

# Nepal's Commitment for Nutrition for Growth (N4G)

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Despite the progress that Nepal has made in improving the nutritional status of the population in the last few decades, the prevalence of all forms of malnutrition is still high. Nepal has implemented a multi-sectoral nutrition plan along with a recently developed national nutrition strategy and a five-years costed action plan to implement comprehensive integrated nutrition interventions across 753 municipalities of the country.

The Constitution of Nepal has enshrined rights to food and rights to free basic health services including nutrition services. The Government of Nepal commits to strengthening the health, food and resilience system and providing better nutrition specific/sensitive services that focus on a lifecycle approach. By 2030, Nepal also commits to reduce stunting from 32 percent (2019) to 15 percent, wasting from 12 percent (in 2019) to 4 percent, reduce anaemia in women of reproductive age from 41 percent (in 2016) to 10 percent towards meeting national, World Health Assembly (WHA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets for nutrition. This will be achieved by strengthening mechanisms for improved nutrition governance and accountability, increasing political commitment, creating an enabling policy environment and ensuring adequate resources for nutrition. In addition, nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive policies, legislation, strategies, and plans will be implemented effectively and systems, institutions and human resource capacity will be enhanced for scaling up the integrated nutrition programs nationwide. Further, innovative nutrition and food security programs will be implemented targeting women, adolescents, children, ultra-poor and vulnerable households. The Government of Nepal will invest approximately NPR 97,032 million for nutrition to achieve the country's nutrition commitments for the period of 2022 to 2030.

The summary of the country's N4G commitments in six commitment types across five different themes namely Health, Food, Resilience, Data and Financing is as follows:

## 1. Political and Governance Commitment

Primary signatory entity:	National Planning Commission
Additional Signatory entities	Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Health and Population; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development; Ministry of Industries Commerce and Supplies; Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; Ministry of Education Science and Technology; Ministry of Water Supply; Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
Goal	Strengthen mechanism for improved nutrition governance and accountability



<b>Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage political leaders and elected representatives in nutrition platforms</li> <li>Ensure functioning of nutrition platforms for effective implementation of nutrition-related acts, policies, strategies and plans</li> <li>Promote and engage nutrition champions from the government, academia, civil society, private sectors and youth to advocate nutrition agenda</li> <li>Ensure adequate annual resource allocation to meet SDG nutrition targets</li> </ul>
<b>Setting</b>	Federal and provincial Governments, and 753 municipalities
<b>Target Population</b>	Children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, adults, and elderly people
<b>Primary Indicators</b> (Including baseline and 2030 targets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrition Governance Index (NGI) (Understanding nutrition and related responsibilities; collaboration; financial resources; nutrition leadership, capacity, and support) (Baseline: NA, Target: 70 percent)</li> </ul>
<b>Secondary Indicator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of nutrition platforms represented by elected representatives (Baseline: 589 (November 2021) Target:753)</li> <li># of fully functional nutrition and food security platforms (Baseline: 270 (2020) Target: 762)</li> <li># of nutrition champions engaged from the government, academia, civil society, private sector and youth (Baseline: NA, Target: 100)</li> <li>Inclusion of nutrition commitment in the local election manifestos of political parties (Baseline: NA, Targets: at least 4)</li> </ul>
<b>How Progress Assessed</b>	Measures of variables of Nutrition Governance Index such as understanding nutrition and related responsibilities; collaboration; financial resources; nutrition leadership, capacity, and support
<b>Total Cost</b>	Approximately NPR 796.24 million for 9 years (calculated based on MSNP II estimation for governance, estimated annual increment by 5 percent)
<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	Domestic funds and supports from development partners and civil societies
<b>Commitment Period</b>	2022 to 2030




## FORMULATING THE FULL COMMITMENT AS WILL BE RECORDED IN THE COMPACT

The Government of Nepal commits to strengthening mechanisms for improved nutrition governance and accountability for delivering equitable nutrition services to meet national, WHA and SDG nutrition targets on all forms of malnutrition, within the next nine years (from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2030). This will be achieved by engaging high-level leadership; ensuring functionality of nutrition platforms for effective implementation of nutrition related acts, policies, strategies, plans and programs; and increasing resources for nutrition. Progress will be assessed by measuring political commitment, acknowledgement of the problem, the existence of relevant policies, and resource mobilization for nutrition. Approximately NPR.796.24 million has been estimated for 9 years by the Government of Nepal to cover associated costs and will be partially supported by donors, private sectors, development partners and civil societies.

## 2. Policy Commitment

<b>Primary signatory entity:</b>	National Planning Commission
<b>Additional Signatory entities</b>	Ministry of Health and Population; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development; Ministry of Industries Commerce and Supplies; Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Water Supply; Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
<b>Goal</b>	Improve policy environment for equitable and effective delivery of nutrition services
<b>Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Develop an evidence-based gender responsive, resilient and inclusive Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan- III (MSNP-III) (2023-2027)</li><li>● Implement the 5-Year action Plan for Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan- III and National Nutrition Strategy, 2020 across the 753 municipalities</li><li>● Amend Mother's Milk Substitute (Control of Sale and Distribution) Act and Regulation, and implement them effectively</li><li>● Advocate to enact legislation to provide at least 24 weeks of maternity leave with 100 percent salary</li><li>● Develop quality of care standards for nutrition services in a way to ensure effective integration of nutrition within universal health coverage</li><li>● Develop and implement national strategic road map to reduce intake of salt and sugar</li><li>● Develop fiscal policies to encourage private sectors for production of healthy foods and for the promotion of healthy foods consumption</li><li>● Develop a national nutrition profile model to implement the restrictions on marketing of unhealthy foods to children and implement labeling regulations</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop regulation for reformulation of food products and test nutrition labeling system for processed foods and beverages</li> <li>• Develop agriculture food product labeling and certification standard</li> <li>• Review and enact food based dietary guideline and develop Nepal specific Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA)</li> <li>• Develop a comprehensive multi-sectoral food system action plan to transform the food system to contribute for increased availability and access of healthy, safe and nutritious diets to all</li> <li>• Review and enact National Drinking Water Quality Standard, 2005 and its implementation Guideline.</li> <li>• Develop a National Roadmap for Hand Hygiene (2022 to 2030)</li> </ul>
<b>Setting</b>	Federal and provincial Governments, and 753 municipalities
<b>Target Population</b>	Children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, adults, and elderly people
<b>Primary Indicators</b> (Including baseline and 2030 targets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan- III developed and endorsed by December 2022 (Baseline: NA; Target: 1)</li> <li>• Mother's Milk Substitute (Control of Sale and Distribution) Act endorsed by Parliament by 2022 (Baseline: NA; Target: 1)</li> <li>• Legislation on maternity leave amended and endorsed (Baseline: NA; Target: 1)</li> <li>• Multi Sector Nutrition program scaled up in 753 municipalities with universal coverage by the end of 2022 (baseline: 451 municipalities (2020); Target: 753 municipalities)</li> <li>• National strategic road map developed to reduce intake of salt and sugar intake (Baseline:0; Target:1)</li> <li>• Product labeling and certification system implemented (baseline: NA, Target:1)</li> <li>• National standard for food fortification (Baseline: NA; Target: 1)</li> <li>• Fiscal policies in place to encourage private sector for production of healthy foods and for the promotion of healthy food consumption</li> <li>• Food Based Dietary Guideline and RDA developed and implemented (Baseline: NA; Target: 1)</li> <li>• Comprehensive multi-sectoral food system action plan developed</li> <li>• National nutrition profile developed</li> </ul>
<b>How Progress Assessed</b>	Review of sectoral policy documents.
<b>Total Cost</b>	Approximately NPR 687 million (calculated based on MSNP II estimation for policy, estimated annual increment by 5 percent)
<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	Domestic funds and supports from development partners and civil societies



<b>Commitment Period</b>	2022 to 2030
<b>FORMULATING THE FULL COMMITMENT AS WILL BE RECORDED IN THE COMPACT</b>	
<p>The Government of Nepal commits to improving the policy environment for equitable and effective delivery of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive services. This will be achieved by endorsing Mother's Milk Substitute (control of sale and distribution) Act; enacting a provision of six months maternity leave; developing nutrition specific/sensitive sectoral policies and plans; developing standards for food fortification/packaged /processed food, labeling packaged foods and regulating the production, promotion and consumption of unhealthy food; and implementing costed Multisectoral Nutrition Plan and 5-Year Action Plan for National Nutrition Strategy implemented across the 753 municipalities. The progress will be assessed through review of Acts, policies, plans and programs and regular rigorous monitoring of their implementation. Approximately NPR. 687 million has been estimated for 9 years by the Government of Nepal to cover associated costs and will be partially supported by development partners and civil societies.</p>	

### 3. Financial Commitment

<b>Primary signatory entity:</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>Additional Signatory entities</b>	National Planning Commission; Ministry of Health and Population; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development; Ministry of Industry Commerce and Supplies; Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; Ministry of Water Supply
<b>Goal</b>	Increase financial investment in nutrition
<b>Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provision a separate budget code for nutrition</li> <li>● Advocate for increased allocation of local/international financial resources to deliver integrated nutrition actions</li> <li>● Strengthen the system to track allocated resources and expenditure on nutrition</li> <li>● Develop a costed periodic plan for a multi-sectoral nutrition program at federal, provincial, and local levels that will ensure allocation of budget in the direction to meet the nutrition needs of the most vulnerable as well as historically excluded people in shock-prone and stressful environments</li> <li>● Advocate and engage the private sectors to increase investment for production and access to safe, healthy and nutritious foods and establish a mechanism to provide an incentive/tax deduction for private sectors working to produce safe and nutritious food</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure adequate resources for a nutrition sensitive social assistance programs</li> </ul>
<b>Setting</b>	Federal and provincial Governments, and 753 municipalities
<b>Target Population</b>	Children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, adults, and elderly people
<b>Primary Indicators</b> (Including baseline and 2030 targets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimated budget allocation (in NPR) for nutrition {Baseline: 9,499 million per annum as per MSNP II costed plan (2021), Target: NPR: 10,781.33 million per annum}</li> <li>Estimated budget allocation (in NPR) for nutrition specific interventions {Baseline: NPR 2,435 million as per MSNP II costed plan (2021), Target: NPR 2,587.34 million per annum}</li> <li>Estimated budget allocation (in NPR) for nutrition sensitive interventions program including nutrition sensitive agriculture, education, WASH, local governance, policy and social protection etc {Baseline: NPR 7,064 million as per MSNP II costed plan (2021), Target: NPR 8,194 million per annum}</li> <li>Percentage of government expenditure out of total allocation on nutrition at federal/province and local level (Baseline: 73 percent (2018); Target: 80 percent)</li> <li>Percentage of budget contributed/allocated by development partners/networks in nutrition (Baseline: MSNP II expected 41 percent funding from donors for nutrition; Target: &lt;25 percent)</li> </ul>
<b>Secondary Indicator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of a separate Budget Code for Nutrition (Baseline: 0; Target:1)</li> <li>System strengthened to track the budget allocation and expenditure in nutrition ((Baseline: 0; Target: 761)</li> </ul>
<b>How Progress Assessed</b>	Annual financial tracking of allocation and expenditure in nutrition
<b>Total Cost</b>	Approximately NPR 97,032 million
<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	Domestic funds and supports from private sectors and development partners
<b>Commitment Period</b>	2022 to 2030

**FORMULATING THE FULL COMMITMENT AS WILL BE RECORDED IN THE COMPACT**

The Government of Nepal commits to increasing the allocation and expenditure of financial resources



for nutrition, supporting children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating mothers, adults and elderly people across the country. The Government of Nepal has committed to the provision of a separate budget code. Disbursements for nutrition interventions will increase from NPR 9,499 million to approximately NPR 10,781 million per annum (total NPR 97,032 million for next 9 years (2022 to 2030).

#### 4. Operational Commitment

<b>Primary signatory entity:</b>	National Planning Commission
<b>Additional Signatory entities</b>	Ministry of Health and Population; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development; Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; Ministry of Water Supply; Ministry of Education Science and technology
<b>Goal</b>	Strengthen system, community and individual capacity to deliver quality nutrition services, ensuring universal coverage

<b>Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strengthen capacity of Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees, Nutrition Technical Committee and networks</li> <li>● Strengthen the system competency for scaling up and implementation of integrated nutrition interventions focusing on a life-course (children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, adults, and elderly people)</li> <li>● Review the existing human resources for nutrition interventions and designate additional human resources as per the requirement</li> <li>● Ensure regular and adequate supply of commodities/equipment</li> <li>● Align, harmonize and link actions across sectors and stakeholders</li> <li>● Strengthen integration of nutrition in universal health coverage</li> <li>● Establish nutrition friendly institutions with adequate infrastructure, trained human resources on nutrition, equipment and information to deliver quality services</li> <li>● Support the establishment of nutrition-sensitive fair price shop</li> <li>● Strengthen the mechanism to improve the food quality including safety of foods across the food value chain, testing of food quality and reduce food wastage</li> <li>● Design and implement an innovative nutrition and food security programs that focus on marginalized, vulnerable groups, gender equality and social inclusion</li> <li>● Run nutrition interventions/programs by adopting an integrated one door government led implementation approach</li> </ul>
<b>Setting</b>	Federal and provincial Governments, and 753 municipalities
<b>Target Population</b>	Children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, adults, and elderly people



<b>Primary Indicators</b> (Including baseline and 2030 targets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● # of Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees; Nutrition Technical Committee capacitated (Baseline: 451 (2020); Target: 767)</li> <li>● # of additional dedicated nutrition human resources mobilized for nutrition service delivery (Baseline: NA, Target: 778)</li> <li>● # of functional nutrition friendly institutions (Baseline: NA; Target: 3,765)</li> <li>● # of women of reproductive age, children, adolescents, men and older people reached (disaggregated by sex, wealth, geography, age and ethnicity) (Target: approximately 29 million population)</li> <li>● # of municipalities/health facilities prepositioned with adequate nutrition supplies/commodities (Target: 753 municipalities and 3,765 health facilities)</li> </ul>
<b>Secondary Indicator</b>	Not Applicable
<b>How Progress Assessed</b>	Rigorous monitoring and surveys
<b>Total Cost</b>	Approximately NPR 91,829 million (Derived from deduction of policy, local governance and monitoring reporting and research cost from total estimated NPR 97,032 million)
<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	Domestic funds and supports from private sectors, civil societies and development partners
<b>Commitment Period</b>	2022 to 2030

#### FORMULATING THE FULL COMMITMENT AS WILL BE RECORDED IN THE COMPACT

The Government of Nepal commits to strengthening system and individual capacities to deliver quality nutrition services that ensure universal coverage and accelerate nutrition progress towards national, WHA and SDG targets on all forms of malnutrition within the next 9 years (from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2030). This will be achieved by enhancing the system, institution and human resource capacity for scaling up integrated nutrition programs and ensuring the provision of adequate nutrition commodities to deliver quality nutrition services equitably. Progress will be assessed using the national nutrition surveys conducted every 3 to 5 years and regular monitoring of programs. Approximately, NPR 91,829 million has been estimated for next 9 years by the Government of Nepal to cover associated costs for effective delivery of nutrition services and will be partially supported by development partners and civil societies.

#### 5. Monitoring, Reporting and Research Commitment

<b>Primary signatory entity:</b>	Ministry of Health and Population
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<b>Additional Signatory entities</b>	National Planning Commission; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development; Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; Ministry of Education Science and Technology; Ministry of Water Supply
<b>Goal</b>	Strengthen country-led system for comprehensive research and evidence generation, monitoring, evaluation and use of data

<b>Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen integrated information system to generate quality disaggregated data on nutrition services, food and logistics</li> <li>• Enhance capacity for data management, and analysis and advocacy for data use</li> <li>• Continue nutrition related surveys in every 3 to 5 years' interval and promote program evaluation, operation, research and develop culture of knowledge sharing and data driven programming</li> <li>• Collaborate with universities to develop capacity on nutrition research and carry-out cutting-edge scientific research to inform policy and programming</li> <li>• Document the nutrient profile of indigenous crops and prioritize the availability of funds to conduct nutrition research and evaluation</li> <li>• Establish an early warning system (including nutrition surveillance)</li> <li>• Conduct diet/food consumption survey/assessment to generate evidence for the development of recommended dietary allowance for the targeted population</li> <li>• Conduct a periodic nutrition review to support annual planning and budgeting</li> <li>• Strengthen the monitoring of progress and transparency of reporting particularly on nutrition sensitive interventions</li> <li>• Evaluate the effectiveness of nutrition sensitive intervention such as food assistance programs especially providing food in educational institutions</li> </ul>
<b>Setting</b>	Federal and provincial Governments, and 753 municipalities
<b>Target Population</b>	Children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, adults, and elderly people
<b>Primary Indicators</b> (Including baseline and 2030 targets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of institutions/reporting units compiled, and reported quality nutrition data (disaggregation by age group, sex, wealth quintile, education level, disability, and sub-region) (Target: 753 and 3765 municipalities/all nutrition service delivery facilities)</li> <li>• # of universities/academic institutions collaborated and coordinated for human resource capacity development and research (Baseline 1 Target: at least 2)</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Population-based survey (DHS, MICS) conducted every 3 to 5 years (Baseline: 2; Target: 2 in every 5 years)</li> <li>● Diet/food consumption survey conducted (Baseline: 0; Target: 1)</li> <li>● Comprehensive nutrition review conducted (Baseline: NA; Target: 2)</li> </ul>
How Progress Assessed	Review of reports and publications related to multisector nutrition
Total Cost	Approximately NPR 3,720 million
Funding Mechanism	Domestic funds and supports from development partners and civil societies
Commitment Period	2022 to 2030
<p><b>FORMULATING THE FULL COMMITMENT AS WILL BE RECORDED IN THE COMPACT</b></p> <p>The Government of Nepal commits to generating scientific evidence through rigorous monitoring, surveys and research for informing data driven policies, legislation, strategies, guidelines and plans for health, food and resilience in next 9 years (2022 to 2030). This will be achieved by strengthening the information system, capacitating human resources, coordinating with universities, Nepal Health Research Council, development partners and advocating with sub-national governments for generating evidence and allocating adequate resources. Progress will be assessed by reviewing the evaluation, and other related published reports. Approximately NPR 3,720 million has been estimated for the next 9 years by the Government of Nepal to cover associated costs and will be partially supported by development partners.</p>	

## 6. Impact Commitment

Primary signatory entity:	National Planning Commission
Additional Signatory entities	Ministry of Health and Population; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development; Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; Ministry of Education Science and Technology; Ministry of Water Supply; Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen
Goal	Reduce the prevalence of all form of malnutrition, in line with the SDG 2030 nutrition target, WHA targets and national nutrition targets



<b>Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strengthen resilient health and food system to accelerate and effectively implement nutrition and food related acts, policies strategies, action plans and standards</li> <li>● Integrate nutrition in universal health coverage roadmap</li> <li>● Develop and implement risk-informed food system policy and nutrition specific/sensitive interventions at all levels</li> <li>● Ensure timely implementation of multi-sectoral and comprehensive nutrition interventions at scale</li> <li>● Increase access to safe drinking water at the point of use and sanitation facilities</li> <li>● Strengthen Research, Monitoring and Evaluation system</li> <li>● Increase investment on nutrition</li> </ul>
<b>Setting</b>	Federal and provincial Governments, and 753 municipalities
<b>Target Population</b>	Children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, adults, and elderly people
<b>Primary Indicators</b> (Including baseline and 2030 targets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prevalence of stunting (Baseline:32 percent in 2019; Target: 15 percent)</li> <li>● Prevalence of wasting (Baseline: 12 percent in 2019; Target: 4 percent)</li> <li>● Prevalence of low birth weight (Baseline: 12 percent in 2016; Target:1.4 percent)</li> <li>● Prevalence of anaemia in children age under five (Baseline: 53 percent in 2016; Target:10 percent),</li> <li>● Prevalence of anaemia in women of reproductive age (Baseline: 41 percent in 2016 and Target: 10 percent)</li> <li>● Prevalence of anemia among adolescents (Baseline: 43.6 percent; Target: &lt;10 percent)</li> <li>● Prevalence of overweight and obesity among children under 5 years (Baseline: 2.1 percent in 2016; Target: &lt;1 percent)</li> <li>● Salt: (Baseline: 11gm/person/day; Target: &lt;5gm/per person/day)</li> <li>● Trans fats in foods. (Baseline: NA; Target&lt;2 percent)</li> </ul>
<b>Secondary Indicator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Percentage of children aged 6-23 months who receive minimum dietary diversity (Baseline; 47 percent in 2016; Target:71 percent)</li> <li>● Percentage of women of reproductive age who receive minimum dietary diversity (Baseline: 50 percent in 2016; Target: 80 percent)</li> <li>● Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding among children under six months of age (Baseline: 66 percent in 2016; Target: 80 percent)</li> <li>● Percentage share of consumption of animal source food (milk, meat and eggs) (Baseline: 13 percent, Target: 25 percent).</li> <li>● Percentage of households access to safe drinking water (Baseline: 95 percent in 2019, Target: 99 percent)</li> </ul>
<b>How Progress Assessed</b>	Population based survey, regular monitoring, surveillance, and research



<b>Total Cost</b>	Approximately NPR 97,032 million
<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	Domestic funds and supports from private sectors, civil societies and development partners
<b>Commitment Period</b>	2022 to 2030

**FORMULATING THE FULL COMMITMENT AS WILL BE RECORDED IN THE COMPACT**

The Government of Nepal commits to accelerating nutrition progress towards national, WHA and SDG targets on all forms of malnutrition, reducing preventable deaths associated with undernutrition in the next 9 years (from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2030). This will be achieved by improving nutrition governance and accountability, creating an enabling policy environment for nutrition, ensuring adequate resources, enforcing acts including effective implementation of Mother's Milk Substitute Act, implementing gender responsive and resilient multi-sector nutrition specific/sensitive actions, focusing on equity and quality of nutrition services, integrating nutrition into universal health coverage and developing evidence based policies and programs. Progress will be assessed using the National Nutrition Survey conducted every 3 to 5 years. Approximately NPR 97,032 million has been estimated by the Government of Nepal to cover associated costs and will be partially supported by development partners, civil societies, and private sectors.



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