Nutrition stories of change
West & Central Africa
East & Southern Africa
West & Central Asia
Asia & the Pacific
Latin America & Caribbean

in 2018-2019
Nutrition stories of change
West and Central Africa

In **Benin**, efforts continue to scale up effective agricultural and health practices to improve nutrition and food security. 46 out of 77 Municipalities now have a local nutrition multi-sectoral platform with a Common Results Framework, their efforts are integrated into local development plans which now include a nutrition line and budget.

In **Congo**, the Congolese Parliamentary Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security (APCSAN) was established, and nutrition stakeholders have developed and agreed on a joint Nutrition Action Plan (2019-2021).

In **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, intersectoral nutrition committees have been set up in many provinces where multisectoral coordination is in place and provincial coordination mechanism are now working well.

In **Burkina Faso**, following a significant decrease over the last year in stunting figures (-6 per cent), a visit from the SUN Movement Coordinator helped revitalise high-level commitment for nutrition. The outcomes of the meeting with the President resulted in the political validation of the National Nutrition Policy and efforts to create a ministerial multi-sectoral platform for nutrition chaired by the President, as well as the development of an African Leader for Nutrition Roadmap.

In **Côte d’Ivoire**, officially opened the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) in Abidjan. A partnership between the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government, research centre offers the West and Central Africa region an opportunity to share knowledge and experience in the fight against hunger and malnutrition and to promote and share the region’s good practice.

In **Chad**, the National Nutrition and Food Policy (PNNA) was adopted and the associated Intersectoral Nutrition and Food Action Plan (PAINA). A visit in 2018 by the SUN Movement Coordinator helped rally political support for stakeholders to “work together to strengthen nutrition”.

In **Cameroon**, an action plan was presented for selected areas on how to create SUN Communal Committees. A network of Eastern Province Mayors was established and is committed to SUN’s multi-sectoral approach. A participatory action plan is being developed.

In **Central African Republic**, the implementation of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan 2017-2021, along with the mutual commitment framework and establishment of the permanent secretariat, have been opportunities for coherent implementation measures to be established for a range of departments.

In **Gabon**, nutrition actors, led by the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC), SUN focal point, SUN Nutrition champion and FAO, advocating for capacity strengthening and sensitization of parliamentarians on nutrition. A joint project has started between Gabon and Congo to support their parliamentary alliances.
In Guinea-Bissau, November 18 is now recognised as the national date for nutrition and the country celebrates with free nutrition consultations provided at the national level.

In Ghana, the network of African Leaders for Nutrition initiative welcomed Ghana’s first lady Rebecca Akufo-Addo as a Nutrition Champion. The first lady convened an inter-Ministerial meeting to identify ways to implement national policies to improve diets and launched the Ghana Zero Hunger Strategic Review.

In Guinea, institutional transformation has accelerated in 2019 including a high-level advocacy event which gathered national nutrition stakeholders to launch the new National Nutrition Policy and the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan; a political focal point was appointed to coordinate a new strategic multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial platform which was created under the Prime Minister; and the government committed to dedicating domestic resources to sectoral nutrition interventions.

In Liberia, a SUN Movement and REACH Stakeholders Meeting reinforced the collective mindset for nutrition and built on the momentum from the recent endorsement of the SUN Government Focal Point. It was an opportune moment for stakeholders to collectively define the UNN REACH priorities required to scale up nutrition in the country.

Mauritania produced an investment case and as a result of hard work was selected to become a new GFF recipient this year. Mauritania was one of 9 new countries (bringing the total number of GFF-supported countries to 36) identified based on need and country commitment.

In Mali, the second National Forum for Nutrition saw strong commitment from key stakeholders, to ensure nutrition is a political and financial priority. “This Forum is a key step in the fight against malnutrition...” the SUN Movement Coordinator said while in attendance.

In Nigeria, a micro-nutrient conference: Nourishing Nigeria: Delivering Micronutrients for Equitable and Sustainable Development' was a great success with participation of officials from many of the 36 States. The keynote address was delivered by the SUN Movement Coordinator.

In Senegal, civil society took action to make sure nutrition is a key issue of the presidential election, initiating a debate against the background of the election to encourage candidates to make specific proposals on development and financing of nutrition-sensitive public policies such as health, agriculture, and water and sanitation.

In the Gambia, a National Nutrition Policy (2018-2025) was endorsed by the National Nutrition Council of which the Vice President of The Gambia is Chair. The National Multi-Stakeholder Platform expanded to include institutions such as: The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industries, for the business community; the University of The Gambia; the Association of Health Journalists and The Association of NGOs.

In Togo, a national strategic multi-sectoral nutrition plan has been finalised, including all nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions conducted by nutrition partners in the country.
Scaling up Nutrition in West and Central Africa

Nutrition situation
- Under five stunting (%)
- Low birthweight (%)
- 0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding (%)
- Under five wasting (%)
- Under five overweight (%)
- Women Anaemia 15-49 years (%)

Progress towards the SUN Movement strategic objectives (total weighted, as reported in 2019)
- 0 - 25% weighted progress
- 26 - 50% weighted progress
- 51 - 75% weighted progress
- 76 - 100% weighted progress
- Data not available
Nutrition stories of change

East and Southern Africa

**Burundi** received USD 1 million (from Government of Japan) to prevent chronic malnutrition and support vulnerable families with pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under two years in the northern province of Kirundo.

In **Botswana**, a new SUN Government Focal Point was appointed and the meetings of the Nutrition Technical Committee resumed and was quickly followed with delivery of a workshop on nutrition mainstreaming which included farmers and community leaders. A retreat was held and the development of SUN networks is now underway. Botswana is now also in process to become a Compact 2025 country.

In **Comoros**, the Prime Minister endorsed the decision to conduct a sweeping nutrition mapping exercise to compile data on intervention coverage across stakeholders. The mapping will enable local nutrition authorities to spearhead discussions and scale-up multi-sectoral nutrition action.

In **Ethiopia**, the National Nutrition Program II (NNP II) and Seqota Declaration have enabled widespread implementation of nutrition sensitive and specific interventions. The Seqota Declaration (2015) outlines the Government’s commitment to end stunting for children under two years through delivery of high impact nutrition interventions and behaviour change communications. As a high-level commitment of the Government of Ethiopia to end stunting under two years by 2030, the President H.E. Sahle Work Zewde hosted a high-level side event during the 74th session of the UN General Assembly to showcase progress.

In **Eswatini**, is one of only three SUN countries (the other two are Ghana and Kenya) “on track” for all 3 child growth World Health Assembly targets (stunting, wasting and overweight).

**Lesotho** is “reducing hunger and malnutrition” by working across sectors and stakeholders from national to community level. The validation of the national Food and recent Nutrition Strategy and Costed Action Plan (2019-2023) has brought renewed energy to nutrition. The strategy and its corresponding action plan were elaborated through an extensive consultative process, led by the country’s Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office with close support from UNN-REACH.

In **Madagascar**, all SUN stakeholder networks were consolidated, and a costed Implementation Plan and Evaluation and Monitoring Plan were finalised, which completes the 3rd National Plan for Nutrition Action (PNAN III).

In **Malawi**, the 2018-22 Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan was launched by the First Lady, Madam Gertrude Mutharika, who described it as a critical ingredient for national development, through a coordinated and multi-sectoral approach. The National Government committed to increase domestic resource allocation to nutrition to support nutrition policy implementation.
In Kenya, the Government has recognised nutrition and food security as a national issue and identified it as one of the government’s top four priorities. A multi-sectoral Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP) has been developed for 2019-2022.

In Somalia, two major milestones were achieved with the launch of the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Strategy and endorsement of a 4-year Food Fortification Plan. Micronutrient deficiencies remain a public health problem and require coordinated, multi-year approaches.

In South Sudan steps were taken towards a Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan. The Ministry of Health, with WFP and Save the Children on behalf of the UN Network and Civil Society Alliance, organised a SUN advocacy workshop which led to agreement of strategic priorities.

In Sudan, the first national conference on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) was held in Khartoum. National nutrition committee and subcommittees have been activated and workshops on home fortification have been run. The first national micronutrient survey was conducted and the results will be used as baseline indicators for further work.

In Tanzania, nutrition issues have been incorporated into the Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP II) and Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN II) to promote nutrition sensitive actions.

In Mozambique, the SUN Business Network (SBNMoz) gathered 200 participants at its 3rd annual conference to discuss “Food Systems as a Means of Promoting Nutrition”, at which Graça Machel, President of FDC declared that “it’s time to act. We all have to roll up our sleeves, get out of our offices and go to the field and give our contribution with concrete actions.”

In Namibia, the Food Security and Nutrition Council (FSNC), chaired by the Prime Minister is ensuring that nutrition is a national priority and that food and nutrition programming is coordinated. The Namibia Alliance for Improved Nutrition (NAFIN) continues its role in convening stakeholders which are co-chaired by the former prime minister and the deputy minister in the Prime Minister’s office. A Zero Hunger Road Map is being coordinated by the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare.

In Zambia, the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), with GAIN, conducted an assessment of the monitoring system for fortified foods to strengthen enforcement. Micronutrient supplementation for under-five children showed significant performance against identified targets. High-impact nutrition sensitive interventions are also being incorporated in Government plans including the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP).

In South Sudan, the Office of the Prime Minister has held one-on-one engagements with all participating sectors to map and identify emerging issues affecting nutrition. The Government has reviewed the status of priority interventions for nutrition in the Sector Development Plans and 15 districts were supported to develop and review their Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plans.

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In Kyrgyzstan, a high-level Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum, including many stakeholders was chaired by the First Vice-Prime Minister. An inter-sectional working group, including the SUN Networks was created as part of the new Food Security and Nutrition programme.

In Tajikistan, the SUN Multi-Stakeholder Platform expanded to include the Chamber of Industry and Trade, the Committee for Religious Affairs, and civil society organisations and the Multi-Sectoral Coordination Council supported the development of a national multi-sectoral nutrition plan.

In Yemen, despite ongoing conflict, the SUN secretariat maintains links between stakeholders. Progress was made to create the humanitarian development nexus (HDN) within the MSP to link urgent nutrition-specific action with nutrition resilience building programmes.
Scaling up Nutrition
in West and Central Asia

Nutrition situation
- Under five stunting (%)
- Low birthweight (%)
- Under five wasting (%)
- Under five overweight (%)
- 0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding (%)
- Women Anaemia 15-49 years (%)

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In **Afghanistan**, the National Nutrition Strategy (2019 - 2023) was launched. Strong political commitment for the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (AFSeN-A) is driving new and existing multi-stakeholder platforms to better link around nutritional priorities.

In **Bangladesh**, National Nutrition Week celebrations were pivotal in bringing together stakeholders at all levels. In-country coordination has improved as a result of the National Nutrition Council’s increased role and with the establishment of decentralised multi-sectoral nutrition committees at district and sub-district level. Nutrition focal points were identified in 22 nutrition relevant ministries and agencies and regular meetings are now held.

In **Cambodia**, the overall policy setting is strong and key policies and strategies are in place including the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-23 which will be launched later in the year and the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition. SUN Networks have played an important role in ensuring that key stakeholders meet regularly to share information and work on policy formulation and strategic processes together.

In **Indonesia**, health workers are helping ensure that women have a healthy pregnancy, free from anaemia. The National Strategy on Acceleration of Stunting Prevention 2018-2024, was launched by the Vice-President, engaging 23-line ministries at the national level.

In **Lao PDR** the National Nutrition Forum, held in December 2018, brought together over 200 multi-sectoral representatives from national and sub-national levels. The SUN Business Network was established and a 5-year strategic plan was developed and is awaiting approval from the Ministry of Health. There are 106 (of 148) districts that have established district nutrition committees (this has increased from 40 last year).

In **Myanmar**, the first costed Multi-sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition 2018 - 2023 (MS-NPAN) is being finalised and endorsed. The MS-NPAN forms the bedrock of Myanmar’s collective efforts to tackle malnutrition and the attendance of Ministers and Chief Ministers at the MS-NPAN launch shows strong government commitment. Nutrition Promotion Month was celebrated with the theme “Invest in Nutrition: Join Hands in Building the Nation”. 
In **Nepal**, the 15th National Development Plan (2019/20) has prioritised the national Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan and the The Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2018 has been promulgated.

In **Pakistan**, new Dietary Guidelines for Better Nutrition were launched by the Ministry of Planning and Development and Reform in collaboration with FAO. These comprehensive dietary guidelines encourage the adoption of healthy eating practices.

In **Papua New Guinea**, stakeholders completed SUN Movement Joint Assessment for the first time, it proved to be a moment to showcase achievements in the Country’s Nutrition commitments. In October 2019, the Nutrition Policy and the Strategic Action Plan were launched by the Prime Minister with Parliament in attendance recognising the importance of working across sectors to address nutrition.

In **Sri Lanka**, the SUN Business Network was launched, with a kick off meeting in Colombo. The meeting was attended by over 50 participants, with 26 individuals representing 20 prominent private sector companies that signed up as members of the network. In Sri Lanka, the Multi-Sector Action Plan for Nutrition (MSAPN) 2018-2025 was approved. It will focus on 6 areas based on WHA targets. A complimentary national advocacy and communication strategy was launched.

In **Philippines**, since the launch of the Philippines Plan of Action for Nutrition 2017-22 (PPAN) in May 2017 Local Government Units have been taking concrete nutrition action, to reach the plan’s main objective: scaling up nutrition nationally within six years.

In **Viet Nam**, a National Plan of Action for Nutrition was rolled out nationally spurring implementation of sub-national plans of action. Nutrition and Development Week was celebrated across the country highlighting nutrition for mothers and for children. A campaign was also launched to strengthen community awareness on good nutrition, on what a healthy and balanced diet looks like and to ensure food hygiene safety.
Scaling up Nutrition in South, South East Asia and the Pacific

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- Under five stunting (%)
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- Women Anaemia 15-49 years (%)

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*Source: National Nutrition Survey Pakistan 2018
Celebrating progress in 2019
In Costa Rica, the Legislative Assembly launched the Parliamentary Front against Hunger and Malnutrition (2018-22) strategic plan to lead and impact dialogue, debate and political advocacy to reduce all forms of malnutrition.

In El Salvador, the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy for 2018-2028 was launched. It will provide comprehensive support for all, with a focus on vulnerable groups and those affected by emergencies and will strengthen the legal and institutional framework to facilitate implementation and sustainability at the national and local levels. Ana Josefa Blanco Noyola, a 2017 SUN Nutrition Champion, was recognised by the Banco Industrial de El Salvador and its ongoing Civic Programme for her work helping vulnerable sections of society.

In Guatemala, the government incorporated a gender perspective into its national programmes to support family farming (PAFFEC) and fight malnutrition (ENPDC), with the Guatemalan experience on this issue presented at a side event to the Committee on World Food Security.

In Haiti, the Food Security and Nutrition programme was launched (with the EU) to combat nutrition. This includes the Multisectoral Food Security and Nutrition Programme and the Pro-Resilience Programme.


In Peru, a Multi-sectoral strategy to combat child anaemia was launched in July 2018, led by the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion. The strategy proposes a multi-sectoral and intergovernmental approach, including fifteen ministries, regional and local governments prioritising those territories with highest prevalence of anemia in the country.
Scaling up Nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean

Nutrition situation
- Under five stunting (%)
- Low birthweight (%)
- Under five wasting (%)
- Under five overweight (%)
- 0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding (%)
- Women Anaemia 15-49 years (%)

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THE SCALING UP NUTRITION (SUN) MOVEMENT
The Republic of Mali joined the SUN Movement in 2011. In this interview, Dr. Djibril Bagayoko, Head of the Nutrition Coordination Cell, Ministry of Health (MoH) and SUN focal point in Mali reflects on progress made and challenges remaining.

"Joining the SUN Movement has been very important for Mali. It has motivated the government to develop a multi-sector nutrition policy and action plans with cost and performance indicators and institutional responsibility for each sector. The Coordination Cell fills an important gap in terms of multi-sector coordination of nutrition actors and interventions. The new Coordination Cell is under the Prime Minister’s authority but hosted in the Ministry of Health, making it easier to strengthen the multi-sector nutrition agenda in the country.

The main lesson learned from running the unit is that it needs three types of leadership: political leadership, institutional leadership and staff leadership. The most important thing to change is data availability. Implementing functional monitoring systems would allow us to [obtain] data from the grassroots level – and this will allow for better coordination and [better] programme management to eventually change the nutrition situation in Mali.

The SUN movement has supported experience-sharing through participation in various meetings. At the country level, SUN stakeholders including donors and UN agencies have met with Mali’s Secretary General to advocate for putting nutrition at a higher institutional level."

The Republic of Madagascar joined the SUN Movement in February, 2012. In this interview, Faniry Hantarinivo, Manager of the Advocacy Department at Action Against Hunger, and the National Vice-President of the Madagascar SUN Civil Society Platform, HINA, reflects on how the SUN Movement plays a powerful role in bringing unlikely stakeholders together.

"HINA, Madagascar’s civil society platform for the SUN Movement works to “channel the voice of civil society through advocacy activities with direct or indirect impacts on nutrition; to coordinate and support action on nutrition; to facilitate the use of reliable, up-to-date information on nutrition through research; and develop multi-level, multi-sectoral partnerships.

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35 Interview conducted by Ambarka Youssoufane, ENN. Full interview can be [viewed here](#).
For the development of the new multi-sectoral National Nutrition Action Plan, Hina conducted an analysis of phase 2 of the government’s plan, to identify the gaps and bottlenecks that prevented effective implementation, particularly in terms of integration of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition sectors, and of multi-sectoral coordination. The three main focus areas proposed are: the core package of specific interventions, integration of WASH, and strengthening of coordination and governance. During the process, we have communicated our views to the drafting committee. This has taken nearly a year and we have had to attend all the meetings and workshops to ensure these points are incorporated. We finally succeeded in securing a whole section on WASH in the National Nutrition Action Plan.

The SUN Movement allows us to “take advantage of the five major platforms including private sector, researchers, funders/donors, government and civil society. We hold regular meetings to address this advocacy work together. With respect to civil society, the SUN Movement has [helped] to build recognition of its role, enabling it to challenge and participate in the various forums for reflection, negotiation and discussion. We hope this will continue under the new government.”

The Republic of Kenya joined the SUN Movement in August, 2012. In this interview, Lucy Murage, the Regional Advisor for Adolescents’ and Womens’ Health and Nutrition at Nutrition International reflects on the value that a multi-stakeholder approach brings to her work.

“Kenya has adopted a multi-stakeholder approach to nutrition. This has been made possible by the SUN Movement. There are several advantages of being a member of the SUN Movement. First, it gives nutrition more weight, so to speak. Since the Focal Point sits within the government; it places the responsibility of delivering health and nutrition within the government. Then, having SUN processes has also ensured partners are better coordinated. It helped the country come up with a multi-stakeholder action plan where all areas are reflected.

Kenya is making progress towards meeting World Health Assembly targets: the country’s breastfeeding rate is increasing, there is some reduction in stunting and we are working towards reducing anemia levels in adolescent girls and women of reproductive age. This wouldn’t have been possible without the kind of coordination that the SUN Movement brings. Coordination brings about efficiency, ensures that resources are distributed and used in efficient ways and that donors know where to focus their attention.”

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36 Interview conducted by SUN Movement Secretariat. Full interview can be viewed here.
37 Interview conducted by SUN Movement Secretariat. Full interview can be viewed here.
The **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** joined the SUN Movement in September 2017. In this interview, Dr. Shams, who coordinates the technical secretariat for the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda reflects on how the SUN Movement plays a role in bridging the Humanitarian Development Nexus.

(In Afghanistan) “SUN is an added value to bridge the Humanitarian Development Nexus (HDN), as it provides the enabling environment, gives political support and an opportunity for operational and programmatic issues to be discussed by different donors, stakeholders, and implementing partners. They are getting together; they are discussing humanitarian and development aspects of food security and nutrition. They are bringing their expertise and joint actions to improve food security and nutrition in Afghanistan.”[38]

The **Kingdom of Lesotho** joined the SUN Movement in 2014. In this interview, Mr Tiisetso Elias, SUN Focal Point outlines some of the challenges the country faces and highlights the role of the SUN Movement in championing change.

“Lesotho is facing a problem of malnutrition that is often referred to as the ‘triple burden’ of malnutrition. The most important nutrition problem is stunting, but we do see an increase in the incidence of overweight, and we also have a relatively high rate of acute malnutrition.

We are proud to have Government structures that were in place even before we joined the SUN Movement. We have always had a very diverse and multi-level structure, similar to the structure recommended by the SUN Movement approach. The challenge we have is to ensure they are functional on the ground: historically, nutrition has never received a high share of the government budget, and there is a duplication of efforts among different Ministries.

Nonetheless, we have seen some successes in addressing malnutrition, particularly stunting.

I have personally noticed a much stronger interest from different stakeholders in fighting nutrition, and more awareness of the role they can play in the sector. We also need a new approach to nutrition, a change of mindset from treatment to prevention...We have learned that nutrition is not just a matter of health and concerns all sectors, including finance.”[39]

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38 Interview conducted by SUN Movement Secretariat. Full interview can be [viewed here.](#)
39 Complete interview can be [viewed here.](#)
The Federal Republic of Somalia joined the SUN Movement in 2014. In this article Dr Mohamed Abdi Farah, Special Adviser on Health and National Nutrition Coordinator and SUN Movement Focal Point, identifies the challenges of establishing a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition against a backdrop of ongoing security, development and humanitarian challenges.

[Somalia] “has been in a state of humanitarian crisis since the 1990s when war broke out and is one of the most complex and long-standing emergencies in the world. It is characterised by sustained high rates of mortality, child malnutrition, severe basic service shortfalls and large-scale population movement. The prevalence of acute malnutrition in children under five years old (CU5) is over 15 per cent, which is above the emergency threshold.

Somalia joined the SUN Movement in 2014. At that time, it had developed a National Nutrition Strategy, Micronutrient Strategy and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Strategy. It was decided that a costed plan of action for nutrition – to act as a CRF – was needed as an over-arching strategic document to improve the nutritional status of the population through the strengthening and building of multi-sector and integrated systems (workforce, supplies, finance and governance) and by bringing multi-disciplinary ideas into actionable programmes.

Multi-sector and multi-stakeholder collaborations have their share of challenges. One of these is the lack of a common understanding on nutrition, which was addressed to some extent by developing consensus among participants by conveying key nutrition information while at the same time introducing the idea of integrating nutrition concerns into their sectoral systems.

Key among the lessons learned during the process was recognising that, although the importance and concept of a CRF has existed for some time, it had not been converted into a standard approach and enshrined in the national system of nutrition coordination. Political commitment from the Office of the Prime Minister and clarity of objectives has provided the process of developing the CRF with much-needed support from various sectors.”

40 Article originally written by Dr Mohamed Abdi Farah, Mohamed Abdi Hasan and Job Gichuki and published by ENN. Full interview can be viewed here.