



CASE STUDY

Unlocking Sustainable Financing for NCDs in Somalia

Early Results from the Financing Accelerator Network for NCDs (FAN) in Sub-Saharan Africa



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1. CONTEXT

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), including cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), diabetes, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and mental health conditions, are an increasingly significant public health challenge in Somalia. As the country continues its recovery and development journey, NCDs are placing growing pressure on individuals, families, communities, and the health system. According to the World Health Organization¹, NCDs account for approximately 30 percent of all premature deaths in Somalia, reflecting an epidemiological transition that has created a dual burden of communicable and noncommunicable diseases. Recent estimates further highlight this growing challenge, with the prevalence of diabetes at 5.8 percent in 2024 and CVD prevalence reaching 7.1 percent, based on the analysis of the 2020 Somalia Demographic and Health Survey².

For decades, Somalia's health sector has operated under multiple pressures from conflict, humanitarian crises, infectious disease outbreaks, food insecurity, and high maternal and child health morbidity and mortality. Consequently, health investments have largely focused on emergency response and communicable diseases, which continue to account for approximately 64 percent of all deaths. While these investments have been essential, NCD prevention and control have received comparatively limited policy attention, inadequate financing, and insufficient investment in surveillance and health information systems.

Limited data on the burden and economic impact of NCDs have constrained long-term planning and resource allocation. In turn, inadequate financing has restricted the expansion of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services. Without robust evidence on disease burden, financing needs, and resource gaps, policymakers have struggled to develop compelling investment cases and advocate for increased domestic resources for NCD prevention and control.



The consequences of this underinvestment are reflected in the limited availability of NCD services across Somalia. During a side event co-hosted by the Financing Accelerator Network for NCDs (FAN) at the 79th World Health Assembly, Somalia's Ministry of Health and Human Services reported that only 29 percent of primary healthcare facilities currently provide essential NCD services³. At the primary healthcare level, only 3 percent of primary health units are equipped to diagnose and manage hypertension or diabetes⁴. Recognizing these gaps, the Government of Somalia has committed to expanding the availability of essential NCD services to more than 90 percent of health facilities by 2030.

Achieving this ambition requires more than expanding service delivery. It also requires stronger governance, better financing evidence, enhanced multisectoral collaboration, and sustainable domestic financing mechanisms to support long-term investment in NCD prevention and control.

Recognizing these needs, Somalia joined the Financing Accelerator Network for NCDs (FAN), a multi-country initiative that supports governments to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, improve financing evidence, build institutional capacity, and advance sustainable financing reforms for NCD prevention and control.

Through FAN, Somalia has engaged in regional learning exchanges, technical assistance, policy dialogue, and multisectoral collaboration through its FAN Country Core Group (CCG)⁵. FAN has also provided catalytic seed funding to support country-led priorities, including strengthening NCD data systems. Together, these interventions will help strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable NCD financing by improving collaboration between health and finance stakeholders, generating evidence on NCD financing and supporting nationally led reforms.

This case study documents the early outcomes of Somalia's engagement with FAN during its first year of implementation. It examines how FAN has contributed to strengthening political commitment, institutional collaboration, financing evidence, and data systems that are laying the foundation for more sustainable financing of NCD prevention and control in Somalia.



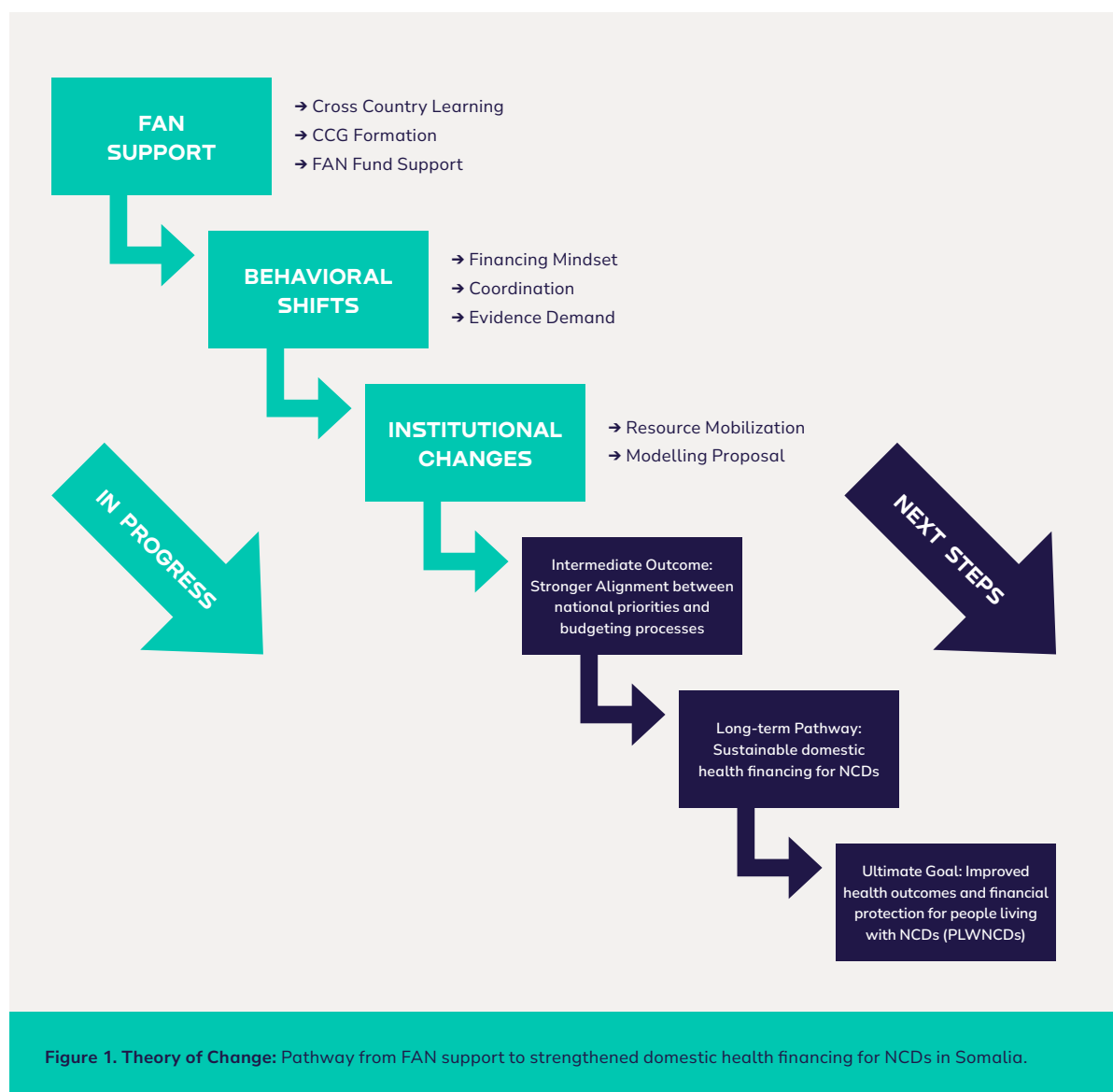
Members of FAN's Somalia CCG visit health facilities to assess NCD data management systems.

2. METHODOLOGY

This case study, loosely based on the Outcome Harvesting⁶ approach, seeks to identify and document early but significant changes that have emerged through Somalia's engagement with the FAN. Outcome Harvesting is a qualitative evaluation approach that identifies observable changes in behaviors, relationships, actions, policies, and institutional practices, and then works backwards to understand how an intervention contributed to those changes.

The findings are based on evidence from consultations with members of Somalia's CCG, comprising representatives from the Ministry of Health and Human Services and partner institutions involved in advancing the country's health financing agenda for NCDs. The discussion was complemented by a review of documentation from FAN-supported country activities, reports and proceedings from the Somalia Regional NCD Registry initiative, Resource Mapping and Expenditure Tracking (RMET) documentation, records of CCG meetings and stakeholder consultations, and presentations and reflections shared during regional and global forums, including the 79th World Health Assembly. Triangulating these sources strengthened the credibility of the findings by validating emerging outcomes across multiple sources of evidence.

As Somalia's engagement with FAN is still at an early stage, this case study does not seek to assess long-term changes in financing levels or health outcomes. Instead, it documents early outcomes that demonstrate progress towards stronger governance, improved evidence generation and use, enhanced multisectoral collaboration, and increased national ownership of the NCD financing agenda. These early changes provide important foundations for longer-term sustainable financing reforms.



This figure illustrates how FAN support strengthens alignment between technical priorities and national budgeting processes to advance sustainable NCD financing.

3. FAN SUPPORT TO SOMALIA

Somalia joined FAN at a time when national stakeholders were seeking practical approaches to strengthen sustainable financing for NCD prevention and control. FAN responded by supporting country-led efforts through three complementary mechanisms that reinforced one another.

FAN Forum created opportunities for regional learning and peer exchange. Somalia participated in a seven-country FAN workshop on resource mobilization and investment case webinar series. Through these engagements, Somali stakeholders exchanged experiences with countries implementing NCD financing reforms and gained practical insights into domestic resource mobilization, health taxes, investment case development, expenditure tracking, and multisectoral approaches to financing NCD prevention and control.

FAN Foresight provided technical input by reviewing NCD indicators to inform the National Multistakeholder Strategy for health in Somalia. This support helped strengthen the capacity of the CCG to engage government institutions and guide discussions on financing priorities for NCD within the broader health programs.

FAN Fund provided catalytic seed funding to support country-led priorities. In Somalia, this enabled the establishment of the country's first Regional NCD Registry pilot, an initiative aimed at strengthening NCD surveillance and generating the evidence required to inform planning, resource allocation, and future investment decisions.

Collectively, these three mechanisms helped convene stakeholders from government and partner institutions, strengthen technical capacity, facilitate dialogue between health and finance actors, and support the implementation of priorities identified by Somalia's CCG. Through these efforts, FAN created an enabling environment by providing technical support, learning opportunities, and catalytic investments that empowered national stakeholders to lead Somalia's NCD financing agenda.

The Challenge: Financing What Cannot Be Seen

Despite the rising burden of NCDs and mental health conditions, national health investments continued to prioritize communicable diseases, humanitarian response, and maternal and child health, leaving NCD programs underfunded, health information systems fragmented, and policy decisions poorly informed by evidence.

Before we engaged with FAN, NCD programmes were not well supported. They were underfunded and not prioritised, even though they were part of the Essential Health Services Package.

– SOMALIA CCG CHAIRPERSON

The consequences extended beyond limited funding. Different organizations collected NCD data using separate tools and reporting systems, resulting in fragmented information that could not provide a comprehensive picture of the country's disease burden. Policymakers therefore had limited information on disease patterns, service utilization, resource allocation, or existing financing gaps. Without credible evidence, it was difficult to advocate for additional domestic resources or develop strong investment cases for NCD prevention and control.

4. WHAT OUTCOMES HAVE EMERGED?

The Outcome Harvesting analysis identified five interrelated outcomes from Somalia's engagement with FAN.

→ OUTCOME 1: Strengthened Political Commitment and Institutional Ownership for NCD Financing

One of the earliest outcomes of Somalia's engagement with FAN has been stronger political recognition of NCDs as both a public health and a development financing challenge. Through FAN engagements, policymakers and senior government officials have gained a better understanding of the growing NCD burden and the importance of sustainable financing for prevention and control.

Stakeholders consistently reported that these engagements changed how NCDs are perceived. Rather than being viewed solely as a health sector issue, NCDs are increasingly recognized as a cross-sectoral development challenge that requires coordinated action from government institutions responsible for health, finance, planning, and other sectors.

What we learn from FAN is injected into policy. More than 15 ministers and senior government leaders are now aware of the NCD challenge and are thinking about how to address it – SOMALIA CCG MEMBER

This growing awareness has translated into stronger institutional engagement. Through FAN-supported policy dialogue and the CCG, the Ministry of Health and Human Services and the Ministry of Finance have begun engaging more systematically on NCD financing priorities. Stakeholders described these interactions as an important step towards integrating NCD financing into broader government planning and budgeting processes.

Following the FAN engagement, we met with the Ministry of Finance to share information on how the CCG works and how NCD financing could be strengthened. Immediately, they understood the issue and started discussing possible budget allocations to NCDs – SOMALIA CCG MEMBER

Participation in FAN also strengthened the CCG members' technical confidence and understanding of NCD financing pathways in Somalia. Stakeholders described FAN not simply as a funding mechanism, but as a platform for technical learning, peer exchange, and collaborative problem-solving. Exposure to experiences from other African countries helped participants better understand sustainable financing options, policy advocacy, and the use of evidence to support financing decisions.

From being part of FAN, we now understand better what we can do in NCD financing, how to approach it and what our NCD agenda looks like. We get a lot of experience sharing, a lot of peer-to-peer learning, a lot of resources, whether technical support or financial support – SOMALIA CCG MEMBER

Participants also reported increased knowledge and confidence in areas such as domestic resource mobilization, evidence generation, policy advocacy, and multisectoral collaboration.

We have become more familiar with NCD financing. Previously, there were many gaps in our knowledge about how we were going to handle these issues.

– SOMALIA CCG MEMBER

Stronger political commitment, increased institutional ownership, and improved technical capacity provide a critical foundation for advancing sustainable financing reforms. While substantial financing reforms will require sustained effort over time, these early shifts demonstrate that national stakeholders are better positioned to drive future policy and financing decisions.

→ OUTCOME 2: Strengthened Integration of NCDs into National Health and Development Planning

Participation in the cross-country learning workshop enabled Somalia to develop an NCD Financing Action Plan to strengthen advocacy and accelerate domestic resource mobilization for NCD prevention and control. The plan sets out strategic priorities to address key financing challenges, including advancing policy and financing reforms, developing investment cases, generating evidence to inform financing decisions, and strengthening the capacity of government and other stakeholders to champion sustainable domestic financing.

Somalia has already begun implementing the action plan through initiatives such as establishing a National NCD Registry, strengthening multisectoral collaboration, and advancing reforms that improve the country's readiness for sustainable NCD financing. The FAN initiative has also reinforced a shared understanding that sustainable financing for NCDs



Members of FAN's Somalia CCG.



should be integrated into broader health system and financing reforms, rather than pursued as a standalone programme.

One important example is FAN CCG members' direct involvement in the ongoing revision of Somalia's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Roadmap. Stakeholders reported that the updated roadmap places greater emphasis on NCD prevention and control, ensuring that NCD services are better reflected within the country's long-term strategy for rebuilding the health system and expanding access to essential health services.

We are updating the national UHC Roadmap, which is outdated, to include more critical information on NCDs – SOMALIA CCG MEMBER

FAN contributed to national efforts to strengthen a multisectoral approach to NCD prevention and control. FAN support included a review of the relevant NCD indicators, which informed the ongoing development of Somalia's costed multisectoral strategy, accompanied by a monitoring and evaluation framework. The strategy began with several partners before FAN's involvement, but momentum picked up after it was discussed at the first in-person CCG meeting. The strategy brings together more than fifteen sectors, including health, education, agriculture, water, and other government institutions whose policies influence NCD prevention and control. Once finalized, it will provide a common framework for planning, implementation, and accountability, while strengthening coordination, supporting future resource mobilization, and informing the development of evidence-based investment cases.

Previously, we did not have a multisectoral strategy for NCDs nationally. Now we are finalising a multisectoral strategy with costing that involves more than fifteen sectors beyond health – SOMALIA CCG MEMBER

Although these planning processes are still underway, they represent an important institutional shift. NCD prevention and control are increasingly being integrated into national planning frameworks and recognized as a shared government priority rather than solely a health sector responsibility. This stronger policy integration provides a more robust foundation for coordinated implementation, sustainable financing, and long-term accountability.

→ OUTCOME 3: Timely Learning and Reflection Opportunities for Health Financing Initiatives for NCD Prevention and Control

Somalia's engagement with FAN has helped stakeholders discuss emerging priorities, share experiences, and identify opportunities for alignment on domestic financing for NCDs. These engagements

have facilitated the creation of internal champions to elevate NCD financing within government planning and budgeting discussions and have generated opportunities to examine financing mechanisms that could reduce long-term reliance on external funding.

One of the most important discussions now is about health taxes. the ministry is thinking about how we can generate domestic resources from these policies to fund ncd programmes
– SOMALIA CCG MEMBER

Stakeholders also reported ongoing discussions around other domestic resource mobilization options, including licensing revenues, as part of broader efforts to strengthen the sustainability of NCD financing. Sustainable financing reforms begin with conducive policy environments, stronger collaboration between health and finance institutions, and a shared understanding of the financing options available. FAN has contributed to creating this enabling environment, positioning Somalia to pursue more sustainable domestic financing approaches as reforms continue to evolve.

→ OUTCOME 4: Strengthened NCD Surveillance and Evidence through Somalia's First Regional NCD Registry

Recognizing that reliable data are essential for effective planning and sustainable financing, Somalia identified NCD surveillance and health information systems as a national priority. Through catalytic seed funding from the FAN Fund, complemented by technical support and stakeholder engagement, the country initiated the development of a Regional NCD Registry, with pilot implementation in the Banadir Region and Southwest State.

Before this initiative, Somalia did not have a unified system for collecting, analyzing, and using NCD data. Different organizations maintained separate registries and reporting systems, making it difficult to generate reliable national evidence on disease burden or to use data to inform policy and financing decisions.

Previously, every NGO was using their own registry, and there was no unified system for NCD data. Now we are developing a national registry that will be used across the country
– SOMALIA CCG MEMBER

The registry was formally launched through a national inception workshop that brought together representatives from the Ministry of Health, regional health authorities, health information specialists, healthcare providers, civil society organizations, and development partners. The workshop established a shared vision for implementation and reached agreement on governance arrangements, alignment with the District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2)

and the national Health Management Information System (HMIS), regional coordination structures, and a phased implementation roadmap. Since its launch, the initiative has established the institutional foundations required for implementation, including governance and coordination structures, a national task force, regional focal persons, selected pilot regions, and an implementation roadmap.

Beyond establishing a new information system, the Regional NCD Registry represents a strategic investment in Somalia's long-term NCD financing agenda. Reliable data are fundamental to sustainable financing because they enable governments to measure disease burden, estimate resource requirements, prioritize investments, advocate for increased domestic financing, and monitor the impact of financing decisions.

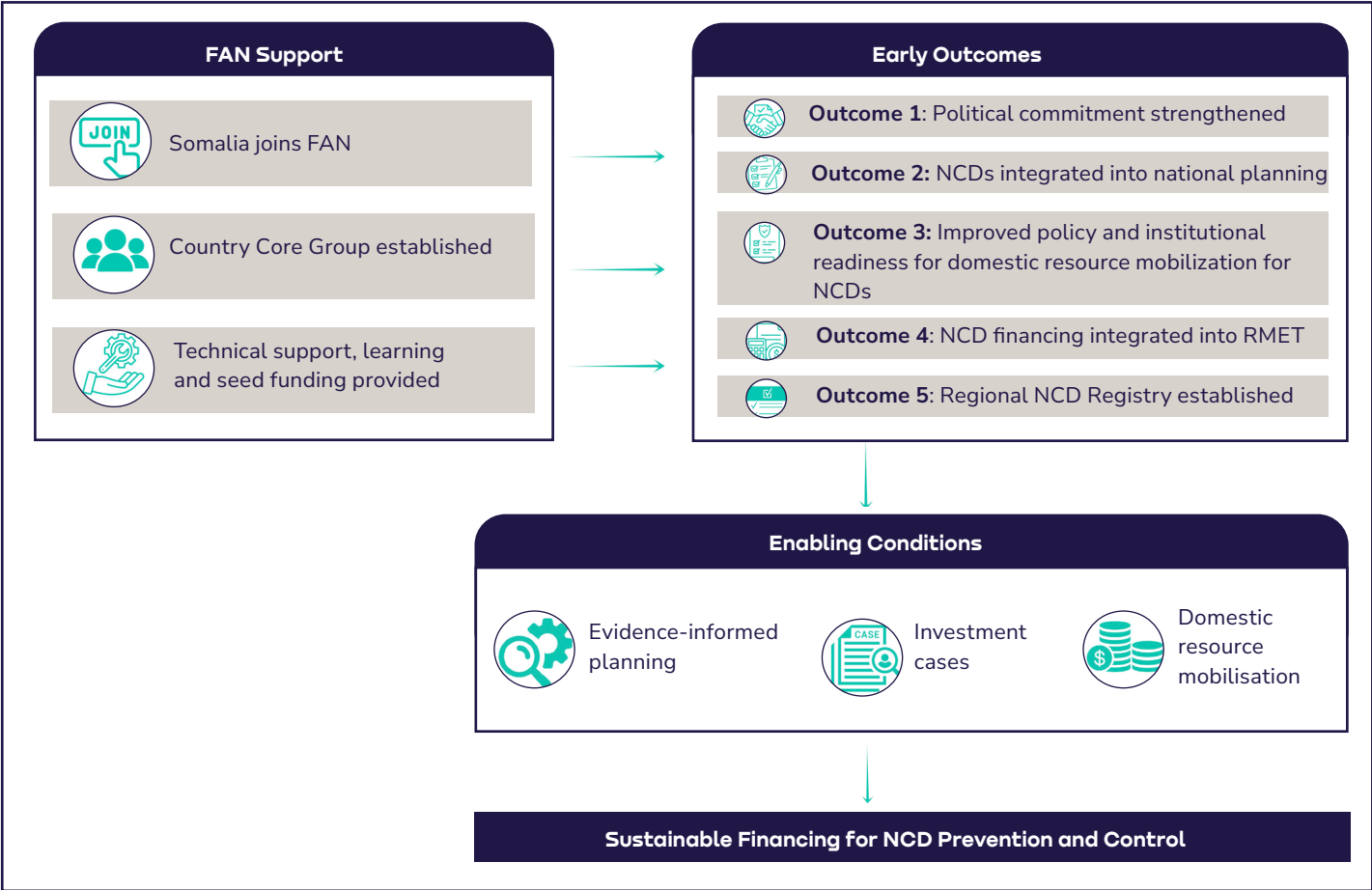
Speaking during the 79th World Health Assembly side event co-hosted by FAN and partners, on *Financing NCDs for Impact*, Dr. Hamdi Mohamud Osman, Head of the National NCD Section, highlighted the importance of the initiative:

This data registry will support Somalia to see how NCDs are increasing, understand the exact burden of disease, and help inform resource allocation while strengthening governance

– SOMALIA CCG MEMBER

Although the registry is still in its early stages of implementation, it is an important institutional milestone. As better data become available, Somalia will be better positioned to develop credible investment cases, strengthen budget advocacy, target resources more effectively, and monitor progress towards national NCD priorities. The registry therefore provides a critical foundation for stronger governance, evidence-informed policymaking, and more sustainable financing of NCD prevention and control.

Somalia's Journey Towards Sustainable Domestic Resource Mobilization for NCDs (2025-2026)



The figure illustrates the early outcomes of Somalia's engagement with FAN and the pathway through which these outcomes contribute to long-term sustainable financing for NCD prevention and control.

5. LOOKING AHEAD

Somalia's journey towards sustainable financing for NCD prevention and control is still at an early stage, but important foundations have been established. The country is finalizing a costed multisectoral NCD strategy involving more than fifteen sectors, while discussions on domestic resource mobilization continue to gain momentum. Resource Mapping and Expenditure Tracking (RMET) is generating valuable evidence on financing flows, and the Regional NCD Registry is moving from planning to implementation, strengthening the country's capacity to generate the evidence needed for future planning and financing decisions.

These initiatives position Somalia to move from fragmented, project-based responses towards a more coordinated, evidence-driven, and sustainably financed approach to NCD prevention and control. Sustaining this momentum will require continued political commitment, multisectoral collaboration, investment in data systems, and stronger domestic financing mechanisms.

In his ministerial keynote address during the 79th World Health Assembly side event, Somalia's Minister of Health and Human Services, **Hon. Minister Dr. Ali Haji Adam Abubakar**, observed:

“The challenge before us is significant, but meaningful progress is possible when political commitment, evidence, partnerships, and sustainable financing come together.”

6. CONCLUSION

Through FAN-supported learning, policy dialogue, technical assistance, and catalytic funding, Somalia is on track to creating an enabling environment for sustainable financing through improving political commitment, institutional collaboration, financing evidence, and NCD surveillance systems.

While these achievements have not yet resulted in large-scale financing reforms or substantial increases in domestic funding, they are good pointers towards lasting institutional changes, laying the foundation for future progress.

By investing in these foundations today, Somalia is positioning itself to build a more resilient and sustainably financed response to NCD prevention and control in the years ahead. Its experience illustrates that when countries make the burden of disease visible, they are better positioned to mobilize resources, strengthen accountability, and build healthier futures for their populations.

JOIN FAN IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Countries and local stakeholders are invited to engage with FAN by joining as a country member with opportunities to share insights, participate in exchanges, access technical support, and apply for catalytic seed funding. Multilateral organizations, philanthropies, the private sector, and civil society organizations can contribute their knowledge, funding, and experience as part of the Technical Advisory Group and are encouraged to join dedicated partnerships facilitated by FAN to foster locally driven solutions in-country.

ncdfinancing.org

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ World Health Organization [WHO], 2024.
- ² International Diabetes Federation. IDF Diabetes Atlas 2025. <https://diabetesatlas.org/resources/idd-diabetes-atlas-2025/>
- ³ Financing NCDs for Impact: Country Evidence, Experience & Progress side event, co-hosted by the Financing Accelerator Network for NCDs (FAN) and Access Accelerated during the 79th World Health Assembly. See: Access Accelerated. (2026). Financing NCDs for Impact: Country Evidence, Experience & Progress: Event Highlights from the sidelines of the 79th World Health Assembly. Available at: https://accessaccelerated.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/WH79_Event-Highlights-Report_FA.pdf.
- ⁴ Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS). (2024). National Non-Communicable Diseases Strategic Plan (2024–2029). Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia
- ⁵ A multi-stakeholder national coordination platform established under the Financing Accelerator Network for NCDs (FAN) to provide strategic leadership and technical guidance on sustainable financing for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). The CCG brings together representatives from government, academia, civil society, development partners, and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen multisectoral collaboration, identify country priorities, facilitate policy dialogue, and advance country-led NCD financing reforms.
- ⁶ Outcome harvesting | Better Evaluation: <https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/approaches/outcome-harvesting>