

Small Grant Application Form

Scaling Up Nutrition Movement Pooled Fund SUN Grants Window 1 Cycle 4: Continuation Grants

Reference: SUN_Grants_2020_001

For any assistance needed in the process to develop and submit your proposal, please contact early in the process the SUN Civil Society Network Global Focal Point and your SUN Civil Society Network Regional Focal Point:

- **Global Focal Point:** Andy Rooke – a.rooke@savethechildren.org.uk
- **Asia:** Irshad Danish – idanish@NUTRITIONINTL.ORG
- **East & Southern Africa:** Christine Muyama – ChristineM@gracamacheltrust.org
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- **Latin America & The Caribbean:** John Edward Aguilar Cativo – monitoreoygestion@calma.org.sv

For questions and clarifications related to the call for proposal, please contact SUNgrants@unops.org before **09 August 2020**.

A. Organisational Details

(Note: you are required to complete this section only when the information provided during the previous application under Window 1 Cycle 1 or Cycle 2 calls has changed. Otherwise, please write “no change”).

1	Name of SUN Country	Namibia
2	What is your UN Language Preference?	English
3	Name of applying organization, on behalf of national civil society alliance	Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia (NAFSAN) It was previously: Synergos Trust Namibia, which had served as the Secretariat to NAFIN (Namibia’s old MSP, which is being resolved)
4	Mailing address	PO Box 40723 Ausspannplatz Windhoek, Namibia
5	Office Telephone Number	+264 – 81 - 2294803
6	Email Address	info@nafsan.org
7	Website Address (If applicable)	www.nafsan.org
8	Contact Person, Title	Mr Ben Schernick – Director of the NAFSAN Secretariat
9	Contact Person, E-mail address	info@nafsan.org or ben@ccchange.net
10	Contact Person, Phone number	+264 – 81 - 2294803

11	Grant Recipient under SUN Pooled Fund Window 1 Call (Yes/No)	YES + see answer to no. 3 above.
12	Legal status of organization <i>Examples:</i> <i>-Non-profit/non-governmental organisation),</i> <i>-National government entity</i> <i>-Local government entity</i> <i>-Media</i> <i>-Educational institution</i> <i>-Tribal entity</i> <i>-Research institution</i> <i>-International non-governmental organization</i> <i>-Community Association</i> <i>-Other (Please Specify)</i>	Non-profit/non-government organization = 'Voluntary Organization' (purely not-for-profit) under Namibian Common Law
13	Registration Number (or equivalent if available)	D/2020/0871
14	Tax ID Number (if applicable)	n/a

B. Scope of Work (This section should not exceed 3 pages)

Statement of need: Briefly describe the underlying priorities in your current national context, your civil society alliance’s objectives by the end of 2021, and why you/your country should be prioritized through this small grant support (September- June 2021) (**Please refer to the Information Note, sections “Background” and “Evaluation criteria”**)

Malnutrition in Namibia, the second most unequal society in the world¹, is a severe challenge.

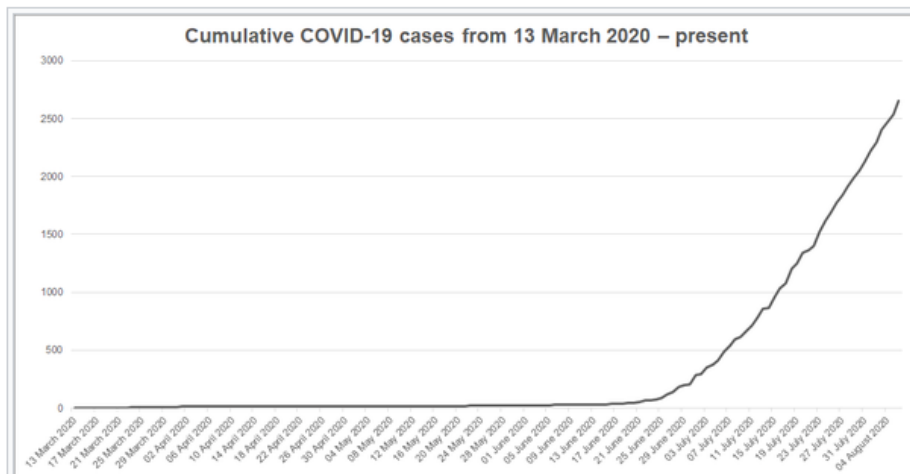
Back in 2018, an ongoing economic recession escalated into a depression. At the same time, Namibia experienced one of the worst droughts in its history, with provisional crop harvest being almost 50% below the 20-year average production.²

Poverty levels among its population of ± 2.5 million people remain disproportionately high and over a third of the population is unemployed. This particularly affects the youth with 46,1% under 35 years and 59.9% under 25 years being without employment³, while its original inhabitants, the San people, are among the most marginalized and most vulnerable to malnutrition and hunger.

All of this was already the reality prior to COVID-19 and had serious implications for people’s health and lives. These were painful symptoms of huge societal inequalities, as well as of a clear lack of proper nutrition education, awareness, and self-sufficiency in terms of food security. On its own, Namibia only produces 40% of the food it consumes and is highly dependent on imports and vulnerable to price fluctuations⁴. Now, COVID-19 significantly worsened these susceptibilities, with some shortages of food and medicine already having been experienced during 2020.

When the first cases of COVID-19 were recorded in Namibia in March 2020, the country went into lockdown. Unfortunately, this merely delayed the first wave, which is currently about to hit the country this month (August 2020 – see graphic below) and is expected to peak in September.

Cumulative confirmed cases



A graph showing the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in Namibia since initial day of infection. As of 6 August 2020.

*Graphic 1:
Confirmed cases
of COVID-19 in
Namibia*

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_in_Namibia

¹ Right after South Africa, according to latest *World Bank* data: <http://povertydata.worldbank.org/poverty/home>

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/namibia/overview>

³ Namibia Statistics Agency: *Namibia Labour Force Survey 2018* (p. 79) - <https://nsa.org.na/page/publications>

⁴ World Food Programme’s Country Website: www.wfp.org/countries/namibia

Initial and ongoing lockdown measures also sent the already ailing economy into steep decline and cost thousands their jobs. This particularly hurt those who already didn't earn much and who had no savings, most of which are among the 25% of the population who can only afford to live in shacks in one of Namibia's urban and semi-urban informal settlements.

Fortunately, countless initiatives from companies and committed individuals⁵ across the country started collecting and distributing food to those in need, resulting in a wave of solidarity and a growing awareness about already existing inequalities and about nutrition, food safety and security.

This also coincided with government's efforts over the last few years to revive its multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder *Food and Nutrition Security Coordination Structures* alongside a revised *Food and Nutrition Security Policy* and accompanying *Implementation Action Plan*. Just this week, on 6th August, a high-level national stakeholder workshop with all relevant Cabinet Ministers, Executive Directors and all Regional Governors and Chief Regional Officers took place, which not only gave a general go-ahead, but also indicated that there is strong commitment, political will and momentum in Namibia to become more active around food and nutrition security. It was also emphasized that collaboration with NAFSAN as CSA (incl. academia and private sector) is highly appreciated.

Among the specific issues discussed was backyard gardening and food production in urban and semi-urban areas, where much more needs to be done - especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic - to not only increase people's access to affordable food but to also change eating habits towards more fruit and vegetables to ensure more balanced diets and stronger immune systems.

In terms of pro-actively responding to COVID-19, NAFSAN supported the Namibian government as early as April 2020. In collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and Social Services, NAFSAN adapted existing and almost forgotten national nutrition guidelines within the context of COVID-19, and designed posters and flyers on *Nutrition and Food Safety during COVID-19*, which were translated in 12 local languages and then distributed in all 14 regions - www.nafsan.org/covid-19-response. Government also includes NAFSAN in its communication strategies on COVID-19, e.g. through the established COVID-19 Communication Centre where NAFSAN was already invited twice to speak about '*Nutrition during COVID-19*' on 27 April and again on '*Nutrition and the Human Immune System during COVID-19*' this week, on 7 August.

This project would therefore present a timely and crucial opportunity to make a significant impact for people living in informal settlements and for Namibia's food security in general. Furthermore, it would support and demonstrate in very practical ways the functionality, effectiveness, inclusiveness innovativeness of Namibia's CSA. This specific project and its future scaling up in various regions (sub-national levels) would also serve as a very good and highly practical example and case study for Namibia's 'newborn' MSP on how Government and CSA/CSOs can successfully collaborate. In addition to this project's focus on urban and semi-urban gardens, other members of NAFSAN already do great work in rural areas⁶. They will benefit from and can help in any future collaboration.

Lastly, this project will further help to ensure longer-term resilience and sustainability for NAFSAN as Namibia's CSA, especially when sharing experiences with CSAs in other country contexts who had or have similar projects involving community gardens and/or urban permaculture, and how to combine such projects with training, awareness raising and behavior change around nutrition, food safety and food security in the context of COVID-19 and beyond.

Description of project activities: Describe the activities you are proposing to implement by including the following aspects;

1. Key activities with rationale; if applicable, how are these activities articulated with the national multisectoral multi-stakeholder nutrition plan, COVID-19 response plan or other relevant collaboration framework? Expected results;
2. Partners;
3. Expected follow-up after the Pooled Fund Small grant expires (see section "sustainability").

⁵ Such as Co-Feed Namibia: <https://www.facebook.com/cofeednam>

⁶ <https://dapp-namibia.org/our-projects/community-development/farmers-clubs> & www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LowDe9OvA4

In practical support of Namibia's COVID-19 response, NAFSAN will enable three of its members, the Eloo Permaculture Initiative (EPI - www.eloolopermaculture.com) in collaboration with the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN - <https://sdfn.weebly.com>) and the Namibian Housing Action Group (NHAG)⁷ to develop a holistic, sustainable and scalable approach to combining urban permaculture gardening in informal settlements with practical nutrition and food safety training.

Technical support will hereby be provided by two other members of the CSA, namely the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST – www.nust.na) and the University of Namibia (UNAM - www.unam.edu.na).

During planning, implementation and evaluation of activities, NAFSAN and EPI, SDFN and NHAG will liaise closely with both the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR - www.mawf.gov.na) and Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS - www.mhss.gov.na/home) as well as other relevant government offices, agencies and ministries, particularly local authorities.

Regular feedback will also be provided to the new MSP, which will play a key role in future scaling-up, because this project and its future application directly relates to the following strategies within the soon to be approved **Implementation Action Plan** of Namibia's newly revised **Food and Nutrition Security Policy**:

Strategy 2.1 - Strengthened local production of safe and nutritious foods especially by smallholders' farmers

Strategy 2.2 - Improved physical and economic access to safe and nutritious foods at household levels

Strategy 2.5 - Strengthened the resilience capacity of households to various shocks

Strategy 2.6 - Agricultural approaches that mitigate the negative impact on nutrition promoted

Strategy 3.4 - Enhance women empowerment for improved nutrition status of households' members and communities

...as well as less directly, yet still in very relevant ways:

Strategy 1.6 - Over-nutrition and related non-communicable diseases prevented and managed

Strategy 4.3 - Enhanced national interest and commitment to improving Food and Nutrition Security programmes through functional advocacy, communication, social mobilization plan

Strategy 5.1 - Enhanced sustained commitment, governance and resources

Background:

25% of all Namibians or 140,000 households are estimated to live in Informal Settlements, and with current trends of rapid urbanization this number is going to significantly increase in the next few years. COVID-19 and its socio-economic impact had particularly devastating effects on people in informal settlements, increasing the already high levels of hunger and malnutrition in the country. Not only access to food but also having sufficient knowledge about nutrition and healthy diets to strengthen one's immune system are a huge challenge now and for months and years to come.

In 2019, EPI and SFDN/NHAG already started collaborating on initial permaculture home gardening projects in informal settlements with visible successes on a small scale, and with very positive response from especially young female community members, who proved to be most committed.

After developing the '*Nutrition and Food Safety during COVID-19*' brochures and posters⁸ in June 2020, NAFSAN was invited by SFDN/NHAG to a site visit and a community meeting in the Havana informal settlement in Windhoek, where community members expressed a clear need for nutrition information alongside the permaculture home-gardening initiative that was recently initiated in that particular area. In response, NAFSAN and UNAM developed a draft 4-hour (½-day) practical and participatory training which corresponds with information contained in the '*Nutrition and Food Safety during COVID-19*' brochures/flyers and posters.

⁷ <https://knowyourcity.info/2020/04/namibian-federation-namibian-housing-action-group-responses-covid-19>

⁸ All posters and brochures, available in 12 different Namibian languages: www.nafsan.org/covid-19-response

The following approach builds on the above experiences and is in direct response to the current challenges, aiming at providing holistic and sustainable solutions for extremely vulnerable populations in Namibia's informal settlements.

Approach:

Phase 1 – Preparations

September 2020

- ✓ Stakeholder meetings to introduce, inform about and fine-tune the project's approach.
- ✓ Development of ½-day participatory training (incl. mini-manual) on nutrition.
- ✓ Training-of-Trainers for ± 20 committed community youth and students, i.e. nutrition students from NUST and food science and education students from UNAM.
± 1.5 days, by *Charlotte Keyter (NAFSAN/UNAM) and Ben Schernick (NAFSAN)*
- ✓ Identify exact cluster on site and get consent from community leaders for the project's pilot in the 'Sonderwater' informal settlement in Windhoek (Katutura East).

Phase 2 – Pilot

October - December 2020

- ✓ Implement first combined series of activities in Sonderwater (= one 'cycle'):
 - 1) First site visit at a cluster of nearby dwellings, and engage with interested members of 12-16 households, to conduct an **initial permaculture assessment** of different houses and backyards and to then divide households in small groups.
± 4 hours, by *2x Permaculture Experts (EPI) and 4 juniors/mentees*
 - 2) **On-site nutrition training** for ± 20 involved community members to provide knowledge, skills and additional motivation for home-gardening.
± 4 hours, by *trained youth/students, with mentoring by NAFSAN as needed*
 - 3) **Garden development** and hands-on training in small groups (4-6 people), i.e. 3 small groups, 3 follow-up sessions for each group, so that all households in each group will have developed their own permaculture home-garden.
± 4 hours each, by *2x Permaculture Experts (EPI) and 4 juniors/mentees*
- ✓ Audio-visual documentation of activities (photos, videos, interviews etc.)
- ✓ Evaluation of and reflection on implementation during the pilot, integration of lessons learned, and adaptation of approach for future roll-out of activities (= complete cycles).
- ✓ Jointly identify (together with SDFN/NHAG) clusters in specific communities for future implementation of the adapted approach (± 2-3 month each cycle/community).

Phase 3 – Implementation (3 Cycles/Communities)

January – May 2021

- ✓ Conduct three (3) full cycles of activities (as described above) in identified communities, with all activities being monitored and documented (photos, videos, interviews).
Only one permaculture expert will be involved in the garden development phase in small groups, while the juniors/mentees will play a more and more leading role in order to build capacity for future scaling up of this approach in other regions.

Phase 4 – Evaluation & Closure

June 2021

- ✓ Complete audio-visual documentation and evaluation of successes + lessons learned
- ✓ Stakeholder meetings to discuss ways of and funding for scaling-up similar activities in many more informal settlements in urban and semi-urban areas in other regions
- ✓ Final narrative and financial report to UNOPS/SUN Pooled Funds

Participatory approach: Has this proposal been developed through consultation with different stakeholders (within and beyond the civil society alliance)? If yes, briefly describe the stakeholders consulted and the process undertaken to develop synergies or make sure that it is aligned to the joint national objectives. How are you going to ensure that the collaborative approach and strengthened coordination is adhered to throughout the implementation?

Yes.

Technical staff within Ministries of Agriculture (MAWLR) and Health (MHSS) were consulted, and the project was briefly introduced at the high-level national workshop that took place on 6 August, where it received positive feedback, particularly from the Executive Director of the Ministry of Agriculture and MAWLR's key link person to the Food and Nutrition Security Coordination System, Mr. Matheus Ndjodhi, who will provide contacts to specific technical staff within the ministry to then share experiences and approaches with, especially when it comes to future scaling up.

Already in early June, NAFSAN's director, together with NHAG's director and staff as well as SDFN members, met with community members in the Havana Informal settlement (Windhoek), where NHAG/SDFN previously initiated a small household permaculture gardening project together with EPI. *[In recent months, NHAG/SDF and EPI had also worked together in another community-based project with the City of Windhoek with support from the World Future Council, Farm Okukuna: <https://www.eloolopermaculture.com/farm-okukuna>]*

During the site visit in the Havana settlement, several garden sites were shown and community members explained what they planted and why, and how their greywater, composting and other systems work in the contexts of their specific household gardens. During the following community meeting, members expressed interest in additional information and training around nutrition, with especially young women being particularly interested. Afterwards, NHAG, SDFN and EPI confirmed that according to their experiences, young women were the most committed among all participants.

End of June, right after this site visit, a draft training approach was developed with support of UNAM lecturers for a 4-hour participatory and practical training on nutrition. The approach was then shared with stakeholders for feedback, and some NUST and UNAM students as well as some community members were identified as potential trainers. However, a planned Training-of-Trainers (ToT) had to be put on hold, partially because of lack of funds and also for additional stakeholder consultations and proper planning to take place first prior to rolling out the activities.

Final consultations with EPI and NHAG/SDFN took then place in late July and early August where we discussed how best to design the approach and develop this project proposal.

Gender considerations & leaving no one behind: Briefly describe how the project design/activities will contribute to increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women, adolescent girls, youth, grassroots groups and vulnerable communities.

The focus of this intervention (and future scaling up plans) are vulnerable communities in informal settlements in urban and semi-urban areas, hereby including grassroots groups (such as the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN) – which over the years had evolved from an initial group-saving scheme into a country-wide network with tens of thousands of members) to help identify suitable communities and household clusters and for some of their members to become trainers.

Young people, particularly young women (as mentioned above, they have proven to be the most committed among community members) will:

- a) be trained in nutrition during the Training-of-Trainers (ToT) and afterwards be mentored in facilitating nutrition training, which they will then be able to conduct more and more on their own, most likely in tandem together with students from NUST or UNAM.
- b) ‘shadow’ the permaculture experts in their approach of working with household clusters in introducing permaculture principles and approaches, as well as in working with small groups in setting up household gardens and finding tailor-made solutions for specific challenges that some of the households with their specific terrain and environment may present. Through this process and additional mentoring, they will be capacitated to play a much more active role in future scaling up and implementation. In addition, they can also use this knowledge and experience as a stepping-stone towards a professional career in this or related fields.

The last group that will indirectly benefit are children whose previous primary places of learning (schools, pre-schools and Early Childhood Development centers) are repeatedly being closed during COVID-19, and they are therefore forced to spend most of their time home. This project will create a practical learning environment with regard to nutritious food systems and permaculture principles at home. They will grow up from a very young age with a much closer and more direct relationship to home-grown fruits and vegetables than their parents, hereby affecting positive behavior change where it is the most effective: at home and within children when they are young.

Sustainability: Briefly describe how you would ensure the activities remain sustainable beyond the project.

NHAG/SDFN had already been looking for ways in which to make such a project possible and is therefore already in the process of seeking funds for scaling up such approach in different regions of Namibia (sub-national level). NAFSAN, though its own fundraising efforts will also be supporting this ongoing search for funds and additional resources in this regard, and through the involvement of government ministries, there are most likely some possible future synergies. For instance, it has been already been agreed with the Prime Minister’s Office that government funds shall be made available to NAFSAN and its members, for implementing activities that are in line with specific strategies from the Policy and its Implementation Action Plan, see strategies outlined on p. 5 above.

Collaboration with Government (MSP, OPM, MAWLR, MHSS), UN agencies, other countries’ CSAs and potential international donors, is therefore absolutely key for sustainability.

Risks: Identify major risk factors that could negatively affect the grant activities and possible mitigation measures.

- 1) The major risk is COVID-19, whereby an anticipated spike in cases could possibly lead to another lockdown of Windhoek or even of the entire country.

In this case, the number of participants for the pilot (or even during implementation cycles) may have to be reduced, although numbers are already kept deliberately small, in anticipation of this risk. Meeting in and working in the small groups on developing the gardens is definitely possible, given that wearing masks, sanitising and social distancing is observed.

However, the project may then need to apply with the Ministry of Health through the Office of the Prime Minister for documents that declares activities as 'essential services', in order to ensure that project activities can continue with respective precautions.

The component that would be most affected though is the nutrition training, as the number of participants would be relatively high (16-20). However, this is something that – in a worst-case scenario – could be conducted even after gardens have been developed.

- 2) Extreme weather conditions could pose another risk, whereby Permaculture experts from EPI have already some experiences in this area, and there are also other stakeholders and development initiatives around holistic management and adapting to climate change in Namibia that can be consulted if necessary.

By signing this document, you attest that all statements made within this grant application form are true and accurate to the best of your abilities.

Date:	9 August 2020
Name & Title of Executive Officer:	Ben Schernick Director of the NAFSAN Secretariat
Signature of Executive Officer:	