Kisunga and Mr. Daniel Mtweve PANITA members from LUWADA and CEELS respectively.



Rwanda Learning Route Participants



Indigenous vegetable variety grown in a home garden in Rwanda

Learning Route aimed at strengthening capacity of civil society alliances to increase contribution towards national programs, while empowering communities to take positive action through the adoption of positive behaviours for better nutrition, food security and development outcomes; other objectives were

- i. Identifying and examining innovative and successful initiatives by civil society alliances to scale up nutrition at community, local and national level, understand the processes and factors for success as well as explore potential for scale up.
- ii. Recognise processes through which civil society enhance national and local policies and strategies to address nutrition issues with specific focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.
- iii. Identify effective social mobilisation and communication strategies to raise awareness on nutrition-

sensitive issues and to promote behavioural changes.

- iv. Identify the catalytic role played by the civil society in bringing together multi-sectorial partners. For example, engaging with the public and the private sector, fostering sustainable and appropriate partnerships that are pro-poor and enable visibility and benefits for smallholders.

Innovation Plans.

Innovation Plans designed to support participants in capitalising on the knowledge acquired during the Learning Route in Rwanda, transforming that knowledge into practical actions to strengthen SUN Civil Societies Alliances' coordinated activities to address malnutrition.

Innovation plan was developed during the Learning Route, upon return each country delegation organized cascade learning sessions to share key learning and revise, refine and validate the innovation plan before the final

submission.

PANITA's innovation plan won first place, while second place was taken by Scaling up Nutrition and Immunization Civil Society Platform Sierra Leone "Eat What You Grow" and third place by Ethiopia Civil Society Coalition for Scaling up Nutrition (ECSC-SUN) Nutrition Visibility and "Awareness through the Media".

PANITA identified the **'performance contract'** used in Rwanda as an innovation that could be replicated in Tanzania; When introduced at Village, Ward and District level, these contracts will increase the accountability and effectiveness of the agreed nutrition-related plans. The innovation Plan also proposed to use the existing Ward Development Committee to cascade Nutrition Plans agreed from District level to Ward and Village level. Kalambo district (Rukwa region) was selected to implement the plan under custodian of Community Economic Empowerment and Legal support (CEELS)

Promoting Excellence in reporting

PANITA Journalists Excellence in Reporting On Nutrition Competition 2016

PANITA Journalist Excellence in Reporting on Nutrition Competition 2016 marked closure by awarding winner in November 2016. Speaking at the presentation, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports Hon. Anastazia Wambura (MP) acknowledged Journalists effort towards educating the society and urged them to continue writing on nutrition issues even though the competition had ended.

“It is my belief that the press will continue to write the

nutrition stories even if there is no competition like this, I will collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure that we make progress in raising and improving the nutritional status in our country of Tanzania” said Hon. Wambura.

Hon Wambura added that, her Ministry recognizes the importance of good nutrition in Tanzanian society in an effort to achieve the middle industrial economy strategy, requires people with good health, strength and ability to think clearly. This will only be possible if we invest more

on nutrition, fight against cultures that hinder access to good nutrition, especially for mother and child.

She said the government would set aside 115 USD million in new government strategy to improve nutrition (National Multi sectoral Nutrition Action Plan) of the year 2016-2021.

On his welcome note PANITA Executive Director Mr Tumaini Mikindo Said that the competition was a continuation of the capacity building for



Deputy Minister Hon. Anastazia Wambura (seated centre) poses for a group photo with winners of Journalist competition on Nutrition Awards. Others seated are Executive Director of PANITA Mr. Tumaini Mikindo (2nd right) Mr. Neville Meena Secretary of the Tanzania Editors Forum (1st right), Ms. Neema Shosho – Nutrition advisor at Irish Embassy (1st left) and Hon. Asha Mtwangi (second left).



journalists and continued advocacy for positive nutrition outcomes in Tanzania that the organization had embarked on since its inception.

“The aim of this competition was to educate the society and to allow journalists to write salient issues in nutrition and also it helped to mobilize the availability of domestic resources for nutrition” said Mikindo.

Nutrition Advisor for the embassy of Ireland Neema Shosho urged reporters to be committed, sensitized, engaged, trained and consult nutrition expert to enable them to report on nutrition issues accurately from reliable sources.

On his side the secretary of the Tanzania Editor’s Forum (TEF) Mr. Neville Meena advised Journalist should not wait information from personnel they should read different information sources and different reports. He also said that all stories in any space in the newspaper are

read by people so let us not be discouraged to write stories”.

The winners of the competition announced by Assistant chief judge Ms. Asha Dodo Mtwangi on behalf of the chief judge Ms. Valerie Msoka were;

First Prize Winner; Ms. Tumaini Msowoya (Mwananchi) Second Prize Winner Ms. Winnie Itaeli (The Guardian) Third Prize Winner - Mr. Gerald Kitabu (The Guardian)

Other Awards went to Mr. Pazi Mwinyimvua (Mwananchi) - for writing a lot of Nutrition and Health awareness raising articles. Mr. Hamisi Kibari (Habari leo) - for being the editor who wrote a lot of nutrition articles which were not for competition Mr. Abeid Othman Poyo (Mwananchi) The only editor who had an article entry in the competition. While Mwananchi Communications limited were given a certificate of recognition for the media house that

had many entries during the competition.

Other journalists who participated in the competition were all given certificate of Recognition as suggested by panel of judges for recognizing their efforts for participating in the competition.

“

The aim of this competition was to educate the society and to allow journalists to write salient issues in nutrition and also it helped to mobilize the availability of domestic resources for nutrition

”

Building capacities

1. GMT Message development Training

Graça Machel Trust (GMT) support SUN CSN Alliances (Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique) on Development of Nutrition Messages

Graça Machel Trust (GMT) conducted a two-day workshop on Nutrition Communication which aimed at enhancing the capacity of SUN Civil Society Alliance from Malawi and Mozambique and Tanzania. The emphasis was on development and testing of appropriate nutrition messages, use of proper communication channels and dissemination to the right audience. The knowledge and skill set on characteristics of a good message, styles of messages, power of messages is crucial for addressing issues and influencing agenda, provided that this is a missing link in fight against Malnutrition.



2. Webber Shandwick communication Training

SUN SCN partnered with Weber Shandwick and M&C Saatchi World Services, two leading global communication agencies, to deliver a two days workshop on advocacy and communication to representatives of PANITA CSOs from all zones. Weber Shandwick and M&C Saatchi World Services have been commissioned by The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to create a new narrative for the nutrition community, due to the fact that compelling narratives for undernutrition are lacking. The training aimed at identification of an effective ways to talk about nutrition. Focusing

on overarching story with a clear definition of what is nutrition, why it matters and how to take action. This is the broad strategic initiative for capacity building of our members on advocating for nutrition.



3. Training in advocacy and lobbying skills and tracking of resources to PANITA members

PANITA representatives in District Nutrition Steering Committees attended a training on advocacy and tracking of resources at the Council level. This knowledge is important for holding the government accountable in prioritization of nutrition in planning and budgeting at the Council level. The focus was on highlighting of various advocacy techniques that can be applied at various levels; cross learning among members; lower level advocacy challenges; mechanisms for overcoming challenges and tracking resources at District level using Mid-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). Participants were encouraged to forge good relationship with government officials for positive results.



National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP) (2016-21)

Our role...

The Government of Tanzania together with various development partners (Governmental, UN, CSOs) has just finalised the new National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP) – From Evidence to Policy to Action for the period 2016 to 2021. The NMNAP was developed to guide implementation of the reviewed National Food and Nutrition

Policy (FNP). The plan aligns with other important national and global strategies such as: National Five Year Development Plan (2016-2021); Global Nutrition Targets 2025; Global Non Communicable Disease Targets 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The expected impact or the desired Change of the NMNAP is “Children, adolescents, women

and men in Tanzania are better nourished leading to healthier and more productive lives that contribute to economic growth and sustainable development”.

NMNAP is a multisector collaboration strategy whereby various sectors (health, agriculture, water and sanitation, finance, social protection, etc.) are brought together to address acute



Official launch of NMNAP

malnutrition and stunting, within a wider multisector nutrition governance and information management system framework. NMNAP calls for renewed efforts, financial and political commitment, evidence-based decision making and stronger accountability.

What the plan does is that it identifies various dimensions of nutrition intervention: nutrition specific (addressing the immediate causes of undernutrition), nutrition sensitive (addressing the underlying causes of undernutrition) and enabling environment interventions (addressing the basic causes of undernutrition).

The following are expected outcomes of NMNAP:

Nutrition Specific Outcomes are:

- 1) Increased proportion of adolescents, pregnant women and mothers/caregivers of children under two years who practice optimal maternal, infant and young child nutrition behaviours.
- 2) Increased micronutrient consumption by children, adolescents and women of reproductive age (15-49 years).
- 3) Increased coverage of Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM).
- 4) Communities in Tanzania are physically more active and eat healthier diet.

Nutrition Sensitive Outcomes include, increased coverage of nutrition sensitive interventions

in: Agriculture and Food Security; Health and HIV; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Education and Early Childhood Development; Social Protection; Environment and Climate Change.

Enabling Environment Outcomes:

- 1) Improved effectiveness and efficiency of nutrition governance (including coordination and leadership) and response across all sectors, actors and administrative levels.
- 2) Increased access to quality nutrition related information to allow Government of Tanzania and partners to make timely and effective evidence informed decisions.

The roles of CSOs

PANITA as a CSO umbrella participated in the preparation and validation of the National Multi sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP), the implementation will include involvement of both secretariat and members. We believe through the new NMNAP, PANITA role will be more visible and contribute positively in the efforts to fight malnutrition in the country.

1) Dissemination of NMNAP expect results and strategy

It is a role of all CSO, CBO, and FBO to disseminate the new NMNAP to their stakeholders in order for them to understand and align their activities to new plan. During PANITA Zonal review meetings, the document was

presented to members through simplified version. The Swahili translation is awaiting the release of the final document.

2) Planning and Budgeting and alignment to NMNAP

As Civil Society organization the NMNAP should be the guide for plans and budget i.e. all the CSOs interventions should be in line with the NMNAP. The Government requires involvement of CSO to share their plans for the Government to be aware of their contributions on nutrition activities at local levels.

3) Management of nutrition activities

Planned activities on nutrition on forums like higher level Nutrition steering Committee where PANITA secretariat has a seat, District Nutrition Steering Committees where PANITA members are representatives, Regional Consultative Council, and any other relevant forums, should align to the NMNAP.

4) Monitoring of program implementation

CSO will work together with the Government to monitor the implementation of Nutrition intervention

5) CSOs will be involved in coordination of planned activities together with other nutrition stakeholders in their respective Councils.



SUCSESSES STORIES

Business and Entrepreneurship Support Tanzania (BEST) – PANITA Member Arusha

Cash Transfer for Improved Nutrition

Poverty is generally acknowledged to be a root cause of malnutrition.

A number of studies show significant association between poverty and malnutrition in non-emergency contexts. Safety net programmes have been introduced as one of the options to address this situation. Safety net programmes as part of the broader social protection agenda, help vulnerable households be protected against livelihoods risks, maintain an adequate level of food consumption and improve food security and nutrition status.

This has been exemplified by Business and Entrepreneurship Support Tanzania (BEST), a member of Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA), based in Arusha. BEST, through

Fighting Poverty Project (FIPO), works to alleviate poverty through stimulation and supporting small scale business enterprises. Beneficiaries are provided with business development services in form of small grants, loans and trainings on basic business management skills and advisory services.

One of the beneficiaries of FIPO is Ms. Adelina Kitomari. She is 34 yrs old and happily married to Mr. Robert Kitomari. The family reside in Maji ya Chai Ward, Arusha Tanzania. Together, they have three children, all boys aged between 7 to 12 years.

In May, 2012 Adelina was enrolled in Fighting Poverty Project (FIPO-II) and was granted Tsh. 100,000. She

decided to invest in indigenous poultry business. With this initial capital she was able to buy 10 chickens, chicken feeds, vaccines and managed to pay other related costs. She received entrepreneurship training from BEST and assistance from veterinary workers and extension officers.

The business grew rapidly when sales of products like eggs and chicks took off; by November 2012 she had about 129 chickens. Although she lives in the rural area, yet she can fetch good prices for her products e.g. she sells one egg for 200Tshs, two weeks old chick for 1000Tshs and between Tsh 10,000 to 15,000 for a parent stock. Her family also enjoys the poultry products.

She now serves as a paid local extension worker for indigenous breeds in the project site. Concurrently, BEST is also engaging her as part time trainer for the ongoing FIPO-III project. She also receives a good support from her husband.

Thanks for the grant received from BEST, now the Kitomari family have improved economic status, food security and nutrition status.



Adelina Wangaeli Kitomari tending the chickens



CEELS – PANITA member Rukwa (Zonal Coordinating CSO - South Western Highland Zone)

Borrowing from ACT – DSH

Anglican Church of Tanzania – Diocese of Southern Highland accessed PANITA Membership in the fourth quarter of 2015 after being motivated with Early Child Development program which they were implementing when they heard of PANITA and became interested in joining the network.

In May – July, 2016, DSH's Diocesan Secretary invited PANITA Zonal Coordinator to conduct nutrition presentations to their 32 HIV intervention program staff, 35 ward counsellors, WEOs and 3 government officials during the new DREAMS initiatives.

Later on, the Diocesan Executive Secretary took the information to the higher level. The second invitation came in. This time the Zonal Coordinator had explain more about nutrition, zonal coordination, benefits and challenges before the Diocesan Bishop: Julius Timotheo Lugendo.

After hearing the story, the Bishop was delighted and promised to cooperate and support nutrition wherever he can. "I don't have much resources but I can share what I have" The Bishop said. Ever since, he has been granting his vehicle to PANITA Zonal Coordinator whenever he needs it. He further promised to grant the vehicle to PANITA Secretariat staff should they have activities in South Western Highland Zone. "All you need is to give us prior information for our internal arrangements" said Bishop Julius Lugendo.

Moreover, the Diocese administration reported of ACT – DSH's PANITA Membership before the Synod. Also they have arranged to invite the Zonal Coordinator to present nutritional agenda before all Priests and Diocesan of the Diocese of Southern Highlands.



Bishop. Julius Timotheo Lugendo

***"I don't have
much resources
but I can share
what I have"***
- Bishop Julius
Lugendo.

Councilors Argued to Prioritize Nutrition in the Council's Budget and Plans

In the effort to ensure that nutrition resources are mobilized and coverage of locally relevant nutrition specific actions and nutrition sensitive contributions are scaled up; PANITA in Collaboration with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) conducted advocacy meeting with Councilors in Mbeya city and Mbarali District Councils to raise the profile of Nutrition in Councils plans and Budgets.

These meetings were attended by Mbeya City Councilors, Mayor of Mbeya City, Regional Administrative Secretary, Regional Nutritionist officer

and representative of CSOs for Mbeya, while Mbarali meeting was attended by Members of District Councils, District Executive Director, District Nutrition Officer and Representatives of CSOs in Mbarali.

Speaking when opening the meeting, Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary Ms. Marium Mtunguja; said Malnutrition is an issue in Tanzania; councilors need to learn and understand the nutrition issues in their districts and how to combat malnutrition in their

district and region at large. She insisted that good nutrition is not about eating meat or expensive foods but to eat local available foods in the area like; beans, sardines and local vegetables and get health.

Ms Mtunguja who was the guest of honor in that meeting highlighted three key points to Councilors; First, Nutrition education should spread to the community, She said that, "Mbeya is food secured there is 3 million tons of reserved food in Mbeya, but the problem is how to utilize it".



Members of Mbeya city council following the presentation on nutrition as a development agenda.



Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary Ms. Marium Mtunguja Addressing members of Mbeya City councilor during the Advocacy meeting held in Mbeya

supported by Graça Machel Trust, followed by meeting with regional secretariat and advice committee in November 2015, then meeting with Regional Nutrition Steering Committee.

Presentation made by PANITA secretariat focused on Social-economic impact of malnutrition to the individuals and country in general, and solution to those problems where much emphases was on first 1000 days. The councillors were reminded on importance of prioritizing nutrition from the councils own sources as the sustainable means to fund nutrition activities.

Second, Council's budgets and plans from internal sources have to allocate fund on the important issues including nutrition, Also Councilors have to ask for the report from government officials on budget expenditure. Lastly but not least, Councilors should work close with nutrition practitioners.

Ms. Mtunguja concluded by acknowledging PANITA and CRS for their support to conduct that meeting which was a continuation of other three advocacy meetings held in Mbeya region. First was with commissioners from Mbeya, Katavi, Njombe, Rukwa, and Ruvuma in July 2015 which was

At the end of the meeting Councilors committed to put nutrition at the center of the development agenda by allocating more resources for scaling up nutrition within their Councils and promised to work closely with District Nutrition Steering Committees.



ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Nutrition Zonal Dialogues

A transformational pathway towards a world free from malnutrition in all its forms starts with Multiple stakeholders to come together to tackle malnutrition and build an enabling environment for improving nutrition with equity” SUN Movement Strategy Roadmap (2016 - 2020).

As a practical demonstration of walking this transformative path, PANITA held advocacy dialogues that seeking to increase accountability on nutrition activities at regional and sub-

regional levels between June and August 2016. Dialogue in this context is defined as “take part in a conversation or discussion to resolve a problem”.

The dialogue drew out ideas on influencing public policy change, reform and monitor implementation while strategically creating avenues for dialogue , active engagement and cooperation between and among civil society and government. PANITA strongly believes and promotes dialogue as an effective means for message delivery at all societal, political and economic levels and indeed this has given PANITA much leverage!

The dialogues involved PANITA members, Districts and/or

Regional Nutrition Officers, local level nutrition stakeholders and Region and District government officials. Dialogues were based on different themes including: Strengthening of District Nutrition Steering Committees; Multisector approach in addressing malnutrition; improved nutrition status and domestic resources on nutrition.

At local level, these dialogues opened a channel of continued engagement and mechanisms for mutual accountability among key stakeholders including government and CSO’s. As the immediate results among dialogues conducted, directives were given to Councils by



Shinyanga Nutrition stakeholders



Zonal Dialogue - Unguja



Zonal Dialogue - Dodoma



Zonal Dialogue – Tabora

either Regional Commissioners or Regional Administrative Secretaries (Morogoro, Shinyanga, Tabora, Simiyu, Dodoma, Singida, Mtwara, Lindi) to give much emphasis on the need of prioritizing on nutrition.

This initiative was critical and is relevant in the current political situation because there have been extensive changes of both political and administrative leadership at sub national level. Overall the feedback has been overwhelming positive e.g. RAS from Rukwa asserted to the fact that it was through the advocacy meeting conducted by PANITA Zonal Coordinator in Western Highlands zone; that brought attention of the nature and magnitude of the malnutrition problem which it prompted immediate action, whereby the regional secretariat to developed action plan.

In Shinyanga, RAS has ordered all stakeholders involved in nutrition to submit quarterly report alongside Council's reports and he is keen to see functional district nutrition steering committees.

Following Eastern zone dialogue, participants from Dar Es Salaam, Coast and Morogoro regions prepared the joint nutrition action plan to be shared and implemented by all nutrition stakeholders in their regions.

In Mtwara it was agreed that nutrition will be the standing agenda in all Councils meetings. Following zonal dialogue meeting, Simiyu regional nutrition steering committee was established and efforts are underway to establish District Nutrition Steering Committees in all Councils across the region.



Gender and Nutrition Shined in PANITA Zonal Review Meetings

“The efforts to improve national nutrition status will be most powerful if linked with fighting gender inequality” this was the take home message for PANITA members attending the 2016/17 zonal review meetings. The meetings were held for the purpose of reviewing CSOs member’s nutrition interventions, enhancing cross learning among CSOs members and building capacities for delivering quality nutrition interventions stemming from organizational good governance.

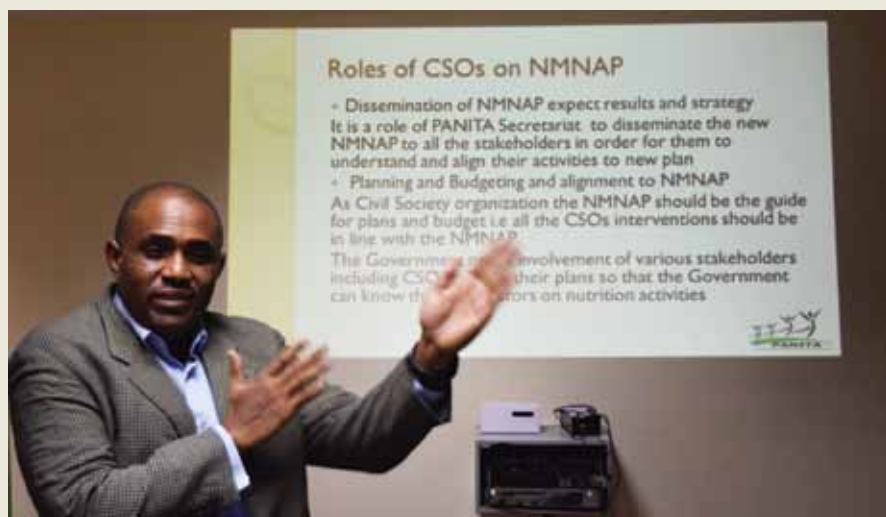
Gender inequality in its multiple presentations was discussed and solutions for the consequences were deliberated on. Members looked at how inequities in access to and control of assets has severe consequences on women’s ability to provide food, care, and health and sanitation services for themselves, their husbands, and their children, especially girls. Women with less influence or power within the household and community will be unable to guarantee fair food distribution within the household. These women will also have less ability to visit health clinics when their

infants and children are sick and to also spend valuable time interacting with their infants and other children.

Any reduction in gender inequality benefits the entire family. Substantial evidence demonstrates that more equal access to and control over assets raises agricultural output, increases investment in child education, improves visits to health facilities for infants, raises household food security, and accelerates child growth and development. It also offers important economic payoffs for the entire society.



Gender and Nutrition Presentation



Role of CSOs on NMNAP Presentation

women are severely hampered by malnutrition where women with poor nutrition are caught in a vicious circle of poverty and undernutrition resulting in mortality and morbidity. A positive step was taken to identify the CSO and other stakeholders' needs for more capacity building in this area.

Apart from Gender and Nutrition, this year's review meetings were used to orient CSOs members on the new National Multi sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP). Going through the plan, members identified their roles in implementing the action plan, aligned activities to the NMNAP, shared work plans, budgets and management of the planned activities. Biofortification was highlighted at the meeting as a sustainable and cost-effective way to address Micronutrient Malnutrition So members can champion it in their areas of operation.



Zonal Review Meeting (Northern and Central zone) - Babati

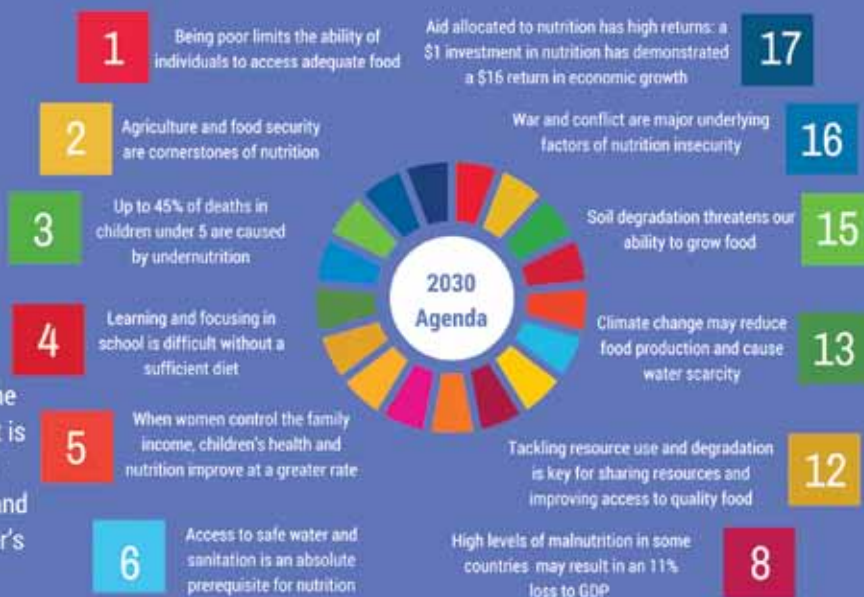
Poor female nutrition early in life reduces learning potential, increases reproductive and maternal health risks, and lowers productivity; this situation contributes to women's diminished ability to gain access to other assets later in life and undermines attempts to eliminate gender inequalities.



Zonal Review Meeting Western and East Lake Zone

NUTRITION IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF ALL THE SDGS

Nutrition is both an input and outcome of the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore it is not only found in Goal 2, which addresses global hunger, but also in many other goals and indicators, in line with Action Against Hunger's multisectoral nutrition security approach.



GOAL 2: END HUNGER

Of the 8 targets for SDG2, two are directly tied to undernutrition



Target 1: End hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

Target 2: End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age

SOME SDG INDICATORS RELEVANT TO NUTRITION



SDG2: Proportion of adults with secure land rights



SDG3: Health worker density and distribution



SDG6: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water



SDG8: Proportion of national budget allocated to social protection

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Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA)
Off Rose Garden Road, 6 Rwehabura Road,
Plot No. 305A, Mikocheni A,
P.O. Box 32095, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 222 701 753
Email: info@panita.or.tz

Website: www.panita.or.tz