

Right2Grow South Sudan Annual Report 2023 Summary



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Programme Overview 2023

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Lead implementing Partner	Save the Children South Sudan
Contact person:	Joyce Akandu Ayume joyce.akandu@savethechildren.org
Lead funding office	Save the Children Netherlands
Contact person:	Laurence Caron Laurence.caron@savethechildren.nl

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1. Programme context

1.1 Changes in the Country Context

South Sudan is currently experiencing its highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition since gaining independence. According to the 2024 humanitarian need overview, an estimated 8 million people (70% of the population, the highest rate worldwide) were severely food insecure at the peak of the lean season between April and July 2023.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) latest findings reveal a critical situation between September and November 2023, and estimated 5.83 million people, accounting for 46 percent of the population, underwent severe food insecurity categorized as IPC Phase 3 or higher (crisis or worse). Additionally, an estimated 35,000 individuals were classified under IPC Phase 5 (catastrophe), with 3,000 in Duk and Nyirol counties of Jonglei State, 15,000 in Rubkona County of Unity State, and 14,000 South Sudanese returnees who fled the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

There are several factors that have contributed to this situation, including the protracted political conflict in South Sudan, the post-COVID-19 pandemic effects, climatic shocks, Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and the ongoing economic crisis, including the drop in oil prices, which is the main source of income.

1.2 Risks and mitigations & Implementation challenges

The consortium in South Sudan has met many challenges. Firstly, due to the Sudan crisis the country has received a substantial influx of refugees and returnees from Sudan which has put pressure on already scarce resources. This is further amplified by shrinking donor funding. This situation requires continued advocacy for humanitarian support to address the increased needs of both the host and displaced population by sustaining the core pipeline for emergency response. Secondly, climate shocks such as floods, insecurities and lack of infrastructures have been challenges the consortium have continuously faced throughout the year. Right2Grow continues to advocate towards the government to invest in peace building and stability initiatives, and with the local authorities to build dikes to prevent water from penetrating residences.

Another challenge is the bureaucracy in obtaining national permission for budget expenditure data for budget analysis. Many efforts have been put into building meaningful and trustworthy partnerships with the different government agencies in order to have a timely access to financial information.

Finally, cultural and religious norms and practices continue to inhibit female decision-making power. This is dealt with by actively engaging marginalized groups in awareness raising activities tackling harmful gender norms in decision making.

1.3 Cross cutting issues

Right2Grow partners took actions to integrate nutrition interventions in a gender sensitive way. The involvement of women and youth in awareness campaigns aimed at tackling norms through a gender equity approach. Mother-to-Mother Support Groups (MtMSGs) have observed positive changes in communities after interacting with them. Notably, these changes include serving children first with food or to have their food plates at the same time as men instead of waiting for leftovers from the men.

Moreover, the MtMSGs seized the opportunity to advocate for improvements in nutrition and WASH interventions necessary to improve children's nutritional status. They further called upon the government to address cultural issues contributing to the subordination of women, the inequitable division of labour, and poor accessibility. The MtMSGs urged other stakeholders to acknowledge the perpetuation of these issues and to take necessary steps to address them.

In 2023, few consortium partners gave attention to climate change initiatives. However, the floods that occurred in Right2Grow geographical areas made it necessary to explore opportunities for collaboration with the humanitarian coordinating body, donors, and government to reduce the effects of climate change and build the resilience of the community by providing training to vulnerable groups. This will be better addressed in the coming two years of the programme.

The youth were well represented in community groups such as father-to-father support groups, water user and management committees during the implementation. Additionally, most women-led organization representatives were young adults. The youth were engaged both at national and state levels through initiatives such as sports for peace, particularly through football; hosting youth dialogue sessions covering topics such as WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), Protection, and Peace building.

Efforts were made to advocate inclusion of the persons with disabilities, during the community budget dialogue to ensure their voices are heard by the law makers.

2. Programme results

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

In 2023, the efforts of Right2Grow and its partners have made significant progress in improving demand and investment in basic social services in communities. MtMSG were able to improve the food basket and supply food surplus to the local markets. Water User Committee (WUC) through the help of the chiefs were able to repair broken boreholes and ensure communities have access to clean and safe drinking water.

The continued stakeholders’ engagement made Melut County local government authority install a new clean drinking water facility to provide clean and safe drinking water for the Paloich and Khoradar communities. In Melut, the community gathered data on broken water points and demanded for access to safe and clean water from the county authority. The community also advocated for early identification and referral of malnourished children in the community to the health facility to receive nutritional treatment. Table 2.1 highlights achievements across outcome 1 indicators.

Table 2.1: Progress across outcome 1 indicators

Code	Indicator	Baseline value	Target (year 3/overall)	Year 3 achievement	Remarks
	# of actions in which communities formulate demands for improved (WASH and nutrition) services		N/A	6	<p>The Baidit community leader request for borehole maintenance from state ministry of physical infrastructure which was repaired. Similarly, the Pariak community leader request is still in the pipeline.</p> <p>Conducted meeting with key stakeholders, communities and government authorities to demand for provision of safe and clean drinking water in New Paloich and khoradar</p> <p>Meeting of the farmer’s union with government authorities to advocate and demand for seeds to</p>

					<p>increase local production of cereals that is accessible and affordable to the local community.</p> <p>Conducted meeting with the mother-to-mother support groups and the County Directorate for Agriculture to advocate and demand for land for establishment of vegetable kitchen garden.</p>
	# of WASH and nutrition products identified for production by local private sectors.		N/A	3	<p>Production of green vegetables in addition to other crops.</p> <p>Innovation efforts by introducing climate-resilient farming techniques for both vegetables and crops.</p> <p>Enhancement of nutritious food accessibility to combating malnutrition.</p>
	# of CSOs involved in R2G		N/A	8	<p>Additional 5 tier 3 CSOs; Jonglei Civil Society Network, Voice of Women, and ITERFID South Sudan in Jonglei;, Paguir Women's League, Town Council,</p>
	# of water user committees trained on the maintenance of water sources and sanitation within the communities.		N/A	38	<p>Committees from Pariak, Baidit, and Lualdit; 5 each in Leer, Koch, Fashoda and Panyijar, 15 in Paquir.</p>
	# of MTMSG and Men groups trained.		N/A	20	<p>5 each Pariak and Baidit, 2 each in Melut, Leer, Koch, Fashoda and Panyijar.</p>
	# of meetings organized by CSOs and private sectors to promote appropriate technologies on food processing and preservation.		N/A	5	<p>Meetings, one done at Park palace Bor county to introduce the idea and processes and the other follow up on how the communities are materializing the skills gained during the training. For instance, grinding G/nut paste, Fish sun drying; Fish salting, and smoking. Join efforts to produce fish for business.</p> <p>Fish smoking, rice threshing, and advanced plantation techniques with the various targets groups in Paquir.</p>
	# of awareness sessions conducted on local		N/A	4	<p>At Pariak, Baidit, Lualdit and during WBW.</p>

production of nutritious foods affordable to the local community.				
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2.2. Civil Society Empowerment (Pathway 2)

In addition to tiers 1 and 2 partners, Right2Grow has enhanced the capacities of third-tier civil society organizations (CSOs), Jonglei Civil Society Network and Voice of Women, in appropriate food processing and preservation methods. These methods include drying green vegetable leaves, as well as smoking, grinding, and salting fish and meat. These efforts have contributed to improving the livelihoods of communities in Bor. The training also focused on how to effectively mobilize communities in Bor. The CSOs were able to cascade the same training and demonstrations in their respective areas of operations, thereby promoting the adoption of best practices in their communities.

Furthermore, Right2Grow has strengthened the capacity of these CSOs to conduct community mobilization which enabled them to carry out mass awareness campaigns in Baidit, Pariak, and Lualdit, engaging community structures, mothers, men, and boys on social norms, gender norms, culture, and religion. These campaigns were instrumental in sensitizing communities to the issues that perpetuate women's subordination, inequitable division of labor, and poor accessibility. The communities acknowledged the need to address these issues and to promote gender equity and equality. Table 2.2 provides an overview of programme performance across outcome 2 indicators.

Table 2.2: Progress across outcome 2 indicators

Code	Indicator	Baseline value	Target (year 3/overall)	Year 3 achievement	Remarks
SCS 3: (disaggregated for SCSO 31+ SCS032)	# of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and position.	0	Target 2025: SCS031 : 10 SCS032 : 12	National level SCS031: 2 Sub-national level: SCS032: 10	1) Accessibility of national budgets booklet and approval of expenditure data for the line ministries; 2) Approval of national budget policy brief 2023 for budget advocacy on 27th June 2023; 3) MtMSG in Bor demanded the local authorities and duty bearer during the World Breast feeding Week and Malaria Day to support them to maintain the initiatives they started; 4)The Baidit community leader request for borehole maintenance from state ministry of physical infrastructure which was repaired and improved community access to safe and clean drinking water. Similarly, the Pariak community leader request is still in the pipeline; 5) In Mayendit and Pariang the community structure created dramas/skits with WASH and Nutrition doable actions that were used to sensitize the community, and this showed great ownership; 6) The WUC/WMC amplified the need of the community taking care of their water collecting point sources as a preventive

					<p>advocacy agenda during the health and Nutrition review in Unity state;</p> <p>7) Involvement of Paguir women and men to support an exclusive breastfeeding program;</p> <p>8) Support local farmer associations to advance local food production;</p> <p>9) Promoted household vegetable gardening to provide food supplements;</p> <p>10) In Melut Conducted meeting with key stakeholders, communities and government authorities to demand for provision of safe and clean drinking water in New Paloich and khoradar;</p> <p>11) Meeting of the farmer’s union with government authorities to advocate and demand for seeds to increase local production of cereals that is accessible and affordable to the local community;</p> <p>12) Conducted meeting with the mother-to-mother support groups and the County Directorate for Agriculture to advocate and demand for land for establishment of vegetable kitchen garden.</p>
SCS 4: (disaggregated for SCS041+SCS042)	# of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency	0	Target 2025 SCS041 : 15 SCS042 : 40	National level (SCS041): 6 Sub-national level (SCS042): 6	<p>Parliamentarians and Stakeholders’ Engagement Meeting on National Budget Analysis 2023 in Juba South Sudan; Participation in the budget public hearing and second stage budget reading; Half-day national budget dialogue between the government and two communities on food security, nutrition, and WASH in Juba, South Sudan; 1 day each national budget process orientation for four schools and five women-led organizations; National Nutrition Policy landscape analysis stakeholders’ workshop; the World Breast Feeding Week; the Parliamentarians’ engagement; the Forgotten crises campaign launching organized by Johanniter; Donors’ round table meeting; the learning week and the National WASH caucus launching; Radio talk shows in partnership with MOH while disseminating nutrition and WASH messages during the WBW; National and State annual review sessions supported by the MoH in collaboration with the nutrition cluster partners; meeting with government authorities and stakeholders to advocate for provision of better WASH and Nutrition services to the community as a result the county authority installed water network in Melut town for provision of clean and safe drinking water to the community; Farmers union held a meeting with government authorities to advocate for local production of cereals such as sorghum to promote local production foods readily affordable to improve nutrition and food security; Budget policy brief dissemination in Bor and Melut counties to prepare the community leaders and CSOs to generate evidence to advocate for</p>

					effective service delivery during the dialogue between the government.
	# of platforms used by CSOs and CBOs to advocate for the rights of marginalized and women groups.		N/A	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Champions called 'Change-makers' • National Parliament • Media outlets. • During the global vents particularly WBW, Rural women day and Malaria Day in Bor
	# of CSOs, children led groups and women who attended workshop in budget sector working groups.		N/A	9	5women- led organizations and 4 schools.

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

The programme has made notable achievements towards this outcome, with the main one being completion of the development of the National Nutrition Policy, which is awaiting official launching This will form the basis for multi-sectoral approach alongside with the other national policies. National WASH caucus was also established, which will help drive the WASH-related agenda in the country and provide direction for nutrition interventions.

With regards to budgeting, CRC analysed the national budget with support from CEGAA, which informed numerous engagements with the parliamentarians, children, community leaders and the women-led organizations groups in 2023. It was further used to drive the budget advocating agenda relating to food security and WASH at the national and state level. The engagement modality varied from meetings and trainings to workshops, dialogues and focus group discussions.

The Right2Grow consortium also engaged with the parliament budget committees to discuss the state of WASH, food security, and nutrition in the country. During the engagement, Right2Grow presented the findings of the South Sudan humanitarian need overview for the three sectors of WASH, Food security and nutrition, as well as the South Sudan Water bills and the South Sudan nutrition commitments made during the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in 2021. The parliament members acknowledged the resourcefulness of Right2Grow in their role and admitted that

they were not previously aware of some of the information presented. Table 2.3 provides key highlights of the achievements towards outcome 3 indicators.

Table 2.3: Progress on outcome 3 indicators

Code	Indicator	Baseline value	Target (year 3/overall)	Year 3 achievement	Remarks
SCS2	# of laws, policies blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development	0	Target 2025: 2	1	Completion of the National Nutrition Policy which is yet to be officially launched by government. The efforts made to support the development of the Nutrition Policy were successful which was led by the Right2Grow Consortium in partnership with the Ministry of Health and other key line ministries. The nutrition policy is anticipated to foster nutrition budget allocation in that national budget and provide direction of the nutrition interventions. The government representative testified the great collaboration along with a Nutrition Strategic Plan which involves several strategic line ministries - including the ministries of Education, Agriculture, Food Security, Gender, Fisheries, and Livestock, which is a positive indication the strong government commitment to ensure its implementation and alignment with the multisectoral approach purported by the Right2Grow Consortium and theory of change. The National Nutrition Strategy comes with financial implications and that might require time than anticipated. We anticipate national elections in 2024 and outcomes are not predictable as well the timeline is unsure due to developments within ministries.
	# of events held to disseminate new findings on WASH and nutrition gaps.		N/A	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Nutrition Policy landscape analysis stakeholders' workshop. World Breast Feeding Week. Parliamentarians' engagement. Forgotten crises campaign launching organized by Johanniter. Donors' round table meeting. National WASH caucus launching.

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

During the reporting period, the Netherlands Embassy organized a lessons learned sharing event, which provided opportunity for Right2Grow to identify synergies and ways of working with other partners. Another initiative was the participation in a donors' round table through the guidance from the Netherlands Embassy during the preparations. The session mobilized the donor's community in South Sudan and was attended by four donor representatives, The Dutch embassy, USAID, the German embassy, and the British embassy and the senior consortium members. Table 2.4 presents achievements across the indicators.

Table 2.4: Progress on outcome 4 indicators

Code	Indicator	Baseline value	Target (year 2/overall)	Year 3 achievement	Remarks
	# of meetings held with donors to advocate for multi-sectoral funding in nutrition.		N/A	1	The donors round table meeting in Juba to advocate for multisectoral and multi-year funding.
	# of consultative meetings organized for the development of national policy and long-term nutrition program framework.		N/A	4	During the situation analysis findings, first nutrition policy consolidation. The consultation meetings were organized by the MoH in collaboration with Save the Children International and UNICEF and were directors' generals from the line ministries; health, agriculture, AIDS commission, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, and gender and social welfare; nutrition cluster representative; UN agencies (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, UNHCR and WHO); Academia (the University of Juba and Upper Nile); Right2Grow partners and other nutrition implementing partners.
	# of advocacy workshops for members of parliament leading health, nutrition, food security and social development committees conducted.		N/A	3	1) In May at Palm Africa Hotel, the parliamentarians were presented with the overall country situation and reminded of their role to address the dire situation in which the acknowledged the importance of the collaboration and formed a committed to ease future communication; 2) At Palm Africa hotel the parliamentarians were presented the national budget analysis and; 3) in Regency Hotel where the launching of parliamentarians WASH CAUCUS was done.

3. Advocacy Initiatives, impact stories and learning

The Bridge for Voices approach remained the core advocacy strategy to ensure that communities remain on the driving seat in amplifying the voices of their communities regarding the WASH and nutrition related advocacy. For example, members of the youth network participated in a dialogue session with the Vice President of South Sudan that aimed to explore solutions to the challenges of undernutrition in the country and also addressing youth empowerment issues.

Furthermore trained national journalists with the support of Right2Grow profiled Right2Grow efforts in finding solutions to the malnutrition drivers and also documented community voices regarding the situation surrounding them. Among the stories are:

- A battle Against Malnutrition as Children find Hope through Right2Grow project:
<https://www.eyeradio.org/a-battle-against-malnutrition-as-children-find-hope-through-right2grow-project>
- Stung by the bug of hunger, mothers in Akobo find solution in malnutrition centres:
<https://cityreviewss.com/stung-by-the-bug-of-hunger-mothers-in-akobo-find-solution-in-malnutrition-centres/>;

- Bor mother-to-mother support group asks for irrigation sprinkler: <https://theradiocommunity.org/bor-mother-to-mother-support-group-asks-for-irrigation-sprinkler/>;
- A mother’s story about her daughter after recovering from malnutrition: <https://theradiocommunity.org/a-mothers-story-about-her-daughter-after-recovering-from-malnutrition/>; and
- Addressing Spike Of Child Malnutrition Due To Worsening Food Insecurity: <https://jubaecho.com/2023/07/05/addressing-spike-of-child-malnutrition-due-to-worsening-food-insecurity/>

Finally, Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking (BMET) remains an efficient tool to advocate towards the government. This year CSOs analysed the national budget on food security, nutrition and WASH in the country and used the information to engage with decision-makers at national and local level. The BMET experience was even showcased at global events where demands to the international stakeholders were put forward.

3.1. Reflection on learnings and communication of results for scaling

- The successful completion of the National Nutrition Policy under the leadership of the Government for the well-being of the citizens was vital. The government took complete ownership of the processes.
- The state-level budget analysis dissemination in Bor, Jonglei state, and Melut, Upper Nile state provided an avenue for community leaders and CSOs to bring forward the community concerns they shared with parliamentarians through community budget dialogues to maximum impact (see story 1)
- At the community level, community groups stepped up voluntarily to act in WASH, food security, and optimal nutrition practices.
- There has been wide scale up of installation of water pipes within Melut county to ensure community have access to safe and clean drinking water.
- Through engagement meetings with government authorities and key stakeholders on advocacy, the county government supported private sectors, local and mechanized farmers with diesel to increase food production in the county.

3.2. Change Story

South Sudan's budgeting process has long suffered from a lack of inclusivity since independence, often neglecting the voices of communities in favour of a top-down approach. Recognizing this disparity, the Right2Grow Partners have joined forces to advocate for a more inclusive and transparent budgeting process, aiming to empower communities and amplify their voices.

Through a concerted effort, the consortium has engaged in a series of lobby meetings with lawmakers, seeking to reshape the budgeting landscape. One notable milestone in this journey was a groundbreaking one-day workshop organized by the South Sudan Consortium partners under Right2Grow, held at the Palm Africa Hotel in July. At the heart of this event was BMET poised to catalyse transformative change.

With unwavering determination, the workshop aimed to unveil the long-awaited National Policy Brief for 2022/2023, igniting a wave of transformation across vital sectors. Stakeholders gathered with anticipation, driven by



a shared vision of progress and development. BMET advocates passionately championed for robust financial commitments towards crucial initiatives such as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), as well as Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), and Nutrition programs.

As the workshop unfolded, it became a beacon of hope and possibility, symbolizing a collective commitment to steer South Sudan toward a future defined by prosperity and well-being. The presence of the Deputy Chair of the Standing Specialized

Committee for Budget and Planning in the South Sudan National Parliament underscored the significance of the occasion, signalling a newfound dedication to integrating community voices into the budgeting process. Lawmakers pledged to prioritize better budget allocations for WASH and Nutrition, acknowledging the importance of community input. The success of the workshop resonated far beyond its immediate surroundings, marking a pivotal moment in South Sudan's journey toward a brighter, healthier future. With BMET leading the charge, the power of finances has been harnessed, paving the way for a transformative era of growth and opportunity

3.3 Documented or completed studies linked to learning activities in 2023

The Link Nutrition Causal Analysis (NCA) was conducted for the first time in South Sudan by ACF with financial support from Right2Grow project. This mixed-method study identified root causes of undernutrition and its preliminary result revealed that low access to health services; low access to sources of revenue, inadequate access, availability and quality of water, and non-optimal hygiene practices are major risk factors of wasting among children; this will inform the program design and implementation.

3.4 Reflection on internal learning (from our ways of working as a partnership focusing on successes, challenges and ways forward)

Success	Challenges	Way forward
Conducting joint activities at the national level and during global events	Limited representation and participation on national activities for field-based staff due to high cost of travels	Scaling up and cascading national activities to the state and county levels
Country reflection workshop enables different partners to pick areas of best practices in other locations and implement them in the areas in which they operate	High cost of travels and accommodation during reflection workshop at the national level	Allocate more budget for travel related costs
High level of collaboration and coordination between different partners in the Consortium	Too many meetings.	The consortium partners should agree on strategic meetings that would give substantial feedback instead of the monthly meetings which mostly have minimal content to discuss.
Sharing of new ideas and expertise facilitated the adoption of new and improved practices in terms of both programme delivery and programme intervention design	Limited opportunities for exposure/exchange visits due to high transportation/travel costs	Increase exposure/exchange visits
Effective communication via platforms such as WhatsApp as being important in flagging any potential issues in programme delivery and addressing them in a timely manner.	Unstable Internet connectivity and poor mobile network in other locations	Procure communication gadgets such as Thuraya in areas with no access to mobile network

4. Partnership and collaboration reflection

All Right2Grow partners have specific areas of expertise. Each partner brings its expertise and all work closely with the lead organization in setting the counties priorities and work together towards a shared goal of achieving the projects intended outcomes. The mid-term review (MTR) highlighted that “coordination and communication among partners in the Consortium has been identified as a key strength” (MTR report). However it was also reported that “one of the weaknesses of the partnership in supporting effective programme delivery relates to staffing including high staff turnover and understaffing” (MTR report).

The collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands was positive offering opportunity to identify synergies and ways of working together with the other Power of Voices consortium lead partners particularly, Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) and Plan International and the sharing of learnings such as the MTR findings and recommendations. Through collaboration the consortium was able to orient women-led organization representatives on the national budget processes as well as their participation in the national budget community dialogue. Additionally, the presence of the Embassy's representative during high-level engagements such as the national nutrition consultative workshops and national budget analysis briefing have boosted the commitment of the government in pushing things forward. Furthermore, the engagement helped us to keep abreast of important events and discussions on human rights under the theme "A Country in Transition: Reconciling with the Past and Moving Forward"

The private sector in South Sudan is not very well developed. It depends heavily on imports and is run by non-nationals. This makes it even harder to collaborate and negotiate price reduction due to high taxes, and transport costs traders incurred. However, in Mayendit and Pariang, very limited collaboration existed in WASH sector. However, through Right2Grow, WASH items were recommended to private vendors in the markets. Market-based marketing programming was encouraged through the use of cash vouchers awarded to beneficiaries by selected NGOs. This approach allowed families to purchase WASH items essential to them, e.g. soap and water troughs for bathing.

Right2Grow has built and maintains a strong network with the various government ministries such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Water Resource and Irrigation. Engaging the CSOs, children, women representatives in services dialogue with the lawmakers and duty bearers is gradually influencing them to embrace the collective efforts to improve the quality-of-service delivery in their communities. Hence, the knowledge and skills that these groups have acquired during the engagements will enable them to actively explore future opportunities to engage with lawmakers and duty bearers in the subsequent decision-making events.

The design of Right2Grow was meant to complement other projects. However, advocacy requires ample time and resources for ground preparation before concrete results can be harvested. We have therefor consulted with other international partners to complement our efforts to support local partners to which they agreed.

5. Programme reflections

The project is making progress, as shown by key successes such as: the finalization of the Nutrition Policy which will pave the way for a unified nutrition interventions in the country; the launch of the National Parliamentarians WASH Caucus; the participation of CSO members at the micronutrients conference; and the involvement of the Women led organizations, community leaders (chiefs), people leaving with disabilities in the national budget dialogue. The current Theory of Change and consortium structure remain relevant. The effective leadership and technical support provided by the consortium lead, the effective community mobilization strategies implemented, and the multisectoral integration and synergy with existing Nutrition and WASH projects have been key in achieving the results. The partnership collaboration and coordination with different stakeholders were exemplary, and collaboration with the government ensured government ownership of activities and policy changes. For example, the government role in overseeing the development of the national nutrition policy and the national parliamentarian WASH caucus has pushed for their ownership of the processes. This is a key element to ensure sustainability of the programme's gains.

However, some challenges have been encountered. The focus of this programme is on advocacy and many communities where Right2Grow is operating are used to service delivery programmes. Therefore, raising their awareness on a lobby and advocacy approach took time. Furthermore, the lack of strategy regarding private sector engagement has led to little progress on that level. More efforts will be made to engage the private sector in 2024 and 2025. Good examples and practices in other Right2Grow countries, notably in Bangladesh, have been brought to

the attention of South Sudan team and will be used moving forward. Finally, the current fragile context in combination with donor's fatigue pushes the consortium to put stronger focus on advocating with the government and other donors to embrace humanitarian and development nexus along the humanitarian responses.

Finally, the delay in finalizing the nutrition policy has led to limited actions in implementing this policy. For example, the launch, the development of a policy brief to disseminate widely and the development of multi-sectoral strategies are still to be implemented. Engagement with the government to officially launch this policy will take place in 2024 and will be the starting point for a coordinated multisectoral approach to nutrition.

6. Conclusion and way forward

To conclude, the program has made significant progress especially when it comes to community and government engagement. The nutrition policy is setting a solid ground for multisectoral collaboration when it comes to nutrition specifically. For 2024 the main focus will be on community empowerment and participation to promote the sustainability of the programme. Right2Grow will be ready with communities to advocate for an increased budget for nutrition and WASH this year again. Furthermore, donor's engagement to incorporate resilience-building activities within the humanitarian response, private sector engagement and an integration of climate in the advocacy agenda is also guiding the 2024 plan.

Last note on the level of expenditures: with a burn rate of about 94% the project is on track. As we move towards the end of the programme there is a strong need to apply the principle of adaptive management and allocate funds where most impact can be achieved in the remaining period. The 2024 budget has been done with that guiding principle. The 2025 budget will aim to invest in actions with the highest impact and promoting sustainability.