

Right2Grow Burkina Faso Annual Report 2023 Summary



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Report submitted by: Save the Children

Programme Overview 2023

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Lead Partner	The Hunger Project
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Lead implementing partner	Save the Children Burkina Faso
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1. Programme context

1.1 Changes in the country context

The coup d'état of 30 September 2022 in Burkina Faso led to the dissolution of the National Assembly, the Regional and Municipal Councils and the installation of the transition bodies (National Transition Council, National Transition Assembly and Special Delegations). With this event, the majority of administrative authorities (Governors, High Commissioners, Prefects and Directors of technical services related to Right2Grow themes) were changed. This led Right2Grow to reorganise visits to introduce the programme and its teams to the new authorities. In addition, the local elected representatives who were Right2Grow's first contacts were replaced by new authorities who had to be trained and made aware of the project's vision. Burkina Faso has also been facing terrorist attacks since 2015. These attacks have made some of Right2Grow's intervention areas inaccessible and reduced people's access to basic social services, following the mass displacement of around 2 million people. In addition, the Russian-Ukrainian crisis has caused inflation to rise to almost 16% in Burkina Faso, reducing the purchasing power of communities and plunging them into food and nutritional insecurity.

1.2 Risks and mitigations

In the Centre Nord region, insecurity restricted access to the entire intervention zone. Out of a total of 28 planned communes, Right2Grow was only able to cover 12. To remedy this situation and to be able to reach the most affected communities, Save the Children International and local partner *Reseau de la Société civile pour la Nutrition* (RESONUT) have chosen to further strengthen the work with CSOs at local level. In the North region, the worrying security situation in certain intervention zones meant that face-to-face activities could not be carried out. The mitigation measure was to work in collaboration with advocacy groups that have ramifications at community level to support the implementation of certain activities in the field. Furthermore, Right2Grow has produced radio broadcasts to better reach people in communities affected by terrorism. In the East region, 2023 was also characterized by an increase in violent attacks and threats against civilians which led to an increased number of internally displaced person (IDPs). This meant that lobbying had to be maintained and advocacy stepped up with multisectoral nutrition stakeholders at the local level.

1.3 Implementation challenges

Three main challenges have particularly affected the implementation of the programme. Firstly, the security situation has made it difficult to access certain regions. The country team closely monitors developments in the security, economic and political context to adapt planned activities accordingly and review geographical coverage where necessary. Secondly, institutional instability has led to challenges in building meaningful partnerships with the different authorities. The achievement of the objectives of the Right2Grow programme is still dependent on institutional stability at the level of the authorities, who have the power to make decisions in favour of nutrition and WASH. When changes occur, Right2Grow informs and trains the new authorities in place. Finally, the achievement of results highly relies on the dynamism of the advocacy groups and their access to resources. The Right2Grow consortium has supported Advocacy Groups to mobilize resources and find new partners.

1.4 Cross cutting issues

During 2023, the CSO members of the Advocacy Groups carried out advocacy work to ensure that the interests of those most vulnerable to malnutrition (young children, adolescents, pregnant or breastfeeding women, people living with disabilities and internally displaced people) were taken into account, and that women had direct access to decision-making and advocacy bodies.

2. Programme results

2.1. Demand and investment in basic social services for nutrition and WASH (Pathway 1)

In 2023, advocacy meetings were held with the Presidents of the Special Delegations (PDS) and as a result, PDSs are more aware of: i) the critical link between the nutrition of children under 5 and access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, and development and: ii) the problems and solutions at community-level. Regular meetings were also organized between advocacy groups and PDS to develop common plans to improve WASH and nutrition. The programme provided support to advocacy groups on access to credit and income generating activities (IGAs) to ensure women's empowerment.

Awareness raising activities were organized that mainly involved radio dramas on good eating habits and hand washing, reaching 295,238 women and 258,280 men. These broadcasts enabled communities to improve their knowledge of the two themes (nutrition and hygiene). Additionally, three live radio broadcasts were made in Gourcy, Ouahigouya and Titao via Radio Savane FM. The main objective of these broadcasts was to establish a framework for participatory and interactive dialogue between communities and the authorities on issues relating to nutrition, WASH and food security. Around nine hundred thousand (900,000) people were reached by these radio broadcasts, including three hundred thousand (300,000) men and six hundred thousand (600,000) women. The programme also built the capacity of journalists in order to develop more and better stories around nutrition and WSH.

As a result of Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking (BMET) trainings, CSOs now have a direct contact with the government to access budget information and data, and Special Delegations have better understanding of decentralized and nutrition-sensitive budgeting. Linked to this was accompaniment and coaching of advocacy groups on budget analysis and service delivery. This has enabled advocacy groups to verify the implementation of government commitments to improve people's access to drinking water and sanitation, particularly in rural areas and the outskirts of urban centres. Table 2.1 provides a summary of results across outcome 1 indicators.

Table 2.1: Progress on outcome 1 indicators

Code	Indicator	Base value	Target (year 3/total) (2023)	3rd year results (2023)	Remarks
R2G.OC.1.1	Number of actions in which communities request improved services	0	Set: 15 Centre North: 5 North (THP-AMR): 5 East : 5	Set: 45 North Central: 14 East : 07 North: 24	These include advocacy workshops to encourage market gardeners to adopt agro-ecology, advocacy for access to land for IDPs, advocacy for the empowerment of women, advocacy for nutrition-sensitive budgeting, lobbying of parliamentarians for access to food stocks for the most vulnerable, and so on.
BF.OC.1.3	Proportion of people taking part in actions aimed at formulating requests to improve services who belong to vulnerable groups.	0%	Total: 50%. Women: 35 People living with a disability: 10%. PDI: 10% OF SALES	Total: 40% of sales Centre-North: 25%. East: 40%. North: 40%. Women: 30%. People living with a disability: 5%.	This indicator was collected in 2023 at the MTR. It is tempting to say that 40% participation by vulnerable groups is very significant. This includes IDPs, women and people living with disabilities.
R2G.OP.1.1 Donor indicator SCS 6	Number of CSOs included in R2G	6	6	6	Premier et Deuxième pallier (First and second tier): 6 partners Third tier: 20 CSOs in the Centre North, 28 in the East and 38 in the North, making a total of 81 local CSOs. SCS 6 : R2G Burkina works with 6 partners, including 3 international NGOs and 2 national CSOs. In the distribution of roles in relation to the shift of power, the

					national CSOs have the lead in carrying out advocacy actions. The international NGOs provide technical and financial support for these actions.
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2.2. Civil Society Empowerment (Pathway 2)

At national level, the Nutrition Directorate of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene produced the age box on the integrated package of infant and young child feeding services and advice cards on key family practices and shared it with CSOs. Furthermore, clubs of journalists and communicators on nutrition and food security have been trained and have a better understanding of Right2Grow. They can communicate better about the programme and advocacy groups of all 3 regions are well connected to lead more efficient and coordinated advocacy actions.

At regional level (Centre Nord, North, Eastern region), CSOs and Advocacy Groups have increased their lobby and advocacy capacity on: Planning and implementing advocacy activities with governmental authorities at local and regional level, resource mobilisation, networking and associative life; Income-generating activities, access to credit and women's economic empowerment; Developing harmonised annual plans and action plans; Budget processes and analysis in particular on the new West Africa methodology; Public policies and programmes; Outcome harvesting and Mobile Journalism (MOJO) as well as Monitoring the changes made on the issues of nutrition, WASH and food security with regard to the commitments made during the activities carried out. Devolved technical services and local authorities are working in collaboration with CSOs and advocacy groups and provide the necessary information and data to CSOs and advocacy groups. Through the advocacy work of the advocacy groups government and actors from the private sector have made commitments:

Commitments from government :

- To increase from 2% to 4% the amount of local authority funds allocated to nutrition by the end of 2023 in the province of Zondoma and Loroum
- Engagement from various parties (heads of decentralised services and school heads) to work towards rehabilitating school latrines in Zondoma province
- Implement different recommendations made by producers, agricultural input traders and technical agricultural services. These recommendations aimed to facilitate the supply and availability of seeds to producers on time in Zondoma province
- Give access to the most vulnerable to national food and nutrition security stocks in North region
- Regional health directorate (in North) would increase its support for the early detection and treatment of malnourished children
- To provide primary schools with good quality food in sufficient quantities for the schools in Loroum

Commitments from private sector:

- Continuing to provide social services to the local population in the areas of WASH and food security, in particular by building boreholes and donating food;
- Raising awareness among the provinces' economic operators of the need to market good quality products for local consumption;
- Becoming involved in some of the advocacy group's activities, where they will be available to carry awareness-raising messages (production of vignettes);
- Funding certain activities included in the advocacy group's action plan
- Using and disposing of approved and unexpired products for the benefit of the population;
- Putting rubbish bags in front of every shop and boutique (place of business) for rubbish collection;
- Microfinance structures reported back to their managers the different recommendations made by the Passoré advocacy group on access to credit for women and girls.

Table 2.2: Programme on outcome 2 indicators

Code	Indicator	Base value	Target (year 3/total) (2023)	3rd year results (2023)	Remarks
R2G.OC.2.1	Number of times CSOs have	0	- 2023 :	All: 08 Centre North: 01	Right2Grow has supported the funding of 08 consultation

Donor indicator SCS 3	succeeded in creating a space for their requests		National level: 3 Sub-national level: 20	North : 05 East : 02 National level: 00 Sub-national level: 08	frameworks at both communal level (03) and provincial level (05), notably in the provinces of Passoré, Zondoma, Yatenga, Namentenga and Gnagna. During these various communal and provincial consultation frameworks, Right2Grow's CSO partners called for greater involvement of CSOs in decision-making bodies. To this end, during the provincial consultation framework (CCP) in the commune of Yako, the Advocacy group of Passoré was given a time slot to make a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of CSOs in improving funding for nutrition, WASH and food security.
R2G.OC.2.2 Donor indicator SCS 4	Number of advocacy initiatives carried out by R2G partners and CSOs	SCS041 0 SCS042 0	-2023 : National level: 5 Sub-national level: 24	Set: 30 Centre North: 05 North: 24 East : 01 National level: 00 Sub-national level: 30	Communities and local CSOs (advocacy groups) have initiated advocacy actions: For example, each of the Centre-Nord advocacy groups organised an advocacy meeting with the provincial authorities and technical services to improve access to basic social services. They also undertook 2 budget advocacy actions (budget analysis and monitoring) in 8 communes. In the East, there was an advocacy workshop for the SDPs and STDs, which enabled the authorities to make commitments to facilitate the analysis and budget monitoring of local development policies. In the North, a number of initiatives have been carried out: advocacy workshops to encourage market gardeners to move towards agro-ecology, advocacy for access to land for IDPs, advocacy for the empowerment of women, advocacy for nutrition-sensitive budgeting, advocacy with parliamentarians for access to food stocks for the most vulnerable, etc.
R2G.D.1 Donor indicator SCS 5	Number of CSOs with increased capacity for lobbying and advocacy (L&A).	6	6	6	First and second tier: 6 partners . Right2Grow Burkina works with 6 partners, including 3 international NGOs and 2 national CSOs. In the distribution of roles in relation to the shift of power, the national CSOs have the lead in carrying out advocacy actions. The international NGOs provide technical and financial support for these actions.

2.3. Adoption and mainstream of multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition (Pathway 3)

During the year, awareness-raising workshops were conducted for members of the North, Centre-North and East Regional Technical Commissions on the importance of nutrition in socio-economic development and on nutrition-sensitive budgeting. Thirty-one (31) people attended and the general objective was to obtain the commitment of the members of the CTRs of the three regions to facilitate and support local authorities to adopt a budget that is more sensitive to the issue of nutrition.

During the training of SDPs, SGs and accountants on the multisectoral approach to nutrition and the guide to integrating nutrition into local policies/plans, Right2Grow seized this opportunity to promote a better understanding of the multisectoral approach to nutrition, which enabled them to make commitments to nutrition-sensitive budgeting. Awareness-raising and advocacy workshop for special delegations on nutrition-sensitive budgeting was organized to increase the knowledge of communal authorities about nutrition-sensitive budgeting with a view to applying it in their projects, programmes, strategic plans and local development plans. The workshop was attended by 34 members of the special delegation.

The programme provided technical and financial support for one communal framework and three provincial frameworks. These meetings were attended by twelve (12) members of advocacy groups. The programme also supported the Yatenga provincial consultation framework (CCP), attended by 22 CSO members of advocacy groups who were able to present the results of their activities and the context of nutrition, followed by advocacy for the improvement of nutrition indicators. Table 2.3 provides summary of progress on outcome 3 indicators

Table 2.3: Progress on outcome 3 indicators

Code	Indicator	Base value	Target (year 3/total) (2023)	3rd year results (2023)	Remarks
R2G.OC.3.1/SCS1	Number of laws and policies better implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	0	2025 : 1	1	The National Policy on Multisectoral Nutrition (PNMN) was adopted in 2021. Right2Grow has helped to make the PNMN more accessible to communities by translating it into local languages. Right2Grow has strengthened the capacity of decision-makers on the policy and facilitated multi-sectoral consultation frameworks on nutrition. However, the implementation of the PNMN remains a challenge, as the State has not been able to mobilise the entire budget required for its implementation throughout the country.
BF.OP.5.1	Number of consultation frameworks supported by Right2Grow	0	Centre North: 1 North: 1 East : 1 Total: 3	All: 08 Centre North: 01 North : 05 East : 02	Right2Grow has supported the funding of 08 consultation frameworks at both communal level (02) and provincial level (05), notably in the provinces of Passoré, Zondoma, Yatenga, Namentenga and Gnagna. 1 consultation framework between stakeholders (advocacy groups) in the three regions where Right2Grow operates.
BF.OP.5.2	Number of CSOs participating in consultation frameworks	0	Centre North: 5 North: 5 East : 5 National: 2	Total: 59 National: 2 Centre North: 07 North: 22 East: 28	57 local CSOs took part in the regional consultation framework 2 national CSOs took part in the national consultation framework.
BF.OP.6.1	Number of actions by the National Nutrition Information Platform (PNIN) supported by R2G	0	02	05	Right2Grow has supported and participated in the following bodies: - Preparation of the PNIN newsletter ; - Investment case workshop on return on investment in nutrition - Drawing up a policy paper on nutrition funding - Drawing up a policy paper on nutrition funding - Training on data management and anonymisation.

2.4. Donors and international development actor's coordination to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition (Pathway 4)

During the reporting period, efforts were made to enhance collaboration with UN agencies through a meeting with OCHA representatives in which a suggestion was made to contact the UNHCR and the UNDP as they support the Human Development and Peace Nexus. The programme supported the organization of a multi-stakeholder consultation framework in the province of Yatenga. This was an opportunity to present the Right2Grow programme, the Yatenga province advocacy group and to advocate for synergy of action between the Human Development and Peace Nexus actors in order to improve nutrition indicators in the region.

Some efforts have also been made at regional level. For instance, the first advocacy meeting to mobilise resources for the Fada Regional Hospital Centre (CHR) was organized with an aim of presenting the current state of the hospital's needs with a view to attracting funding from partners and developing a partnership around its strategy for funding investment projects. The participants, made up of technical and financial partners, economic operators in the region and international organisations, undertook to position themselves in the future to make their own contributions. These included Action contre la Faim, which provides a package of care for malnourished children at *Centre de récupération et d'éducation nutritionnelle* (CREN, centre for nutritional recovery and education), including hospitalisation and outpatient treatment. The economic operators also undertook to help with logistics by providing equipment or carrying out work related to their members' areas of activity, such as electricity, plumbing and bricklaying.

Advocacy workshop on the management of WASH facilities in emergency situations in the eastern region was conducted with recommendations and calls to action for higher government level (governor) to lower government level to assume their roles in the management of WASH facilities in emergency situations in the Eastern region.

Table 2.4 provides an overview of progress on outcome 4 indicators.

Table 2.4: Progress on outcome 4 indicators

Code	Indicator	Base value	Objective (year 3/set)	3rd year results	Remarks
BF.OP.7.1	Number of advocacy actions to promote synergy between development and humanitarian actors	0	2	6	- Participation by Right2Grow (THP) in 04 cluster meetings in the North and a visit to OCHA - The first edition of this advocacy meeting, the wish of the CHR management, was co-financed by ACF, the ICRC and Première urgence.
BF.OP.7.2	Number of consultation frameworks involving both development and humanitarian actors	0	2	1	An advocacy workshop on the management of WASH facilities in emergency situations brought together development stakeholders.
BF.IO. F.1	Level of involvement of CSOs in consultation frameworks	0	National: Medium Regional: Medium	Medium-	CBOs and CSOs participate in provincial consultation frameworks (CCPOs) and communal consultation frameworks (CCCs), which are multi-stakeholder frameworks. CSO members of the advocacy groups meet in these frameworks with other civil society actors to lobby the heads of special delegations in the CCCs and the High Commissioners in the CCPOs for decision-making or support for their advocacy in other bodies, particularly regional.

3. Advocacy Initiatives, impact stories and learning

Country advocacy priorities and adoption of Bridge for Voices (B4V) Approach: The "Bridge for Voices (B4V)" approach is fully applied in the Centre-Nord et Eastern regions across all interventions. The advocacy actions carried out have always drawn on the evidence produced by BMET and the lessons learned. The local CSO representatives who are members of the advocacy groups take account of the needs and realities of the communities from which they come when identifying the awareness-raising and advocacy actions to be implemented. In this way, the voice of

these communities is better heard with a view to providing appropriate responses in terms of nutrition, WASH and food security. In addition, the beneficiaries of the initiatives are members of these communities.

The following key results were achieved:

- Replenishment of the budget line for the purchase of Ready-to-Employ Therapeutic Foods (RTEFs) in the State budget for the health sector, to the value of two billion CFA francs
- Commitments made by the SDPs, SGs and accountants in various local authorities to introduce nutrition-sensitive budgeting, the WASH and food security in the adoption of future communal budgets
- Food distribution by Société nationale de gestion des stocks de sécurité (SONAGESS, Burkina Faso's national food security stock management company) has been revised at IDP level. This revision has improved distribution and therefore access to food for IDPs. Access to land has also been a key impact of the advocacy effort (see story 1)
- Better access to health services (see story 2)
- Construction of a 4.4 m3 borehole equipped for the Rimdilla cooperative in the village of Falguin in the province of Namentenga for the production of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes (operational since 10 July 2023).
- Increased involvement of young people in decision-making at local level in the province of Namentenga. They take part in decision-making bodies (consultation frameworks, local sessions, etc.) and give their point of view.
- Central and decentralised decision-makers are integrating the multisectoral approach and allocating substantial budgets to the implementation of the national multisectoral nutrition policy and communal and regional nutrition development plans (story 3)
- The reduction of open defecation in one of the intervention municipalities (story 3)

3.1 Change Story 1: Access to land as an IDP

My name is PORGO Monique and I am an internally displaced person living in Gourcy in the province of Zondoma. Following the insecurity caused by terrorist attacks in our village, I fled our village for safer areas, in particular Gourcy. Unfortunately, we didn't take anything with us when we fled. We left all our belongings behind. So before



the AMR advocacy initiative in collaboration with the Zondoma advocacy group to give us access to land, we didn't know how we were going to feed ourselves. It was difficult for us. But by the grace of God, we were invited to take part in an initiative to lobby the authorities and landowners for better access to land for IDPs. Thanks to this activity, the stakeholders in Zondoma province were informed about the current food and nutritional security situation of our fellow IDPs and the need for every IDP household to have a field to grow crops. After the advocacy phase, we were given around two and a half hectares to plant. With these hectares, I've grown small millet, millet, groundnuts, okra, sorrel etc. With these crops, I'll be able to go back to work after a while. With these crops I'll be able to prepare millet and condiments for sauces without having to buy them. I'm very happy with this initiative, which has enabled me to improve my living conditions and be less vulnerable, because I'll be able to feed myself and my children without worry.

3.2 Change Story 2: René WANGRAWA, Paediatrician at the Centre Hospitalier Régional (CHR) in Fada

The donation we received on 27 April 2023 is the result of effective advocacy by the Right2Grow Programme with business people in the region. In November 2022, an advocacy workshop was held for members of the Eastern Regional Consular Delegation, aimed at raising awareness of corporate social responsibility with a view to improving the local private sector's commitment to funding nutrition. The commitments made at the workshop were rigorously followed up by the Right2Grow programme manager from Action contre la Faim. We were approached in the meantime by the latter to find out about the needs of the Centre de récupération et d'éducation nutritionnelle (CREN) at the Centre Hospitalier Régional (CHR) in Fada, which had urgent requirements for biomedical equipment.

A detailed list of these needs was sent to the donors, enabling considerable resources to be mobilised, including biomedical equipment, infant flour, food and clothing to a total value of seven million CFA francs. This generous donation has exceeded our expectations and is an essential contribution to improving the care of malnourished children at CREN. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Right2Grow Programme for this act of generosity, which will have a significant impact on the health and well-being of these children.



Dr René WANGRAWA symbolically receiving the donation from the representative of the Director General of the Fada Regional Hospital.



A view of the donation to the CREN of the CHR of Fada

3.3 Story 3: The Yatenga Advocacy Group & Right2Grow

The Yatenga advocacy group was set up in 2021 by The Hunger Project Burkina Faso and its implementing partner AMR. We subsequently received training in advocacy, citizen monitoring of public policies, questioning and denunciation, resource mobilisation and so on. These capacity-building sessions enabled us to raise awareness and monitor the commitments made by the authorities to improve the WASH situation in our province. Before our action, communities had limited access to WASH services in our province of Yatenga. So, for the first time, we organised an advocacy workshop on WASH with the 13 Presidents of the Special Delegations of the province's communes, based on evidence. We involved a nutrition champion and influential artists in the workshop to give our advocacy more resonance. Commitments were made and some were honoured. For example, 7 months on, the Ouahigouya local council has honoured its commitments by implementing the recommendations by including the construction and rehabilitation of boreholes and latrines in the local authority's annual investment plan:



- the installation of 07 mobile toilets at two IDP sites, and monitoring of the rehabilitation of a simplified drinking water supply at the Ira site and at the farm in sector 10,
- the construction of 280 semi-finished latrines in Ouattinoma, Saye, Bouri, etc;
- the construction of 10 boreholes at the MJCO, the Centre d'Ecoute pour Jeunes, sectors 5, 13 and 4, the Gourga 1 and 2 IDP sites and the Lycée Yadéga;
- The construction of drinking water supply systems in Gondologo, Saye and Zimba.

To carry out advocacy actions, women are brought to the fore and carry out the advocacy. Beyond the advocacy we do for the well-being of communities, Right2Grow has allowed us to become a family and to build a strong network in the field of nutrition, WASH and food security. We hope that Right2Grow will bear wonderful fruit for the benefit of children under the age of 5.

4. Partnership and collaboration reflections

Review of partnership and collaboration including strategic partnering with local partners: The technical and financial support provided to the CSOs by Right2Grow, along with the capacity-building sessions, has enabled them

to initiate and implement advocacy actions in their localities. 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. However, some improvements must be put forward to ensure lasting impact:

- Involving the local media in advocacy activities to reach the maximum number of people/change behaviour (visibility, effectiveness, reaching more targets);
- The introduction of incentives to motivate advocacy groups that perform positively;
- Intensifying advocacy with the United Nations system and international NGOs to ensure that the issue of nutrition is given greater consideration (multisectoral vision);
- The mobilisation of stakeholders for more integrated actions in the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Reflection on collaboration with the embassies; On 26 April 2023, at the invitation of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Burkina Faso, the Right2Grow consortium took part in the celebration of the bank holidays of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, King's Day. We also invited the Embassy to the workshop held on 13 December to validate the report on the mid-term evaluation of the project. However, due to a scheduling conflict, the Embassy team was unable to take part in the workshop.

Right2Grow consortium has strengthened its collaboration with various strategic partners:

- The Technical Secretariat for Nutrition, the leader in the operationalisation of the multisectoral approach to nutrition in Burkina Faso;
- The Nutrition Department for the development of a communication plan to combat the illegal sale and use of ready-to-use therapeutic food;
- The regional departments in charge of water, health and agriculture, to provide technical support in data collection, budget documents and evidence production;
- The parliamentarians through the Network of Parliamentarians for Nutritional Security (REPASEN);
- Scaling Up Nutrition Networks where RESONUT promoted the effective involvement of CSOs in advocacy at community level and in budget monitoring;
- The Eastern Regional Chamber of Commerce, to raise funds for the CREN of the Fada Regional Hospital Centre.

The main concrete achievement regarding Shift the Power is that in 2023, local CSOs were trained to carry out budget analysis. They are now able to carry out the budget analysis and monitoring exercise for nutrition on their own, without the support of other consortium members. They can now produce evidence to support advocacy for better domestic funding of nutrition in local development policies and programmes.

Adaptive management had to be implemented to take into account the evolution of the security crisis in the Centre Nord. As a result of the reduced humanitarian access, radio theatres and radio broadcasts have been organised to reach people in the communes where RESONUT is active with advocacy and awareness-raising messages. The change of authorities at the level of decentralised technical services and local authorities has led to a resumption of advocacy and lobbying initiatives with these decision-makers and strategic partners to consolidate the gains made. To this end, activities linked to the triple Nexus and the private sector's commitment to nutrition will be initiated to promote synergy between humanitarian and development actors.

5. Programme reflections

According to the mid-term evaluation report, overall, the relevance, impact and effectiveness of the programme's interventions translate into behavioural changes in nutrition, hygiene and WASH. In the field, the beneficiaries perceive a significant improvement in the nutritional status of their young children, their knowledge and access to sanitation, thanks to the combined effects of the various interventions (1) capacity building in the different themes, (2) the organization of awareness-raising sessions for the population, (3) advocacy with peers and local authorities. The programme has also shown results in terms of improving the infrastructure such as installation of sanitation and water structures. In other areas the government has made commitments, and these commitments will be followed up in the coming 2 years. The programme in Burkina Faso also shows signs of sustainability in terms of the acquisition of knowledge and skills, but also in terms of local structures responsible for continuity. Added to this is the alignment of the programme with national nutrition policies and strategies.

The advocacy group approach is a factor in the sustainability and local ownership of the Right2Grow programme. Indeed, the active local organisations have been equipped to ensure advocacy and awareness-raising for changes in policies and sustainable practices in favour of nutrition, WASH and food security. In addition, empowerment of local CSOs in the area of BMET guarantees local ownership of budget advocacy and the sustainability of the project's achievements.

However, there are still some challenges to be addressed by the project. The result area 4 is lagging behind. The consortium has failed to date to identify relevant activities that could lead to achieving this result. This is a main point of attention for 2024 and 2025. Secondly the "Shift the Power" concept has been applied and contributed significantly to the organizational development of some CSOs. However, the capacity of local CSOs to influence needs to be strengthened as well as their capacity to mobilize own resources.

6. Conclusion and way forward

In a context characterized by security threats, a program like Right2Grow remains relevant. Indeed, it is important to challenge the State on the respect of its commitments in terms of nutrition, to amplify the voice of communities who are in areas with strong security challenges and who no longer have access to social services (health, education, WASH, etc.), to call on humanitarian and development donors to work in synergy. To achieve this, Right2Grow in 2024 will prioritize local media to reach communities, support local CSOs in the implementation of advocacy and lobbying actions with central and local decision-makers, facilitate the holding of frameworks for exchange and consultation between donors, and promote community dialogues so that communities can make their voices heard. A special emphasis on outcome 4 will be made, in collaboration with Right2Grow global team.

In terms of expenditures in 2023, the Burkina Faso consortium has reached a burn rate of about 90%. Right2Grow consortium will ensure that the value for money remains at the centre of financial decision, and that available resources will be allocated to the most impactful activities that will lead to meaningful results for communities.