

Nutrition Financing Landscape in Somalia

Key Findings & Recommendations

Foreword

Nutrition is a cornerstone of human well-being, playing a vital role in health, economic growth, and social development. Investing in nutrition is essential for achieving sustainable development goals, combating poverty, and ensuring food security. Despite its importance, nutrition financing remains a complex and underfunded area, requiring strategic planning and collaboration among stakeholders to enhance its impact.

The "Nutrition Financing Landscape Study" is a crucial step toward addressing these challenges. Led by the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with the Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP) for SUN countries and Results for Development (R4D) in Somalia, this study provides a detailed analysis of the current nutrition financing framework. It identifies key funding sources, highlights financial gaps, and explores opportunities to strengthen investments in nutrition programs.

This study offers critical insights to support evidence-based policy decisions, enhance coordination among government agencies, and foster multi-sectoral partnerships with development organizations, private sector stakeholders, and civil society. By mapping existing financial flows and pinpointing challenges, stakeholders can work together to mobilize resources more effectively and advocate for increased investment in both nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific initiatives.

As the SUN Focal Point and Senior Advisor on Food Systems, I am honored to present this study as a valuable resource for policymakers, development partners, and practitioners dedicated to improving nutrition outcomes in Somalia and beyond. I urge all stakeholders to leverage these findings to strengthen our collective response to malnutrition and drive sustainable progress toward nutrition security for all.

Dr. Farah
SUN Focal Point & Senior Advisor on Food Systems
Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
Federal Government of Somalia

Acknowledgement

The SUN Somalia Secretariate would like to thank the Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP) for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) countries for the technical and financial support in conducting this nutrition financing landscaping.

The SUN Somalia Secretariate also expresses its gratitude to the Center of Excellency in Food Systems and Climate Adaptation and to Mohamed Barre for collecting data, conducting interviews and leading the data analysis to produce this landscape assessment report.

Contents

<i>Executive Summary</i>	5
<i>1. Introduction</i>	7
<i>2. Methodology</i>	8
<i>3. Assessment Findings</i>	9
<i>3.1 Funding sources for nutrition interventions</i>	9
<i>3.2 Government budget allocation and expenditure by sector</i>	10
<i>3.3 Trend analysis: Budget allocation and actual expenditure</i>	13
<i>3.4 Challenges to sustainable financing for nutrition in Somalia</i>	14
<i>4. Recommendations</i>	15
<i>5. Conclusion</i>	18
<i>REFERENCES</i>	19
<i>Annex 1. Somali Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy Funding</i>	20
<i>Annex 2. Government budget allocation and expenditure for nutrition-related ministries (2020 – 2024)</i>	21
<i>Annex 3. Survey Invitation Note</i>	23

Acronyms

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCDP	Finance Capacity Development Platform
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IPC	Integrated food security Phase Classification
MDA	Ministry, Department or Agency
MoAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
NDP	National Development Plan
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMNS	Somalia Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy
SNBS	Somalia National Bureau of Statistics
SO	Strategic Objective
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TSA	Treasury Single Account
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

Introduction

Somalia's Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy (SMNS) 2019–2024 was published in March 2019 to guide the country's nutrition prioritization; however, to date, very little has been achieved, and the nation is in critical condition given that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) stands at 13% with 1.7 million children requiring nutrition services¹.

Underlying factors include food insecurity: according to Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 4.4 million people are in crisis or above by Dec 2024. Secondly, there are inadequate health care services: access to health care and services remains low, coverage of Vitamin A supplements and measles vaccination falls below 80%, and there is insufficient hygiene practice. Thirdly, optimal caring and feeding practice are insufficient: exclusive breastfeeding remains below 17% in children under 6 months, and for those aged between 6 to 23 months, only 17% got the minimum dietary diversity requirements. Finally, the study finds that limited financial and technical support is one of the drivers of malnutrition in Somalia.

The SUN Somalia secretariat requested support from the Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP)² to develop an overview of Somalia's nutrition financing landscape, including the current development policy landscape and how nutrition is integrated into development planning, costing, and budgeting processes. The SUN Secretariat engaged a consultancy to assess and analyze the existing annual planning and budgeting process at the national and sub-national levels and how nutrition fits in these processes. The assessment also addresses and analyses the trends in nutrition finance, capacity needs on nutrition financing, current nutrition financing sources and what is needed from partners.

Methodology and responses

The assessment applied a mixed method for data collection. Over 50 stakeholders were mapped, followed by a sampling exercise, the interviewing tools, and their application, including an online response capture. Secondary data was collected using desk review to obtain published materials and unpublished reports. Primary data collection involved key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The team reviewed trends in nutrition financing over the last 2- 3years, identified needs and funding gaps. An inception workshop was conducted to gain a deep understanding of Somalia's context, challenges, and priorities in nutrition, focusing on financing for nutrition and enabling stakeholders to address the critical challenge of sustainable nutrition financing—the workshop aimed to establish a roadmap for resource mobilization and prioritization in the country. Overall, diverse participants from the Government authorities at the Federal and State levels, United Nations representatives, civil society and development partners contributed to this assessment. Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis.

Key findings

In summary, there are three primary sources of finance in Somalia.

1. **The Government budget** through the Treasury Single Account (TSA) appropriation bill; annual budgets are around 40% domestic revenue, and 60% donor supported. This is limited to priority one (security finance), priority two (civil servant payrolls) and operational finance of ministries departments and government agencies. There is no line item or appropriation for nutrition

¹ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157950/?iso3=SOM>

² <https://r4d.org/finance-capacity-development-platform-for-sun-countries-fcdp/>

explicitly in Somalia's government budget, however, nutrition activities are embedded within eight sector budgets responsible for implementing that national nutrition plan.

2. **International development support through partners provides a significant portion** of nutrition finance. United Nations Agencies (UNICEF, WFP, OCHA, and FAO) are the primary source of funding for nutrition; however, this is less than half of what is needed annually under humanitarian appeals. In 2025, UNICEF is appealing for \$171 million to provide integrated support to 1.8 million people, including 1.1 million children in Somalia. Notably, over \$43 million of this funding is dedicated to nutrition interventions.³
3. **Non-State actors** which include Diaspora and community-based contribution through grassroots/family-level support, especially during crises; the Private sector and community/faith-based finance as well as trade financing, Corporate Social Responsibilities, are the third source of funding in Somalia.

Given the level of fiscal challenges in Somalia and over 4 million people in the food crisis phase almost every year in the past five years, there is a need to lobby, advocate and increase direct and sensitive program funding for nutrition across the above three sources of finance.

Recommendations

Somalia's current Multi-sector Nutrition Strategy (SMNS, 2019 – 2024) is aligned with and linked to national priorities, national vision, Africa vision, and global goals. However, its implementation was limited to the institutional and coordination mechanism only. There is a need to finance the full seven Strategic Objectives to achieve their full potential. Secondly, given that the current strategy is coming to an end by this year (2024), there is a need to review lessons, challenges and draft an innovation to nutrition finance particularly. This assessment recommends a set of twenty-two strategic actions across the following priority areas to advance sustainable nutrition financing agenda:

- Policy foundations for sustainable nutrition financing
- Mainstreaming nutrition within annual planning and budgeting
- Effective advocacy planning
- Resource tracking and accountability
- External and domestic resource mobilization

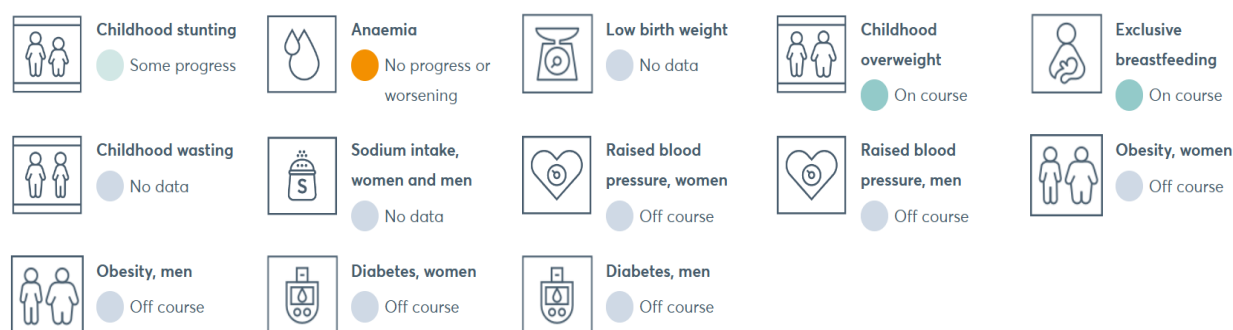
³ <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/somalia>

1. Introduction

The nutrition financing landscape in Somalia remains high on the agenda of national priorities, with nutrition outcomes significantly impacted by persistent challenges such as protracted conflict, recurrent droughts, and flooding, which intensify food insecurity and strain available resources. According to the 2022 Global Nutrition Report⁴, Somalia is making progress in meeting international nutrition targets. Currently, 33.7% of infants aged 0 to 5 months are exclusively breastfed, positioning the country ‘on course’ to achieve this goal. Efforts to reduce stunting have also been successful, with 25.3% of children under five affected, a rate lower than the African regional average of 30.7%. However, progress in addressing wasting is unclear due to limited data. Estimates suggest that 14.3% of children under five are wasted, significantly exceeding the African regional average of 6.0% and ranking among the highest globally. Meanwhile, the prevalence of overweight children under five stands at 3.0%, with Somalia ‘on course’ to achieving global targets.

Figure 1: The burden of malnutrition in Somalia

Progress towards the global nutrition targets



(Adapted from the 2022 Global Nutrition Report- Somalia)

The Government of Somalia has made significant efforts to improve nutrition outcomes, including developing the Somalia Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy (SMNS) 2019-2024, which was published in March 2019 to guide national nutrition priorities. The SMNS integrates policy initiatives across sectors to combat undernutrition while addressing the triple burden of malnutrition—overnutrition, undernutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies. It also aligns with the National Development Plan (NDP) 2020-2024 and other key policies. It contributes to achieving nutrition-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), World Health Assembly resolutions, and the global nutrition targets for 2025.

The Common Results Framework (CRF) 2020 was introduced to monitor progress, providing a structured approach to tracking nutrition outcomes. The Ministry of Health and Human Services also developed the Somalia Nutrition Strategy (2020-2025)⁵, further reinforcing national efforts to address malnutrition in all its forms. These coordinated strategies reflect Somalia’s commitment to improving nutrition and achieving global nutrition targets for 2025. The Somalia Nutrition Strategy (2020-2025) outlines the following targets to be achieved by 2025:

1. To increase the proportion of children aged 0-6 months who are exclusively breastfed to 53% and above
2. To decrease the proportion of children aged 5 years and below who are wasted to less than 10%

⁴ Global Nutrition Report, 2022. Country Profile. <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/africa/eastern-africa/somalia/>

⁵ Somalia Nutrition Strategy - 2020-2025. <https://www.unicef.org/somalia/media/1756/file/Somalia-nutrition-strategy-2020-2025.pdf>

3. To decrease the proportion of children who are stunted and aged under five years by 6% points from the 17.2% baseline in the Somalia Micronutrient Survey, 2019⁶
4. To increase the proportion of children who are fed the minimum acceptable diet from 9% to 30%
5. To decrease anemia in women of reproductive age from 49% to under 20%
6. To ensure that the proportion of targeted children getting biannual vitamin A supplementation is at least 80%

Implementing Somalia's nutrition plan is paramount to achieving the nation's nutrition goals. However, progress has been minimal to date, and the country remains in a critical state. According to the recently published IPC report⁷, an estimated 1.7 million children aged from 6 to 59 months face acute malnutrition between January and December 2024, including 430,000 who are likely to be severely malnourished. Several underlying factors contribute to Somalia's persistent malnutrition crisis. First, food insecurity remains a significant challenge. IPC projections estimate that 4.4 million people will face crisis-level food shortages, and about 1.6 million children will likely suffer from acute malnutrition by July 2025. Secondly, inadequate healthcare services hinder progress, as access to healthcare remains low, and coverage of essential interventions such as Vitamin A supplementation and measles vaccination falls below 80%. Third, poor hygiene practices continue to compromise overall health and nutrition outcomes. Finally, limited financial and technical support further constrains efforts to combat malnutrition.

Given these challenges, strengthening and financing Somalia's nutrition programs is more urgent than ever. A comprehensive approach is needed, focusing on maternal and child nutrition, promoting exclusive breastfeeding, addressing micronutrient deficiencies, and ensuring access to adequate and nutritious food for vulnerable populations. Achieving these goals will require sustainable nutrition financing and a coordinated effort from national and international stakeholders.

This assessment report aims to review the nutrition financing landscape in Somalia and identify priority areas to help achieve national nutrition goals through sustainable financing actions. The assessment reviewed 1) the existing annual planning and budgeting process at national and sub-national levels, as well as how nutrition fits into this process; 2) the trends in nutrition expenditure, how nutrition is financed, capacity needs on nutrition financing, and 3) current nutrition financing requests of the country and what is needed from national and international partners.

2. Methodology

The assessment applied multiple approaches to collect primary and secondary data to analyze and examine Somalia's sustainable nutrition financing landscape, including a review of quantitative and qualitative data, and capturing a comprehensive understanding of current funding gaps, and stakeholder roles.

The processes followed during data collection, analysis and verification are summarized here.

Inception workshop: The SUN Somalia convened the inception workshop, with technical support provided by FCDP in Mogadishu on 25 November 2024, to elicit information on the nutrition financing landscape through consultation with Government officials and participating representatives of the UN, Civil Society and SUN movement.

⁶ Somalia Micronutrient Survey <https://www.unicef.org/somalia/media/1681/file/Somalia-Micronutrient-Survey-2019.pdf>

⁷ International Food Security Phase Classification, 2024 <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156836/?iso3=SOM>

Stakeholder mapping: Different categories of stakeholders ranging from Government (Federal and State Authorities), Private Sector, International partners, and civil society members were identified for consultation through workshops, online surveys, telephone calls, and face-to-face interviews.

Data collection: An assessment of Somalia's food and nutrition financing landscape was conducted through a review of available literature (published and unpublished), government official documents, and consultation with stakeholders across various levels of government, including relevant ministries, agencies and departments, development partners, and civil society during the inception workshop. The analysis drew upon key documents such as the Somalia Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy (2019-2024), the Somalia Ministry of Health and Human Services Nutrition Strategy (2020-2025), the Global Nutrition Report, the Somali Micronutrient Survey (2019) and other pertinent sources to establish a robust evidence base.

Data analysis: Data analysis and verification phase captured, response analysis, key findings, and recommendation. The final validation workshop and review of the findings will be shared with all stakeholders for verification and endorsement.

3. Assessment Findings

3.1 Funding sources for nutrition interventions

There are three main sources of financing for nutrition in Somalia: government budget, international development partners, and non-state actors (private sector and community), as described below.

Government budget

The government budget represents only about 10% of the GDP on average, amounting to approximately \$1 billion per year. This means that a significant portion of the country's economic activity occurs outside the government's direct fiscal control. Just 40% of Somalia's national budget is derived from domestic revenue collection (through the Treasury Single Account (TSA), appropriation bill annual budgets) and 60% comes from donor support to Somalia. Table 5 in annex 2 provides details.

The national budget top priority is security financing, second priority is on civil servant payrolls, and the third priority is focused on operational finance of ministries, departments and government agencies. There is no line item or appropriation for nutrition explicitly in Somalia's government budget. Rather, as a good practice, Somalia supports nutrition actions through allocations to eight sector ministries each responsible for contributing to the national nutrition plan—Ministry of Water & Energy, Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation, Ministry of Livestock, Forestry & Range, Ministry of Fisheries & Blue Economy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth & Social, Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs, Ministry of Family & Human Rights. Nutrition actions are supported through these sector budgets.

International development partners

International development partners particularly the United Nations agencies are the main source of financing for nutrition activities in Somalia. However, this is less than half of what is needed under the humanitarian appeals annually.

- **Bilateral and multilateral:** Government of Qatar, Government of the United Arab Emirates, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), European Union (EU), and International Financial Institutions like the World Bank, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, etc. These funders provide significant Nutrition Sensitive budget support – mainly outside the government budget - TSA. Very limited direct nutrition

funding flows within the government budget channel: for example, WB has direct support to health, and education in crisis response and Damal Caafimad projects.

- **United Nations Agencies:** They include- World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). These partners provide the largest nutrition-specific and sensitive funding. For example, UNICEF (report No. 12, 2023) implements a nutrition program valued at \$100.8 million in 2023 specific to Nutrition (50% appealed). Similarly, OCHA coordinates the largest Humanitarian Finance (SHF) in Somalia. United Nations funding is key to nutrition specific and sensitive financing.
- **Regional and Global Initiatives:** Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), African Union (AU) provide financial and technical assistance, global coordination systems, and some nutrition-sensitive projects.

Non-State actors finance

Private sector and community/faith-based finance are two categories that contribute significantly when there is an emergency – floods, droughts, and disasters.

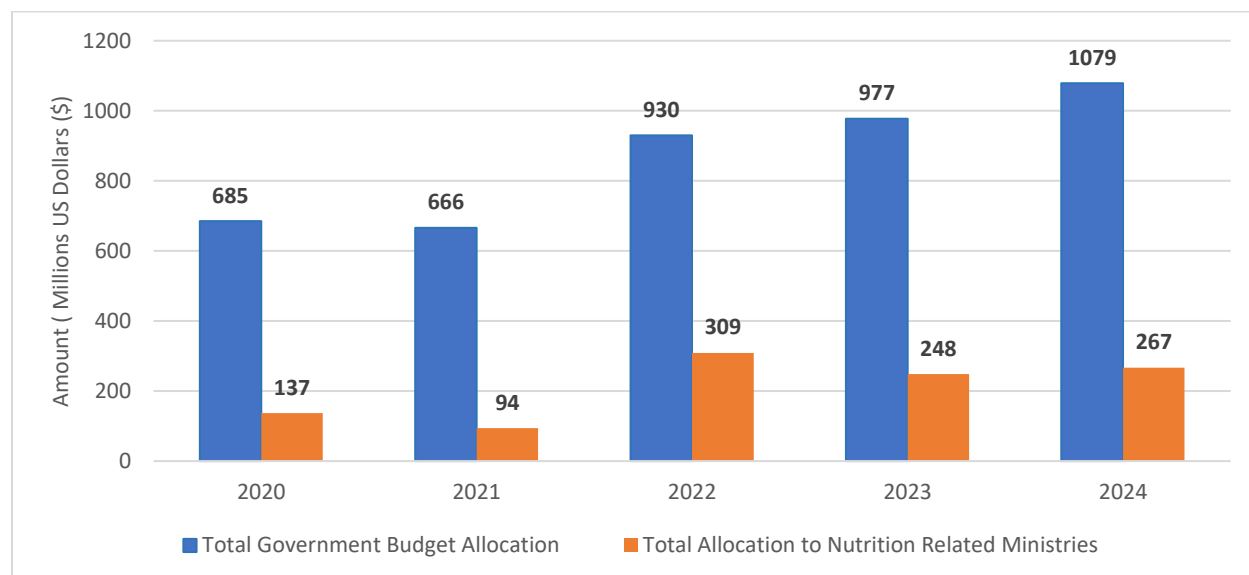
- **Private Sector Finance** contributes to three main areas of food systems in general. These are productive sector and trade financing, Corporate Social Responsibilities (Sadaqa: Charity), and Joint Public and Private Finance (Disasters).
- **The Diaspora and community-based contribution** through grassroots/family-level support is the third source of funding in Somalia, especially during crises (floods, droughts, cyclones, diseases, etc.). This is mainly household and community-level support in a particular location and or time of crisis.

Given the fiscal challenges in Somalia, over 4 million people have been in the crisis phase almost every year in the past five years. There is a need to lobby, advocate and increase nutrition direct and sensitive finance in each of the above three sources.

3.2 Government budget allocation and expenditure by sector

Funding for Somalia's nutrition plan remains insufficient, with significant disparities in budget allocations across sectors over the past years. In the recent five-year analysis (2020–2024), on average annually, 23% of the budget is allocated to nutritional institutions in Somalia's national budget – see annex 2, table 5. As it is not tracked, it is unclear what percentage of this goes directly to nutrition services. However, consultations identify it is a low percentage and the majority of government contribution to nutrition services is for salaries of nutrition experts and operation costs. To put this in perspective, the average annual cost to implement the national nutrition plan alone is \$700 million, indicating a large gap and that all options need to be explored to finance the gap.

Figure 2: Yearly government budget and allocation to eight nutrition-related ministries (2020 – 2024)



In 2024, a total of \$267 million was allocated to the eight Ministries responsible for implementing the national nutrition plan. The Social Affairs, Water & Energy and Health ministries received the highest allocations (\$78m, \$64m and \$52m in 2024, respectively). In contrast, Youth, Family, and Water ministries receive the least funding. Notably, ministries crucial for food security - Agriculture, Fisheries, and Livestock - are severely underfunded, apart from a \$50m donor fund for the Ministry of Agriculture in 2024.

Table 1: Estimated Budget Appropriations* (2020 – 2024)

Ministry/Years/\$ in millions	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs	93.33	44.65	231.76	128.36	78.39
Ministry of Water & Energy	3.37	8.05	6.7	20.72	64.4
Ministry of Health	30.89	33.64	58.58	83.62	52.37
Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation	4.00	1.74	2.1	1.97	50.16
Ministry of Fisheries & Blue Economy	2.52	2.53	2.79	2.67	10.31
Ministry of Livestock, Forestry & Range	1.02	1.65	3.49	6.32	8.22
Ministry of Family & Human Rights	1.00	0.99	2.33	2.92	1.79
Ministry of Youth & Sports	0.63	0.68	0.91	1.02	1.05
TOTAL	136.76	93.93	308.66	247.6	266.69

* Midyear budget revisions are not included except for FY2020

It should be emphasized that these ministries play a vital role in achieving the Somali Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy, and it should be suggested that improved budget planning and allocation are necessary to meet strategic objectives. This analysis underscores the need for a more balanced approach to resource distribution across different sectors to ensure comprehensive national development.

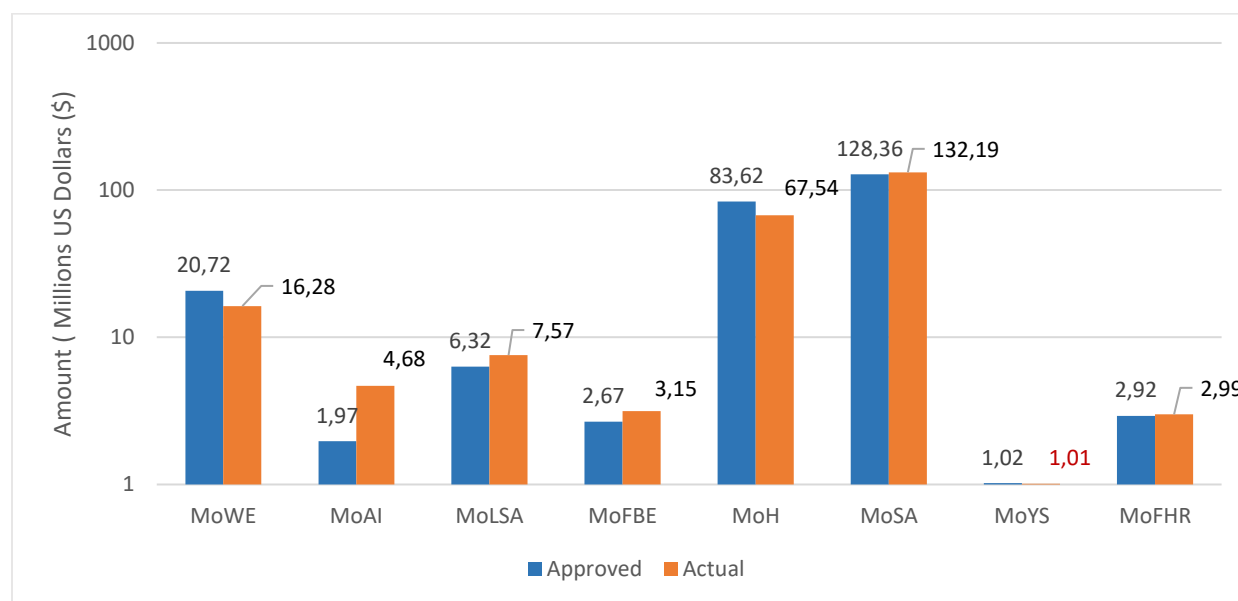
Additionally, while budgets are allocated each year, actual spending often falls short, and nutrition-related ministries have recorded low expenditure levels over the past five years. It is worth noting that back in 2020, the Ministry of Health spent only 20% (6.24m) of the allocated budget despite getting a \$30m budget allocation (from the donor budget). Similarly, the same year, the Ministry of Social Affairs could not spend more than 60% of its allocation (93.33m). These need to be analyzed and supported to perform better. While fundraising is crucial for these ministries to achieve the Nutrition Strategy, ensuring that what is allocated is adequately spent is also critical.

Table 2: Actual expenditure of nutrition-related ministries (2020 – 2023)

Ministry/Year/\$ in millions	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs	59.61	40.65	164.87	132.19
Ministry of Health	6.24	21.16	11.38	67.54
Ministry of Water & Energy	1.77	3.22	3.57	16.28
Ministry of Livestock, Forestry & Range	0.82	0.85	1.08	7.57
Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation	1.2	1.4	1.73	4.68
Ministry of Fisheries & Blue Economy	2.18	1.91	2.19	3.15
Ministry of Family & Human Rights	0.78	0.75	1.15	2.99
Ministry of Youth & Sports	0.6	0.57	0.65	1.01
TOTAL 8 ministries' expenditure	73.2	70.51	186.62	235.41
Total Government Expenditure	484.11	473.96	730.47	922.59
Percentage spent (20% aver.)	15.12%	14.88%	25.55%	25.52%

However, expenditure rates are improving as the eight nutrition-related sectors spent 53% of their allocated budgets in 2020 while in 2023 they disbursed 95% of their allocated budgets, indicating a positive trend. Encouragingly, the 2023 budget (see Figure 3 below) shows some progress in overall government expenditure across all ministries, with four nutrition-related ministries receiving increased funding. This highlights a positive case for continued advocacy, demonstrating that strategic budget adjustments can help secure more funding for critical nutrition programs.

Figure 3: Approved budget allocation versus expenditure in 2023 for the eight nutrition-related ministries



3.3 Trend analysis: Budget allocation and actual expenditure

Allocations to eight ministries over the past four years 2020-2023 reveal important fluctuations. While the overall allocation is increasing during this time, the allocated amounts are not necessarily being fully utilized each year. For example, in 2020, although over \$137 million was allocated to the eight ministries, only \$73 million was spent. This significant gap (46%) between budgeted and spent amounts signifies limited absorptive capacity that needs to be addressed at the policy level. The importance of advocating for improved budgetary planning and execution is evident for policy action to ensure that allocated funds are effectively utilized. This situation also underscores the need for better financial management and oversight in the budgeting process.

Figure 4: Comparison of approved budget allocation versus expenditures for the eight nutrition-related ministries from 2020-2023

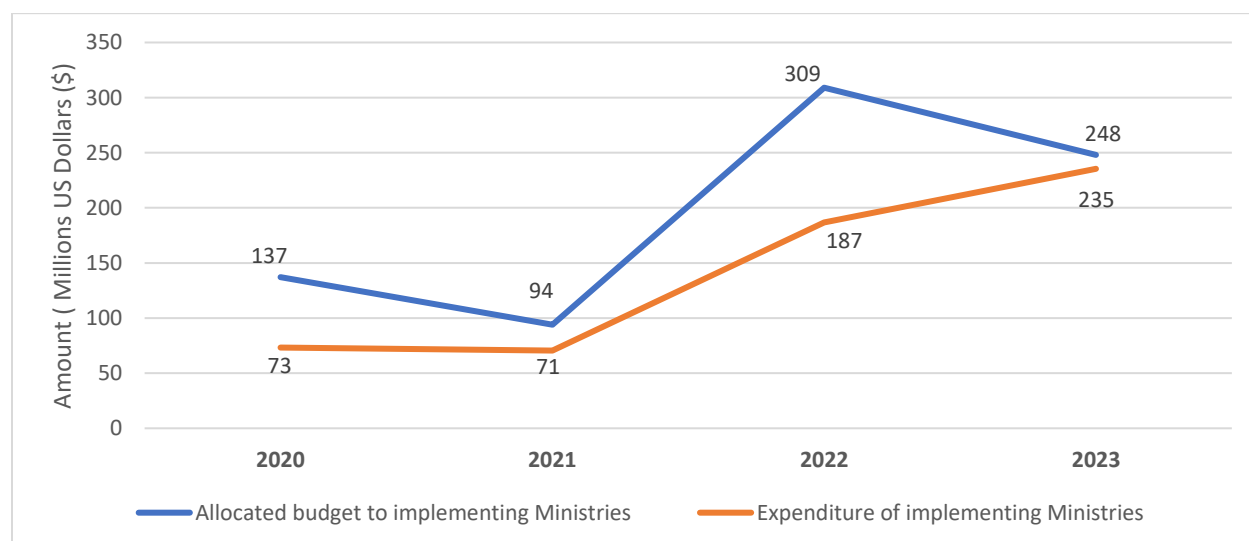
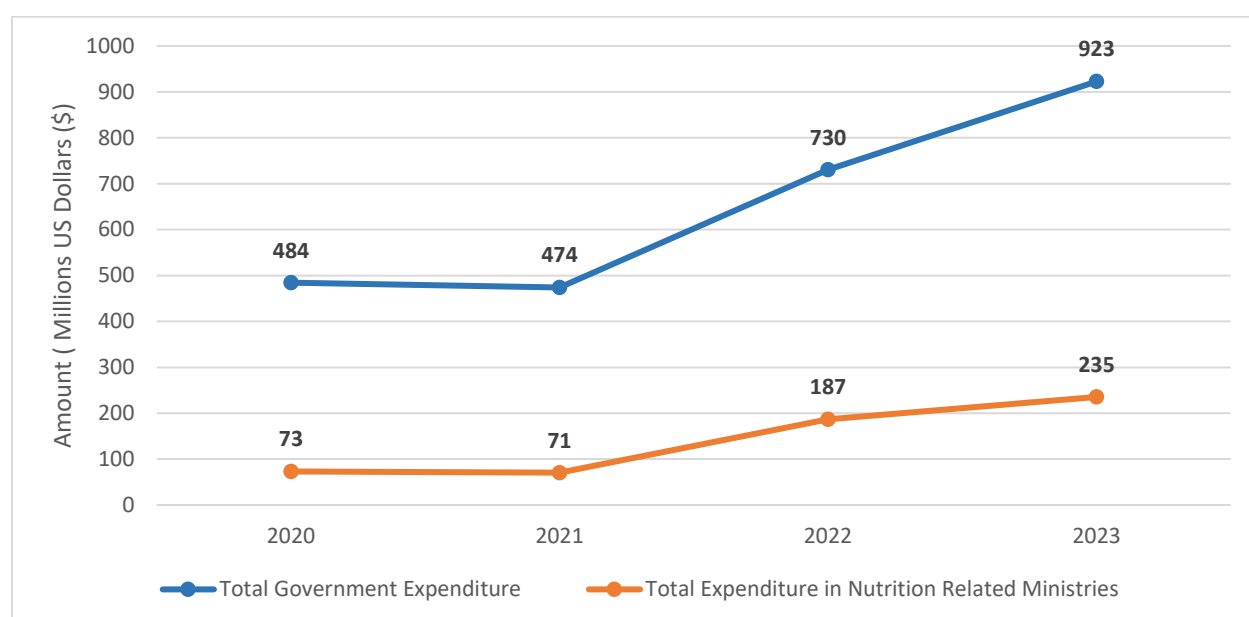


Figure 5 below reveals a similar pattern in actual expenditure for both government-wide and nutrition-related ministries in Somalia albeit from 2020 to 2023; on average, the disbursement rate for the entire government expenditure was 79% compared with 71% for the nutrition related ministries. This execution level highlights an important gap between allocated funds and their utilization in the nutrition sector. To address this issue, the government should adopt three key actions: implementing policy changes, advocating for increased funding, and improving the effective use of available resources. These steps are crucial for enhancing the impact of nutritional programs and ensuring that budgeted funds translate into tangible benefits for the population.

Figure 5: Comparison of annual total government expenditure versus expenditures in eight nutrition-related ministries from 2020-2023



3.4 Challenges to sustainable financing for nutrition in Somalia

Several challenges hamper resource mobilization and its sustainability in Somalia, and include:

- Limited envelope for nutrition-related ministries: allocation is limited to nutrition-specific and sensitive finance at the national level
- Lack of specific nutrition budgeting and budget line items
- Heavy dependence on external finance, which is unpredictable and insufficient.
- No reporting or monitoring framework for Nutrition-specific activities
- Funding fragmentation within and among government, donors and implementing institutions
- Coordination capacity limitation: there have been no formal resource allocations from the government, donors or the implementing agencies.

Looking ahead, as the 2025 – 2027 budget projections in Table 3 show, the Federal Government is not able to collect enough revenue to finance its budget and consequently to finance required nutrition interventions. On the other hand, one can note the increase in multilateral donor funding starting from 2022.

Table 3: Projections of government revenue, expenditure, and fiscal balance 2025 – 2027 (US\$ M)

Fiscal Variable	Projection		
	2025	2026	2027
Revenue and Grants	744.7	743.2	789.5
Domestic revenue	423.5	515.1	602
Income taxes	30.9	32.4	36.9
Taxes on local trade	51.7	56.1	65.7
Taxes on international trade	234	292.9	349
Non-tax revenue	107	133.7	150.5
Grants	321.2	228.1	187.4
Multilateral	291.2	198.1	157.4
Bilateral	30	30	30
Expenditure	783.4	802.2	828.9
Government Local Fund	524	540.4	557
Compensation of employees	332.7	337.4	342.3
Use of goods and services	99.4	106	113.2
Consumption of fixed capital	2.3	2.5	2.6
Interest and other charges	13	12.9	12.7
Subsidies	-	-	-
Grants	76.5	81.7	86.2
Social benefits	-	-	-
Other expenses	-	-	-
Development Partner Fund	259.3	261.8	271.9
Compensation of employees	5.4	5.7	6.1
Use of goods and services	51.8	56.2	60.9
Consumption of fixed capital	82.1	112.9	143.7
Interest and other charges	-	-	-
Subsidies	6.2	6.2	6.2
Grants	71	56.8	45.4
Social benefits	42.8	24.0	9.6
Other expenses	-	-	-
Fiscal Balance	(38.6)	(59)	(39.5)

Source: Federal Ministry of Finance

4. Recommendations

Somalia's current Multi-Sector Nutrition Strategy (SMNS, 2019 – 2024) is aligned with and linked to the national development vision, policy priorities, Africa vision, and global goals. However, its implementation was limited to institutional and coordination mechanisms only. There is a need to finance the complete seven strategic objectives to achieve their full potential. Secondly, given that the current Strategy is ending by this year (2024), there is a need to review lessons and challenges and draft an innovation to nutrition finance, particularly what this assessment recommends.

Priority Areas to Achieve Sustainable Financing for Food and Nutrition in Somalia

Given the complexity and funding gaps in Somalia's nutrition financing landscape, several priority areas are recommended from stakeholder consultations and findings from desk research:

PRIORITY AREA 1: Policy foundations for sustainable nutrition financing

Strengthening policy foundations is vital for achieving sustainable nutrition financing in Somalia as it presents a viable pathway to accelerating food security and nutrition outcomes. Priority should be focused on investing in and implementing long term policies and strategies that promote local food fortification (potentially through public-private partnerships) and regional trade of food products that will result in lower food prices and availability of nutritious foods. Furthermore, these policies must address environmental protection, climate change, and livelihood improvements to ensure a holistic approach.

Suggested actions:

- a. Adopt trade legislation facilitating local food fortification while also committing to environmental protection policies that address climate change and improve livelihoods
- b. Include additional nutrition objectives and budget in the MTEF
- c. Update long-term nutrition strategies (*Somali Multi-Sectoral Program for Nutrition (MSPAN), Food Fortification Strategy, and Somali Nutrition Advocacy and Communications Strategy*) with clear roadmaps and implementation action plans (*communication, resource mobilization, monitoring, evaluation, and learning, risk mitigation and management, and international and regional engagement*)
- d. Add budget lines for the nutrition coordination mechanism and institutional capacity development
- e. Implement capacity development programs tailored to strengthen the technical and operational capabilities of Federal and State Government institutions involved in nutrition governance to design, implement, and monitor nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive activities

PRIORITY AREA 2: Mainstreaming nutrition within annual planning and budgeting

Another critical area is mainstreaming nutrition into annual planning and budgeting. Somalia must increase domestic resource mobilization while ensuring adequate funds are allocated to nutrition. Integrating nutrition financing into government planning and budgeting cycles will provide consistency, while coordination between humanitarian and development programs, using frameworks like the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus, can strengthen program delivery.

Suggested actions:

- a. Create dedicated nutrition budget line items within the national development plan budgets across sectors
- b. Integrate allocation for nutrition into annual planning and budgeting cycles
- c. Improve coordination between humanitarian and development programs using the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus approach

PRIORITY AREA 3: Effective Advocacy Planning

Effective advocacy planning must focus on raising awareness about the importance of nutrition financing. This includes leveraging platforms like the Food System and Nutrition Council under the Office of the Prime Minister and collaborating with NGOs and civil society for grassroots advocacy. Advocacy campaigns must emphasize integrating nutrition goals into the National Budget and Development Plan and other strategic government frameworks.

Suggested actions:

- a. Utilize the Food System and Nutrition Council under the Office of the Prime Minister, sector ministries, and government strategies like the National Transformation Plan (NTP) for advocacy

- b. Strengthen coordination through the Nutrition and Food Security Clusters, donor roundtables, and advocacy forums.
- c. Integrate nutrition activities in the workplans of NGOs and civil society organizations for grassroots-level advocacy and resource mobilization
- d. Develop clear advocacy plans and key messages on the integration of nutrition into national plans and budgets to enhance leadership commitment and resource allocation
- e. Develop a multi-sectoral nutrition coordination framework to enhance collaboration between government, private sectors, and international donors and strengthen communication mechanisms within government sectors to promote the nutrition agenda

PRIORITY AREA 4: Resource tracking and accountability

Robust tracking and accountability mechanisms are necessary to ensure the effective utilization of resources. This includes investing in data systems to monitor program progress, establishing accountability frameworks for resource allocation, and leveraging tools like the SUN Movement Budget Analysis Tool. Integrating nutrition accountability into national accountability systems will enable better program design, tracking, and implementation, ultimately contributing to sustainable nutrition outcomes.

Suggested actions:

- a. Invest in data and monitoring systems to track nutrition program progress
- b. Establish robust accountability mechanisms, integrate into national accountability systems e.g., health and agriculture systems, and use established tools like the SUN Movement Budget Analysis Tool to evaluate program effectiveness
- c. Strengthen institutional capacity for monitoring and evaluation to sustain the impact of nutrition interventions
- d. Budget for national coordination mechanisms, such as the Nutrition Coordination Office and health information systems, to ensure alignment across levels.

PRIORITY AREA 5: External and domestic resource mobilization

Resource mobilization across sectors is essential to enable financing of the multi sectoral nutrition strategies. Developing multi-sectoral nutrition financing frameworks, in partnership with government entities, private sectors, and international donors, and ensure alignment of goals and resources.

Suggested actions

- a. Work in partnership with UN agencies and pursue joint-funding initiatives
- b. Advocate for increased donor commitment to the Common Results Frameworks (CRF)
- c. Develop RM plans in partnership with the private sector to mobilize private sector resources for nutrition financing
- d. Advocate for allocation of a portion of the tax base and other key government revenues for nutrition
- e. Create pooled funds for international support resources with longer-term predictability and multi-year and multi-sector nutrition direct and sensitive finance

5. Conclusion

This report provides a comprehensive overview of Somalia's financial challenges regarding its Nutrition Strategy and has analyzed key economic indicators, sources of finance, and their implications. It reveals that the limited government budget significantly hinders efforts to address the financing of nutrition activities; therefore, the report recommends advancing on the twenty-two strategic actions across the following priority areas to advance the sustainable nutrition financing agenda:

- Policy foundations for sustainable nutrition financing
- Mainstreaming nutrition within annual planning and budgeting
- Effective advocacy planning
- Resource tracking and accountability
- External and domestic resource mobilization

The report further underscores the importance of improving the fiscal capacity of government and exploring innovative financing mechanisms to bridge the identified gaps in nutrition funding.

REFERENCES

1. Somalia Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy (SMNS: 2019-2024) Published in March 2019. <https://scalingupnutrition.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/national-nutrition-plan-somalia.pdf>
2. Financing capacity development platform (FCDP), supporting SUN Countries, <https://scalingupnutrition.org/news/hosting-sun-country-finance-capacity-development-platform>
3. UNICEF Report 2023, Somalia Humanitarian Finance, <https://www.unicef.org/media/131931/file/2023-HAC-Somalia.pdf>
4. Somali Humanitarian Fund Annual Report 2023 - <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-humanitarian-fund-annual-report-2023>
5. Fiscal year (2020 – 2024) appropriation acts www.mof.gov.so
6. Fiscal year 2024 mid-year budget performance report, <https://mof.gov.so/publications/fiscal-year-2024-midyear-budget-performance-report-january-june-2024>
7. Somalia National Bureau of Statistics – Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 2023 report <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Gross-Domestic-Product-GDP-2023.pdf>
8. Somalia debt relief program – IMF Article IV and the new Credit Facility progress <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2022/12/16/Somalia-2022-Article-IV-Consultation-and-Fourth-Review-under-the-Extended-Credit-Facility-527022>
9. World Bank - Somalia overview; <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/somalia/overview>
10. The 2024 post Gu; Somalia IPC Analysis (acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition analysis) July – Dec 2024. Published 23 September 2024 (<https://fsnau.org/downloads/Somalia-2024-Post-Gu-IPC-Communication-Report.pdf>)
11. UNICEF Somalia Humanitarian Situation Report No. 12: 01 January - 31 December 2023

Annex 1. Somali Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy Funding

Table 4: Annual budget by strategic objective

Strategic objective/Years/(US\$ millions)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
SO.1: To create an enabling policy and legal environment necessary for improving nutrition outcomes across all sectors at national and sub-national levels.	6.95	7.84	7.38	7.34	7.26	36.78
SO. 2: To create, strengthen and sustain sectoral and Multi-Sectoral Nutrition coordination mechanisms at national and sub-national levels	2.56	2.81	2.75	3.05	2.5	13.67
SO. 3: To improve and strengthen human resource capacity for providing appropriate maternal and child nutrition support at national and sub-national levels.	33.01	36.02	37.09	38.79	40.22	185.13
SO. 4: To develop and integrate nutrition-specific interventions into essential health care services at national and sub-national levels.	38.88	46.46	46.06	46.47	45.81	223.68
SO. 5: To improve policy and practices that enhance maternal and child nutritional status through optimal use of nutrition-sensitive services.	347.04	347.06	378.56	349.3	342.92	1,764.88
SO. 6: To address gender and social-cultural factors that hinder the improvement of maternal, infant, and young child nutrition at national and sub-national levels.	86.33	86.75	86.77	86.48	86.43	432.75
SO. 7: To strengthen organizational, institutional and policy framework for linking humanitarian relief to recovery and development towards nutrition improvement at national and sub-national levels.	163.72	166.05	166.08	163.83	163.99	823.67
Total (US\$ in millions)	678.49	692.99	724.7	695.26	689.12	3,480.55

Annex 2. Government budget allocation and expenditure for nutrition-related ministries (2020 – 2024)

Table 5: Gross Domestic Product, percentage of the national budget and allocation in million \$

Indicator	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
GDP (\$, millions) *	8,630	9,480	10,200	10,960	9,820
Total annual budget allocation – Appropriation bills (\$, millions)	685	666	930	977	1,079
Total annual budget allocation as share of GDP (%)	8%	7%	9%	9%	11%
Budget allocation for Eight Ministries responsible to implement the national nutrition plan** (\$, millions)	137	94	309	248	267
Budget allocation for these Eight Ministries as % of national budget** (%) – (23% average)	20%	14%	33%	25%	25%
Budget allocation for these Eight Ministries as % of GDP (%)	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%

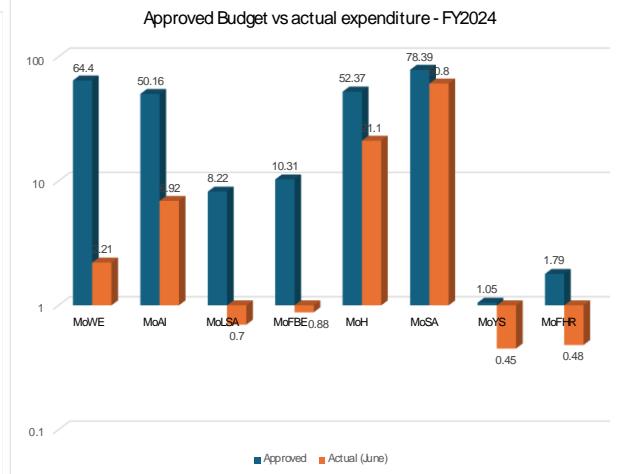
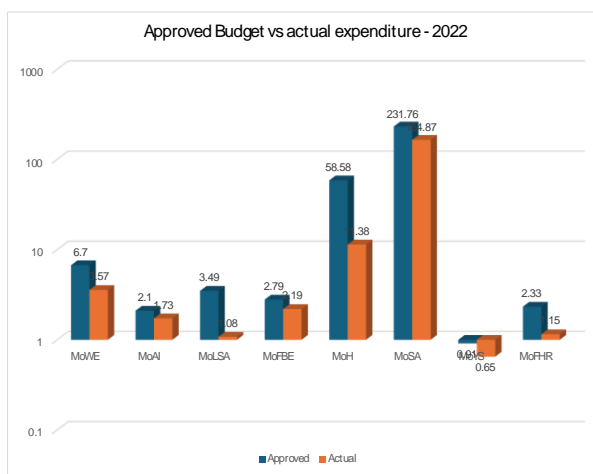
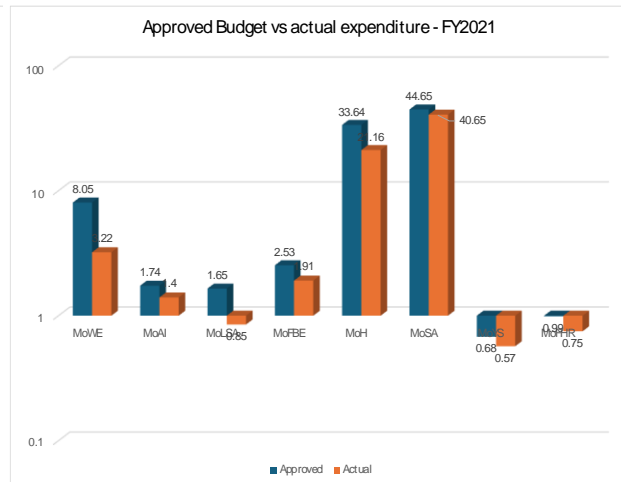
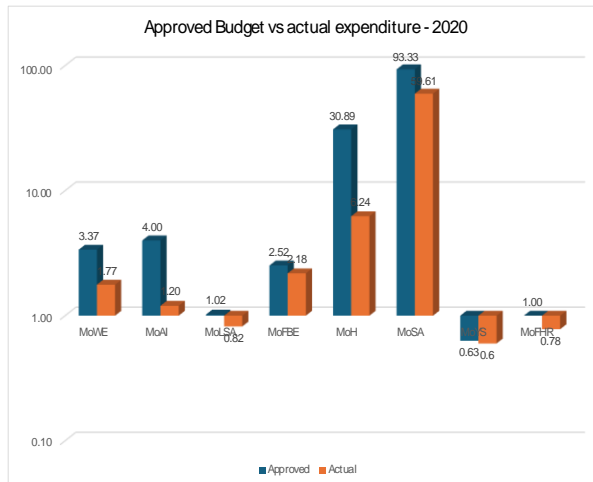
* Source: WB&SNBS Statistics

**Eight Ministries – (Ministry of Water & Energy, Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation, Ministry of Livestock, Forestry & Range, Ministry of Fisheries & Blue Economy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth & Social, Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs, Ministry of Family & Human Rights)

***Allocations include salaries, maintenance, and travel (operational cost) of the eight ministries.

Table 6: Budget allocation and actual spending per nutrition-related ministry in million \$

Approved Budget (Appropriations*) vs Actual Expenditure (2020 – 2024)									
Ministry/Year/\$ in millions	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024
Ministries	Approved	Actual	Approved	Actual	Approved	Actual	Approved	Actual	Approved
MoWE	3.37	1.77	8.05	3.22	6.7	3.57	20.72	16.28	64.4
MoAI	4.00	1.20	1.74	1.4	2.1	1.73	1.97	4.68	50.16
MoLSA	1.02	0.82	1.65	0.85	3.49	1.08	6.32	7.57	8.22
MoFBE	2.52	2.18	2.53	1.91	2.79	2.19	2.67	3.15	10.31
MoH	30.89	6.24	33.64	21.16	58.58	11.38	83.62	67.54	52.37
MoSA	93.33	59.61	44.65	40.65	231.76	164.87	128.36	132.19	78.39
MoYS	0.63	0.6	0.68	0.57	0.91	0.65	1.02	1.01	1.05
MoFHR	1.00	0.78	0.99	0.75	2.33	1.15	2.92	2.99	1.79
NUTRITION \$ APPROVED & ACTUAL EXP.	136.76	73.20	93.93	70.51	308.66	186.62	247.6	235.41	266.69
TOTAL \$M APPROVED & ACTUAL SPENT	684.85	484.11	666.48	473.96	929.92	730.47	977.22	922.59	1,079.32
Percentage budget allocation and actual expenditure	20%	15%	14%	15%	33%	26%	25%	26%	25%



Annex 3. Survey Invitation Note

We invite you to participate in an assessment survey on Somalia's Sustainable Nutrition finance landscape. Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP) for SUN Countries supported the SUN Somalia team in developing an overview of the nutrition financing landscape in Somalia, including the current development policy landscape and how nutrition is integrated into development planning, costing, and budgeting. The analysis will include the existing annual planning and budgeting process at the sub-national level and how nutrition fits into this process. Other areas to address in the study include the trends in nutrition expenditure, how nutrition is financed, capacity needs on nutrition financing, current nutrition financing requests of the country and what is required from partners.

The questions respond to the Strategic Objectives of Somalia's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (2019 - 2024). Your Ministry, Department, agency (MDA) or organization's contributions to these initiatives or activities under each Strategic Objective (SO.1-7) is what we would like to know overall at the national level.

Questionnaires

Section one: Stakeholders and contacts – distributions: Number, Name, Email, Organization, Sector, and Gender.

Section two: This section aims to gather insights into the country's current efforts in addressing nutrition challenges, including strategies for financing nutrition programs and the obstacles hindering progress.

- S2Q1: Discuss the strategy that Somalia has in place to meet its set targets for nutrition. Describe the major nutrition activities financed.
- S2Q2: Describe the trends in nutrition financing in Somalia. Is it increasing or decreasing?
- S2D3: Describe how external sources in your sector finance nutrition activities.
- "S2Q4: What challenges exist in financing nutrition programs in Somalia? Are there specific policy gaps or bottlenecks that limit the effectiveness of current nutrition financing strategies? What are the most pressing resource gaps (human, financial, or material) in implementing the Somalia Nutrition Strategy? " "
- S2Q45: What challenges exist in increasing domestic budget allocations for nutrition? How can these challenges be mitigated? Is there a current budget allocation for nutrition in your MDA? (if yes, what are the values?)"

Section three: Opportunities, Sustainability, and Monitoring for Nutrition Financing: This section focuses on identifying potential opportunities to enhance nutrition financing, strategies to ensure the sustainability of nutrition programs, and mechanisms for monitoring progress and impact.

- S3Q1: What are the major opportunities to elevate nutrition financing in Somalia? Are there existing or potential partnerships that can be leveraged to enhance the sustainability of nutrition financing?
- S3Q2: Are there established mechanisms for monitoring the impact of nutrition financing initiatives? How can these be strengthened?
- S3Q3: How can Somalia balance the need for immediate humanitarian aid with building long-term development funding?
- S3Q4: What additional actions are required to align Somalia's nutrition financing efforts with global nutrition targets and SDGs?
- S3Q5: Share successes that have strengthened nutrition financing in Somalia.
- S3Q6: What are Somalia's top priorities for improving sustainable nutrition financing?

Section Four: FCDP Support for Advancing Nutrition Financing in Somalia

- S4Q1: How the FCDP can provide support to improve the nutrition financing landscape in Somalia

The assessment conducted interviews (key informant, groups, and panel discussion); a total of fifteen (15) respondents participated in the interviews, and the stakeholder distribution is captured in Figure 2. Most respondents were from the public sector (47%), followed by development partners (33%) and Civil Society representatives (13%).

Figure A1: Stakeholder distribution by sector.

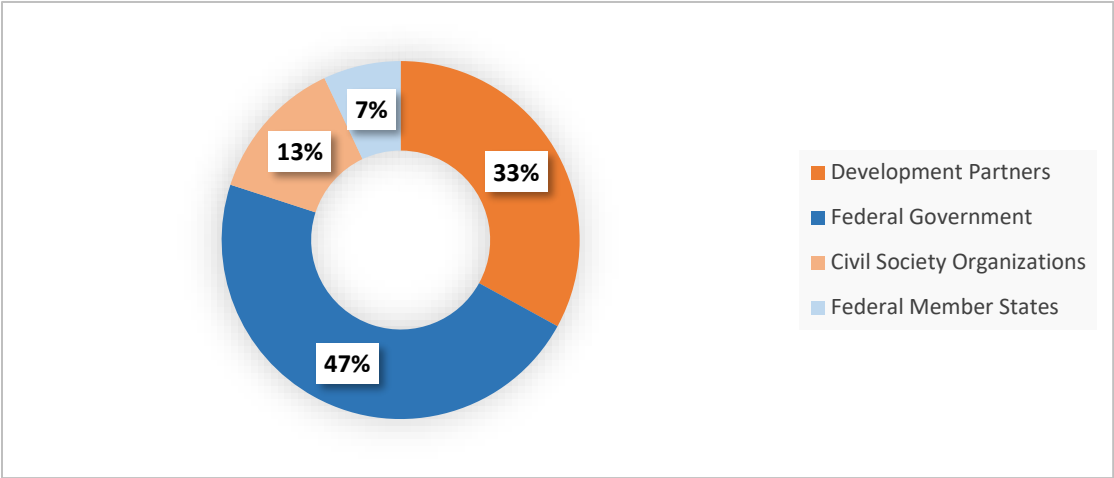


Figure 3 below indicates gender response to the online questionnaires (only 13% of respondents were females). This low female participation is important to note.

Figure A2: Stakeholder distribution by gender.

