

2nd UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4)

Concept Note for Session Co-leads

July 27-29, 2025 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

1. Title of the session:

Healthy diets for all: transforming food systems for healthy diets and nutrition

2. Type of the session:

High-Level Panel

3. Date and time of the session:

28 July, 16.30-18.00

4. Session background:

The [UN Secretary-General's Food Systems Transformation Call to Action](#) identifies zero hunger, food security and nutrition as key drivers to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Nutrition offers significant returns on investment - every \$1 invested brings \$23 of returns through a healthier, more productive and more resilient population. Food systems are key to shaping the accessibility and affordability of healthy diets, essential for realising the global nutrition targets.¹

This high-level panel session aims to accelerate the achievement of nutrition outcomes through food systems transformation. It will bring together countries and organisations to share progress and challenges in orienting agriculture and food systems investments towards diversified production and healthier food environments for nutrition and mobilizing finance. Building on the momentum of the Paris Nutrition for Growth and Financing for Development summits, the session will foster dialogue and build alliances across sectors - including health, agriculture, social protection, climate and finance, to identify opportunities to advance nutrition integration as an enabler of equitable, sustainable and inclusive food systems transformation.

5. Context:

The world is largely off track to achieve SDG2 and the World Health Assembly targets on nutrition. While rates of stunting and wasting have declined, progress on low birth weight and child obesity has stalled. Anaemia and adult obesity are increasing. In 2025, the global status of the right to food is a serious concern, with millions facing acute hunger and malnutrition. Conflict, climate change, and economic shocks are major drivers and amplifiers of malnutrition and acute food insecurity, with disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations, like children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls.

¹ In 2025, the World Health Assembly affirmed the central role of food systems in achieving the Global Nutrition Targets

While all forms of malnutrition have multiple causes, food systems have a direct impact on nutrition. Over 2.8 billion people were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2022.² This has a huge cost on health systems and society as a whole - approximately 70 percent of the 12 trillion of annual hidden costs of the food system are directly related to unhealthy dietary patterns, resulting in non-communicable disease, lost productivity and premature death.³

There are a range of cost-effective, evidence-based actions across the food system that can enable healthy diets for all and contribute to nutrition outcomes, while delivering co-benefits across the food system. These include repurposing agricultural production and value chain investments toward improving the availability and affordability of locally appropriate nutritious food and creating a food environment that ensures that people are able to make healthy food choices, even in challenging and fragile contexts.

Many actions that enable nutrition outcomes have co-benefits for agriculture, environment, equity and economic development. The unprecedented commitments at N4G of USD 30 billion to deliver nutrition, with over 40% of commitments linked to food systems and climate, alongside outcomes from Financing for Development 4, UNFSS+4 is an opportunity to change the status quo and shift the dial towards food systems transformation for healthier diets and better nutrition for all.

6. Session objectives:

The high-level panel aims to catalyze cross-sector action to integrate nutrition into food systems transformation, demonstrating how healthy diets can deliver multiple wins—across health, climate, equity, and economic development. It will showcase practical strategies to:

- Mobilise countries and stakeholders for collaborative nutrition-driven food systems transformation.
- Promote actionable frameworks aligning nutrition with food systems, economic, health, and climate goals.
- Unlock long-term and predictable development and climate finance for nutrition outcomes, across agriculture, health and social protection for high-impact returns.

7. Link to UNFSS+4 objectives

- **Reflecting on progress:** Countries and other actors will assess progress of how food systems pathways are delivering on national and global nutrition commitments, and the availability and affordability of healthy diets.
- **Partnerships and tracking commitments:** Linking agendas across agriculture and food systems, nutrition, climate and economic development and moving toward implementation.
- **Unlocking finance and increasing investments:** Positions nutrition as economically sound investment with high returns and build on the momentum from N4G and FfD4.

² 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.

³ FAO. 2023. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2023. Revealing the true cost of food to transform agrifood systems*. Rome.

Links will be made to other UNFSS+4 sessions to foster better nutrition outcomes, such as financing, trade, food sovereignty and gender equality, to showcase the high social and economic returns on investment of nutrition.

8. Key message(s) of the session:

- **Integrating nutrition into food systems brings multiple wins**, such as co-benefits for health, environmental sustainability, resilience, economic prosperity, and equitable livelihoods.
- **Agriculture must include food security and nutrition, including the affordability of healthy diets, as priority outcome**
- **Governments have a key role to play in strengthening healthy food environments**, through evidence-based and context-specific policy, fiscal and regulatory packages, reformulation and fortification, combined with social protection measures, to make sure healthy diets are available and affordable to all.
- **Nutrition is a social and economic investment case** that needs to be integrated across the development, humanitarian and climate financing agendas.

9. Session format:

The session opens with a keynote address and high-level remarks on nutrition integration in food systems. A panel of senior government representatives and officials will share experiences on healthy diets through food systems: unlocking political and financial commitments. A second moderated discussion will discuss multi sectoral action on turning commitment into action. This will be followed by an open discussion with participants. The session concludes with a summary of key messages and a forward-looking perspective.

10. Guiding questions for speakers:

- **Integration of nutrition into food systems and alignment of agendas:** What can ministries of agriculture, finance, and health, the private sector, and financial institutions do to prioritize nutrition at the heart of food systems transformation? How can we do more to work across sectors and realise co-benefits: for food security and affordability, poverty alleviation, resilience and productivity?
- **Shift toward nutrition-sensitive agriculture:** What initiatives can countries take to boost the production and availability of healthy and nutritious foods? What incentives or regulations have helped encourage greater engagement from the private sector?
- **Building healthy food environments:** What policy packages and tools have proven most effective in creating healthier food environments and driving demand for nutritious options? How can these reach the most vulnerable populations, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings?
- **Aligning finance:** Nutrition is part of the Financing for Development summit outcome. How can we leverage this success for greater nutrition financing, including through

repurposing of existing resources? How can sufficient, long term, predictable funding increase in fragile and conflict affected countries?

11. Desirable outcome:

This session seeks to see food systems leaders committed to accelerate the integration of nutrition into national food systems and climate policies and investments. The session will be successful if policy makers start applying a holistic approach to their N4G, food systems and climate commitments, and transform them into actionable frameworks and policies paving the way for coordinated, accountable, and transformative multi sectoral transformation of food systems that achieves nutrition and health outcomes.

12. Additional links/documents:

- [Thematic Guide: Transition toward Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems for Nutrition](#)
- [HESAT2030 assessment – Evidence synthesis and costing of nutrition-sensitive interventions](#)