IS IT TIME TO CELEBRATE YET? COUNTRIES ALLOCATE 328% MORE DOMESTIC FUNDS FOR FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION (FSN) AND WASH SINCE RIGHT2GROW INCEPTION

Final Budget Policy Brief of the Right2Grow Consortium

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Introduction

Right2Grow made a conscious decision to enrich its theory of change by integrating financial matters into its policy advocacy. This is why the budget monitoring and expenditure tracking (BMET) methodology was adopted as one of the tools to be used to achieve Right2Grow strategic objectives. The BMET's main objective is to improve economic governance, transparency and accountability, by ensuring that governments efficiently allocate and spend on key policy priorities for good health, welfare and livelihoods of citizens, especially children and women. It has special interest in showing how much monetary value or resource envelope is attached to policy priorities, and how such envelope is used to achieve expected outcomes.

What our analyses show

Efforts in the Right2Grow countries have shown that countries have made policy commitments to fighting hunger and malnutrition through different government sectors. Resources are allocated for food security and nutrition mainly through the ministries of agriculture, fisheries, livestock and health. WASH related resources are allocated through ministries of water, irrigation, and natural resources. To note, the Bangladesh budget figures were based only on nutrition and WASH allocations in 40 UPs that participated in this project, while the other countries contained figures from their national budgets.

Calculating annual budgets allocated in all six Right2Grow countries between 2021/22 (Right2Grow kick-off) and 2025/26 (Right2Grow closure), the countries allocated a combined total of €6,9 billion, excluding some years that had not been finalised or audited for the accuracy of the figures. Since the Right2Grow's inception in the countries, the budget for FSN and WASH interventions has grown, which is a commendable outcome of combined efforts of Right2Grow members and their government partners. Our baseline for the analysis was 2021, since Right2Grow started when these figures were already set, and the endline is 2025, with some countries ending in 2024 since the 2025 budgets had not been published during this analysis. In 2021, the combined allocations for the six countries amounted to €766,2 million, which grew massively by 328% to €3,3 billion by 2025 (which is an underestimate due to the missing budgets) after the Right2Grow intervention. See Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of food security, nutrition (FSN) and WASH related budget allocations during the Right2Grow years in the countries.

	Years captured	Baseline budgets (2021) formulated in 2020/21 before Right2Grow	Latest annual budgets (2025) captured	Food security, nutrition and WASH related allocations between 2021/22 and 2025/26	Food security, nutrition and WASH related allocations between 2021/22 and 2025/26 - in local currency
Bangladesh: 40 UPs only	2021/22 - 2025/26	€ 287 548	€ 313 674	€ 1 435 295	BDT 169 138 662
Burkina Faso - national	2021/22 - 2024/25	€ 25 761 811	€ 52 457 725	€ 166 754 132	105 890 000 000 CFA
Ethiopia - national	2021/22 - 2023/24	€ 99 545 457	€ 268 536 524	€ 492 431 840	BR 492 431 840
Mali - national	2021/22 - 2024/25	€ 15 301 867	€ 8 543 336	€ 39 131 790	25 062 660 200 CFA
South Sudan - national	2021/22 - 2024/25	€ 71 900 931	€ 2 249 36 070	€ 3 153 185 880	SSP 441 778 432 377
Uganda - national	2021/22 - 2025/26	€ 553 428 502	€ 703 492 229	€ 3 096 450 092	UGX 12 652 010 000 000
Totals		**€ 766 226 116**	**€ 3 282 779 558**	**€ 6 949 389 029**	

Total allocations for FSN and WASH that R2G contributed to, from 2021 to 2025	€ 6 183 162 913 excluding 2021 baseline

Source: Right2Grow country briefs and BMET results presentations, converted to Euros using annual average exchange rates for 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Exchange rates sourced from London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) Financial Markets Infrastructure and Data.

It is important to note that these figures were obtained from governments' own approved budget statements and were verified through internal reviews by government officials and through validation meetings with stakeholders. As Right2Grow, we cannot claim that these allocations were due to us, but we can celebrate that our advocacy and watchdog role ensured these allocations were secured and increased in some instances. As Peter Ferdinand Drucker once wrote in his management consulting books, "*what gets measured gets managed*", and this is now famously re-written as "*what gets measured gets done*", we are confident that our tracking and advocacy on food security, nutrition and WASH budgets secured these allocations, otherwise they could be shifted to other important policy priorities.

Can we claim this success?

We know that these budgets impacted on children's lives, though the outcomes cannot be quantified, as there were no resources available to conduct government programme evaluations or impact analyses. However, these analyses are important to ensure that funds are translated to actual services, and intended consumers do received the goods and services purchased with these public funds. Future efforts require a focused look at the outcomes of spending, measuring value for money, by conducting cost-benefit and cost effectiveness analyses.

What worked

Country team have clear examples of improved service linkages, strengthened local government engagement in some districts, measurable improvement in targeted indicators from BMET activity, and successful community mobilisation tactics.

Common challenges

Partners identified insufficient documentation as one of the challenges in the programme. This emanated from the fact that so many stories of significance are being told, but there is limited documentation talking to them. This called for increased M&E resources to ensure organisations have sufficient capacity to capture their performance and impact. Sustainability risks were also identified given the limited local level resources to sustain the results. The BMET teams recommended that sustainability planning and fundraising should be embedded in the project from the start.

What the future holds

The BMET lead organisations in all six countries have committed themselves to continue fundraising to sustain their BMET efforts for FSN and WASH. CEGAA, BMET organisations and country leads saw it necessary to take the BMET agenda to the future by organising a global BMET capitalisation and strategic planning workshop in South Africa (15 – 20 October 2025). The workshop purpose was to consolidate and validate BMET results across partner countries, identify strategic advocacy issues per country for future programming, and to co-construct a fundraising strategy to sustain BMET results at global and country levels.

This is the commitment. This is not the end of Right2Grow.

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