

January – February 2021

Message from the Chair of the Executive Committee

Dear SUN CSA Cambodia members,

The Executive Committee of the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance in Cambodia is pleased to release the twelfth edition of our bi-monthly newsletter for your kind reading. This edition contains updates and reflections on the events of the last two months, as well as updates on coming events. We sincerely hope you will find this newsletter helpful.

We hope you have all had a great start to 2021, and are taking care in light of the February 20 Community Event. COVID-19 has posed challenges to all of us over the last 12 months, and as both individuals and an Alliance we have done an excellent job of continuing the important work that we do. As a country, Cambodia has maintained very high hygiene and safety standards throughout the pandemic, and we urge you to continue taking every precaution to ensure the safety of yourself and your beneficiaries.

We extend our deep appreciation to the members of the SUN CSA Cambodia for their continued dedication and hard work, and their support to us as your Executive Committee over the past four years. We also extend thanks to other partners, especially the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD), for their continued collaboration with civil society and commitment to build a better future for every child in Cambodia. We look forward to our continued productivity in the next two months.

**Best regards,
Mr. Hou Kroeun
DCD of HKI and Acting Chair of the SUN CSA EC**

Sub-Decree 133 Training for CCF

On 21st-22nd January, and 4th-5th February, HKI Cambodia supported the Consumer Protection, Competition, and Fraud Repression Directorate-General (CCF) of Ministry of Commerce to deliver training on Sub-Decree 133 to 50 inspectors across 10 provinces. Trainings were held in Siem Reap and Kampot, and Chaired by H.E Dim Theng, Deputy Director General of CCF and H.E Nget Chek, Deputy Director General of CCF, respectively. The objective of the trainings was to (i) Build the inspectors' understanding of SD133; (ii) Guide inspectors on how to fill out checklists and report violations; (iii) Discuss actions against violators

of SD133; and (iv) Develop an integrated SD133 monitoring plan, as part of the routine monitoring plan. Moving forward, we hope to see improved monitoring and reporting of SD133 as a result.

Consult with SUN Global

SUN CSA Cambodia had a call with the SUN Global to discuss our experiences filling in the SUN Joint Assessment. It was a productive call, and a great opportunity to give feedback on the data collection and the information that we think is most and least important to collect.

Further Testing of BMS Products

HKI, Alive and Thrive and UNICEF recently supported the Ministry of Commerce to conduct a second round of testing on BMS products in Cambodia, to determine the accuracy of labelling, and the safety of the products for sale and consumption. 199 cans from 57 brands were sent to EUROFIN Laboratory in Singapore for testing in regards to their zinc and iron levels. According to Dr. Theng, Deputy Director General of CamControl, the results are as follows:

- 40 cans did not contain their labelled iron level
- 18 cans did not comply with the Codex standard for iron
- 19 cans did not contain their labelled zinc level
- 6 cans did not comply with the Codex standard for zinc

Of these results, there was one brand found not to meet the requirements. CCF will consider these results carefully and take appropriate action against those not in compliance with Sub-Decree 133 and Cambodia's BMS Code.



Conducting inspections for violations of Sub-Decree 133.

Learning Exchange With SUN CSA Zimbabwe

On February 8th, SUN CSA Cambodia had a call with the SUN CSA in Zimbabwe, in which we shared information on Cambodia's mechanism for reporting violations of Sub-Decree 133. Zimbabwe was interested in learning about Cambodia's structure for enforcement of the law, as well as how reports are made, through which channels they are made, and how they are assessed. We look forward to continuing to support our colleagues around the globe in promoting breastfeeding and continuing the fight against malnutrition.

National Events

On 18th of January, the first food systems dialogue was hosted by CARD, in preparation for the global Food Systems Summit. The meeting was joined by stakeholders from SUN CSA Cambodia and the SUN UN, Donor and Business Networks. The dialogue was productive and a great start to the dialogues that will continue up until May.

On the 26th and 27th of January, SUN CSA Cambodia supported CARD to host orientation workshops for the 2nd National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition. The first workshop was for SUN CSA Cambodia members, and the second was for line ministries. Both workshops were Chaired by H.E Sok Silo, Secretary-General of CARD. The workshops were successful, and having so many key stakeholders oriented positions Cambodia well to successfully implement the strategy.

On 29th January, another workshop was held to disseminate the results of the two pilots of the Provincial Working Group for Coordinating Food Security and Nutrition (PWG-FSN), that were conducted in Kampong Chhnang and Ratanakiri provinces throughout 2020. The workshop was Chaired by H.E Sam Sarat, Vice Chair of CARD, and shared experiences, lessons learned and next steps. The pilot was very successful, and over time, PWG-FSN will be rolled-out to every province in Cambodia. This is an important sub-national mechanism for multi-stakeholder food security and nutrition coordination, and as Vice-Chair of each platform, the SUN CSA Cambodia has an important role to play.

Learning Exchange With SUN CSA Philippines

On February 2nd, SUN CSA Cambodia and SUN CSA Philippines met via Zoom for a learning exchange and dialogue on BMS Code Legislation. With Cambodia looking to expand the scope of Sub-Decree 133 on the Marketing of

Infant and Young Child Feeding Products, we consulted with the Philippines, who have already implemented some of the changes that Cambodia is looking to make. The Philippines team provided excellent insights on their experiences with actions such as expanding the scope of their BMS Code to cover children up to 36 months, and implementing harsher penalties for violators. Learning about their experience was very valuable, and we appreciate the valuable opportunity to engage with colleagues around the region to enhance Cambodia's enforcement of our own BMS Code.

Nutrition Competitions

A number of nutrition competitions have been held over January and February, through both the SUN CSA and the Youth Nutrition Champions.

The first was a breastfeeding photo competition, for breastfeeding mothers. 34 people submitted their photos to the competition, and 24 were awarded prizes of a water bottle, soap and a tote bag each.

The second was a breastfeeding video competition, for which 3 winners received prizes of soap and a set of feeding plates.

The third was a drawing competition for youth, under the topic of 'food systems for healthy diets'. 33 young people entered the competition, and 3 winners were chosen. They were awarded prizes are the PWG-FSN Workshop at Phnom Penh Hotel on January 29th. The 1st prize winner received a kindle, 2nd prize received a bicycle, and 3rd prize was awarded a smart watch. All other participants were awarded a water bottle, tote bag and book for their great efforts.



One of the winning artworks.