



Peer Learning & Technical Assistance visit to SUN CSA Kenya

21st -27th August 2026 Mission Report



SUN CSA Nigeria Delegation <-> SUN CSA Kenya Secretariat team



Prepared by

CS-SUNN Nigeria Technical Assistance Team

CS-SUNN Nigeria Mission Team

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1. Executive Summary

From August 21 to August 27, 2026, a five-member technical assistance team from the Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) alliance conducted a peer learning and technical assistance mission to the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance (SUN CSA) Kenya. The objective was to facilitate direct peer-to-peer exchange on alliance governance, institutional sustainability, member coordination, advocacy approaches, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture implementation.

The mission encompassed strategic engagements at the national Secretariat level in Nairobi, direct consultations with county-level member organizations in Mombasa and Kwale counties, and technical assessments of community- and institution-based agriculture projects.

Key technical contributions and early mission outcomes include:

1. **Institutional Sustainability and Governance:** Shared practical models on membership dues structures to improve Secretariat financial stability and member accountability. SUN CSA Kenya confirmed it has initiated consultations to adopt this model at its upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM).
2. **Technical Assessment of Field Projects:** Identified critical implementation gaps in a women-led community farm project, specifically around feasibility planning,



technical extension oversight, and veterinary care. Delivered actionable guidance to establish links with county extension officers.

3. **Biofortification and Resource Support:** Connected a model farm at the Shimo la Tewa Borstal Institution (juvenile correctional center) with HarvestPlus channels to source biofortified crop varieties (Vitamin A maize, Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato, and Vitamin A cassava). Provided a direct seed capital support donation of \$150 USD to immediately procure high-quality planting materials.
4. **County-Level Alliance Strengthening:** Facilitated alignment between the newly inaugurated SUN CSA Kwale County chapter and the Kwale County Nutrition Officer, securing a commitment from county health leadership to integrate civil society into local nutrition plans.

This report presents a structured analysis of the mission findings, context, field observations, and a practical action plan to guide post-mission follow-up.

2. Context and Institutional Scope

SUN CSA Kenya is a civil society alliance established to coordinate non-state actors contributing to nutrition outcomes across Kenya. During national Secretariat briefings, the alliance reported the following operational footprint:

- **Member Network:** 441 registered member organizations spread across 47 counties, with 20 counties actively operating coordinated activities at the time of the visit.
- **Geographic Focus:** Active coordination is concentrated primarily in the Coastal region and the Central Rift Valley region.
- **Strategic Alliances:** Active collaboration across seven main sectors: SUN Movement structures, Government line ministries, Youth-SUN, Academia, Biz-SUN (led by GAIN), donor agencies, and UNICEF.
- **Governance System:** Overseen by an 11-member Board of Directors. The Board Chair, Mrs. Betty Sharon (who also serves as the Executive Director of Collaboration of Women In Development - CWID), simultaneously chairs



Kenya's Multiple Micronutrient Council, offering strong strategic linkage between civil society and national policy bodies.

- **Operational Model:** The Secretariat operates purely as a donor-supported coordination body. It does not implement field projects directly, nor does it receive direct implementation funding, relying instead on management and operational grants.

3. Mission Purpose, Objectives, and Methodology

3.1 Purpose

To perform structured peer-to-peer technical exchange between CS-SUNN Nigeria and SUN CSA Kenya, analyzing institutional governance, financial sustainability mechanisms, partnership strategies, and field-level execution to strengthen both alliances.

3.2 Objectives

1. Review SUN CSA Kenya Secretariat governance, operational structures, and county-level member management systems.
2. Exchange proven methodologies for alliance sustainability, focus on member retention, resource mobilization, and dues-based accountability.
3. Assess field-level nutrition-sensitive projects implemented by alliance members to provide technical feedback and support.
4. Support county-level alliance structures by facilitating engagement with government health and nutrition leadership.

3.3 Methodology

The team utilized a qualitative peer-learning methodology:

- **Strategic Key Informant Interviews (KIs):** Sessions with Secretariat leadership and staff in Nairobi.
- **Focus Group Consultations:** Discussions with county coalition members in Mombasa and Kwale.



- **Direct Field Observation:** Technical walk-throughs and site assessments of two operating demonstration farms.
- **Safeguarding Practices:** All engagements at the juvenile correctional facility adhered strictly to child protection and vulnerability guidelines. No identifiable faces of minors were photographed or documented.

4. Stakeholders Engaged

4.1 SUN CSA Kenya Secretariat Team (Nairobi)

- **Edgar Okoth**, Executive Director
- **Victoria Unni Leartine**, Head of Finance
- **Geofrey Dkougou**, Finance Officer
- **Margaret Akinyi**, Programme Manager
- **Damaris Ngeso**, External Relations & Network Development
- **Charlyne Kirui**, Communications Officer
- **Patricia Aketch**, Procurement Officer

4.2 Field and Institutional Stakeholders

- **Mrs. Betty Sharon**, Board Chairperson, SUN CSA Kenya / Executive Director, Collaboration of Women In Development (CWID).
- **County Nutrition Officer (NO)**, Kwale County Department of Health.
- **Executive Committee & Members**, SUN CSA Kwale County Chapter.
- **Station Commander & Management Team**, Shimo la Tewa Borstal Institution, Kenya Prison Service.
- **Representatives of 9 SUN CSA Member Organizations**, Mombasa County Coalition.

(Note: Official signed physical attendance sheets for all county and field engagements are preserved and attached as scanned annexes.)



5. Summary of Daily Technical Activities

Date	Location	Main purpose	Key activities / engagements
21 Aug 2026	Nairobi	Entry and alignment with SUN CSA Kenya Secretariat	Arrival and check-in. Introductory meeting with SUN CSA Kenya Secretariat at Cape Office Park, Kilimani to understand governance, coordination scope, member footprint, and priority gaps.
22 Aug 2026	Nairobi	Internal mission planning	Arrival of additional CS-SUNN team members. Team strategy meeting to align objectives, documentation approach, and logistics for Coastal field engagements.
23 Aug 2026	Nairobi to Mombasa	Deployment to Coastal region	Travel to Mombasa. Briefings and preparation for engagements with county coalition and member organizations.
24 Aug 2026	Mombasa County	County coalition engagement and field technical assessment	(1) Mombasa County SUN CSA coalition meeting hosted at CWID (representatives from 9 member organizations). (2) Visit to women-led dairy and vegetable farm initiative for technical review and advisory. (3) Visit to Shimo la Tewa Borstal Institution model farm for learning, technical linkage discussions, and support.
25 Aug 2026	Kwale County (Diani)	County chapter strengthening and government	Meeting at Diani Health Center with Kwale County Nutrition Officer and executive/members of the newly established SUN CSA Kwale County chapter to strengthen collaboration and



		engagement	alignment with county health priorities.
26 Aug 2026	Nairobi	Mission synthesis and close-out with SUN CSA Kenya leadership	Debrief and reflection meeting with SUN CSA Kenya Executive Director and programme team at Four Points Hotel to review findings, validate priority actions, and agree follow-up direction.
27 Aug 2026	Nairobi to Abuja	Mission close-out	Departure from Nairobi and safe arrival in Abuja.

Day 1: August 21, 2026 | Entry Briefing & National Secretariat Review (Nairobi)

The CS-SUNN team arrived at Four Points Hotel, Nairobi, and proceeded to the SUN CSA Kenya National Secretariat at Cape Office Park, Kilimani.

The meeting provided an overview of SUN CSA Kenya's scope. Discussions centered on the Secretariat's coordination model for its 441 member organizations, operational mechanics across the 20 active counties, governance oversight by the 11-member Board, and primary institutional challenges.

Key Issues Identified:

- The Secretariat is restricted to coordination and management support; it holds no portfolio or funding for direct field implementation.
- Member organizations do not contribute annual dues, leading to weak member tracking and total reliance on external administrative grants.

CS-SUNN Recommendations:

The CS-SUNN team recommended introducing a structured, mandatory annual membership dues model. Based on CS-SUNN's operational experience in Nigeria, membership dues serve as a technical tool to verify active membership, foster member ownership, and generate internal revenue for Secretariat operations. SUN CSA Kenya leadership acknowledged this recommendation and agreed to frame a formal dues proposal for presentation at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM).



Day 2: August 22, 2026 | Team Strategy & Field Alignment (Nairobi)

Following the arrival of the SC Lead Resource Mobilization and Communications Manager, the full CS-SUNN delegation convened internal alignment sessions. The team reviewed site visit checklists, technical evaluation frameworks for the coastal field sites, safeguarding protocols, and resource allocation.

Day 3: August 23, 2026 | Strategic Deployment to Coastal Region

The delegation transited from Nairobi to Mombasa. The team conducted preparatory briefings on the operational context of member organizations in the Coastal region.

Day 4: August 24, 2026 | Field Assessments (Mombasa County)

Event 1: Coalition Consultation at CWID Headquarters

The day commenced with a meeting at the offices of Collaboration of Women In Development (CWID). Hosted by Board Chair Mrs. Betty Sharon, the meeting convened representatives from 9 local SUN CSA member organizations.





Event 2: Technical Assessment of Women's Group Dairy and Vegetable Farm

The team evaluated a community dairy and vegetable farm established by a local women's organization. The project objective is to boost micronutrient intake for vulnerable household women and children by supplying fresh milk and leafy vegetables.





Field Observations & Gaps:

1. **Absence of Feasibility & Baseline Studies:** The project was initiated without a formal technical feasibility assessment regarding feed availability, breed suitability, or water usage strategies.
2. **High Animal Mortality & Zero Production:** No livestock were present on site during the visit. The group reported high animal mortality rates, while surviving stock had been transferred off-site for an exhibition. Vegetable beds were completely uncultivated due to inadequate operational capital and technical support.
3. **Institutional Isolation:** The project lacked handholding, formal partnerships with the County Department of Agriculture, extension services, or routine veterinary mentoring.



Technical Guidance Provided:

- Establish immediate linkage with County Agricultural Extension Officers to conduct a recovery assessment.
- Re-engineer the operational plan to integrate routine veterinary advisory services before re-stocking livestock.
- Draft a targeted business and funding plan for smallholder agricultural grants rather than relying solely on alliance coordination funds.

Event 3: Assessment & Support to Shimo la Tewa Borstal Institution Model Farm

The team visited the Shimo la Tewa Borstal Institution (a juvenile correctional facility under the State Department for Correctional Services, Kenya Prison Service). The institution houses, reforms, and integrates male youth under 15 years of age.

A SUN CSA Kenya member organization ("Iron Sharpeneth Iron") supports an agricultural demonstration farm within the facility. The farm provides daily micronutrient-rich food for over 100 residents and trains the youth in agricultural skills.





CS-SUNN Team presenting the \$150 USD technical seed support donation to the Commander of the Shimo la Tewa Juvenile Correctional Facility



Technical Value Addition & Direct Support:

- **Biofortification Linkage:** CS-SUNN identified a gap in nutrient quality and initiated connections between the facility and HarvestPlus to introduce biofortified crops (Vitamin A yellow maize, Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato, and Vitamin A cassava).
- **Direct Financial Support:** To resolve immediate planting material shortages, the CS-SUNN team donated **\$150.00 USD** directly to the facility farm management. The Station Commander formally accepted the donation, committing the funds exclusively to purchasing biofortified seeds and farm inputs for the upcoming planting cycle.

Day 5: August 25, 2026 | County Chapter Strengthening (Kwale County)

The delegation moved to Kwale County, holding sessions at Diani Health Center with the Kwale County Nutrition Officer (NO), executive committee members, and representatives of the newly established SUN CSA Kwale County Chapter.





Strategic roundtable meeting between CS-SUNN Team, Kwale County Nutrition Officer, and Kwale SUN CSA Chapter Executive Committee at Diani Health Center.

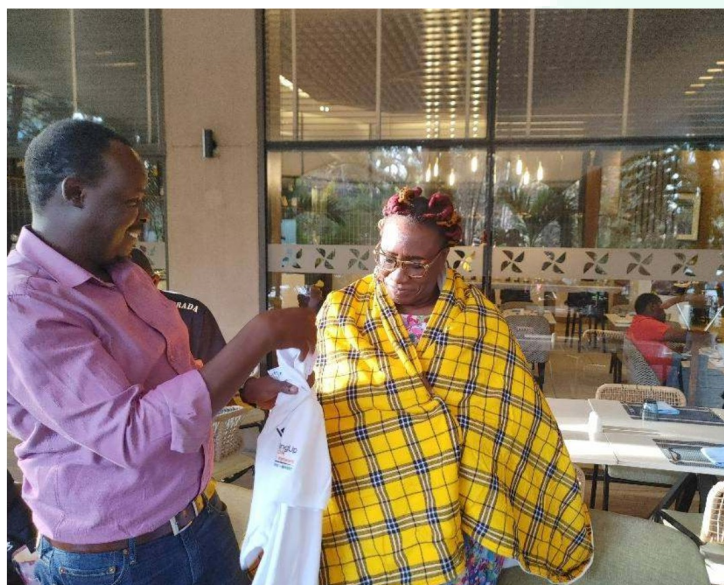
Key Interactions & Commitments:

- **Alignment:** CS-SUNN facilitated discussions on bridging gaps between civil society actions and official government health plans.
- **Government Commitment:** The Kwale County Nutrition Officer pledged to integrate the Kwale SUN CSA chapter into local technical working groups and support their civil society outreach.
- **Chapter Commitment:** The Kwale Chapter Chairman committed to aligning chapter advocacy with county health priorities and maintaining institutional transparency.



Day 6: August 26, 2026 | De-briefing & Strategic Reflection Session (Nairobi)

The CS-SUNN team returned to Nairobi for a final synthesis meeting at Four Points Hotel with Executive Director Edgar Okoth and the Secretariat management team.





Meeting Outcomes:

- CS-SUNN presented its field findings, highlighting the operational gaps seen at the community farm level and the successful model at Shimo la Tewa.
- SUN CSA Kenya management validated the findings, expressing interest in adapting CS-SUNN's member tracking system and membership dues framework.
- Both alliances reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing peer exchange and technical collaboration.

Day 7: August 27, 2026 | Mission Closeout

The CS-SUNN team departed Nairobi and arrived safely in Abuja, marking the conclusion of the technical assistance mission



6. Comprehensive Technical Findings

6.1 Governance & Financial Sustainability

- **Dependency Risk:** SUN CSA Kenya relies entirely on short-term project grants targeted at administration, creating institutional vulnerability.
- **Accountability via Dues:** The absence of membership dues limits the Secretariat's ability to verify active organizations within its 441 registered member database. Adopting a dues structure will improve financial predictability and foster member investment in alliance governance.

6.2 Field Execution & Project Design

- **Lack of Technical Extension:** Community-level nutrition-sensitive projects (such as the Kwale/Mombasa women's farm) often operate in isolation from statutory government extension services and veterinary professionals, leading to high failure rates.
- **Unrealized Biofortification:** Member projects heavily utilize standard crop varieties. Introducing biofortified crops offers an immediate, cost-effective method to boost micronutrient yield without expanding farm land.

6.3 Institutional Models for Youth Integration

- **High-Impact Model:** The Shimo la Tewa Borstal Institution demonstration farm presents an effective model of institutional nutrition-sensitive agriculture. It combines dietary diversification for vulnerable youth with practical skill development



7. Actionable Recommendations & Implementation Matrix

To translate the mission findings into measurable outcomes, the following prioritized action plan is established:

Strategic Recommendation	Action Items	Primary Responsibility	Suggested Timeline	Verification Indicator
Institutionalize Membership Dues	Draft a formal Membership Dues Policy Framework and present it for approval at the next AGM.	Executive Director & Board Chair, SUN CSA Kenya	Next AGM (Q3/Q4 2026)	Approved AGM Resolution & Dues Schedule
Technical Support for Community Farms	Formally connect the women's farm project with the County Department of Agriculture and Extension Services.	Program Manager, SUN CSA Kenya & CWID	Within 30 Days	Official Extension Officer Assessment Report
Biofortification Rollout	Facilitate institutional linkage between HarvestPlus and Shimo la Tewa Farm for biofortified planting materials.	SC Lead Partnerships (CS-SUNN) & SUN CSA Secretariat	Within 60 Days	Receipt of Biofortified Materials / Trial Plots Established
Formalize Kwale County Engagement	Establish a joint quarterly meeting schedule between Kwale Chapter Executives and Kwale County Nutrition Officer.	Kwale Chapter Coordinator & County Nutrition Officer	Immediate (Quarterly)	Signed Joint Meeting Minutes / Integrated Workplan
Monitoring of Support Seed	Verify procurement and planting of seeds purchased with the	Supporting Org ("Iron Sharpeneth Iron") &	Within 45	Input Purchase Receipts & Crop



Capital	\$150 USD donation at Shimo la Tewa Farm.	Farm Manager	Days	Germination Photos
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8. In Conclusion

The CS-SUNN technical assistance mission to SUN CSA Kenya successfully executed its objective of South-South technical learning, systems review, and field engagement. SUN CSA Kenya maintains a strong national mandate, an active network of 441 member organizations, and strategic connections to policy bodies through its Board leadership.

Implementing the recommendations in this report—specifically introducing annual membership dues, establishing formal linkages with government agricultural extension services, and scaling biofortification partnerships—will significantly enhance SUN CSA Kenya's operational sustainability and the measurable impact of its nutrition program