

Lishe

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Graça Machel urges African governments to allocate more on nutrition budget



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Malnutrition still a
Threat in Tanzania

Panita Strengthens
Zonal Coordination
System

Joint statement given by
the Civil Societies
Organisation



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Message from Executive Director



“*PANITA among other things need to build on our past achievements. This is anchored from the foundation laid by “Save the Children”*”

Greetings from PANITA secretariat

PANITA has steadily traversed through a strenuous path for the most of the year 2015. Nevertheless we have made great strides in terms of growth and maturity to date. Essentially it has been a momentous year where we have seen independence; in essence it has led to state where we become an autonomous and self-governing network. This was official marked on Nov. 23 2015, through farewell ceremony organized by Save the Children. This event was the official proclamation, and signalled the end of hosting phase of the Secretariat; and the beginning of the new era of PANITA as a network of Civil Societies that are fighting to end malnutrition in Tanzania.

The Independence to PANITA has great value; and it means provision of expected deliverables, results and attaining the main goal of reducing malnutrition in the country. To achieve this, PANITA need to observe good governance which is expected to be expressed through improved accountability, transparency and ownership; and bearing responsibilities as a network. The critical piece to complete this jigsaw would require: building a high resilient network through; well-established communication between secretariat, members and other stakeholders beyond the network; maintain a high calibre secretariat staff; Increase members participation and ownership, coordination and capacity building through various mechanism and approaches, such as: zonal review meetings where it is expected that, members will have space have new knowledge through review their work & sharing of experiences and learning; Annual General Meeting for accountability and strategic decision making; zonal coordinators meetings and other virtual spaces (PANITA website, email, Facebook etc.).

At this stage, it is imperative to iterate that PANITA among other things, need to build on our past achievements. This is anchored from the foundation laid by Save the Children during hosting phase of the secretariat and other stakeholders. PANITA secretariat with support from Save the Children has done a great work to develop strategic plan and policies which were guided by Memorandum of Understanding and Articles of Association (MEMART). Principally the core mandate of PANITA is well stipulated in the MEMART as reflected from the primary objectives of its establishment. The key objectives are: Establishing a national civil society platform covering all nutrition relevant sectors in order to facilitate exchange of information, advocate for policy improvement and foster a dialogue on strategic nutrition issues in Tanzania; Building capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders to engage more effectively in quality service, planning and policy processes; Advocating for increased prioritization of nutrition from community to national level development plans and budgets.

Achieving these primary objectives of PANITA is not an easy task and it would require consented efforts of all members and other stakeholders beyond the network. Internally it is well visualized within the MEMART where various organs have been established with clear mandate and demarcation of responsibilities. Thus, it is absolutely critical that, each organ should exercise its mandates and fulfil its responsibilities within the established legal framework and line of authority. Furthermore, this has to happen within acceptable context and premises in order to avoid unnecessary scuffles.

By and large, the final outcome in the course of implementing PANITA five years strategic plan would require a solid foundation that necessitates existence and full engagement of members. This among other things entails CSOs to have sound organizational structure and exercising good governance. Thus, it is unequivocally vital that every member should strive to invest in improving organizational systems and management as well as being accountable to their commitments.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of PANITA to express our sincere gratitude to all who have contributed to the success of PANITA to date; particularly the journey towards independence. However I feel indebted if I will not mention some of those whom we walked through together. The first and foremost: Irish Aid Tanzania, UNICEF, Save the Children, Prime Minister's Office- (SUN Coordination Office), Institute of Development Studies- University of Sussex, Graça Machel Trust, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-Tanzania and US Alliance to End Hunger. To all we are indebted; but mostly to the poor malnourished children and mothers of Tanzania.

“Uhuru na Kazi”
All the best & Thank You.

Tumaini Mikindo
Executive Director

From the Editor's Desk

Our dearest reader,

The PANITA Newsletter is once back; however with a different name and more improved content make our leaders enjoy it while getting the information that will inform various issues that PANITA is implementing and all other important news on nutrition from around the globe. This we are excited to bring to you our first issue of the "LISHE NEWS" Newsletter. LISHE NEWS is specifically designed to inform you on the key agenda for our survival as individuals, the nation and the globe – Nutrition. Malnutrition is one of the most serious health problems affecting infants, children and women of reproductive age. Malnutrition has negative consequences on both social and country economic growth. The effects of malnutrition are all around us ranging from anaemic pregnant women whose life is at risk during giving birth, the stunted under five child who will never reach her full potential in life, the obese young man whose longevity is shortened, as well as the rise of Non-Communicable Diseases. So what should be done?

As we all know, to end all forms of malnutrition (Sustainable Development Goal 2) is the new challenge that is laid down to all of us, according to 2016 Global Nutrition Report. This challenge among others, calls for increased political will and commitment from governments to increase domestic spending on Nutrition interventions in order to reach the World Health

Assembly (WHA) targets by 2025. Also, calls for efficiency in investments from donors' community as well as increase of awareness on the causes and effects of malnutrition coupled by changes of traditional norms and misbeliefs among communities at large. The corner stone of this is the involvement of families in the conversation around improving nutrition.

LISHE NEWS is a platform tailored to share with you information about advancements made by Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA), which consists of around 300 members all across the country. The focus will be to update you on nutrition advocacy headways both at national and subnational levels. Community voices on nutrition interventions from local members will be vented encompassing sharing of interesting success stories aimed at learning and channelling of concepts. LISHE NEWS will also inform you about coordination efforts done by PANITA and other nutrition stakeholders, allies and partners both at local, national and International levels aiming at tackling malnutrition.

Together we can make malnutrition a history.
Thanks

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The AGM decides on strategic direction of PANITA

A total of 70 PANITA members' representatives attended the Annual General meeting on 5th May 2016. This is the highest organ of PANITA and it gives room for members to decide on the strategic direction of the organization. The AGM decides on the general policy lines and all other matters including the power to amend Articles. Amendments are enforceable only when passed by the AGM.

The key issues that emerged out of this year's AGM included the re-election of members of the BOD, approval of PANITA 2015 annual report, and members' agreement to support Annual General Meeting costs. The joint CSO statement for high level nutrition advocacy in collaboration with Graça Machel Trust was also approved.



4th ANNUAL General Meeting



PANITA Executive Director Tumaini Mikindo (Center) Chairperson of 4th AGM Rev. Charles Chilumba from AGAPE (Left) and PANITA BOD member Mr Joseph Mugyabuso (R) during the 4th meeting (Right).

Graça Machel has urged African governments to allocate more budgets to boost nutrition



Graça Machel the founder of Graça Machel Trust (L) reading the joint statement given by the civil societies organisations under the umbrella of (PANITA), others are Rachel Toku-Appiah Nutrition Program Manager at Graça Machel Trust (C) and PANITA Executive Director Dr Tumaini Mikindo (R).

Graça Machel was speaking in Dar es Salaam during the Climax of the Annual General Meeting of the Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) which was followed by adoption of joint statement given by the civil societies organisations under the umbrella of (PANITA).

Graça Machel who is the founder of Graça Machel Trust (GMT), started by acknowledging PANITA as one of the strongest Civil Society Movements in the region. She said “we are looking up to you in terms of learning lessons for other Southern African countries, in our work as GMT, we plan to create a space to learn from one another at the regional level”. She also said PANITA is a very vibrant movement and have qualified members; she urged PANITA to be more strategic and rigorously in plans and results oriented.

She added that PANITA has been doing well in the high level advocacy making significant

progress in advocacy working with Parliamentary group in Nutrition, Food security and Child rights. Parliamentarians have established themselves as nutrition champions to advocate for increasing nutrition budget and they can confidently point out the gaps in government committed to improve nutrition and where the actual budget does not reflect the policy.

She insisted that the nutrition advocacy message need to be disaggregated. She said advocacy is not to repeat the same message to all people, message need to be disaggregated in order to make sense and put responsibilities on different stakeholders. She insisted that at all levels, advocacy we must be able to speak the language that a common citizen, mother, father a common young man, a young girl will understand, for example she said “if you go to my grandmother and say nutrition she will hear you but probably will not understand what you required from her to change”. She insisted that

message need to be categorized to meet different audiences at national, regional, district level and community levels. Giving example of Ministry of Agriculture, she said we need to look at how this ministry is implementing the policy that diversify food production according to regions and the quality of food produced to meet national nutrition demands. For example, we have a lot of cattle but that is not food it needs to be processed into beef and beef has to reach the plate of child or a pregnant mother. Thus the number of cattle alone is not enough but rather how cattle are transformed into beef and eventually onto a child’s plate. She gave an example of nutrition messages fortification to the Ministry of industry and Commerce.

She noted that in advocating nutrition, stakeholders must understand that nutrition is a multi-sectoral issue and development issue, and not a health issue. So a message to ministries that of Agriculture, Community development, finance, industry, gender and others has to be clear, so that they may take the responsibilities and translate that into their budget allocation.

Acknowledging the unique position PANITA occupies in Tanzanian and the whole of Southern Africa, She finalized her message by saying “Am very proud of you and thank you very much for the good work that you are doing.

“Am very proud of you and thank you very much for the good work that you are doing.”

A Permanent Agenda



Demonstrating Political will and commitment to fight malnutrition

As part of its advocacy strategy to improve nutrition in the country, PANITA engages with different stakeholders including government at central and district levels.

In order to open gates for PANITA to fully engage in the processes at local level with the aim of improving nutrition situation in the country PANITA in collaboration nutrition stakeholders such as Graca Machel Trust and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has move forward the nutrition agenda in the regional administration and in the councils.

In July 2015 PANITA with support from Graca Machel Trust begun its move towards advocating for improved nutrition prioritization in the regions of Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, Iringa and Ruvuma. Dialogue, raising awareness and commitment was the agenda in a meeting of regional commissioners from the above mentioned regions. Political will and commitment was examined and heightened for fighting malnutrition.

Key resolutions agreed to include Nutrition becoming permanent agenda at all statutory and non-statutory meetings e.g. Regional Consultative Councils, District Consultative Council, Ward level and Village and also that nutrition be included in the plans and budget for every council.

On the other hand, PANITA with support from Catholic Relief Services worked with Mbeya regional authorities to move

forward the nutrition agenda in the Regional Consultative Council (RCC) which is the key forum that provides avenues to facilitate translation and implementation of the various national policies and strategies aimed at council level. The meeting was to convince authorities to take action thus enabling political accountability for Districts.

A total number of 25 people from different Departments participated in the meeting and Mr. Abbas Kandoro Mbeya Regional Commissioner was Guest of honour. Political awareness was raised awareness at Regional level and beyond; and garner support from regional authorities in the fighting against malnutrition.

Regional leadership roles in raising the nutrition profile was outlined for them to see the crucial linkage they served with anticipated broader outcomes along the whole plane; thus creating an enabling environment where nutrition is prioritized, resources increased at district level and beyond.

As a step forward in the right direction the meeting resolved to set a budget for nutrition in each sector in all district councils, identify nutrition interventions in each sector by then (November 2015),

and also prepare an analysis of the nutrition interventions that reflect environmental and other challenges of the related area, and lastly provision of nutrition education in the RCC to leaders and other experts.

The RCC meeting was followed up by another meeting on 25th May 2016 with Mbeya city and Mbeya district council nutrition steering committee members seeking to increase their understanding on the impact of malnutrition, and the importance of increasing budget for nutrition interventions in the councils. Members of these committees resolved to organise a workshop to help increase nutrition understanding among the members for efficiency.

Nutrition becoming permanent agenda at all statutory and non-statutory meetings such as Regional Consultative Councils, District Consultative Council, Ward level and Village and also that nutrition to be included in the plans and budget for every council.



The Rio nutrition for Growth Summit 2016



PANITA secretariat Group Picture with Parliamentary Group on Nutrition, Food Security and Child Rights during the meeting held at Pius Msekwa Hall Dodoma on 08 June 2016.

The Rio Nutrition for Growth Summit is the Second-High Level Summit on Nutrition to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 4th of August 2016. It is the biggest global event between now and 2020 to address the devastating burden of undernutrition.

It is a call for action directed towards all government leaders and other key stakeholders to end all forms of malnutrition by urging countries to increase spending on nutrition. Expected to be held on the occasion of the Rio summer Olympic, it is being convened to bring together stakeholders including development partners, the business leaders, scientist, government and civil society to draw a significant financial commitment to reach more pregnant women and infants in a timely manner, with the appropriate nutrition and thereby reduce the absence of health, physical and mental growth of children and adolescent and the death of women and children from malnutrition.

A Similar meeting was held about three years ago on 8th June 2013, where world leaders including SUN countries came together at the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) event in London to sign a global compact that would prevent at least 20 million children from being stunted and save at least 1.7 million lives by 2020.

Carrying the theme "Nutrition for Growth", The Rio 2016 Summit will be the moment to evaluate progress made since 2013 and build on those commitments with the necessary financial support in order to ensure the ambition of the SDGs to end malnutrition in all its forms can be realised.

This commitment is reflected in the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact, which puts nutrition at the centre of the development agenda.

The signatories to the Compact have committed their political will and financial resources to work in partnership to accelerate progress towards achieving the World Health Assembly targets by 2025 and to end undernutrition within our lifetime. As an important step towards this, the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact outlines the following targets to be achieved by 2020:

- Ensure that at least 500 million pregnant women and children under two are reached with effective nutrition interventions.
- Prevent at least 20 million children under five from being stunted.
- Save at least 1.7m lives by reducing stunting, by increasing breastfeeding, and through the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition.

Situation in Tanzania

The Government of Tanzania reaffirms its commitment as outlined in the WHA global targets for 2025 for improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition which include the following:

- 40% reduction in the number of children under 5 who are stunted.
- 50% reduction of anaemia in women of reproductive age.
- 30% reduction in low birth weight.
- No increase in childhood obesity.
- Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50% and reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%.

In light of the declining levels of political commitment, Tanzania with a newly elected leadership, government, cabinet and parliamentarians, should seize this opportunity to strengthen the political momentum and reinforce its leadership role in the fight against undernutrition.

On 6th of May 2016, Civil Societies Organization under the umbrella of PANITA released a joint statement, one of the key objectives of which was to call for solid Government participation in the upcoming Rio summit and pledge for increased political commitment for sustainable leadership and provision of resources from its domestic sources; a necessary move for improved nutrition status of the country.



TALKING ACTIONS

PANITA Members Meet to Discuss Progress of Their Nutrition Interventions



PANITA Project Coordinator Lucy Maziku (Standing) teaching about food fortification to PANITA members attended Zonal review meeting Northern zone Arusha.

One of the forums used by PANITA to meet with its members is Zonal review meetings, in these meetings PANITA members meet and share different experiences and challenges in order to foster cross learning among members.

The main objective of these meetings are; to review the member's activities and have a bird eye view on progress, success and challenges to see that they are always in line with the PANITA Strategy. Also, to instil the Scaling Up Nutrition SUN approach in fighting malnutrition within their localities and capacity building of members on different nutrition issues, this year focus was on organizational governance and Food Fortification.

These meetings are organized in all PANITA zones; so far meetings have been conducted in 5 zones eastern zone, Northern zone, Central zone, Southern highlands zone, South Western highlands zones, where by a total of 91 Members attended these meetings.

The review meetings aimed at appraising the progress in implementation of planned activities outlined in the previous meetings and agreeing on a way forward for 2016.

Some of the activities reported to have been implemented by members included nutrition lobbying and advocacy within the districts, participation in the

meetings of the district level Multi-Sector Nutrition Steering Committees, media engagement to increase need for nutrition actions, raising community awareness on nutrition.

Other activities reported were establishment of demonstration gardens, processing of local food products, food fortification, sanitation and hygiene, school feeding programs gender equity, promotion of infant and young and child feeding practices.

Zonal review meetings go hand in hand with monitoring visits as part of supportive supervision to zonal coordinators and nutrition interventions of PANITA members. The visit provides an opportunity for secretariat staff to get a glimpse of member's nutrition activities and give suggestions for improvement.

PANITA will continue to visit its members as a means of strengthening the network.



PANITA team together with Maarifa ni Ufunguo staff during the Monitoring visit.

PANITA promoting excellence in reporting on nutrition

The Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) introduced the Journalist Excellence in Reporting on Nutrition Competition aimed at encouraging excellence in the observation and reporting of salient nutrition issues and how these issues impact on the national nutrition status thereby advocating for increased local resources as a more sustainable means to combating malnutrition in Tanzania.

With the above mentioned aim, the competition also has the main theme which is “Nutrition for Growth” A call to action on Malnutrition to all Government Leaders to attend on the coming Rio Nutrition for Growth Summit or other international pledging moments as they may evolve over time.

On this competition journalist are encouraged to: Examine existing practices and promote positive ones to scale up nutrition in Tanzania, Exhibit the cross sector response required to counter malnutrition, Highlight national and global efforts to increase local funding for scaling up nutrition, Identifies gender and Nutrition issues prevalent in communities, Clarify how nutrition and malnutrition affect early childhood development, Illustrate how nutrition

eventually impacts national development efforts including policies and strategies.

This competition is legible for any journalist to participate either employed or freelance. Criteria for the competitions are News worthiness, Accuracy of reporting based on evidence based finding, Quality reporting, Communicate and benefit to audience, Advocacy for practical local solutions, originality, ability to highlight the cross sector response required to scale up nutrition and significantly reduce malnutrition in Tanzania and accurate expose of existing geographical, traditional and cultural factors related to Malnutrition in Tanzania.

The prize to be offered is TZS One million Five hundred only plus Tablet for the winner, TZS one Million only plus Tablet for the first runner up and TZS Five hundred thousand only for the second runner up.

“PANITA has been engaging with Tanzania Association of Journalists on Children (TAJOC) and other journalists beyond this group. This Excellence in Reporting on Nutrition Competition is continuation of capacity building for journalist and continued advocacy for positive nutrition outcomes in Tanzania.”

Malnutrition still a threat in Tanzania

Where we stand as a Country

According to the SMART survey conducted in 2014, nutrition indices have shown some gains in Tanzania. Stunting has decreased from 42.0% in 2010 to 34.7% in 2014, acute malnutrition is maintained below 5% and underweight was at 13.4%, Figure 1.

On the same note, despite some progress in overall stunting reduction, population wise, basing on the children under five years of age: more than 2,700,000 children are stunted; about 435,000 children less than five years of age suffers from acute malnutrition including more than 105,000 severely acute malnourished. These children are at high risk of dying if they do not receive appropriate attention.

Also indicators of IYCF practices have not improved between 2010 and 2014 and coverage of Iron and folic acid supplementation during pregnancy has not shown significant improvement across the country.

The regional performance of nutrition shows mixed result where, there has been little improvement in some regions such as Dodoma, Arusha, Mbeya, however converse is true in regions like Kigoma and Kagera where there is increase in the levels of stunting.

Overall, only one region records stunting levels below 10%.

The Gap

There have been high level political will and commitment towards improving nutrition demonstrated through crafting and implementation of good policies and strategies. However, implementation of these policies and circulars particularly at lower levels has not been sufficiently achieved. To date, not all councils have put in place District nutrition steering committees and even those available their functionality is in question.

Further to this, the working environment for nutrition officers has not been necessarily conducive enough to maximize their impact. While the government has put in place the mechanism for planning and budgeting at district level the prioritization is still low. Only 0.22% of the national budget is being allocated for nutrition; this clearly indicates that resources are not trickling down to councils and communities at large for implementation of key nutrition interventions.

Lack of progress in translation and implantation national level policies, strategies, communiqués and circulars is partly attributed by lack of political accountability and regional level, given the highly devolved structure of the government in Tanzania. This is further linked to low level of understanding of long term impact of malnutrition among leaders and politician at regional and district level; and the community at large.

The hallmark of the above is reflected in the uneven and little or lack of progress to reduce malnutrition across different regions in the country, which is witnessed by the SMART Survey, 2014. Looking at stunting as key indicator for malnutrition; whereas in some parts of the country there is little improvement, such as Dodoma (56% in 2010 to 45% in 2014), Lindi (54% in 2010 to 37% 2014), and Arusha (43.9% in 2010 to 27% 2014) and Katavi (50.4% 2010 to 43% 2014); other parts has regressed or remain the same e.g. Kagera (43.6% in 2010 to 52% in 2014), Ruvuma (46.2% in 2010 to 49% in 2014).

Overall only two regions have stunting less than 20% (Dar Es Salaam and Kilimanjaro). Population wise, there is still over 2.7 Million children who are still stunted countrywide. Given the results above, there is still a lot to be done, particularly at sub-national level to improve the Nutrition situation in the country.

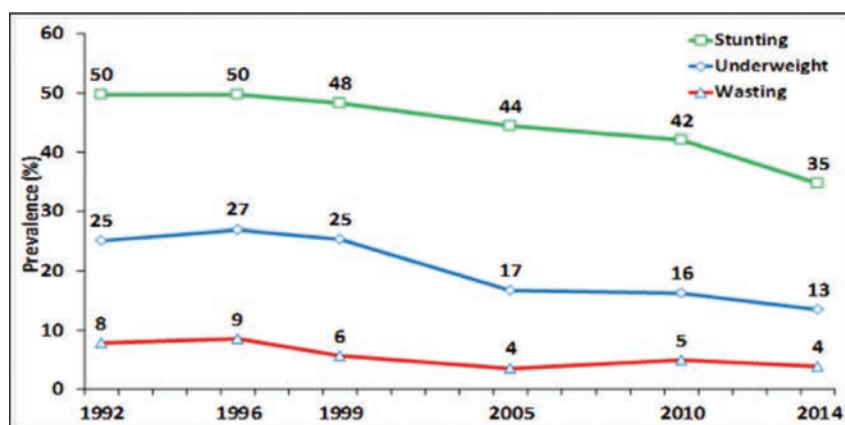


Fig. 1: Trends in nutritional status of children under five in Tanzania (SMART Survey 2014)

However, the preliminary result of recently released 2015/16 Tanzania Demographic and Household Survey shows that Stunting has dropped from 42% to 34%

Building Bridges

PANITA Strengthens Zonal coordination system

Zonal coordination is a very important function in implementing PANITA day to day activities. Thus it is imperative that, it becomes efficient and effective in its operations so as to positively contribute to overall goal of PANITA. By and large, Zonal coordinators are the bridge between PANITA headquarters and PANITA members within their zones. With over 306 members all over the country we believe that a strengthened zonal coordination system, PANITA will reach out to and serve the community more efficiently and effectively.

Putting together the different cogs of the wheel PANITA hopes to roll forward an improved Zonal Coordination system based on the following objectives:

- To enable the smooth running of PANITA's program activities at the zonal level.
- To enable smooth flow of information from PANITA headquarters to the members and from members to PANITA headquarters
- To reduce PANITA secretariat workload creating efficiency within the zones and in the linkage of activities. Zonal Coordinating CSOs and zonal coordinators from all zones were recruited through a rigorous recruitment procedures and we are happy to announce the following successful candidates:

To better equip the newly recruited with appropriate skills and instil the principles of leadership, a training package was developed comprising leadership concepts, facilitation and communication skills. These skills will go a long way towards organizing work with groups of people such as meetings, planning sessions, training of members, advocacy work in the community and fostering strategic relationships with other nutrition stakeholders in their respective zones.

All zonal coordinators then had a chance to meet share experiences, exchange notes and network at the Zonal coordinators meeting held in Feb 2016.

	Zone	Zonal Coordinating CSO	Zonal coordinator
1.	Southern Highlands	Afya Women Group	Thabit Msofe
2.	South Western Highlands	Community Economic Empowerment and Legal Support (CEELS)	Daniel Mtweve
3.	Western	Umoja Wa Wawezeshaji KIOO	Edward B Simon
4.	Eastern	The Centre for Counselling, Food and Nutrition (CECOFON)	Gaudensia Donati
5.	Central	NGO'S Network for Dodoma (NGONEDO)	Edward Mbogo
6.	Zanzibar	Pemba Rapid Development Organization (PRADO)	Abdul Karim Mussa
7.	Southern	Kikundi Mwavuli Mtwara (KIMWAM)	Fidea Ruanda
8.	East Lake	Mass Media Bariadi	Frank Kasamwa
9.	West Lake	HUHEO FOUNDATION	Juma Mwesigwa
10.	Northern Zone	Arusha Non-Governmental Organization Network (ANGONET)	Interim coordinator Peter Bayo

Zonal coordinators are the bridge between PANITA headquarters and PANITA members within their zones.

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Alliance in Tanzania

JOINT STATEMENT GIVEN BY THE CIVIL SOCIETIES ORGANISATION UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR NUTRITION IN TANZANIA (PANITA) ON 6TH APRIL 2016

The statement has been formally adopted during the 4th PANITA Annual General Meeting held on 5th April 2016 and officially released on 6th April 2016.

We PANITA Members recognize the efforts of the government of Tanzania in fighting malnutrition. The efforts having begun in the early 70's; supported by leadership commitment and the establishment of systems and structures which include but not limited to: Establishment of the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) in 1973 through act of parliament; the development of both short and long-term policies and strategies, including the Tanzania Development Vision 2015; Tanzania Poverty Reduction Strategy, Tanzania Food and Nutrition policy as well as the Tanzania Agricultural and Food Sector Policy, Agricultural Sector strategy, National Nutrition Strategy, and within the region, the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan. This commendable policy environment has contributed to gains in nutrition indices as substantiated by national nutrition survey 2014.

Within the global arena, Tanzania has actively participated in positive actions to reduce malnutrition exemplified by: Actively Participating in the global movements to fight malnutrition like Scaling up Nutrition (SUN); signing and implementing various international treaties such as Maputo and Malabo declarations, aiming to reduce malnutrition (stunting to 10%; underweight to 5%) and to end

hunger by 2025; endorsement of global targets such as World Health Assembly(WHA) targets for improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition by 2025 and there is strong commitment to monitoring progress. These targets included 40% reduction of stunting, 50% reduction of Anemia and 30% reduction of low birthweight by 2025.

The above mentioned efforts have so far contributed to reduction of Malnutrition as shown by key indicators from National nutrition survey 2014: Stunting from 48% in 1999 to 34.7% in 2014, underweight 25% in 1999 to 13% 2014 while wasting declined from 6% to 4% on the same period.

Despite the notable progress to fight malnutrition, still some challenges remain:

- Approximately, more than 2,700,000 children under five years of age are stunted in Tanzania in 2015. Out of the stunted children, 58% live in 10 regions; most of these regions are not benefiting from key nutrition interventions. About 435,000 children less than five years of age suffers from acute malnutrition including more than 105,000 severely acute malnourished. These children are at high risk of dying if they do not receive appropriate attention. Added to that indicators of Infant and young feeding (IYCF) practices have

not improved between 2010 and 2014

- Slow progress in nutrition spending compared to estimates as given by five year costed plan for National Nutrition Strategic plan (ending in 2016). For example according to PER Nutrition 2014, Tanzania spent about 0.022% of its national budget on interventions that are geared or specifically designed to improve nutrition in the country. Whereas, recent estimates show that spending has been approximately 30% of the National Nutrition costed plan by the end of 2015.
- Inadequate allocation and disbursement of funds approved for nutrition by government, as evidenced by PER Nutrition 2014; only 12.9% committed government funds was actually disbursed.
- Uncertainty, where High levels of political commitment in Tanzania is not guaranteed; as evident in the most recent Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (HANCI) report. Tanzania's ranking dropped from 7th in 2014 to 19th in 2015; the greatest drop for any country in the index. Additionally, the October election saw a key politician and nutrition veteran champions her seat in the current parliament.

On the same note, even for those children who make it past the age of 5, chronic malnutrition permanently impairs their physical and cognitive development. This means they will never reach their full potential. Poor nutrition perpetuates the cycle of poverty and impairs economic growth by impeding human productivity. It also costs the economy of developing countries as much as 2-16% of GDP each year. Specifically in 2014, it was estimated that Tanzania lost about TZS 800 billion from its GDP (approximately equivalent to 2.67% of its GDP) as result of malnutrition.

Important to note is that, currently the country is not on course to meet most of World health assembly (WHA) targets if the pace remains the same; the Global Nutrition report 2015 is testimony to this.

Now, as countries mobilize and march towards Rio for the Second Nutrition for Growth summit in August 2016; the Civil Societies

that are engaging under nutrition sector in Tanzania under the umbrella of PANITA, calls upon the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to do the following:

- To increase domestic spending on Nutrition interventions based on the estimated cost of \$8.5 per child to reach the WHA targets by 2025
- The Government to participate in the upcoming pledging fora (to be decided) for increased political commitment for sustainable leadership and provision of resources from its domestic sources as this is necessary for improved nutrition status of the country

It is our sincere hope that the fifth term Government under the strong leadership of the President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli and Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) motivated towards giving a voice to the voiceless, will without

fail hear the voiceless numbered by malnutrition, particularly the cries of 2.7 million children on the verge of malnutrition and take concrete actions; joining other great leaders and countries fighting this noble cause. We and our great leaders have to come together, join forces and be part of the global movement in fighting malnutrition.

We PANITA members, we remain committed to continue working for the voiceless 2.7 million children who succumb to malnutrition in their daily lives. This is reflected through our programs that aim to contribute towards improvement of the nutrition situation in the country. This commitment is attached with the larger domain of stakeholders; that are joining forces to fight malnutrition under the coordination of the government through Prime Ministers Office within the wider framework under the SUN movement that encompasses the multi-sectoral approach to fight malnutrition in Tanzania.



Graça Machel the founder of Graça Machel Trust speaking during the official release of the joint statement given by the civil societies organisations under the umbrella of (PANITA)

MOVING FORWARD »

PANITA Strategic plan (2015 — 2019)

PANITA five years strategic plan (2015-2019) is already finalized and approved by the BOD. Over the next five years, PANITA has come up with pragmatic strategies, as a platform for civil society organisation, to innovatively contribute to scaling up nutrition in Tanzania.

PANITA intend to contribute towards improving nutrition in Tanzania through activities that will be carried out by secretariat and the members. The secretariat will focus on advocacy, coordination, high level engagement with key stakeholders and facilitation of capacity building for members.

Secretariat will be assisted by Zonal coordinators in reaching the members. Members will be directly engaged with local authorities and implementation of both nutrition- specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions on the ground and contribute to multi-stakeholders forum at local level. PANITA five years strategic plan is accompanied with Three years

action plan and activity plan (2015-2017 and measurement framework (M&E Plan)-2015-2019

The overall goal of PANITA is that all Tanzanians attain adequate nutritional status for a healthy productive and reproductive nation.

To realize the stated goal, PANITA seeks to accomplish the following strategic aims:

Strategic Aim 1: Policy and practice changes that prioritize and increase resource allocation to nutrition at national, local and community levels are effectively influenced;

Strategic Aim 2: PANITA membership base is broad and members collaborate, learn from one another and network with other stakeholders;

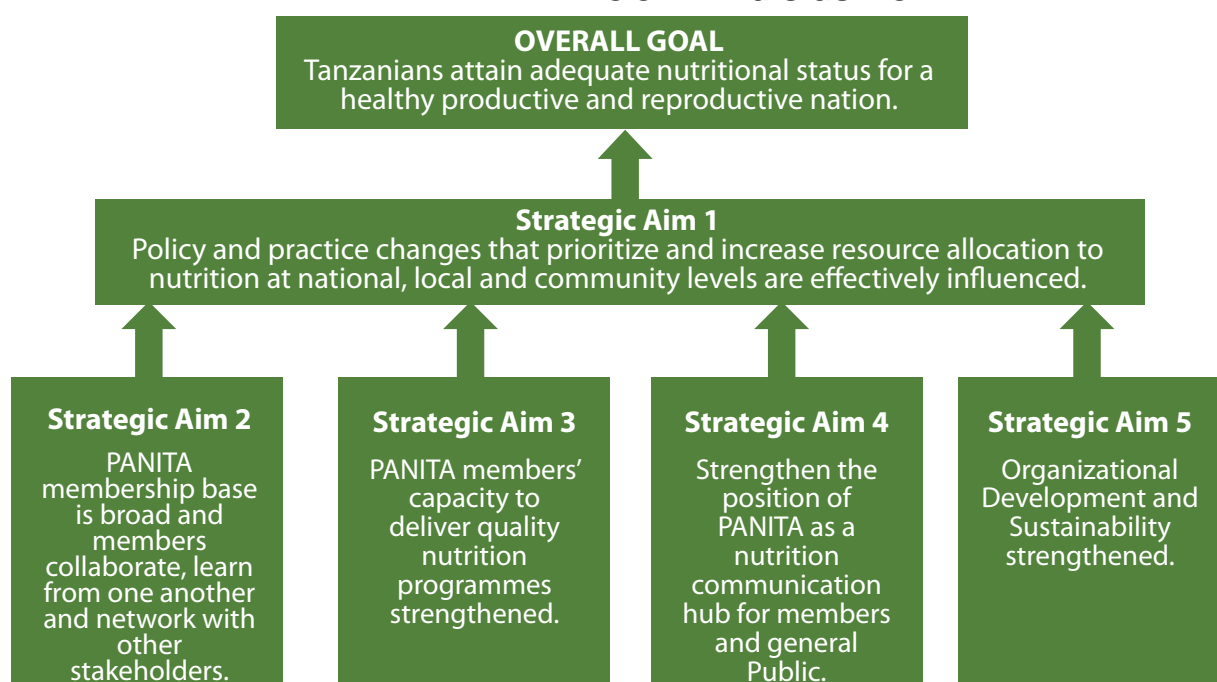
Strategic Aim 3: PANITA members' capacity to deliver quality nutrition programs strengthened;

Strategic Aim 4: Strengthen the position of PANITA as a nutrition communication hub for members and general Public

Strategic Aim 5: Organizational Development and Sustainability strengthened.

Over the next five years, PANITA has come up with pragmatic strategies, as a platform for civil society organisation, to innovatively contribute to scaling up nutrition in Tanzania

PANITA FIVE YEARS STRATEGIC GOALS



Changing for the better

“A PANITA member successful exclusive breastfeeding Story”

Zalia Seif is a resident of Chienjere village in Ruangwa District. She is one of the mothers attending the practical Positive Deviancy (*mchepuo chanya*) sessions and was taught about the importance of exclusive breastfeeding. She confessed that no woman in her entire family ever practiced exclusive breastfeeding, this is due to the fact that women in the community believed that if a child is crying regularly is an indication of hunger which shows that breast milk is not enough and extra food was needed.

Zalia is among the lucky women, she got information about exclusive breastfeeding soon after she gave birth to her child and was invited to join the Mother to Mother Support Group.

She is testifying that the support received from her fellow mothers and the knowledge from Positive Deviancy sessions, helped her to breastfeed her child for all six months without giving anything “even water”. She is now happy, confident and willing to educate other women on possibility of exclusive breast milk, starting with her own relatives who failed to breast feed their children including her own mother.

“it is possible to exclusively breast feed even if you’re away from home for some hours, all you do is expressing the breast milk and leave it to the care giver” She added

On the 5th day of the session, Zalia invited her mother, the grandmother and a care giver to her child to attend the session so

that she can also learn. Knowledge to grandmothers is important because older women in their community are the ones who decide when to initiate complementary feeding. Zalia believed that if her mother is educated she will support her in exclusive breast feeding and educate other women in the family and eventually the whole community.

The grandmother attended the session she was very happy to get new knowledge, her grandchild was 2 months old and promised to support exclusive breast feeding for the first six months. *“I am very happy to get the lesson on exclusive breast feeding and preparation of some food for children, my grandchild will be raised in appropriate way and I will support my daughter during the whole period of breast feeding”* The grandmother said.



Zalia Seif breast feeding her child during the session of Positive Deviancy Health

“ I am very happy for the lesson on exclusive breast feeding and preparation of food for children. My grandchild will be raised in appropriate way and I will support my daughter during the whole period of breast feeding ”

Zalia's grand mother



Zalia, her mother and other participants during the session.

Pictures: Ruangwa Organization for Poverty Alleviation (ROPA) Ruangwa, Lindi (2016)

Nutrition Success Story from PANITA Member Afya Women Group - MUFINDI-IRINGA

A fya Women Group in joint supervision with district nutrition officer and TAHEA managed to capture a success story from Rungemba ward at Kitelewasu village where they identified two children with Severe Acute Malnutrition. These Most Vulnerable Children are twins and their names are Aron and Anton Chaula, Aron was found with

Severe Acute Malnutrition while Anton was found with Moderate Acute Malnutrition.

They were discovered two weeks soon after being discharged from Mafinga Hospital. Afya women group together with the team initiated a number of intervention to those children with malnutrition purposely for nutritional improvement.

Identified patients were referred to District hospital for further treatment and close follow up through our community volunteers by making sure that they use provided plump nuts and nutrition milk given from hospital. Four months of treatment and close follow up resulted to improvement health status of children as seen on the picture below.

Before



After



The first photo shows Volunteer checking for malnutrition to the patient Aron and Anton by using MUAC Tape. The second photo shows A health smile of Aron and Anton together with their mother after treatment.

WHA 2025 TARGETS

In May 2012, the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted a resolution on maternal, infant and young child nutrition that included six global targets to reduce the high burden of disease associated with malnutrition, particularly during the critical period from conception to 24 months of age.

The first target addresses the scourge of stunting and aims to reduce by 40% the number of stunted children under 5 years of age in 2025 (WHO 2012).

- 40% reduction in the number of children under 5 who are stunted.
- 50% reduction of anaemia in women of reproductive age.
- 30% reduction in low birth weight.
- There will be no increase in childhood overweight.
- We will increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50%.
- Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%.

These are guiding blocks, but countries could do more, to end all forms of malnutrition alongside other initiatives such as Sustainable Development goals (SDG) and Rome frame work for action. These are all embraced within the declaration by United Nations that this is a **decade** of action for nutrition. Let's embrace this moment to make **positive** changes in the health status of Mothers and Children".

WHA Nutrition Targets



40% REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER-5 WHO ARE STUNTED



NO INCREASE IN CHILDHOOD VERWEIGHT



50% REDUCTION OF ANAEMIA IN WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE



INCREASE THE RATE OF EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING IN THE FIRST 6 MONTHS UP TO AT LEAST 50%



30% REDUCTION IN LOW BIRTH WEIGHT



REDUCE AND MAINTAIN CHILDHOOD WASTING TO LESS THAN 5%

- Adopted at the 65th World Health Assembly in 2012
- To be achieved by 2025
- Current WHO proposal to extend the targets to 2030 to harmonize with the SDGs

PANITA Members Initiatives



1

*KILIMO BILA SHAMBA -
Nyakitonto Youth
Development
Tanzania (NYDT)
PANITA Member
Kigoma*



2

*Masive sunflower
oil fortified with
VITAMIN A. The
Voice of Marginalized
Community
(TVMC) – PANITA
Member Shinyanga.*

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