



ALIGNMENT WORKING GROUP PROGRES UPDATE



NOVEMBER 8, 2022
GHANA, ACCRA

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1



**Background
on Alignment**

2



**Overview of
Pilot
countries &
Progress**

3



Next steps



BACKGROUND ON ALIGNMENT

- The success of global efforts to improve the alignment of development assistance to government priorities has been mixed over the years.
- Technical, institutional, and political factors continue to stifle efforts by countries and development partners to work together to effectively and efficiently maximize the use of resources to meet country needs.
- Early meetings of the Alignment Working Group (AWG) – a unique collaboration between partner countries and donors and CSOs – commissioned a desk review whose results showed:
 - ***Slow progress in alignment at country level***
 - ***Absence of a way to measure countries' current state across an alignment spectrum and measure progress over time was a major bottleneck, as was the lack of an appropriate system to support and track improvements.***
- The country-led alignment working group and the development and implementation of the alignment framework was created to fill this gap.

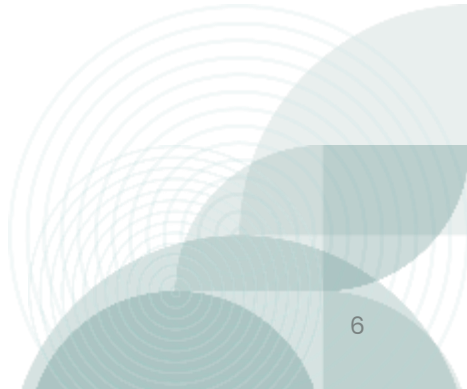
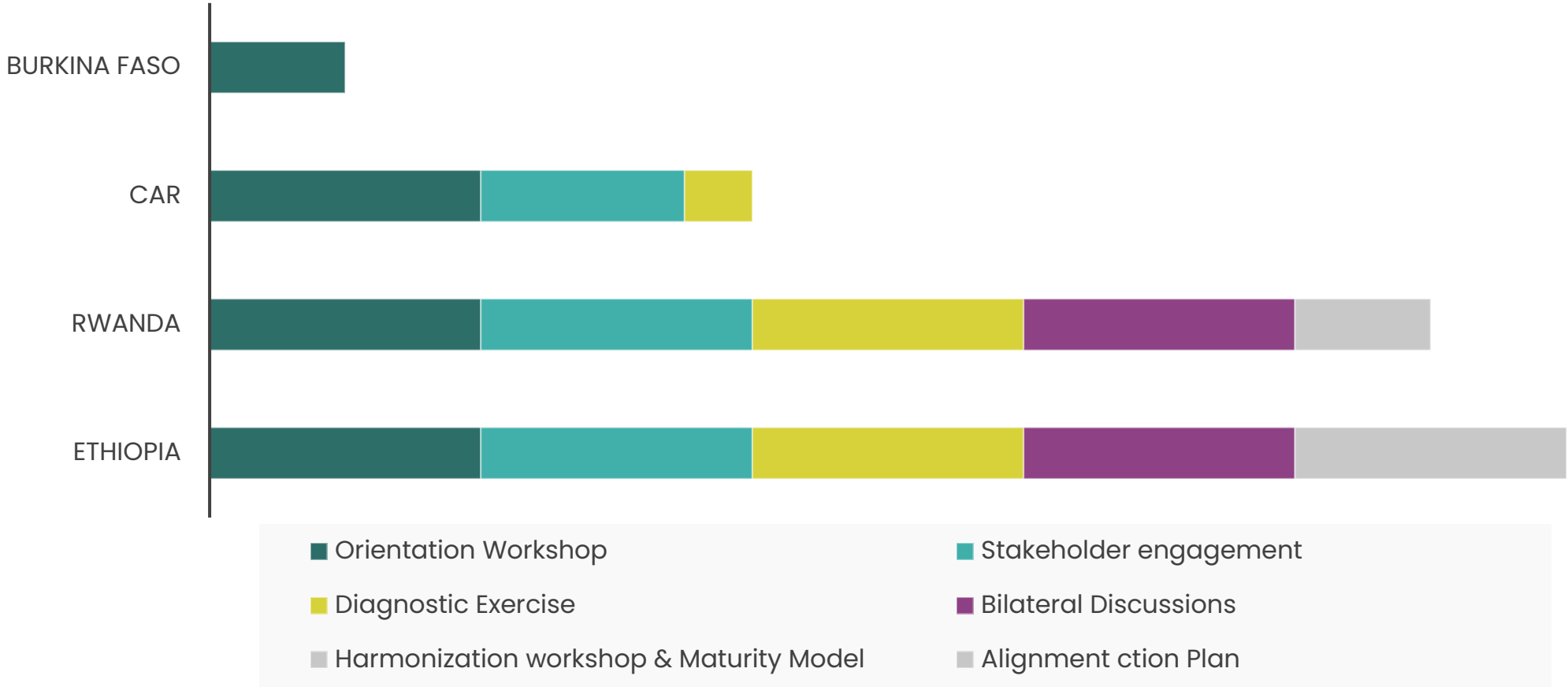
BACKGROUND ON ALIGNMENT (CONT.)

- The AWG defines alignment as the process of planning and implementing policies, strategies, and priorities with all stakeholders at global and country levels following the basic principle of one plan, one budget, and one report. (Global Financing Facility, 2021)
- The Alignment Framework consists of two linked instruments to support country-led alignment of health service delivery and financing:
 - ✓ **Alignment Diagnostic exercise** helps provide a 'health check' of a country's status against the domains of one plan, one budget, and one report and is designed to be conducted by government stakeholders and development partners as an entry point for dialogue. Based on the outcome of the diagnostic exercise.
 - ✓ **The Alignment Maturity Model** is then deployed; a 5-level system that grades countries along an alignment spectrum and helps facilitate concrete discussions on the process, potential actions, and enforcement plans.

OVERVIEW OF PILOT COUNTRIES & PROGRESS



PROGRESS OVERVIEW OF THE ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK



ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK PROCESS IN ETHIOPIA

- An Alignment Framework Orientation workshop was conducted from July 26–28, 2022
 - Participants attended from government, development partners, civil society, and private sector.
- A diagnosis assessment and rating were carried out by four groups of stakeholders:
 1. Government formed a team and assessments were undertaken from a government perspective
 2. A two-day workshop to consolidate the assessment findings was organized for development partners who organized into two groups:
 - a) On budget development Partners (channel 1&2)
 - b) Off budget development partners (channel 3)
 3. Civil society and the private sector conducted their own assessment.

ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK PROCESS IN ETHIOPIA

- These stakeholders presented their assessment findings in a half-day group session during the HSTP II Annual Review Meeting on October 21st, 2022
 - During the deliberations, stakeholders were able to align around the outcomes of the diagnostic exercise
 - A participatory and inclusive consultation process preceded the meeting, and participants found the dialogue useful, unique and transparent.
- Overall, the process has enhanced the knowledge of stakeholders on the alignment framework and their willingness and commitment towards revitalizing the alignment agenda
- The action plan will be developed and approved by ATWG, JCCC and JCF in the next two months

ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK PROCESS IN ETHIOPIA

The harmonization workshop reached a consensus on key alignment action items. Listed below are a few examples

ONE PLAN

- Revisit the Government and DP coordination structure and HHM
- Engage with MOF to establish a health sector MTEF working group
- Strengthen systems for multisectoral engagement and develop tracking of action
- Enhance alignment of sub-national and program plans with national plans

ONE BUDGET

- Enhance predictability, disbursement and expenditure tracking and management, especially for channel 2 and 3 resources
- Enhance utilization and liquidation of funding at all levels
- Enhance the timeliness of audits and tracking the timely implementation of corrective action

ONE REPORT

- Develop mechanisms of enforcing private facilities to fully report through the system
- Enhance stakeholders' (DPs, CSOs and private sector) roles in defining indicators and setting targets
- Strengthen the integration of databases, especially systems related ones and create one integrated repository;
- Establish mutual accountability system among stakeholders

ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK FINDINGS IN RWANDA

- 1. The MOH technical team lead, organized an orientation in meeting for two subcommittees:**
 1. The Health Financing TWG (Aug 2022)
 2. The Health Sector Development Partners (Sept 2022)

- 2. The TWGs advised that respondents be grouped into categories as they support/ work with the government**
 1. Development partners on Budget
 2. Development Partners off budget
 3. Civil Society Organizations
 4. Private sector health service providers
 5. Government

ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK FINDINGS IN RWANDA

3. Two rounds of discussions were held during the completion of the Diagnostic exercise

3. First round served as an orientation individual groups for the first day followed by two days of completion of the data collection tool in (Oct 2022)
4. Bilateral Discussions held amongst stakeholders and independent facilitator
5. Second round of consultations were held with representatives of each stakeholder group to agree on outcomes as well as address areas of great divergence (Nov 2022)

4. Development and Implementation of the Action Plan

ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK FINDINGS IN RWANDA

The harmonization workshop reached a consensus on key alignment action items. Listed below are a few examples

ONE PLAN

- Review the coordination structures, processes & engagement
- Engagement of DPs & other stakeholders in the health sector MTEF working group
- Enhance alignment of sub-national plans with national plans
- Alignment of implementation plans & processes with other Government agencies

ONE BUDGET

- Revitalize the Setup and Functioning of the Health Resource Tracking Tool (HRTT)
- Review limitations & reservations around using country Procurement mechanisms
- Dialogue to build trust and confidence to move towards on budget
- Inclusion of Private sector as part of overall sector budget & use their comparative advantage to prioritize resource allocation

ONE REPORT

- Review & strengthen mechanisms for tracking corrective actions from joint review mechanisms
- Stronger stakeholder engagement in the dissemination of the Data use & sharing policy
- Enhance stakeholders' (CSOs and private sector) roles in defining indicators and setting targets
- Strengthen the integration of databases to enhance interoperability

KEY LESSONS LEARNED FROM IMPLEMENTING THE PROCESS IN RWANDA

Country leadership

- Having the government lead and direct the process creates interest for participation among stakeholders
- Ongoing policy reforms (government adoption of PBF mechanisms) show continued commitment to efficient utilization of resources

Investment in support functions and structures

- Zero tolerance to corruption boosts confidence in the government systems
- Continued investment in management & PFM systems


Strong Stakeholder Engagement

- Institutionalized joint review mechanisms (forward & backward looking)
- Existence of coordination structures across all levels on health service delivery

Commitment

- Continued engagement with Ministry of Finance, and other agencies

ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

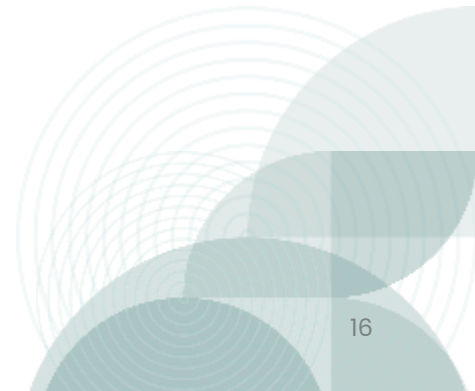
- The orientation workshop in CAR took place from the 13th-15th of October
 - There was high-level political support for the alignment agenda
 - Both the President and the Minister of Health attended
 - Currently, stakeholder engagements at national and provincial level are taking place to map all partners intervening in the system and inform them on the alignment framework
 - The Ministry of Health plans to adapt the diagnostic exercise for use in tertiary hospitals and at the subnational level
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ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK IN CAR- NEXT STEPS

- Finalization of the diagnostic exercise
- Conduct bilateral discussions on the perspectives of various stakeholders
- Harmonization workshop and consensus on overall findings
- Development of a country action plan to address the main alignment bottlenecks in the one plan, one budget and one report domains.

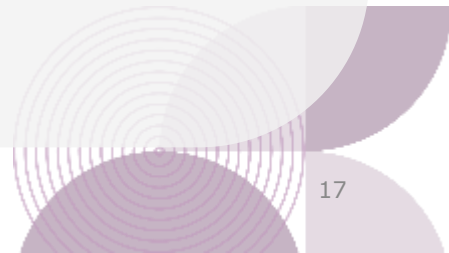
ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK IN BURKINA FASO

- Country-level Alignment Working Group was constituted, and an Independent Facilitator hired
- Alignment Framework Orientation workshop originally scheduled for November 2022 was postponed
 - Currently the team is working on rescheduling



Opportunities for Growth

- Targeted resource allocation to strengthen leadership and coordination efforts at the country level
- Clarity on the role of Development Partner country offices



NEXT STEPS

1. Finalization of the pilot process in four case study countries
2. An independent review of the process to gain perspectives on best practices, weaknesses, and lessons to be learned for scale-up was conducted
3. Continued Support from Global partners to country offices
4. Implementation of case study countries' action plan on alignment
5. Scale-up of the alignment framework in other countries through GFF mechanisms



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