



PANITA CAPABILITY STATEMENT | NUTRITION

1.0 ORGANIZATION CAPACITY

PANITA – Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania - is a coalition of CSOs and INGOs across the country dedicated to building the political and public-will, commitment and support to end malnutrition in Tanzania. Besides members are engaging both specific and sensitive nutrition interventions at their localities. Sensitive sectors include but not limited to: Agriculture, Education, Health, Community Development, Gender, WASH, Livestock and fisheries etc.

Established in 2010 and registered as an independent organization in 2013; with functional board of Directors to date. This was possible through technical and financial support from Irish Aid, UNICEF and Save the Children. PANITA is governed by Board of Directors which is composed of seven members who are elected by CSOs members; this is a diverse team of individuals, led by the Board Chair Dr. Rose Rita Kingamkono (PhD Nutrition), the former Chief of Party - Land O' Lakes Tanzania a USAID funded project "Innovation Equality to Promote Household Food Security". Other members of the Board are high-profile individuals such as: Ms. Frida Lekey (BBA-Accounting, MBA- Finance), Country Funding Coordinator- Benjamin Mkapa Foundation-Tanzania; Joyce Kinabo Professor of Human Nutrition- Sokoine University of Agriculture - (SUA); Mr. Joseph Mugyabuso (BSc, MSc- Nutrition; MBA), Nutrition Advisor IMA World Health; Mr. Abubakar Mohammed Ali (MSc. Agriculture), The Executive Director for Zanzibar Clove Producers Organisation – ZACPO and Mr. Tumaini Mikindo (MPH, MSc, BPh), PANITA Executive Director and secretary to the Board. All board members are independent, voting members except for PANITA Executive Director.

The mission of PANITA to advance advocacy efforts, improve coordination and reduce malnutrition by strengthening the capacity and increased mobilization and coordination of the CSOs, the media and other key partners to facilitate a more effective national and local response to addressing malnutrition.

Since its inception PANITA, has undergone extensive institutional capacity strengthening; with specific emphasis on the secretariat to support both programmatic and organizational aspects of the network. PANITA as a platform with full time secretariat has been working to provide coordination and technical support, sharing of information, learning space and synergy on nutrition advocacy both at national and sub national level. Overall, PANITA has been able to establish and maintain a functional and vibrant national civil society platform of over 300 members; with diverse nature and geographical location; that facilitate exchange of information, advocate for policy improvement and foster a dialogue on strategic nutrition issues in Tanzania. Moreover it has been able to build capacity of civil society organizations



(CSOs) in the areas of: Message Development & Advocacy; Quality Planning and implementation of Nutrition intervention; Resource mobilization; Consolidation of information and learning from the grass root; and relay feedback related to nutrition to the national and international fora.

2.0 EXPERTISE AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN NUTRITION

PANITA has been representing members and spearheading advocacy activities both at the local and central government levels through fora such as: the High Level Steering Committee for Nutrition, Joint Multi-sectoral Nutrition Annual Review Meeting (JMNR), the Technical Working Group for Nutrition and Development Partners Group on Nutrition (DPG-N). At the sub-national level, PANITA members are becoming more vocal, participating in the regional and district nutrition steering committee meetings. This has resulted in increased budgetary allocation by the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) for nutrition activities. Moreover, PANITA has helped build the capacity of member CSOs and has disseminated nutrition sensitive communications products to members.

There has been an increased global branding and expanded involvement of PANITA as institution and of its senior officials in SUN movement structure and initiatives (e.g. Executive Director being the member of SUN Executive Committee & SUN Global Civil Society oversight committee and PANITA is a learning model CSA for growth and sustainability path of CSA respectively). PANITA with CSO platform from PERU have been taken as model CSO platforms under SUN for learning

Importantly, the Platform has been successful in engaging with the political machinery of the country; by creating an advocates' group of parliamentarians as nutrition champions advocating for more domestic resources for nutrition. Other achievements that PANITA has been advocating for include: inclusion of Nutrition as key component of Country Five years Development plan (2016-2020); Awareness on nutrition among decision makers is increasing e.g. Speech of Finance and Planning Minister at 2016 World Bank Human capital Summit; Circular to councils to allocation of 1,000Tshs per under five for Nutrition (all sectors); Participate in preparation of Nutrition Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP); Government commitment to Allocation \$1115 Million for the MNNAP- From its own sources at the World Bank Human Capital Summit; Increased Nutrition Reporting on Media-Feature articles.



3.0 PROJECTS

3.1 Addressing Stunting in Tanzania Early (ASTUTE)-Department for International Development (DFID) 2016 -2020

ASTUTE is the five years project funded by the UK Government through Department for International Development (DFID) is implemented by Consortium of IMA World Health, The Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA), Cornell University Division of Nutrition Science and Development Media International (DMI) in five regions of Mwanza, Shinyanga, Geita, Kagera and Kigoma. The project aiming at improving early childhood development and reduce the prevalence of stunting (low height for age) among Tanzanian children aged less than 5 years, with focus on the first 1000 days of life from conception. ASTUTE aims to train approximately 3600 government staff by 2020 and these include district nutritionists, community health workers, agriculture extension agents, community development officers and health facility workers. PANITA's roles include but not limited to: Advocating for enabling environment that will allow multi stakeholders inclusivity and accountability within the wider framework of the National Multi-sectorial Nutrition Action (NMNAP), development of Terms of References and selection of CSOs for the project activities following rigorous application procedures; strengthening the capacity of 50 Civil Society Organizations, (PANITA members) in their ability to deliver integrated interventions that make a difference in the lives of women and children in the project area; CSO capacity assesment, Coordination, and provision of supportive supervision to CSOs; and conduct project monitoring. The roles of CSOs on the other hand include: establishment and development of support groups to help families identify barriers to behaviour change and to negotiate small, doable actions; Increasing household food security and food diversity by promoting homestead food production in order to make nutritious foods available to women and children; and participation in Multisectoral Nutrition Steering Committee at Regional and Council Level to ensure that the Nutrition agenda are being implemented at the subnational level.

3.2 Reducing Malnutrition through Advocacy and Coordination (ReMAC)- Irish Aid (2015-17)

Reducing Malnutrition through Advocacy and Coordination (ReMAC) is a two years project funded by Irish Aid. The project addressing the advocacy at higher and Subnational levels, coordination of member's nutrition activities and to create enabling environment for improved nutrition focusing at advance efforts aiming at improving the nutrition situation in Tanzania.

PANITA advance advocacy efforts through effective participation in nutrition Mult-stakeholders fora, worked with key and influential groups, such as politicians, government leaders and



religious leaders and enhance effective participation of PANITA members in District nutrition steering Committees. Support PANITA's institution structures for efficient and effective management of core operations and members' affairs exemplified in Improved good working interactions between Secretariat, zonal coordinators and Members; designed data collection system, which has become instrumental in coordination of information from members, sharing on the best practices, innovations and success stories among members, the gathered information inform the overall contribution of CSOs at national level as well.

Strengthen the position of PANITA as a nutrition communication hub for member and general public resulted in collection of relevant publications, surveys on nutrition and review papers; The launch of PANITA newsletter "Lishe News" which contains various information and activities from the secretariat, member's activities and other nutrition stakeholders; PANITA Facebook page [PANITA-Partnership-for-Nutrition-in-Tanzania](#) has been active. PANITA twitter account [panita_tz](#) for posting different information to share information with both local and international arenas and therefore position PANITA to the global world; PANITA [YouTube NutritionTZ](#) where different videos of PANITA activities and members activities being posted; PANITA's website [www.panita.or.tz](#) now has a new look, not just appearance but now it's more user-friendly, improved functionality, features and information.

The project has been just completed Sept 2017 and yet to be evaluated; however, it has great impact in strengthening the network it is seen today. It has galvanized the member base and make it the bedrock for implementing other projects such as ASTUTE etc.

3.3 Working together for Better Nutrition in Tanzania - Irish Aid (2012 -13)

Irish Aid funded project was implemented through Save the Children Tanzania from 2011 -2013, aimed at mobilizing civil societies to support Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) in Tanzania and strengthen the impact of advocacy in reduction of malnutrition. The following were the results of this project: Nutrition Partnership was fully formalized and registered in 2013; Development and implementation of advocacy strategy; Media arm of the Partnership established providing critical support to the advocacy work of the Partnership; 35 MPs become "Nutrition Champions", supporting advocacy work and influencing policy developments at national and regional level; Partnership's capacity to influence nutrition planning, budgeting and practice at district level is increased.



3.4 Support PANITA for Reduction of Hunger & Malnutrition in Tanzania (SuPREM)-USAID (Jan -Dec2016)

This was a one year project supported by *USAID through US Alliance to End Hunger under the National Alliance Against Hunger (NAPP)*. PANITA /NAPP SuPREM project was designed to strengthen the organizational, operational, and financial capacity of the Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) to effectively influence food security and nutrition policy processes. Results of this project are as follows, the secretariat staff and zonal coordinators have become more active and the board is more engaged; Operationalization of the PANITA structure was made possible through hiring the Administration and Operations Officer which enhanced the internal control systems; PANITA has improved its financial management capacity, especially in compliance in accordance to the defined policies and procedures; A comprehensive work-plan, monitoring and evaluation plan with systematic data collection mechanisms, and member's involvement mechanisms are in place; Enhanced database and e-filing system has helped the platform to perform timely analysis and to understand country wide distribution of the membership; During the NAPP period, 56 strategic members were recruited in the platform and for systematic engagement of the platform in advocacy, an advocacy strategy was developed.

3.5 Civil Society Engagement: Nutrition for Growth Advocacy Initiative in Tanzania (Engage plus), New Venture Fund – USA (Jan -Dec 2016)

PANITA successfully completed a one year project, funded by New Venture Fund, through a grant from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The project aimed at influencing government of Tanzania to reaffirm its political will and commitment to reduce malnutrition based on 2025 WHA targets and increase country domestic spending on nutrition sector based on national coasted implementation plan for National Nutrition strategy by 2016. As the result of this project, during the 2016 Human Capital Summit with a theme of "Investing in the Early Years for Growth and Productivity" organised by World Bank Group; Tanzanian government through the Minister of Finance and planning honourable Philip Mpango (MP); This is the first time Ministry of Finance made a commitment of this size and 115 Million US dollars were committed to support the National Multi Sectorial Nutrition Action Plan 2016 – 2021. Towards Financial Year 2017/18 Tanzania Government through the ministry of Finance has issued the directives to each Regional Secretariat (RS) to budget 10m per number of councils, and each Councils should budget TShs 1000/= as per under five population for nutrition interventions at Council level. To date the parliament has approved 11 Billion TZS as a result of this initiative for fiscal year 2017/18.



3.6 Strengthening Evidence-based Policy - Institute of Development Studies (IDS) University of Sussex UK (2013-2015)

The Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) has worked with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in a program titled 'Strengthening Evidence-based Policy', funded via an accountable grant from the Policy Division of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). The grant contributes to improving the lives of the poorest by expanding evidence-based knowledge, policy options and guidance in six thematic areas and working on three cross-cutting issues. This work falls under the Reducing Hunger and Under-nutrition theme of the program and is specifically linked to Better Metrics through the work on Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (HANCI).

This work was built on the previous work with Save the Children and PANITA on primary evidence gathering and sharing HANCI with the PANITA membership and the Parliamentary Group for Nutrition, Child Rights and Food Security. The work aimed to make HANCI data meaningfully accessible to Tanzania audiences and highlight opportunities for the Index to positively contribute to domestic policy driven advocacy which fosters evidence based dialogue. HANCI also sets out to learn from and document ongoing experience of PANITA members using the Index for country-level advocacy purposes and share learning from Tanzania to inform and support networks and stakeholders in other HANCI countries in their advocacy work. As a result of this work, all political parties that participated in the 2015 general elections including the winning party incorporated nutrition agenda in their manifestos, we believe that the on-going initiative of the government on nutrition is the implementation of its manifesto.

3.7 Sub national Advocacy Initiatives - Graça Machel Trust (GMT) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) 2015-2017

The initiative aimed at Improving awareness and coordination among different sectors that are related to nutrition; build close working relationship with Region leadership and government officials at regional and District level with aim of accelerating the translating the political will and engagement at all levels; To create political accountability on nutrition at subnational level; To raise political awareness and enabling environment for nutrition actor at subnational. PANITA with support from Graça Machel Trust (GMT) and CRS conducted advocacy initiatives to government and political officials in Katavi, Rukwa, Mbeya, Njombe and Ruvuma regions. Resulted in: Galvanized political base in support for improved nutrition; Contributed to improved coherence and functionality of nutrition steering committees; increased understanding and commitment from technical experts from other sectors such as Water, Planning, Agriculture, fisheries in support for nutrition; Catalyzed process for creation of



nutrition champions at local level; and increased awareness and accountability to leaders and technocrats on nutrition.

3.8 Pilot Project- Evidence Based District Level Advocacy - Adaptation of the HANCI scorecard for district level in Kigoma and Morogoro District-Institute of Development Studies (2016)

The Institute of Development Studies and PANITA in collaboration with a researcher at Sokoine University of Agriculture worked to develop potential indicators of political commitment to reducing hunger and under nutrition at the district level in Tanzania. These indicators were developed and validated by key members of the District Councils and local civil society in Kigoma and Morogoro. The project had the following objectives: Convene stakeholders across sectors, departments at Council level and demonstrate the multisectorality of nutrition; To foster dialogue between administrations, political leaders, civil society and communities; Enable monitoring by and of governments' efforts to alleviate, and malnutrition outcomes over time and Support accountability, necessary for delivering the visions set out in international commitments, national nutrition strategies, policies and programs. The roles of PANITA were: To spearhead technical stakeholders consultative meeting for thematic indicators development process; Participated in development of draft score card; led data collection process; facilitated indicator validation meeting; organized stakeholders and facilitated indicator harmonization workshop involving the Government, UN agencies, Development Partners and other nutrition stakeholders and overall project management. Following this consultation about 50% of the proposed indicators were incorporated and sharpened the national District nutrition score card.