

## **Project Summary – Making Multi-Sectoral Coordination Work:**

### **Collaborating towards better nutrition, food security and development for everyone**

#### **Technical Details**

Grant awarded under decision: 2021 / 043-480 - AD2.

Support for Civil Society in Partner Countries/ EuropeAid/173820/DD/ACT/NA

**Contract number:** NDICI CSO/2022/ 437-114

**Title:** Making Multi-Sectoral Coordination Work: Collaborating towards better nutrition, food security and development for everyone

**Implementing organisations:** Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia (NAFSAN)

**Implementation period:** 30 months (01/12/2022– 31/05/2025)

**Total eligible cost:** EUR 390,268.00

**EU contribution:** EUR 370,600.00

#### **Country Background/Relevance:**

The Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia (NAFSAN)'s official mandate is to substantially improve Namibia's highly vulnerable nutritional situation and food systems by effectively and sustainably strengthening multi-stakeholder multi-sectoral coordination capacity with a focus on civil society participation and initiation of a private sector network, hereby following the model of the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, of which Namibia is a member since 2011.

Namibia recently (Dec'21) launched Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) Policy, its Implementation Action Plan and Coordination Structures are fundamentally important national development documents and systems. However, the rather complex implementation is still in the process of being set up. Unfortunately, it is a common phenomenon that coordination and implementation has repeatedly posed significant challenges to the Namibian government in different areas. As much as the theoretical framework (on paper) provides a very clear and comprehensive roadmap, the reality with regards to setting up these structures looks very different. This is, for instance, visible with the national FNS Secretariat, which is supposed to be the "engine" of the FNS Coordination Structures, yet in reality nothing much has happened within the first year since the launch. NAFSAN, as officially recognised Civil Society Representative within the FNS Policy and Structures, has therefore proactively made specific suggestions and is currently working with the Namibian Government, through the Executive Directors (EDs) of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWRL) on putting together a multi-disciplinary team to fulfil this role effectively and efficiently. Innovative suggestions include for the national FNS Secretariat and possibly regional FNS Secretariats to be using agile online project management tools, while NAFSAN would use the same tool for communication and coordination among civil society actors on national and regional level.

Civil Society Organizations – with NAFSAN as a key link – play an important role when it comes to implementation and monitoring of progress in the various areas related to food and nutrition security, as covered in the policy, including but not limited to maternal and child health, breastfeeding, early childhood development, climate-smart urban and rural agriculture, water, social protection etc.

This action will therefore strengthen key civil society actors' capacity and ability to participate in innovative ways within newly developed structures that are aimed at enabling multi-sectoral multi-stakeholder collaboration. Actors within these primarily government-based structures are meant to co-create a collaborative environment in which NAFSAN is tasked to connect civil society organizations with each other and with the newly to-be-established government system. NAFSAN shall further enable them to act independently yet interdependently with other key role players on fundamentally important developmental issues, such as nutrition, food security, water, sanitation, and the environment. This project will support NAFSAN and CSOs under its umbrella to engage in relevant information sharing, networking, implementation and coordination-related issues on regional (sub-national) level, and to contribute relevant input on key issues for important policy dialogues, advocacy and decision-making processes at national levels.

Making multi-sectoral coordination among multiple stakeholders work by using smart, innovative, and efficient ways to collaborate would therefore not only address real developmental needs of Namibia but would also be a good and practical example for other sectors and areas of development. In addition, the project provides a variety of CSOs with high-level access, opportunities, and far-reaching influence on key issues within their own region as well as on issues of national concern. Through participating in these future FNS Coordination Structures, NAFSAN's member CSOs will also foster good direct working relationships with different government ministries and regional councils.

Lastly, besides its role as Namibia's Civil Society Alliance, NAFSAN is further mandated to temporarily represent the Namibian private sector within the FNS Coordination Structures until an independent Namibian SUN Business Network for Nutrition has been formed. Hence this project is supporting NAFSAN to 'midwife' the birth of such a crucial additional network to complement a truly multisectoral multi-stakeholder approach towards food and nutrition security in Namibia.

**General objective:**

The overall objective of the action is to improve Namibia's nutrition situation and food systems.

**Specific objectives:**

- 1) CSOs are further integrated into Namibia's revised Food and Nutrition Security Coordination Structures;
- 2) Increased involvement of CSOs in the Government's nutrition policy, agenda and initiatives
- 3) Evidenced engagement of Namibian businesses in nutrition-related issues has increased

**Target groups:**

Primary target group are CSOs across the country, specifically in Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, and Hardap Regions. Another target group through the national FNS Coordination Structures are technical staff and Executive Directors (EDs) from relevant government ministries, as well as representatives from different UN Agencies and donor organizations. Parliamentarians and media practitioners will also be targeted directly through separate engagements, as the gatekeepers to legislative changes and as key influencers of public opinion. Another specific target group is the private sector, specifically medium and large Namibian food and non-food businesses, who are often keen to engage and provide support to nutrition-specific or nutrition-sensitive interventions, yet they all too often act in isolation.

### **Final beneficiaries:**

Ultimate beneficiaries are all economically vulnerable Namibians who experience or are at risk of experiencing malnutrition in one form or another. These include specifically infants (under 2 years), and young children (between 2 and 5 years) as well as pregnant, breastfeeding and young mothers.

They will ultimately benefit from this project on the one hand through the participating CSOs (current and future NAFSAN members), as well as through the effects of national advocacy and better-coordinated activities on national level and in the selected three regions.

These three regions also serve as pilot regions for future scaling up of CSO engagement through the innovative CSO-Hub model into all other regions of Namibia.

### **Estimated Outputs:**

- 1.1. Relevant CSOs in three selected regions have been mapped, engaged and included in NAFSAN's database and newsletter distribution list.
- 1.2. Regional hub-CSOs are set up, capacitated for networking and advocacy and engaged on it
- 2.1. A sectoral advocacy strategy is adopted and implemented, under a participatory multi-actor process
- 2.2. Public awareness of food and nutrition issues, policies and good practices has increased and reflects CSOs participation
- 3.1. A dedicated Business Network is set up, to better coordinate initiatives and strategic action on food security and better nutrition
- 3.2. Enhanced support to employees and families delivered by "wellness care units" of companies within the Business Network

### **Main activities:**

#### ***SO 1 - CSOs are further integrated into Namibia's revised Food and Nutrition Security Coordination Structures;***

##### **1.1. Relevant CSOs in three selected regions have been mapped, engaged and included in NAFSAN's database and newsletter distribution list**

1.1.1 Identify, engage, and map CSOs working on Nutrition, Food Security, and Environment, Water and Sanitation in Hardap, in Otjozondjupa, and in Omaheke regions

1.1.1.1 Conduct regular engagement visits to the regions to ensure familiarity with issues and build relationships

1.1.1.2 Ensure proper data and information sharing from and among members and potential members

##### **1.2. Regional hub-CSOs are set up, capacitated for networking and advocacy and engaged on it**

1.2.1 Establish and maintain ongoing working relationships with Hub-CSOs

1.2.1.1 Identify capacity gaps and support-needs of Hub-CSOs to fulfil their role

1.2.1.2 Develop and enter suitable 'Memoranda of Understanding' with CSOs

1.2.2 Develop capacities of Hub-CSOs, including support on agile online project management system

1.2.3 Ensure proper communication and documentation related to TWGs and identify most relevant issues

1.2.4 Analyse relevant minutes, reports and their key documents

## ***SO 2 - Increased involvement of CSOs in the Government's nutrition policy, agenda and initiatives***

### **2.1. A sectoral advocacy strategy is adopted and implemented, under a participatory multi-actor process**

2.1.1 Escalate critical issues within established FNS Structures and beyond

2.1.1.1 Prepare written inputs and presentations to the respective national Working Groups and the FNS Inter-Agency Steering Committee meetings to report on CSO's achievements and to appropriately amplify CSO's concerns and suggestions.

2.1.1.2 Identify other stakeholders and platforms to raise concerns and request relevant support to help CSOs advance an inclusive nutrition agenda.

### **2.2. Public awareness of food and nutrition issues, policies and good practices has increased and reflects CSOs participation**

2.1.2 Engage parliamentarians and media practitioners on critical aspects/dimensions of malnutrition

2.2.1 Maintain NAFSAN's as reliable and updated source of information and resources, incl. regular newsletters

2.2.2 Facilitate active engagement on social media

2.2.3 Seek presence of key FNS issues, activities and organisations through TV, radio and newspapers

## ***SO 3 - Evidenced engagement of Namibian businesses in nutrition-related issues has increased***

### **3.1. A dedicated Business Network is set up, to better coordinate initiatives and strategic action on food security and better nutrition**

3.1.1 Engage Namibian businesses to become actively involved members of NAFSAN

3.1.1.1 Facilitate private sector engagement events to inform, while also aiming to understand private sectors' interests, needs, and concerns

3.1.2 Facilitate the process of a Namibian Business Network to be established by committed entities

3.1.3 Assist the new Business Network to be officially recognised as Namibia's SUN Business Network

3.1.4 Assist the new Business Network to be officially integrated into Namibia's FNS Structure

### **3.2. Enhanced support to employees and families delivered by "wellness care units" of companies within the Business Network**

3.2.1 Facilitate engagement sessions with male employees of Namibian companies

3.2.1.1 Liaise with members of Namibia's MenEngage Network (<https://menengage.org>) + joint preparations

3.2.1.2 Engage with companies' wellness departments for buy-in, preparations and implementation

3.2.1.3 Joint reflections on outcomes, value, and ways forward from these male engagement sessions.

3.2.2 Engage companies to take further actions and make nutrition-related commitments within the company as well as outside.

3.2.2.1 Assist and advocate within Namibian companies in developing proposals and recommendations for changes to and updates of nutrition-relevant company policies and practices.

3.2.2.2 Engage companies and refer them to CSOs active in areas they may be interested in funding

Overall: Maintain good visibility of the project activities throughout the implementation of the action.