

## **SUN Business Network: Partnerships with Business to address Undernutrition in Tanzania**

The Government of Tanzania and SUN Business Network, launched a multi-stakeholder consultation process (January, 15<sup>th</sup> 2014) to integrate business into **Tanzania's National Nutrition Strategy (NNS)**. 100 representatives of business, media, NGO, UN agencies, Aid Donors community attended, including over 60 companies, all national business, with two multinationals (DSM and GSMA).

To inform the meeting, SUN Business Network produced a report on opportunities for scaling up nutrition in Tanzania with business (available on request, see below).

**Dr. Florens Turuka, Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office** outlined Tanzania's high level political commitment, both from the President and Prime Minister to the NNS and stated that society and business in Tanzania will benefit if private sector plays a role in tackling undernutrition and increasing the country's productivity. The Government of Tanzania called for:

- The success in salt iodisation to be replicated in fortifying maize and wheat flour, rice and edible oils
- Business, SMEs in particular, to articulate what incentives will get them involved
- Reached out to business in agriculture. Growth in this sector is not having the desired impact on nutrition, targeted interventions are needed
- Business to play its part in consumer behaviour change and increasing demand for nutritious products

**Key issues raised by business representatives, and partners from Donor, UN and Civil Society networks included:**

- The need to address the rural issue, where undernutrition is greatest, this must involve donors, CSOs and businesses (Multinational, National and SMEs) working closely together in farming communities
- Role for mobile technology in consumer behaviour change due to the increasing reach of mobile tech into urban and rural communities
- A call for Tanzania to play a leading role in building and sharing new program and partnership models to achieve food and *nutrition* security which can be replicated in other Grow Africa Countries
- Opportunities to leverage institutional demand of nutritious foods to incentivise local business to fortify supply

**Next steps:**

**In a Call to action, Obey Assery, Prime Minister's Office and SUN Focal Point outlined plans to develop three streams of work (with wide consultation) to integrate business into the NNS:**

- Integrating agriculture and nutrition in SAGCOT (GAIN/SAGCOT to lead)
- Prioritizing interventions and forming new partnerships in food fortification and fortified food supplements (Tanzania Food & Nutrition Centre to lead)
- Engaging business to build demand for nutrition ( Lead TBC)

Over the next several months, these consultations will lead to concrete action and investment plans with clear roles for different development partners.

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