

The strategies envisaged in the Plan take advantage of opportunities currently available in the country, such as the inclusion of nutrition in the "Agenda for Prosperity – Third Generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2013-2018". The Agenda addresses nutrition and food security as a crosscutting issue in different fields, such as agriculture, fisheries and agro-industry.

Due to the public health emergency response to the epidemic of Ebola in the country, during the month following the end of the Learning Route, the implementation of the Plan's activities is currently suspended.

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#### **Promoting child growth through the involvement of local government authorities at district and department level**

Learning Route, 26 May- 01 June 2014, Senegal

*The Learning Route, jointly organised by the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN) Secretariat, the Fight Against Malnutrition Unit (Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition- CLM) and PROCASUR Corporation, was held in Senegal from May the 26th to June the 1st, 2014. The Route hosted national delegations from SUN multi-stakeholders platforms of 7 countries: Benin, Burundi, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Niger, Sierra Leone and Peru.*

*After the completion of the Learning Route, each national delegation designed an "Action Plan" based on the lessons learned from Senegal in the fight against malnutrition. The general objective of the Plans is to adapt the good practices and the innovative solutions learned during the Route to the specific country's needs, with the final aim of reinforcing the strategies and initiatives currently in place to improve nutrition.*

*The following pages present the Action Plan of Sierra Leone. The purpose is to provide a general framework of the country's context and to present the strategies and activities proposed to improve nutrition.*

#### **What is the Action Plan's main objective?**

The main objective of the Plan is to improve capacity of local councils to mainstream food and nutrition security activities in their local development plans. The idea is to assess current involvement of local council in the management of food and nutrition programmes and to deliver trainings for relevant councillors and officials in order to mainstreaming food and nutrition security activities in local council development plans. Furthermore, the Plan proposes to strengthen advocacy and communication strategies among relevant Civil Society Organisation in order to raise awareness on food security and proper nutritional practices at national level; finally, to develop and operationalize a monitoring tool to assess nutritional-oriented programmes.



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### **What is the context in which the Action Plan is framed?**

Sierra Leone joined the SUN Movement in 2012. The country set up a Food Security and Nutrition Policy Implementation Plan following the adoption of the National Policy on Food and Nutrition. Sierra Leone counts with preventive measures for good nutritional status and treatment of malnourished children, as well as the coordination of activities of various stakeholders in the field of nutrition. The main stakeholders are Ministries (as the Ministry of Health and Agriculture, Forests and Food Security, among others), the Government, SUN, the United Nations and donors.

Despite these achievements, the situation in the country is still critical: 38% of children suffer from stunting, 16% are underweight, and 9% are wasted (SSL, ICF International, 2013). Micronutrient deficiencies are also a major concern; 80% of children are anemic. The challenges that Sierra Leone is facing include the limited funding from government and donors, the limited involvement of the private sector, as well as the availability of human resources and capacities for monitoring and evaluation of nutrition-oriented initiatives.

### **Actions of the Plan, linked to Specific Objectives and Expected Results**

**Objective:** Increase participation and management capacities of all 19 local councils in mainstreaming food and nutrition programs, by the end of 2015; enhance the capacity of 140 Frontline Agriculture Extension Workers and Community Health Workers and strengthen the coordination of food and nutrition security activities in 14 districts.

#### **Actions:**

- Review local council development plans according with nutrition-sensitive activities;
- Carry out training workshops for local councilors on the proper development of nutrition-sensitive activities in their respective localities;
- Design and produce tailored training materials for extension workers.

**Expected Results:** 1- Additional resources to support food and nutrition programs are allocated by local councils; 2-Enhanced capacity of relevant councilors and officials to mainstream food and nutrition security activities within local council development plans; 3- Training plan and materials for Frontline Agriculture Extension Workers and Community Health Workers are developed.

**Objective:** Strengthen advocacy and communication strategies among Civil Society Organizations in order to raise awareness on food security and healthy nutritional practices among the population.

#### **Actions:**

- Conduct monthly coordination meetings with relevant stakeholders at district levels;
- Conduct stakeholder workshops to design and validate advocacy and communication strategies.

**Expected Result:** Increased community awareness on food security and on proper nutritional practices at national level.

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**Objective:** Enhance effective monitoring and evaluation of nutrition-sensitive initiatives.

#### **Actions:**

- Conduct quarterly monitoring visits, prepare and disseminate quarterly progress reports among key stakeholders.

**Expected Result:** Monitoring visits conducted to ensure effective implementation of food and nutrition activities at community level.