

# Highlights from the SUN Civil Society Network Annual Survey 2017



Img.1 SUNCSN Learning Route in Rwanda, Gisagara District

'The greatest, undeniable advantage of being part of the civil society alliance is the strength of the group. We would not have been able to achieve successful changes for nutrition, in such a short time, as individual organisations.'

**SUN Civil Society Alliance, Burkina Faso**

# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: Background

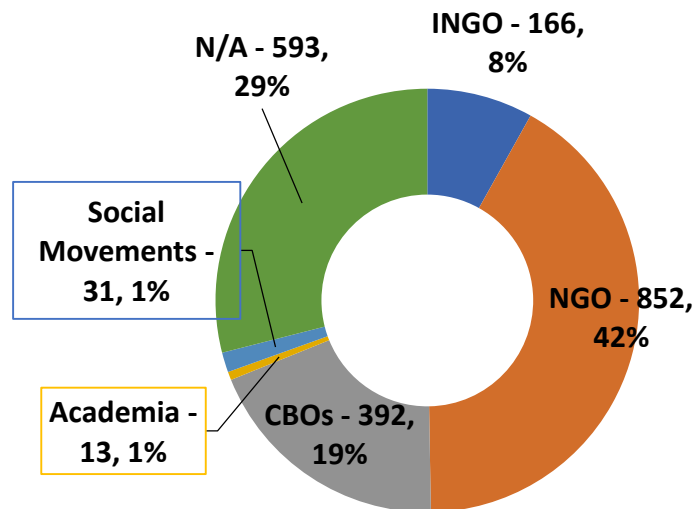
- **Total responses: 29 (73% of CSAs)**
  - **Africa: 21 CSAs**  
Bénin; Burkina Faso; Cote d'Ivoire; Guinee; Kenya; Liberia; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Mauritanie
  - **Asia: 5 CSAs**  
Cambodia ; Kyrgyz Republic; Myanmar, Nepal; Niger; Nigeria; Pakistan; Rwanda; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Tanzania; Tchad; Togo; Uganda; Zambia; Zimbabwe;
  - **Latin America: 3 CSAs**  
Colombia ; El Salvador; Perú
- **Period covered:** May 2016-September 2017
- **Responses submitted:** May-September 2017
- **Comparative surveys:** September-December 2014; November 2015-January 2016; May-September 2017

# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: Who we are

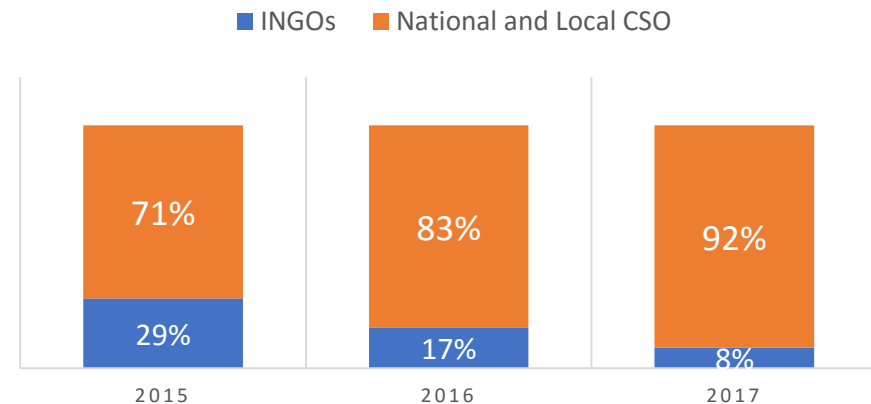
## Our latest survey shows that:

- The SUN CSN now has over **3000 member organisations** as well as **national Civil Society Alliances (CSAs) in 40 Countries** across Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- Membership within Civil Society Alliances is growing, with an **average growth rate of 25%**
- **More than 50% of CSAs have a decentralised structure** to more effectively coordinate at sub-national level.
- Since 2015, there has been an **increase in the proportion of national CSO members**. This could be linked to the focus on building decentralised structures.

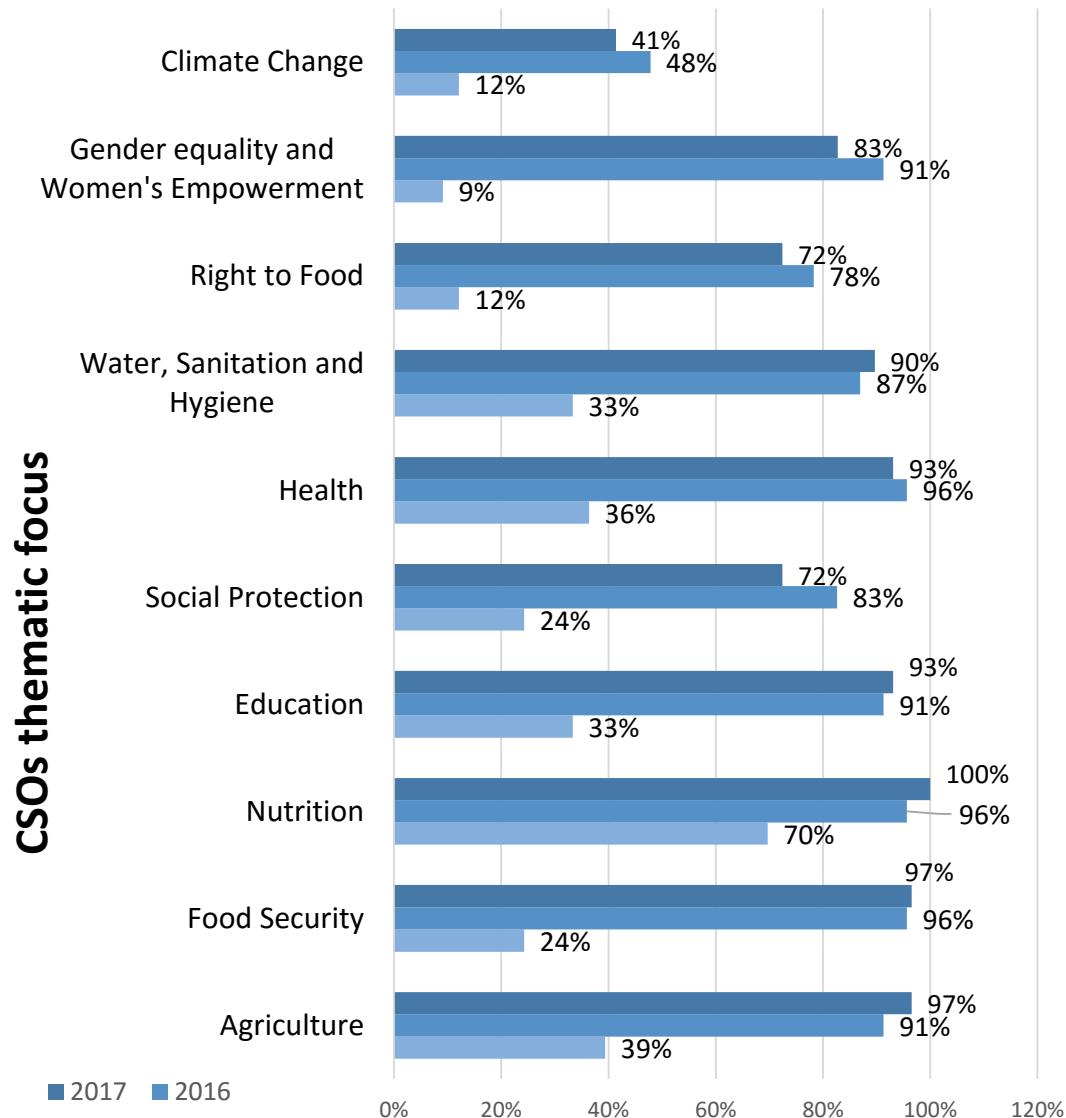
## Membership: types of organisations



## Membership: proportion of national CSOs



# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: Who we are



- Members of CSAs have a **diverse thematic focus**.
- This year we have seen:
  - an **increase** in member organisations working on **WASH, Education and Agriculture**
  - a **decrease** in the members working on **Gender & Women's empowerment, the right to food and social protection**
- CSAs need to do more to engage with organisations working on **climate change**

# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: Governance

## Our latest survey shows that:

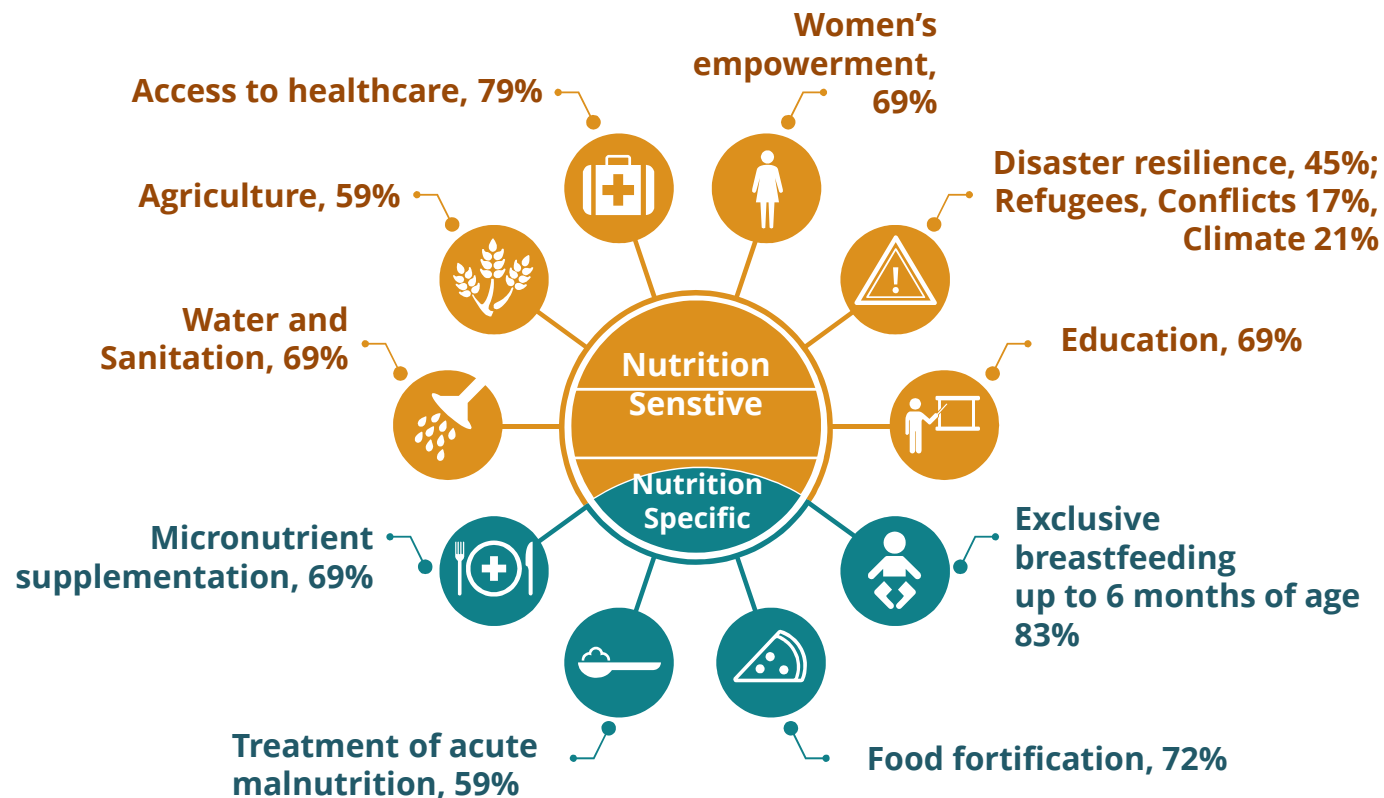
- **46% of alliances are legally registered.** Most of the registered CSAs are in the Africa region. Most of the CSAs registered during their 3rd year of existence. NB Legally registration is not a requirement. This also brings increasing risk to the network, there is an increased need for strengthening governance and legal support to mitigate this.
- **The majority of CSAs have basic governance structures in place.** Over 80% of CSAs have an up to date list of members, steering group and terms of reference in place.
- **Areas for concern** are equal opportunities processes, conflict of interest policies, processes for resolving conflict and processes for tracking women's participation. Less than 36% of CSA have these processes in place.
- **Only 43% of alliances have a full time coordinator,** most likely linked to the challenges in securing funding. This is likely to have impacted on CSA governance and activity.
- Only **17% of alliances have a sustainability strategy** in place. This will be a key requirement going forward and a key area for TA provision.

# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: What we do

## What nutrition interventions are CSAs working on?

The following diagram shows the thematic areas that alliances are covering- both in terms of coordinating efforts in these areas and directly delivering interventions.

**Key finding:** we need to do more to incorporate addressing **disaster resilience, refugees, conflict** and **climate change** into national plans in relevant countries.



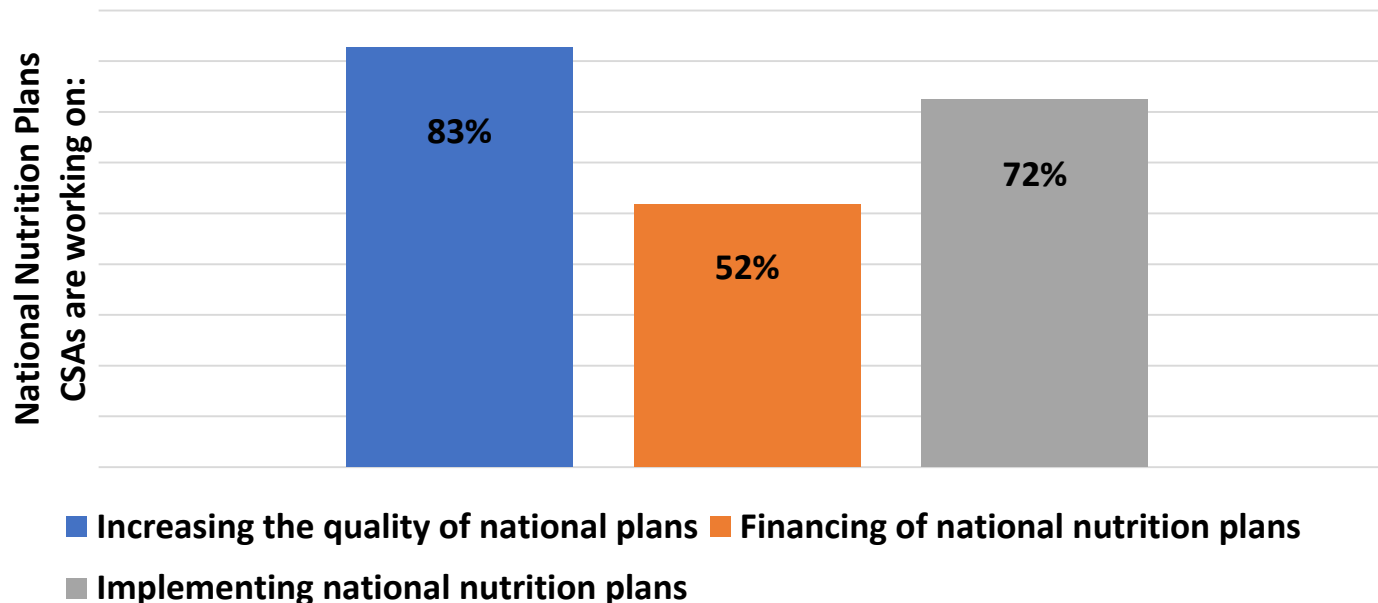


# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: What we do

## What are the CSAs trying to change?

We asked CSAs what the primary objective they were working towards is.

- The majority of alliances are working on **increasing the quality of national nutrition plans**.
- A fully funded national nutrition plan is available in only 2 out of the 29 countries. In 19 countries there is a partially funded national nutrition plan
- 11 countries have specific budget lines for nutrition
- 41% of alliances report on having a clear Common Results Framework or mechanism for reporting against progress in place.
- This highlights the need for more joined up data across the network, to cross check if what CSAs are reporting corresponds with what Government focal points are saying.

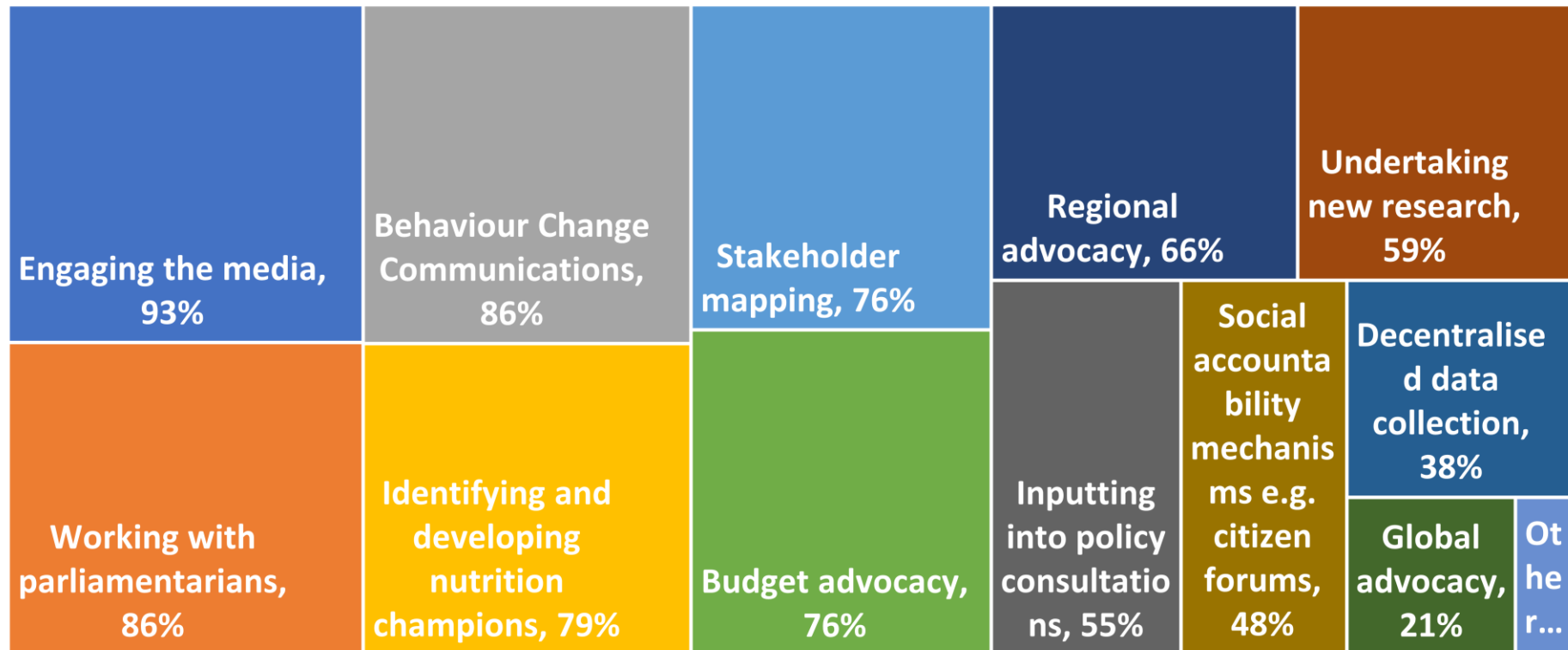


# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: What we do

## How are the CSAs creating change?

CSAs are engaging in a range of activities in order to create change. The graphic below highlights the main activities in CSA plans.

**Key Finding:** Capacity building is being delivered by all CSAs, this was highlighted by 56% of alliances as the thing they were most proud of.





# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: Successes



In Kenya **county chapters have been established** by the SUN CSN and 4 County and National Nutrition action plans developed.



The budget advocacy carried out by the CSA in Burkina Faso, enabled the creation of a “**nutrition budget line**” in the Budget of the Ministry of Health.



The CSA in Pakistan has built the capacity of over 150 CSO representatives in **advocacy & campaigning skills**, particularly nutrition budget advocacy. Their #InvestinNutrition campaign resulted in commitments from provincial governments.



The CSA in El Salvador created the space for **multi-sectorial discussion** for the development of a bill on Food Sovereignty and Nutrition in El Salvador.

## Top 3 Challenges for CSAs:

- **lack of funds** (for all CSAs)
- **CSA coordination**
- members' organisation **engagement and commitment.**

## Contribution to Multi-stakeholder plan

CSAs are engaging systematically in multi-stakeholder processes platforms; highlighting key issues, providing evidence and developing solutions;

- Over 80% of CSAs are involved in multi-stakeholder planning process.
- More than 80% of CSA had regular meetings with their government focal point
- 100% of CSAs felt they were a valued and respected member of the MSP

“We gave good amount of inputs to the review process of national strategy for food security and nutrition - to planning process and implementation of plan and review report” **Cambodia**

«Avec notre porte d'entrée société civile, neutre et capable de porter un discours francs sur les succès et echecs » **Senegal**

# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: Working with others

## What would enable greater civil society participation in multi-stakeholder processes?

- **Clearer roles and responsibilities** and **objectives** of the **MSP**
- **Clearer roles and responsibilities** within the **CSA** to engage effectively
- Effective **communication** within and outside the MSP
- Improved **monitoring, evaluation and accountability** of MSP members
- **Capacity building of MSP** members to engage on MSP (transparency, joint collaboration)
- Use MSP for **knowledge sharing, documentation of successes** and challenges
- **Funding availability** to ensure participation and to put in place deliberations of the MSP.

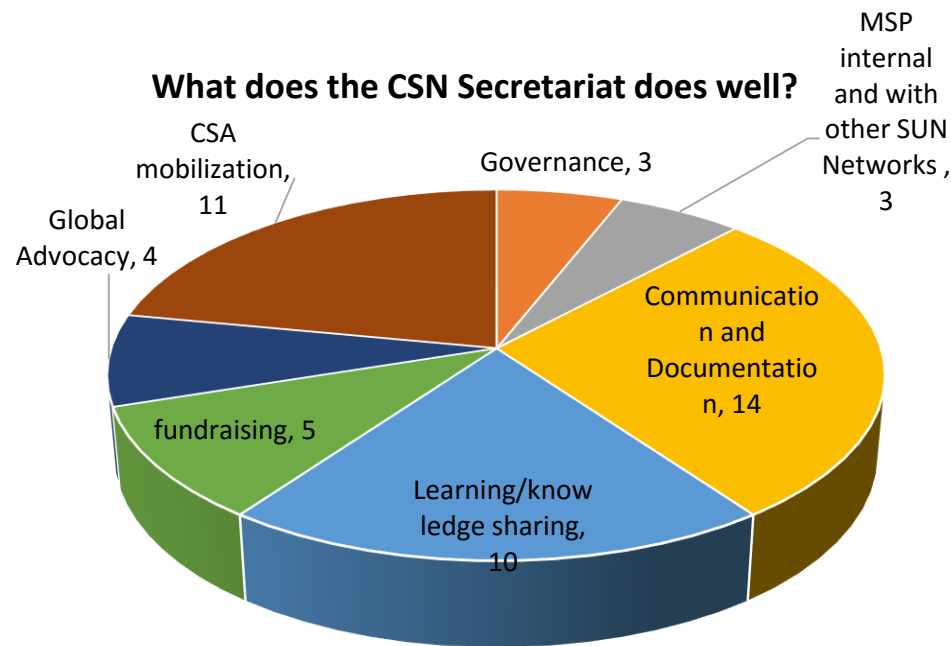
## **Coordinating with other networks**

- Civil Society Alliances and SUN Business Network are closely collaborating often complementing each other.
- Where there is not an SBN and/or in addition to the SBN collaboration various CSAs are currently engaging with private sector.
- The need for a guidance on conflict of interest have been flagged by multiple CSAs.
- CSAs are actively advocating and contributing to favourable environment for the establishment of an SBN.
- CSA are engaging with SBNs in all countries where there is a SBN.

# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: Support from the Secretariat

**What support has been useful?** Learning exchange visits, support with fundraising and 1-2-1 support were highlighted as the most useful support provides by the secretariat.

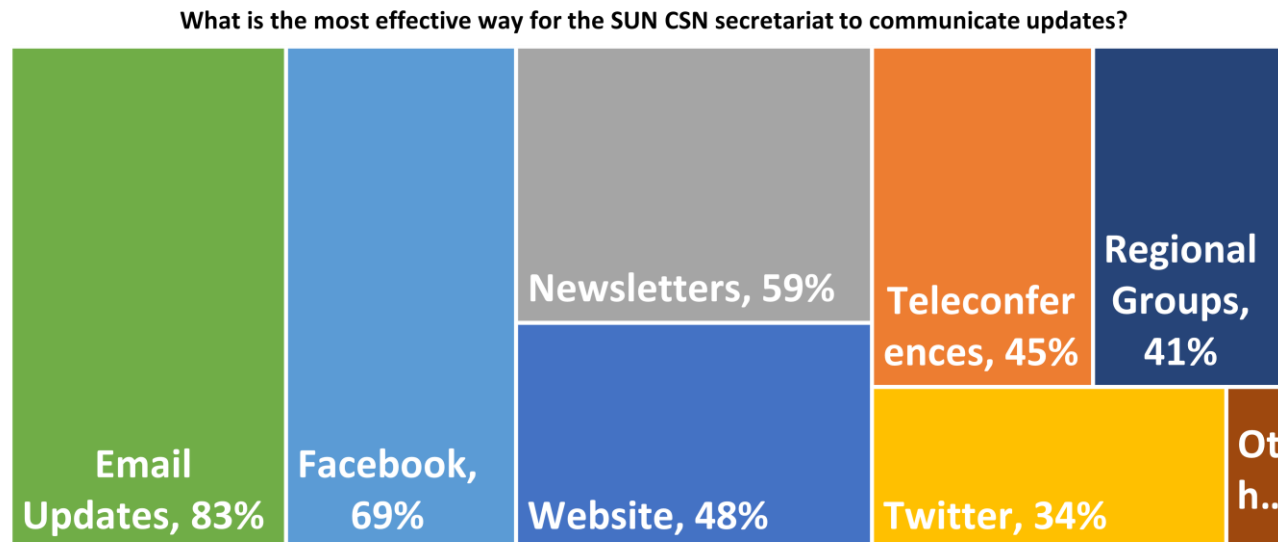
**What support has not been useful?** Virtual calls still resent technical difficulties. Some felt funding opportunities were not always available or easy to find.



# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: Support from the Secretariat

## Communication

- CSAs **preferred communication channel is email**. However Facebook and the Website were also indicated to be useful channels.
- The **main challenge** in communication is **connectivity issues**.
- The SUN CSN secretariat can support more effective communication by; improving the website, clarifying where to find the latest information, providing regular newsletters and continuing to support regional face to face meetings.



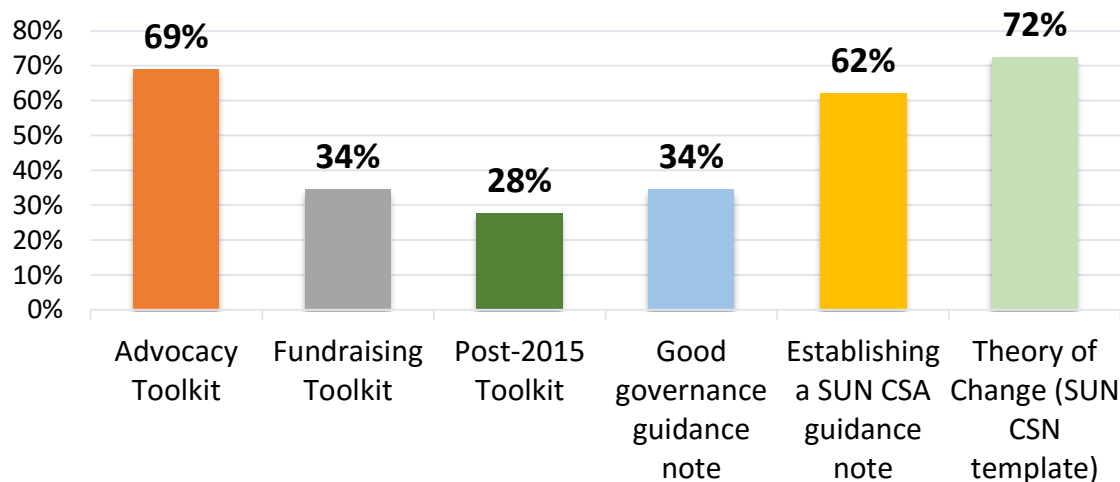


# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: Support from the Secretariat

## Tools and Technical Assistance

- The most useful resources provided by the SUN CSN secretariat have been the **Theory of Change**, the **Advocacy Toolkit** and the guide to **establishing an alliance**.
- The technical assistance most required going forward is in **fundraising, budget advocacy** and **governance**. Anecdotal evidence has also shown that supporting members to effectively work in coalition is a growing need.

SUNCSN Tools Used



Technical assistance mostly needed by CSA for 2018:	Nr. CSAs asking (29 respondents)
Fundraising	48%
Budget advocacy and tracking	34%
Governance (including strategy development)	24%
Proposal development writing	14%
Working in Coalition	14%
Communication	10%

# SUN CSN Annual Survey 2017: Our response & next steps

The Annual Survey is crucial to informing our work as a network to ensure that we can work more efficiently and have a bigger impact. In response to the outcomes of the survey the SUN Secretariat will focus on the following areas in 2018:

- **Governance processes:** developing guidance on conflict of interest and resolving conflicts. Governance review to be held across selected CSAs.
- **Tracking of women's participation:** How can we do this better?
- **Sustainability and fundraising strategy:** to increase CSAs fundraising capacity
- **Increasing MEAL capacity** and providing technical assistance in this area
- **Fragile & Conflict Affected States** (refugees, disaster resilience)
- **MSP engagement:** mapping the quality of engagement and cross-checking with SUN progress report
- **Communications:** developing a communications strategy and continuing to improve the website. Set out processes for alliances so it is clear how and when to expect information.

**We want to hear from you!**

Please send your feedback, suggestions, and questions to  
Cecilia Ruberto (SUNCSN MEAL Advisor)

[C.Ruberto@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:C.Ruberto@savethechildren.org.uk)  
or [sun.csnetwork@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:sun.csnetwork@savethechildren.org.uk)

Full report available to download soon from our website