

## Performance contracts piloted in Tanzania

*Inspired by participation in SUN CSN's Learning Route in Rwanda, [Tanzania's PANITA](#) have successfully adapted and replicated the use of performance contracts.*

An accountable district nutrition steering committee (DNSC) and performance contracts have been successfully piloted in the Kalambo district of Tanzania as a direct result of SUN CSN's learning exchange programme. Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) led the effort and are optimistic that this approach will be scaled up around the country.



*Figure 1 Kalambo District Council, Ward Development Committee*

Last year, PANITA was one of nine civil society alliances (CSAs) that participated in the Africa Learning Route exchange visit to Rwanda, which took place in November 2016. Rwanda's use of performance contracts to increase the accountability and effectiveness of agreed nutrition-related plans at local level was one of the examples of best practice showcased during the visit.

At the end of the learning route, all participating CSAs developed Innovation Plans based on their learning and reflection on approaches could be replicated in their own countries. PANITA was one of several CSAs that decided to adapt and implement the performance contracts that had proved so successful in Rwanda.

## **Seed funding for innovation**

PANITA's Innovation Plan for 'Accountable District Nutrition Steering Committees to Scale Up Nutrition' was one of three that won seed funding from SUN CSN. PANITA has now successfully trained and developed the capacity of Kalambo's district government. As a result of the project, the accountability and capacity of the DNSC has been increased and nutrition has been integrated into the regional development plan.

In the Kisumba ward this had led to a nutrition framework and plan being established and 21 key stakeholders have signed resolutions to implement the plan within a short timeframe. These commitments bind the Ward Development Committee, District Council and Community Economic Empowerment and Legal Support and set out which of the three has to fulfil the agreed obligations. These resolutions are the first step to agreeing legally binding performance contracts – and the regional government has agreed that they are needed and will be established.

## **National buy-in for performance contracts**

At national level, PANITA hope that the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu, will sign the performance contract covering all nutrition interventions and activities with all regional commissioners during the National Summit on Food Fortification. At the time of writing, the President's Office Regional Administrative and Local government are finalising the contracts.

In addition, the President's Office Regional Administrative and Local government (PO-RALG) is currently finalising the term of Reference to maximize the performance of District Nutrition Steering Committees. One proposal is to use WDCs to 'downstream' the agreed plans from district to ward level – an idea captured in PANITA's Innovation Plan.

According to PANITA, the response and cooperation from the regional government was superb, particularly in light of other burning priorities including a cholera outbreak in a neighbouring village.

PANITA are determined to spread and scale up this approach in other wards and districts, while at the same time strengthening the work in the pilot area to ensure its sustainability.

## **Engaging stakeholders at ward level**

PANITA's efforts began with a round of advocacy meetings in the Rukwa and Katavi region: with key nutrition coordinating committees, with PANITA members in the region, with Ward Development Committees and with government officials at regional, district and ward level. In addition, the project included a desk review of nutrition data and field trips for verification.

In one ward, partnerships were established with one secondary school, one primary school and one church – which between them represent a community of some 8,489 people and a chance to reach young people and impact nutrition education and mobilise local resources and knowledge. Community stakeholders such as schools and churches have carried out a range of awareness raising activities aimed at young people.

## **Learning from Rwanda**

According to PANITA, delivering the Innovation Plan that was inspired by the Africa Learning Route has triggered greater accountability in the District Nutrition Steering Committee and reached ward and village level. "It has also rekindled the sense of collective responsibility," PANITA say. "The initiative is highly recommended to scale up/replicate in other wards and districts ... it is a great investment in and worth doing in other parts of the country."

During the Africa Learning Route, one of the PANITA delegation was Daniel Mtwewe, Community Economic Empowerment and Legal Support. He said: "The Learning Route has motivated me. I can now see the possibilities of doing more out of existing structures to get higher impact in communities."