

SUN CSN Learning Route Program details

SUN CSN Learning Routes in brief

- A 'learning route' is a proven process for accelerating knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning. At the heart of the learning route is a facilitated visit to a host country by representatives of different countries.
- The first civil society focused Learning Route will be hosted by an English-speaking country in Africa in September 2016. The second will take place in Asia in April 2017.
- We aim to involve 21-24 visiting participants from at least 7 CSAs in each LR.
- Before the learning route visits, the learning and experience of the host country is identified, analysed and captured as a set of Best Practice examples.
- Key people in the host country (we call them 'Champions') lead the learning routes and act as the trainers.
- Follow up activities and on-going support after the LR visits ensure the participants build on their learning, develop action plans and implement them.
- The learning route experiences will be captured shared with all CSAs in SUN CSN.

Funding and organisation

The learning route programme is funded by the [Children's Investment Fund Foundation](#) (CIFF), with a total budget of £1,009,038. The program will end by 31st January 2018.

The LR will be coordinated by the **SUN CSN** Secretariat, while [Procasur Corporation](#) will facilitate the development of best practice examples and other elements of the learning exchange communications.

Learning Route program main objective: To contribute to stronger, more aligned civil society alliances with the capacity to actively contribute to national efforts while responding to needs on the ground. CSAs are able to effectively contribute to multi-stakeholder platforms and CSAs will promote cascade capacity strengthening of their alliance members (from villages and communities to municipalities to districts / regions / provinces / counties to national level actors).

Specific objectives

- To enhance CSAs Social Mobilisation, Advocacy and Communications skills to become stronger nutrition advocates and support the delivery of national nutrition priorities
- CSAs use budget tracking and advocacy skills to hold governments accountable for delivering on nutrition commitments.
- Learn from the CSAs and share learning with the SUN community of practice.
- Increase national government understanding and prioritisation of nutrition

Program learning objectives

- I. To identify and examine innovative and successful initiatives promoted by Civil Society Alliance members to scale up nutrition at community, provincial and national level and understand the process and the factors that brought the success and analyse the potential for scaling up/out.

II. To recognize modalities through which civil society enhance national and local policies and strategies to effectively address nutrition problems with a special focus to vulnerable and disadvantaged population.

III. Recognize efficient mechanisms to make policy makers (at community, provincial, national and international level) accountable in addressing nutrition to civil society

IV. Identify effective social mobilization and communication strategies to raise awareness on nutrition-sensitive issues and to promote behavioural changes.

Specific learning objectives and thematic areas of learning will be defined once the successful experiences will be identified with the LR country host.

The thematic areas of learning will be:

- **Policy** review, policy tracking, communications, participatory/democratic processes;
- Engagement and stimulation of **multi stakeholder** platforms
- **Budget** tracking, advocacy, communication, data collection and sharing for monitoring and **accountability**
- **Advocacy, social mobilization**, campaign development, communication for accountability and **awareness**
- **Good governance**, accountability and **participatory** processes

Methodology

A Learning Route is a capacity building tool, developed by Procasur Corporation, designed as a facilitated planned journey with specific learning objectives. A LR is an on-going peer-to-peer training process that makes room for discussion, analysis and reflection, while encouraging an active and mutual knowledge exchange between participants and their hosts.

The ultimate aim is to develop the ability of the Learning Route's participants to identify potentially useful innovations that can be adapted and then applied in the framework of their organizations in their own country.

The Learning Route's methodology has been tested, adapted and renewed since 1996, through a long-term partnership between Procasur, IFAD and other international organizations. The Learning Route methodology has been used in more than 35 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, involving over 3000 development practitioners.

Main steps of the learning route

1. Identifying and selecting the host country experiences that will be documented. An experience is relevant when it shows evidence of the use of **good practice and/or innovation** that has proved successful in addressing local challenges and in improving local people's livelihoods/ nutrition.

2. Systematization/documentation of these experiences. The aim of this is to capture **the process** (the how, who, what) to enable other people to adopt and scale up these successes. *The process of systematization aims to:*

- identify and analyze the key of success of the experience, its good practices and innovations
- extract lessons that can be applied for scaling-up the experience to other similar contexts
- facilitate appropriation of the learning by the actors of the experience and enhance their ability to share their knowledge.

3. Identifying champions. People who are successful in their own work are trained to become capacity builders ('Champions'), who use their own experiences as the source of training.

4. Learning visit: representatives from at least 7 CSAs from will join each learning exchange. The learning exchange develops as a journey across different experiences and through meeting various stakeholders and trainers. It ends with the drafting of an action plan to implement/test some of the learning acquired during the event.

5. Follow up and on-going support. Participants are supported to draw on their learning, to share their learning with others, and to implement their action plans.

More information

[SUN CSN Learning Route website](#)

[Learning Route facebook group](#)

[PROCASUR webpage](#)

[SUN Movement learning Routes in Peru and Senegal \(2014\)](#)