

Right2Grow Annual Report 2022



Period the report covers: 1 Jan 2022 - 31 Dec 2022
Report submitted by: The Hunger Project Nederland



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List of acronyms

ACF	Action Against Hunger
BMET	Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CC	Coordination Committee
CEGAA	Centre for Economic Governance and Accountability in Africa
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
CSC	Country Steering Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CVA	Citizen Voice and Action
CU5	Children Under 5
DSO	Social Development Department of MFA
EKN	Embassies of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
GBV	Gender Based Violence
L&A	Lobby & Advocacy
L&L	Linking & Learning
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MCD	Mutual Capacity Development
MF	Max Foundation
MEAL	Monitoring
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PoV	Power of Voices
PWD	People living with disabilities
SC	Save the Children Netherlands
SCS	Strengthening Civil Society
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition Movement
THP	The Hunger Project
TOC	Theory of Change
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene ,
WHO	World Health Organisation
WV	World Vision

Programme overview

Country names	Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, South Sudan, Uganda
Programme number	PoV Activity 4000004339
Lead Partner	The Hunger Project Nederland
Consortium Partners	Action Contre la Faim (Spain) Centre for Economic Governance and Accountability in Africa (South Africa) Max Foundation (Netherlands) Save the Children (Netherlands) World Vision (Netherlands)
Period the report covers	1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022
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Donor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands Inclusive Green Growth Department
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Reading Guide to the report

This Annual report was developed by all implementing partners of Right2Grow under the leadership of The Hunger Project and with support from the global and country partners in Right2Grow. Each of the Country lead partners prepared and submitted their own approved country narrative reports, that were consolidated here, complemented by global activities and reflections.

The annual report starts with a brief context update with a focus on the risks that materialised or emerged, and a reflection on crosscutting issues. This is followed by a chapter that describes general interventions, country level progress and the results of the four “Pathways” of Right2Grow – community mobilisation, strengthening civil society, engaging public authorities and coordination among development actors.

After these programmatic chapters, the annual report continues with chapters on Global Advocacy and some impact stories. This is followed by a chapter on learning which includes updates on global capacity development and progress on learning agendas.

The report ends with a reflection on partnership development. This includes a reflection on collaboration, good practices, lessons and sustainability. We conclude with a brief financial summary of which details will be presented in the full financial progress report.

The annexes to this report feature a summary of country reports, a consolidated results framework, the annual reports from all six programme countries and the financial progress report.

1. Programme context

The programme context of Right2Grow globally and in country has been explained extensively in the country reports (see Annex 1 and 3). Two factors to mention:

- An important contextual factor is **insecurity** due to the intensification of internal conflicts in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mali. This has made it difficult in some programme areas to mobilise communities due to inaccessibility. Local government is also prioritising other issues than nutrition, WASH and food security while local tax collection for resource mobilisation may be hampered. This may have an impact on the advocacy impact by civil society. Right2Grow is mitigating this in different ways depending on the local situation. Being adaptive in programme interventions is key, so partners are keeping their plans slightly “open” in these affected areas while being strategic in the assessment and approach: always look at the long-term goal of Right2Grow to bridge the gap between communities and decision makers around access to nutrition and WASH services by strengthening CSOs.
- The **global crisis** caused by the Ukraine – Russia conflict, with increasing energy and food prices has caused in many cases double-digit inflation rates and general downfall of purchasing power of most vulnerable groups. This was felt in all programme countries and is by and large mitigated by advocating for social safety nets for the affected households. However, this also indicates that the Right2Grow programme becomes even more relevant: undernutrition could increase, and acute malnutrition requires sustained nutrition investments to advocate for, while dependency on humanitarian aid is being created.

Risks

The risks identified in the proposal materialised in part while also new ones emerged in some country programmes. Below we report on the specific risks.

Risks materialised	Effectiveness mitigation strategy	Program impact
Context-related risks		
Outbreak of diseases, natural disasters, and climate change effects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought in Oromia (Ethiopia); Ebola outbreak Uganda 	Disaster preparedness; adapt planning - fairly effective.	South Sudan: Regional and zonal governments urged Right2Grow to shift the project's approach and budget to emergency responses and service delivery modalities, but Right2Grow addressed this smoothly by only providing presence in cluster meetings and advocacy Uganda: postponement of Right to Food conference, delays in community activities.

Political unrest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mali, Burkina Faso 	Adaptive planning; effective	At times the limited access to decision makers and general contested civic space. This affects ability to focus the advocacy efforts and actions.
COVID-19 pandemic Materialized in all countries but decreased in nature.	Follow government regulations; online / hybrid programme support when needed..	Less impact than 2021.
Worsening of security situation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burkina Faso, Mali, Ethiopia, South Sudan. 	Security policy implementation. Suspension of activities, shifting programme areas (Ethiopia);	Major impact on Burkina Faso program: interventions only in safe areas ; Delays in Ethiopia baseline completion, and programme programme implementation, which decreased towards end of the year when situation stabilized; Impact on Mali programme is less, although access to parts of countries is limited.
Programme risks		
Shrinking civic space: Materialised in Uganda due to new Computer misuse Act 2022.		
Change in local stakeholders: In Bangladesh, local elections led to new representative that needed sensitisation the about Right2Grow approach; In Ethiopia similar turnovers happened.		
The following programme risks did NOT materialize: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited interest of government in multi-sectoral approach Commitment of international donors for sustained funding for CSO strengthening programmes until local CSO advocacy and system change is firmly rooted is uncertain Lack of transparency and corruption (<i>although government budget information is not always accessible – which is part of the programme interventions</i>) 		
Data risks		
Data risks did NOT materialise.		
Implementing organisational risks		
Staff turnover, under staffing: In some countries staff turnover is high and recruitment is difficult due to competition by other NGOs and agencies.		
The following implementing organisational risks did NOT materialize: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abuse (sexual, harassment etc.) by partners Administrative Factors (e.g. solvency and compliance issues) affecting the local partners may inhibit their participation Corruption¹ Delays in disbursements Exchange rates variance 		

¹ In 2022 Right2Grow informed the donor about a media issue concerning activities of a local partner in Bangladesh. After an investigation, no fraud research was deemed necessary by the Government of Bangladesh, and the case was closed.

2. Programme progress

Interventions

Each Right2Grow programme country team works towards the same four outcomes, with relevant variations in focus or intensity for their country contexts. The following table shows general interventions planned and if they were carried out. Specific activities per country, sometimes also timed per quarter, can be found in the respective country progress summaries and full country reports in the annexes 1 and 3.

<p>Outcome 1: Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and WASH practices, jointly addressing barriers with private sector partners</p>	
<p>Community sensitisation and awareness raising about good nutrition and WASH practices, and social accountability, by using gender sensitive and transformative approaches</p> <p>Capacity strengthening of local communities/ CBOs to addresses barriers to good WASH and nutrition practices; Sensitising and partnering with private sector on social marketing approaches and women entrepreneurship</p> <p>Strengthening or creating local level platforms for participation of communities in decision making processes and voicing the concerns of the most vulnerable, including women</p>	<p>All countries</p>
<p>Outcome 2. Representatives and empowered civil society organisations effectively navigate the civic space to advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition</p>	
<p>Grassroot, community mobilisation around the issues of poor access and quality of WASH and Nutrition services</p> <p>Capacity strengthening and technical support provision, particularly on budget monitoring and expenditure tracking, advocacy and communication, gender and inclusion, policy analysis, governance and collaboration, research and data collection</p> <p>Evidence generation for advocacy, policy making and scaling up of successful approaches, and community led monitoring</p> <p>Facilitating dialogues between stakeholders, bringing the voice of communities, women and vulnerable groups to decision making processes and strengthening government accountability on nutrition and WASH</p>	<p>All countries</p>
<p>Outcome 3. National government and decentralised entities adopt and mainstream an integrated, multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition in policies, action plans and budget allocations</p>	
<p>Ensuring uptake of data and evidence for policy and decision making at national and decentral level, while ensuring gender-sensitive policies, strategies and decision-making</p> <p>Strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration and engagement of multiple stakeholders in decision making processes around WASH and nutrition</p> <p>Strengthening or creating national or lower level platforms for information and evidence sharing on nutrition and WASH as well as monitoring country progresses towards achieving WASH and nutrition related SDGs</p>	<p>All countries</p>

Outcome 4. Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate along the humanitarian–development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition

<p>Advocating for adoption of multi-sectoral approaches to donors’ strategies and funding instruments; promoting WASH-Nutrition nexus</p> <p>Sharing of good practices, research findings based on community-led monitoring and action research, capitalising on existing national and international events such a “world days” (water, nutrition, food etc)</p> <p>Lobbying for increased resource mobilizations and adoption or scaling up of proven approaches</p>	<p>All countries</p>
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Country progress

Each programme country is on its own path towards impact – see Annexes 1 and 3 for Country summaries and full annual reports. Below are some examples of progress made per country.

Right2Grow **Bangladesh** international and national partners worked with over 780 local level community-based organisations (around 16,000 individual members) and almost 2500 “open learning centers” at community level around topics of nutrition and WASH and community health services. The CSOs participated in 113 UP (local government) meetings to raise demands. These communities also actively use the provided mechanisms to track the quality of nutrition and WASH services targeting children U5, women, adolescent girls, and marginalised groups through “standards meetings” and open hearings. In addition, in 12 Unions there have been local-level policy dialogues to raise issues at national level, through CSO participation. Provision of training on budget monitoring, both to government officials and CSOs helped to create the foundation for further local advocacy for increase in dedicated expenditures on nutrition and WASH. Right2Grow also designed, developed, and disseminated a guideline called 'Local Government Act-2009 & implementation guideline for UP representative on Reducing Malnutrition', and supported CSOs to take part in multi-stakeholder platforms in unions to promote the multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition.

In **Burkina Faso**, the team continued building capacity of CSOs and CBOs on budget monitoring, advocacy techniques and whistleblowing / citizen questioning – all in collaboration with national NGOs. This helped to sharpen advocacy plans of local advocacy groups formed in year 1 of the programme. Right2Grow also continued sensitization about WASH and nutrition using radio shows. In 2022 many of these action groups actively engaged decision makers in local government in dialogue sessions and platforms, for example to demand access to national food security stocks for the most vulnerable, funding for nutrition and WASH, creation household waste treatment centres, etc. At national level, Right2Grow was very active on the multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition in supporting the Technical Secretariat for nutrition in organizing the first ever national forum and developing a national dashboard of indicators about implementation of multi-sectoral nutrition interventions in all Right2Grow intervention regions, accompanied by targets and monitoring systems.

Ethiopia - Responsible government entities at federal, regional, zonal and Woreda levels from Project interventions areas were engaged in undergone capacity building trainings and consultative workshops, on Lobby, Advocacy and BMET approaches. Joint efforts enabled responsible government sectors to work on areas of improvements: allocation of reasonable budgets and tracking expenditures; to reactivate government led Nutrition Council body and nutrition council technical committee leadership roles at Regional, Zonal, Woreda and Kebele levels towards to jointly work on identified service delivery and policy implementation related issues for improving service quality for target population in nutrition and WASH sectors.

In **Mali** Right2Grow partners strengthened the citizen's watch committees at municipal level in all programme areas (29 municipalities in 3 regions and district of Bamako) to use their budget monitoring and advocacy tools. They developed their budget advocacy plans to influence government budgets, for instance on WASH budgets for schools. Right2Grow also continued to work with media, by organizing journalist competitions and training CSOs and media on human rights, communicating on radio & TV, and through the dedicated online youth nutrition platform "Beseya" (21.000 members). At national level Right2Grow brought together government ministries and NGO networks for a mutual accountability session to reflect on the implementation of the national Multi-sectoral nutrition action plan. We also held advocacy meetings with parliamentarians with two WASH and nutrition networks effecting in the inclusion of the right to food and water in the new draft constitution.

Right2Grow **South Sudan**: Children parliamentarians a group of school children who engage with parliamentarians on children rights issues were orientated on the budget policy brief and budget processes. During the period, R2G conducted a satisfaction survey in Jonglei and Unity states, findings indicate that the sources of water available in the majority of the communities that have access to water from boreholes are constructed by NGOs (67.6%) while from the government constructed only 15.1%. In recognition of the media as a powerful advocacy tool and amplifying the voices of the marginalized, R2G trained nineteen (19) journalists from twelve (12) local media houses on food security, malnutrition and WASH issues such as lack of access to clean drinking water and open defecation in the country. R2G partners analyzed the South Sudan national budget and developed a budget policy brief and disseminated through the specialized Budget parliament committees' engagement meeting under the theme: "talking money matters". Right2Grow consortium established a working relationship with SUN CSO movement and was actively involved in all the advocacy related activities organized in the country

Right2Grow **Uganda**: Community actors such as VHTs, Animators, Cultural and Religious Leaders and Local Government leaders were trained on undernutrition to facilitate grass roots advocacy and awareness creation. Media engagements on WASH & Nutrition was done through print, radio, on line media, TV and press conferences to amplify the nexus between WASH and Nutrition. MCLDU mapped households in search of community capacity, knowledge and practices in good nutrition and WASH areas. Focus districts included, Kasese district (100 homes), Bugweri district (208 homes), and Rubaga Division in Kampala district (204 homes). Launch of CSO Nutrition platforms and DNCCs.

Implementation challenges

Apart from the challenges experienced through the risks that materialised as explained in the Context section, Right2Grow partners encountered some additional challenges in some countries.

- The Bangladesh partners faced less interest of few UP representatives and government officials in getting involved in project activities as there is no financial benefit or hardware support. Best way to deal with this was developing positive relationships achieved by sharing project results and periodic updates regularly and maintaining frequent communication, and capacity development of UP representatives in budget cycle tools.

- In Burkina Faso and Ethiopia the organisation of nutrition actors and sometime lack of coordination among them was a challenge for the implementation of some activities. In Ethiopia poor SUN platforms at regional level hindered Right2Grow's efforts of widening its constituencies to include the advocacy issues. Collaborative efforts, revitalization and consultative workshops were deliberated to manage the changes. In Ethiopia, national actors like government and SUN also delayed in finalising and disseminating key documents such as the operational guidelines for Nutrition Council and private sectors engagement, slowing down the momentum.
- In Mali, South Sudan and Uganda, access to budget documents to civil society and citizens was an implementation challenge. In South Sudan specifically, the government national budgeting process and timelines were unclear, while overall access to state budget disbursement and utilization records is poor, or unstructured. More emphasis is needed in building databases and proper archiving for budget related documents to sustain budget analyses and generate informed evidence for advocacy. In addition, public participation in the planning and budgeting process remains low – validating our Theory of change to support community participation in local government planning and budgeting processes.

Cross-cutting themes

Gender, Youth and Inclusion

Gender, youth and inclusion have been embedded as much as possible in country programme plans and initiatives. In order to address gender issues, most the country programs placed a strong emphasis on empowering women through providing capacity building, ensuring participation in decision making processes and positions and facilitating leadership opportunities.

For example, at present, 7,760 women members are playing a critical role in the CSO-led movement in the community as catalytic change agents in Bangladesh. Around 49% of the CSO representatives are female. Youth and women leaders are considered as the priority of the executive committees of CSOs.

Similarly, the selection of local CSOs to be part of the advocacy groups was also gender sensitive and inclusive across many countries including CSOs of people living with disabilities.

Additionally in Ethiopia, in the established 90 CVA taskforce at local level, 45% of the taskforce members were lactating and pregnant women; 10% of the taskforce members were people with disabilities and 6% of the taskforce members were young people. Local people with disability organizations (OPDs), Women groups, Youth Association and community-based organizations (CBOs) were part of the established social accountability platforms and continued advocacy works at all levels in strategic partnership to raise and amplify the concerns, priorities and needs of most vulnerable women, people with disabilities and young people.

Another example is Right2Grow Uganda programme adapted a Gender Equality Marker (GEM) to assess compliance of Right2Grow Uganda programme interventions to

essential quality standard to be gender sensitive at minimum, and gender transformative whenever possible. The programme also leveraged from the current locally led research study "Responsibilities to women, power to men": exploring gender dynamics in access and utilization of nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in rural Maracha and Iganga districts. In the reporting period, Gender and inclusion was the learning topic for the programme.

Climate change

The Right2Grow programme acknowledges the linkages between climate change and food and nutrition security as well as availability of water. These were part of the broader policy analysis carried out during the baselines. In the reporting period no specific climate change related activities were carried out.

It is important to acknowledge the risk climate change poses to programme implementation as well. For example, in 2022 the project experienced significant challenges due to drought in Oromia – Ethiopia and food insecurity in Karamoja – Uganda. It remains important to sensitise communities on the need to generate community-based adaptation strategies to climate change risks like climate resilience technologies and advocate for implementation of national climate adaptation action.

Covid-19

In all programme countries the COVID-19 pandemic and related lock down measures curtailed impacted programme implementation negatively, but much less than in 2021. On a positive note, in Uganda the Covid-19 related challenges have paved new opportunities and innovative ways of working for Right2Grow with intensified utilization of media including advocacy, communication and social mobilization.

3. Global results

Significant progress has been made across result indicators against the second year targets, and across programme countries. Below we give the overall summary of progress against indicators, while Annex 2 will provide the full consolidated results framework with all indicators (for SCS and specific Right2Grow) per country, including some qualitative descriptions.

2022 results

Outcome 1: Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and WASH practices, jointly addressing barriers with private sector partners	
Number of actions in which communities formulate demands for improved (WASH and nutrition) services	203

Proportion of people involved in actions to formulate demands for improved (WASH and nutrition) who are from vulnerable groups (women, people with disability, marginalized groups)	528,861
Number of CSOs involved in Right2Grow	43
Outcome 2: Representative and empowered civil society organizations (CSOs) effectively navigate the civic space to advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition	
Number of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions	173
Number of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency	53
Number of CSOs with increased L&A capacities	43
Outcome 3: Adoption and mainstream of multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition	
# of laws, and policies implemented for sustainable and inclusive development.	0
# of laws, policies blocked, adopted, and improved for sustainable and inclusive development	1
% of public budgets allocated and implemented for nutrition and WASH services (increased funding).	2.55% ²
Outcome 4. Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate along the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition	
Level of success of lobby and advocacy roles by Right2Grow and its partner towards donors and international actors	Minimal
Degree of integration of the WASH-Nutrition nexus by donors along the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition.	Low

Reflection on results

Overall, we are encouraged by the progress made in all programme countries. We clearly see the link between sensitisation and capacity development of communities and CSOs/CBOs and their ability to engage with local stakeholders to demand better services and investments in nutrition and WASH. In all programme countries, the intermediary platforms that mediate voices of communities and decision makers have been strengthened. Most promising is the fact that decentralized governments – when well-connected and informed – generally do not fear the demands of communities, but rather see this as a tool for their own advocacy towards national government structures and as constructive input to improve their own work.

² Average for two countries

Another important area of progress is the role of Right2Grow partners in engaging with national stakeholders for multi-sectoral approaches to undernutrition. In all programme countries, Right2Grow has either gained a strong seat at existing coordination tables (technical secretariats for nutrition, SUN-networks, etc.) or have even become conveners of these national spaces for coordination. This has laid a good foundation for the implementation of advocacy strategies of partners, and to bring local voices into these national arenas.

The least progress so far seems to be made in outcome four (*donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate along the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition*). In as much as Right2Grow partners are part of national coordination spaces for undernutrition, the behaviour of donors and international development actors is subject to many external factors, such as geopolitical trends and bi- and multi-lateral government engagements. Although Right2Grow is made up of relatively large international partners, their influence on these global trends remains limited due to all the different powers at play. Right2Grow – as a partnership – is yet to develop the muscle to play a significant role at global or national levels.

Below are some interesting results from different countries.

Outcomes

<p>Bangladesh – safe drinking water at a community clinic</p> <p>Since long, safe drinking water was a problem in Subarnabad Community Clinic. Children under five and their caregivers, pregnant women who were coming to clinic had to stay thirsty due to lack of water. Right2Grow used the Community Voice Action approach with a local action group, that identified the problem during so-called Monitoring Standard and Community Scorecard Sessions. In September 2022 a joint dialogue/interface meeting with the Upazila (local government) was conducted at Subarnabad clinic with CSOs in the driving seat. Afterwards, the nutrition officer and administrator instructed the UP Chairman to allocate a safe water plant for the clinic and it was addressed within 3 working days. Now children and caregivers, community people, nearby school students and market business people are enjoying safe drinking water from the water plant.</p>
<p>Burkina Faso – Championing nutrition sensitive budgeting and planning</p> <p>The network for NGOs working on nutrition RESONUT and AMR – two of Right2Grow’s national partners led a series of national and regional advocacy sessions in 2022. Through this, the leaders of over thirty municipalities in three regions made formal commitments to adopt more nutrition- and wash-sensitive budgeting in their budgets and development plans. In addition, in November 2022 RESONUT’s advocacy led to the reconstitution of the Civil Society Commission for Nutrition which had been dissolved after the coup d’états in Burkina Faso. This provides the formal inroad to influence national government planning and budgeting on nutrition.</p>
<p>Ethiopia – holding local government accountable</p> <p>In several Woredas (districts) the Community Voice and Action groups (established in 2021) worked with local government administrators on local level social accountability. Local sector experts, council members and administrators were trained. In some Woredas this led to a first and concrete ask for more transparency and improved service levels. In other Woredas the advocacy went further to include training in Budget Monitoring and Expenditure tracking and demands for higher budgets. As a consequence, some five Woredas administration offices allocated around 60,000 euros additional funds for nutrition actions for the first time.</p>

Mali – Access to water and food as a constitutional right

The government in Mali is drafting a new constitution after the coup d'état of 2021. Right2Grow conducted capacity building of national partners on lobby and advocacy, related to the legislative process. The NGOs held advocacy sessions with academics and with parliamentarians to ensure the issues of water and sanitation, as well as food and nutrition would be addressed. Several dialogues with parliamentarians followed, and partners organised an official delivery of the Global Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Handbook for parliamentarians – focusing on the realisation of rights. This was followed by an advocacy meeting with the new constitution-making commission. As a result of intense advocacy actions, the access to water and food were recognised as rights in Mali's draft new constitution.

South Sudan – needs driven national budgets

Right2Grow partners have engaged a lot with parliamentarians and national government officials to advocate for increased budgets for nutrition and WASH services in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The use of budget analysis tools, and policy briefs was important for the credibility of the demands. This also helped to set up and organise a national Inclusive Budget Process Workshop for top national government officials from various ministries and the specialized committees in parliament in November 2022. They then committed to prioritise needs assessment and public participation at all levels of government including rural areas in the next fiscal year 2023-2024 national budget process. The commitment is to ensure needs assessment and an inclusive budget processes and it will provide much opportunity to influence budget making process and guarantee citizens needs driven budgets.

Uganda – deepening national nutrition advocacy

Like in 2021, Right2Grow partners led by CS-BAG made valuable input to the national budget process by providing four position papers in relation to the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Food Security and Nutrition for the following financial year. Through the budget analysis process and engagement with parliamentarians 18 recommendations were adopted by the Parliamentary Committees at parliament. In May 2022 CS-BAG went further to organise a public dialogue “Every child has a right to meet their full potential”, to discuss and generate policy alternatives for improved public financing for Food Security, Nutrition and WASH In Uganda. This well attended event got Commitments from Members of Parliament from the Uganda Parliamentary Alliance on Nutrition to fast track and table the pending bills and policies on the floor of Parliament especially the Food and Nutrition Policy, which was a major win for the CSOs.

Find some stories of community voices from Right2Grow on the next pages, and additional stories in the country annual plans in the annexes.

Right2Grow Community Voices



Right2Grow: A springboard for small entrepreneurs in Ethiopia

Through trainings and public-private partnership meetings organized by Right2Grow, many small entrepreneurs in Ethiopia have been able to voice their concerns and challenges to government policymakers. Right2Grow has become a crucial entry point for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs seeking to improve private sector engagement in the country. In this article, we will explore how Right2Grow is helping entrepreneurs navigate the economic and political challenges in Ethiopia and how the government is taking steps to support entrepreneurship and encourage economic growth.

Meet Ato Seifu Mekete!

45-year-old Ato Seifu Mekete, living in East Gojam Zone of Aneded Woreda, runs a private owned business. He supplies milk and dairy products to the community he lives in. In the last 3 years, he faced a lot of challenges trying to expand his services. For instance, although his business was growing, there was no suitable marketplace where he could sell his milk and dairy products to the community. He has been using his confined living room to sell his products. He did not get the opportunity or the platform to present his problems to decision makers in the local government.

Decision makers listening to entrepreneurs

In 2022, Ato Seifu was among the group of small-scale entrepreneurs who received training and engaged in public-private partnership meetings organized by Right2Grow: he attended the training on the role of the private sector in nutrition, as well as trainings about WASH and nutrition in general. He also attended a consultative meeting with government officials, through which he was able to get basic knowledge about multi-sectoral nutrition action.

Making use of these opportunities, Ato Seifu presented his concerns to the Woreda administration, after which the administration helped to organize the producers as a cooperative, and provided them with a space where they established marketplaces to sell their dairy products.

Leveraging change between decision makers and the community

Through processes such as these, Right2Grow trainings have become an entry point for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs like Ato Seifu to voice their concerns to decision makers directly - enabling the government to take action for better private sector engagement. Ato Seifu stated that Right2Grow helped to provide him with the opportunity to raise challenges to higher government officials, and reaffirmed to have become a role model for serving the community by working with the local government. He praised Right2Grow with a self-made motto: "Go for your right with Right2Grow".

Right2Grow Community Voices



Gender Dynamics in Access to Water Sanitation and Hygiene Services within rural areas of Uganda

Why gender matters in WASH?

In Uganda, local communities face various challenges related to WASH, which are further compounded by gender inequalities. In most households, the burden of fetching water falls on women and children, who spend long hours walking to and from water sources. With 41% rural access to basic water services and 16% rural access to basic sanitation services, women and children are left with little time for education or income-generating activities.

Mutesi Zainabo, a 27-year-old woman with disabilities lives with her two children of age 8 and 5. Her children have to walk around 4Km to fetch water that the family depends on to drink, cook food, bathe and wash their clothes as well as irrigate their plants. The water is dirty and she has to boil it before use. To collect enough water, her children make around 4 trips a day. During school time, the family lives with less or no water since the children juggle between school and fetching water.

“Because of my disability, I do all my chores seated. My children have to be near me to support with fetching water. It is very challenging for me especially when my children have gone to play with their friends in the neighborhood or when it is school time. Sometimes they go late or even miss school since the distance is really far. If only we would have a tap or borehole constructed near our home, my children and I would have less burden in accessing water that is safe for us to drink,” narrates Mutesi.

How has Right2Grow addressed some of these challenges?

Right2Grow has initiated dialogues between communities and the district as well as sub-county technical teams, the Local councils, and Parish Chiefs. These dialogues have created spaces where communities present the issues they face, including gender dynamics, as well as their proposed solutions before the government leaders. Multi-sectoral platforms like CSO Nutrition platforms as well as District and Sub-county Nutrition Coordination Committees are supported by Right2Grow to meet quarterly and discuss such and more issues. The actions that follow vary per community, and are taken further by the officials responsible. The Right2Grow program partners together with the community leaders, closely follow up on these commitments. The Right2Grow Uganda Program has also conducted a research study on how gender dynamics affect nutrition and WASH, whose findings will be used to push forward our advocacy agenda.

How to include gender dynamics in WASH solutions?

As one of the catalyzing strategies for the program to create long term and sustainable solutions, Right2Grow Uganda intentionally, ensures that gender equality is at the center of our implementation. Gender sensitive behavioral change communication messages were developed and disseminated via radios, community events and posters to ensure that all men, women, boys and girls are aware of the challenges caused by gender inequality. We have seen this work: in some communities, men have started to take on the responsibility of fetching water and cleaning sanitation facilities, thereby reducing the burden on women and girls.

4. Global and Dutch lobby and advocacy

Focus of interventions

In its second year, Right2Grow continued expanding its presence in Dutch and global policy dialogues. Right2Grow's Laurien de Vos kicked the year off by participating in the **#AdoptanSDG event** organized by Building Change (February 2022). Together with Member of Parliament Alexander Hammelburg (Democrats 66) and Jan Klink (Liberal Party) the effects of climate change on developing countries in terms of food security were discussed.

3 colleagues from CSOs from Burkina Faso and Mali also participated in the **World Water Forum** (February 2022) in Dakar, Senegal. One of the Right2Grow participants, Bertille Zoungrana, from the Burkina Faso based Association Monde Rural, stated she "challenged representatives of national governments on their commitment to involving civil society organizations (CSOs) in WASH decision-making bodies."

International Women's Day (March 2022) was used as an opportunity to host a conversation on strengthening women's capacity to influence decision-makers and policies. Examples of how this could look like were shared by for example a Member of Parliament from South Sudan and a the Ethiopian CSO Mothers and Children Multisectoral Development Organization.

Sanitation and Water for All's Sectors' Ministers Meeting (May 2022) also became an important advocacy moment for Right2Grow. Here our colleague Hellena Kasujja from the Uganda-based Community Integrated Development Initiative joined the delegation that went to Jakarta. She was happy to be there "as it gives the opportunity for organisations like CIDI and other networks to bring voices from the grassroots at the global level." Learn more about the advocacy Hellena did in Jakarta through [this video](#) in which she outlines her goals at the Meeting.

At Stockholm's **World Water Week** (August 2022), Right2Grow teamed up with Sanitation and Water for All to convene a session on how civil society can present locally informed evidence to their government officials for increased accountability and enhanced alignment between sectors. Hellena Kasujja could build further on the momentum she created in Jakarta. Right2Grow's participation at World Water Week also became a crucial stepping stone to New York's UN 2023 Water Conference. Conversations with stakeholders, among which, NL Water Envoy, Henk Ovink were started on how Right2Grow could best create traction around this event.

This led to consultations with the communities we serve to take place from September to December. Here we (re-)discovered that interlinked problems ask for interlinked solutions. That is exactly what Right2Grow started to explore in its road towards New York. With specific focus on Uganda, the alliance looked at bringing local communities, private sector and government around the table to explore the benefits solar powered water management systems could have.

In parallel, preparations for **World Food Day** (October 2022) were made. The Alliance worked together with other NGOs to host an event at the Amsterdam based Pakhuis de Zwijger: "the World Food Day Show." Local food systems were crucial here and the

movie "the Future of Food" was shown and later discussed with several panelists and the public. Our idea was to have Ogen Rwot Denish, a colleague from South Sudan participate from the Child Rights Coalition, but unfortunately, due to the lengthy visa processes we didn't manage to secure Mr. Denish his participation.

At the **Dutch policy level**, Right2Grow remained active and kept on breaking silos and between nutrition and WASH in the sector and sharing stories of locally-led solutions. In the first year crucial partnerships shaped up and were built. This includes for example *Food4All*, *the Netherlands Water Partnerships (specifically their Policy Group)*, *the Partos lobby group* and *the Netherlands Working Group on Nutrition*. The second year meant a continuation of this and at the same time we stepped up our role in these partnerships, such as the steering group of the UN 2023 Water Conference

Exchanges with **colleagues from the MFA** also continued. To illustrate this, a staff meeting with DSO was attended by Right2Grow to share best practices and learnings. Visits to embassies in Uganda and Bangladesh were made.

Right2Grow also participated in consultation meetings on several policy that were being developed by the MFA. To illustrate this, **Right2Grow provided specific input of the "Foreign Trade and Develop Cooperation Policy"** which later came to be known as "Doing what the Netherlands is good at." In addition, Right2Grow actively participated in consultation processes around the Africa Strategy.

Plus, discussion in parliament were influenced on the UN 2023 Water Conference, the annual budget cycle and the new policy note on "Doing what the Netherlands is good at." The main instrument to that were policy papers that all outlined the need to have local realities inform the way decisions are taken on budgets and development policies.

In doing so, we always made sure colleagues from the countries working at various levels and from different points of view were involved. See (shortened) examples of impact stories and local voices on the next pages.

Results

Right2Grow drew attention and created traction around the importance of multisectoral and integrated approaches and aimed to share this message with a wide audience. This happened for example at the #AdoptanSDG event, the World Water Forum, the Sectors' Ministers Meeting, World Water Week and World Food Day. Relations were further strengthened with government officials and Parliamentarians. Several letters were sent to different Ministers, which led to high-level meetings and appointments in which ideas and solutions were discussed.

5. Learning

Deepening the learning

Mutual capacity development (MCD), technical assistance (TA) and Linking and Learning (L&L) remain at the heart of the Right2Grow partnership and strategy. In 2022, strengthening the capacities of communities, community-based organizations, grassroots movements, and civil society continued to enhance their knowledge and skills to effectively influence decision-makers, policies and budget allocations as well as to speak with a loud collective voice, and to develop a culture of learning across the 6 countries.

Both at global level and programme country levels Right2Grow continued with dedicated teams for MCD and L&L that closely worked together with national partners who host the different focal points in the six programme countries. Their work followed from the original capacity assessments in 2021 and the evolved learning needs. The capacity development and learning was organized through various thrusts of action: a scholarship program, global and national workshops and events, an online learning platform, local learning agendas and locally-led research.

Scholarship Programme

The Right2Grow scholarship programme was launched with two specific objectives: (1) to support technical capacity strengthening of Right2Grow country partners, preferably local CSOs' representatives, by supporting their participation in international events, conferences, trainings & internships and (2) to increase Right2Grow country partners' experience in networking and collaborating with colleagues from other countries. Over 30 applicants from six programme countries submitted their proposals where five organizations & individuals were awarded the scholarships to attend global or regional lobby and advocacy events such as the World Water Forum and Sanitation for All (SWA) sector minister meeting and a governance training at The Hague Academy. Additionally, three more Right2Grow colleagues from Bangladesh and Ethiopia benefited from the 2022 Scholarship programme. They took part in a blended training course organized by MDF Netherlands on how to design and implement effective advocacy and policy influencing strategies in strong coalitions.

Capacity development and learning events in Right2Grow

Global and national learning events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Communication for WASH and nutrition workshop, Uganda.</i> In July the local partner Nutrition Society Uganda and the global MCD team organized a 3-day event attended by 23 participants from 17 organizations to deepen knowledge on the use of communication tools.• <i>Budget Monitoring and Expenditure workshops.</i> BMET is the key expertise of global partner CEGAA who supported various events this year. In Uganda – with local partner CS BAG – they 15organized an advocacy Workshop with MPs to Influence Financing and Legislation for Improved Nutrition Outcomes and another workshop for Government Technocrats on Planning and Budgeting for Food Security. In Mali local partner AJCAD in close collaboration with CEGAA 15organized a week-long workshop with 35 participants from 13 partner organizations from Mali and Burkina Faso on BMET and

civil society monitoring tools and advocacy. In South Sudan CEGAA supported the workshop on Inclusive Budgeting and Advocacy with Parliamentarians and Senior Government Officials.

- *Global Bridge4Voices co-creation workshop.* In August, 30 Right2Grow lobby & advocacy and BMET staff from global partners and all programme countries met to co-create the global Bridge4Voices approach of Right2Grow – how we link community and CSO voices to policy and decision makers on WASH and nutrition. The week-long event included exchanges and training on L&A and BMET and provided concrete input and directions for advocacy in Right2Grow, including the development of an e-learning course on Bridge4Voices.
- *Outcome Harvesting (OH) workshops.* OH is an important tool for Right2Grow partners to evaluate results, but it is relatively new to most of the partners. After the first OH training in Uganda in 2022, the global M&E team has continued workshops in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali and South Sudan for a total of around 120 M&E and programme staff of partners. This aided the continuous work of collecting and validating outcome stories for the programme to feed a global outcome database.
- *Right2Grow Training for Facilitators, Bangladesh.* End of October, THP Bangladesh, with support from the global MCD team organized a 3-day training of facilitators of key aspects of Right2Grow programming: WASH – Nutrition integration and multi-sectoral approaches, translation of “Bridge4Voices” approach to Bangladesh context, budget advocacy, among others. Over 35 participants from 10 partner organizations participated.
- Some learning events in South Sudan and Ethiopia were postponed to 2023.

Learning meetings

- *Global teams reflection meetings.* In April all the Right2Grow global leads and programme staff (20 people) met for 3 days in the Hague to reflect on governance and collaboration, reinforce cross collaboration and team building. In September a global team representatives met for 2 days to align global teams activities and identify key priority global projects for 2023.
- *Global Right2Grow online reflection meetings.* In May and November, around 60–80 staff from all programme countries and global partners participated in online two-day meetings to reflect on progress and to exchange perspectives about key programmatic or organizational topics such as the Bridge4Voices approach, the global food price crisis, shift the power, among others. These events support galvanizing the linkages between programme teams both globally and between countries.

The Grow online learning platform

The Grow platform (<https://right2grow.mn.co/feed>), was created in 2022 for the entire Right2Grow Consortium as a central tool for information sharing, exchange, event announcements and learning to complement the existing file-sharing platform SharePoint. The platform facilitates sharing knowledge and products from one context that could be useful and applicable to other contexts; Ensure cross-fertilization and cross-country learning; Inspire individuals to reflect on their work and be informed by alternative or diverse approaches, enhancing the overall quality of our efforts. As of the end of 2022, the platform has around 300 individuals subscribed, with various online community spaces.

The Grow platform also develops and hosts a variety of online courses such as *Introduction to Right2Grow*, aiming to introduce the programme to newcomers and support them in understanding programme vision, objectives, governance structure, etc.; *How to use the Right2Grow SharePoint*; *“Bridge4Voices”, a common approach to advocacy in Right2Grow, integrating advocacy and BMET*; *Social media ambassadors*; *Storytelling*; *Introduction to M&E in Right2Grow and Outcome harvesting*.

All these courses are to be available in English and French and easily accessible to all users.

Learning strategy and agendas

During 2022 the programme countries developed learning questions and these varied based on each country experiences and needs BUT with one common objective – to provide learnings to the country consortium partners on the identified topic. The framed questions surrounded around – Adaptive management, Virtual learning platforms, stakeholder engagements, CSOs community engagement approaches and challenges of community structures as well as stakeholder collaboration. Some **countries** had more than one question while others had only one question. Below we present the progress summary of the learning topics country by country with key activities and learnings.

Learning topic, country and questions, learning activities, findings
<p>Bangladesh: <i>Question: What approach for CSO involvement / adherence in the context of the Right2Grow?</i></p> <p>Two learning briefs were created. The key learnings are that trained women leaders / volunteers can play a catalytic leadership role in CSO-led movements. Charity based mindset of different stakeholders is a barrier to achieving Right2Grow objectives.</p>
<p>Burkina Faso: <i>Question: What are the success factors and constraints encountered by CSOs in advocating for the integration of their proposals into communal plans?</i></p> <p>Information and awareness-raising workshops were conducted. We learnt that the targets of the advocacy actions, who have the power to make decisions, are technicians from the different components of the municipality, and are therefore more sensitive to the problems of the people, but also advocacy targets are not tied to electoral promises and can therefore make relevant and objective decisions for the real welfare of the people.</p>
<p>Ethiopia: <i>Question: What are the challenges of implementing Citizens Voice and Action (CVA)?</i></p> <p>Reflection workshops were conducted with all concerned stakeholders to create space where the Right2Grow project team can share learning, challenges, and opportunities in the field implementation of the CVA approach. It was observed that in some Woredas there was mixture in membership in the CVA Task Forces and this created difficulty to identify clear accountability lines between users, service providers and elected officials.</p> <p>In some Woredas the action plans were too heavy and had no specific period to accomplish them as well as some CVA taskforce were not well skilled in facilitating the community processes.</p>
<p>Mali: <i>Questions: Is the pooling of assessment and learning workshops efficient? Does the virtual mobilization platform serve the information needs of communities? Are there benefits to planning and budgeting for the multi-sectoral approach to WASH and Nutrition?</i></p> <p>Through these questions we learnt that synergy of actions between the project and the multisectoral platform created efficient management of resources while also involvement of local radio stations and the online press during the public debates on the budget increased media coverage of activities. We also realized increased online access and understanding of local content through local radio stations about budget monitoring, analysis and advocacy techniques.</p> <p>The activities of the CVCs could have more impact on the commune’s budget if they had easy access to and understanding of the contents of the commune’s budget.</p>

South Sudan: *Questions: How can stakeholders' collaboration be achieved towards sustainability of R2G programming? How can R2G collaborate with women in eminent leadership positions to champion R2G advocacy in South Sudan?*

Meetings were held and learning briefs produced.

We learnt that influential personalities are able to exert their popularity and influence to shape national agendas like nutrition and WASH policies. Stakeholder understanding of the roles is a key success factor.

Collaboration among R2G consortium partners on joint activities strengthens working relationships and improves ways of working. Women in some communities are still denied leadership roles/positions as well as women's voices aren't taken quite serious by men in some communities

Learning initiatives

Learning Week

Due to Covid the learning week event could not take place in 2021 and 2022. As the mid-term review was planned in 2023, it was agreed that a global learning event would be organized in 2023 to learn from the 2,5 years of Right2Grow, reflect on adaptation, build on successes, learn from failures and reinforce synergies between countries. The event was launched in 2022 to ensure buy-in from all the partners and shape the event according to teams' needs and expectations.

Locally-led research

The global MCD and L&L teams, in collaboration with the Lobby and Advocacy teams, prepared two pilots for locally-led research in 2021 in Mali and Uganda. The third pilot was prepared in 2022 to be implemented in Bangladesh. The project is expected to reach completion in 2023, while advocacy efforts based on the research outcomes should commence.

The locally-led research aims to contribute to bridge the gap between community needs, robust evidence, and advocacy for improved policy and budget decision-making. It is a unique research methodology in which a community knowledge holder, an advocacy expert and a researcher take equal responsibility in the research process from the beginning.

The research in Uganda will examine how gender dynamics in households and communities shape access and utilization of WASH and nutrition services, and how it influences promoting women's leadership, decision making and promoting equal and positive gender norms. The research in Mali evolves around the effectiveness of community level nutrition action groups in decreasing undernutrition in children under 5.

6. Programme and partnership reflection

Partnership development reflection

Partnership collaboration - positives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall collaboration in the partnership is positive, constructive and relatively open with various forums established at all levels to guide programme implementation and with strong linkages between country partners and local partners.• Transparent and relatively clear information sharing and documentation on joint information and learning platforms supported by meetings and workshops• Flexibility in supporting the needs of global and country leads in their processes, being adaptive.• Strong relationship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (IGG department) on program management.
Partnership collaboration - challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finding an effective governing and operational structure. Balancing the need for structure (often top down) and organic (bottom-up) organising and decision making. Some people like more clarity, but partnership principles require the bottom-up approach• Global partnership processes may not always be understood / clear to programme country level colleagues. Local partners do not always feel part of the 'global partnership' and may not see the bigger picture.• Finding the right balance in the time required by programme country staff to spend on global coordination and alignment to create synergy, with the time needed for programme implementation.• True ownership requires partners to work in synchrony to ensure programme efficiency and effectiveness. This may lead to delays as partners may not act at similar speed or pace, based on varying circumstances.

Theory of Change reflection

The 2022 programme implementation does not (yet) call for adjustments in the overall Theory of Change of Right2Grow. As the first chapters of this report show, significant progress is made in the implementation, and initial results look promising.

We acknowledge the complex challenges in the programme context of some countries (notably Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali and South Sudan) related to insecurity and other crisis. Country-specific adaptations to the programme have been made, but all within the existing Theory of Change.

We do see a focus towards implementation in outcomes 1-3 with outcome four slightly lagging. In part this may very well be explained by the fact that there is some logical / chronological flow in the four outcomes, with outcomes one and two being relatively "prerequisite" to outcomes three and four.

2023 is an important year to assess the progress and to again validate the Theory of Change in the Mid-term Review.

Good practices and lessons

Good practices
<p><i>From nutrition platforms to multi-sectoral platforms</i></p> <p>Subnational nutrition platforms are an important space for CSOs to engage with each other and with local government about service levels and service delivery. Linking these to national level multi-sectoral platforms and strengthening the multi-sectoral platforms at local (district, municipal) level has also been an important factor for the creation of impact. In most programme countries, Right2Grow has accessed the national platforms and strengthened coordination between relevant line ministries involved with WASH and nutrition, by showing that sub-national multi-sectoral coordination is successful in addressing community needs.</p>
<p><i>Joint government budget analysis</i></p> <p>Partners have realised that joint capacity development in budget analysis of government stakeholders AND civil society organisations is a strong way to build common ground. Many local stakeholders lack a full understanding of the government budget cycle, and how they can meaningfully engage with it. Doing a joint analysis of the government budget reveals gaps which the local-level decision makers can use to influence national budgets in future financial years. In addition, support CSOs and government officials to jointly review budgets also builds trust, and ensures that they feel they can all be part of the same team supporting the community needs, rather than be on opposite sides.</p>
Lessons
<p><i>Decentralised advocacy approach is relevant but needs more resourcing</i></p> <p>The decentralised advocacy approach is a relevant approach to ensure the sustainability of the programme achievements. Capacity development of CSOs and CBOs has laid the foundation for this. To scale decentralised advocacy, more time and financial means should be given to civil society organisations (Advocacy Groups).</p>
<p><i>Scope of Right2Grow to further engage in the humanitarian-development nexus</i></p> <p>The 2022 hunger crisis experienced in Uganda, and other insecurity has sparked new conversations on how the programme can realign its investment to provide for strengthening community-based adaptation mechanisms for building resilience under climate change or other shocks. Focusing both on short-term looking at community mobilization, CSO capacity strengthening and in advocacy both at District and National level.</p>

Sustainability and local ownership

Through the various programme interventions, **sustainability is interwoven** and is part and parcel of the various programme initiatives. The Right2Grow programme endeavors in all undertakings to strengthening the capacity of communities and civil society to influence decision makers about nutrition and WASH policies and services in a sustainable way. For example, capacity development built the initial links to engage with public authorities in platforms like the SUN movement, National parliaments and with local CBOs as a concrete example of how far sustainable measures are being put in place. It is still early to claim that the structures like Community Voice Action groups, Village Watch Committees, Nutrition Networks, Baseya online (Mali) and other various platforms are sustainable as of now but having integrated these structures into the

programme is a clear indication of the focus of the programme – these structures will need further support as per the programme design.

In South Sudan for example, subnational members were able to conduct several knowledge sharing sessions with key Right2grow stakeholders, offering refresher training to the Mother to Mother support groups, Men groups, and CBOs. All these interventions were intended to transfer skills to the local organizations and communities to enable them to step up and lead activities, to allow smooth transitioning and sustainability of the project intervention beyond the project period.

Partnership sustainability and local ownership are important aspects of the partnership design of Right2Grow. Not only are national partners part of the national decision-making bodies (Right2Grow Country Steering Committees), they also host important partnership roles such as national focal points for MCD and L&L. At global partnership level, national partners are not represented in the global coordination committee, which is exclusively for the international consortium partners and the chairs of the country steering committees (lead international partner at country level).

Local partner NGOs/CSOs have the freedom to take need-based decisions, mitigate local challenges and effectively deal with respective government departments officials. CSOs have been empowered with citizenship and leadership skills. These CSOs are given the authority to design, plan, execute, and monitor the activities in their own villages to combat undernutrition. However, the key programmatic choices are made in country technical teams where national partners are equally represented. Relatedly under MCD, we have seen the locally led research and the scholarship programme being launched, which relies heavily on the local decision-making structures of the programme.

Shift the Power

There have been successful facilitated decisions that favored local partners to get capacity-building training opportunities designed by a global team for their visible contributions to MCD and L&L (MEAL) technical working groups, to put the shift the power into practice, thematic focal points are selected from local CSOs. In Ethiopia for example L&L and MCD focal points are selected from GDCA and MCMDO respectively.

In some countries, there has improved and deepened the shift the power philosophy where national partners take up and spearhead implementation of most joint activities. Programme implementation decision making has included stakeholders right from the community level, the Sub-County Community based Organisations, as well as community and district level stakeholders. MoUs were also signed with CBOs to partner with them for the purpose of building the local capacity for sustainability of the gains made at the community level.

At the consortium level, shift the power to CSOs and implementing organisations has been reflected in decision-making, programme implementation planning, resource

distribution, working approaches, and policy implementation. Power has been decentralised among the core partner organisations, implementing partners, and their downstream partners, enabling them to operate the program using their own unique approaches, methods, and policies, in line with the TOC and result framework of the project.

Building on partnership sustainability and local ownership has been embedded in the programme principles, in 2022, the Right2Grow partners initiated a conversation on Shift the Power at country and global levels. Some bold steps taken, part of which are mentioned above where global partnership roles are now being shared with local partners. These Shift the Power conversations were integrated into the 2023 annual plans and these will be monitored through the annual reflections, Mid-term Review and other related MEAL processes.

Collaborations

The RightGrow partnership deliberately developed actions towards creating strong collaborating with other key players within countries and at global level. There has been continued conversations and interactions with Dutch embassies in all programme countries to align with their multi-annual country strategies. The collaboration with embassies can still be strengthened as the activities become more strategic over time.

In all programme countries Right2Grow ensures it does not operate in isolation but rather in unison with networks and NGOs that can complement or strengthen our vision. Right2Grow takes part in coordination meetings with other country partnerships organized by the Dutch Embassies. Right2Grow initiated collaboration with We Are Able, another strategic partnership funded by the Dutch Government under Power of Voices coordinated by ZOA and has participated in events about inclusive programming in Uganda (through ZOA). Similar connections were made for South Sudan and Burkina Faso, driven by the established relationship between THP and ZOA at global level. Similarly, Right2Grow explores collaboration with the Giving for Change partnership led by Wilde Ganzen.

Right2Grow partners also regularly take part in DSO learning events as well as communities of practices organised by Partos on Shift the Power and Community-led development. Initiating collaborations are not limited to Dutch-funded strategic partnerships.

7. Financial summary

In the year 2022, the total expenditures for the Right2Grow programme were € 9,496,997, which is € 1,147,316 lower (11%) than the new 2022 approved budget of € 10,644,313.

The expenditure variance was anticipated due to the experienced delays but was even higher than expected upon the time of submission of the annual plans and budget 2022.

Financial progress by country

<i>Country</i>	<i>Budget 2022</i>	<i>Actuals 2022</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>% Variance</i>
Bangladesh	€ 1,871,507	€ 1,609,506	€ 262,000	14%
Burkina Faso	€ 1,448,553	€ 1,376,098	€ 72,455	5%
Ethiopia	€ 1,739,776	€ 1,411,954	€ 327,822	19%
Mali	€ 1,628,862	€ 1,521,917	€ 106,945	7%
South Sudan	€ 1,503,462	€ 1,251,065	€ 252,397	17%
Uganda	€ 1,535,630	€ 1,526,104	€ 9,527	1%
Global Overheads & Contingencies	€ 916,522	€ 800,353	€ 116,170	13%
Total	€ 10,644,313	€ 9,496,997	€ 1,147,316	11%

These costs include both direct in-country expenditures and the global costs attributed to country programmes.

Explanation of variances

Overall, the 2022 variance (11%) are significantly lower than the 37% variance of 2021 and indicates that the implementation in 2022 has really gained momentum.

Like in 2021 the variances between the actuals and the budget are not related to programmatic changes, since the 2022 budget already considered the many carry-over activities from delayed activities in 2021. In many programme countries however, there was still some delay in activities due to COVID-19 (though much less impacted than in 2021), which explains some of the variances.

Another important unexpected change of costs was caused by inflation and exchange rate fluctuations due to the global crisis due to the Ukraine conflict. This made it that staff salaries needed to be raised by some partners, or prices of transport went up significantly.

The increased momentum in implementation is reflected in the various cost categories in different ways. As shown in the financial progress report (Annex 4) *direct activity costs and activity related travel costs* had the lowest rate of expenditure (76% and 77% respectively) which is still more than double of the first year of implementation. Direct staff costs were 101% on average.

Financial progress by result area

The expenditures over the four results (outcomes) show a relatively even distribution, similar to 2021.

<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Outcome 1</i>	<i>Outcome 2</i>	<i>Outcome 3</i>	<i>Outcome 4</i>
5-year projected share	29%	23%	28%	20%
Actual share 2021	29%	23%	25%	23%

Implications for 2023 budgets

The 2023 annual plans already anticipated an expenditure increase due to carry-over of activities from 2022 to 2023 and delays in 2021. for 2023 is € 11.151.449 which is € 2,177,833 (24%) higher than projected in the original 5-year budget.

At global levels, similarly several support activities were carried forward to 2023 from 2022 since programme countries were very busy with implementation. Large investments like the global learning week were postponed to 2023. In some cases, budget was brought forward from 2024 to ensure sufficient funding of the Mid-term review, learning week and locally-led research programme.

Overall costs in 2023 are also increasing due to levels of inflation higher than originally anticipated.

Annexes

1. Country Progress Summaries
2. Consolidated Results framework 2021
3. Narrative Country Reports
4. Financial progress report (budget models)

Note that the audited report will follow latest by July 1st 2022 as agreed with the Ministry.

Bangladesh



Context change

The two most significant changes in the country context are that:

- the newly elected local (Union Parishad) representatives took office. The Right2Grow consortium engaged extensively with them to remove any hesitance towards the programme (as it is not a traditional service delivery programme) and to get their support and commitment for an integrated WASH – nutrition effort towards zero undernutrition.
- prices of almost all essential commodities increased, making it difficult for people, especially for the low-income people, to meet their daily needs and fulfil the nutritional demand of children.

Focus of interventions

Pathway 1: Demand and Investment in basic social services for nutrition and WASH

The awareness of over 150,000 people including pregnant and lactating mothers, caregivers, and young girls was raised on growth monitoring promotion, WASH, safe motherhood, menstrual hygiene management and nutrition through consecutive multiple sessions held at open learning centres and through other means (e.g. day observations). In some of these sessions, local entrepreneurs (279 local entrepreneurs are engaged in the programme) attended to create demand and ensure access to quality products. Also, on the supply side of services, Right2Grow met and supported

212 frontline Health and Family Planning workers to conduct comprehensive nutritional counselling and primary health care services sessions with mothers of children aged below 2 years, adolescents, and pregnant women.

To ensure easy, affordable, and reliable access to quality public services for all citizens in Right2Grow working area, 1,447 sessions have been conducted to orient community people on citizens' Access to information.

Pathway 2: Civil Society Empowerment.

Both CSO leaders and Union Parishad representatives received hands-on training on digital Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking in 2022. The 15,877 members of the 772 CSOs under the Right2Grow programme are increasingly playing the role of effective pressure groups, contributing to improving accountability and transparency of local governance. Through a multitude of meetings, events and trainings which were facilitated by the consortium, CSOs are raising their (community's) voice more often and effective than before.

Pathway 3: Adoption and mainstreaming of multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition

Right2Grow supported CSOs in 169 multi-stakeholder platforms at the union level, which were focused on addressing undernutrition. Combined with the lobby & advocacy initiatives, bringing government experts and leaders from different sectors together, led to Union Parishads becoming more supportive and willing to work collaboratively towards addressing undernutrition in a multisectoral manner. Furthermore, a web-based Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking (BMET) tool was introduced to local government officials along with a guideline titled 'Local Government Act-2009 & implementation guideline for Union Parishad representative on Reducing Malnutrition'.

Right2Grow supported grassroot level advocacy meetings to gather evidence on the needs in public service delivery and translate local problems into national-level advocacy. To scale the reach of Right2Grow's message even further, the consortium collaborated with journalists and launched a campaign to highlight local issues around WASH and nutrition.

Pathway 4: Donors and international development actors coordination to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition.

As part of linkage and coalitions building interventions, Right2Grow signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CSA-SUN and Community Clinic Health Support Trust. The ambition is to make a joint effort to reduce child undernutrition in Bangladesh by influencing multiple sectors of government, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses & researchers in a collective and coordinated effort.

In 2022, initiative was taken to also link with the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council – a partnership that will be formalized in 2023.

Results

Pathway 1: Demand and Investment in basic social services for nutrition and WASH

In 2022, a total 29 actions were made by communities in which they formulated demands for improved WASH and nutrition services. In addition, 15 barriers to good nutrition and WASH services were successfully addressed by joint community, government and/or private sector initiatives.

The awareness raising and increased skills of community people, enable them to better demand and invest in basic social services for nutrition, WASH, and health care. It led to significant behaviour change, with more households investing in WASH products or sanitary pads and increases in the uptake of pre- and postnatal care (reported by Community Clinics).

Pathway 2: Civil Society Empowerment.

The professionalisation of CSOs means that CSO members are actively invited to participate in government meetings, making them important players in the decision-making process and leveraging their power to improve the functionality and regularity of committee meetings. By including a diverse set of perspectives and experiences, the committees are better equipped to address the complex challenges and opportunities related to reducing undernutrition of Under-5 children and community development.

Pathway 3: Adoption and mainstreaming of multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition

9 Union Parishads, 1 Upazila and 1 District have made multi-sectoral joint action plan to address child nutrition. The increased transparency on the budgeting process, as well as pressure from CSOs and awareness from leaders, contributed to an increase of budget for WASH and nutrition by 2.56% on average across all 40 Unions.

Pathway 4: Donors and international development actors coordination to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition.

Formal partnership development and meetings with UN agencies on leveraging resources and funding for improving undernutrition are long-term activities. The activities have not created any tangible results yet, but they set the stage for leveraging the consortium's knowledge, experience, and vision in the coming years of the programme through these other actors.

Impact stories

Pathway 1: Demand and Investment in basic social services for nutrition and WASH

Horitokibaria Community Clinic (Chotobighai Union, Patuakhali district) purchased height-weight measurement tools with assistance of CSOs and started to perform growth monitoring measurement of U5 children to improve their nutrition and health status. This initiative came into being via CSOs (which received capacity strengthening support via the Right2Grow programme) that identified the present service delivery of the Community Clinics (via e.g., scorecard and monitoring meetings). The outputs motivated them to advocate for growth monitoring by the local service provider.

Pathway 1: Demand and Investment in basic social services for nutrition and WASH

Four Community Clinics in Kulia and Parulia Union have been operating well according to standards of services (timely presence of health staff) as a result of Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) approach. With help of Right2Grow program, trained CVA group members collected service standards of the Community Clinics and compared it to the latest status. After that they identified the gaps in service delivery, they informed the decision makers and other relevant stakeholders through joint dialogue meetings. Following this, an action plan was developed to improve service provision of the Community Clinics as per government standard.

Pathway 3: Adoption and mainstream of multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition

As a result of advocacy led by Raghunathpur CSO leaders for increased investment in child health, sanitation, and nutrition-specific interventions, the Raghunathpur Union Parishad allocated BDT2,00,000 and has already spent BDT2,30,000 on programmes focused on micronutrient supplementation, Growth Monitoring Promotion, and primary health care.

Partnership development and collaboration

The Right2Grow consortium in Bangladesh has a positive relation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Embassy stimulated cross learning between different Power of Voice consortia in 2022 which was much appreciated.

The consortium has continued with its agenda to shift the power which is being reflected in how decisions are made, programme planning and implementation, resource distribution and working approaches.

The country consortium – together with the global consortium - has gone through an adaptive management process to resolve the budget shortage for national level lobby and advocacy.

Burkina Faso



Context change

The context in Burkina Faso has worsened in the past year. In 2022 Burkina Faso experienced two coups d'état, the first on 24 January 2022 and the second on 30 September 2022. Moreover, the increase in violent attacks and threats against civilians by non-state armed groups has further fragilized the context in which Right2Grow operates. The number of internally displaced people has increased in 2022 putting high pressure on availability of resources and access to basic services. It weakens the socio-economic fabric and disrupts the local governance of communities. As highlighted by the country lead Orkiatou Zampou: *'the increase of security threats, with attacks perpetrated against civilians, made populations even more vulnerable, especially those living in rural areas. In this context a programme like Right2Grow becomes even more relevant as advocacy efforts must be amplified to ensure that vulnerable people, for example internally displaced people, have access to basic services (WASH and nutrition).'*

Focus of interventions

During this second year the Burkina Faso consortium dove deeper in implementing the Right2Grow programme against the four pathways:

Pathway 1: Demand and investment in basic social services for nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene

The main interventions under this pathway consisted of:

- Awareness-raising activities for the population through radio and forum theatres on WASH and nutrition challenges, community dialogue sessions between communities and political leaders and information sessions for community-based groups on WASH and nutrition challenges;

- Advocacy actions by national CSOs (RESONUT and AMR) towards regional and national authorities for (i) access of the most vulnerable to food security stocks (ii) access of women to financing structures;
- Capacity building for internally displaced women on income-generating activities;
- Development of a compendium of texts that make all information on WASH and nutrition policies available to local organisations.

Pathway 2: Strengthening civil society

Under this pathway two types of interventions have been implemented:

- Trainings on mobile journalism, on good practices in whistleblowing and citizen questioning, on advocacy techniques and good governance for CBOs/CSOs;
- Advocacy workshops and dialogues with decision makers on food security, funding, and access to WASH services.

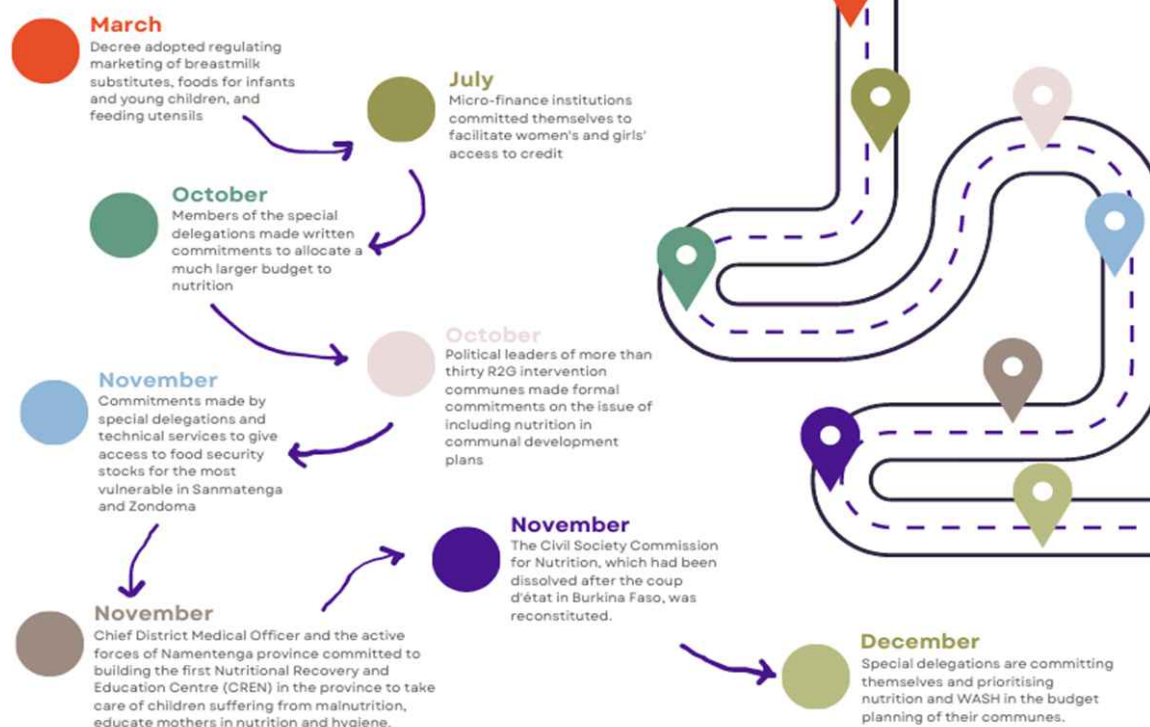
Pathway 3: Adoption and mainstreaming of a multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition

Under pathway three, Right2Grow worked with the Technical Secretariat for Nutrition on 2 levels:

- Organisation of the first national forum on multisectoral nutrition;
- Development of a dashboard of indicators for monitoring the implementation of multisectoral nutrition interventions in R2G's regions of intervention

Results visualisation

Snapshot - Burkina Faso



Partnership development and collaboration

In 2022, the consortium strengthened its partnership with the government, particularly with the Technical Secretariat for Nutrition, the leader in the operationalisation of the multisectoral approach to nutrition in Burkina Faso. Right2Grow took part in the meetings of the Scaling Up Nutrition Networks and defended the effective involvement of CSOs in advocacy actions at the community level and in budget monitoring. Similarly, Right2Grow supported the Technical Secretariat in the organisation of the National Forum on Multisectorality.

At the local level, the partnership was strengthened with local CSOs through advocacy groups. Thus, Right2Grow, along with the capacity building sessions, the technical and financial support provided to CSOs enabled them to initiate and implement advocacy actions in their locality. The anchoring of these CSOs in their communities, as well as their ability to mobilise resources, will enable them to continue their actions at the end of the project.

Impact stories

The MOJO as a means of advocacy
Name of the author : KINDA Laurent
As a CSO, we positively appreciate our training in MOJO (online journalism). It has allowed us to give more visibility to our activities, but more importantly, MOJO is an excellent way for us to do advocacy. Indeed, it allows us to materialize, to take views, as a palpable proof to denounce and to do advocacy at the appropriate time.
Following the training, our CSO produced a video to challenge the leaders of the Kongoussi commune on the issue of insalubrity in the city. This video exposed the hygiene and sanitation conditions around the IDP sites. Their children are forced to defecate in the open air due to the lack of appropriate infrastructure and women have to walk for miles to access drinking water. The final video was shared with the local authority, some civil society organizations in Kongoussi and service providers who work with the town hall. This allowed them to know the opinion of the community on the lack of hygiene that it lives and the solutions proposed to better sanitize the city. Following the video, the municipal authorities made a commitment to remedy the hygiene problems.

Animator of the Ti Koa Baali Association of Diapangou

Author's name: MANO Boalahan

I am a member of the Gourma advocacy group and since February 2022 I have been participating in the Right2Grow program activities. I can say that the capacity building sessions have been beneficial to me. First, the training on associative life and resource mobilization, led by OUOBA Buama Michel, RESONUT focal point and member of the executive committee of the Tin Tua association. This was a turning point for me because I understood why the activities of the Ti Koa Baali association were blocked when it used to intervene in several areas. So I took steps and Mr. OUOBA gave it to the members of the central committee of Ti Koa Baali. Thanks to this training, the association was able to obtain the support of a partner to take charge of the catering at the kindergarten level for the school year 2022-2023. Secondly, the training on barrier analysis was very useful not only in my professional life but also in my personal life. The barrier analysis methodology helps identify the barriers that prevent us from achieving our goals, just because we lack commitment. Having understood this, I applied it in the management of the Ti Koa Baali association by making commitments with the central committee and today I have noticed that we have been able to progress towards our objectives. What is comforting is that, in the area of income-generating activities, we have achieved our objective in the sense that we have restarted the processing unit with the training of about twenty women in the production of attiéké. Finally, my participation in the national forum on access to credit for women and girls allowed me to draw inspiration from the experiences of other structures to improve Ti Koa Baali's credit offer to women in order to develop their economic activities.

Ethiopia



Context change

Conflict and security issues on local level as well as in Northern Ethiopia continued to mark the country context. On 2 November, a peace treaty was signed between Ethiopian federal government and leaders of the Tigray regional state bringing an end to the devastating war in northern Ethiopia. Climate change and drought in south-eastern Oromia region put a strain on the vulnerable population. As local governments were shifting attention to humanitarian response, Right2Grow adapted by collaborating with the government-led emergency clusters. Despite all challenges the policy environment remains conducive including the Seqota declaration and Food and Nutrition Strategy, though the operational guidance on the establishment of Nutrition Councils has been delaying.

Focus of interventions

Pathway 1: Demand and investment in basic social services for nutrition and WASH

The consortium implements social accountability approach Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) in 21 Woredas. Awareness raising sessions were conducted to inform over 2200 community members on the rights to quality WASH and nutrition services as well as to 754 community members on Vision, Commitment and Action tool that supports to define a vision for their community. 415 local government staff received capacity building on social accountability. As part of CVA, 76 CVA taskforces comprising of community and religious leaders, CBOs, youth leaders and other community members were established and trained. These CVA task forces take lead in monitoring technical standards and conduct community score card sessions to check the performance of targeted nutrition and WASH facilities and organise interphase meetings and

development of action plans with service providers and local government for improvements.

Right2Grow Ethiopia also identified private sector at local level and engaged them in the investment of nutrition and WASH products. 42 private sector enterprises received skills gap training and were facilitated to have dialogue with local government line offices to enable them to get the support needed to improve the quantity and quality of their products.

Pathway 2: Civil society empowerment

The consortium organized a national advocacy workshop mobilizing more than 20 national CSOs, media institutions and existing platforms, enhancing their capacity on advocacy roles and representation of local communities and most vulnerable groups. Additionally, Right2Grow provided capacity strengthening on budget advocacy and BMET tools at regional and local level to enhance technical expertise and practical skills of CSOs as well as local government to monitor government resource mobilization, allocation and its utilization processes for nutrition and WASH sector.

Right2Grow Ethiopia also conducted informal and formal capacity building events to enhance the capacity of the consortium, focusing on social accountability approach CVA as well as budget advocacy through the Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking (BMET) approach.

Pathway 3: Adoption and mainstreaming of multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition

Right2Grow Ethiopia in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Health, ECSC-SUN, and Ethiopia Nutrition Leadership Networks organized a Nutrition Leadership training for 32 participants from regional government, media, Woreda administration and council spokespersons. Objective was to enabling nutrition professionals to have an up-to-date knowledge on nutrition as well as skills in leadership, influencing, and motivating others to work efficiently across sectors and jointly address undernutrition.

The consortium organised performance review and annual planning workshops in collaboration with Ministry of Health in two regions, facilitated Food and Nutrition Policy and Strategy launching and dissemination workshop at various levels, and strengthened multi-sectoral coordination body and joint planning in operation Woredas.

Right2Grow also facilitated a panel discussion on Amhara Television engaging the representative of the regional government, CSOs, private sector and academia. This discussion focused on the challenge of undernutrition in Amhara regional state and the role of private sector, enabling the private sector to present challenges to the public and the regional government. Two out of three transmission were funded by the media corporation.

Pathway 4: Donors and international development actor's coordination to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition

Right2Grow Ethiopia organized a capacity-building workshop on humanitarian and development nexus (HDN) programming for consortium partners, identifying HDN advocacy approach and its strategic interventions with donors in alignment of funding and programming. This provides a foundation for further work in coming years.

Results

Pathway 1: Demand and investment in basic social services for nutrition and WASH

The establishment of CVA taskforces mobilizes communities and has provided a mechanism for social accountability and local advocacy. In 2022, Right2Grow led 57 actions in which communities formulated demands for improved nutrition and WASH services. These include monitoring technical standards of facilities such as primary health care units and water utility offices, community score card sessions, and interface meetings with service providers and local government. Some of the initial results include a dedicated room for breastfeeding at two health centers, vegetable production demonstrations in five schools and two health posts, construction of latrines at two health centers, and access to water at three health centers.

As a result of targeted capacity building and facilitated linkage with local government, 42 private sector enterprises can produce more and improved nutrition and WASH products and service for the community to expand access to and address existing barriers of nutrition and WASH services.

Pathway 2: Civil society empowerment

In 2022, Right2Grow facilitated initiatives in which CSOs succeeded in creating 51 spaces for their demands and positions. This includes engaging in decision-making processes and influencing nutrition policy implementation, budget allocation, and putting nutrition and WASH issues on the agenda through Woreda Nutrition Coordination and Technical Committee meetings, voicing concerns on the Food and Nutrition Strategy implementation on regional level and establishing strategic partnerships with ECSC-SUN, Ethiopia Nutrition Leadership Network, and Seqota Declaration Program Delivery Unit (SDPDU) on national level.

Formal and informal capacity-building efforts have contributed to the enhanced advocacy skills of consortium partners and strengthened their stakeholder relationships. Local partners took on panelist roles in global talks on how to strengthen women's capacities to influence decision makers on International Women's Day and how to tackle undernutrition root causes in Africa.

Pathway 3: Adoption and mainstreaming of multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition

Through advocacy and capacity building the multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition in policies, action plans, and budget allocations is strengthened from local to regional level. Nutrition multi-sectoral coordination bodies with nine sectors are established at

Woreda level. Government representatives show support by making directions to their respective entities to work on existing policy gaps, for example Oromia president office writing a circular letter for Zonal and Woreda Administration offices mandating them to chair the nutrition multi-sectoral coordination bodies. Allocation of separate budget for Nutrition and WASH sectors to address undernutrition is increasing: because of Right2Grow activities, 12 Woreda and one Zonal administration have allocated nutrition-specific budget.

Impact story

Chief administrator: “addressing undernutrition is investing in next generation”

Teshome Lemjabo is chief administrator of Shashogo Woreda, Ethiopia, where the causes and effects of undernutrition are severe. Right2Grow has supported the Woreda through capacity building on nutrition, multi-sectoral approaches, and budget monitoring and expenditure tracking as well as evidence-based technical support to transform the way to tackle the challenges.

As a result of the support, Teshome is one of the decision-makers making a political commitment to address undernutrition through strengthening multi-sectoral coordination in decision-making, budget allocation and implementation of services from Woreda (district) down to village level. Influenced by the new knowledge the Woreda administration office allocated 2 million Ethiopian Birr for budget on multi-sectoral efforts to make joint planning and performance review at all levels. This is a contribution to the work on the Seqota Declaration, a commitment by the Ethiopian Government to end child undernutrition by 2030.

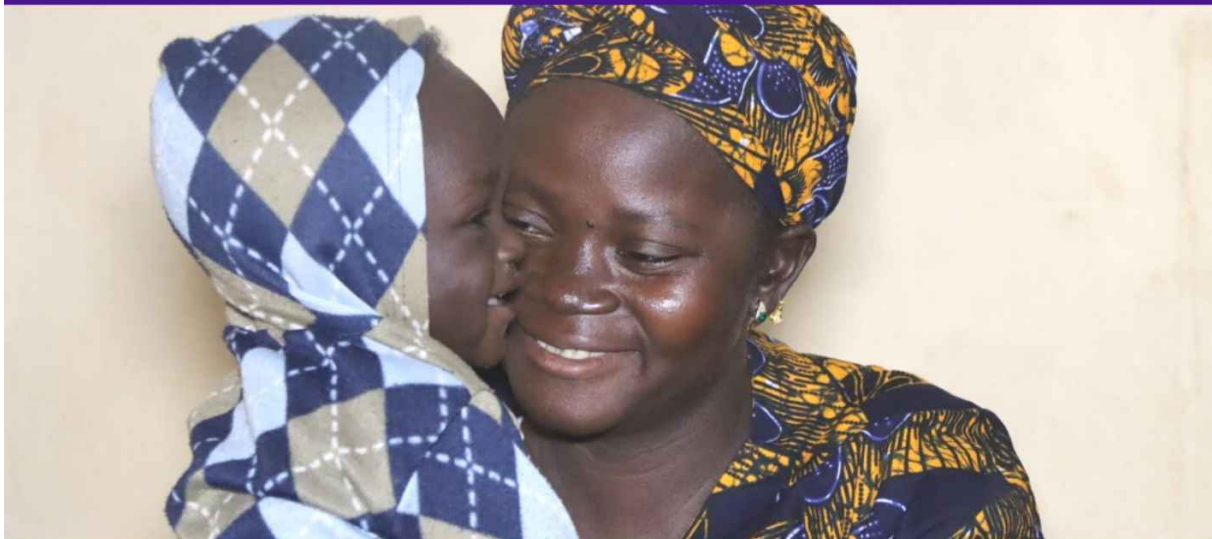
Teshome states that ‘addressing undernutrition is investing in next generation’. He shares that his Woreda leadership will work strategically to enhance the multi-sectoral coordination and community-led local solutions in promoting positive changes with long lasting impacts towards undernutrition among children under the age of five.

Partnership development and collaboration

In 2022, Right2Grow Ethiopia as part of Shift the Power facilitated strengthened representation, voice, and recognition of local CSOs within the partnership. Local partners were engaged in international training opportunities as well as leadership positions of thematic sectors in the consortium. On local level, community voices were empowered through the establishment of social accountability structures such as CVA task forces in the implementation Woredas.

The consortium also built strong collaboration with strategic partners such as CCRDA, ESCS-SUN and Seqota declaration program delivery unit for exchange and joint advocacy on national and regional level. During the year, various engagements took place including Right2Grow being able to use CSO-led nutrition and WASH platforms by inclusion in the CCRDA member list as well as joint organisation of Nutrition leadership training and Nutrition Leaders Network Forum with ESCS-SUN. For ESCS-SUN, the partnership has now grown to the level of having a joint plan in 2023.

Mali



Context change

The ECOWAS sanctions to Mali were lifted but the context continues to be marked by insecurity, political tensions and international isolation. The military junta, still in the Government, has cut relations with G5 Sahel, moved away from European countries and recently prohibited French NGOs and funding in the country, which can worsen the situation and increase the needs of the population. Despite this difficult context Right2Grow's activities have not been significantly affected.

Focus of interventions and results

- 1) Right2Grow organized workshops to support the participation of CBOs in municipal budget sessions in order to build their capacity to participate in the budgetary process of communes and to influence the process and promote transparency in management.
- 2) Right2Grow Mali and Burkina met in Ouagadougou for training and experience sharing on BMET with the support of CEGAA. A framework for ongoing experience sharing between the two countries has been established.

Pathway 1: Demand and investment in basic social services for nutrition and WASH

- 1) Organisation of workshop at national level to develop national, local and communal budget advocacy action plans that facilitated the participation of communities at communal level budget sessions. Citizen Watch Committees (CVC) advocated for payment of taxes for local development to meet the needs of basic schools on WASH (Segala, Kayes Cercle) and nutrition through support to Community-based Nutrition Groups (GSAN) and cereal banks.

2) Training and equipment for processing local products for community structures. It enabled the private sector, including 16 members of 6 groups from 8 communes, to develop business models, services and innovative products, in particular processing of local products into enriched porridge for children under 5.

Pathway 2: Strengthening civil society

1) Organisation of two competitions of journalistic publications on nutrition issues with the participation of 47 written and audiovisual publications. It was chaired by national authorities and the President of the National Council of Civil Society of Mali and many media attended.

2) Regional training workshops for CSOs, CBOs and the media on human rights, citizenship and gender made it possible to initiate advocacy actions by CVC members, which participated in the elaboration of the 2023 annual budget of the communes and in the restitution sessions of the communes' administrative accounts.

Pathway 3: Adoption and mainstreaming of a multisectoral approach to undernutrition

1) Parliamentary advocacy actions with the 2 WASH and Nutrition parliamentarians' networks: four advocacy meetings were held and achieved to include the right to water and food in the new constitution draft which will be voted in the next constitutional referendum in 2023.

2) Digital communication and promotion campaign through Bèsèya platform and application launched on 26 May 2022 in Bamako: 21,038 people registered, including 132 communal and national authorities, and online publication of 53 documents, 25 videos and 6 video recipes.

Impact story

The benefits of locally processed products

Testimony of Mrs. CAMARA Mariam SOUCKO, President Association DJOULATON BAFLOULABE

"Mali has been experiencing a multi-dimensional crisis since 2012, which has been compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic and the embargo by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Faced with this situation, households are living in total insecurity. The first victims are women and children under five. The start of the Right2Grow project was a gift from GOD for us, the populations of the intervention communes. Indeed, we, the members of the grassroots community organisations (CBOs), cooperatives, nutritionists, etc., have benefited from capacity building in processing and conservation of local products. This support has enabled us to add value to our cereals but above all to processing into different recipes for the benefit of the community, in particular for our children under five. The notions acquired through Right2Grow were shared with other women's groups, youth groups and nutrition support groups (GSAN). Since July 2022, the processing and promotion of local products for children under five has been carried out with the Citizens' Watch Committees (CVCs), the nutrition officers and, in the villages with the nutrition support groups (GSAN)."

Partnership development and collaboration

Right2Grow Mali has a positive collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands in Bamako. The Embassy and its representatives are active members of the National Strategic Steering Committee and have participated in some activities such as radio and tv debates. Right2Grow has formed and established some coordination structures where all the actors involved regularly participate at different levels (from municipality to national level, including women associations, traditional and religious leaders, media, mayors and prefects, ministries at different levels, private sector, etc.) and meet regularly, with different roles and responsibilities.

South Sudan



Context change

Two main elements have changed the context in South Sudan. First, on a more positive note, the government made notable progress with the swearing in of the state assemblies, which completed the formation of the government structures at the national and state levels. The parties to the R-ARCSS came to an agreement on the Roadmap to a Peaceful and Democratic End of the Transitional Period. Secondly, the humanitarian needs in the country have increased due to covariate climatic, conflict and economic shocks. The conflict in Ukraine has also put more pressure on available resources which resulted in some cases to disruption in food distribution in the country. For instance World Food Programme was forced to suspend food assistance in South Sudan as funds dry up and nation faces hungriest year since independence ([article](#)).

Focus of interventions

During this second year the South Sudan consortium has made substantial progress in the different pathways:

Pathway 1: Demand and investment in basic social services for nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene

Under this pathway, R2G mostly worked with mother-to-mother support groups (MtMSG) and water user committee (WUC) members. MtMSG were supported to cultivate vegetable garden. Similar, MtMSGs training, workshops and cooking demo took place in Akobo, Bor, Pibor, Melut, Mayendit Pariang, Leer. They were also offered opportunities to demand for agricultural support from the local government and other

food security partner. WUC have been trained on maintenance of water sources and sanitation within the communities.

Pathway 2: Strengthening civil society

Under this pathway three types of interventions have been implemented:

- Trainings to CSOs/CBOs on good governance and leadership to address issues related to malnutrition and WASH, with a specific emphasize on gender;
- Trainings for CSOs/CBOs to raise awareness of local government in adopting multi-sectoral approaches when allocating resources for WASH and nutrition services;
- Budget analysis: South Sudan national budget was analysed by Right2Grow consortium and budget policy brief developed and validated.
- Advocacy on national level: budget policy brief disseminated through the specialized Budget parliament committees' engagement meeting under the theme: "talking money matters".

Pathway 3: Adoption and mainstreaming of a multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition

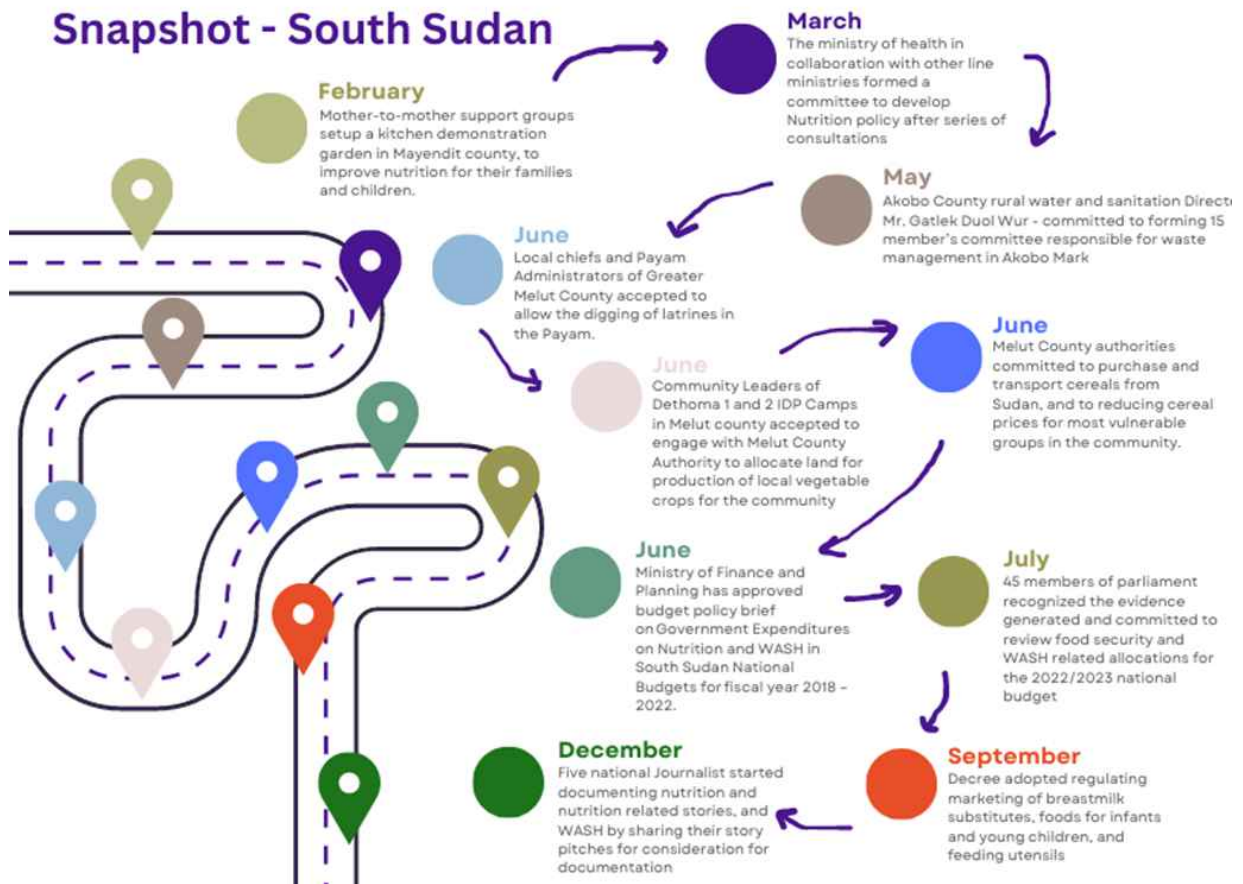
Under pathway three, three interventions were put forward:

- Creation of evidence: this was realized through the analyses of the national budget using the information from the Ministry of Finance and Planning; and through the satisfaction survey in Jonglei and Unity states;
- Direct advocacy actions in the form of meetings, trainings, workshops and focus group discussions. These were realized on three level:
 - County level: targets were chiefs and sub chiefs, county executive directors and county health directors, county infrastructures and environment directors. On that level the consortium also worked with mother-to-mother support groups (MtMSG) and water user committees (WUC) members.
 - State level: the main targets were nutrition focal points and state ministry of health director general
 - National level: main targets were nutrition director, director of primary health care, director of water and irrigation; members of specialized budget commutes in the ministry of agriculture, health, finance and local media houses.
-

Launching of the parliamentary alliance for food security and nutrition; Pathway 4: Donors and international development actor's coordination to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition

The main intervention under this pathway is the participation of Right2Grow consortium in different platforms such as Peer Review Committee responsible of reviewing South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) proposals/HRP, Nutrition and food security Clusters, and OCHA; community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), strategic advisory group (SAG), maternal infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) and nutrition information system (NIS).

Results visualisation



Partnership development and collaboration

During the implementation period, the project witnessed support and collaboration from all stakeholders; government line ministries, the Embassy, the local media houses etc. Overall, all the consortium partners had engaged externally with partners such as Nile Hope, NRC, DAI South Sudan and PAH in Akobo; Oxfam, Plan International, and JAM in Pibor, Jonglei civil society network and Voice of women in Bor.

Furthermore Save the Children and Action Against Hunger had held key positions in the SUN Civil Society Network/Alliance's management and played a vital role in accelerating activities, raising awareness of the importance of investing in nutrition and encouraging governments make it a priority through social mobilization, advocacy and campaigning.

Impact Story

Providing alternative food to address malnutrition in world most impoverished environment.

Paguir village is in the central region of Fangak County and is home to 15,000 people. The region falls within the areas mostly affected by flooding annually. During rainy seasons, the floodplains fill the deep swamps with water which cause crop destruction and displacement. Due to the floods, inadequate clean water and physical infrastructure. The County has the highest rates of acute malnutrition and food insecurity;

In order to address the root causes of malnutrition Action Against Hunger piloted rice cultivation in Paguir. After Four months of healthy growth, when rice was ready for harvesting, Action Against Hunger asked mothers whose children were undergoing treatment to take part in harvesting in exchange for one bag of rice.

Since the beginning of the harvest, the mothers have bagged each sack (each weighing approximately 65kg) of rice cultivated. Martha Nyakueka working on the farm said each morning she goes to the farm to drive away the birds and animals from feeding on the rice. According to Martha being a part of this outstanding dream is inspirational. "I will make sure after this pilot project to have my own rice farm to support my family since this has become an alternative source of food after we lost all our farmland to flooding", added Martha.

Martha manually thresh the rice from the stalk using stick and she has been doing this process each harvest time which is the last step she does to extract rice grain from the stalk, before drying and packaging it in empty sacks. According to Martha, the hardest part of the rice process is threshing and removal of hull from the grain and she believes the process can be made efficient and easier using a machine. So far in this community, about 10 people have already cultivated rice farms and many more keep coming to us every rice farm training/skills and seeds to start up a rice farms by themselves. The introduction of the rice by Action Against Hunger has significantly flipped the thoughts of the people from traditional plantation of sorghum, which does not yield much in flooded areas compared to rice, which thrives well in flooded areas. In addition, we believe that there is now high demand from community to see more inputs being provided to expand the project so that it reaches the wider community.

Uganda



Context change

Politically, 2022 saw the emergence of repressive legislation notably the amended Computer Misuse (Amendment) Act which contributed to the shrinking civic space for advocacy engagements.

Economically, Uganda continued to experience the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also suffering new economic challenges, specifically the instability of exchange rates and rising inflation. These economic shocks have further fueled a hunger crisis in the country, and increased undernutrition rates. Moreover, instable exchange rate and inflation have also impacted the engagement of many CSOs and CBOs in advocacy platforms on nutrition and WASH due to reduced available funds compared to the targeted budgets.

Socially, the country experienced an Ebola outbreak that imposed restrictions on travel and convening. This led to the postponement of the 2022 Right to Food conference organized by the Uganda Human Rights Commission. It also caused delays and restrictions in implementing community activities in the Right2Grow implementing Districts of Kakumiro and Kamwenge.

Focus of interventions

Pathway 1: Demand and investment in basic social services for nutrition and WASH

- *Community engagement and training:* Right2Grow Uganda conducted training and awareness raising for various community structures. This included training community actors such as VHTs, Animators, Cultural and Religious Leaders and Local Government leaders on undernutrition; using the CVA methodology to provide training on understanding and monitoring of Nutrition and WASH service delivery standards and to organise interface meetings between communities and service delivery

officials to improve health services; conducting VCA training sessions to train community-level Nutrition and WASH advocacy facilitators; forming nutrition support groups at Village, Parish and Sub-County levels; supporting community dialogues and consultations on Nutrition and WASH through the various trained community resource persons; establishing partnerships with CBOs to increase the reach of WASH and nutrition good practices awareness-raising; organising essay writing competitions on WASH and nutrition for youth; and mapping households for good WASH and nutrition practices areas.

- *Media engagement:* Right2Grow engaged print, radio, online media, TV and press conferences to amplify the nexus between WASH and Nutrition, as well as commemorated significant days. Priority advocacy issues were taken up by the Members of Parliament on the Uganda Parliamentary Alliance on Food and Nutrition Security.

Pathway 2: Civil society empowerment

- *Capacity strengthening:* This included organising peer learning sessions for CBOs on their organisational strength; organising a mutual capacity development workshop for Right2Grow partners to improve their communication capacity; and conducting a capacity building workshop on planning and budgeting for nutrition and WASH for Right2Grow partners and local government officials.
- *Supporting CSO participation through various events and meetings.* This included launching CSO Nutrition platforms and District Nutrition Coordination Committees; organising an annual review meeting for District-level nutrition stakeholders to assess progress towards reducing stunting; organising consultative meetings for CSOs to strategically implement the Parish Development Model; organising a national dialogue on WASH and Nutrition for CSO partners to address issues selected from District and Sub County levels; and mobilising Right2Grow partners and other CSOs to take part in the annual regional Local Government Budget Conferences.

Pathway 3: Adoption and mainstream of multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition

In 2022, Right2Grow Uganda developed and approved a zero stunting campaign strategy. Throughout the year, the consortium also took advantage of numerous advocacy opportunities. These include:

Advocating with the national government by:

- Signing an MoU with the Uganda Parliamentary Alliance on Food and Nutrition Security in which the Alliance committed to advocate for food and nutrition security issues in policy-making processes;
- Organising the Uganda Water and Environment Week organized in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment and other actors and presenting a paper on Financing Water, Environment and Climate Change during it;
- Holding engagements with the Ministry of Local government to advocate for the inclusion of food and nutrition in the Parish Development Model guidelines, a model which forms the multisectoral framework for implementation of the National Development Plan II;
- Convening an advocacy workshop for parliamentarians to advocate for updating Uganda's Nutrition and WASH legislation;
- Holding a High-level Dialogue on Public Financing for Food Security, Nutrition and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). This meeting was attended by Members of the Parliamentary Committees on Health, Education and Agriculture;
- Drafting and presenting CSO budget proposals on FSN and WASH to Parliamentary Committees;
- Holding policy influencing meetings and media debates on the budget to allow the public to interrogate the 2022/23 budget priorities and their implications on improving WASH, Food Security and Nutrition. These invited members of Parliament Committees and Local Government technocrats.

Joint advocacy with other stakeholders by:

- Co-convening a national consultative dialogue on the National Agriculture Extension Strategy;
- Holding engagement meetings with CSOs to assess the performance of Local Governments and Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Local Government performance in terms of service delivery under the National Budget Month;
- Supporting the UNAP II National Planning Authority to organize and participating in workshop to develop the UNAP II implementation guidelines; and
- Organising a national nutrition symposium for Right2Grow partners and other CSOs involved in nutrition to be sensitized on the progress of the fight against stunting in Uganda.

Drafting position papers and press statements by:

- Developing position papers in the agro-industrialization cluster to influence increased investment for nutrition related services; and
- Drafting and releasing a press statement for the International World Food Day and a press statement in response to the hunger crisis in Uganda.

Pathway 4: Donors and international development actors coordination to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition.

- Right2Grow Uganda convened the first Uganda annual Sustainable Development Goal conference 2022. The SDG conference brought together all the leading donors and United Nations agencies in the country.
- Right2Grow Uganda also supported two members of the Country Steering Committee to attend the 2022 Annual IMF/WB Meetings in Washington DC as part of the Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF).
- The consortium also organised a national nutrition champion awards where leading donors in the field of nutrition, food security and WASH were invited, including UN agencies, EU and USAID.

Results

Outcome 1: Demand and Investment in basic social services for nutrition and WASH:

Through interventions under Pathway 1, Right2Grow Uganda led 24 actions in which communities formulate demands for improved services, leading to the following key milestones:

- Nutrition was prioritized and included in the Kamuganguzi and Igombe sub-county budgets, and plans;
- 3,480 acres of land were allocated to boost the communal production of nutritious food at the household level in Adjumani & Yumbe districts;
- 2 unclean & unsafe Spring wells in Kiziranfumbi Sub County were rehabilitated and protected;
- 2 district Nutrition Officers were recruited for Kamwenge and Yumbe districts to support champion nutrition interventions;
- 8 functional District Nutrition Coordination Committees were established and strengthened in the districts that had none.

Outcome 2: Civil Society Empowerment:

Through interventions under Pathway 2, Right2Grow Uganda achieved the following:

- CSOs succeeded in creating 40 spaces for their demands and positions: they provided technical support to MAAIF towards the review of the National Agriculture Extension Strategy 2022/26 resulting in the inclusion of nutrition and gender guidelines in the National Agriculture Extension Strategy; they held 24 Local Government Budget Conferences and presented position papers that strengthened the demand for accountability; they presented the District Nutrition Action Plans

during the planning and budgeting process and these were adopted by the district; and they developed annual Budget Guide and Fact sheets on Food & nutrition security and WASH financing that enabled CSOs to meaningfully participate and influence the budget processes within their Local Governments structures.

- 20 joint advocacy initiatives from CSOs at national and district level resulted in positive response from the government to some of the proposals. For example, the budget for agro-industrialization, natural resources, and rural-urban water supply increased by 110% (UGX 304.23Bn), a factor which is directly responding to our call for increased financing. Furthermore, we notice specific government interventions in response to the CSO advocacy such as expanding storage and processing capacity for agricultural commodities within the 18 zones of the country.

Outcome 3: Adoption and mainstream of multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition:

Through interventions under Pathway 3, Right2Grow Uganda achieved the following:

- The CSOs position paper on the Parish Development Model before the Parliamentary Committee on public service and local development was endorsed.
- The technical support and assistance to MAAIF on the review of the National Agriculture Extension Strategy 2022-2026 resulted in the inclusion of nutrition and gender guidelines in the strategy.

Outcome 4: Donors and international development actors' coordination to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition:

Through interventions under Pathway 4, Right2Grow Uganda achieved the following:

- National CSOs are being co-opted into the technical working groups on agriculture, nutrition, WASH, Health, and Parish Development Model to provide technical support.

Impact stories

Pathway 1: Demand and Investment in basic social services for nutrition and WASH

For the first time, the Chairperson of Kitumba Sub-county in Kabale district made a commitment to create a budget for nutrition in the next Sub-County budget of 2022/2023 to a tune of 2,000,000 UGX, and the Sub-County has already allocated and spent this money in this financial year's budget on demonstration gardening at the Sub-County headquarters with a commitment to cascade to the schools within the Sub-county.

Pathway 2: Civil Society Empowerment

Between March and April 2022, for the first time the community members successfully linked up with the Citizens Voice and Action Members and Community Based Organizations to demand from duty bearers to address the lack of water in Kisiita Health Centre III which was affecting service delivery and in response the health facility administration lobbied a water reservoir tank from MTN Uganda to address the demands of the community.

Pathway 3: Adoption and mainstream of multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition

Right2Grow and other CSOs held the CSOs Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) FY2022/23 retreat. Two specific position papers on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) were developed and presented to the respective Parliamentary Committees. The Purpose of these position papers was to influence budgetary allocations to FSN and WASH in the FY2022/23 Budget. In the month of June 2022, CSOs engaged with the budget committee of parliament for the first time to influence budgetary allocations to FSN and WASH in the FY2022/23 Budget and 18 recommendations were adopted by Parliamentary Committees.

Partnership development and collaboration

Right2Grow Uganda further put 'Shift the Power' into its partnership development and cooperation practice in 2022. National CSOs spearheaded the implementation of joint advocacy activities. Programme implementation decision-making included stakeholders right from the community level, the sub-county CBOs, as well as district-level stakeholders. Moreover, MOUs were signed with 8 CBOs with the purpose to build local capacity for sustainability of the programme at community level and to develop the capacity at grassroots level in nutrition programming and advocacy.

With the support of Right2Grow, a key achievement in 2022 was the Movement for Community-led Development (MCLD) Uganda registering as an independent entity to run its own operations. The consortium will continue to focus its investment for the MCLD's institutional and programmatic development as part of our civil society empowerment pathway.