



The Government of Somalia

Importance of Sustainable Nutrition Financing in Somalia: *Understanding the Landscape and Strategy*



Sustainable Nutrition Financing Workshop Report

25th November, 2024

Airport Hotel, Aden Adde International Airport, Mogadishu

Introduction

The Government of Somalia through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), with the support of the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) – Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP), convened an inception workshop to address the critical challenges to sustainable nutrition financing, focusing on establishing a roadmap for resource mobilization and prioritization in the country. The event brought together key stakeholders from government and international organizations to deliberate on strategies for financing nutrition interventions.

Opening Session

The workshop commenced at 10:20 a.m. with prayers and participant introductions. Dr. Farah, the Scaling Up Nutrition Focal Person in Somalia representing the Office of the Prime Minister, delivered the opening remarks. He emphasized the importance of nutrition financing as a cornerstone of Somalia’s development agenda while acknowledging gaps in government budgets, data availability, and coordinated planning among stakeholders.



Figure 1: Cross section of participants during the Government of Somalia led sustainable nutrition financing inception workshop

Dr. Farah introduced the Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP) as a crucial mechanism partnering with the Government of Somalia to bolster Somalia’s capacity in nutrition financing, as it aligns with SUN Movement’s Strategy 3.0. He called on participants to actively contribute data and collaborate towards crafting a roadmap for sustainable nutrition investment in the country. He emphasized the workshop’s objective which was to address the pressing issue of financing nutrition in Somalia and urged participants to reflect on critical questions such as:

- How is the government planning and budgeting for nutrition?
- Are there sufficient data and systems to inform these efforts?
- How are other stakeholders (NGOs, private sector, and donors) planning and financing nutrition initiatives?

He outlined the way forward, emphasizing the importance of resource mobilization and fundraising for nutrition programs. He also referenced a recent nutrition budget cycle analysis workshop, which underscored the need for strategic planning and investment.

In closing, he stressed the urgency of developing a roadmap for a new strategy and encouraged participants to actively contribute by sharing data and insights. He also noted that existing strategies, such as the *Somali Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy (SMNS)*, *Somalia National Food Fortification Strategic Plan*, and *Somalia Nutrition Advocacy and Communications Strategy*, are all set to expire in 2024 and require updates to remain relevant and effective.

Nutrition Status in Somalia

Current Nutrition Status in Somalia (by Mr. Suleiman Andiroor (SUN))

Mr. Suleiman Andiroor, representing SUN Somalia, provided an overview of the current nutrition and food security situation in Somalia, describing it as critical. He highlighted that female-headed households and children under five are disproportionately affected by the ongoing crisis. He reported that from July to September 2024, approximately 3.6 million Somalis, constituting 19% of the population, were projected to experience acute food insecurity at the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)¹ Phase 3 (Crisis) or higher. This figure included 2.9 million people in Phase 3 and approximately 724,000 in Phase 4 (Emergency). Mr. Suleiman noted that the situation is expected to worsen between October and December 2024, with 4.4 million people—23% of the population—anticipated to face acute food insecurity. Among this group, an estimated 1.6 million children aged 6–59 months are likely to suffer from acute malnutrition over the next year. He attributed the crisis to ongoing conflict, economic instability, and climate-related challenges such as droughts and floods. Emphasizing the importance of robust data collection and analysis, Mr. Suleiman stressed the need for a deeper understanding of the crisis to inform more effective and targeted interventions.



Figure 2: SUN Somalia's presentation on the current state of nutrition in Somalia

In response to these challenges, he highlighted several initiatives and programs underway in Somalia. These include integrated nutrition strategies that combine health, agriculture, and education to address food security and malnutrition. He also pointed to community engagement efforts aimed at improving nutrition and hygiene practices

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a global standard for assessing food security severity. Phases 3 and 4 indicate Crisis and Emergency levels, characterized by food consumption gaps and heightened risks of malnutrition and mortality. Food security phase classification [Food Security Phase Classification](#)

and acknowledged the critical emergency response provided by organizations like the World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to support the most vulnerable populations.

In closing, Mr. Suleiman underscored the urgent need for multi-sectoral approaches to combat malnutrition and food insecurity. He called on stakeholders to enhance collaboration, implement sustainable solutions, and prioritize investments in nutrition to improve the health and well-being of Somalia's most vulnerable populations.

Understanding the FCDP value proposition

Sustainable Nutrition Financing: How the FCDP can assist in closing the gap (by Augustine Omodieke (HSDF))

The session began with an introduction to the Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP). Augustine outlined the platform's mission to catalyze nutrition financing across Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) member countries by encouraging government leaders to prioritize nutrition funding and the use of technical assistance and provision of relevant tools and resources to country change agents as key steps. He emphasized that with donor financing reaching a plateau, it is imperative for countries to explore and develop innovative funding opportunities for nutrition.

FCDP's strategic approach was presented, comprising six key elements that guide effective nutrition financing: *policy foundations, mainstreaming nutrition within annual planning & budgeting, government benchmarking for nutrition across sectors, external resource mobilization, effective advocacy planning and tracking & accountability.*



Figure 3: Augustine Omodieke (HSDF) presenting the overview of FCDP and the platform’s value proposition, approach and preliminary successes from implementing countries

In conclusion, Augustine highlighted the achievements of the FCDP in countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, and Pakistan, demonstrating the platform’s impact. He reaffirmed the FCDP’s commitment to supporting Somalia in achieving sustainable nutrition financing.

Understanding the Financing Landscape in Somalia

Existing Funding Sources for Nutrition in Somalia (by Mr. Mohammed Barre (FCDP-SUN Somalia Consultant))

Mr. Barre, the FCDP consultant for SUN-Somalia, made a presentation on the existing nutrition financing landscape in Somalia, shedding light on the various funding sources for nutrition programs. The presentation explored various critical areas related to nutrition financing in Somalia, aligning with the report's structure on "Nutrition Finance Analysis and Strategy Costing - Somalia." It began with an introduction that highlighted the report's purpose and the importance of the Somalia Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy (SMNS) in guiding efforts to address malnutrition and food insecurity.



Figure 4: Mr. Mohammed Barre (left-middle) presenting the current financing sources for nutrition in Somalia

The presentation focused on the key strategic objectives of the SMNS, which include enhancing policy and institutional frameworks, strengthening multi-sectoral coordination, building human resource capacity, implementing nutrition-specific interventions, addressing maternal and child nutrition, tackling socio-cultural barriers, and linking humanitarian efforts to long-term development. These objectives provide a roadmap for improving nutrition outcomes across Somalia.

The funding overview examined the financial allocations for these strategic objectives from 2019 to 2023, totalling \$3.48 billion. Priority funding areas include \$1.76 billion allocated for maternal and child nutrition, \$223.68 million for integrating nutrition-specific interventions into health services, and \$185.13 million for human resource capacity building. Also, Mr. Barre explored Somalia's budget process, which follows a six-stage approach: policy review, budget planning, approval, execution, monitoring, and evaluation, while discussing the role of each stage in ensuring effective resource allocation and tracking for nutrition programs. Additionally, he discussed Somalia's current funding sources, which include government allocations, international aid, private sector investments, and community-based initiatives, emphasizing the need to strengthen data systems to track resource utilization and optimize funding effectiveness. The importance of diversifying funding sources through innovative financing models and private sector engagement was also underscored.

The presentation provided insights into several challenges and opportunities in financing nutrition programs. Key challenges included limited resources, inadequate tracking systems, and over-reliance on donor funding. However, opportunities such as leveraging external funding, enhancing data systems, and increasing private sector involvement were noted as pathways to addressing these challenges and ensuring sustainable financing.

The presentation ended with a summary of findings and recommendations, highlighting the importance of addressing financing challenges, fostering multi-sectoral collaboration, and implementing sustainable solutions to improve nutrition outcomes in Somalia. These discussions provided a comprehensive understanding of the country's nutrition financing landscape and the steps needed to achieve long-term improvements in food security and health.

Strategy Session

Doris Obi (HSDF) facilitated the strategy session, providing an overview of its objectives and structure. She explained that the session was designed to explore the contributions of various sectors—public, private, development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)—to the financing of nutrition programs. The goal was to gain insights into ongoing efforts, identify critical challenges, and highlight both priority areas and emerging opportunities for sustainable nutrition financing.

Participants were actively engaged in an interactive discussion that encouraged cross-sectoral collaboration and knowledge sharing while completing a strategy worksheet. The session focused on mapping the roles and contributions of each sector, addressing gaps in coordination, and uncovering synergies that could drive more effective resource mobilization for nutrition programs. Through the worksheet, participants systematically documented sector-specific efforts, identified challenges, and proposed actionable strategies to enhance the alignment of resources and priorities across stakeholders.



Figure 5: A cross-section of participants during the strategy session

Additionally, participants deliberated on key challenges, including limited funding, inefficiencies in resource utilization, and the over-reliance on donor contributions. Opportunities for innovation, such as leveraging private-sector investments, enhancing public-private partnerships, and exploring new financing models, were also identified.

The session concluded with a shared commitment among stakeholders to align their efforts and address the barriers to sustainable nutrition financing. Participants were also agreeable on the importance of fostering a collaborative approach to strengthen Somalia's nutrition ecosystem and ensure the well-being of vulnerable populations.

Highlights of preliminary workshop insights

- Evident buy-in from participating stakeholders indicating commitment to advancing sustainable nutrition financing in Somalia,
- The Somali SMNS and Somalia Food Fortification Strategic Plan are due to expire at the end of 2024 and require end-term evaluation and revision,
- Multisectoral coordination mechanisms for nutrition financing needs to be strengthened and requires financial commitment from the government and partners
- Exploring opportunities to mobilize increased external funding, enhancing data systems, and increasing private sector involvement are key pathways to sustainable nutrition financing in Somalia

Additional key insights will be curated following the analysis of participants responses during the strategy session.

Next Steps for the SUN Secretariat Landscape Assessment

- Conduct targeted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with stakeholders across public, private, non-governmental sectors, and civil society organizations to gain deeper insights into current nutrition financing efforts, challenges, and opportunities in Somalia
- Analyze the data collected during the strategy session to identify key trends, priorities, gaps and opportunities to enhance nutrition financing, informing the development of actionable recommendations
- Use insights from the KIIs, FGDs, and worksheet analysis to bolster the robustness of the literature review report and the Somalia nutrition financing landscape report, providing a comprehensive list of priority interventions and resource mobilization strategies

Agenda for the Government of Somalia Sustainable Nutrition Financing Inception Workshop

Session	Time	Main Objective	Facilitator
Arrival	8:30-9:30 am	Arrival and registration	ALL
Prayers	9:30 – 9:35 am	Qur'an and word of prayers	Abdulrashid Mohamed Abdi
Introduction	9:35 – 9:45 am	Participants introduction	All
Opening remarks	9: 45 -10.00 am	Opening Remarks	Dr. Mohamed Abdi Farah
Nutrition status in Somalia	10.00-10:10 am	Current Nutrition Status in Somalia	Mr. Suleiman Abdinoor
FCDP overview: Global and regional lessons	10:10 – 10:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of Sustainable Nutrition Finance – global and regional prospective 	Mr. Augustine Omodieke
Break	10:30-11:00 am	Refreshment	ALL
Understanding the financing landscape	11:00- 12:00pm	Existing Funding Sources for Nutrition in Somalia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government budgets International aid and donor contributions Private sector investments Community-based financing initiatives 	Mr. Mohammed Barre
Best Practices in Nutrition financing	12: 00-12:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies from other countries with successful nutrition financing models Lessons learned and potential adaptations for Somalia 	Mr. Augustine Omodieke & Mr. Mohammed Barre
Lunch Break	12.30- 1:30 pm	Lunch break	ALL
Break out session	1:30-2:00 pm	Stakeholder Mapping and Roles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive Session- Identify key stakeholders in the nutrition financing landscape Discuss roles of government, NGOs, private sector, and community organizations 	ALL
Investment needs and prioritization	2:00-3:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion: Identifying priority funding needs for nutrition programs Establishing criteria for prioritizing interventions 	Mr. Mohammed Barre
Closure and wrap up	3:00-3:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of discussions and commitments Acknowledgments and thanks 	Dr. Mohamed Abdi Farah

Attendance for the Government of Somalia Sustainable Nutrition Financing Inception Workshop

S/ N	Name	Organization	Sector
1	Musa Ahmed Muhammed	FAO	Development Partner
2	Hanad Kerie	UNICEF	Development Partner
3	Suleiman Abdiinoor	SUN Movement	Public Sector
4	Mohamed Adan Damey	SUN (State Level Coordinator)	Public Sector
5	Abdulrashid Mohamed Abdi	Somali Bureau of Standards (SOBS)	Public Sector
6	Farah Hared Salah	Somali Bureau of Standards (SOBS)	Public Sector
7	Pradiumna Dahal	UNICEF	Development Partner
8	Dr. Lamin B. Sonko	WFP	Development Partner
9	Abdulrashid Mohamed Kasim	Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation (MOAI)	Public Sector
10	Abdullahi Omar Hussein	Somali Disaster Management Agency (SODMA)	Public Sector
11	Khadija Ali Gedi	Federal Ministry of Health & Human Services	Public Sector
12	Mohammed Barre	SUN Somalia Consultant	
13	Dr. Mohamed Abdi Farah	Somalia SUN Focal Point	
14	Augustine Omodieke	HSDF	
15	Doris-Theresa Obi	HSDF	