



UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SYSTEMS COORDINATION HUB

Regional Touchpoints with National Convenors

7, 8 and 21 July 2022 Sessions

2022



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Executive Summary

Throughout the five [regional touchpoints](#) between National Convenors, the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) that took place in July 2022 (section 1), 60 convening teams referred to the shocks (COVID-19, climate change and conflict) that are affecting national food systems and contributing to challenges faced by food producers, especially those with smallholdings, and by poorer people who cannot access sufficient nutritious food (section 2).

The global crisis is a [succession of external shocks](#) impacting the cost of living with particular challenges for poorer people. It contributes to the difficulties experienced by smallholder food producers (especially regarding access to fertilizers and increased transportation costs), undermines the viability of many small and medium enterprises (especially in rural areas), and leads to household coping strategies that endanger the nutrition, health and wellbeing of women and young children from disadvantaged groups as well as other vulnerable members of society. In some cases, especially in communities affected by weather extremes like droughts, there are sharp increases in the number of people who require life-saving humanitarian assistance.

National Convenors described the ways in which the national food systems transformation pathways, developed ahead of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, are being adapted to take account of the succession of shocks. Section 3 describes how National Convenors are [continuing to work on food systems transformation](#). Their approaches can broadly be divided into three groups: first, Convenors from countries where the pathways continue to offer valuable strategic guidance to food systems transformation as they are; second, Convenors from countries where the urgency of the crisis has led to a short-term slow-down in the implementation of transformative action; and third, Convenors from countries where the immediate urgency of the crisis response has led to the longer-term transformation effort being put on hold. All Convenors are of the view that successful implementation of longer-term transformation is critical for achieving food systems of the future.

Convenors peer-exchanged on how governments are [responding to food systems shocks by supporting the production and availability of nutritious foods](#) (section 4). Many highlighted the need for longer-term transformation of food systems so that they are equitable and yield nutritious food that is produced through sustainable means. At the five touchpoint sessions, the first-hand accounts provided by Convenors echoed the observations and recommendations developed by the Food Workstream of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG). The need to reduce dependency on imports and to increase sustainable local production of nutritious foodstuffs was highlighted by all. In some cases, this has meant encouraging consumption of locally grown and unfamiliar varieties and adapting value chains to this new reality. Governments pay particular attention to supporting and protecting food producers, especially smallholders, so as to reduce the challenges they face with sustaining production and maintaining their livelihoods. Emphasis is consistently put on assisting producers to find more efficient ways to use expensive and scarce agricultural inputs (e.g. water for irrigation and fertilizer for soil nutrition), or to seek out alternatives (such as organic fertilizer).

The focus in section 5 is on how governments are [responding to food systems shocks by protecting disadvantaged people's access to the food they need](#) to be well nourished and healthy. It reflects the GCRG Food Workstream's focus on the specific nutritional needs of women and young children as well as older people, disabled people, refugees, and others in specific situations. Convenors value information that helps identify the groups in society who are most vulnerable, where they are, the nature of their vulnerability and ways in which it is changing over time. This information is vital to aid the adaptation of social protection schemes and anti-poverty initiatives, including safety nets. In many countries, governments and stakeholders are building on the support provided to people during the COVID-19 outbreaks and response efforts. There was much emphasis put on addressing the burden vulnerable people face with the increased cost-of-living and the coping strategy of reducing their intake of nutritious foods. Actions included efforts to reduce the costs of priority nutritious foods which are essential for the health and well-being of those who are most vulnerable.

Convenors focused on how best to [ensure a well-coordinated and funded response to different manifestations of the global crisis at the national level](#) (section 6). Convenors consider that in-country coordination across sectors and among stakeholders, synergy of actions and constant consultations among stakeholders are all vital and need constant attention. They value using existing multi-stakeholder platforms when available and increasing diversity of engagement through seeking out smallholder food producers and processors, Indigenous Peoples, SMEs, women, and young people. Effective working relationships with international partners, especially from the UN system, are critically important, with priority given to mobilising often modest amounts of financial assistance to maintain adaptation of pathways. Convenors clearly expressed the hope that their links with the Summit coalitions will yield long-term commitments to joint action as well as resources.

The assessment of [regional specificities](#) (section 7) indicates Convenors' concerns about the challenge of water scarcity linked to climate change, combined with the effects of violent conflict on the functioning of food systems in some countries within the Near East and North Africa region. The virtues of establishing food reserves, reducing crop losses and investing in infrastructure to improve productivity were identified. Convenors from Europe and Central Asia prioritized increased local production, supporting poor people to access what they need, and facing up to challenging trade-offs. Convenors from Latin America and the Caribbean are coordinating efforts to improve the resilience of vulnerable people's livelihoods, including smallholder producers, though efforts can be side-tracked when there is a change of government. Convenors from Africa are especially concerned with the impact of climate change and exceptional events, as well as the urgency given to increasing system resilience, including with early warning systems.

[Areas of emerging emphasis](#) (section 8) include a) anticipation of and preparation for shocks, b) systematic efforts to reduce market uncertainty and stabilize prices, c) an emphasis on preventing vulnerable people from becoming food insecure and malnourished, d) increasing resources for humanitarian food assistance, e) systematic review of pathways to assess needs for adaptation and f) a focus on solidarity between nations.

Section 9 indicates that [National Convenors](#) would value future touchpoint sessions. They want to interact more with each other, with the Hub and with the coalitions, and seek information about expectations of governments in the planned 2023 National Food Systems Transformation Stocktaking Moment.

The [conclusions](#) in section 10 reflect the importance of the sessions and the value given to their results, both by the Hub Director and the Food Workstream of the GCRG. Further touchpoints are planned in the coming months.

1. Context for the sessions

At the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021, 163 Member States, including 77 Heads of State and Government, made [statements](#) speaking to the importance of food systems in advancing the 2030 Agenda nationally and globally. 148 Member States appointed [Convenors leading national dialogues](#), and 117 have so far submitted [national pathways for food systems transformation](#) that offer a basis for realizing the vision of the 2030 Agenda at country level, in particular country contexts with a range of stakeholders.

In mid-March 2022, following the war in Ukraine, the UN Secretary-General established a [Global Crisis Response Group](#) (GCRG) to provide early warning of countries exposed to system shocks, as well as the people and places most likely to be affected by the interplay of these shocks. The [GCRG's first brief](#) was released on 13 April 2022: it presents the global impact of the war in Ukraine on food, energy and finance systems. The [GCRG's second brief](#) was released on 8 June 2022: it focuses especially on food security and fertilizer crises. [Brief 3](#), focused on energy, was released in August 2022.

Since the September 2021 Food Systems Summit, Convenors and their teams have been developing and making use of national pathways, as well as drawing on existing policies and strategies to advance the transformation of food systems in line with the SDGs. In many cases, the convening teams are working across sectors and engaging multiple stakeholders at subnational, national, and regional levels. In light of evolving systems shocks, Convenors are revising and adapting their pathways, policies, and strategies, while at the same time seeking ways to continue delivering on their commitments for sustainable development and climate action.

In July 2022, the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, together with two of the co-leads of the Food Workstream of the UN Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group, convened a series of five [regional touchpoints for National Convenors](#). These were designed for National Convenors to present how national food systems transformation pathways are being adapted to ongoing shocks in food, energy and finance systems. National Convenors and their representatives were invited to provide remarks on the impacts of shocks to the pathways for ongoing food systems transformation processes, along with measures taken to mitigate and build resilience to these shocks and protect the most affected and vulnerable.

A total of 59 countries and the European Union participated in these sessions that were kicked off with an impact presentation from the FAO Chief Economist and co-lead of the Food Workstream for the UN Global Crisis Response Group, Mr. Máximo Torero.

The presentation presented the current [State of Food Security and Nutrition](#) in the world which, unfortunately, is not on track to achieve relevant SDGs or any of the nutrition targets.

This note summarizes the key points shared by the 60 convening teams who joined the regional touchpoints as well as the written contributions by a further 17¹.

2. The global crisis: a succession of external shocks

During the 2021 Food Systems Summit, national leaders described how the contexts within which food systems are being transformed are changing. This is a result of a succession of [external shocks](#), including the COVID-19 pandemic and adverse weather events due to climate change, as well as natural disasters, animal diseases and invasion of pests (such as locusts). Their longer-term strategies focused on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, prioritized food system resilience, sustainability, and equity.

However, the increasing number and intensity of violent conflicts, and the ongoing war in Ukraine, have exacerbated ongoing disturbances in food, energy and finance systems.

Consequently, millions of people currently have to live on less, in what has become the most severe cost-of-living crisis in a generation. Food producers are facing increased difficulties with accessing energy and fertilizers, as well as meeting the increased costs of transport. Additionally, supply chains are disrupted, poor people are eating less nutritious diets due to challenges accessing nutritious foods (which are especially costly), poorer nations are facing higher bills for imported goods, and in areas that are severely affected by drought and conflict, the numbers of severely food insecure people are increasing sharply.

In the coming months, the crisis may result in lower availability of specific food crops (especially rice) because farmers are unable to meet the high costs of fertilizers which are needed for production.

The ability of nations to cope with external shocks may be compromised if they are also experiencing internal instability and/or strife.

The contributions of National Convenors echoed [evolving recommendations of the GCRG Food Workstream](#). The overall recommendation is that within countries, the focus is on ensuring that all people have access to the food needed for their households to be well nourished.

3. Combining food systems transformation with responses to the crisis

National-level efforts to advance the transformation of food systems in line with the national pathways developed at the Summit are continuing in all regions. Many National Convenors announced how pathways are being used as a basis for development of strategic policies, adoption of national action plans, development of funding proposals, and creation of national working groups. Several of the National Convenors have been renominated.

¹ See lists of countries who joined the regional touch points or sent written remarks in Annex 1.

There are – broadly - three groups of countries.

First: countries in which the food system transformation process, and responses to current shocks, are well-covered by what is in the national pathway; there may be additional annexes being developed to highlight the strategies and measures being employed for crisis response. Convenors may focus particularly on means for implementation by prioritizing specific responses, focusing on development of food systems resilience or mobilising finance for urgent crisis-linked investments; sometimes, this involves the Summit coalitions.

Second: countries in which national pathway implementation has been affected by the crisis in the short term, but the intention to implement the long-term transformation strategy set out in the pathway remains strong. Pathways are being reviewed and adapted, often through inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues that build on procedures used during the Food Systems Summit.

Third, countries in which the urgency of the crisis and efforts needed for emergency response has led to a marked slow-down in activities set out in the pathway due to a redirection of government priorities.

The general position of all Convenors throughout the sessions was that the effective implementation of national pathways for food systems transformation should be sustained in order to address the underlying structural causes of people's food insecurity and malnutrition. Convenors requested technical assistance for in-country efforts to implement these transformations in line with national pathways, including through UN Country Teams, as well as regional and global partners.

4. Responding to food systems shocks by supporting production and availability of nutritious foods

Boosting the local production of nutritious food and encouraging the consumption of locally produced foods.

National Convenors described how resilience to shocks is being improved by increasing local production and reducing import dependency by building strategic reserves and diversifying supply chains to lower prices. Food reserves are being built up at national, regional, and local levels. Convenors from countries in the Near East region reported the development of guidelines for context-specific and conflict-sensitive value chains. Convenors from Africa described how a diversity of food crops is becoming available in local markets. Convenors from Europe outlined how governments are seeking to boost agricultural productivity in order to both increase exports and ensure adequate supplies for domestic use.

Supporting smallholder farmers.

National Convenors described how farmers are receiving technical and financial support through interest-free loans, tax relief schemes, changes in subsidy policies for agriculture and energy, including subsidies for fertilizers, and assistance in the procurement and efficient use of agricultural inputs and machinery. Some Convenors explained that contracts between farmers and wholesalers are being renegotiated to be fairer and more supportive, providing farmers with higher incomes to offset rising costs.

Convenors emphasised the support being given to smallholder and subsistence farmers, as well as to women and youth working within the agricultural sector, through facilitating their access to inputs and credit. In some cases, access to fertilisers, seeds and fuel for machinery is also being supported through the distribution of vouchers for these goods.

Investing in local infrastructure and enhancing the capacity of distribution systems with a focus on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Convenors described how governments are enhancing food systems resilience and reducing the vulnerability of smallholders through increasing local production, establishing food buffer stocks and establishing localised supply chains. To this end, they are increasing the number of agricultural distribution centres, improving storage facilities, expanding schemes for leasing agricultural machinery and creating all-weather access roads. Technical training on the management of food stocks and more efficient use of water for irrigation is also being provided. Farmers are benefiting from new technology and other innovations to increase the efficiency with which they use scarce resources such as water and fertilizers. There is also emphasis on providing greater transparency on the availability of agricultural inputs and food commodities in order to encourage less hoarding of essentials.

Aligning goals for longer term food systems transformation with the short-term imperatives of the crisis response.

National Convenors described efforts being made to continue to develop local agricultural production in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. They highlighted the dilemma between boosting agricultural production and meeting agreed-upon targets for sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions. They concluded that all interventions must include climate mitigation and adaptation measures as all issues are interlinked. Climate change and food security should not be treated as separate issues. The current crisis was described as an opportunity to focus on sustainable solutions such as reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides by increasing the efficiency of their use and incorporating organic products. Other solutions include reducing food loss and waste and increasing nature-positive agriculture practices. At the same time, some farmers in Europe have received temporary derogations that enable them to postpone efforts towards the ecological transition in their farming practices with a view to rapidly increase production.

Encouraging actions to stabilize prices and reduce market uncertainty.

Throughout all the regional sessions, Convenors stressed the vital importance of keeping international trade open and transparent.

5. Responding to food systems shocks by protecting people's access to the food they need

Ensuring all people's access to nutritious food, protecting the right to food, and improving access to social protection.

National Convenors report that governments have initiated assessments and surveys at the household level, focusing especially on women and children, to assess the interrelated impacts of the energy, food and financial shocks, and to identify the most affected populations. They indicated that information about which groups in any population are vulnerable, and how their vulnerability is changing, is essential for national food systems pathways to be adapted in response to changing circumstances.

National Convenors stressed the importance of social protection schemes and described how anti-poverty programmes and safety nets are being strengthened so they can protect the most affected populations. Some governments have retained the social assistance mechanisms that were developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and are building on them to better protect the most vulnerable. Specific approaches include government-supported stimulus packages designed for poorer community groups, temporary employment of laid-off workers in affected industries, support to small businesses, provision of interest-free loans for women entrepreneurs and unemployed youth in rural areas, increased coverage of safety nets, tax relief for citizens and the implementation of fuel, energy and gas subsidies.

National Convenors highlighted the importance of employee wages being revised to reflect increases in the cost-of-living. One reported that the national minimum wage for private sector employees has been increased. During the discussion, it was highlighted that for some countries, especially in the Pacific, access to formal social protection schemes is limited and that this requires urgent attention.

Enabling access to specific nutrition interventions to prevent malnutrition among vulnerable women, infants, and young children.

National Convenors indicated that enabling all people to access the nutritious food they need is a major priority for national governments, given that household food bills are rising. Social assistance, designed to ensure food and nutrition security, and food-based approaches to prevent malnutrition, were presented as key features of national strategies. Responses include: implementing active food price monitoring and regulation mechanisms; the distribution of agri-food vouchers to improve access to nutritious food by low-income vulnerable households, such as cash cards, for the purchase of fruit, vegetables, and meat; cutting sales taxes to reduce the prices of food items; subsidizing the production of local foods; and developing markets and food banks where basic food products can be purchased at very low prices.

Convenors reported there are increasing numbers of households, particularly involving women, children, and Indigenous Peoples, where malnutrition is a real risk. Priority is given to enabling these at-risk households to access nutritious foods, with special attention to the needs of pregnant and lactating women, and children under 2 years of age. Convenors stressed that their governments want to prioritize increasing the ability of households to afford healthy diets through focusing on the transformation to sustainable food systems. This would ensure that vulnerable households can access the right types of nutritious food, through cost-effective interventions to reduce prices that consumers must pay for these foods.

National governments have been working on lowering the prices of food through the suspension of import duties and tariffs for priority food basket products like wheat, or essentials such as animal feed. Information from food price monitoring in markets and socio-economic data from populations is being used to inform decisions and forecast the effects of price rises on different population groups; this enables authorities to respond effectively and helps discourage speculation. Convenors described how governments are allocating technical and financial resources to this end.

Convenors described other initiatives to protect nutrition such as revised laws on school children's eligibility to access meals in schools, programmes providing food aid to refugees, and community-led development projects such as community gardens, to increase production of nutritious food in urban areas.

6. Ensuring a well-coordinated and funded response

Mobilising finance for both urgent and long-term action to benefit people and communities under threat.

(a) In-country coordination

National Convenors emphasized the need to encourage coordinated responses within countries through engaging different sectors of government and a range of stakeholders, including public institutions, small and large-scale food producers, consumers, civil society, businesses, academic organizations and UN agencies. This contributes to efficiency of resource use and synergy of response actions. Governments are intensifying consultations with farmer organizations, businesses, research institutions, NGOs, civil society, and other stakeholders in the food system, to both raise awareness on issues and build responses jointly. Governments are also regularly communicating and collaborating with the private sector to seek options for sustaining food production and ensuring that measures to respond to the crisis are effective.

(b) Increasing the diversity of stakeholder engagement

National Convenors stressed the importance of reaching out to engage stakeholders from all levels of society. Convenors from countries in Asia especially reported using existing multi-stakeholder platforms at the provincial and local levels to ensure the continuation of stakeholder engagement and dialogue; these platforms were used in responding to COVID-19. Governments find them to be helpful when anticipating and preparing for the potential impact of disturbances in food, energy and financial systems, and then responding to them promptly as they start to appear. Extra efforts are being made to engage stakeholder groups that reflect the often-overlapping interests of smallholder food producers and processors, Indigenous Peoples, SMEs, women and youth.

(c) Working with international organizations and partners

Governments are working closely with the in-country and regional representatives of international partners, especially entities of the UN system, through country offices of FAO, WFP, WHO, and IFAD, as well as international financial institutions (including the World Bank and Regional Development Banks), and other international institutions. The UN Country Teams are providing technical support, project assistance and advice, as well as support to mobilise finance, especially for increasing availability of locally produced foods, reducing food-related import bills and sustaining momentum for food systems transformation. The need for continued access to modest funds to support transformation efforts was stressed throughout the regional sessions.

(d) Mobilising financial assistance

National governments are actively working to mobilise funding for programmes and projects to respond to the crisis. Several UN Country Teams report having submitted proposals to the UN Joint SDG Fund for combined action by UN system entities on behalf of national governments. They are receiving emergency funding support. National governments are working to sensitize donors; some are meeting with the UN Food Systems Summit coalition focal points with the goal of securing additional resources. Convenors from high-income countries highlighted the need for the international community to coordinate support for governments to ensure effective disbursement of support and maximum impact. People within countries that experience violent conflict face increased risks of food insecurity, and both governments and aid organizations experience particular difficulty with mobilising finance in response to their needs.

(e) Engaging in international processes

National Convenors value opportunities to engage with global partners to receive their recommendations on actions to prioritize, and to collaborate on effective responses. They continue to be seen and heard in international processes that contribute to national food systems transformation efforts including those organized by the UN system, by regional organizations, around global initiatives (like the G20 or G7) and in preparation for COP 27. Convenors consistently underline their need for adequate financial support.

7. Regional specificities

Regional UN representatives present during the session presented efforts at the regional level to pull UN assets together to support national pathways implementation and national food systems transformation.

During the session, which focused on the [Near East and North Africa](#) region, it appeared that a number of countries are affected by instability associated with violent conflict, combined with weather disruptions due to climate change. This situation has been exacerbated by the consequences of the war in Ukraine. Large numbers of people, especially women and children, have become increasingly food insecure in recent months, which has resulted in food systems disruptions and large-scale population displacements. In these circumstances, national governments face challenges when seeking to mobilise financial support from development partners.

National Convenors referred to the threat to food systems and food security posed by climate change and water scarcity. Despite differences in the incomes and resources available to people in different nations, the challenges are similar. Governments are preparing to support people as they face ever-greater difficulties in the coming years due to higher temperatures and water shortages. The development of forestry is seen as important for mitigating these impacts by several participants. Convenors also reflected on strategic opportunities for expanding agriculture (including through enhanced infrastructure such as all-weather roads) and establishing strategic reserves to ensure that

resources are used efficiently, and crop losses are reduced. They are developing innovations that can be deployed along food value chains to good effect.

Convenors in [Asia and the Pacific](#) reported that many national governments have maintained the measures they established in response to the economic shocks related to COVID-19 as poorer people are especially susceptible to ongoing disturbances in national food systems. They are also affected by shocks resulting from intense weather events, such as droughts and storms, often associated with landslides and floods. They are vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions. The impact of such shocks on the functioning of food systems has highlighted the importance of pathways for national food systems transformation that respond to peoples' vulnerabilities and prioritize food systems resilience. Convenors continue to draw from the outcomes of national food systems dialogues and have maintained their multi-level and multi-stakeholder engagement platforms in order to focus on the development of more resilient food systems at local and sub-national levels. Poorer people are trying to cope with dramatic increases in the cost of their food baskets; sometimes there are severe reductions in the amounts of nutrients they consume. They need to be able to access opportunities for social protection, including responsive safety nets, which are not yet fully developed in some countries within the region.

Convenors in [Europe and Central Asia](#) presented ways in which their countries are affected by increasing costs of energy, food and fertilisers. They emphasised the need to develop local agriculture to ensure both national food security and increased export capacity. They stressed that food may be available, but in practice, many people cannot access it because they cannot afford the cost. Governments and stakeholders in nations around Ukraine see themselves as responsible for supporting the transportation and storage of Ukrainian grain. High-income nations are taking responsibility for coordinated action in support of other regions across the world. Some Convenors highlighted the difficult trade-offs faced by governments that want to increase food production while respecting the targets they have established for reaching net zero on greenhouse gas emissions. In some cases, they seek to postpone the date when they are expected to achieve their climate targets because of concerns that if they cut back on inputs or production intensity in line with their targets, they might end up not producing sufficient food in coming months. This is an alarming note and an indication that urgent support is needed for countries to simultaneously deal with the climate emergency and improvement of food production.

Convenors from [Latin America and the Caribbean](#) described how they are actively involved in updating food systems transformation pathways. They are using the pathways to guide food systems transformation while introducing other measures to counteract current disturbances in food systems. The focus is on coordinated efforts to improve the resilience of people's livelihoods. This may mean protecting vulnerable people, including smallholder food producers, through reduced taxes and subsidies of essential items. Such interventions are introduced more slowly in settings where governments are changing, with Convenors doing what they can to help maintain momentum. They asked for more information about how the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub will operate in the coming months, what will be required for the 2023 Stocktaking Moment, and how they can explore and engage with coalitions.

Convenors in [Africa](#) shared their concerns regarding climate change given the impact of droughts and failed rains, or heavy rains and floods, on agricultural production and pastoralism. Beyond climate, countries in Africa have also been subjected to other exceptional events such as diseases that kill livestock, including avian flu and Rift Valley Fever, and upsurges of invasive pests such as desert locusts. Convenors also reported that national governments are reprioritizing policies and financial allocations in relation to food systems, given the urgency of the current crisis. National governments throughout the continent are harnessing local potential in an effort to increase system resilience. Typical activities include boosting local food production, creating local organic fertilisers, improving local transportation infrastructure, enhancing local opportunities for youth employment and providing additional land to agropastoral cooperatives. Several Convenors mentioned that better early warning systems would increase the readiness of governments to minimise the consequences of ongoing shocks. Timelines for assessments are being shortened to give more advance warning. Budgets are already being redirected given the urgency of action.

8. Emerging emphases

Throughout the sessions, National Convenors highlighted the value given to national pathways and to coordinated action. The emphasis on increasing resilience was strong in all sessions, including through increased local production, developing managed stocks and taking action to reduce hoarding. They identified some areas that need to be incorporated within national pathways. In Africa, Convenors highlighted the need for early warning systems and tools to anticipate extended consequences of certain shocks.

Six relevant recommendations for ensuring that food systems are resilient, sustainable and equitable in the face of systems shocks from the [GCRG second brief](#) are highlighted:

First: [anticipate and prepare for the unexpected impacts of food systems shocks](#) across multiple sectors to help ensure overall societal and political stability while leaving no one behind. It became apparent that in the Pacific, there is a need to develop social protection schemes that better respond to people's vulnerabilities.

Second: [reduce market uncertainty and contribute to stable food and fertiliser prices](#) through support for free and open international trade and better access to market information (including through the Agricultural Market Information System).

Third: [focus on preventing people from becoming food insecure and malnourished](#) through identifying groups of people who are at risk of severe poverty and focusing on securing their livelihoods as well as saving their lives.

Fourth: [increase resources available for humanitarian responses and exempt purchases of food for these responses](#) from export restrictions.

Fifth: [solidarity between nations](#). Convenors focused on the importance of global solidarity, on the need for high-income countries and multilateral entities to offer prompt, coherent and effective support to countries with lower incomes in order to support delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is essential to avoid jeopardizing longer-term prospects for people and planet. Governments of countries that are not eligible to receive funds from the International Development Association need special attention.

Sixth: use local information to determine whether national food systems transformation pathways need to be adapted to respond to the needs of people and places who are vulnerable and contribute to resilience in the face of ongoing shocks. Reliable information should be obtained about the experiences of groups of people within different localities and nations at regular intervals. It should be based on real-time data disaggregated by sex, age, location, occupation and social group.

9. National Convenors and future touchpoint sessions

National Convenors found the touchpoint sessions to be valuable and would like to work with the Hub on the objectives for and design of future touchpoint sessions, on how the Hub will coordinate the country support ecosystem, the role that national governments will play in the planned 2023 Stocktaking Moment of national food systems transformation efforts, and on any plans for in-person meetings in Rome which include the participation of the Permanent Representations.

Convenors expressed a wish to continue interacting with each other, integrating in-country and multi-country crisis responses. In each session, those involved in crisis responses indicated how much they value the interactions.

Convenors indicated that they are eager and ready to work with the coalitions emerging from the Summit and hope to secure their help with mobilising additional financial support for implementation. An updated list of the coalitions and their focal points was requested.

10. Conclusions

Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, announced that a summary of these regional touchpoints will highlight some of the common and different responses witnessed in the regions. This summary will be shared in multiple fora to present ways to address these multiple crises. Contact details for coalitions and additional information for the 2023 Stocktaking Moment will soon be shared. Stefanos Fotiou thanked the participants for joining the sessions and informed that more regional touchpoints will be scheduled.

David Nabarro, co-lead of the Food Workstream for the UN Global Crisis Response Group, commented briefly at the end of each session. He emphasized that many drivers are contributing to food insecurity and poverty in each region. These drivers are interconnected; they impact each country as well as different groups within the countries. Convenors described the ways in which integrated responses are being developed and implemented and indicated the kinds of support needed to do this more effectively. David Nabarro emphasized that these responses are in alignment with the policy recommendations outlined in the three GCRG briefs published since April 2022². The experiences described by National Convenors during these regional sessions have been made available to the UN Global Crisis Response Group.

² The links to the three GCRG briefs are available in Annex 2.

There is strong evidence that the food systems transformation pathways still occupy a central position in the development setting of most countries. The evolving crises that affect food security and the way that governments respond to these crises could provide valuable lessons for recovery, as outlined above. One of the most concerning messages from the countries is that there is a threat to lower the ambition for achievement of previous commitments such as the climate targets and the SDGs. This should not be permitted to happen and the international community should come up with solutions that will support those most in need by strengthening the capacity of countries for food systems transformation that will accelerate the SDGs.

ANNEX 1: Country participation in regional touchpoints, July 2022

In total, these regional touchpoints welcomed convening teams from 59 countries and the European Union.

- The session focusing on the [Near East and North Africa](#) heard from convening teams from [6 countries](#): Algeria, Benin, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar and Sudan. The National Convenors of Benin, Iraq and Sudan were present.
- The session focusing on [Asia and the Pacific](#) heard from convening teams from [11 countries](#): Australia, Cambodia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Palau, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Tonga. The National Convenors of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Samoa, Timor-Leste and Tonga were present.
- The session focusing on [Europe and Central Asia](#) heard from convening teams from [14 countries and the European Union](#): Armenia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Ukraine and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Commission. The National Convenors of Armenia, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Spain and Ukraine were present.
- The session focusing on [Latin America and the Caribbean](#) heard from convening teams from [11 countries](#): Argentina, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and Panama. The National Convenors from Haiti and Belize were present.
- The session focusing on [Africa](#) heard from convening teams from [16 countries](#): Benin, Burundi, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritius, Somalia, South Africa and Zambia. The National Convenors from Benin, Burundi, Ghana, Lesotho, Liberia and South Africa were present.

National Convenors were also invited to share written submissions in response to the questions shared in advance of the session. Written submissions were received from [17 countries](#): Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Denmark, Georgia, Jordan, Lao PDR, Latvia, Morocco, Namibia, Republic of Korea, Qatar, Serbia, Sudan, Türkiye, United Kingdom and Yemen. The convening teams from Cameroon, Morocco, Namibia and Serbia could not attend the regional touch points and sent their written contributions to ensure that their perspectives were included.

ANNEX 2: Links to the three UN Global Crisis Response Group briefs and policy recommendations

[GCRG Brief 1](#) : The Global Impact of war in Ukraine on Food, Energy and Finance Systems (13 April 2022).

[GCRG Brief 2](#) : Global impact of the war in Ukraine: Billions of people face the greatest cost-of-living crisis in a generation (8 June 2022).

[GCRG Brief 3](#) : Global impact of war in Ukraine: Energy Crisis (August 2022).
