

# ANNUAL SURVEY

## JANUARY–DECEMBER 2022



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Cover and back cover photo: Nepal rice fields (Photo: Mokhamad Edliadi/CIFOR)



# 1 INTRODUCTION

**In 2022, the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) Annual Survey had the highest response rate yet, with 75% (45 out of 61) of Civil Society Alliances completing it – an exponential increase from 2021's 32% response rate. At the end of the [report](#), you will find out how the SUN CSN Secretariat will respond to the needs and recommendations shared by CSAs.**

A special thank you to the countries who completed the Annual Survey: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote D'Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

With the backdrop of Covid-19, worsening global hunger and nutrition crises, economic and political issues, shrinking civic space and reductions in development resources, on top of country-specific challenges, Civil Society

Alliances are bearing the brunt of an ever-worsening landscape. Despite this, Network members have delivered impactful nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, conducted successful advocacy campaigns and built the collective capacity of network members and external stakeholders which contributed to significant nutrition outcomes.

The report outlines what the Civil Society Network membership looks like in 2022, examples of key achievements and challenges faced by alliances, 2023 workplan priorities, their engagement within the SUN Multi-Stakeholder Platforms, and their ranking on sustainability, governance, diversity, and inclusion.

[Want to learn more? Click here.](#)

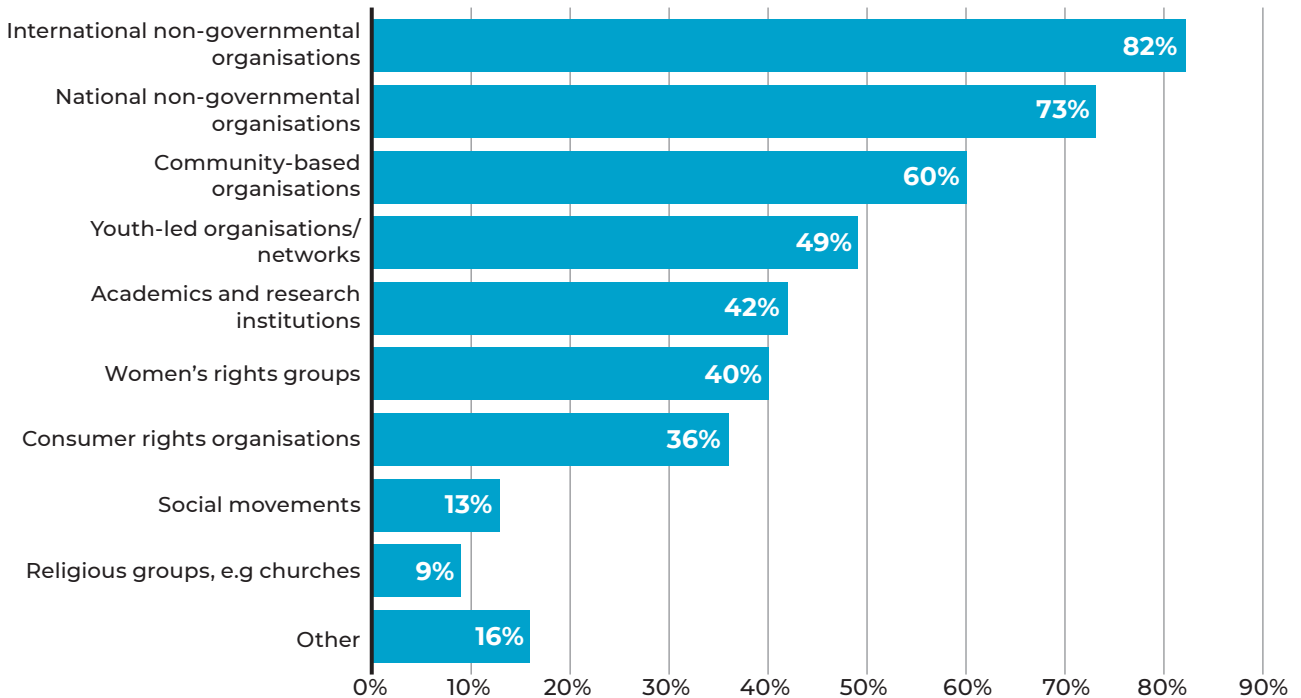


PHOTO: SANTIAGO ARCOS/UNICEF

# 2 MEMBERSHIP

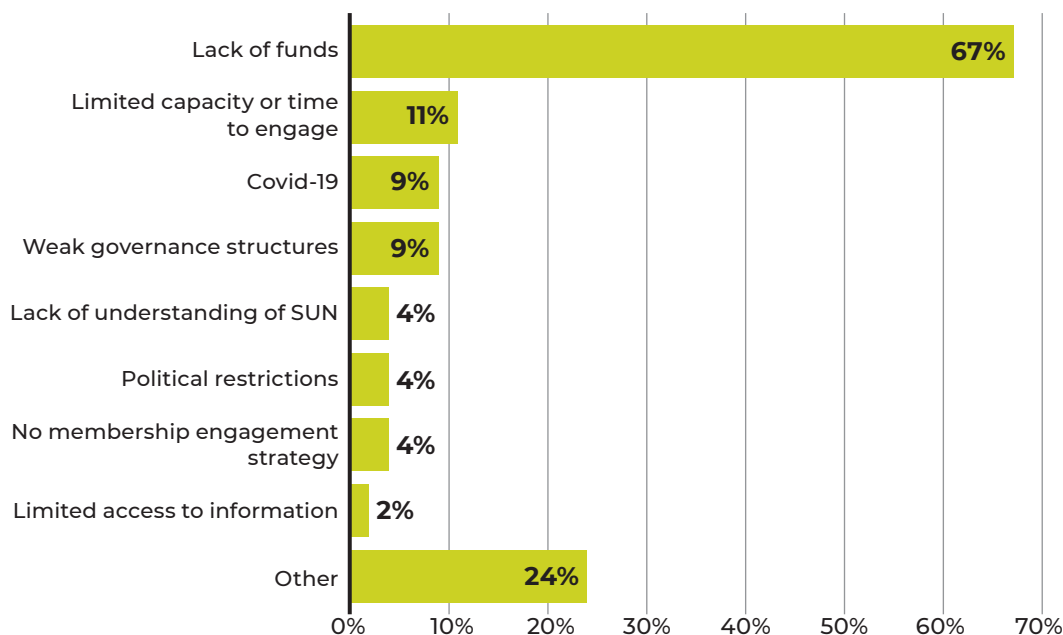
In 2022, the Civil Society Network's membership grew to **4,588 member organisations and individual members**. Of the 45 who responded to the annual survey, the alliances are made up of the following types of organisations.

## Types of organisations belonging to Civil Society Alliances



With an ever-growing network, many Civil Society Alliances have reported barriers to member engagement. An overwhelming 67% of Civil Society Alliances shared that their most significant obstacle was a lack of funds, which has resulted in alliances no longer having full or part-time coordinators, as well as challenges in engaging members and coordinating joint activities.

## Barriers to member engagement







Despite these challenges, alliances are finding creative ways to improve member engagement:

**Burkina Faso** Established thematic groups within the Civil Society Alliance, RESONUT, and created a platform to facilitate exchanges between the members of the different groups. Furthermore, they organised periodic meetings and provided capacity strengthening opportunities to members across these thematic areas, including implementation of the decentralised advocacy project by RESONUT and partners. All of which contributed to increased member engagement.

**Cambodia** Hosted online meetings, which enabled many members outside the capital city, Phnom Penh, to participate in the Civil Society Alliances activities.

**Ethiopia** Worked with the regional governments to obtain a list of Civil Society Organisations, engaged with members through social media platforms and developed fact sheets and resources for members to use and are in the process of establishing regional chapters with regional leads.

**Madagascar** Delivered capacity strengthening opportunities to members in different regions and reduced membership fees to curtail the impact of Covid-19.

**Malawi** Delivered capacity strengthening through advocacy training tailored to members' needs, they engaged members in influencing national policies, budgets and strategies such as annual budget analysis and district budget tracking in consultation with the district nutrition coordinating committees.

[Want to learn more? Click here.](#)

## 2.1 Decentralisation

Sixty-nine per cent of Civil Society Alliances have sub-national structures in place, 11% are establishing sub-national structures, while 22% have not begun decentralisation efforts.

Some examples of activities undertaken at the sub-national level include:

**Burkina Faso** Civil Society Alliance members have democratically appointed focal points in five regions. They coordinate alliance activities at the decentralised level in collaboration with the national coordination structure. At the sub-national level, the alliance is monitoring public funding and technical and financial partners for nutrition, producing evidence through research to support advocacy and creating and disseminating mass awareness messaging on good nutritional practices. They have provided technical support to multisectoral actors at the sub-national level.

**Costa Rica** Information has been collected at the sub-national level to identify early warnings about the nutrition situation and the provision of goods and services provided by the State to the alliance's target population.

**Ghana** Regional and District Focal Points were selected and oriented to serve as the grassroots structures of the Ghana SUN CSA.

These structures were created through the Pooled Fund project and have been active since 2019. The alliance has engaged districts and communities in nutrition planning, programming, and implementation.

**Kenya** Established country chapters where members meet at the sub-national level and elect a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer. The elected members communicate regularly with the secretariat through the National Coordinator. The following activities are undertaken at the sub-national level:

1. Capacity strengthening on advocacy
2. Advocacy engagement with policymakers
3. Policy engagement and formulation
4. Domestic resource mobilisation
5. Community sensitisation and behavioural change communication

**Lao PDR** Conducted learning events, provincial-level coordination meetings and implemented advocacy campaigns such as World Breastfeeding Week at the sub-national level.

**Mali** Established a mechanism to hold local authorities to account on their commitment to include nutrition in the municipal development plans. They supported the dissemination of PAMN 2021–2023 (Kayes and Sikasso)

**Malawi** Civil Society Organisation Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) has district CSO Nutrition platforms with a focal point that coordinates the structures at the district level and updates the CSA regularly. All communications from the national to district level are channelled through the district focal points. The focal point position is rotated every two years. The following activities are undertaken at this level:

1. District budget analysis and tracking
2. Lobbying for the prioritisation of nutrition in district policies
3. Community sensitisation and awareness on nutrition in village action plans
4. Training of CSOs in nutrition advocacy

[Want to learn more? Click here.](#)



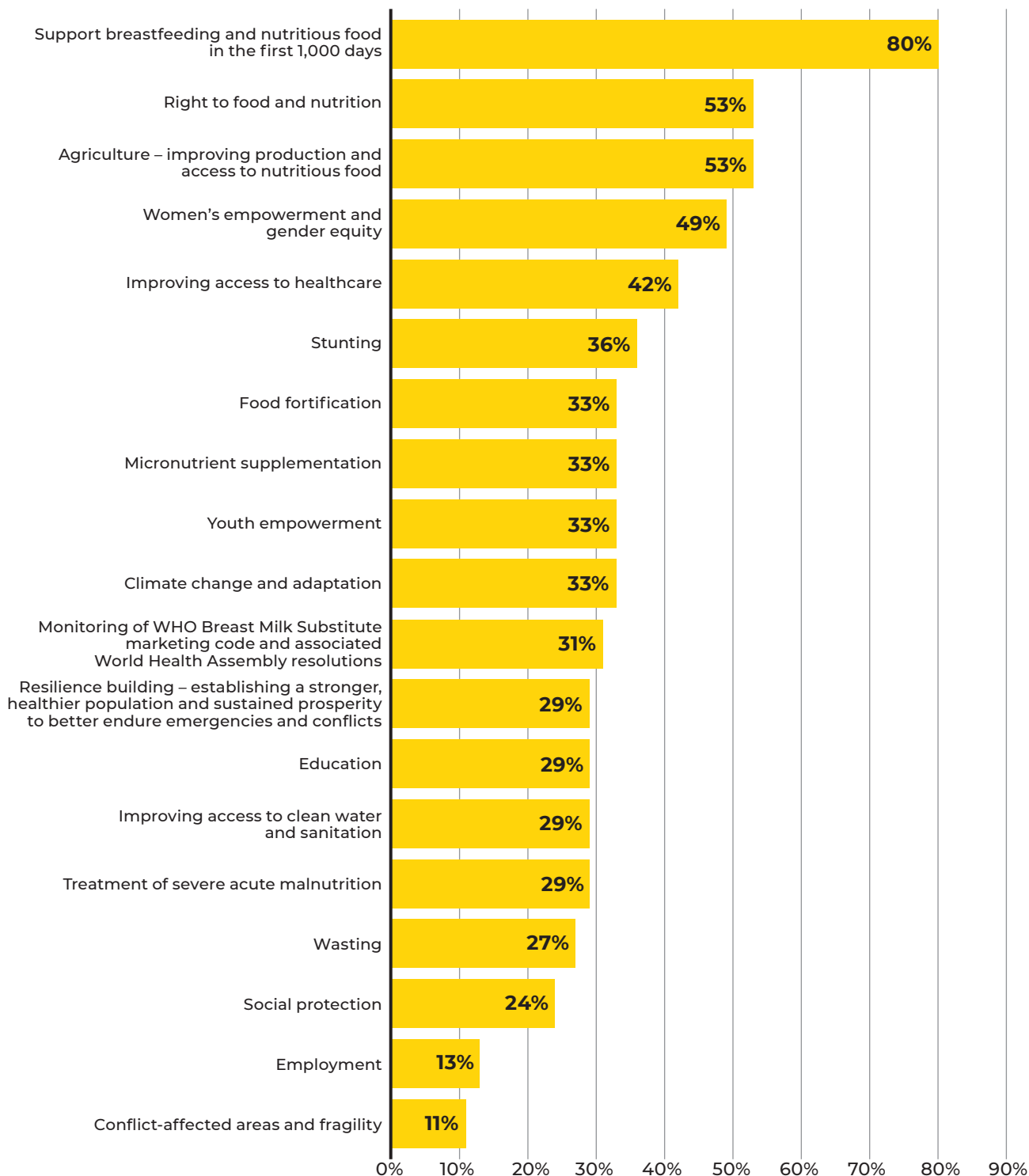


## 2.2 Workplans, expertise

Civil Society Alliances indicated that the top-ranking thematic areas in their 2023 workplan were supporting breastfeeding and nutritious food in the first 1,000 days (80%),

the right to food and nutrition (53%), agriculture – improving production and access to nutritious food and supporting small farmers (53%).

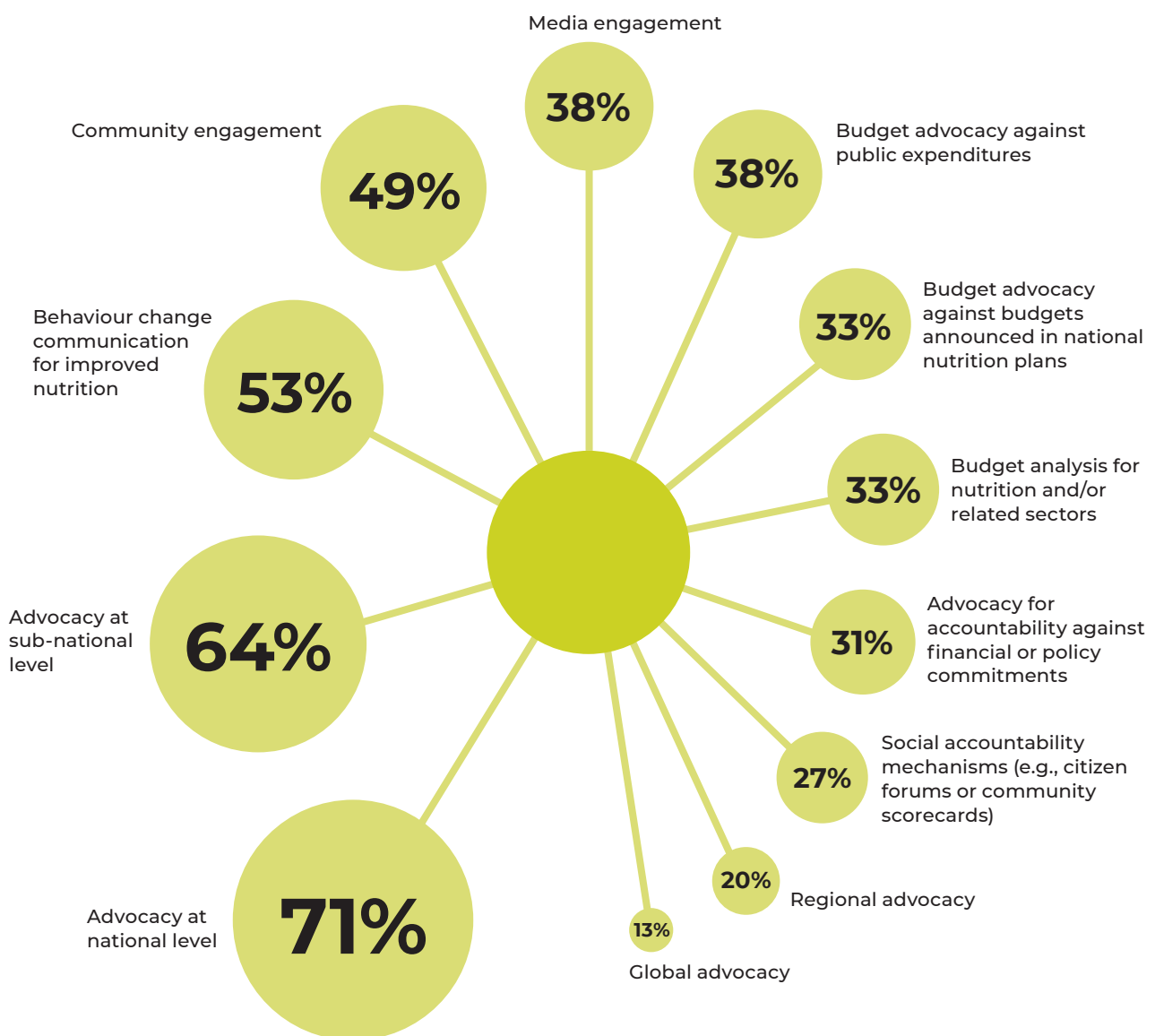
### Thematic areas included in CSAs' 2023 workplans



The technical areas of Alliances' 2023 workplans have been categorised under four specific areas:

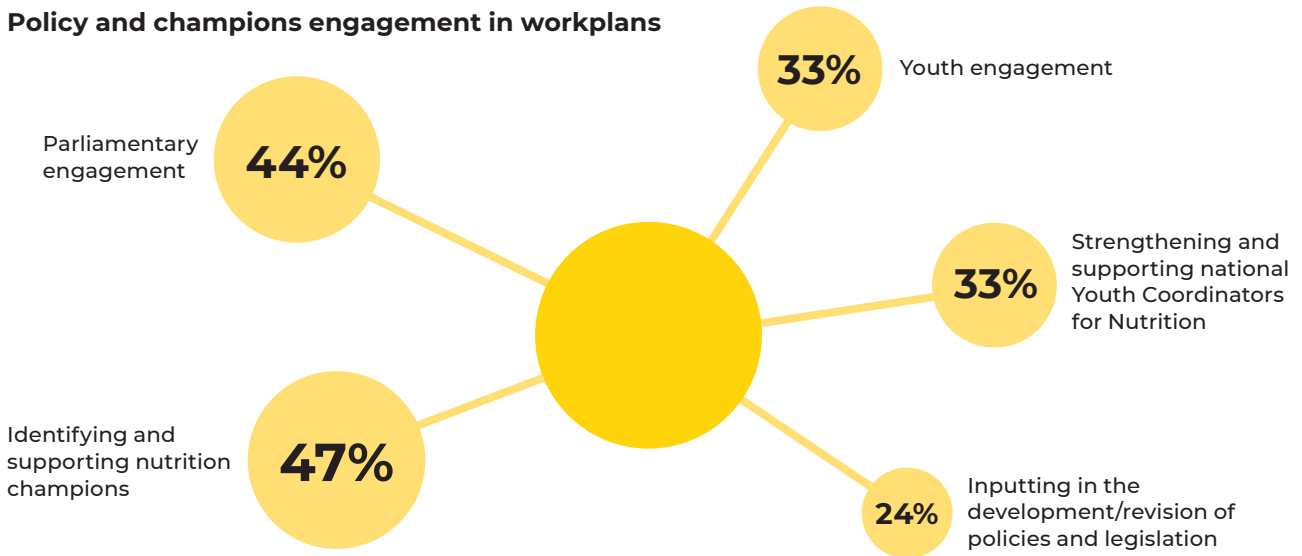
- **Advocacy and social mobilisation**
- **Policy and champions engagement**
- **Evidence-based decision-making**
- **Capacity strengthening**

### Advocacy and social mobilisation in workplans

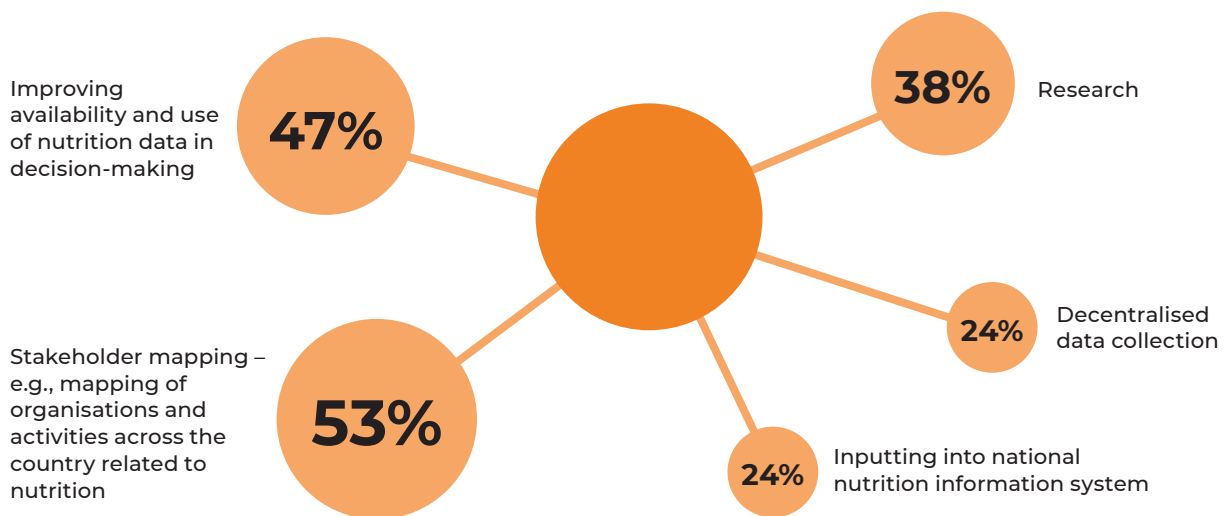




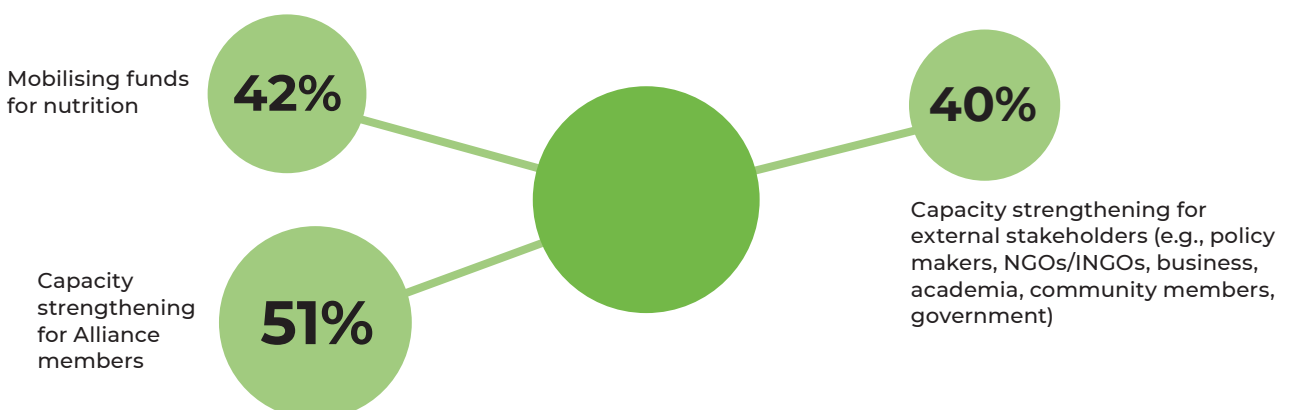
### Policy and champions engagement in workplans



### Evidence-based decision-making in workplans



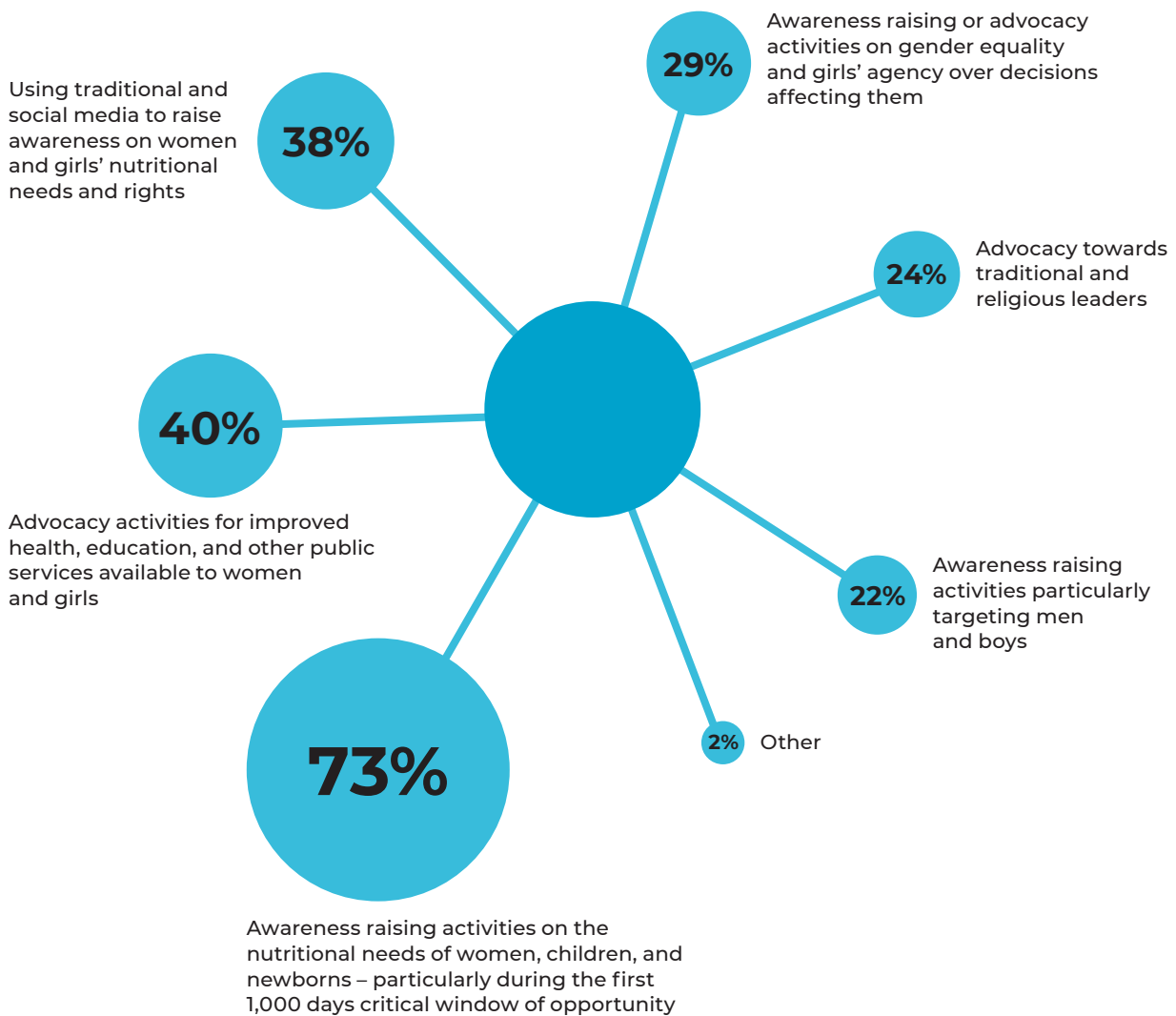
### Capacity strengthening in workplans



Civil Society Alliances have integrated gender-transformative activities into their workplan, with 73% focussing on awareness-raising activities on the nutritional needs of women,

children and newborns and an additional 40% conducting advocacy activities for improved health, education and other public services available to women and girls.

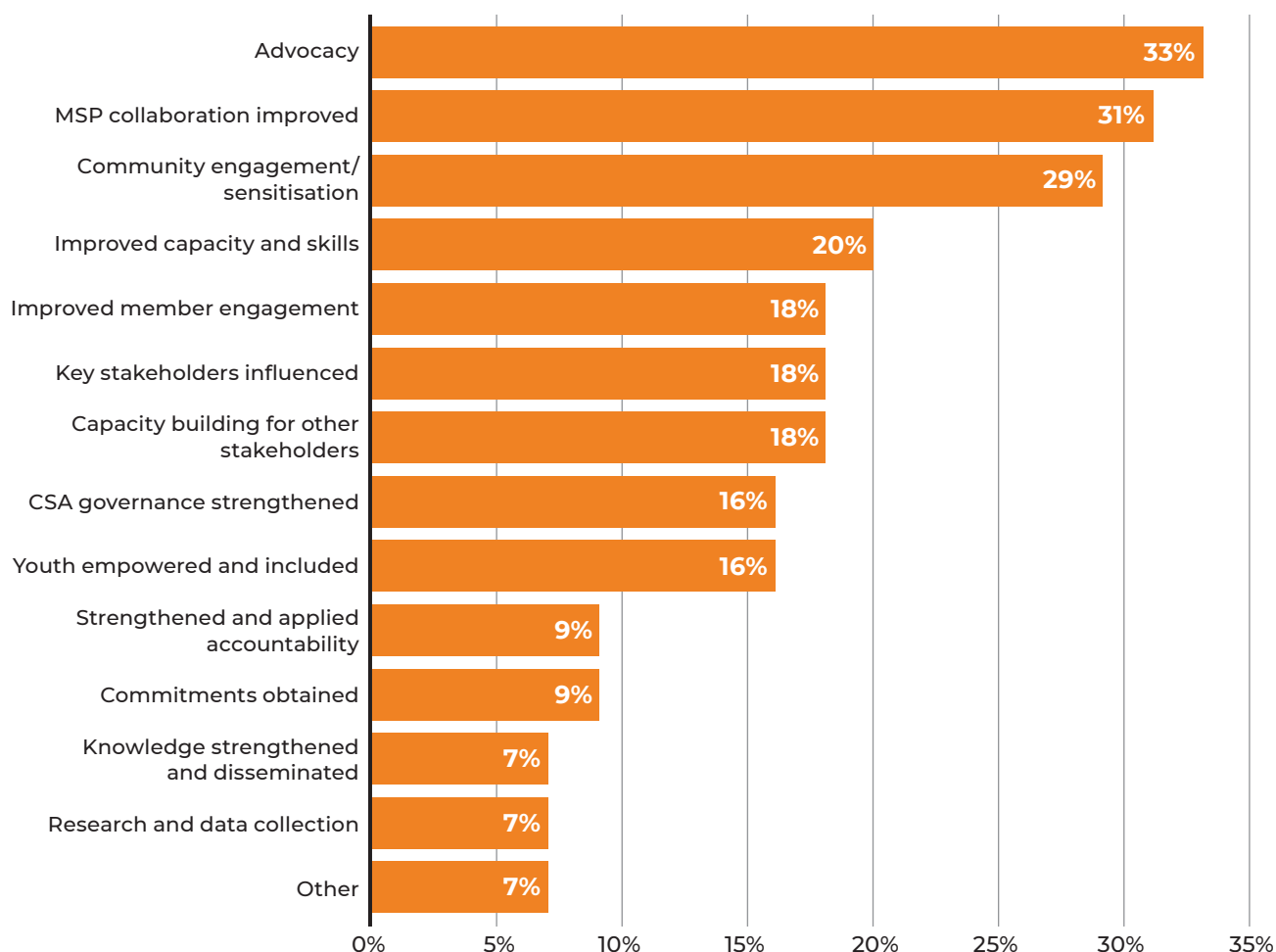
### Gender-transformative activities in workplans



# 3 ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite the challenging context, lack of funds (80%) and shrinking civic space, Civil Society Alliances have accomplished significant achievements in the realms of advocacy (33%), improving Multi-Stakeholder Platform collaboration (31%), leading community engagement/sensitisation on nutrition-related issues (29%) and improving the capacity and skills of members and external stakeholders (20%).

## Civil Society Alliances' 2022 achievements



### 3.1 Research and data collection

**Guatemala** Carried out a field visit to food warehouses to verify primary data on the state of the infrastructure and production. Provided support with the activities carried out by the Unions, Evangelical Churches and others.

**Lao PDR** Conducted a joint research study on the impact of inflation on food and nutrition security.

### 3.2 Knowledge management and capacity-strengthening

**Guinea** Strengthened the alliance's capacity on the integration of local products into children's diets.

**Mali** Delivered a capacity strengthening session to parliamentarians on financing basic social services, nutrition, and WASH.

**Lao PDR** Organised a monthly online learning platform (SUN CSA Friday Hangout), leading to peer-to-peer learning between members.



### 3.3 Community mobilisation

**Guinea** Established women's groups at the community level, organised an awareness-raising activity promoting local products accessible to the population and organised cooking demonstrations in Matam and Matoto.

**Madagascar** Implemented the Women Leaders for Development Project through which they promoted the actions undertaken by women and young girls to access decision-making bodies (on WASH and nutrition) in the regions of the south of Madagascar. Furthermore, they implemented a project to strengthen actions and community commitment to improving the basic health system.

### 3.4 Multi-stakeholder engagement

**Ghana** As a Food systems Cross Sectoral Planning Group (CSPG) member under the leadership of the National Development Planning Commission, the SUN CSA has been active in all CSPG meetings and deliberations, providing inputs in policy formulations and strategies for nutrition.

**Ghana** The Hunger Alliance has meaningfully participated in all the SUN Focal Point's dialogues on nutrition. It has provided inputs, for example, on the workshop on sustainable financing for nutrition, joint assessment reviews, the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa Country Strategy Consultation and review of the national food systems policy matrix.

**Mozambique** Held advocacy meetings with the Governors, Secretaries of State (province) and Administrators (districts). A series of meetings were organised with Parliament committees, which resulted in developing the Parliamentary Action Guideline for nutrition. This was distributed to all national parliamentarians, provincial Assembly members and some municipalities.



### 3.5 Advocacy

**Burkina Faso** At the national and sub-national levels, the alliance has led almost all the government's budget advocacy actions for nutrition. This expertise has been shared at the sub-national level to benefit other groups of actors, particularly the Global Financing Facility Working Group. Furthermore, they have mobilised role models and champions committed to the cause of nutrition during a workshop. This activity resulted in developing a 2023 annual action plan with champions and role models.

**Cambodia** Supported ministries, NGOs and private sector actors to open multiple workplace breastfeeding rooms.

**Ecuador** The Civil Society Alliance successfully advocated for the constitution of the Advisory Council for the Prevention and Reduction of Chronic Child Malnutrition, a consultative civil society body that mobilises ideas, projects and resources to end malnutrition. It also aims to strengthen sustainability and make chronic child malnutrition a country policy.

**Ethiopia** Documented high-level evidence which focused on the Government at the African Union Year of Nutrition and Food Security launch. The alliance and other stakeholders committed to the Seqota declaration and its implementation. The alliance played a significant role in supporting the Government to organise the Seqota Declaration Expansion phase 2014 EFY performance review high-level forum, held in Seqota town on August 21, 2022.

**Indonesia** The Lead of the alliance contributed to developing legislation on the fortification standard.

**Kyrgyzstan** Successfully lobbied the government to withdraw the draft law "On Baking Flour Fortification", which allowed the import of unfortified flour into the country.

**Lao PDR** Implemented a Joint World Breastfeeding Week campaign with eight joint advocacy actions.

**Malawi** The Government announced the creation of a budget vote for nutrition at the district level following the alliance's lobbying for the prioritisation of nutrition. They organised a Global Day of Action for Nutrition which involved the Minister of Health, who made commitments to increase the budget for nutrition. Furthermore, they conducted three high-level regional advocacy conferences involving 28 district councils to prioritise nutrition in the district council.

**Mali** Organised and delivered a session to parliamentarians on the importance of the right to food and the delivery of the multisectoral plan.

### 3.6 Youth empowerment and engagement

**Afghanistan** Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Capacity for Afghanistan, the largest youth organisation in Afghanistan, with 30,000 members. The Co-Chair of the CSA was offered a senior advisory role and supported the development of agricultural and health initiatives aimed at promoting food security and nutrition. Furthermore, the CSA provided technical support to Capacity for Afghanistan in writing grant proposals.

**Mozambique** The alliance led the creation of the SUN CSN Youth Network, which is coordinated by Movimento pela Cidadania, a member organisation.

### 3.7 Service delivery

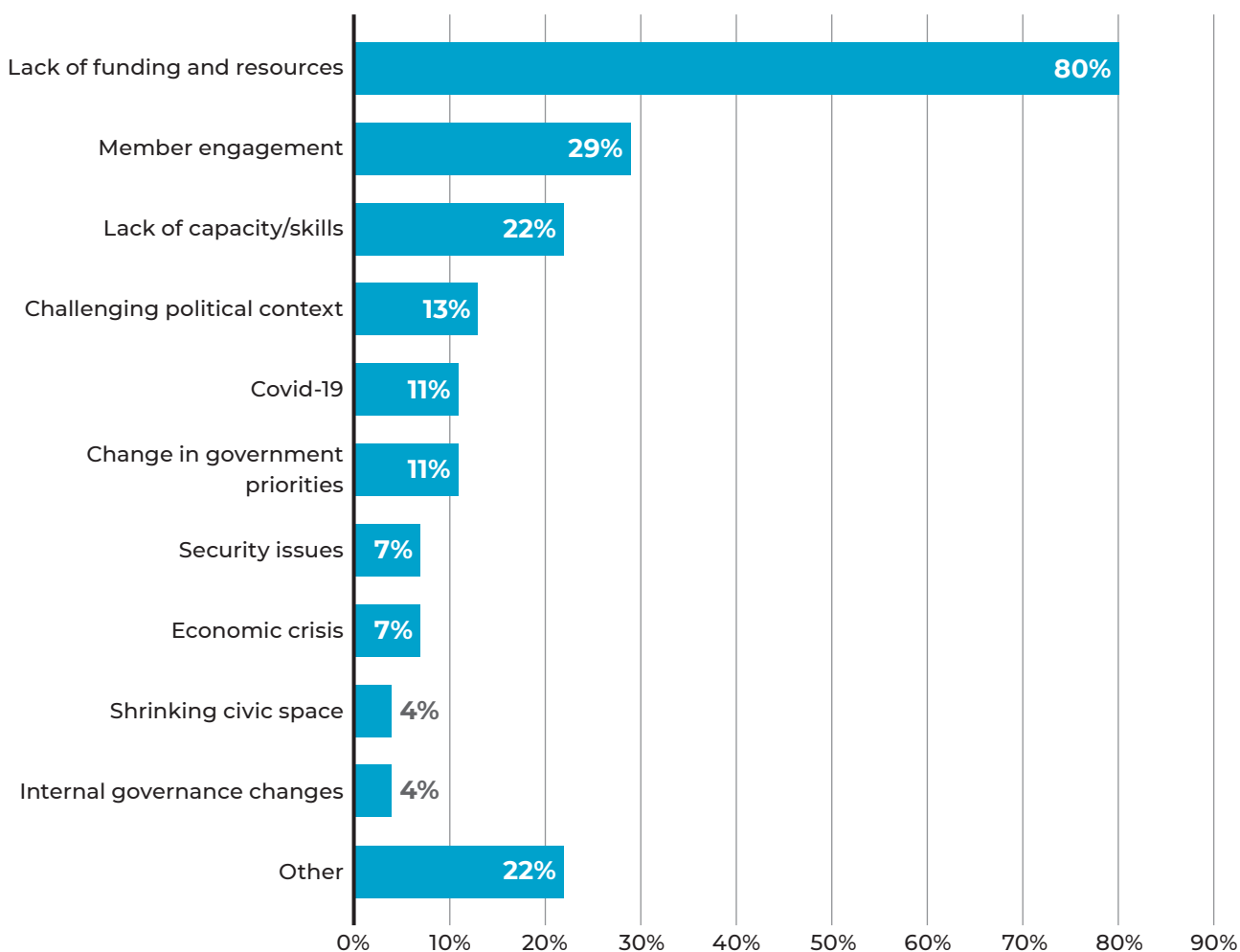
**Madagascar** Designed and implemented an immunisation project which increased the number of people vaccinated against Covid-19.

[Want to learn more? Click here.](#)

# 4 CHALLENGES

Eighty per cent of alliances shared that their key challenge in 2022 was a need for more funds and resources. The second most significant challenge alliances face is member engagement (29%), which is inherently linked to their funding situation. Many alliances need a full-time coordinator and more resources to mobilise members and implement joint activities. Only 4% (2/45) of alliances have funding secured for the next 3+ years, and 21% (10/45) of alliances have full or partial funding for the next three years. The majority are in a critical phase or currently unable to function due to a lack of resources.

## CSAs' challenges in 2022



Lack of funding and resources has meant that alliances are:

- Unable to implement workplan activities, affecting programmatic work
- Carry out vital public-facing advocacy and accountability campaigns towards the government and other stakeholders
- Struggling to hire and retain employees, paying salaries and covering core overhead costs
- Unable to engage members and providing capacity strengthening opportunities
- Less visible in the country; and
- Unable to engage meaningfully in the Multi-Stakeholder Platforms.



Civil Society Alliances are critical partners in ending malnutrition and in the successful delivery of the SUN 3.0 strategy. They provide critical services and support, raise awareness and advocate for change, monitor progress, hold stakeholders accountable, and mobilise communities to act for change. A multisectoral

and multistakeholder approach that includes civil society is essential to addressing malnutrition and achieving sustainable development. Yet, across the regions, CSAs are struggling to function and, in some cases, are forced to cease activities due to shortage of funding.



PHOTO: WFP/SAVED ASIF MAHMUD

# 5 SUN CSN INDICES

In 2021, we launched the Governance, Sustainability and Diversity and Inclusion indices which were developed to help assess the performance level of alliances. These indices were validated by four Civil Society Alliances representing the four regions of the CSN. These indices have now been built into a series of workshop exercises for practical use in the [Good Governance Guide](#) and are designed as self-assessment tools for civil society alliances and civil society efforts to review their status and understand what they need to ensure good governance.

While the indices provide a good overview of how alliances are ranking in these areas– they should be approached with caution as many alliances have fallen within the lower spectrum of the ranking.

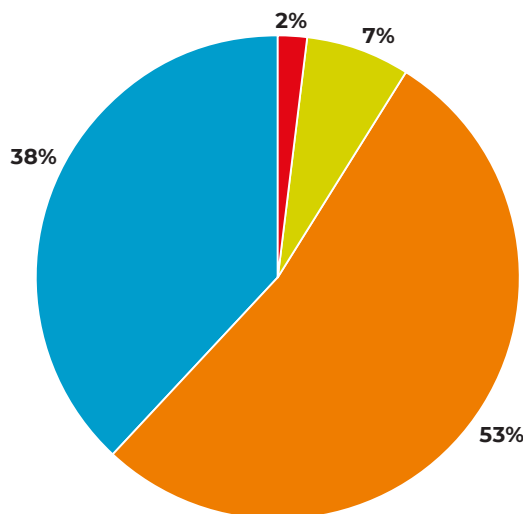
## 5.1 Governance Index

The Governance Index is made up of 13 indicators that capture various elements of good governance principles. Each indicator carries a weighting which aggregates into a total score and subsequently determines the alliance’s good governance level, as per the below:

- Level 1: Critical or Initial (depending on establishment date or context)
- Level 2: Establishing
- Level 3: Managed and Enabling
- Level 4: Sustained

The 45 alliances who responded ranked as shown in the figure below.

**Governance Index levels ranked**



- Level 1: Critical or Initial (depending on establishment date or context)
- Level 2: Establishing
- Level 3: Managed and Enabling
- Level 4: Sustained

## 5.2 Sustainability Index

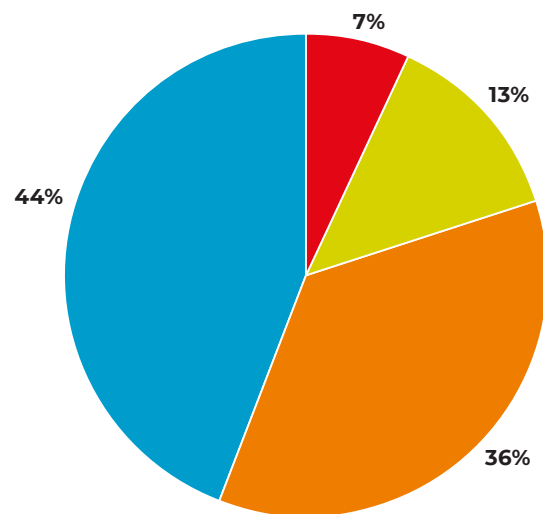
The Sustainability Index consists of 19 indicators that build on the governance score and integrates “operations” and “funding availability”. These three spheres are all key to the sustainability of CSAs. This index does not measure the “level of impact/reach” of the CSA.

Each indicator carries a weighting, which aggregates into a total score and subsequently a sustainability level, as per the below:

- Level 1: No sustainability
- Level 2: Low sustainability
- Level 3: Medium sustainability
- Level 4: High sustainability

The 45 alliances who responded ranked as shown in the figure below.

**Sustainability Index levels ranked**



- Level 1: No sustainability
- Level 2: Low sustainability
- Level 3: Medium sustainability
- Level 4: High sustainability



### 5.3 Diversity and Inclusion Index

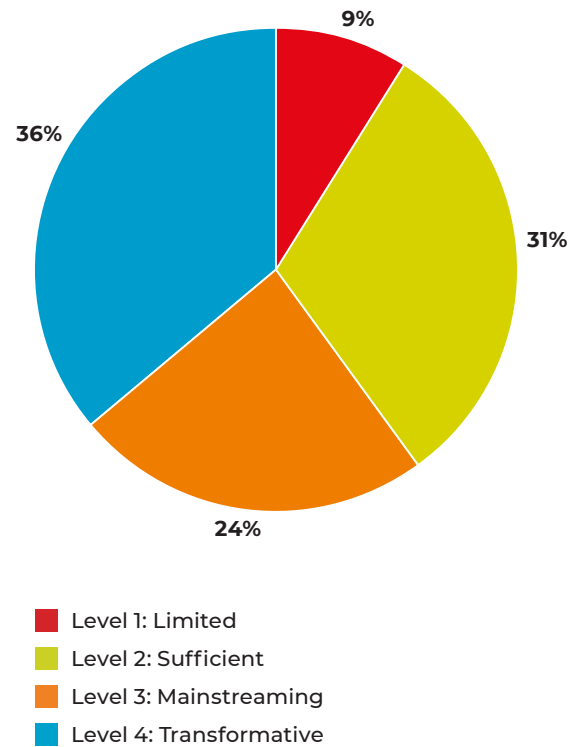
One of the enablers of the 3.0 Civil Society Network Strategy is gender inclusion, with an emphasis on ensuring that:

- Women and girls play a prominent role in network structures.
- Gender transformative approaches are piloted and shared across the network.
- Gender-sensitive leadership models are promoted within and beyond the SUN Movement.
- The most vulnerable groups are included.

As such, we created a Diversity and Inclusion Index consisting of seven indicators including gender balance within alliance leadership structures, inclusive alliance interventions and engagement of women, youth and other vulnerable stakeholders in strategy development and decision making.

The 45 alliances who responded ranked as shown in the figure opposite.

Diversity and Inclusion Index levels ranked



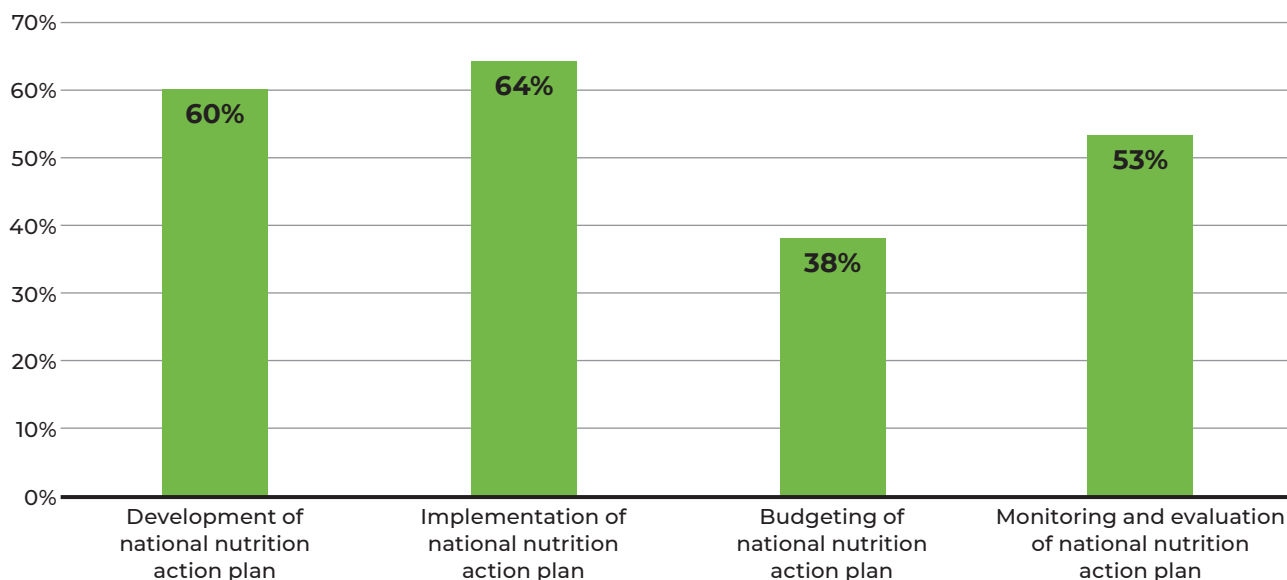


# 6 MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM ENGAGEMENT

In the SUN 3.0 strategy (2021–2025), the Civil Society Network strives to ensure that civil society is meaningfully included and engaged in Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSP), understanding that civil society members are essential to this effort as they bring lived experience of malnutrition to MSPs and offer solutions rooted in community realities.

Despite the lack of funding, resources and capacity, Civil Society Alliances continue to play an instrumental role within the Multi-Stakeholder Platforms at the national and sub-national levels. Below is a breakdown of the contribution of alliances within different areas of the National Nutrition Plans.

**Contribution of CSAs within different areas of National Nutrition Plans**



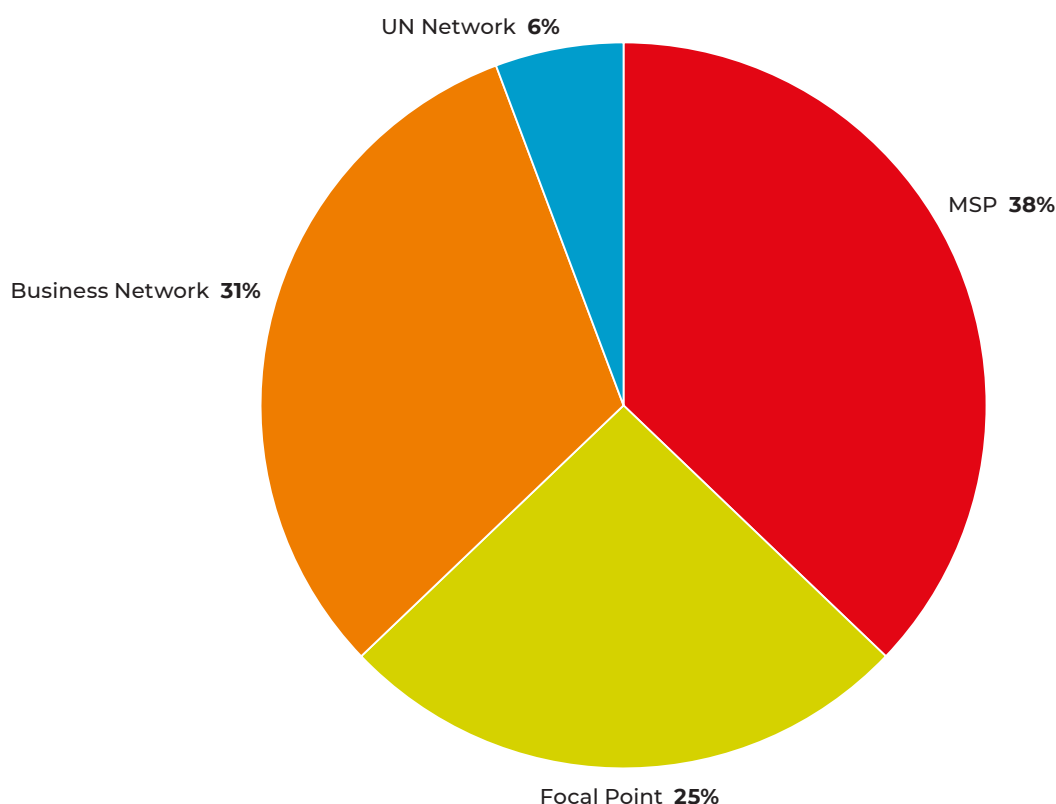
Furthermore, civil society alliances have continued to provide technical assistance to a variety of MSP stakeholders. Examples of such include but are not limited to:

- **Ghana:** Delivered assistance to the SUN Focal Point to set up the SUN Business Network.
- **Ethiopia:** Deployed two technical advisers to provide support to the SUN MSP.
- **Indonesia:** A member organisation of the alliance delivered capacity strengthening training to members of the SUN Business Network (e.g., knowledge sharing on food fortification).

- **Kenya:** Provided support to the Business and UN Network.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** Developed a policy brief on the flour fortification situation.

CSAs responded most often that they provided technical assistance to the national-level MSP, Focal Point, Business and UN Networks, as shown in the chart below.

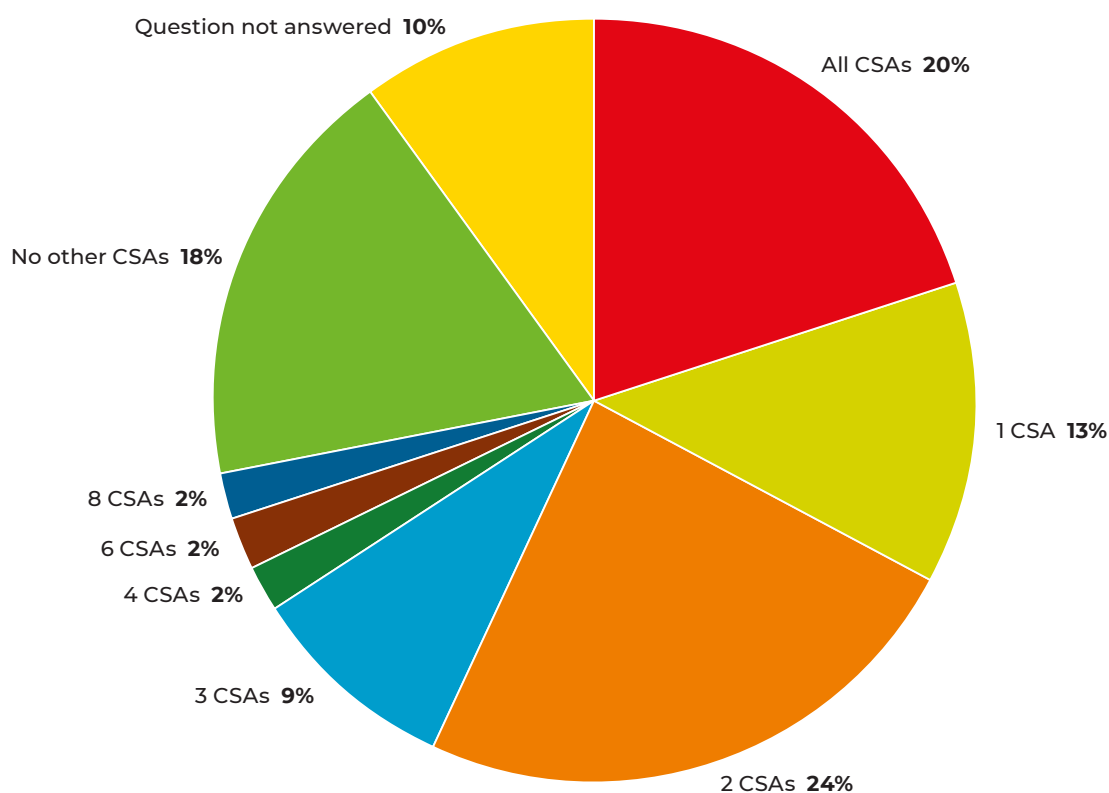
#### MSP stakeholders who received technical assistance from CSAs



# 7 PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

A key commitment made by the SUN CSN in the 3.0 strategy was to strengthen regional networking and collaboration to ensure cross-country assistance, funding, learning, coordination and appropriate linguistic support to Civil Society Alliances. 20% of respondents shared that they are in contact with all alliances in their regional group, followed by 24% corresponding with two CSAs and 13% with only one other CSA. 18% of respondents shared that they are not in touch with any other alliance. There is a need for the Civil Society Network Secretariat to be a better broker of relationships between CSAs.

**Number of other CSAs in regional group that CSAs reported being in contact with**



The following are examples of peer-to-peer exchanges:

- Burkina Faso–Mali:** The alliance in Burkina Faso shared their experiences in budget monitoring, analysis and advocacy to the alliance in Mali. They learned about the Mali alliance’s experience on integrating participation of civil society organisations in the process of developing community budgets to influence them as they evolve.
- Ghana–Liberia:** The alliance in Liberia requested support from Ghana on their alliance’s constitution which was shared and adopted in their context.
- Nigeria–Ghana:** The alliance in Ghana learned from Nigeria becoming independent, and members’ experience in running the alliance and revising the constitution.
- Cameroon–Madagascar:** the alliance in Cameroon shared lessons learned as well as techniques for conducting community commitments to improve the health and nutrition system.
- Mali–Cameroon:** shared experiences on the experience of Mali in the formulation of commitments and follow-up.





CSN representatives at the SUN Movement Regional Gathering in Panama, December 2022.



Participants at the Enhancing Capacities on Nutrition-sensitive Programming hosted by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction in the Philippines meet with the Mayor of Quezon City.



# 8 RECOMMENDATIONS, NEXT STEPS

Through the Annual Survey, alliances shared a series of recommendations for the Civil Society Network Secretariat. We have categorised these by thematic areas and will be addressing these recommendations in the following ways.

## Recommendation 1: Resource Mobilisation

71% of alliances recommended that the CSN Secretariat should increase their support in the realm of resource mobilisation. The CSN Secretariat will do this by:

- Providing technical assistance to alliances with proposal writing.
- Sharing the fundraising opportunities bulletin to alliances which will showcase the latest grants available to Civil Society Alliances.
- Providing guidance from global and national level donors to alliances on best practices around proposal writing, preparing for donor meetings, etc.
- Exploring new, innovative methods of funding – such as diaspora fundraising mechanisms.
- Institutionalising the Fundraising Radicals Training which will provide free training opportunities to all members of the CSN to help bridge the fundraising capacity (knowledge and tools).
- Facilitating a mapping with potential donors at the global and national level.

## Recommendation 2: Capacity strengthening

51% of alliances shared that they would like to access more training and learning opportunities. The recommendations encompassed learning webinars, the development of toolkits, and capacity strengthening for improved advocacy. The CSN Secretariat will do this by:

- Developing an advocacy toolkit for alliances that can be adapted by CSAs to their specific context, as well as guidance and training on how to successfully lobby and work with the government (parliamentary engagement/ engaging policy makers), provide support in developing messages and communication.
- Providing support throughout the duration of the [SUN CSN social accountability campaign](#), with a [toolkit](#) and tailored support to translate the campaign at the local and national level.
- Providing communications training including guidance on using social media for low-cost and targeted advocacy, website development, video and editing trainings.
- Providing learning webinars on the interlinkages between nutrition and other thematic areas such as gender, climate change, water, hygiene and sanitation.
- Developing a pilot hybrid training on budget analysis and advocacy.

### Recommendation 3: Peer-to-peer learning

44% of CSAs indicated that they would like to have more peer-to-peer learning opportunities, in the form of regional meetings, knowledge and experience sharing and collaborative virtual events. Furthermore, 33% of CSAs shared that they want to exchange good practices and learn from one another. The CSN Secretariat will do this by:

- Organising face-to-face regional meetings with CSA members.
- Hosting an informal open forum meeting for all members to meet, connect and share their experiences.
- Documenting good practices from across the network and disseminating widely within the network, SUN movement and beyond.
- Hosting good practice webinars on a variety of different thematic and technical areas for members to share and learn from one another.
- Developing a buddy system where CSAs ranking highly on the governance, sustainability, diversity and inclusion indices are paired with those who need more support.
- Conducting more in-person trainings bringing network members from across the world together.



PHOTO: UNICEF/UNIT161663/FERGUSON

# ANNUAL SURVEY JANUARY–DECEMBER 2022



Civil Society Network

ENGAGE • INSPIRE • INVEST

**Together we will develop  
a sustainable and integrated  
Network of civil society actors that  
collectively contributes to a world  
free of malnutrition by 2030.**

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[scalingupnutrition.org](https://scalingupnutrition.org)

