**Kuwait National Pathway to Sustainable Food Systems 2030**

**Food Security and Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses**

**in Kuwait**

Kuwait faces structural challenges in sustaining food security with its rapid population growth, arid land, and scarcity of natural sources of fresh water. As a result, Kuwait depends excessively on food imports and is highly vulnerable to shocks related to the volatility of global food prices, fluctuations in food supply, climate change and political instability at the global and regional levels. The impact of the recent Covid 19 pandemic intensified the global tension affecting all systems – social, financial, health services, food systems and, subsequently, food security. The flow of imported agricultural and food products was disrupted due to the imposition of restrictions by some countries on their agricultural and food exports.

The path towards self-sufficiency must tackle Kuwait’s dependency on imports by building a sustainable agri-food system that is resilient in crises (SDGs 3 and 16). There is also an urgent need to establish a National Supreme Council for Food and Water Security to review and reformulate policies to strengthen the national food systems (SDGs 3,6,10,16 and 17). It is also important to create an integrated system for food security that requires database which would include agricultural, livestock and fish production, water and food consumption patterns, import and export, food loss and food waste data (SDGs 3,6,9,10,11,12.13,14,15). Small and medium enterprises should be supported and directed towards food production by attracting investors with modern technology (SDGs 8,9,11 and 12). All efforts should be directed towards self-sufficiency and sustainability (SDGs 8,9,11,12,13 and 15). Partnership of private and public sectors in conducting surveillance and research is crucial to monitor and ensure efficiency and efficacy in food systems (SDG 3,17). Strengthening the leadership and technical capabilities of the relevant authorities in food science, nutrition, food security, food safety, and food quality through education, training, employment, and development, to achieve the following (SDGs 3,4,8,9,11,12,13,16,17). Moreover, the availability and utilization of artificial intelligence, advanced technologies, digitization is necessary to keep up with the progress in food systems. Hence, the allocation of budgets and qualified human resources is vital as it will ensure quality, safety and sustainability (SDGs 3,9,11 and 12). Introduce community nutrition education to raise awareness regarding food consumption patterns, food waste and recycling, food safety, and small-scale farming (home, schools) which will significantly and effectively help in the future to achieve sustainable food security (SDGs 3,4,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16, 17).

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| Stakeholders | |
| * The National Security Bureau | * **Kuwait Investment Authority** |
| * Public Authority for Food and Nutrition | * **Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects** |
| * Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries | * **Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority** |
| * Ministry of Commerce and Industry | * **Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry** |
| * Public Authority for Industry | * **Kuwaiti Farmers Federation** |
| * Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research | * **Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies** |
| * Kuwait University | * **The General Administration of Customs** |
| * Competition Protection Agency | * **Kuwait Ports Authority** |
| * The National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development * Kuwait flour mills and bakeries company * Environment Public Authority * Ministry of education * Ministry of Finance | * **National Statistical Bureau** * **Ministry of Public Works** * **Industrial Bank of Kuwait** * **Environment Public Authority** |

**Challenges of Water Security in Kuwait**

**Vision:** **Towards sustainable water in Kuwait**- (SDG 6)

Water is the essence of life and central to agri-food systems. Kuwait depends mainly on desalinating sea water. The average rainfall is 110 mm per year and the freshwater streams do not exist. Despite that, Water consumption per capita is increasing reaching 443 L Capita/day. Kuwait is ranked second among most water stressed countries in the world by 2040. It is important to reduce water stress in the country.

The path to reduce water stress passes through sustainable agri-food systems. Many stakeholders should be involved to try to optimize water security: Ministry of electricity and water, Ministry of public works, Kuwait institute for science and research, Academic institutions and above all, a change in the current state of water subsidies and mobilization of budget.

It will take more than a decade to achieve the required goal, but this must be achieved by forming new partnerships between the government and a diverse group of stakeholders, including the private sector, as well as the wide dissemination of innovative technology and methods.

Ministry of electricity and water just launched a new initiative to encourage people to sustain water and electricity usage. They offered 40% reduction in electricity bills and 50% reduction in water bills to every household, factory, company…etc. that proves its compliance with reduction of water and electricity wastes as well as the usage of solar panels to move towards reducing water and electricity waste.

**Food loss and food waste in Kuwait**

* Emphasize the importance of issuing laws and legislations to reduce food and water waste. SDG 3,4,6,7,8,9, 11, 12,13,14,16,17. (2021-2023)
* Using modern technology to reduce food waste, such as electronic platforms and applications to reach the needy and distribute food to them as a societal responsibility. Furthermore, excess and surplus meals can be registered and sold the next day at a lower price to low-income people. SDG3,8,9,12,16,17 (2021-2022).
* Providing information about storage methods for foodstuff and directions for preserving foods on the packaging label. SDG 3,8,9,12,16,17 (2021-2022)
* Involving charities like the Kuwait Food and Relief Bank to distribute the surplus food for quick consumption to needy families, with the importance of applying food tracking mechanisms and policies to ensure food safety and consumer protection. SDG 3,8,9,12,16,17 (2021-2023)
* Increase consumer awareness. SDG3,8,9,12,16 (2021-2023)
* Allocating places for food commodities that are near their expiration date, to be offered for sale at a reduced value in the food market. SDG 3,8,9,12,16,17 (2021-2023)
* Restaurant owners provide meals in different portions at appropriate prices, to encourage customers to order meals with small quantities of food at reduced prices, which contributes to reducing waste. SDG 3,8,9,12,16,17 (2021-2023, 2021-2030)

**Stakeholders:**

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| * **Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies** | * **National Statistical Bureau** |
| * **Public Authority for Industry** | * **Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research** |
| * **Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies** | * **Kuwait University** |
| * **Ministry of Social Affairs** | * **Kuwaiti Farmers Federation** |
| * **Public Authority for Investment** | * **Ministry of Electricity and Water** |
| * **Ministry of Information** | * **Kuwait flour mills and bakeries company** |
| * **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** | * **Environment Public Authority** |
| * **Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies** | * **Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries** |
| * **Ministry of education** | * **The National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development** |

**To Promote nutritional status of school children in Kuwait by 2030.**

Sound nutrition and the adoption of healthy lifestyle prepares the future generations for optimal health, longevity, and reduced risk of non-communicable diseases.

More than 40% of Kuwaiti school children are either obese or overweight. Physical inactivity is a challenge and dietary habits are subject to trends of high intakes of salt, added sugar and high total calories. Efforts are needed to reduce overweight, obesity and its complications and improve dietary habits.

**Objectives & KPIs**

1. Establish National Committee for the promotion of national status of school children. (Established- July 2021) (SDG 3, 4, 11, 12, 17)
2. Develop strategy and action plan. (December 2021) (SDG3, 4, 11, 12, 17)
3. Partnership with food industries to provide food and beverages that meet WHO recommendations of nutrition friendly school initiative and comply with Kuwait standards. (January 2022) **(**SDG 3, 9, 12, 17)
4. Conduct surveillance to assess and monitor the impact of the intervention programs; (September 2022- May 2023)

**Aiming to**

* 1. Halt overweight (20%) and obesity (28%) and nutrition-related disease among this age group. (SDG 3)
  2. Address micronutrient deficiencies. (SDG 3)
  3. Compliance of school canteens to standards (SDG 3, 9)

1. Adopt and monitor implementation of Kuwait food standards. (SDG 3, 12, 17)
2. Increase the level of nutritional awareness among students, parents, teaching and administrative staff to promote nutrition friendly school initiative. (2022- 2024) (SDG 3, 4, 11, 12).

**Stakeholders:**

* Ministry of Education
* Ministry of Health: healthy Cities Program, School Health Department
* Food industry