

Right2Grow

Annual Report 2023

Executive Summary



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Welcome to the Right2Grow Annual Report 2023, describing the collaborative efforts of Action Against Hunger, the Centre for Economic Governance and Accountability in Africa (CEGAA), the Max Foundation, Save the Children, The Hunger Project, and World Vision, in collaboration with 46 national and local civil society organizations, and 1,065 smaller community-based and grassroots organizations in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, South Sudan, and Uganda. We are on a journey towards achieving zero undernutrition and ensuring universal access to basic WASH services. Throughout the year, our efforts have resulted in significant accomplishments across Right2Grow's four key outcomes: community mobilization, civil society strengthening, engagement of public authorities for a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition and mobilization of development actors.

In 2023, Right2Grow made substantial progress in **mobilizing communities**, empowering individuals to take charge of their own development, and fostering a sense of ownership and agency among local populations. We supported a total of 430 actions in which communities formulate demands for improved WASH and nutrition services, and we successfully addressed 234 barriers to good nutrition and WASH services successfully addressed by joint community, government and/or private sector initiatives. As a result, there is an increase in the adoption of good nutrition and WASH practices and improvement in public services in target communities, demonstrating the tangible impact of community-led initiatives.

For instance, in Bangladesh, a consortium survey indicated a significant increase in the practice of WASH and nutritional behaviours at the household level, with 51% of community members reporting positive changes in practices. Similarly, in Burkina Faso, awareness creation efforts on nutrition and WASH reached over a million people, while actions initiated by advocacy groups benefited thousands of individuals. Ethiopia witnessed the implementation of over 172 community actions demanding improved services, leading to the successful implementation of 189 commitments made by stakeholders. In Mali, the programme strengthened the production and marketing of nutritious food that encouraged the sale of products on local markets and created platforms for mutual support among women processors. South Sudan saw significant progress in improving access to basic services through community-driven initiatives, such as repair work on boreholes by Water Management Committees. Similarly, in Uganda, media campaigns promoted proper WASH and nutrition practices, mobilizing resources and partnerships for widespread adoption.

Furthermore, our commitment to **strengthening civil society** has yielded positive results, enabling CSOs to effectively advocate for improved access to nutrition and WASH services. The mid-term review conducted in 2023 highlighted the success of our capacity-strengthening efforts, which have addressed initial gaps and improved partners' knowledge, skills, and experience, particularly in mobilizing communities. Notable achievements include the establishment of various advocacy groups in our program countries, influencing policy decisions, implementation, and resource allocations at both national and sub-national levels. For example, in Bangladesh, CSOs succeeded in setting agendas and influencing debates at the national level, while in Burkina Faso, engagement with the private sector has resulted in commitments to provide essential services in areas of WASH and food security. Similarly, in Ethiopia, CSOs have effectively engaged with decision-makers to create spaces for demands and positions, while in Mali, the strengthening of watchdog committees has led to improved citizen monitoring activities in nutrition and WASH. In South Sudan, CSOs have made significant contributions to community sensitization and advocacy efforts, creating both demand for nutrition and WASH services as community ownership. Additionally, in Uganda, grassroots-level CBOs have been empowered to promote good nutrition and WASH practices, engaging thousands of participants and advocating for improved service delivery. These accomplishments underscore our dedication to empowering CSOs across all program countries to navigate the civic space effectively and advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition.

In addition to our engagement with public authorities and key stakeholders, our advocacy efforts have been bolstered by our commitment to **promoting a multi-sectoral approach** to addressing undernutrition. Working closely with government agencies at national and sub-national levels, we have made significant strides in policy improvements and implementation and allocation of additional (multi-sectoral) funding towards nutrition and WASH programmes across our programme countries. For instance, in Bangladesh, we have seen a 4.08% increase in the WASH and nutrition budget from the previous

year in targeted areas. In Burkina Faso, awareness-raising workshops have resulted in commitments from various government agencies to support budgeting sensitive to nutrition, WASH, and food security. Ethiopia has witnessed strengthened multi-sectoral nutrition governance at woreda level, also leading to improved budget allocation and advocacy initiatives. Moreover, our efforts in Mali, South Sudan, and Uganda have further solidified our impact, as evidenced by our engagement in the development of the National Nutrition Policy in South Sudan, the incorporation of the right to food and health in the new constitution of Mali, and passage of by-laws promoting food security and sanitation in Uganda. These achievements underscore our commitment to advocating for policies that enhance community well-being and promote sustainable development.

Additionally, we have been actively **engaging international development actors** to address underlying determinants of undernutrition, and advocate for synergy of action between development and humanitarian actors. Despite small achievements in previous years, recent progress highlights the programme's potential impact for the final 2 years. In Bangladesh, collaboration with development agencies and national bodies has led to joint campaigns on WASH and nutrition. Similar efforts in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia position Right2Grow to provide strategic support for national initiatives. Additionally, participation in international events such as the UN Water Conference and the All Systems Connect Conference has amplified our community-led advocacy efforts at international level, showcasing our commitment to fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders. Below is an overview of overall programme performance across key indicators.

Table Right2Grow progress towards key indicators

Indicator	Cumulative achievement (2021-2023)	2025 target	
Outcome 1: Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and WASH practices, jointly addressing barriers with private sector partners			
Number of actions in which communities formulate demands for improved (WASH and nutrition) services	527	N/A	
Number of barriers to good nutrition and WASH services successfully addressed by joint community, government and/or private sector initiatives	283	N/A	
Number of CSOs (first and second tier) involved in Right2Grow (SCS063)	46	46	
Number of CSOs (third tier) involved in Right2Grow	1,065	N/A	
Outcome 2. Representatives and empowered civil society organisations effectively navigate the civic space to advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition			
Number of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions (SCS3)	SCS031: # of times ... <i>at national and international levels</i>	207	159
	SCS032: # of times ... <i>at sub-national levels</i>	225	701
Number of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency (SCS4)	SCS041: Number of initiatives ... <i>at national level</i>	81	302
	SCS042: Number of initiatives ... <i>at sub-national level</i>	227	553
Number of CSOs with increased L&A capacities (tiers 1 & 2)	46	46	
Outcome 3. National government and decentralised entities adopt and mainstream an integrated, multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition in policies, action plans and budget allocations			
Number of laws, and policies implemented for sustainable and inclusive development (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Uganda)	15	24	
Number of laws, policies blocked, adopted, and improved for sustainable and inclusive development (South Sudan, Uganda)	2	9	
Outcome 4. Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate along the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition			
Level of success of lobby and advocacy roles by R2G and its partner towards donors and international actors	Medium/average	High	
Degree of integration of the WASH-Nutrition nexus by donors along the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition	Low	High	