

Costed Woreda-Based Plan

AN INNOVATION OF THE SEQOTA DECLARATION,
ETHIOPIA'S COMMITMENT TO END STUNTING

9

Seqota Declaration
implementing sectors

538

Million Dollars – the total
investment cost required for
the implementation of the
Seqota Declaration Innovation
Phase

40

Seqota Declaration
operational woredas

THE PROBLEM

The Government of Ethiopia recognizes that investing in nutrition is critical for attaining its vision of becoming a lower middle-income country by 2025. The Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study commissioned by the government in 2013 showed that the annual costs associated with child undernutrition in Ethiopia are equivalent to 16.5% of its GDP. Eliminating stunting in Ethiopia is therefore a crucial underpinning to the country's growth and transformation agenda. The Seqota Declaration has been endorsed and embedded into the National Growth and Transformation Plan, making it among Ethiopia's highest level commitments.

To deliver on this commitment, the government must double the rate of stunting reduction nationally and maintain an even higher reduction rate in high-burden areas. This ambitious goal requires a robust multisectoral response and a strategic geographic focus. The initial geographic focus covers woredas (districts) with the highest stunting rates in the country along the Tekeze river basin, with a population of 4 million and a catchment area of 64,000 sq. km. Stunting rates are as high as 60-80% in this region.

THE SOLUTION

To operationalize a truly multisectoral response, a costed woreda-based multisectoral nutrition investment plan was developed as an innovation of the Seqota Declaration to address the limited horizontal intersectoral coordination mechanisms at woreda level and insufficient funding for priority nutrition interventions.

The Seqota Declaration adapted the "Three Ones" principles of One Goal, One Plan and One Monitoring and Evaluation System in the development of this costed woreda-based multisectoral nutrition investment plan. Each plan consolidated the nutrition specific and nutrition smart activities and the resources allocated by government ministries and development partners for their implementation towards the common goal of promoting mutual accountability and ensuring results. The costed plans are intended to serve as means of promoting increased awareness and ownership at woreda level of the contribution to nutrition by government sectors and development partners. This detailed, coordinated plan is the first of its kind in Ethiopia.

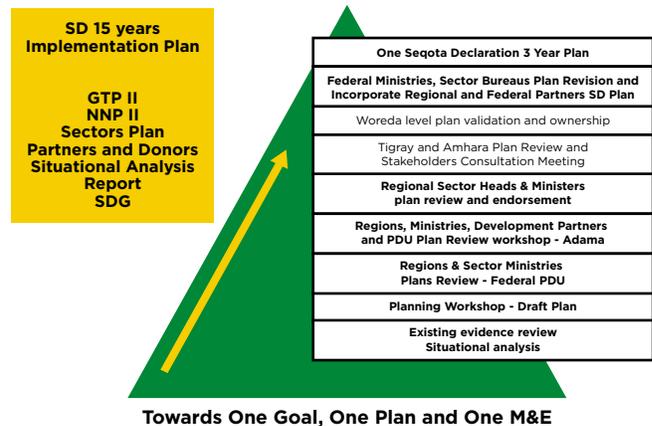
In addition, the costed woreda-based multisectoral nutrition investment plan highlights the funding gap for specific nutrition interventions in geographic areas that have the highest burden of stunting.

SEQOTA DECLARATION WOREDA BASED COSTED PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for developing the woreda-based multisectoral nutrition investment plans included the following steps:

- Situational analysis of each woreda
- Planning workshops at woreda and zonal level
- Verification of the woreda and zonal level plans by the regional sectors
- Consultative workshop among the regional sectors and development partners to ensure alignment at all levels
- Federal level plan validation and alignment with federal sectors' and development partners' plans

The image below represents the planning process utilized during the Innovation Phase of the Seqota Declaration.



KEY FEATURES OF THE WOREDA-BASED COSTED MULTISECTORAL PLAN

- Developed using the "Three Ones" principles of One Goal, One Plan and One Monitoring and Evaluation System
- Consists of costed federal ministries' plans, regional bureaus' plans and partners' plans disaggregated by woreda
- Adopts a bottom-up, participatory approach and maps the contribution of all stakeholders (i.e. government, development partners, and the community)

COST OF INNOVATION PHASE INVESTMENT PLAN

The three-year Seqota Declaration Innovation Phase investment plan has been costed at \$538,718,444, out of which \$260,201,008, representing 48.3% of the total cost, has so far been mobilized from commitments secured from the federal and regional governments, development partners and community contributions. This leaves a funding gap of \$278,517,436, representing 51.7% of the total cost.

INCREASED INVESTMENT IN SEQOTA DECLARATION

A high-level meeting convened by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen in Addis Ababa on 30th January 2019 has sparked new political commitment in support of the Seqota Declaration. Findings from the baseline study conducted by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute with technical support from Johns Hopkins University and the implementation update presented by the Program Delivery Unit provoked questions on how to improve the program and challenged the federal ministers into action. This informed the decision to undertake an inter-ministerial field visit to Seqota to confirm that the developing plan aligned with the contextual realities and optimized existing implementation platforms.

The field visit generated momentum, increased visibility of the Seqota Declaration, fostered collaborative team spirit, and ignited a truly multisectoral action resulting in an endorsed set of priorities that will be implemented and tracked over the next two years. The federal ministers have now started to meet fortnightly and are rallying behind a multisectoral woreda transformation agenda by leveraging the relative strength of each sector and developing harmonized criteria for model households, kebeles (neighborhoods), and woredas (districts).

This increased political backing has led to the following results:

- Allocation of \$16 million by the Federal Government to execute the Seqota Declaration priority interventions designed to reach over 1.4 million people. This amount will be matched on a 1:1 basis by the two regional governments and complemented by commitments secured from development partners.
- A financing request for the Seqota Declaration Accelerated Stunting Reuction Project (ASReP) has been submitted to the African Development Bank and the project preparation mission will be undertaken from 23rd September to 4th October 2019.
- Project proposals have been submitted to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, and the Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund (EDTF).
- Discussions are ongoing with UNICEF and the World Bank to support the scaling up of the Unified Nutrition Information System for Ethiopia (UNISE) to cover all 40 Seqota Declaration woredas.
- Max Foundation and Plan International are developing an innovative integrated WASH and nutrition program called 'Healthy Village' to reduce stunting and water and faecal-born diseases.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has committed resources to launch satellite-based, solar-powered Yazmi Technology Solutions in support of the Seqota Declaration.
- Big Win Philanthropy has confirmed a second phase of strategic technical assistance in support of the Seqota Declaration.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- Alive and Thrive
- Concern Worldwide
- Danish Aid Church
- Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI)
- Ethiopian School Meal Initiative
- FHI 360
- Food for the Hungry (FH) Ethiopia
- GIZ Ethiopia
- Nutrition International
- Relief Society of Tigray (REST)
- Save the Children (GtN and INSPIRE Projects)
- Tigray Development Association (TDA)
- Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA)
- USAID Transform: Primary Health Care
- World Vision Ethiopia

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

- Center for Implementation Efficiency (C4ie)
- CultivAid Israel
- IDinsight
- NTD Advocacy, Learning and Action (NALA)
- Nitsuh Ethiopia
- ThinkPlace
- Sightsavers

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

- Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH/IFPRI)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Big Win Philanthropy
- Department for International Development (DFID) UK
- European Union (EU)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Irish Aid
- Max Foundation
- Plan Ethiopia
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Unilever
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Bank

Sisay Sinamo (MD, MPH, PhD)
Senior Program Manager, Seqota Declaration,
Federal Program Delivery Unit
Ministry of Health, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251 911 510 988
Email: seniorprogrammanagerfpdu@gmail.com

