



GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION 2025:

**Progress Report Based on Inputs from Countries,
Coalitions, and the UN System Ahead of UNFSS+4**



**UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SYSTEMS
COORDINATION HUB**

**In loving memory of Sir David Nabarro
(1949-2025)**

A distinguished leader in global food security and nutrition,
Sir David Nabarro dedicated his career to strengthening equitable food systems
and advancing sustainable development.

His visionary leadership and lifelong service leave an enduring legacy
that continues to guide efforts to end hunger worldwide.

FOREWORD

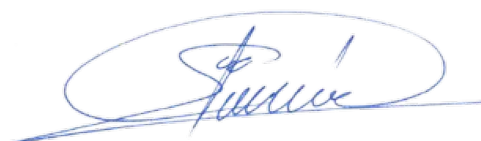
Food systems are in a state of continual evolution. They do far more than put food on the table: they help regenerate the natural resources on which production depends, sustain good nutrition for humanity, and give producers a foundation for secure, long-term livelihoods. Across the world they form the backbone of rural economies, shape local ecosystems and even influence weather patterns. They are central to people's wellbeing—today and for generations to come. Yet the way these systems take shape is rarely straightforward: they depend on many actors with different interests and levels of influence, and are directly affected by complex political and economic realities.

This report highlights global progress and the lessons learned in driving food systems transformation as a cornerstone of sustainable development. Since the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, the movement to reimagine food systems as engines of climate action, sustainable growth and shared prosperity has gained remarkable momentum and urgency. At the 2023 UN Food Systems Stocktake, a broad coalition of governments, stakeholders and institutions reaffirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda, creating a powerful platform for action. Two years later, the picture is clearer and stronger: progress is gathering pace across many fronts, even as persistent challenges highlight the need for deeper cooperation, smarter investment and an unwavering focus on equity.

With five years left to achieve the 2030 Agenda, more than 159 countries have appointed National Convenors and 130 have defined national food systems pathways, many of them already translated into concrete actions. Voluntary reporting has expanded, signalling a sustained political will to deliver on commitments despite a volatile global context of conflict, climate shocks, economic pressures and widening inequalities.

Encouraging trends emerge from this collective effort. Across all regions, governments are embedding the right to food into constitutions and legislation, and aligning their food systems strategies with national plans for climate and biodiversity. High-level governance mechanisms, from presidential secretariats to interministerial committees, are strengthening cross-sector action. Partnerships are deepening through coalitions of action and multistakeholder dialogues, while inclusivity is becoming a defining feature: women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, smallholder farmers and persons with disabilities are increasingly involved in policy and implementation. Countries are also investing in science, technology, data systems and artificial intelligence to guide decisions and strengthen accountability. Mobilizing finance remains a priority: nations are reallocating budgets, tapping climate funds, and pursuing innovative mechanisms such as blended finance, public–private partnerships and green bonds. These steps demonstrate a shared recognition that transforming food systems requires both national commitment and international solidarity.

These lessons demonstrate that food systems transformation is not a single project but an ongoing process of learning, adaptation and shared responsibility. This report captures this growing momentum and recognizes the urgency of continuing our collective efforts of accelerating food systems transformation for people and for the planet.



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ABBREVIATIONS

3FS	Financial Flows to Food Systems
ACF	Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank Group
Agri-PDB	Agricultural Public Development Bank Platform
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AICCRA	Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AsDB	Asian Development Bank
AU	African Union
CA4SH	Coalition for Action 4 Soil Health
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CDB	Convention on Biological Diversity
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CIF	Climate Investment Funds
COP	Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EoS	Ecosystem of Support
EPHA	European Public Health Alliance
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAST	Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation
FSSDs	Food Systems Solutions Dialogues
FST	Food Systems Transformation
G20	Group of 20
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework

GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas emissions
GIS	Geographic Information System
HDP-Nexus	Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus Coalition
HDSFS	Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All
HICs	High-Income Countries
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
HQ	Headquarters
IATP	Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy
I-CAN	Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
ILO	International Labour Organization
INFER	Integrated Food System Risk Assessment
i-PES Food	International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LICs	Low-Income Countries
LMICs	Lower-Middle Income Countries
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans
NBSAPs	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
PRONAF	Programa Nacional de Fortalecimento da Agricultura Familiar
R&D	Research and Development
RCs	Resident Coordinators
RDBs	Regional Development Banks

ABBREVIATIONS

RNG-FS	Regional Networking Group on Food Systems
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee
SAPZ	Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Program
SASI	Sustainable Agrifood Systems Intelligence
SCOPE	System Country Programming and Evidence
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SENA	Stakeholder Engagement and Networking Advisory
SPIs	Science-Policy-Society Interfaces
STIs	Science, Technology and Innovations
UMICs	Upper middle-income countries
UN	United Nations
UNCTs	UN Country Teams
UNDCO	UN Department of Global Communication
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit - 2021
UNFSS+2	UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment
UNFSS+4	UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UN IBC-SFS	UN Issue-based Coalition on Sustainable Food Systems
UNTF	UN Food Systems Task Force
USD	United States Dollar
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
YLP	Youth Leadership Programme

ABSTRACT

This report synthesizes global progress and lessons learned in advancing food systems transformation as a cornerstone of sustainable development

Since the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, the global movement has gained momentum, coherence, and urgency. Countries have taken bold steps to reimagine food systems as engines of climate action, sustainable development, and inclusive prosperity.

At the 2023 Stocktake, a strong coalition of governments, stakeholders, and institutions reaffirmed their commitment to action, building momentum toward the 2030 Agenda. Two years on, the picture is clearer and stronger. Progress is accelerating across multiple fronts, while persistent challenges underscore the need for deeper cooperation, smarter investment,

and a relentless focus on equity. Key findings indicate that many countries have made tangible progress in integrating food systems into national development plans, strengthening institutional frameworks, leveraging inclusive multistakeholder engagements and enhancing national ownership of the transformation efforts. This demonstrates a sustained commitment to advancing the global food systems agenda. Opportunities, however, remain to accelerate inclusive, resilient and sustainable food system transitions for people and the planet. In line with the United Nations Secretary-General's commitment to convene a biennial global stocktake, the 2025 Stocktake serves as a platform to reflect on progress, strengthen partnerships, track commitments and unlock finance and increase investments. This report draws on contributions from 112 participating countries, the Coalitions of Action and the UN System.

↓ Rome – UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, FAO headquarters (Atrium)
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KEY MESSAGES

The 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) catalyzed global momentum for food systems transformation, recognizing their central role in achieving the 2030 Agenda. At the first United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+2) in 2023, countries reaffirmed their commitment to translate national pathways into action. Now, four years since the Summit, and with just five years remaining before 2030, a stronger and more coordinated global community of food systems actors and partners has taken root. Grounded in the leadership of governments a broad Ecosystem of Support (EoS) - including the United Nations (UN), civil society, youth, local actors, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector, food producers, and others - this community is now advancing toward the Second UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4) to reflect on progress, strengthen partnerships, and unlock the finance and investments needed to scale transformation.

Momentum for food systems transformation has deepened amidst a volatile global context. Countries are tackling interconnected and persistent challenges, including conflict, climate change, inequalities and economic pressures that undermine food security, nutrition and livelihoods. Addressing these challenges has called for coordinated global action, strengthened national capacity and inclusive, sustained investments. At the same time, countries are aligning their food systems pathways with broader transitions to green and digital economies that create decent jobs and are anchored in social protection and education, necessary to achieve resilience and sustainability.

By 2025, 130 countries developed national food systems pathways, up from 126 in 2023, and 159 countries have appointed National Convenors to lead and coordinate

efforts. Since 2023, 39 countries have revised their pathways, translating them into concrete action plans. Voluntary reporting also increased, with 112 countries submitting progress updates in 2025, compared to 101 in 2023. These reports reflect strong political will and institutional commitment from national leaders, food systems convenors and stakeholders working together to respond to continued crises and building resilience for their people and countries.

Since UNFSS+2, countries have reported encouraging progress in transforming food systems, as evidenced by trends emerging from the voluntary progress reports:

- In all regions, countries are placing the right to food at the core of their strategies, safeguarding dignity and human rights. Many have enshrined this right in constitutions, enacted enabling legislation, and worked to ensure food is never used as a weapon during conflict.
- Countries are accelerating the implementation of national food systems pathways by integrating food systems into national development plans and policy frameworks. These efforts are increasingly aligned with climate and biodiversity planning instruments, including Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.
- Recognizing the cross-sectoral nature of food systems transformation, countries are establishing fit-for-purpose, high-level governance mechanisms such as presidential secretariats and interministerial committees that support bottom-up and integrated approaches to food systems transformation.

- Countries are building and strengthening inclusive partnerships and coalitions to advance national food systems pathways. At the 2021 Summit, 31 Coalitions of Action were formed to support implementation. While the number of active coalitions has decreased, those that remain have continued to provide critical support through advocacy, knowledge generation, fundraising, partnership building, and technical assistance.
- Countries report that there has been strong collaboration amongst the National Convenors, civil society, academia, local actors, Indigenous Peoples, youth, food producers, consumers and businesses.
- Many countries are advancing inclusivity by prioritizing the needs of women, young people, Indigenous Peoples, smallholder farmers and producers, and persons with disabilities in national food systems policies and initiatives. The UN system, through its country teams and led by the Resident Coordinators, has continued to work closely with National Convenors and the local EoS to advance food systems transformation.
- Through the UN Food Systems Task Force and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, the UN has contributed through joint programming, policy guidance, regional cooperation, and strategic financing in support of national priorities.
- Countries have committed to adopting and investing in science, technology, data systems, artificial intelligence and evidence-based policymaking as essential drivers of implementation, investments and accountability.
- Mobilizing finance for food systems transformation was a top priority during the period, following the Secretary-General's 2023 UNFSS+2 Call to Action. Countries reported reallocating national budgets,

accessing climate finance, engaging regional banks and international financial institutions, and advancing innovative financing strategies such as blended finance, public-private partnerships, green financing and corporate social responsibility. Emerging models, including concessional financing mechanisms tailored to food systems transformation, offer promise, yet access to finance remains a persistent challenge.

This growing global movement, anchored in governments and powered by a diverse and inclusive community of actors, is accelerating food systems transformation for people and for the planet.

The UNFSS+4 marks a pivotal moment to scale up implementation and mobilize action that will benefit current and future generations. Five years ahead of the 2030 deadline, backed by the recently agreed *Compromiso de Sevilla* and stronger engagement with the private sector to ensure the investments that are needed, the Secretary-General is convening Member States and the EoS to capitalize on the actions and learning of the past five years to meet the ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals. The context against which we meet in 2025 poses new issues to contend with, related with trade, artificial intelligence and new and fast evolving technologies. Looking ahead, the World Summit on Social Development and COP 30 will be opportunities to present the results of our dialogue for the expansion of decent jobs and social protection, to meet the right to food, reduce poverty and hunger for all people and to further strengthen the linkages between our food systems and climate action.

The multilateral system has proven to be the most effective source of solutions and resilience in this quinquennium. We must continue to strengthen our ability to work together, building on the unity of our resolve to deliver food for all to ensure peace, inclusion and prosperity.

INTRODUCTION

Ten years after the global community adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we continue to face significant challenges in translating our systemic vision into tangible action. Despite widespread commitment, progress remains uneven - and, in many areas, alarmingly slow. According to the latest global data, 35 percent of the 137 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets with available data show moderate progress. Meanwhile, 47 percent are advancing at an insufficient pace, and 18 percent have regressed compared to the 2015 baseline.¹ With just five years remaining until the 2030 deadline, urgent and intensified efforts are essential to reverse these trends, as reaffirmed in the Secretary-General's SDG Progress Report. The six transitions - food systems; energy access and affordability; digital connectivity; education; employment and social protection; and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution - identified at the Sustainable Development Summit for their catalytic and ripple effects across the SDGs, remain central to driving transformative change.

The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) marked a turning point in the transformation of global food systems, positioning them as a primary lever to achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and

breaking down sectoral silos. To ensure continued progress, the UN Secretary-General committed to a biennial stocktaking of the UNFSS outcomes and their contribution to the 2030 Agenda. The first UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+2) reaffirmed that food systems remain a global priority and culminated in a *Call to Action for Accelerated Food Systems Transformation*, which urged governments and stakeholders to deepen their efforts and commit the UN System to supporting country-led transformations.

In 2024, the SDG Summit Political Declaration and the Pact for the Future both reaffirm sustainable development as a core pillar of multilateral cooperation.² Meanwhile, food systems have the potential to drive multidimensional progress due to their deep interconnections with all SDGs, contributing to health, climate, biodiversity, livelihoods, trade, gender equality and local economies, amongst many other positive gains.

The second UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4), in July 2025, offers a critical opportunity to assess progress, renew global solidarity and connect high-level ambition with local action to advance food systems transformation as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council. 2025. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary General. New York, USA. https://docs.un.org/en/a/80/81&i=A/80/81_1748035261784

² United Nations. 2024. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, A/RES/79/1. New York, USA. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/79/1>

↓ Afghanistan – Noor Ahmad is a farmer from Kandahar who received a certified wheat seed package and now he is cultivating it on his land.
© FAO/Hashim Azizi



CHAPTER 1

FROM DIALOGUE TO DELIVERY - FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION AS A KEY SDG ACCELERATOR

1.1 Growing global commitment for food systems

The UNFSS sparked a global movement aimed at transforming food systems by engaging numerous stakeholders worldwide. Today, in the face of severe challenges, this movement is demonstrating that there is the capacity for millions of people to act boldly and strategically, together. Critical to this is the increasing appreciation among organizations and individuals of the need to approach food and agriculture as a system, acknowledging the different and complex interactions of elements both within and beyond the food system itself. In 2023, this global community reconvened, enlarged, to take stock and reaffirm that food systems remain a global priority.

Since UNFSS+2, food systems have gained an unprecedented political momentum and have been recognized as a critical nexus for addressing interconnected global challenges and delivering on the SDGs. This was echoed in the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development *Political Declaration*.³ The Conference of the Parties (COP28) UAE *Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action* represents a watershed moment, securing an unprecedented commitment from 160 Heads of States and Governments to integrate food systems into national climate strategies and vice versa.⁴ Complementing this, the COP15 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) established 23 specific targets on food systems transformation,⁵ and at COP16, a comprehensive implementation strategy and a dedicated fund were set up to achieve these targets. G7 and Group of 20 (G20) have also elevated food systems as a strategic priority, exemplified by the Apulia Food

³ United Nations. 2023. *General Assembly Resolution, A/RES/78/1*. New York, USA. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/306/65/pdf/n2330665.pdf>

⁴ COP28. 2023. *Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action*. UAE. <https://www.cop28.com/en/food-and-agriculture> ; Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). 2025. *Press Release: Governments agree on the way forward to mobilize the resources needed to protect biodiversity for people and planet*. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2025/pr-2025-02-27-cop16-en.pdf>

⁵ Convention on Biological Diversity. 2022. *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 15/4*. CBD/COP/DEC/15/4. Montreal, Canada. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>



↑ Honduras – A farmer in Honduras analyzes his vegetable garden harvest.
© FAO/Eduardo Calix

Systems Initiative⁶ and the G20 Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.⁷

Recent evidence from the *Food Systems Countdown Report 2024* underscores that progress in transforming food systems is not only possible—it is already underway. Out of 42 indicators with measurable time trends, 20 have moved in a desirable direction globally, reflecting encouraging shifts across key dimensions such as diet quality, environmental sustainability and resilience.⁸

In this context, the urgency of building resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems is evident. Climate shocks have become more frequent and severe, disrupting agricultural production, social protection mechanisms and threatening the livelihoods of millions. The global community continues to navigate the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in doing so, has demonstrated remarkable adaptability and solidarity. Many millions of people experience increasing inflation, cost-of-living pressures and environmental crises.

At the same time they drive a renewed commitment to sustainable solutions and widespread, promising innovations. Amid regional tensions and trade wars, there is a need to encourage the emergence of fair, inclusive and resilient food systems. This requires collective governance, convergent policies, and coordinated implementation.

This imperative must be understood through the lens of increasingly challenging fiscal realities. Today, many countries have tight fiscal constraints and face a high risk of debt distress. The median debt service burden for Least Developed Countries rose from 3.1 percent of revenue in 2010 to 12 percent in 2023.⁹ Alarming, four out of ten people live in countries where governments spend more on interest payments than on education or health.¹⁰ Similarly, many upper-middle-income countries (UMICs) are burdened with high debt levels and often lack access to concessional financing while facing major vulnerabilities such as climate risks and commodity dependence.

⁶ G7 Italia. 2024. *Apulia Food Systems Initiative*. Fasano, Italy. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/fttjncg/apulia-g7-leaders-communique.pdf>

⁷ Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty. *Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty*. <https://globalallianceagainsthungerandpoverty.org/>

⁸ Food Systems Countdown Initiative. 2025. *The food systems countdown report 2024: Tracking progress and managing interactions*. New York: Columbia University; Ithaca: Cornell University; Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Geneva: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/a887f5ee-d45c-43c6-87ad-161d6492a4f3>

⁹ UN Trade and Development. 2023. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2023*. Geneva. https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ldc2023_en.pdf

¹⁰ United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development. 2024. *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024*. New York, USA. <https://developmentfinance.un.org/fsdr2024>

Amid these constraints, there is broad recognition of the need to scale up private investment in food systems, particularly in developing countries, calling for a more enabling policy environment that supports long-term, strategic financing and facilitates private investment in agriculture and food systems while aligning with national priorities and contexts.¹¹

The worsening fiscal landscape not only limits countries' ability to invest in social protection and food systems resilience but is compounded by the shrinking pool of international financial support. Support for humanitarian and development interventions through Official Development Assistance (ODA) is declining in real terms.¹² In 2024, ODA fell by 9 percent in net terms.¹³ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projects an additional 9-17 percent decline in ODA in 2025.¹⁴ The international humanitarian sector faces mounting pressure and underfunding as domestic priorities compete with global commitments.

1.2 The staggering cost of inaction

The hidden social, economic and environmental costs associated with food systems remain substantial, with updated estimates placing the total value of hidden

costs at USD 11.6 trillion in 2020 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) across 156 countries. Health-related costs continue to dominate, amounting to USD 8.1 trillion in 2020 PPP—approximately 70 percent of the total.¹⁵

Global hunger and malnutrition persist at alarming levels, with approximately 735 million people facing hunger in 2023, a significant increase from pre-pandemic levels. Over 3.1 billion people globally cannot afford a healthy diet, highlighting the deepening affordability crisis.¹⁶ While undernutrition persists, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases have reached epidemic proportions, affecting over 2.8 billion adults worldwide.¹⁷ This represents a triple burden of malnutrition that disproportionately impacts low- and middle-income countries. The consequences are not merely human but economic, with the cost of diet-related diseases estimated at USD 7 trillion annually in healthcare spending and lost productivity. Current evidence demonstrates that every dollar invested in addressing undernutrition generates an estimated USD 23 in return,¹⁸ underscoring the substantial economic benefits of targeted nutrition interventions.

Compounding these challenges is the staggering scale of food waste and loss, with approximately one-third of all food produced globally (equivalent to 1.3 billion tons

¹¹ Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development. 2025. *Sevilla Commitment*. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/CONF.227/2025/L.1>

¹² OECD. 2025. *International aid falls in 2024 for first time in six years, says OECD*. <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/press-releases/2025/04/official-development-assistance-2024-figures.html>

¹³ OECD. 2025. *Private finance mobilised by official development finance interventions*. Paris. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/private-finance-mobilised-by-official-development-finance-interventions_c5fb4a6c-en.html

¹⁴ OECD. 2025. *Cuts in official development assistance. OECD projections for 2025 and the near term*. Paris. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/cuts-in-official-development-assistance_8c530629-en.html

¹⁵ FAO. 2024. *The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2024*. Value-driven transformation of agrifood systems. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-food-and-agriculture/en>

¹⁶ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2024. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 – Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1254en>

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ World Bank. 2024. *Investment Framework for Nutrition*. Washington, DC. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/2c0b8b5e-0f67-47fe-9eae-d4707d9ed195>

annually) wasted or lost throughout the supply chain. This represents not only a moral failure in the face of persistent hunger but also a massive economic loss of USD 1 trillion per year and unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) equivalent to 8-10 percent of global totals, and it takes up the equivalent of nearly 30 per cent of the world's agricultural land. Despite food systems accounting for a significant proportion of global employment, agricultural households still constitute up to two-thirds of people living in extreme poverty worldwide.¹⁹ Meanwhile, food systems continue to generate soil, water and air pollution, contributing more than one-third of total anthropogenic GHG emissions, up to 80 percent of biodiversity loss, and consuming up to 70 percent of global freshwater resources.^{20 21}

1.3 Regional and national initiatives and food system transformation

Regional and national initiatives demonstrate remarkable progress in translating global commitments into concrete, actionable frameworks that drive meaningful transformation. For example, the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has strategically repositioned food systems transformation as a central pathway to achieving Agenda 2063.²² The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Plan for food security, nutrition and eradication of hunger 2030

provides a strategic regional framework that promotes policy alignment with the SDGs and emphasizes sustainable agriculture, improved nutrition and social inclusion.²³ Similarly, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is advancing a multisectoral coordination model to accelerate agrifood systems transformation, thereby enhancing long-term food security and improving nutrition and livelihoods of farmers across the region.²⁴

Concurrently, multistakeholder platforms have emerged at national and subnational levels as critical enablers of inclusive food systems transformation. These platforms bring together diverse actors to collaboratively shape policies and actions. By establishing governance mechanisms that facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue, these platforms help break down traditional silos between sectors. This integrated approach enables the co-creation of context-specific strategies that reflect local needs, priorities and knowledge systems. Building on these foundations, the next phase must confront persistent structural barriers through steadfast political commitments, increased investments, innovative policy frameworks, enhanced institutional capacities, strengthened coordination and dynamic multisectoral collaborations. With the 2030 deadline approaching, transforming food systems stands as one of our most powerful levers to ensure that all people have access to safe, nutritious and affordable food at all times—while safeguarding the health of our planet and future generations.

¹⁹ UNEP. 2024. *Food Waste Index Report 2024*. Nairobi. <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/45230>

²⁰ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2023. *AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023*. Geneva. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

²¹ UNFSS. *The UN Secretary-General's Report on the Food Systems Summit (UNFSS+2)*. Rome. 2023. <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/latest-updates/news/detail/un-secretary-general-report-highlights-progress-in-global-food-systems-transformation/>

²² African Union. 2024. *CAADP Biennial Review Report 2024*. <https://au.int/en/documents/20240215/caadp-biennial-review-report-2024>

²³ CELAC. 2024. *CELAC Plan for food security, nutrition and the eradication of hunger 2030 – Time is action*. Santiago. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/0bdd3c51-fd2a-4999-bddd-c58e1530e438/content>

²⁴ ASEAN. 2021. *2021-2025 ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region*. [2021-2025-AIFS-framework-and-SPA-FS.pdf](https://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-2025-AIFS-framework-and-SPA-FS.pdf)

↓ Azerbaijan – A woman farmer collects ripe cherries.
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CHAPTER 2

GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION PROGRESS FOUR YEARS ON

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an overview of country progress reports developed on the basis of contributions received from countries. It highlights four years of advancement in the implementation of country-led food systems commitments. As of 2023, 126 countries had adopted national food systems pathways. That number has since increased to 130, with 159 countries having appointed National Convenors²⁵ to lead and coordinate national efforts. Since 2023, 39 countries have revised their pathways, translating them into concrete action plans.

The chapter begins by outlining the reporting process and has three key sections- reflecting on progress, strengthening partnerships and tracking commitments, and unlocking finance and increasing investments.

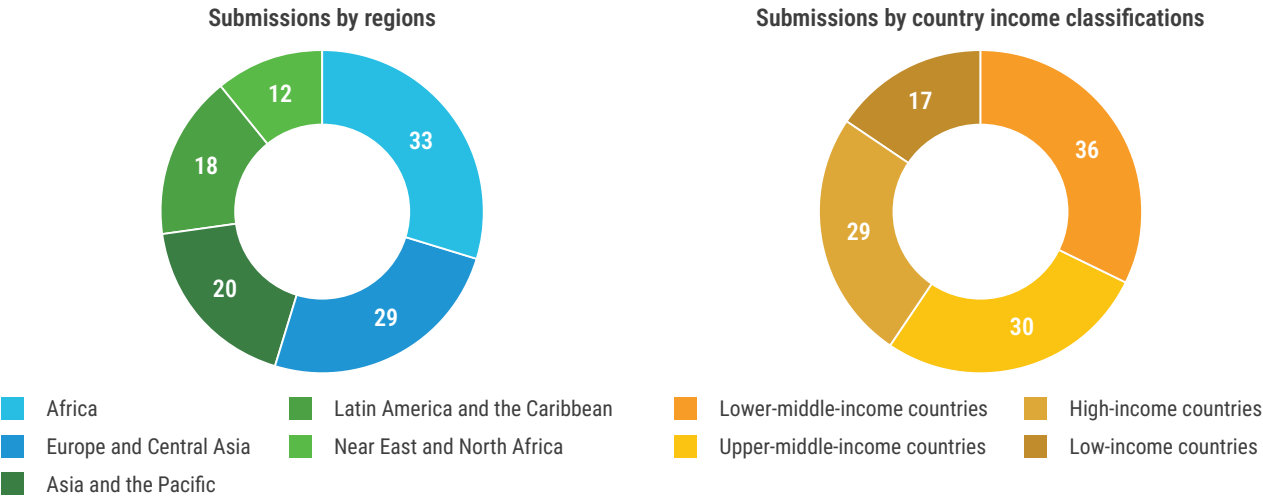
2.1 The voluntary country reporting process

In 2023, the reporting process was conducted through a voluntary progress questionnaire, with 101 countries submitting their reports. By contrast, in 2025, a more comprehensive, three-pronged reporting approach was adopted. This included standardized country questionnaires, in-depth interviews with National Convenors, and analysis of statements from regional preparatory meetings. As a result of this enhanced process, 112 countries submitted reports, providing updated insights on progress made since 2023. Of these, 80 questionnaires, 55 interviews and 87 statements were received, with countries contributing through

25 Two additional countries are in the process of formalizing their National Convenors.

FIGURE 1

Voluntary progress reporting submissions by regions and by country income classification



one or more of these formats. Submissions included 33 from Africa, 20 from Asia and the Pacific, 29 from Europe and Central Asia, 18 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 12 from the Near East and North Africa. By income classification, 29 reports came from high-income countries (HICs), 30 from upper-middle-income countries, 36 from lower-middle-income countries (LMICs) and 17 from low-income countries (LICs).²⁶

Two series of five regional preparatory meetings were held, with participation of National Convenors and government representatives from 87 countries in 2024²⁷ and 107 countries in 2025²⁸. These brought together key stakeholders, which included UN agencies, civil society, private sector actors, and others, to reflect on progress, strengthen partnerships and track commitments,

and unlock investment, in line with the UN Secretary-General’s UNFSS+2 Call to Action. Insights from the country questionnaires, in-depth interviews with National Convenors, and statements from regional preparatory meetings were synthesized using a triangulated multisource methodology. This approach enhanced analytical robustness and reduced single-source biases, enabling a more comprehensive assessment of global food systems progress.

While this report represents the collective contributions of all reporting countries, in some sections, specific countries are highlighted solely as illustrative examples to emphasize key points. This should not be interpreted as excluding or overlooking the contributions of other countries not explicitly mentioned.

26 World Bank. 2025. World Bank Country and Lending Groups. In: *The World Bank*. Washington, DC. [Accessed 25 June 2025]. <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

27 Food Systems Transformation Regional Progress Reviews. 2024. <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/member-state-dialogue/regional-progress-reviews/2024-regional-progress-reviews/en>

28 UNFSS+4 Regional Preparatory Meeting. 2025. <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/member-state-dialogue/regional-progress-reviews/unfss-4-regional-preparatory-meetings/en>

B. REFLECTING ON PROGRESS

Since the UNFSS+2, countries have maintained a sustained commitment to food systems transformation as reflected in their voluntary progress reporting. In 2023, 67 percent of countries reported on the integration of food systems priorities into national and sectoral plans - a trend that continued in 2025, with 62 percent reporting. While no radical shifts have been observed in the global food systems transformations, the trends emerging from the country progress reports indicate a consistent movement towards more sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems. A growing number of countries are placing the right to food at the centre of transformation efforts, enshrining it in constitutions, enacting enabling legislation, and promoting food sovereignty as a strategic pillar. Progress is marked by increased policy coherence among food systems and agriculture, nutrition, climate, social development, and

other sectors. Countries are establishing fit-for-purpose, high-level, politically endorsed government mechanisms, such as presidential secretariats and interministerial committees, supporting multisectoral coordination and inclusivity of stakeholders. Decentralized models are emerging, and reports indicate that countries continue to strive for strengthened institutional capacities through improved governance structures and more inclusive engagement, particularly of youth, women, and food producers. Most importantly, countries are taking greater ownership of their transformation processes, driving change on the basis of national contexts and priorities. These summarized observations are reflected in the regional preparatory meetings, questionnaires and interviews, and will be further elaborated in the following section.

↓ Ghana – Christabel Kwasi, along with other women farmers, inspects the fonio processing machine.
© FAO/Fanjan Combrink



2.2 Progress on pathways implementations

In 2023 and in 2025, countries were asked to report on the various progress related to their pathway implementation. In both results, countries reported varied progress in implementing their pathways through dialogues, the integration of national policies, costed action plans, and many other actions. In 2025, results show a continued trend of governments strengthening a systems approach to food and agriculture, with clear areas of emphasis emerging in the implementation of national pathways. The results presented in Figure 2a indicate that the most prominent actions include the development of an implementation plan (63

percent), the continuation of food systems dialogues at national and sub-national levels (62 percent), and the integration of the pathway into national or sectoral strategies and policies (62 percent). A further 62 percent of countries report aligning their pathways with existing commitments such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Capacity development (52 percent) and the establishment of legislative frameworks (51 percent) also feature prominently. At the same time, it is noted that fewer countries have advanced investment planning (28 percent), strengthened science-policy interfaces (28 percent), undertaken efforts to cost the pathway (32 percent), or to localize its implementation (38 percent).

FIGURE 2A

Proportion of country responses to questionnaire, on steps towards pathways implementation

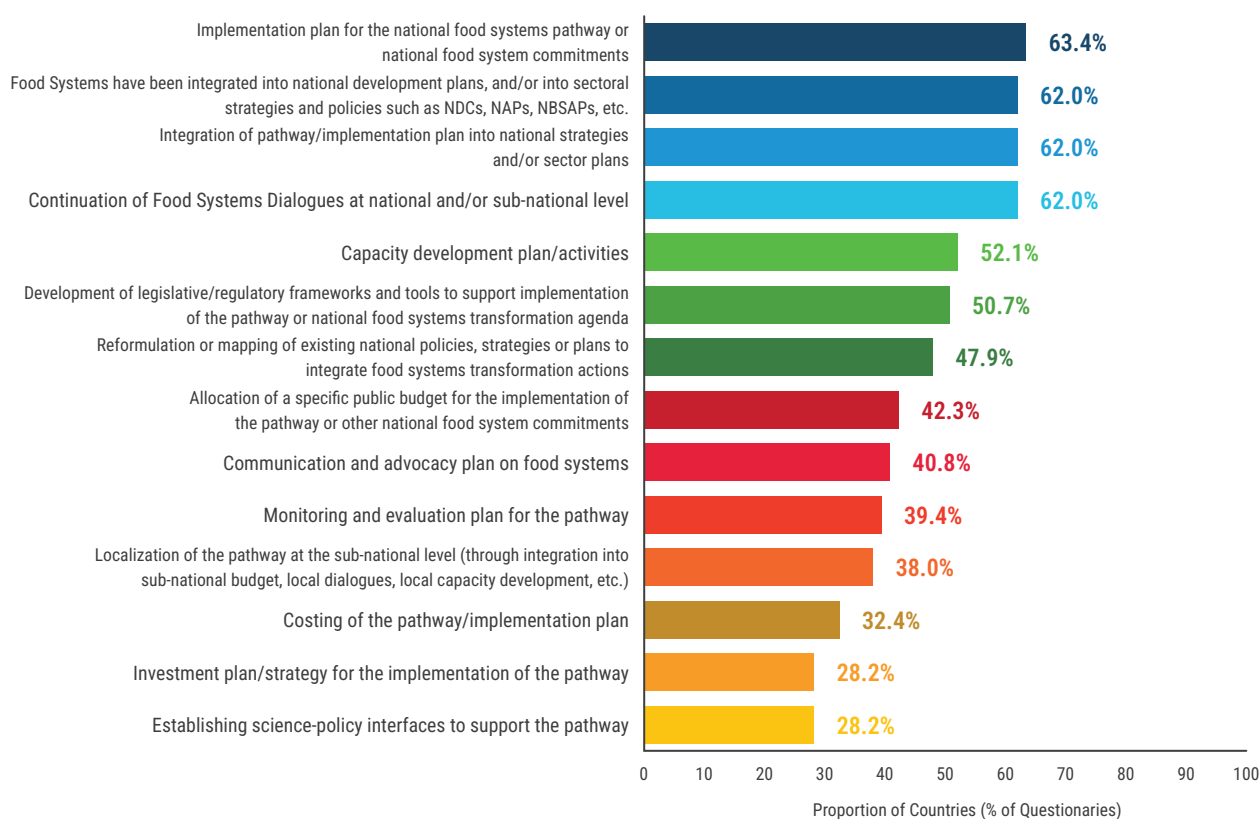
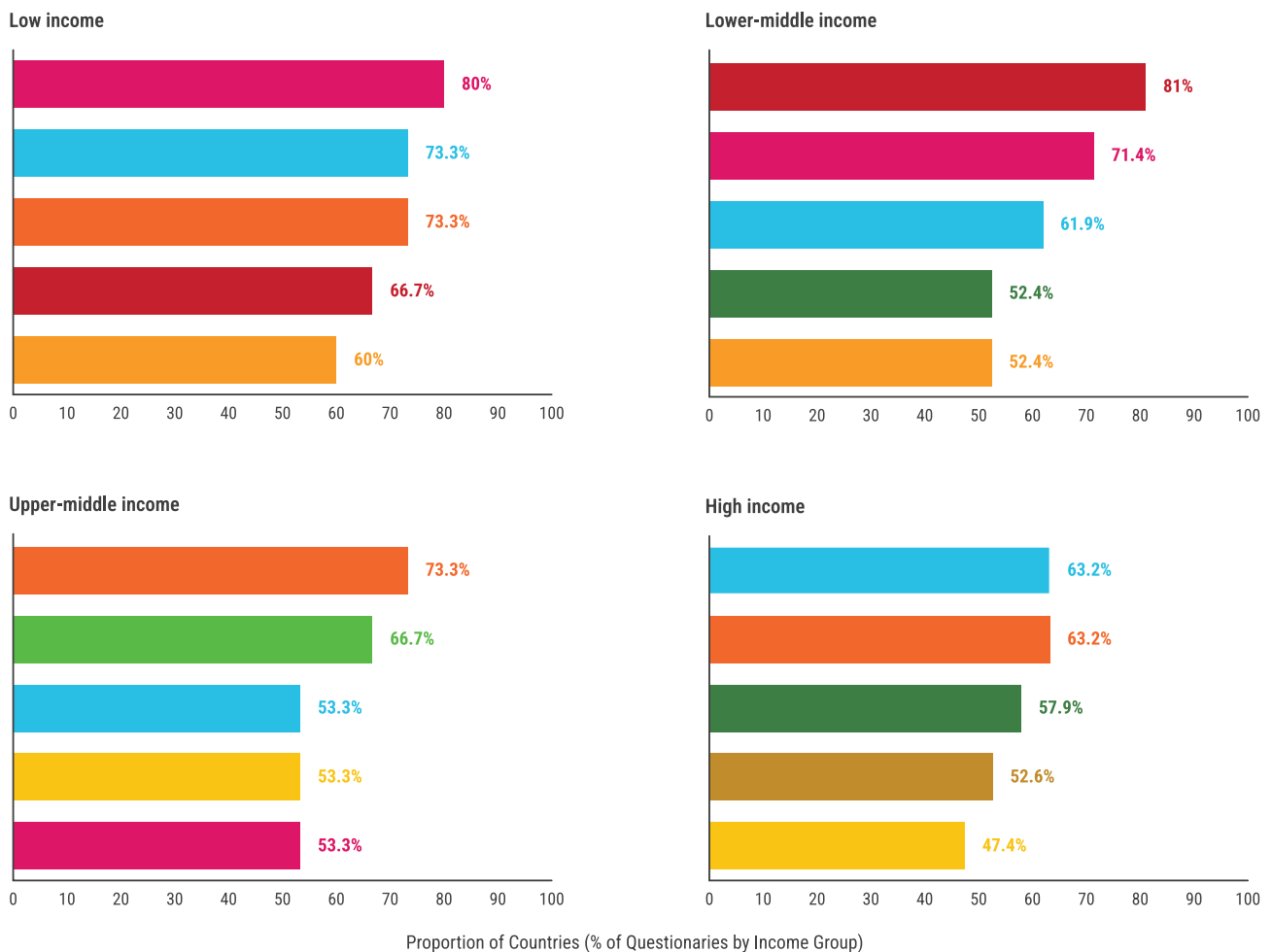


FIGURE 2B**Proportion of country responses to questionnaire, on steps towards pathways implementation by income group**

- Localization of the pathway at the sub-national level (through integration into sub-national budget, local dialogues, local capacity development etc.)
- Implementation plan for the national food systems pathway or national food system commitments
- Integration of pathway/implementation plan into national strategies and/or sector plans
- Food Systems have been integrated into national development plans, and/or into sectoral strategies and policies such as NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, etc.
- Continuation of Food Systems Dialogues at national and/or sub-national level
- Reformulation or mapping of existing national policies, strategies or plans to integrate food systems transformation actions
- Development of legislative/regulatory frameworks and tools to support implementation of the pathway or national food systems transformation agenda
- Capacity development plan/activities
- Monitoring and evaluation plan for the pathway

2.3 Governance mechanisms

Most countries reported progress in their food systems governance mechanisms. The Ministry of Agriculture remains prominently involved in these mechanisms, serving as chair or co-chair of governance bodies in half of responses. In some countries across Asia and the Pacific and Africa, governance mechanisms are hosted within planning offices or even at the Vice President or Vice Prime Minister level. In Latin America and the Caribbean, countries are building on existing interministerial groups and are increasingly involving parliamentary fronts and civil society to strengthen inclusive governance. At the regional meetings, most countries confirmed the establishment of high-level multisector governance mechanisms. For example, countries in Asia and the Pacific, including Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand and Sri Lanka, have formed interministerial food systems steering committees and secretariats, ensuring better policy integration across sectors such as agriculture, environment and health. In the Near East and North Africa, governance is emphasized as a participatory political process – guided by clear vision and values. In interviews, National Convenors emphasized the principle of *“we govern together”*, indicating the importance of inclusivity within the mechanisms. Similar trends were reported in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific. An emergence of decentralized governance was observed during regional meetings, with examples including Timor-Leste’s localization efforts in provinces, the Federated States of Micronesia’s focus on strengthening local food systems in the State of Pohnpei, and the Philippines’ engagement with local government units. Other examples of decentralization in Latin America and the Caribbean (Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Uruguay) and Africa (Burundi, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda) are also emerging. In Europe and Central Asia, countries have strengthened food systems governance through multisectoral and multistakeholder platforms,

often led by Ministries of Agriculture. For example, Belgium established inclusive bodies like the Food Coalition and the Walloon Sustainable Food College, while Georgia and Kazakhstan created interagency coordination councils that actively involve civil society in policy development and monitoring processes.

Multisectoral and multistakeholder coordination mechanisms have become standard across all regions. Questionnaire data shows that while UN agencies and civil society are commonly included in governance structures, participation by the private sector, academia and farmers remains limited. Out of 35 countries who provided further details on the structure of their governance mechanism, 88 percent reported that it included Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); 77 percent that it included UN agencies; 62 percent the private sector; and 46 percent academia and farmers organizations. Meanwhile, half of the countries completing the questionnaire requested support for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems. 70 percent identified technical support as a top priority, reflecting broad demand for guidance on designing, operationalizing and managing tailored M&E frameworks. Additional support needs included financial resources (42 percent), capacity development (36 percent), implementation support (28 percent), expert skills development (20 percent), digital platforms (17 percent) and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange (17 percent).

2.4 Policy integration

Policy integration in food systems transformation must advance through strategic alignment across health, nutrition, climate, agriculture and biodiversity agendas. Questionnaire responses confirm that most countries have incorporated food systems priorities into overarching national development plans, including policies on food security, healthy diets, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Interview data from

the Asia and Pacific region further highlight policy integration efforts in countries such as Cambodia, Bhutan, Indonesia, Japan and Viet Nam.

Regional meetings highlighted common priorities, including food and nutrition security, food safety, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the development of sectoral strategies. In Africa, alignment with nutrition goals and addressing malnutrition remain a priority. The Near East and North Africa have prioritized integrating food systems with comprehensive nutrition strategies and social protection measures to address severe water challenges. European and Central Asian countries are focusing on nutrition, sustainable food systems and policy integration across trade, health and the environment. Similarly, in Asia and the Pacific, countries are increasingly aligning food systems transformation with health, climate, and biodiversity agendas to enhance resilience. Latin America and the Caribbean is demonstrating strong policy integration by linking agriculture, nutrition, climate and social development within robust governance frameworks. Data from the questionnaire highlighted 29 countries adopted complementary approaches that connect nutrition and food security with social protection (13 countries) and school feeding (22 countries), while emphasizing cross-sector collaboration to support vulnerable populations.²⁹ For example, the European Union (EU) Food Systems Pathways, driven by the Farm to Fork Strategy, aim to integrate fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food policies across food systems in Europe. This comprehensive initiative seeks to reduce the environmental impact of food production and consumption, ensure food security

and public health, maintain affordability and fairness for all actors, and foster innovation. Projects like FOSTER and CULTIVATE highlight the importance of citizen engagement, co-creation, and local food sharing initiatives in transforming EU food systems.

2.5 Right to food and Human-rights based approach

In 2023, countries reported integrating food systems issues into their legal frameworks, with food sovereignty emerging as a fundamental pillar of food systems strategies.³⁰ By 2025, eleven countries in Latin America and the Caribbean will have explicitly enshrined the right to adequate food in their constitutions, thereby strengthening legal frameworks and aligning with international commitments.³¹ Similar constitutional recognition of the right to food was reported in Mali and Kenya (Africa), Switzerland and Germany (Europe), Lebanon (Near East) and Nepal (Asia). Additionally, Bolivia, Chile, the Dominican Republic and Nepal have advanced legislation and policies promoting the right to food and food sovereignty.

Legislative actions have also been adopted in some cases, such as in Lebanon, where advocacy for policy reforms like the Right to Food draft law and support for local production and dietary diversity initiatives are ongoing; in Nepal, where the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act and the Food Safety and Quality Act have been approved; in Japan, where the multilayered food system prompted the establishment of the MIDORI

²⁹ The 29 countries are Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iraq, Lebanon, Mexico, Mozambique, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uruguay, Viet Nam.

³⁰ UN. 2023. *Making food systems work for people and planet*. UN Food Systems Summit+2. Report of the Secretary-General. Rome. https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/docs/unfoodsystemslibraries/stocktaking-moment/un-secretary-general/sgreport_en_rgb_updated_compressed.pdf?sfvrsn=560b6fa6_33

³¹ Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua and Suriname.

Act setting out basic principles for an environmentally harmonious and sustainable food systems, including a certification system to reduce environmental burdens from agriculture, forestry and fisheries; and in the

Solomon Islands, interview findings indicate that the first of five food systems pathways is prioritizing the progressive realization of the right to food focusing on promoting nutrition.

2.6 School meals

BOX 1

Progress related to school meals programmes

<p>School meals are widely recognized as a key tool for promoting healthy diets and transforming food systems. They have shown clear benefits, including better school attendance, academic performance, lower dropout rates and improved child nutrition. Countries are increasingly tailoring these programmes to local needs.</p> <p>The School Meals Coalition has played a central role in elevating school meals on the global agenda, contributing to their inclusion in major declarations such as the G20 Leaders’ Declaration and the COP28 UAE Declaration. As lead penholder, the Coalition developed the School Meals Policy endorsed by 44 member states and 33 partners. School meals were also recognized in a UN General Assembly resolution, backed by 158 Member States, which extended the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to 2030 and placed school meals at the heart of global efforts to end hunger and malnutrition.</p>	
<p>Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>The Solomon Islands are implementing nutrition programmes funded by UNICEF and Japan. Nepal allocated USD 87 million for its 2023/24 school meals programme, reaching 3.3 million children.</p>	<p>Africa</p> <p>The Democratic Republic of Congo signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WFP to nationalize school feeding. Botswana prioritizes home-grown programmes, and Ghana is integrating local farmers through its National Buffer Stock.</p>
<p>Europe</p> <p>Finland plays an active role as co-chair of the UNFSS School Meals Coalition, while the Netherlands (Kingdom of the) co-leads on biodiversity and school meals dialogues.</p>	<p>Near East and North Africa</p> <p>Egypt is financing school meals through innovative mechanisms like Egyptian-Italian and Egyptian-German debt swaps.</p>
<p>Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Brazil, Mexico, Honduras and Uruguay emphasize nutrition education, local food sourcing, restricting unhealthy foods and supporting family farming. Belize and Guatemala are expanding school feeding with regional support to foster child development and healthy eating.</p> <p>The School Meals Coalition has established regional networks that foster dialogues in East Africa, West Africa, Latin America, Europe and Southeast Asia and established a Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition to build the global evidence base on school meals. The Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems Coalition has supported this progress and prepared a special report “Towards an Intercultural Approach to School Meals in the Latin America and the Caribbean region”.</p>	

C. PARTNERSHIP AND TRACKING COMMITMENTS

2.7 Engagement with the Ecosystem of Support

Countries report enhanced collaboration both within government and with external actors, including academia, civil society, Coalitions of Action, donor representatives, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), food producers and networks, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector, regional bodies, the UN system, youth networks, and women's organizations. This collaboration spans key areas such as the implementation and operationalization of national food systems pathways, data analytics and management, development of M&E frameworks, capacity building, inclusive stakeholder

engagement, national-level coordination mechanisms and resource mobilization. The heatmap in Figure 3 below presents questionnaire responses related to stakeholder engagement across the EoS, highlighting both strong collaboration (in green) and areas needing improvement (in red).

A closer examination of engagement with EoS entities between 2023 and 2025 reveals several notable trends in stakeholder participation patterns (see Figure 4 and Figure 5). The data displays a mixed landscape of progress, with some EoS groups showing significant improvements in engagement while others demonstrate concerning declines.

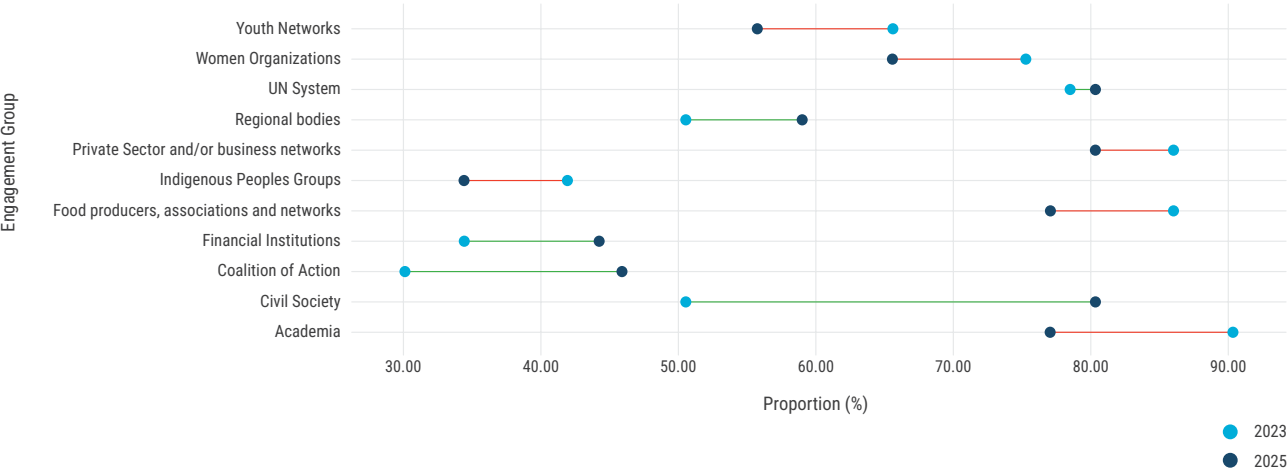
FIGURE 3

Engagement and collaboration across stakeholders in 2025

	Implementation or operationalization of national food systems pathways	Data analytics: assessments, data management	M&E frameworks	Capacity building	Inclusive engagement for stakeholders	Coordination mechanism for FS at the national level	Resource mobilization
Academia	45%	32%	17%	28%	38%	18%	5%
Civil Society	47%	8%	12%	29%	46%	17%	8%
Coalition of Action	21%	5%	3%	11%	17%	11%	8%
Donor Representatives	32%	17%	16%	24%	25%	17%	22%
Financial Institutions	18%	11%	11%	12%	14%	16%	20%
Food producers, associations and networks	46%	12%	12%	24%	43%	18%	7%
Indigenous Peoples Groups	18%	4%	7%	8%	20%	7%	3%
Private Sector and/or business networks	43%	9%	12%	17%	39%	24%	13%
Regional bodies	38%	17%	16%	21%	22%	18%	11%
UN System	42%	33%	24%	42%	43%	32%	26%
Youth Networks	26%	8%	8%	18%	32%	12%	5%
Women Organizations	32%	8%	9%	22%	32%	17%	4%

FIGURE 4

Country Engagement with Ecosystem of Support Entities: 2023 vs 2025 comparison



Since 2023, many countries have initiated or are developing policies, programmes and projects that focus specifically on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and smallholder farmers, as part of their efforts to implement national food systems transformation

pathway priorities. In 2025, countries reported the following collaborations with these groups, demonstrating a strong emphasis on empowerment and inclusion.

FIGURE 5

Engagement with women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and smallholder producers across policy themes

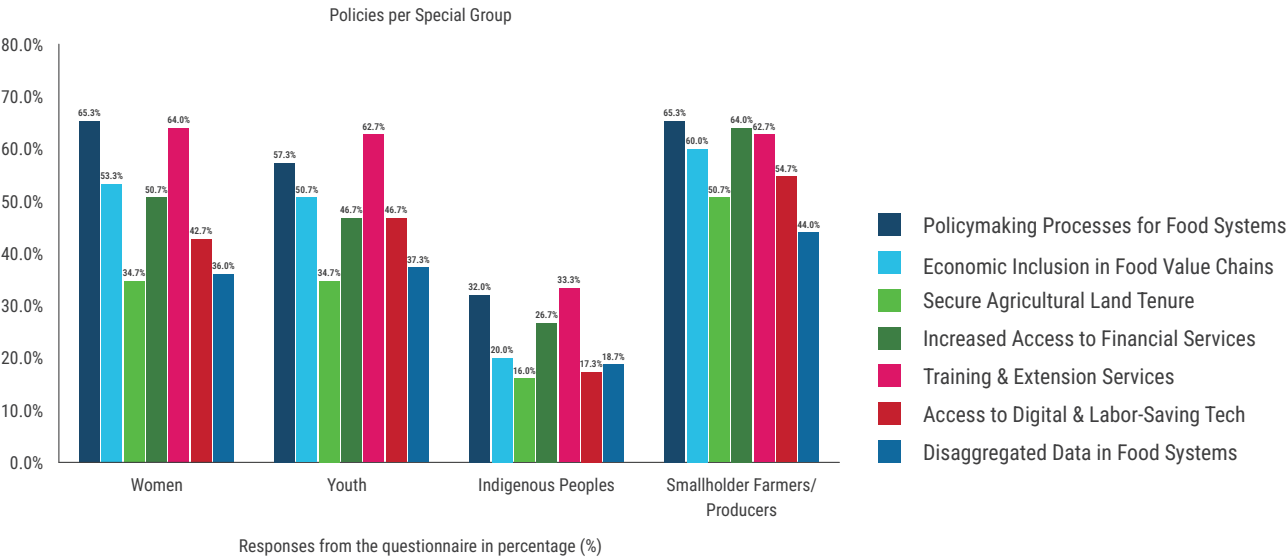


Figure 5 shows that countries are actively working to increase the participation of key groups in policymaking processes, enhance their economic inclusion through access to employment and value chains, and improve their access to land, financial services, training, extension services and technology.

Questionnaire responses highlight the diverse engagement of special interest groups across regions. For example, Belgium's value chain restructuring in Wallonia; Qatar integrates youth into its agrifood programmes; Finland's efforts to improve livelihoods for the Sami Indigenous communities; Benin collecting disaggregated data to aid vulnerable groups; Burundi facilitating communal land certificate issuance; and Zimbabwe establishing Youth Innovation Hubs, the Agric4She programme for women, and land allocation quotas for youth and women.

2.8 Engagement with civil society

In all regions, civil society plays a vital role in driving inclusive, rights-based food systems transformation by ensuring that the voices of those most affected by hunger, inequality and environmental degradation are reflected in policy and action.³² Their engagement has shaped national and regional agendas, promoted equitable access to resources, and strengthened participatory governance. Amplifying civil society's voice is key to building democratic, resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems. For instance, in Latin America and the Caribbean, civil society has long championed food sovereignty, agroecology and social justice.

2.9 Engagement with private sector (or Public-Private Partnerships)

Questionnaire responses indicate moderate engagement with the private sector and financial actors across all regions, with significant potential for expanding partnerships. In Asia and the Pacific, governments are leveraging private sector expertise to modernize traditional food systems and adopt advanced technologies. For example, in Cambodia, the private sector is increasing investment in technologies that enhance food production while minimizing environmental impact. The Europe and Central Asia region has pioneered voluntary sustainability commitments, innovation platforms and co-investment schemes that pool public and private resources. Exemplary cases include Norway's partnerships between health authorities and the food industry to improve dietary outcomes, the European Union's (EU) blended finance mechanisms mobilizing EUR 438 million for sustainable agrifood investments, and Portugal's innovation hubs which have advanced zero-residue certification programmes. In Africa, the private sector is playing a crucial role in supporting the transformation of food systems (through supporting specific value chains, in geographical corridors and (to a degree) in infrastructure). For example, in Benin, the private sector is driving innovation, creating value and mobilizing investment at every stage of the value chain. Countries in the Near East and North Africa are advancing enabling policies and technical support to leverage private sector innovation and investment. For example, Egypt has established public-private partnerships centred on sustainable agriculture, digital farming technologies and artificial intelligence-driven monitoring systems.

³² For detailed examination of civil society organization engagement, see the UNFSS+4 Independent Stakeholders' Engagement Report.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the private sector plays a significant role in market integration, innovation and cooperative development. Countries such as Costa Rica, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic actively

promote responsible practices and foster public-private collaboration within emerging accountability frameworks, supporting integrated value chains and technological innovation in agriculture.

D. UNLOCKING FINANCE AND INCREASING INVESTMENTS

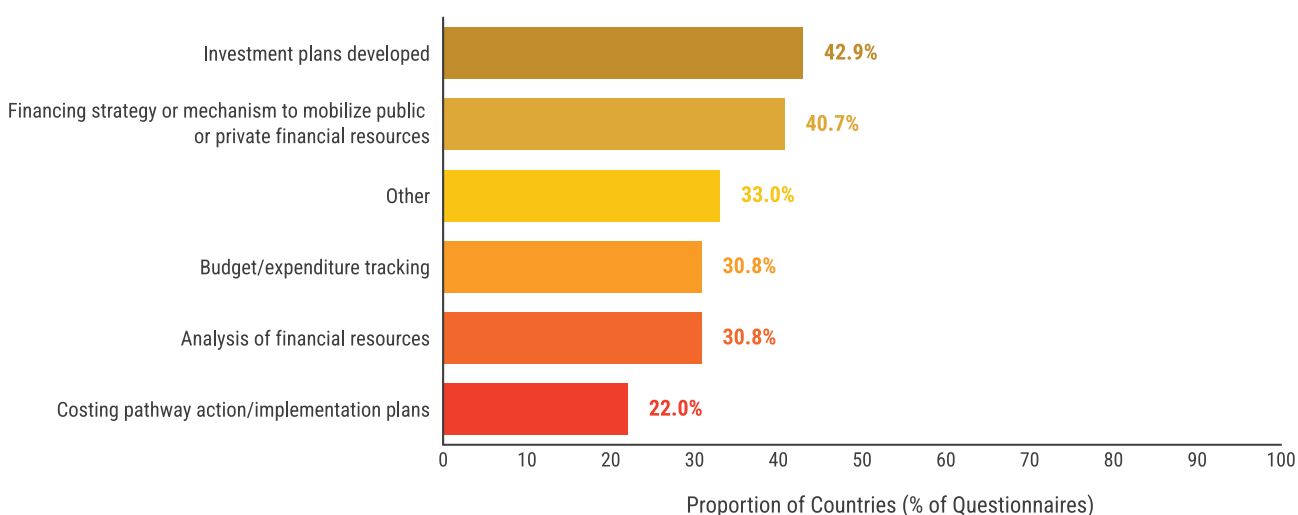
2.10 Mobilization of financial resources for food systems transformation

Countries across all regions are increasingly prioritizing the mobilization of financial resources to accelerate sustainable food systems transformation – a trend consistently emphasized in the questionnaire, interviews and statements during the regional meetings.

These efforts reflect a multifaceted approach that combines strategic investment planning, inclusive multistakeholder engagement, innovative financing instruments and strengthened governance frameworks, all tailored to the unique regional and national contexts. In the questionnaire, as shown in Figure 6, countries detailed the measures they have taken to mobilize both public and private financial resources in support of their food systems transformation efforts.

FIGURE 6

Actions taken by countries to mobilize finance for food systems transformation³³



³³ Other includes: Low-interest loans and tax incentives; Use of debt swaps & innovative financing; Mobilizing climate finance & green bonds; Engagement with international donors & development banks; Support for smallholder farmers through grants, insurance, and training; Leveraging global platforms & partnerships; Promotion of private sector investment & trade agreements; Monitoring and evaluation systems.

In regional meetings, African countries report the creation of investment hubs and strengthening multistakeholder partnerships for resource mobilization and financing agrifoods systems transformation. For instance, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, an inter-donor coordination group has been established. In Madagascar, an investor matchmaking platform has been developed. In Asia and the Pacific governments are employing diverse strategies that blend public budgets with private sector engagement and innovative financing mechanisms. For example, in Samoa, the government is partnering with the Asian Development Bank and four commercial banks through the Agribusiness Support Project to provide blended public-private financing for sustainable agriculture. Europe and Central Asia showcase a multifaceted approach to mobilizing both public and private finance, including increased public budgets for research, innovation and green transition, as well as the strategic deployment of EU instruments such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Recovery and Resilience Facility. For example, Malta leverages both EU and national funding through its CAP Strategic Plan (2023-2027) and National Action Plan for Organic Food (2023-2030), allocating a total of over EUR 5 million to support sustainable agriculture. In the Near East and North Africa, countries are realigning public budgets toward sustainable agriculture, formulating national investment and financing strategies, and leveraging tools such as debt swaps, blended finance and climate risk insurance. For instance, in Jordan, the Agriculture Resilience, Value Chain Development, and Innovation programme illustrates this approach by

providing 1,200 interest-free loans to support climate-resilient agriculture, including smallholders, women-led cooperatives, and refugees. In Latin America and the Caribbean, countries are leveraging regional alliances, development banks, public procurement, and blended finance instruments to mobilize investments for inclusive, climate-resilient, and sustainable food systems transformation. For example, Uruguay issued its first sovereign green bond to channel funding into climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture initiatives.

Meanwhile, in the questionnaires, countries shared successful examples of mobilizing finance for food systems transformation. Australia applies a public-private partnership model for agricultural research and development (R&D), matching farmer levies with government funds. Cambodia provides central government support to local authorities to monitor and improve the allocation and use of funds for food security and nutrition initiatives. Pakistan has extended public funding for agricultural productivity and investment facilitation, while the Philippines is using loan programs, credit guarantees, and insurance schemes to mobilize resources and reduce investment risk. Germany supports the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership,³⁴ while Norway has increased its agricultural production budget. Slovenia is mobilizing public-private financial resources through a combination of national investment programs, financial incentives, and international partnerships. Switzerland uses zero-cost national expenditures and supports the 3FS³⁵ initiative implemented in 11 countries via the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).

³⁴ FAO. 2025. *Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership*. [Accessed 25 June 2025]. <https://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-sustainable-transformation-partnership/about-fast/about-us/en>

³⁵ The 3FS framework (developed by IFAD and the World Bank) is being used by 10 countries to track financing flows, identify gaps, and manage risks—particularly valuable amid fiscal constraints.



↑ Guatemala – Group of students harvest vegetables from the school garden of the Mixed Rural Official School of El Horizonte village.
© Pep Bonet/NOOR for FAO

Ukraine's 5-7-9 programme offers affordable loans to small and medium producers, and Eswatini has realigned national agricultural development funds under its Second-Generation National Agriculture Investment Plan (2023–2028) to attract private sector investment, lower the cost of agricultural finance, and support priority commodity development and trade. Brazil leverages national mechanisms, such as the National Program for Strengthening Family Farming (PRONAF), to support family farming, while Costa Rica and Bolivia benefit from support from the Food Systems Window of the Joint SDG Fund to strengthen local food systems and Amazonian value chains.

2.11 Access to global finance and investment platforms

Since 2023, countries have been exploring diverse funding sources. By 2025, 36 countries reported accessing global climate financing through mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Climate Investment Funds (CIFs).

Additionally, countries reported opportunities to access global finance through strategic multilateral and bilateral partnerships. For example, through collaborating with entities such as FAO, IFAD, WFP, GAIN, the World Bank, Regional Development Banks (RDBs) and the EU to attract investment. Some countries are developing national frameworks and investment readiness programmes (for instance, in Ethiopia and Slovenia) which help to align domestic priorities with global finance. Regulatory reforms in Georgia are facilitating easier access to funds. Multistakeholder platforms are coordinating finance and policy implementations, exemplified by El Salvador's Climate Finance Roundtable, the Dominican Republic's actor coalitions and Uganda's Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) model. Bolivia and Ecuador are both promoting alternative market circuits for smallholders, while Bangladesh is utilizing the 3FS tool and Food Systems Dashboard to guide budget tracking and donor engagement. Projects focused on agroecology, traditional agriculture, digital tools and gender-responsive approaches are increasingly recognized as viable investment opportunities.

Despite ongoing global crises, external development finance to food systems in low- and middle-income countries has grown steadily, increasing by 12 percent from 2018 to 2023, even during the COVID-19 peak. IFIs have played a central role, disbursing USD 17.8 billion in 2023 alone exceeding the UNFSS+2 target of USD 15 billion. Seven major IFIs (World Bank, AsDB, AfDB, IDB, IFAD, IsDB, EBRD) together account for 35 percent of total external development finance to food systems.³⁶ Nearly all (99.6 percent) of IFI financing is dedicated to long-term, structural investments, particularly agricultural development, value chains and food systems infrastructure.

FAO's Analytical Support Mechanism for Agrifood System Country Programming and Evidence (SCOPE) is enhancing technical capacity to support integrated UN country programming. By working through six regional multidisciplinary teams and in close collaboration with other UN entities, SCOPE strengthens the UN's ability to deliver tailored macroeconomic and microeconomic assessments, along with policy and data analysis. This contributes directly to accelerating food systems transformation and advancing the 2030 Agenda.

2.12 Trade

Countries recognize trade as vital for ensuring food security, availability and affordability at national, regional, and global levels.³⁷ However, trade systems have been disrupted by global crises, including through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, economic downturns and regional conflicts,

which have undermined supply chains and market stability, thereby exacerbating food insecurity.³⁸ There is a consensus on the need to reduce trade barriers and enhance policy coherence to facilitate smoother market access and strengthen fragile food systems.³⁹

2.13 Role of science, technology and innovation

The integration of science, technology and innovation (STI) is widely recognized by countries as essential to food systems transformation globally. In their responses, countries indicated that national and regional research institutions play a pivotal role in fostering strong collaborations among universities, innovation hubs and the private sector to accelerate technological development and adoption. For example, in Tajikistan, institutions like the Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Tajik Agrarian University are advancing food system sustainability through research on crop intensification, soil conservation, and livestock improvement. STI is evident in evidence-based policymaking, digital tool adoption, climate-smart practices, and inclusive stakeholder engagement, all of which are critical to addressing food security, nutrition and sustainability challenges. For instance, in Peru, STI informs policymaking and sustainability through the development of high-performing crop varieties by the National Agricultural Innovation Institute to address diverse environmental conditions. Digital agriculture technologies—such as artificial intelligence, remote sensing, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping,

³⁶ IFAD, World Bank and UN Food Systems Coordination Hub. 15 Strategic Trends External Development Finance for Food Systems 2018-2023.

³⁷ World Bank. 2025. *Food Security Update. World Bank Solutions to Food Insecurity*. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-update>

³⁸ World Trade Organization. 2025. *Global Trade Outlook and Statistics*. https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/trade_outlook25_e.html

³⁹ For instance, in Africa, commitment to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) remains strong, with Uganda leveraging it to improve food systems financing and agricultural trade.

drones and satellite imagery—are extensively used to enhance crop monitoring, resource efficiency and early warning systems. For example, Kuwait is incorporating digital technologies such as remote sensing and data-driven systems to optimize water consumption in agriculture, supporting efficient resource management in arid conditions. Precision farming methods, including autonomous machinery, soil sensors and data-driven irrigation, are increasingly adopted to boost productivity while minimizing environmental impact. Additionally, digital platforms facilitate extension services, market access and knowledge exchange, particularly in Africa and Asia. For example, in the Central African Republic, farmer field schools and agribusiness platforms serve as digital and practical hubs for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and the promotion of sustainable farming techniques. Additionally, in Tuvalu, partnerships with international actors like the Taiwan Technical Mission are introducing smart agriculture techniques and digital advisory support to help farmers adopt more efficient, productive practices.

2.14 Science-Policy-Society Interfaces

Science-policy-society interfaces (SPIs) are vital for grounding food systems policies in research, integrating diverse stakeholder views and enabling continuous improvement. They foster collaboration among scientists, policymakers and communities to align knowledge and goals. Examples include the Gambia's platform promoting climate-smart agriculture and empowering youth and women in agribusiness, by

providing land, financing, and productive resources; Chad's soon-to-be formalized multistakeholder task force delivers climate-smart agriculture and value-chain training to youth and women's cooperatives; and Cameroon's multiple SPIs focuses on eco-friendly farming and emissions reduction. Conversely, Nauru faces challenges in integrating science due to limited capacity. Regionally, the EU's Sustainable Agrifood Systems Intelligence (SASI) initiative has conducted Rapid Food Systems Assessments in about 50 countries and promotes multistakeholder SPIs to advance agrifood transformation globally.

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↓ Türkiye – Persimmons being cut and prepared for drying, at a women's cooperative, in Perşembe.
© FAO/Bradley Secker



CHAPTER 3

UNFSS COALITIONS OF ACTION ECOSYSTEM OF SUPPORT

A. INTRODUCTION

At the UNFSS in 2021, 31 Coalitions of Action emerged as self-organizing, multistakeholder platforms organized by thematic areas to support governments in catalyzing the achievement of all 17 SDGs and accelerating the implementation of national pathways. Four years later, the coalitions vary in maturity and role, with approximately 20 remaining operationally active. These coalitions have advanced the transformation of food systems through global, regional, national and subnational advocacy work, knowledge generation, fundraising, partnership building and technical support to countries.

Coalitions are inherently multistakeholder, bringing together a broad spectrum of actors, including governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental and regional organizations, financial institutions, academic and research bodies, civil society, philanthropy, trade unions, private sector entities and sub-national actors

such as cities and local networks. Coalition governance structures range from informal arrangements to formalized multilevel governance models, emphasizing inclusive participation with a balance of gender, regional and cross-sectoral representation.

The majority of coalitions are hosted by UN agencies, while others are hosted by research institutions or have adopted flexible co-hosting arrangements. They rely on a combination of in-kind support, which typically covers staff time, interpretation services, virtual meeting platforms, communications support and other operational contributions provided by Coalition members, as well as financial support for staffing and operations, and technical support through expert advice, capacity building and operational assistance. Political endorsement and strategic advocacy also play a vital role in amplifying coalition visibility and legitimacy at national, regional and global levels.

B. DELIVERING ON THE COALITIONS' STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Most coalitions have developed strategic documents or operational plans, including specific results frameworks, with measurable targets and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set for achievement by 2027. Others are aligning their mandates with broader international and regional frameworks such as the SDGs, the CAADP Malabo Declaration or the Paris Agreement. Overall, strengthening results-oriented monitoring systems remains a critical priority for enhancing transparency and demonstrating collective progress toward sustainable food systems transformation.

Most coalitions emphasize advocacy and policy influence as key strategic objectives, aiming to shape national, regional and global agendas to support sustainable, healthy, inclusive and rights-based food systems. Other prioritized areas include knowledge generation, peer-to-peer collaboration, delivery of technical support and operational tools to countries, enabling concrete impact on the ground. The coalitions actively work to reduce the fragmentation of the UNFSS EoS and promote a systems approach. Practical actions include convening multistakeholder dialogues, connecting strategic partners around shared objectives, promoting integrated approaches to food systems transformation, synthesizing and disseminating information, and facilitating knowledge management and data sharing.

At the **global level**, coalitions play a key role by offering inputs to global policy agendas, promoting inclusive narratives and elevating underrepresented issues through engagement in high-level global platforms. Some self-reported coalition examples include the mentioning of school feeding meals, aquatic blue foods, soil health, and nutritious food for all as important priorities in the *COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action*, as well as the contribution of the Decent Work for Equitable Food

Systems Coalition to the drafting of International Labour Organization's (ILO) policy guidelines for the promotion of decent work in the agri-food sector.

At the **regional level**, coalitions promote knowledge exchange and capacity building. The School Meals Coalition has established regional networks that foster dialogues in East Africa, West Africa, Latin America, Europe and Southeast Asia. The Agricultural Public Development Bank Platform (Agri-PDB) has established regional working groups for Francophone Africa, Latin America and Asia, facilitating peer learning among public development banks on green finance, agricultural guarantees and climate adaptation.

At the **country level**, coalitions are increasingly engaging in country-led planning and policy processes, providing support through technical guidance on policy development and food systems approaches, capacity building, coordination support, evidence generation and diagnostics, and the development of normative guidance tools and knowledge products.

Policy development

- The Aquatic Blue Food Coalition has supported Indonesia in integrating blue food into national development strategies and by preparing a "Blue Food Assessment".
- The Zero Hunger Coalition has supported Benin in developing its national food systems strategy, embedding the food systems pathways within the national legal and policy framework.
- The Agroecology Coalition has supported and engaged in the development of national agroecology strategies in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Zambia.

- The Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS) has supported Pakistan in incorporating best practices into its healthy diet policy. Currently, the Coalition is developing national case studies about centering healthy diets and nutrition in their food systems transformation efforts based on lessons from Pakistan and Sierra Leone. Together with the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN), the HDSFS has mapped nutrition and climate policies in Zambia and Ghana, assessing entry points for integration.
- The Pastoralism as a Sustainable Food System Coalition has helped integrate pastoralism into national strategies in Ethiopia, Kenya and Mongolia.
- The Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus Coalition has carried out missions in Somalia and Ethiopia to support the implementation of their food systems pathways and identify the most critical foundational elements needed to advance national food system priorities.
- The School Meals Coalition has established a Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition to build the global evidence base on school meals. It supports governments through value-for-money studies, national case studies and technical research that informs policy decisions.
- The Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems Coalition prepared a special report "Towards an Intercultural Approach to School Meals in the Latin America and the Caribbean region".

Evidence generation and diagnostics work

- The Agroecology Coalition has developed a finance assessment tool for donors to evaluate agroecological approaches in country portfolios.
- The Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance has published Country Diagnostics Reports for Lesotho, Pakistan, Panama, Belize, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, The Gambia and Fiji.
- The Coalition for Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH), in collaboration with partners, has initiated a pilot in Kenya and Tanzania to assess the soil data ecosystem and foster collaboration for improved data sharing.
- The Pastoralism as a Sustainable Food System Coalition has supported the establishment of a Global Rangelands Data Platform, which maps pastoralist groups worldwide to enhance visibility and policy engagement around extensive livestock systems.

Normative guidance tools

- The Agri-PDB Platform has produced studies and policy briefs on agroecology, financial inclusion, and agricultural guarantees that inform global discussions and provide actionable insights for PDBs and policymakers worldwide.
- The Aquatic Blue Food Coalition has supported the development of guidelines for integrating aquatic blue foods into national climate strategies, such as NDCs.
- The Agroecology Coalition has produced guidance tools and policy briefs to support governments in integrating agroecology into NBSAPs and NDCs, a governance guide, and a proposal development guide for agroecology interventions.



↑ Azerbaijan – Members of the Eco-Milk cooperative collaborate to collect and process dairy products.
© FAO/Didar Salimbayev

- The True Value of Food Initiative has developed guidance materials and tools to support governments applying true cost accounting approaches - ensuring that environmental, social and health-related costs are reflected in food systems decision-making.
- The Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health, in collaboration with Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA), has developed policy briefs for Mali, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Ethiopia, and Zambia to integrate soil organic carbon in NDCs.
- The Agri-PDB Platform has actively mobilized technical and financial partnerships between public development banks and international institutions to unlock sustainable finance.

3.1 Key lessons learned and operational challenges

The coalitions' experiences have demonstrated that collaborative, multistakeholder engagement is essential for achieving legitimacy and accelerating progress, while national ownership and locally led approaches are key for sustaining that progress. Knowledge co-creation and peer exchange among diverse actors enhance learning, alignment and credibility, while inclusive governance structures enable broader participation and flexibility in implementation. In terms of coordination, established government contacts serve as key enablers for effective coalition engagement, while dedicated coalition secretariats play vital roles in maintaining coordination, continuity and responsiveness. The coalitions have identified that targeted, cross-sectoral entry points

Resource mobilization mechanisms

- The School Meals Coalition has developed the Sustainable Financing Initiative, which helps countries build multiyear funding strategies by blending domestic and international resources.
- The Zero Hunger Coalition's initiative, the "Private Sector Pledge", encourages companies to align investments with national food systems pathways, supporting locally driven, high-impact solutions.

such as nutrition, education, climate adaptation, aquatic environments, combined with multistakeholder engagement serve as powerful levers for food systems transformation. An example of the partnership and systems approach in action is the work of the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition in supporting Indonesia integrate blue foods into its national development strategies, bridging food security, nutrition, climate adaptation, and economic development goals. The work was embedded in a broader multistakeholder collaboration, engaging government actors, technical experts, and international partners to explore the role of aquatic foods in both national food systems and climate policy development.

Despite these valuable lessons, coalitions continue to face significant operational challenges that limit their effectiveness and impact. Unpredictable and insufficient funding remain the most significant barrier, limiting the ability of coalitions to fully deliver on their

objectives, scale or sustain long-term impact. Moreover, coordination with National Food Systems Convenors has proven difficult for many coalitions due to lack of formalized communication channels, and unclear expectations around the Convenors' role in facilitating coalition engagement. As a result, coalitions struggle to align their support with national processes, missing opportunities for timely collaboration, joint planning, or integration into government-led food systems efforts. At a systems level, coalitions report disconnects between global ambitions and national-level implementation creating alignment challenges, while cross-coalition coordination also remains limited, with joint efforts often confined to global advocacy rather than coordinated country-level support. Finally, efforts to track systemic outcomes are hampered by fragmented data systems, standardized indicators, and limited national capacity for monitoring - making it difficult to demonstrate tangible progress.

C. COALITION OF ACTION EXPECTATIONS FOR UNFSS+4 AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE WAY FORWARD

Beyond UNFSS+4, coalitions call for the Stocktake outcome document to reaffirm strong political commitment to food systems transformation, while clearly articulating measurable commitments, elevating systemic collaboration and addressing power imbalances in the food system. Many envision a restructured EoS that better integrates with existing mechanisms and avoids duplications, while reinforcing coalitions as key delivery partners.

This requires a clear definition of the Hub's role vis-à-vis coalitions, as well as in-depth UNFSS+4 discussions about the added value and future of coalitions within the EoS. While some coalitions have secured limited

external funding or established legal frameworks for resource mobilization, diversified and innovative financing models remain absent. To address this broader structural challenge, coalitions recommend establishing multiyear, flexible funding streams from development partners, philanthropic donors, countries and the private sector while aligning coalition strategies with global funding frameworks and country-level needs.

Ultimately, coalitions call for the UNFSS process to emphasize practical, context-related and country-led implementation, supported by tailored resources and, deeper country-level partnerships.

↓ Brazil – A consumer buying potatoes on sale at a fruit stall in a street market in Sao Paulo.
© FAO/Miguel Schincariol



CHAPTER 4

INTEGRATED SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. INTRODUCTION

Created to ensure that the UN System delivers as one in support of the UNFSS, the Global UN Food Systems Task Force (UNTF) has continued to strengthen collaboration and synergies across UN entities with a mandate relevant to food systems. Currently co-chaired by WHO and UNDP and meeting bi-monthly, the UNTF brings together 164 members representing 49 UN agencies, funds and programmes. It has made significant progress in advancing its mandate to lead and coordinate UN-wide follow-up to the Summit, providing strategic guidance through a unified UN approach.

This chapter introduces the progress made in delivering integrated support across the UN system, not only at the global level, through the leadership of the UNTF, but also at regional and national levels, through the work of regional task forces, thematic groups, coalitions, and country-level efforts by UN agencies, to advance food systems transformation.

B. JOINT UN SYSTEM SUPPORT AT A GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL

4.1 Country level

The Food Systems Window of the Joint SDG Fund incentivises accelerated collaboration among UN agencies (over 16) in support of government-

driven national pathway implementation. Steered by UN Resident Coordinators in 26 countries, Joint Programmes support an enabling environment, fostering sustainable transitions (through capacities, policies and institutions), and leveraging food systems finance and investments (ratio of 1:5 to 9).

As part of its commitment to enhance joint UN System delivery in countries, the UN Task Force's interagency working group⁴⁰ developed a *Food Systems Thinking Guide for UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams*.⁴¹ Drawing on collective expertise, the guide provides practical tools, case studies and strategic insights to support UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators in delivering integrated, multisectoral support for food systems transformation. It highlights diverse country-level initiatives that demonstrate the growing potential of food systems actions, driven by strong collaboration between UN Country Teams (UNCTs), national governments and local partners.^{42 43} It has been piloted in support of Joint Programming in several countries, including in the context of developing Joint Programmes for the Joint SDG Fund Food Systems Transformation Window.

4.2 Regional level

Regional UN food systems mechanisms have supported UN Country Teams to drive food systems transformation agendas. Highlights include:

- **Latin America and the Caribbean**

UN Food Systems Task Force for Latin America and the Caribbean (TF): Comprised of nine UN agencies, currently co-led by UN Women and FAO, the TF delivers technical and strategic support for

implementing national pathways, advises on SDG Fund access, and works to position food systems transformation at the forefront of the regional agenda through targeted webinars and high-level side events. The TF has advanced strong and sustained engagement with 17 countries—out of 21 with national pathways – with concrete progress evidenced in the integration of national pathways into public policies, the right to food embedded into constitutions, multisectoral governance strengthened and dynamic South-South Cooperation.

- **Europe and Central Asia**

The UN Issue-based Coalition on Sustainable Food Systems (IBC-SFS): Serves as a regional platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange and the promotion of cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary actions to enhance collaboration, policy coherence and joint programming. Since UNFSS+2, agencies have supported the progression of school meal standards as well as the expansion of food systems legislation in the region. In collaboration with the UN Department of Global Communication (UNDCO) Regional Office for ECA and Issue-based Coalitions, the IBC-SFS was instrumental in a strategic dialogue on making Cooperation Frameworks more agile, cohesive and effective in addressing complex and interconnected challenges ensuring that different nexus areas are effectively integrated.

⁴⁰ Developed by the Inter-agency Working Group on Supporting UN Country Team Coordination and Joint Programming, led by FAO in collaboration with IFAD, ITC, the Hub, UNCDF, UNDP, UNEP, UNDCO, UN-Nutrition Secretariat, UN Women, WFP and WHO as part of the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme with financial assistance from the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture.

⁴¹ United Nations. 2025. *Food Systems Thinking Guide for UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams*. [Cited 25 June 2025]. <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/hub-solution/food-systems-thinking-guide/en>

⁴² UNDCO. 2023. Carrying the promise of sustainable food systems forward: A UN country-team perspective. In: *UN Sustainable Development Group*. [Cited 25 June 2025]. <https://bit.ly/45HO12B>

⁴³ UNDCO. 2023. Forging Sustainable Food Systems for the Future: A view from Senegal and Guatemala. In: *UN Sustainable Development Group*. [Cited 25 June 2025]. <https://bit.ly/44qEhaP>

- **Asia and the Pacific**

The Regional Networking Group on Food Systems (RNG-FS): The Integrated Food System Risk Assessment (INFER) tool for food systems assessment is an example of collaboration. Jointly developed by ESCAP and WFP with FAO and UNEP inputs, INFER provides data-driven decision-making and will be applied in the Convergence Initiative in Thailand and Lao PDR. Two new regional projects are also being launched: one to translate national pathways into action plans (Vanuatu, Sri Lanka, Indonesia) and another to develop investment portfolios for sustainable financing (Tonga, Maldives, Lao PDR).

- **Near East and North Africa**

Through a strong partnership among ESCWA, FAO, UNIDO, WFP, the World Bank, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Hub and Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture, an Arab regional meeting was held in October 2024 to accelerate food systems transformation.⁴⁴ The meeting resulted in the adoption of the Amman Declaration by participating ministers,⁴⁵ affirming a joint commitment to sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems across the region.

4.3 Global level

The UNTF has developed a digital platform,⁴⁶ which provides a space for members to share updates, key resources and coordinate participation in relevant food systems events.

Bimonthly UNTF plenaries provide agencies and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub a platform to share updates and collaborate on dedicated endeavours. For example, a working group supported the development of the second JSDGF Food Systems Funding round, allowing agencies to agree the scope, direction and modalities of the competitive call, compile country intelligence to facilitate selection, and anticipate call timelines, strengthening HQ technical support to relevant country offices in the development of Expressions of Interest and Joint Programmes.

A key development has been the organization of thematic dialogue sessions, exploring food systems' connections to key areas such as climate change, biodiversity, health, behaviour change, gender and power dynamics. The dialogues foster multisectoral solutions by informing members and exploring partnerships. In March 2025, WHO hosted a hybrid plenary in Geneva, bringing together 30 members from 17 agencies to strengthen connections and discuss the UNTF's relevance and effectiveness through and beyond 2025.

⁴⁴ UN ESCWA. 2024. Accelerating food systems transformation in the Arab region. In: *UNESCWA*. [Accessed 25 June 2025] <https://www.unescwa.org/events/accelerating-food-systems-transformation-arab-region>

⁴⁵ UN ESCWA. 2024. *Amman Declaration on food and agriculture systems in the Arab region*. 31 October 2024. Amman. <https://www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/event/materials/Amman%20Declaration.pdf>

⁴⁶ The UNTF has created a private digital space for members, which is available at: <https://greencommodities.community/topics/27663/feed>

C. THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS COORDINATION HUB'S SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES

Since its inception in April 2022, the Hub has served as a central convenor and facilitator, uniting governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, research institutions and other key stakeholders to collaboratively design and implement resilient and equitable food system strategies. A key achievement has been its effective support for the implementation of national food systems pathways and sustained engagement with 159 national convenors. To ensure a profound and sustainable impact, the Hub has actively collaborated with contributing UN agencies at headquarters, regional, and country levels, as well as with the broader UN system, including Resident Coordinators (RCs), UN Country Teams (UNCTs), and national EoS. These partnerships have strengthened the means of implementation and leveraged key enablers across diverse contexts.

Guided by a comprehensive workplan,⁴⁷ the Hub has advanced its mandate through a portfolio of flagship programmes—such as the Food Systems Window of the Joint SDG Fund, the Convergence Initiative, the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP), Finance for Food Systems (e.g., the 3FS Tool), and national pathways operationalization.⁴⁸ Through these initiatives, the Hub has provided targeted technical expertise, strategic policy guidance, and catalytic

funding—particularly supporting countries navigating complex and multifaceted challenges. This was made possible thanks to the generous support of the donors⁴⁹ and agencies,⁵⁰ whose contributions have been instrumental in driving this impact.

The Hub, through the Flexible Voluntary Contribution sub-programme supported seven countries – Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Uruguay, Uzbekistan – in accelerating the implementation of their national food systems pathways.⁵¹ In addition, the Hub through the project *Accelerating Food Systems Transformation through a Scalable Success Model*, funded by the EU is supporting the operationalization of national food systems pathways for countries and activities in Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Kiribati, Madagascar, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Zambia. The One Planet network has a working group to support the implementation of national pathways.⁵² Various Coalitions of Actions, such as the HDP Nexus Coalition support pathway implementation in countries affected by food crises and conflict. The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) is supporting the implementation of national food pathways in countries where GAIN has a presence towards greater sustainability and improved nutrition.⁵³

⁴⁷ Outlined in Chapter 5, section C

⁴⁸ As discussed on Chapter 2, section C

⁴⁹ Belgium, Denmark, EU, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden

⁵⁰ EOSG, FAO, IFAD, UNDP, WFP and WHO

⁵¹ FAO. 2024. *Transforming Food Systems For People, The Planet and Common Prosperity through National Pathways. A Flexible Voluntary Contribution (FVC) project*. FMM/GLO/181/MUL. <https://www.fao.org/flexible-multipartner-mechanism/projects/project-detail/en/c/1725781/>

⁵² One Planet. Working Group: Support the Implementation of National Pathways. <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-food-systems/workinggroups/pathways>

⁵³ GAIN. 2023. *GAIN Discussion Paper Series 15- Food System Pathways: Improving the Effectiveness of Support to Governments*. <https://www.gainhealth.org/resources/reports-and-publications/gain-discussion-paper-series-15-food-system-pathways-improving>



↑ United Arab Emirates – Emirate fish farm technicians use the latest computer technology to monitor the water quality, to keep it within the optimal biological requirement of the farm fish.
© FAO/FameMedia

4.4 The following provides key updates on progress and impact on some of the flagship initiatives

Launched in 2023 during the UNFSS+2, the Food Systems Window of the Joint SDG Fund has successfully mobilized USD 32 million to date⁵⁴ and developed two consecutive funding rounds dedicated to food systems transformation in 26 countries, in addition to streamlining food systems in other funding windows (such as energy, job acceleration, digital, climate, localization etc.). Beyond directly supporting national pathway implementation (for instance, through the programme “Strengthening Sustainable Food Systems in the Bolivian Amazon to Live Well and in Harmony with Mother Earth” and Somalia’s “Transforming Food Systems through Nutrition-Sensitive and Climate-Adaptive Social Protection Systems”), the Joint SDG

Fund is designed as a catalytic investment. It supports countries, assisted by UNCTs under the leadership of RCs, to leverage five to nine times the amounts invested by facilitating and influencing larger-scale investments from a variety of sources, including domestic public spending (for developing basic public services), International Financial Institutions, donors and the private sector.

Through the Convergence Initiative, supported by Netherlands (Kingdom of the), the Hub delivers tailored assistance via the EoS. This effort builds on multistakeholder and interministerial platforms and integrates food systems transformation into national planning frameworks, development plans and climate actions (including the FAO-led 1.5°C Roadmap).⁵⁵ As part of this initiative, *Convergence Action Blueprints* have been developed in 11 countries,⁵⁶ with engagements initiated in a total of 26 countries.

⁵⁴ With the generous support of the Governments of Germany, Spain, Italy and Ireland.

⁵⁵ FAO. 2023. *Achieving SDG 2 without breaching the 1.5 °C threshold: A global roadmap, Part 1 – How agrifood systems transformation through accelerated climate actions will help achieving food security and nutrition, today and tomorrow, In brief*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9113en>

⁵⁶ As of June 2025, *Convergence Action Blueprints* have been developed by Kazakhstan, Brazil, Indonesia, Türkiye, Ethiopia, Jordan, Cameroon, Thailand and Lao PDR. Kazakhstan’s *Blueprint* is currently under review and awaiting government endorsement. While in Lao PDR, the *Blueprint* has just been finalized and will be available within a month. Egypt is scheduled to hold its Convergence Initiative workshop in the coming weeks, with the final *Blueprint* anticipated by July. Somalia’s *Blueprint* is expected to be completed by August.

With support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Hub launched the YLP in 2024, to enhance youth engagement in food systems transformation. The programme competitively selected around 100 young professionals (aged 18–35) from nearly 50 countries out of over 3,000 applicants. YLP alumni continue to make significant contributions to national food systems initiatives. The YLP organized three regional networks and, together with multiple global youth groups, supported the Preparatory Youth Global Conference for the 2nd UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4). Delegates co-drafted a Youth Declaration that will feed directly into the UNFSS+4 process.⁵⁷

To further drive country-led transformation, the Hub also convenes monthly Food Systems Solutions Dialogues (FSSDs)—virtual, collaborative platforms for National Convenors and key stakeholders to develop and share practical solutions for sustainable food systems. Since April 2022, more than 35 dialogues have been held covering key themes including financing, Coalitions of Action, governance, health and nutrition, and the role of the private sector. FSSDs foster peer learning, capacity building, and exchange across the Convenors' networks, supporting the continuous evolution of national pathways.

Through inclusive consultations and events, the Hub has engaged diverse stakeholders—including youth, women, smallholders, producers and Indigenous Peoples—ensuring that transformation efforts are both inclusive and effective. For example, the Stakeholder Engagement and Networking Advisory (SENA) Group provides ongoing guidance and brings the perspectives of key stakeholder communities into national, regional,

and global food systems processes. The SENA Group supports the development and implementation of national pathways and other platforms by facilitating inclusive, transparent, and accountable dialogue. Complementing this engagement, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) – composed of leading global scientists – provides impartial, evidence-based guidance to the Hub and supported countries. The SAC's work, structured around four thematic priorities and led by its Co-Chairs, ensures that scientific input remains central to the design and implementation of sustainable food systems transformations.⁵⁸

As part of its global advocacy and convening role, the Hub has worked to position food systems transformation at the heart of climate and sustainable development agendas. In 2023, the Hub partnered with the COP28 Presidency to elevate food systems as a catalyst for achieving the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, aligning transformation efforts with key global milestones such as the SDG Summit, the UN Food Systems Stocktakes and COPs. At COP28 in Dubai, the Hub supported the Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda by promoting policy alignment with NDCs and NAPs by 2025. COP28 resulted in the historic *Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action*, endorsed by 160 heads of state and governments. The Hub continued this momentum at COP29 in Baku by fostering multistakeholder collaboration to integrate food security, nutrition, and climate resilience. Looking ahead to COP30 in Brazil, the Hub remains committed to supporting countries in building sustainable, resilient and equitable food systems—driving innovation, political will, and inclusive governance for lasting impact – through the Convergence Initiative.

⁵⁷ The Hub. Shaping the Youth Declaration for UNFSS+4: Public window now closed <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/hub-solution/youth-leadership-programme/en>

⁵⁸ UNFSS. Rome. *Meet the Scientific Advisory Committee. Harnessing science to transform food systems.* <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/about-us/advisors-and-partners/scientific-advisory-committee/en>

D. THE UN SYSTEM EXPECTATIONS FOR UNFSS+4 AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE WAY FORWARD

Capacity-building, financing and effective governance remain the core challenges to advancing sustained, holistic and multisectoral food systems transformation. While cross-sector and interagency collaboration has increased and should be recognized at UNFSS+4, there is an urgent need to critically assess whether these efforts are driving systemic change or merely improving isolated sectoral projects.

In the past biennium two determinants of these challenges emerged at all levels which - if addressed - could unlock bottlenecks both within the UN System, and for national governments and wider food systems stakeholders.

1. **Breaking down silos:** While collaboration has improved, there is still a need to strengthen engagement beyond the Rome-based UN agencies and agriculture-focused sectors. There is a missed opportunity to promote more integrated and holistic policy action by developing a global framework that clearly defines shared goals, strategies and responsibilities for transforming food systems. Such a framework should guide coordinated action, communication and governance among diverse stakeholders, while upholding a rights-based approach. It is also essential to strengthen alignment with related agendas, including climate change, biodiversity, health and nutrition. (This call has been made by diverse food system actors).^{59 60}

61 62 63 64 65 66

⁵⁹ The call has been made by European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (iPES Food), Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Foresight4Food, Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation (ACF), Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy (IATP).

⁶⁰ EPHA, 2024. *Joint call for a transformation and a legislative framework for sustainable food systems in the next mandate*. <https://epha.org/joint-call-for-a-transformation-and-a-legislative-framework-for-sustainable-food-systems-in-the-next-mandate/>

⁶¹ iPES Food, 2021. *A unifying framework for food systems transformation*. <https://ipes-food.org/13-key-principles-of-food-systems-transformation/>

⁶² Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems. 2024. *Navigating the politics and processes of food systems transformation: guidance from a holistic framework*. <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/sustainable-food-systems/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2024.1399024/full>

⁶³ GAIN. 2021. *Agri-food systems transformation: new, ambitious framework proposed to monitor progress - Experts from FAO, John Hopkins University and GAIN seek rigorous metrics system in piece published by the Food Policy Journal*. <https://www.gainhealth.org/news-releases/agri-food-systems-transformation-new-ambitious-framework-proposed-monitor-progress>

⁶⁴ Foresight4Food. 2023. *Why, What, and How: A Framework for Transforming Food Systems*. <https://foresight4food.net/why-what-and-how-a-framework-for-transforming-food-systems/>

⁶⁵ ACF. 2024. *ACF COP29 Ministerial Statement*. <https://allianceofchampions.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ACF-Ministerial-Statement-.pdf>

⁶⁶ IATP. 2021. *Call for a unifying framework for food systems transformation and agroecology*. <https://www.iatp.org/unifying-framework-food-systems-transformation-agroecology>

2. **Addressing power imbalances:** Governance systems need to address deep-rooted power imbalances that influence policymaking and implementation. UNEP, UNDP and FAO have responded to this challenge by developing the guide “Rethinking our food systems: A guide for multi-stakeholder collaboration”.⁶⁷ However, there is still no clear UN-wide guidance to help countries manage these power issues and pressures when creating food systems policies. To ensure fair and trustworthy policy advice, it is essential to have transparent engagement processes, fair representation and safeguards against conflicts of interest, as recently emphasized by a UN General Assembly resolution.⁶⁸

As preparations progress for UNFSS+4 and beyond, regional and global food systems platforms consistently call for increased financial mobilization and the rapid implementation of holistic policies that are free from conflicts of interest. These efforts are essential to realize the vision of food systems that support people, the planet, and prosperity. The UN Task Force plans to reflect on these and other challenges more deeply by compiling a “lessons learned” report and identifying opportunities to strengthen a unified *One UN approach* that empowers national governments in their food systems transformation pathways.

⁶⁷ UNEP, FAO and UNDP. 2023. *Rethinking Our Food Systems: A Guide for Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration*. Nairobi, Rome and New York. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/0b9146fb-7255-41e5-8005-24bfcecb6ba9>

⁶⁸ United Nations. 2025. Global health and foreign policy: rethinking health promotion as a transformative path towards improved and more sustainable well-being for all, A/79/L.74. New York, USA. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/td/n25/091/07/pdf/n2509107.pdf>

↓ Kenya – Mary Bate Edward’s children eat what she prepared using the vegetables from her horticultural farm.
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CHAPTER 5

THE WAY FORWARD: TOWARDS THE 2027 SDG SUMMIT AND PRIORITIES UNTIL 2030

The second United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake underscored that food systems are not merely part of the global challenge, they are among the most powerful solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Building on the momentum generated since 2021 and the first stocktake in 2023, the 2025–2027 period is pivotal for turning commitments into action at scale.

A. Renewed Global Commitment and Inclusive Governance

Since 2021, 130 countries have articulated integrated, multisectoral National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation, often with support from UN Country Teams. These pathways now demand deepened implementation, backed by technical cooperation and strengthened National Convenors. Ensuring effective participation of family farmers, frontline food workers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities is essential for inclusive, human-rights-based governance and for realizing the right to food for all.

Integration across agendas, climate, biodiversity, nutrition, jobs, health, digital technology, social protection, clean energy and innovation, remains fundamental to attract investment and create coherent policy frameworks. Emerging regional commitments such as the COP28 UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food Systems and Climate Action, the G7 Apulia Food Systems Initiative, the G20 Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, CELAC's SAN Plan, ASEAN's Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture and the AU's Kampala Declaration all reinforce the urgency of coordinated action.

B. Science, Technology and Knowledge

Progress hinges on enhanced investments in scientific capacity, timely data generation and context-specific technologies, coupled with recognition of traditional knowledge. Strong science–policy–society interfaces can align agriculture, health, climate, biodiversity and economic objectives. New technologies, including artificial intelligence and digital public infrastructure, must be deployed responsibly to connect farmers and producers to markets and to accelerate transformation.

C. Unlocking Finance and Investment

Despite notable achievements - such as \$17.8 billion disbursed in 2023 by International Financial Institutions, surpassing the UNFSS+2 target - unlocking finance remains critical. Efforts should focus on de-risking instruments, enabling policy environments, expanded access to climate finance, and strengthened long-term public-private partnerships. Addressing debt burdens and boosting national funding for food systems will empower small-scale producers and enterprises to drive sustainable transformation.

D. Equity, Resilience and Local Action

Promoting equity and resilience requires linking environmental, economic and social dimensions: facilitating access to land and finance, supporting agroecology and regenerative agriculture, and scaling sustainable public food procurement such as school meal programmes, which now operate in over 169 countries. Policies rooted in local culture and traditional knowledge can accelerate transformation and strengthen self-reliance.

E. Intergenerational Leadership

Youth and young people are not merely future beneficiaries but active co-leaders of change. Policies and investments must expand opportunities for youth to innovate and thrive, ensuring their leadership in shaping food systems that are sustainable and just.

F. Key Milestones on the Road to 2030

Upcoming global processes, including the Second World Summit for Social Development, COP30, and the 2027 Sustainable Development Goals Summit—offer strategic platforms and opportunities to embed food systems firmly within global agendas and to reinforce accountability. Food systems and food systems transformation must evolve as a model of inclusive, networked multilateralism, linking agriculture, climate, health, biodiversity, trade and finance.

CONCLUSION

The second United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake reaffirmed that peace and respect for human rights anchor the path to 2030. Every person, everywhere, has the right to food that is accessible, affordable, safe and nutritious. To fulfill this promise, countries and stakeholders must sustain the momentum of UNFSS+4: deepening national pathways, scaling finance, leveraging science and technology, and strengthening partnerships.

If this collective ambition is realized, food systems will become a central lever for resilient, inclusive and sustainable development—driving accelerated progress towards the SDGs by 2030.

