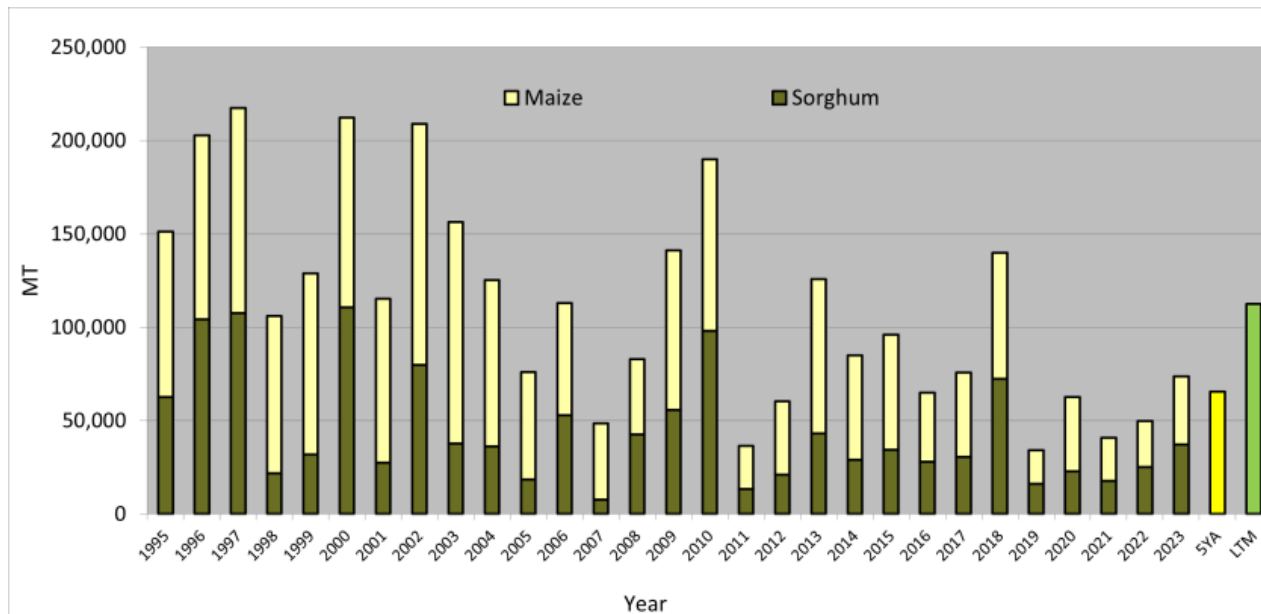


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|---|---|
| Country | Somalia |
| Thematic focus | Governance |
| Type of the product | Concept note |
| Title of the product | The Establishment and Operationalization of the Food Systems, Nutrition and Climate Inter-Ministerial Council (FSNCC) |
| Subtitle | N/A |
| Year | 2023 |
| Body/ Description | |
| <p>I. Background and Problem Statement</p> <p>In recent years, the global community has recognized the urgent need to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and transform food systems towards a more sustainable, Nutrition resilient, and equitable future. The United Nations' new global agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN Climate Action and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), underscores the importance of addressing food security and nutrition challenges to achieve a world free from hunger and malnutrition. The new global agenda recognizes that tackling hunger and malnutrition requires a multi-sectoral and coordinated approach, involving key stakeholders from various ministries, sector actors, and partners.</p> <p>In line with this global commitment, the Federal Government of Somalia acknowledges the critical importance of ensuring food security and improving nutrition outcomes for its population. Somalia faces various challenges in the realms of food production, access, utilization, and stability. The country has endured years of conflict, natural disasters, and environmental degradation, all of which have significantly impacted its food systems and nutrition situation.</p> <p>Somalia's food security and food systems are deeply affected by a combination of factors, including climate vulnerability, conflict, and limited infrastructure. To address these issues effectively, a holistic approach is required, focusing on resilience-building, improved agricultural practices, and enhanced market access while also addressing the underlying drivers of food insecurity. International assistance remains vital in mitigating the challenges that Somalia faces in its quest for food security and sustainable food systems.</p> | |



This graph is a clear indication on how Somalia’s cereal production has been deteriorating from the 2011 famine year. The Main-season of the Gu cereal crop production in southern regions of Somalia which is the breadbasket of the country shows a significant decline. A clear example is that in 2023 production is only 13% of five year average and 34% of long long-term (1995-2022) average.

This graph illustrates the concerning trend of deteriorating staple food production in Somalia, particularly since the devastating famine of 2011. The main-season (Gu) cereal crop production for instance in the southern regions of Somalia, often considered the country's breadbasket, has shown a significant and alarming decline. For instance, in 2023, the production stands at a mere 13% of the five-year average and only 34% of the long-term average spanning from 1995 to 2022.

In response to the global call for action and the ninth Somalia national development plan (NDP9), the Federal Government of Somalia has prioritized the establishment of the Food Systems and Nutrition Inter-Ministerial Council. This council represents a significant step towards promoting an integrated and holistic response to food insecurity, Nutrition and Climate challenge in the country. Recognizing the severity of this situation, the DanQaran Government prioritized the establishment of a the Council with the following Ministerial structure and membership.

a. Structure and membership of the Council

The Food Systems and Nutrition Inter-Ministerial Council shall consist of the following members:

- **Chair:**
 - The Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Government of Somalia.

- **Membership:**

- **Ministers responsible for production sectors:**

- i. Including the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,
- ii. Ministry of Livestock, Forest and Rangeland Management,
- iii. Ministry of Water and Energy Resources.
- iv. Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy

- **Ministries responsible for social service delivery:**

- i. Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs,
- ii. Ministry of Health and Human Services and
- iii. Ministry of education,

- **Cross-cutting Ministries**

- i. Ministry of Finance,
- ii. Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development
- iii. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

The Council aims to align national efforts with global initiatives to create Nutrition resilient and equitable food systems that can withstand shocks, improve access to nutritious food, and enhance the overall well-being of Somali citizens. With the recognition that resilient and equitable food systems are crucial for long-term sustainable development, the Food Systems and Nutrition Inter-Ministerial Council is tasked with developing a coherent policy and strategies to addresses food security and nutrition holistically.

The council's establishment demonstrates Somalia's commitment to achieving SDGs including Zero Hunger, and further aligns with the Decade of Action on Nutrition's vision of ending malnutrition in all its forms. By bringing together relevant government ministries from economic productive and social service sectors as well as the crosscutting Ministries of Planning, Finance, and Climate Change.

The council aims to foster a collaborative approach to food security and nutrition. It also recognizes the vital role of external stakeholders, including private sector, implementing partners and donors, represented at different levels, in supporting and advancing Somalia's food security and nutrition agenda.

- b. **FSNC Coordination mechanisms and Leadership**

The council will convene bi-annually High-level national meeting chaired by the President or the Prime Minister on food systems to review progress, make decisions, and provide recommendations. Federal Government and FMS line ministries, Senior UN officials, Diplomats from Donors

Communities, Civil Society, Private Sector Representatives and Academia will attend the meeting. Quarterly inter-Ministerial Meeting chaired by the PM/DPM, the meeting will be attended by all Ministers of the council – this will be internal Government discussion and validation of priorities. Bi-Monthly Joint Technical meeting will be held to bring together the technical teams from line ministries and other partners. Monthly Sectoral coordination meetings or forums lead by the lead line Ministries in consultation with forum or sector members.

c. FSNC Secretariat

The FSNC Secretariat will be the technical coordination body within the Office of the Prime Minister. A senior advisor appointed by the Prime Minister will lead the Secretariat, who will act as the National Food Systems Convener (see figure one structure details).

Figure 1: FSNC Coordination structure

II. Overall FSNC Inter-Ministerial Council Responsibilities

The Food Systems and Inter-Ministerial Council shall have the authority to address and oversee all issues related to food security and nutrition within Somalia. In summary, this includes but is not limited to:

1. Lead Entity for Fighting Hunger and Malnutrition
2. Provide Strategic Advisory services on Governance, Leadership and Policy Direction
3. Support Development multisectoral Strategies on food systems and nutrition
4. Facilitate Intra and Inter-Agency Coordination and Promotion of National Response on Food Systems - Food security and Nutrition
5. Integrated Coordination of Multisectoral Food System and Nutrition Response
6. Monitoring and Support for Implementation
7. Multisectoral Advocacy and Resource Mobilization
8. Any other tasks deemed necessary

III. FSNC Council Operationalization and Action plan

To operationalize and make an action plan, the FSNC will require to

1. **Operationalize and action plan** starts with the support required to formalize the Councils and to support the secretariat. The Prime Minister established the Councils and appointed the Convener, however, operationalization of secretariat and developing strategic plans and policies remains challenging (See figure 2 for proposed action plans).

2. **Anomaly Recognition and Resolution:** The Food Systems Council will play a crucial role in identifying errors and shortcomings within Somalia's food production and distribution systems. By pinpointing areas of inefficiency or inadequacy, the council can facilitate the necessary corrections and improvements.
3. **Enhancing Resilience:** One of the primary goals is to make the food system more resilient to external shocks, such as climate change, droughts, and other environmental factors that have contributed to the decline in staple food production in the country. By doing so, the Council seeks to ensure that the nation can better withstand and recover from future challenges.
4. **Promoting Sustainability:** The Council will regulate the development and implementation of sustainable agricultural and food production practices. This includes measures to conserve soil, water resources, and biodiversity, while also promoting responsible land use and reducing the environmental impact of food production.
5. **Fostering Collaboration:** The council will act as a central platform for collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders involved in the food sector. By coordinating efforts and knowledge sharing, the council can work towards more effective and holistic solutions.
6. **Strengthening Food Security:** A fundamental objective of the Food Systems Council is to bolster food security in Somalia. This involves ensuring a stable food supply for the population and addressing issues related to food accessibility and affordability.
7. **Long-Term Planning:** To mitigate the risks associated with fluctuating staple food production in the country, the Council will engage in long-term planning. This includes strategies, policies, acts and frameworks to diversify food sources and reduce dependence on aid and unsustainable practices.
8. **Public Awareness and Education:** The council will also focus on raising public awareness and educating both producers and consumers about sustainable and efficient food practices. This can lead to more informed decisions and behaviours within the food system.

The establishment of the Food Systems Council in Somalia represents a critical step towards addressing the country's deteriorating food security. This multi-faceted approach seeks to tackle the complex challenges facing the nation's food systems and offers hope for a more resilient and prosperous future.

IV. **Overall objectives**

1. Ensuring equitable access to sustainable, culturally acceptable food while promoting agricultural practices that are environmentally sustainable and resilient to climate change.
2. Promoting a balanced, healthy diet, reducing diet-related disease, and addressing malnutrition while ensuring food accessibility.
3. Enhancing the food system's role in rural economic growth and urban job creation.
4. Building partnerships with various stakeholders to collectively address food system challenges.
5. Creating strategies and policies to enhance food system resilience to climate disasters and economic crises.
6. Promoting research and innovation for improved food systems.

V. **Immediate activities (within 6 Months)**

1. Establish physical facilities and operationalize Council Secretariate.
2. Developing the Food Security Council Strategy and action plan
3. Establish Coordination mechanism on how the Council focuses on collaborating with MDA and with the Federal Member States
4. Develop coordination mechanism to facilitate dialogue with all food systems stakeholders
5. Develop Partnership and resource mobilization framework for the Council.

VI. **Medium term activities**

1. Developing Food and Nutrition Security cost action plan and implementing framework.
2. Developing a Legal Framework for the council including creating new legislation and Acts
3. Developing food security and nutrition overarching policies and strategies

VII. **Outputs: -**

1. Physical facilities for the Council Secretariat established (office space, equipment, remuneration and running costs).
2. Food Security Council Strategies and policy actions
3. The Council's collaboration and coordination approach with the Federal Member States designed and agreed.
4. Medium-term strategic plan for the Council Developed

5. Strategic Operational Framework for the Council developed
6. Legal Frameworks and Council's Act developed and passed by the Cabinet and the Parliament.
7. Key strategic partners for the Council and its action plans identified and engaged
8. Resource mobilization strategy for Somalia Food Systems developed and implemented.