



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Strengthening partnerships for improved nutrition and food systems

An overview of key stakeholders
in the African region



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by
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Required citation:

Mustafa, M.A. 2025. *Strengthening partnerships for improved nutrition and food systems – An overview of key stakeholders in the African region*. Accra, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd4428en>

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ISBN 978-92-5-139640-7

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Acknowledgements

This publication was produced by the FAO Regional Office for Africa.

The review of the content was made possible through meaningful contribution from Boitshepo Giyose, Bridget Homes, Diana Carter, Djibril Drame, Florence Tonnoir, Nelsen Ojijo, Patrizia Fracassi, Pierpaolo Piras, Ramani Wijesinha-Bettoni, the UN-Nutrition team, and the Market Linkages and Value Chains (MLVC) team from the Nutrition Division (ESN).

The document was authored by Militezegga Abduk Mustafa with supervision by Mphumuzi Sukati and strategic inputs from Boitshepo Giyose. Copy editing by Russel Brownlee and layout by Creatrix Design are equally acknowledged.

Abbreviations

AARINENA	Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa	CORAF	Strengthening Agriculture Research and Development for Sustainable Agriculture in West and Central Africa
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement	EAC	East African Community
AfDB	African Development Bank	ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
AG2Nut	Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice	ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
AGIR	Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative	ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ALN	African Leaders for Nutrition	ENN	Emergency Nutrition Network
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union	FANUS	Federation of African Nutrition Societies
ANH	Agriculture, Nutrition Health Academy	FAO	Food And Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ANS	African Nutrition Society	FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa	FFI	Food Fortification Initiative
AU	African Union	FOLU	Food and Land Use Coalition
AUC	African Consumer Union	FWGA	Fortified Whole Grain Alliance
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa’s Development	GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme	GANN	Global Adolescent Nutrition Network
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa	GCCA	Global Cold Chain Alliance
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States	GEF	Global Environment Facility
CFS	Committee for Food Security	gFSC	Global Food Security Cluster
CGIAR	Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centres	GNAFC	Global Network Against Food Crises
CH	Cadre Harmonisé	GNR	Global Nutrition Report
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture	GPC	Global Pulse Confederation
CILLSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel	HDPN	Humanitarian–development–peace nexus
CRS	Catholic Relief Services	HDSFS	Coalition of Actions on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	HGSF	Home-grown school feeding
CoPN	Community of Practice Network on the Humanitarian Development Nexus	HKI	Helen Keller International
		IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
		IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
		ICAN	International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition
		ICN	International Conference on Nutrition

ICONIC	International Collaboration on Nutrition in relation to Cancer	SADC	Southern African Development Community
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
IDF	International Dairy Federation	SFERA	Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
IFCN	International Farm Comparison Network	SOFI	State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World
IFE	Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core Group	SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN Movement)
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute	THP	The Hunger Project
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	UAE	United Arab Emirates
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	UN	United Nations
INFORMAS	International Network for Food and Obesity/Non-communicable Diseases Research, Monitoring and Action Support	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IPES-Food	International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
ITC	International Trade Centre	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
N4G	Nutrition For Growth	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
NASRO	North African Sub-Regional Research Organization	WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
NCD	Non-communicable disease	WaSt TiG	Wasting and Stunting Technical Interest Group
NGO	Non-governmental organization	WB	World Bank Group
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	WFF	World Food Forum
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	WFP	World Food Programme
PAP	Pan-African Parliament	WHO	World Health Organization
PCD	Partnership for Child Development	WRI	World Resources Institute
REC	Regional economic community		
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture		



1. Introduction

1.1 Setting the scene

Adequate nutrition is both a prerequisite for and result of achieving sustainable development. Undernutrition (including stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiency) in early stages of human growth rob affected children of the possibility to unleash their full potential as adults. Micronutrient deficiency or “hidden hunger” (particularly iron, zinc and vitamin A deficiency) represents a major global health concern leading to poor physical and mental development in children, reduced educational outcomes, reduced productivity and potential, and increased risk from other diseases and health conditions. At the same time, diets rich in highly processed foods that contain sugar, refined grains, trans fats and salt beyond recommended levels lead to obesity and a host of diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension and different types of cancers (Corvalan and Grummer-Strawn, 2020).

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 (FAO *et al.*, 2024), the world remains far off track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (Zero Hunger). The global prevalence of undernourishment has persisted at nearly the same level for three consecutive years after having risen sharply in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, an estimated 713 to 757 million people faced hunger – equivalent to one out of every 11 people in the world and 1 out of every 5 in Africa. While hunger continues to rise in Africa, it has remained relatively unchanged in Asia, and notable progress has been made in reducing hunger in the Latin American and Caribbean regions. Africa is the region with the largest percentage of the population facing hunger – 20.4 percent, compared with 8.1 percent in Asia, 6.2 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7.3 percent in Oceania. However, Asia is still home to the largest number: 384.5 million, or more than half of all those facing hunger in the world. In Africa, 298.4 million people may have faced hunger in 2023, compared with 41.0 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 3.3 million in Oceania.

The Global Nutrition Report (2022) showed that in the African continent, prevalence of stunting of children under 5 is 30.7 percent (higher than the global average of 22 percent), while 10 percent of men and 9.8 percent of women live with diabetes and 20.8 percent of women and 9.2 percent of men above the age of 18 are obese. There has been some progress towards ending all forms of malnutrition,

with improvements in the global prevalence of stunting and wasting among children under 5 and in exclusive breastfeeding rates among infants under 6 months. However, the prevalence of low birthweight and childhood overweight has remained stagnant, and anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years has increased.

Addressing these multiple challenges requires promoting bold and transformative actions to enable food systems to deliver affordable, nutritious and healthy diets for all, particularly to the most vulnerable. In addition, dedicated consumer nutrition education programmes need to be designed and implemented to improve the food environments and curb the impact of the aggressive marketing of highly processed unhealthy foods, especially to adolescents and young children.

More than one-third of people globally, around 2.8 billion, could not afford a healthy diet in 2022. The economic inequalities behind this are evident, with 71.5 percent coming from low-income countries, 52.6 percent from lower-middle-income countries, 21.5 percent from upper-middle-income countries, and 6.3 percent from high-income countries. It is estimated that 582 million people will be chronically undernourished by the end of the decade, with more than half in Africa. Achieving SDG 2 requires urgently transforming agrifood systems to improve resilience and reduce inequalities, making healthy diets accessible and affordable for all. The lack of progress in food security and economic access to healthy diets threatens the goal of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 (FAO *et al.*, 2024).

Food systems can play a key role in contributing to nutrition and health – intended as both human and planetary health – by delivering safe, nutritious, affordable, socially acceptable and environmentally sustainable diets for all. Despite this potential, the malnutrition figures suggest that our food systems are underperforming from all these perspectives. Key drivers behind this failure in the African continent are conflicts and institutional fragility, extreme weather events and climate change, recurrent pests and animal disease outbreaks, economic shocks (including rising fuel and energy costs), and poor governance. Other drivers include long-term structural and socioeconomic factors such as poverty and limited and inequitable access to production inputs, infrastructure, technologies, knowledge and human capacity.

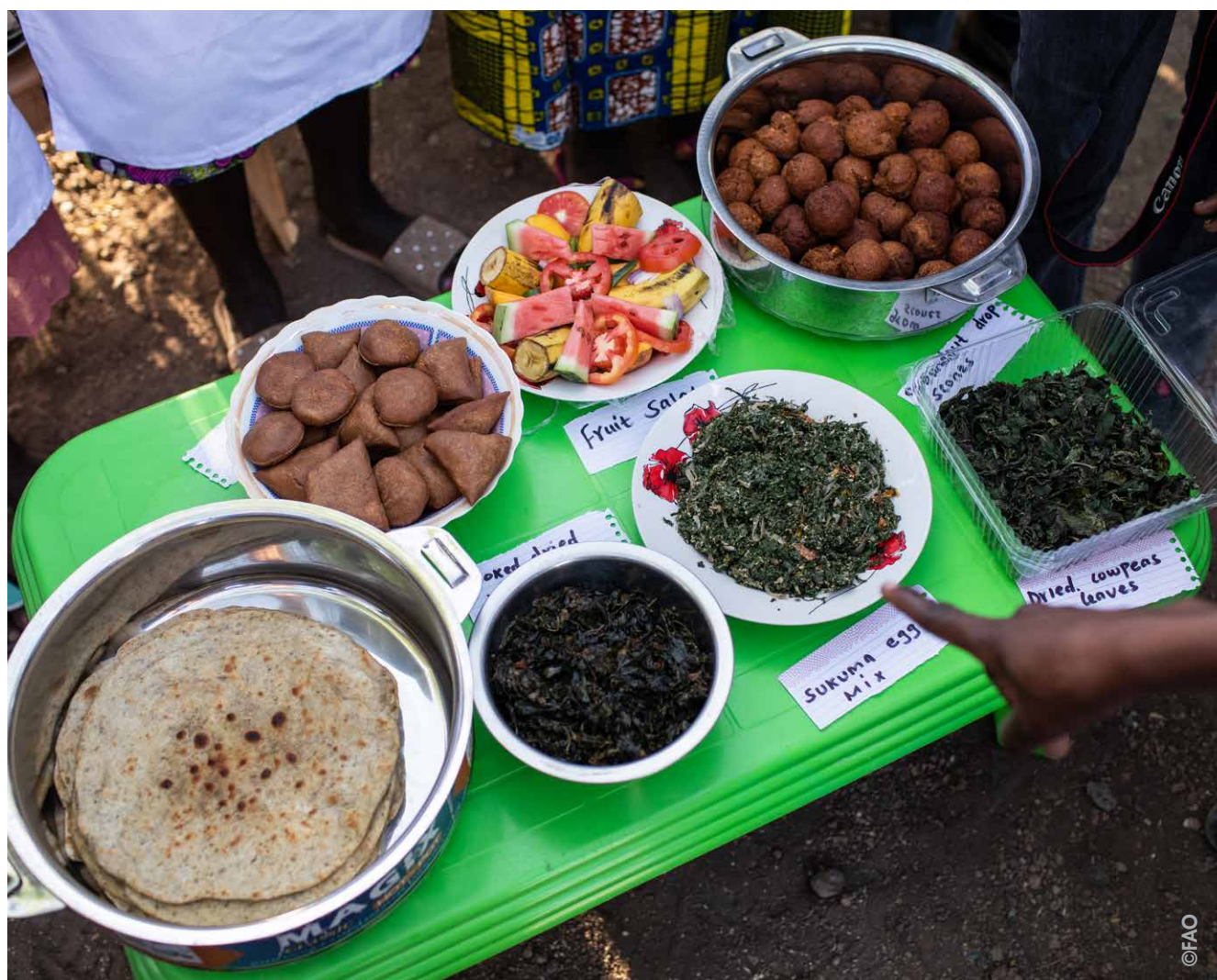
Given these worrying trends, African countries adopted the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs in 2015. In particular, they committed to SDG 2 on eradicating hunger and improving food security and nutrition by 2030. Similarly, on the occasion of the 2021 Food System Summit, countries reinvigorated their commitment towards accelerating progress on SDG 2 by designing and implementing bold policy and investment interventions to make national food systems more nutrition-enhancing, inclusive, resilient and environmentally sustainable. In 2021, as an outcome of the Food System Summit, African leaders defined an African Common Position on Food Security and Nutrition. This document speaks to the improving of value chains from production to consumption with attention to priority areas of need (Trautman, *et al.*, 2023).

While these are initiatives at global level, heads of state at the 2014 African Union Summit in Malabo adopted a set of agriculture goals to be attained by 2025. The third commitment under the Malabo Declaration calls countries to end hunger by

accelerating agricultural growth, reducing post-harvest losses, promoting social protection for the most vulnerable groups, and improving child nutrition (African Union Commission, 2014).

In 2015, African countries under the leadership of the African Union (AU), committed (through Aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063) to promote a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development while ensuring that African citizens are healthy and well nourished.

These high-level international and continental nutrition commitments provide a framework for necessary actions. In addition, strengthened partnerships, as envisioned in SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), are needed to address these systemic and interconnected challenges through synergetic, complementary and converging efforts from multiple actors operating according to respective mandates, resources and expertise.



1.2 Objective and intended beneficiaries

This document aims to help address these nutrition-related challenges by identifying relevant nutrition stakeholders operating in the African continent and to highlight areas requiring specific multisectoral and multipartner collaborative effort.

The document was developed to support nutrition stakeholders in identifying potential collaborators and their respective entry points towards improving nutrition in Africa. It is also intended to stimulate reflection on expanding existing collaboration networks and to promote synergies among actors working towards common goals. By providing an overview of the current landscape of nutrition stakeholders and their initiatives, the document can be potentially useful in identifying areas where there are gaps needing more attention.

Intended beneficiaries include policymakers and governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, research institutions, donors and funding organizations, private-sector civil society organizations, advocacy groups and other relevant actors working on promoting nutrition-enhancing agrifood systems.

1.3 Methodology

The methodology applied to map the stakeholders entailed the following approaches:

- A review of existing publications (UNSCN, 2017) that list relevant nutrition stakeholders followed by visits to websites of the suggested institutions to extract information on their work on nutrition. In addition, the “Our partners” section of these websites provided insightful information on other relevant institutions to consider.
- A review of relevant websites of nutrition partnerships, networks and alliances (e.g. the FAO Connect Portal and the Nutrition for Growth website). Particularly, the “Our partners” sections provided affiliated institutions and relevant actors to be taken into account.
- A review of the proceedings of high-level events to search for participating institutions and their entry points to nutrition and food systems.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applied selection criteria entailed identifying international, continental and subregional actors that had explicitly made a commitment (or could potentially make a commitment) to promote food security, nutrition and healthy diets in the interest of agrifood system transformation. Also considered were actors or networks of multiple stakeholders who contributed to these goals by:

- designing, implementing and assessing nutrition-enhancing policies, programmes and projects;
- advocating for political and financial commitments;
- generating knowledge, data and evidence to inform action; and
- building the capacity of organizations that play a role in the agrifood system.

With the exception of some specialized research institutions and universities, this publication does not comprise national institutions.

1.4 Nutrition strategy of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the specialized United Nations agency mandated to improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity, promote environmental sustainability, raise the standard of living in rural populations and contribute to global economic growth. This mandate is outlined in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031, which seeks to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda through more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. The Framework focuses on four key pillars, known as the four betters: *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*. Through an organizing principle anchored in these four betters, FAO intends to contribute to SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).



BETTER NUTRITION

The vision and strategy for FAO's work on nutrition (FAO Programme Committee, 2021) is anchored on the better nutrition pillar and provides a framework that guides the steps to tackle malnutrition in all its forms and enable healthy diets for all. To achieve this goal, FAO has committed to engage and support relevant stakeholders to accelerate impactful policies and actions across agrifood systems through five action areas:

- **Action area 1:** generate, collate and share data on healthy diets and agrifood systems;
- **Action area 2:** generate and share evidence on the options for policies and actions for healthy diets across agrifood systems and on trade-offs and synergies with other agrifood systems outcomes;
- **Action area 3:** convene and participate in dialogues to catalyse policy coherence and collective action across agrifood systems for healthy diets;
- **Action area 4:** build the technical and policy capacity needed to design, implement and scale-up impactful policies and actions for healthy diets; and

- **Action area 5:** advocate for and secure commitment to healthy diets as a priority goal for governance of nutrition and agrifood systems.

Achieving outcomes under these action areas requires dynamic approaches to strengthen existing partnerships and establish new ones to exploit the comparative advantages and complementarities of different stakeholders pursuing the same goal. Partnerships are critical to ensure that data and evidence under action area 1 and 2 inform high-level advocacy, priority-setting and resource mobilization (action area 3 and 5), together with the translation of data into impactful and coherent policy action and behavioural change (action area 4).

In addition to the threads of partnership and collaboration, three thematic areas are proposed for gaining traction in the continental nutrition agenda and improving synergies among different stakeholders: home-grown school food and nutrition, the humanitarian–development–peace nexus (HDPN), and trade and market regulation and private-sector engagement. These will be discussed in the next section on proposed areas for strategic partnership in Africa.





2. Proposed areas for strategic partnership in Africa

This section outlines five priority areas where collaborative efforts can support FAO's mandate on transforming agrifood systems for improved nutrition, environmental sustainability and livelihoods.

The first two cross-cutting areas attempt to address the disconnect between existing knowledge and implementation capacity:

1. Policy dialogue, advocacy and sensitization to leverage available knowledge to inform political and financial commitments.
2. Research, knowledge dissemination and capacity development to translate available data and evidence into impactful policies and programmes.

The last three thematic areas were identified for their specific relevance to workstreams within FAO's mandate on nutrition:

3. School-based nutrition interventions;
4. Collective action on humanitarian assistance, development interventions and the promotion of peace and social cohesion; and
5. Robust market-based solutions that make the delivery of healthy diets a profitable economic business activity.

2.1 Policy dialogue, advocacy and sensitization to promote commitment for improved nutrition

RATIONALE

Achieving appreciable progress against hunger and malnutrition in Africa requires a concerted effort by all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, NGOs and UN agencies. To this end, a conducive environment that effectively addresses action areas 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the FAO Nutrition Strategy (FAO Programme Committee, 2021) is needed. In fact, the first step to gain the buy-in of the relevant stakeholders entails developing an evidence-based and data-driven narrative that gives the full picture of the nature and consequences of malnutrition and the possible solutions. This step requires generating and disseminating data and information on the current state of malnutrition incidence, the extent of the burden faced by vulnerable people, the repercussions of hunger and malnutrition (on public health, economy and society), and cost-effective policies and programmes to sustainably address the issues.

KEY PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Prioritize nutrition in the continental development agenda.
- Ensure alignment with global commitments established under the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, the Food System Summit, and continental nutrition agenda.
- Facilitate effective connection between research outcomes – including in the form of data, innovative solutions, knowledge, and scientific evidence – and high-level political and financial commitment and policymaking.
- Strengthen capacities and mechanisms to track and report on commitments and implementation progress.

RELEVANT ACTORS

- Government institutions: Sustainably addressing hunger and malnutrition requires government institutions to be in the driver's seat in the design, implementation and evaluation processes of policies and programmes. Advocacy initiatives need to be geared towards stimulating political buy-in and financial engagement by government institutions. For example, in central Africa, FAO has launched an advocacy and capacity development initiative to sensitize parliamentarians on priority nutrition concerns and to empower them to support policies and regulatory measures that improve food security and nutrition.
- The African Union Commission and the African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD): The AU plays the critical role of providing countries with policy frameworks and guidance. Working closely with the AU is critical in influencing the high-level policy design processes and continental advocacy initiatives. For example, the Africa Day of Food and Nutrition Security and the African Day of School Feeding represent critical high-level advocacy initiatives led by the AU.
- Regional economic communities (RECs): While it is important to work with existing initiatives, it is also important to reach out to the less-active regional economic communities. RECs should be supported in the role of providing guiding frameworks through regional food security and nutrition programmes to support and encourage action at country level.

- Donors, financial institutions and multilateral funding initiatives: An important task is to reach out to donor countries, philanthropic organizations, financial institutions and funding initiatives to share information on priority action areas, gaps in funding and knowledge of cost-effective initiatives and approaches. In addition, establishing regular exchanges with these actors is essential for staying up to date on their funding priorities and focus areas.
- The UN system: The UN system has well-established advocacy and communication strategies and interagency collaboration mechanisms that can be leveraged for effective outreach and advocacy initiatives.
- The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) networks: The SUN Movement focuses on promoting multisectoral collaboration, empowering country-led efforts, and increasing investment in nutrition to improve health outcomes and achieve SDGs.
- Research institutions and think tanks: Research institutions have the mandate to generate data, scientific evidence and knowledge on nutrition situations, key drivers of hunger and malnutrition, and solutions. Partnerships with these institutions can be helpful to disseminate existing knowledge bases or to inform their decision-making processes on needed new scientific evidence to promote effective action.
- National and international NGOs and civil society organizations.
- The private sector.

2.2 Research, knowledge dissemination, capacity development and awareness-raising

RATIONALE

Informing the global nutrition agenda and advocacy for high-level political and financial commitments

The 2008 and 2013 Lancet series on maternal and child nutrition played a critical role in establishing a strong evidence-based global agenda for tackling undernutrition over the past decade. In 2008, The Lancet published a landmark series of papers on the critical role of early nutrition in the health of children, making it clear that the golden period of intervention for nutrition is between pregnancy and 24 months.

This led to a seismic shift in how the international nutrition community prioritizes political and financial commitment. The 2013 series estimated that scaling up ten proven effective nutrition-specific interventions to cover 90 percent of children in the world's most malnourished countries would reduce stunting globally by only 20 percent, suggesting that maximum expansion of nutrition-specific interventions alone could not go far enough and that actions in "nutrition-sensitive" sectors including agriculture, education and trade would be critical to address global undernutrition. These two examples show how scientific evidence can play a crucial role in informing the global nutrition agenda and resource mobilization.

Generating evidence on impactful and cost-effective policies with nutrition outcomes

By conducting rigorous impact assessment of implemented policies and programmes, research and policy analysis can play a vital role in informing policymakers and practitioners on cost-effective policies, best practices, approaches to be scaled up and replicated in other countries, lessons learned and pitfalls to be avoided. Data, knowledge and information generated by research institutions and think tanks can be translated into hands-on operational guidance through capacity development initiatives.

Providing scientific evidence on optimal dietary choices to inform the public

Research has been necessary for defining dietary choices that promote health and productivity. For example, the EAT-Lancet Commission has made an effort to provide a guidance on how healthy and sustainable diets should look like by establishing scientific targets for healthy diets and sustainable food production that will allow the world to feed up to 10 billion people by 2050 (Willett *et al.*, 2019). Although the findings of the EAT-Lancet Commission have been highly debated, these types of bold initiatives are required to propose solutions to highly complex global challenges and inform the global nutrition agenda.

The outcomes of narrow and highly technical research programmes need to be translated into practical guidance that can easily be applied by households and by practitioners implementing policies, programmes and projects at grassroots level. Translating data, knowledge and scientific evidence into tangible impact entails putting in place multiple actions and promoting the active engagement of all stakeholders and actors.

KEY PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Address language barriers by providing knowledge materials in different languages, including local dialects, to enable access by a wide range of language groups.
- Adapt data, evidence and knowledge resources to country and local needs.
- Track and monitor the policy translation and its use.

RELEVANT ACTORS

- universities, research institutions and think tanks;
- school environments;
- media and artists;
- UN agencies;
- UN-Nutrition;
- government institutions;
- civil society;
- advocacy coalitions and networks. for example, consumer associations;
- the Coalition for Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems (HDSFS); and
- donors.

2.3 Home-grown school food and nutrition

RATIONALE

School food and nutrition programmes have the potential to improve nutrition, health and education attainment in school-age children. They can also empower women and girls and boost local food systems and trade. Specifically, the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) model can provide schoolchildren with diverse and nutritious meals that are sourced locally while providing local farmers and actors across the food supply chain with predictable demand for their products, leading to stable incomes, more investment and higher productivity. The HGSF programmes also provide an opportunity to revisit indigenous and traditional food and knowledge systems suited to specific contexts and agroecological zones.

The possibility of achieving multiple goals through scaling up HGSF programmes is attracting increasing interest from African countries, development partners and donors. In 2016, in recognition of

these potential benefits, the AU heads of states and governments established 1 March as African School Feeding Day to build momentum for country commitment in implementing and scaling up HGSF programmes.

KEY PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Ensure alignment with continental priorities on nutrition, agriculture, HGSF, health, social protection, trade and markets.
- Ensure alignment with global nutrition targets.
- Prioritize local, nationally owned and context-specific solutions to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Co-create solutions with the concerned communities and local leadership.
- Use HGSF programmes as a platform to promote an improved supply of indigenous crops and non-wood forest food products that are nutritious and easily adaptable to concerned agroecological areas.
- Optimize the use of HGSF for pedagogy and consumer education on nutrition.

RELEVANT ACTORS

The potential to address these goals through school feeding programmes can be further maximized by integrating them into broader national policies and sectoral investment plans, including education, health, agriculture and social protection. This requires collaboration among an array of strategic partners, including:

- government institutions, including institutional procurement systems, line ministries (education, health, finance);
- AU, AUDA-NEPAD, regional economic communities and regional alliances;
- farmers and farmers' organizations;
- businesses and enterprises operating across the food supply chains;
- UN agencies;¹
- international NGOs such as the Catholic Relief Services; and
- the School Meals Coalition.

1. There are already ongoing partnerships for HGSF and nutrition among UN agencies. These include IFAD, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.



2.4 Humanitarian–development–peace nexus

RATIONALE

Food insecurity and hunger in many African regions is driven by multiple factors, including conflict, severe weather conditions and climate-related shocks (e.g. droughts and floods), economic downturns, and long-standing structural inequalities that create unbalanced resource and power distribution systems. According to the *Global Report on Food Crises 2023* (FSIN and GNAFC, 2023), conflict remains the main driver of food crises by causing forcible displacement, destruction of productive assets and the disruption of livelihoods. Recent decades have seen conflicts becoming increasingly complex and protracted, leading to chronic food insecurity, hunger and vulnerability. For example, harsh climate conditions in the Sahel region have led to unprecedented humanitarian vulnerabilities, creating an increasing number of climate migrants fleeing precarious environments or seeking new economic opportunities (Daoust *et al.*, 2023).

In many contexts, different drivers of crisis overlap or exacerbate each other, generating complex needs. For example, disputes over natural resources such as land, fresh water, minerals or fishing rights and other natural resources can escalate into community or larger intranational conflicts. This can be observed in the Sahel region, where climate-related shocks often push pastoralists to migrate earlier and for longer periods along traditional routes, passing through cultivated areas where they can potentially damage crops and trigger conflicts. Although these conflicts are often low-intensity and localized, resulting in few fatalities, they tend to be persistent enough to hinder peace, social cohesion and sustainable development.

These disputes are more likely to translate into violence and destruction in contexts with weak governance, lack of conflict resolution mechanisms and clear and adequately enforced legislation on the use of land and other natural resources. Further aggravating circumstances include corruption, ethnic and political divisions, and inequitable resource and power distribution systems.

At the onset of a food crisis, humanitarian assistance is critical to address imminent short-term needs and save lives. Development assistance interventions are conceived to address structural socioeconomic drivers of chronic poverty and food insecurity. Peace interventions are needed to prevent or end conflicts that can hinder developmental and humanitarian interventions. In such fragile contexts, coordinated efforts by humanitarian, development and peace actors remain critical to sustainably reduce needs for food assistance, address vulnerabilities, and make progress towards recovery and self-reliance.

Available data for the last years showed that the number of people facing acute food insecurity and requiring urgent food assistance remains high and still increasing, while global funding is unable to keep up with these increasing trends. In recognition of these facts, stakeholders at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit proposed the humanitarian–development–peace nexus (HDPN) as an approach to improving the coordination and collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors. The HDPN is also known as the New Way of Working. It is anchored in three main concepts:

- a *collective outcome* of a combined effort of different actors;
- a *comparative advantage* of each partner contributing according to their respective capacity and mandate; and
- a *multiyear timeframe* to allow meaningful, effective and sustainable impact (OCHA, 2017).

KEY PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Establish partnerships and strengthen coordination across humanitarian, development and peace architecture through reliable, multiyear, flexible and evidence-based financing mechanisms to sustainably achieve improved food security, nutrition and livelihoods.
- Ensure inclusive participation to find locally driven solutions to eradicate key drivers of food crises and humanitarian emergencies.
- Strengthen early warning and preparedness systems to anticipate, prevent, address and accelerate recovery from food crises and humanitarian emergencies.

RELEVANT ACTORS

- AU, regional economic communities and regional alliances;
- government institutions;
- members of the Global Network Against Food Crisis (GNAFC);
- members of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC);
- donors (the HDPN approach is a priority area for the European Union and USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance);
- the Community of Practice Network (CoPN) on the Humanitarian Development Nexus;
- the HDPN Coalition;
- the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); and
- cluster coordination systems and all members of the Food Security Cluster and Nutrition Cluster.²

2.5 Trade and market regulation and private-sector engagement

RATIONALE

According to the 2023 food security and nutrition in the world report (FAO *et al.*, 2023), the cost of healthy diets in Africa has increased by more than 5 percent from 2020 to 2021, negatively affecting accessibility, particularly by the most vulnerable. The report revealed that the prevalence of undernutrition on the continent followed the same trend, going up from 19.4 percent in 2021 to 19.7 percent in 2022. At the same time, there is an increasing trend of overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), obesity among adults in ten high-burden countries in 2023 is estimated to range from 13.6 percent to 31 percent, while in children and adolescents it is estimated to range from 5 to 16.5 percent (WHO, 2022).

Agrifood systems play a critical role in shaping dietary choices by determining the availability and accessibility of certain food products. Addressing multiple forms of malnutrition sustainably requires a business environment that enables the production or importation of safe and nutritious foods, together with the required processing, transportation, storage, distribution and marketing that allows the food to be sold at prices attainable by the most vulnerable.

Small and medium-sized enterprises and nutrition

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) constitute the majority of private-sector enterprises in most countries and are deeply embedded in their local communities. They possess intimate knowledge of consumers' cultural preferences and the challenges faced by their input providers, predominantly small-scale producers.

Despite their crucial role, SMEs encounter challenges related to finance, policy and capacity development, particularly when making investments with a nutrition-sensitive focus. Many of these SMEs operate at the micro-level and function within informal market structures, often eluding official statistics and institutional support mechanisms. Therefore it is necessary to understand SME characteristics, capacity development needs, gaps and the institutional environment to effectively link these vulnerable private-sector actors to local markets.

FAO has been actively promoting an inclusive approach aimed at enhancing the capacities of SMEs to upgrade their business models for the provision of nutritious and healthy foods in local markets. While this endeavour contributes significantly to improving food security, nutrition outcomes and income generation opportunities, impactful results are more likely to be achieved by establishing and strengthening strategic partnerships with relevant actors.

2. The Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC), in partnership with GNAFC, has been supporting the implementation of the HDPN by providing data analysis, enhancing cluster/sector strategies to support joint programming for food security responses, and monitoring partners' engagement. In practice, the gFSC has implemented the HDPN approach in selected countries and has developed hands-on tools and approaches to support area-based HDPN coordination.

Trade-promoting policies can improve the availability of diverse food products that cannot be locally produced. At the same time, trade liberalization can make it easier to import highly processed unhealthy foods and sugar-sweetened beverages, leading to increased incidence of obesity and NCDs.

In many African contexts, entrepreneurs who would like to start and expand business activities along the food supply chain may be faced with multiple constraints, including inadequate access to production inputs, credit and insurance services, infrastructure (e.g. cold chains for storage and transportation of perishable foods), technology and skills. These constraints can hamper the availability of fresh and nutritious foods.

When existing market and sociopolitical dynamics fail to support the delivery of healthy diets across supply chains, or where the sale and consumption of unhealthy foods and beverages is made too convenient, coordinated actions to redress these imbalances need to be taken by both governmental and non-state actors.

KEY PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Build on scientific evidence and data-driven knowledge to raising awareness of positive and negative impacts of trade on nutrition.
- Work with the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCTA) to promote fair trade of healthier foods.
- Promote nutrition-enhancing business environments to ensure that SMEs are enabled and empowered to deliver healthy and sustainable diets for all. This includes:
 - identifying the characteristics and capacity development gaps of SMEs in managerial and technical skills, particularly those involved in the post-production and distribution of nutritious foods;
 - strengthening SME managerial and technical capacities through tailored coaching and mentoring programmes to improve the quality and safety of the food while integrating nutrition in profitable business models;
 - promoting multistakeholder discussions on the necessary enabling environment to tackle some of the institutional challenges SMEs face; and

- strengthening the relationship between the public and private sectors, academia and development organizations to integrate nutrition-sensitive approaches when supporting SME development.

RELEVANT ACTORS

To maximize the potential of these programmes, they need to be integrated into broader national policies and sectoral investment plans, including education, health, agriculture and social protection. Achieving this requires active engagement and collaboration among a diverse array of strategic partners, including:

- government institutions including ministries (education, agriculture, trade, etc.), parliamentarians and other regulatory bodies;
- AU, AUDA-NEPAD, and regional economic communities;
- international UN and non-UN organizations and multilateral partnership initiatives such as those led by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), EAT and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT);³
- farmers and farmers' organizations;⁴
- private-sector organizations (essential in supporting SMEs by providing access to resources, advocacy, networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities);
- academia and research institutions; and
- civil society (e.g. consumer organizations).

3. These institutions have played a pivotal role in fostering partnerships and initiatives while offering technical, financial and policy assistance to a broad spectrum of both public and private entities.

4. Working with farmers' organizations offers SMEs a range of benefits, including access to a stable supply chain, improved product quality and cost savings.



3. Global stakeholders

This section identifies key global nutrition stakeholders operating in Africa.

3.1 The United Nations system

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized UN agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and achieve food security. It does this by providing countries with data, knowledge, technical guidance and policy dialogue platforms to promote efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. Through a people-centred approach, FAO leverages expertise in the work areas listed below:



Nutrition education and consumer protection

FAO's work on nutrition education and consumer awareness includes the areas of food-based dietary guidelines (FBDGs), food labelling, school food and nutrition, infant and young child feeding, and professional training in nutrition education. However, at the time of writing, fewer than 15 out of 55 African countries had FBDGs. This lack is a limiting factor in providing effective policies, programmes and consumer guidance.



Market linkages and value chains

FAO aims to develop and implement market-based approaches that enable healthy diets through sustainable food systems. In these systems, agriculture, food supply chains, food environments, consumers and their interlinked activities contribute to enabling healthy diets for all.



Food loss and waste

FAO works on food loss and waste reduction, city-driven food systems, and post-harvest agrifood technologies.



Food safety

In partnership with WHO, FAO provides technical support on all aspects of food safety across the food chain.



Assessment and scientific advice

FAO's work on nutrition assessment covers collection, analysis, harmonization and sharing of high-quality data on diet and nutrition.



Nutrition policies and programmes

FAO supports the mainstreaming of nutrition through multisectoral policies and programmes and the development of guidance and training tools for improved decision making and policy design.

Read more

FAO's work on nutrition:

- www.fao.org/economic/nutrition/en
- www.fao.org/nutrition/en

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an autonomous intergovernmental organization within the United Nations System reporting to both the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

It was established in 1957 to promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. It provides international safeguards against the misuse of nuclear technology and nuclear materials, promotes and implements nuclear safety, conducts research in nuclear science, and provides technical support and training in nuclear technology to countries, particularly in the developing world.

In the area of nutrition, the agency has been developing and promoting the application of nuclear techniques in nutrition, in particular the use of stable isotopes to improve measurement such as body composition, bone mineral density, human milk intake, total daily energy expenditure, micronutrient bioavailability and vitamin A status. These measurements can be crucial to design and evaluate the impact of nutrition programmes. For example, these approaches have played a role in providing scientific evidence on the linkages between nutrition and HIV/AIDS.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

The IAEA is a UN-Nutrition member.

Read more

The IAEA's work on nuclear technology for better nutrition:

<https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/documents/tc/Nutrition.pdf>

The IAEA's nutritional and health-related environmental studies:

<http://www.naweb.iaea.org/nahu/NAHRES/about.html>



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialized UN agency and international financial institution mandated to eradicate rural poverty and enable rural poor to achieve food security, nutrition and better livelihoods. The agency contributes to improved nutrition by earmarking investment for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems. Through its nutrition action plan 2019–2025, IFAD has set key corporate priorities to accelerate nutrition mainstreaming into its investment portfolios.

As part of the corporate nutrition strategy, IFAD has committed to work on five action areas:

- design country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) and projects in a way that they take into account the nutritional outcomes of beneficiary populations;
- improve technical, analytical and managerial capacity of project management teams and partners to implement nutrition-sensitive projects;
- influence policy processes, advocate for enhanced stakeholders' engagement, and strengthen strategic partnerships;
- improve knowledge and evidence generation and dissemination on effective nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems; and
- mobilize resources necessary to mainstream nutrition within IFAD's core work areas.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

IFAD has a long-established cooperation with the FAO Investment Centre which, through a cost-sharing mechanism, has been leveraging in-house technical expertise to support IFAD's in designing and supervising investment projects. In collaboration with the Nutrition Division, the Centre has provided technical support to incorporate nutrition into IFAD's country-level project formulation and supervision processes.

Read more

IFAD's work on nutrition: <https://www.ifad.org/en/nutrition>

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) aims to prevent all forms of malnutrition by improving access to nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets by children, women and adolescents. UNICEF is known for its strong country presence and active engagement on both humanitarian and development assistance. Specifically, UNICEF works on the following areas:

- Worldwide it supports essential nutrition services needed to adequately nourish the above-mentioned categories while protecting and promoting positive feeding, dietary and care practices.
- In humanitarian emergencies and in contexts where prevention falls short, UNICEF supports the early detection, treatment and care of malnourished women and children to help them survive and return to a healthy life.
- UNICEF collaborates with many global partners occupying leadership positions in global nutrition initiatives such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and the Global Nutrition Cluster.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

FAO and UNICEF have been collaborating on strengthening school-based food and nutrition education initiatives targeting schoolchildren and adolescents to enhance their core food competencies and empower them to make healthy and sustainable dietary habits. For example, in October 2021, the two agencies jointly hosted a masterclass on revolutionizing food education and encouraging the youth to be part of the change.

In 2022, the two agencies jointly developed **an initiative** to strengthen the capacity of education workers and enable officials and curriculum developers to integrate action-oriented food and nutrition education curricula into their school systems.

Read more

UNICEF and nutrition: <https://www.unicef.org/nutrition>

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has a mandate to accompany countries in their pathways towards the achievement of SDGs. It works with partners (FAO, IFAD, WHO, UNEP and others) on development strategies to transform agrifood systems and make them more sustainable, inclusive, equitable, healthy and resilient, while contributing to better nutrition and health.

The Food and Agriculture Commodity Systems is a UNDP-led collaborative action to promote diversified, resilient, agroecological systems and value chains. The aim is to simultaneously achieve economic, environmental, social and health outcomes, with smallholders central to the transformation as the engine of economic development. Specifically, UNDP coordinates government-led multistakeholder collaboration based on the comparative advantages of strategic partners while promoting private and public financing for identified development priorities.

UNDP is a convener of the Conscious Food Systems Alliance (CoFSA), a movement of food, agriculture and consciousness practitioners working to support people from across food and agriculture systems to cultivate the inner capacities to activate systemic change and regeneration.

Read more

The UNDP work on food and agriculture commodity systems: <https://www.undp.org/facs>

Conscious Food Systems Alliance: <https://consciousfoodsystems.org/about-us/>

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is one of the UN's five regional commissions. Its mandate is to promote the economic and social development of its Member States, foster intraregional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. ECA plays the role of a regional arm of the UN, helping to address the continent's specific development in line with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

In 2017, ECA and FAO signed a memorandum of understanding to accelerate progress towards achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Read more

Website: <https://www.uneca.org>

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

The mission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is to work for the achievement of the SDGs and to improve the human condition.

Nutrition-related work

As part of its mandate on education, UNESCO is committed to promote learning environments that offer healthy meals to school-age children and adolescents and to safeguard their physical and mental health. Within this domain, UNESCO offers technical advice and resources to support health-promoting education systems.

UNESCO works in school food and nutrition in collaboration with different partners, including FAO, WFP, and WHO. The organization is a member of the School Meals Coalition.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

In 2018, the two agencies signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen the nexus between food, culture and peace. Under the agreement, the two agencies committed to join forces in developing learning modules, teaching aids and practical sessions for agricultural secondary schools, universities and farmer field schools on food security and sustainable food systems. Nutrition education in school environments was identified as key potential area for collaboration worth exploring.

Read more

UNESCO's work on school health and nutrition:
<https://www.unesco.org/en/health-education/nutrition>



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global authority on the environment. In line with its mandate on environmental sustainability, UNEP supports the global effort to limit the deterioration of climate and natural resources and promote effective natural resource management. Its mission is to inspire, inform, and enable nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

The organization leads the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM), a multistakeholder partnership mechanism committed to promote effective nutrient management to achieve food security through increased productivity and conservation of natural resources and the environment.

UNEP is an active member of the Good Food Finance Network, a multistakeholder collaborative innovation platform working on developing critical innovation for sustainable food systems finance to become the mainstream standard.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

Under the One Planet Network led by UNEP, FAO is co-leading the interest group on food procurement in the framework of the Sustainable Public Procurement Programme. The initiative aims at influencing various stages of the food value chains to promote public health, nutrition and environment sustainability.

In partnership with UNDP and FAO, UNEP also supports the United Nations collaborative programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD). Under the programme, the partnering agencies support countries in accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement (Articles 5 and 6) on reducing deforestation, promoting sustainable land uses, and mobilizing resources for climate mitigation.

Read more

UNEP nutrient management: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/what-we-do/addressing-land-based-pollution/global-partnership-nutrient>

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

The core mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is to provide international protection and humanitarian assistance and to seek permanent solutions for people who are displaced for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have disturbed public order.

The nutrition component within this mandate is related to ensuring access to adequate nutrient-rich food and safe water and sanitation by refugees and asylum seekers.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

Together with UNICEF, WFP and WHO, FAO and UNHCR developed the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting to prevent and manage child wasting and accelerate progress towards SDG targets.

Read more

UNHCR nutrition and food security: <https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/public-health/nutrition-and-food-security>

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the UN programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements, with adequate shelter for all.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

UN-Habitat is collaborating with FAO on integrating food systems in urban policy and planning and promoting multilevel governance. The two agencies have been working on promoting traditional food markets and public food procurement to improve the availability of nutritious food.

Read more

UN-Habitat and FAO policy paper: Land tenure and sustainable agri-food systems. <https://unhabitat.org/land-tenure-and-sustainable-agri-food-systems>

UN-Habitat policy paper: Integrating sustainable food systems in national and subnational urban policies (NUP and SNUP). <https://urbanpolicyplatform.org/download/integrating-sustainable-food-systems-in-national-and-sub-national-urban-policies-nup-and-snup>

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is a specialized UN agency with the mandate to promote, dynamize and accelerate industrial development. This mandate is closely anchored in SDG 9 on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation.

UNIDO is committed to improving food security and nutrition by enhancing the role of agribusiness in delivering sustainable and healthy foods and diets. This includes:

- improving post-harvest processing and storage, resulting in better food safety;
- reducing post-harvest losses;
- promoting digital technologies to improve traceability and logistic efficiency across supply chains;
- promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce industrial greenhouse emissions; and
- preserving natural resources.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

In March 2023, FAO and UNIDO launched the Agrifood System Transformation Accelerator programme. The initiative aims at making agrifood systems in the least developed countries more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable by leveraging partnerships and promoting public-private investment.

Read more

UNIDO's work on ending hunger: <https://www.unido.org/our-priorities/ending-hunger>

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

The World Food Programme (WFP) works on both humanitarian and development contexts to enable access to nutritious food by the most vulnerable through nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive approaches:

- **Nutrition-specific:** treatment and prevention of chronic or acute malnutrition.
- **Nutrition-sensitive:** integrating nutrition objectives into school meal programmes or livelihood interventions with the aim of improving diets and nutrition).

Specifically, WFP works on the following areas:



Nutrition in humanitarian emergencies

In humanitarian emergency situations, WFP provides food assistance to the most vulnerable people to save lives, reduce suffering from hunger and prevent long-term health consequences of food deprivation.



Home-grown school feeding

WFP works with governments to improve children's education, health and nutrition while supporting local economies by linking smallholder production with school feeding programmes.



Food fortification

WFP sources and provides fortified foods, such as cereals, oils and salt. It facilitates linkages between government and private sector actors to fortify staple foods locally, and it advocates for fortification in national and international policy.



Data and evidence

WFP supports data generation and analysis on country nutrition situations. For example, the Fill the Nutrient Gap tool aims to identify barriers faced by the most vulnerable in accessing and consuming nutritious diets. In African, the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) initiative has played a critical role in informing policies and programming on social protection, food systems, health, agriculture, education and other nutrition-related sectors.



Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

FAO and WFP collaborate on home-grown school food and nutrition for school-age children and to strengthen linkages between social protection, institutional procurement and smallholder farmers. In 2018, FAO, WFP and some partner agencies developed the Home-Grown School Feeding Resource Framework to provide guidance on operationalizing school feeding programmes with a local purchase or home-grown component.

In 2022 the two agencies, with the support of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), launched a project to support the development of nutrition standards for school meal programmes.

In the humanitarian domain, WFP and FAO are the co-lead agencies of the global Food Security Cluster and the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC). Through complementary action on food assistance, livelihood protection and agriculture production recovery, the two agencies coordinate donors and humanitarian partners to support countries affected by humanitarian emergency or protracted crisis.

Read more

WFP on nutrition: <https://www.wfp.org/nutrition>

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

As part of its mandate to improve global health, the World Health Organization (WHO) supports countries to improve nutrition and address food safety, malnutrition and diet-related health concerns.

The organization plays a critical role in shaping the global nutrition agenda, establishing global targets, supporting Member States to develop effective strategies and plans, advocating for supportive evidence-based regulatory actions and policies at country level, and monitoring progress on established global targets.

In 2012, the World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution 65.6 endorsed a comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, which specified a set of six global nutrition targets to be achieved by 2025.

In 2013, WHA also adopted the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013–2020. The Plan identifies nine voluntary targets to reduce the preventable and avoidable health burden due to NCDs including cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

In 1992, WHO and FAO jointly organized the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN). This was followed by the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in 2014. These high-level intergovernmental meetings aimed to draw global attention to the need to address malnutrition in all its forms.

FAO and WHO host the secretariat for the UN Nutrition Decade of Action. The initiative aims to encourage governments to translate the global commitments made at ICN2 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into concrete national commitments for action.

FAO and WHO, together with UN-Nutrition, jointly host the Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS) secretariat.

FAO and WHO collaborate on the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool (FAO/WHO GIFT), an open-access digital platform providing access to harmonized individual quantitative food consumption data from all countries around the world.

FAO and WHO work together on developing FAO/WHO recommendations on nutrient requirements for children aged 0–36 months.

Under the Codex Alimentarius initiative, WHO closely works with FAO on establishing evidence-based food safety standards.

FAO and WHO are joining forces to update the WHO/FAO Handbook on Food Fortification. The handbook provides detailed, up-to-date scientific evidence and programmatic experience on good practice in the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of national fortification programmes. The previous version was published in 2006.

Read more

WHO's work on nutrition: https://www.who.int/health-topics/nutrition#tab=tab_1

MULTI-AGENCY COLLABORATION WITHIN UN SYSTEMS

Global Action Plan on Child Wasting

The Global Action Plan (GAP) on Child Wasting initiative aims to scale-up efforts in nutrition, health, social protection and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) in priority countries. It was jointly developed by WFP, FAO, WHO, UNHCR and UNICEF.

Read more | GAP website: <https://www.childwasting.org>

State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)

SOFI is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to inform on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition. It also provides in-depth analysis on key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Read more | SOFI reports: <https://www.fao.org/publications/home/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-food-security-and-nutrition-in-the-world>

United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly (Resolution 70/2059) in 2016. It aims to accelerate the implementation of the ICN2 commitments, achieve the WHA global nutrition targets by 2025, and contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The resolution called upon FAO and WHO to lead the implementation of the Decade of Nutrition in collaboration with WFP, IFAD and UNICEF.

Read more | Website: <https://www.un.org/nutrition>

United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases

The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (UNIATF) brings the UN system together to support governments in tackling NCDs and mental health conditions. It provides a platform for cooperation across the UN, governments and non-state actors. The task force was established by the UN Secretary General in 2013.

Read more | Website: <https://www.who.int/groups/un-inter-agency-task-force-on-NCDs>

UN-Nutrition

UN-Nutrition is the United Nations interagency coordination mechanism for nutrition. It was founded in 2020 by its five constituent members – FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. UN-Nutrition is universal in scope, working to safeguard the nutrition of all people in all countries. It supports global and regional coordination efforts and processes, including the monitoring of the Nutrition Decade and engagement in the Committee on World Food Security, the World Health Assembly and the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases.

UN-Nutrition also serves as the UN support network for the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. Priority areas of work include the coordination of UN agencies in country-level action, healthy diets from sustainable food systems, private-sector engagement for nutrition results, nutrition in fragile contexts and coordinated work on global nutrition targets.

Read more | UN-Nutrition website: <https://www.unnutrition.org>



3.2 International non-governmental, non-profit and civil society organizations

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

Action Against Hunger (AAH) is a global humanitarian organization with the mandate to address immediate nutritional needs during humanitarian emergencies. It also supports post-crisis livelihood recovery and contributes to long-term drivers of food security and resilience. The organization pursues these goals through the following nutrition work areas:

- addressing the needs of small-scale businesses within local food systems to improve their income while promoting availability and access to nutritious foods by the most vulnerable;
- detecting acute malnutrition and providing lifesaving treatment to the most vulnerable;
- advocacy and awareness-raising on hunger issues;
- conducting enhanced research and innovation to anticipate, prevent and treat malnutrition (specifically, strengthening linkages between research and concrete operational impact);
- strengthening the capacity development of community health workers to educate parents and caregivers on nutrition, hygiene, sanitation and childcare practices; and
- supporting communities to access clean water, sanitation and hygiene.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

Under FAO's FMM/GLO/156/MUL subprogramme, AAH and FAO have jointly implemented the initiative on strengthening the role of the civil society to increase the availability, affordability and consumption of safe and nutritious foods. The initiative aims to identify the gaps that hinder civil society organizations from effectively playing their role in promoting the availability, affordability and consumption of safe and nutritious foods. It also aims to increase the quality of children's and women's diets.

AAH partners with FAO on humanitarian assistance coordination through the Food Security Cluster. AAH is a member of the IPC.

Read more

Website: <https://www.actionagainsthunger.org>

CAMPAIGN FOR TOBACCO-FREE KIDS AND THE TOBACCO-FREE KIDS ACTION FUND

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and the Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund are advocacy organizations working to reduce tobacco use and its deadly health repercussions in the United States and around the world. The two institutions work to promote a radical change in public attitudes about tobacco use and to save lives.

Building on two-decade experience in the tobacco sector, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids has built a model for strengthening campaigns to address other critical public health challenges across the globe. To leverage that proven model on a global scale, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids launched the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) in 2014. Through the initiative, the institutions engage a network of global partners to promote advocacy for bold policy commitments needed to promote public health on broader sectors including improved nutrition and diets. The GHAi supports civil society organizations worldwide by building capacity to lead powerful advocacy movements, directing technical assistance, providing grants, and generating and disseminating evidence on best practices.

Read more

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator initiative: <https://www.advocacyincubator.org/about>

CARE INTERNATIONAL

CARE is a confederation of organizations working to fight poverty and social injustice in the world, with specific focus on the empowerment of women and girls. It works in close collaboration with communities to understand root causes of poverty and find innovative and locally led solutions.

CARE's work on nutrition is focused on advancing the right to adequate food, water and sanitation. The organization supports women small-scale agriculture producers, women and girls living in contexts of water scarcity or water stressed areas, and refugees and internally displaced people.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

CARE is a member of the Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC), GNAFC and the IPC.

Read more

CARE's work on nutrition: <https://www.care-international.org/what-we-do/right-food-water-and-nutrition/nutrition>

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is an international organization founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Since then, the institution has expanded in size and scope, covering multiple aspects of humanitarian relief and development interventions worldwide to serve the most marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Today, interventions are grouped in a set of programmatic areas that include health, agriculture, supply-chain management, education, microfinance, emergency response and recovery, and justice and peace building.

Agriculture and Nutrition is a subprogramme under the Agriculture pillar and integrates nutrition into agriculture programming to help families improve their health and nutrition. It works on improved production of nutrient-rich crops, income, nutrition education, and women empowerment.

The CRS is the major implementer of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program. The CRS implements integrated school health and nutrition programmes in many countries – of which 11 are in Africa. These interventions aim at:

- improving the nutrition, health and education of school-age children and adolescents by providing locally sourced and nutritious meals;
- providing health and WASH facilities; and
- promoting capacity and awareness on improved nutrition, health and WASH practices.

In the implementation of these programmes, the CRS engages multilevel stakeholders and prioritizes sustainable transition of programmes to government ownership.

Read more

CRS agriculture programmes: <https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/program-areas/agriculture>

CRS nutrition programmes: <https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/program-areas/nutrition>

CONCERN WORLDWIDE

Concern Worldwide works on addressing drivers of extreme poverty through six main thematic areas: livelihoods, health and nutrition, education, emergencies, gender equality, and climate and environment.

Concern is committed to ensuring that the most vulnerable people achieve the right to food and nutrition and lead healthy lives. The organization's work on nutrition ranges from addressing immediate nutritional needs in humanitarian emergencies to improving income and livelihoods through nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture and local food systems.

The organization engages on advocacy activities to ensure available evidence from the ground is used to inform the right investments, policies and programmes targeting populations that face the greatest burden of hunger and malnutrition. Advocacy activities are carried out in close collaboration with civil society allies through coalitions such as the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN), the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Network, and the Alliance 2015 partnership.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

Concern worldwide is a key partner in the gFSC and GNAFC.

Read more

Concern's work on health and nutrition: <https://www.concern.net/what-we-do/health-and-nutrition>

EAT

EAT is a global, non-profit startup dedicated to providing a global science-based platform transforming food systems so that they deliver healthy and nutritious diets within planetary boundaries.

EAT pursues these objectives by strengthening linkages between scientific evidence and scalable action. It works through advocacy and strong partnerships, engaging donors, policymakers, business and civil society.

EAT-led initiatives include Cities, Good Food Finance Network, Grains of Truth, FEAST, Shifting Urban Diets, Food and Land Use Coalition, EAT Cook Club, the CO-CREATE Dialogue Forum Tool, and EAT Move Sleep.

Read more

EAT's work on nutrition and food systems: <https://eatforum.org>

EMERGENCY NUTRITION NETWORK

The Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) is an international non-governmental organization working on addressing malnutrition in emergency contexts.

ENN contributes to global efforts to address malnutrition in emergencies by capturing and disseminating knowledge and experience from frontline practitioners with a strong focus on under-researched areas. It also coordinates technical bodies to increase the global understanding of malnutrition. Key work areas include the following:

- ENN periodically releases the Field Exchange, a flagship publication that aims to connect practitioners with nutritional experts and to ensure that vital know-how gained during times of crisis isn't lost.
- En-Net is a free and open community forum providing real time technical advice. It links nutrition practitioners to an extensive network of peers and experts who can offer their support and experience on complex operation challenges.
- The MAMI Global Network is a community of practitioners, researchers and policymakers working together across the world to promote the rights and improve policy, evidence and practice for at-risk infants under 6 months and their mothers.
- The Wasting and Stunting Technical Interest Group (WaSt TIG) explores the relationship between wasting and stunting to question whether the separation between the two forms of undernutrition seen in programmes, policy, research and financing is justified. It aims to communicate what needs to change and to improve services and systems for malnourished children and their families.
- The Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core Group is a global collaboration of agencies and individuals that formed in 1999 to address policy guidance and training resource gaps hampering programming on infant and young child feeding support in emergencies.
- The Global Adolescent Nutrition Network (GANN) focuses on adolescents – an age group that is often overlooked in both policy and research. The network seeks to address the lack of data and resources on adolescent nutrition and to ensure that adolescence is factored into nutrition policy and practice so that all young people are nutritionally supported.

Read more

Website: <https://www.enonline.net>

FHI 360

FHI 360 has the mandate to promote the health and well-being of the most in need through data-driven and locally led solutions.

FHI 360's work on nutrition is focused on supporting policies, programmes and systems to prevent and treat malnutrition and strengthen nutrition security in development and emergency contexts. Specific areas of work include emergency nutrition and food security, infant and young child nutrition, policy support and advocacy, research and learning, social behaviour change, and strengthening linkages among key sectors and partners contributing to nutrition.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

FHI 360 is a member of the gFSC.

Read more

FHI360's work on nutrition: <https://www.fhi360.org/technical-areas/nutrition-food-security>



GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) is a non-profit foundation launched at the special session of the UN 2002 General Assembly on Children. Its mandate is to improve the consumption of nutritious and safe foods by all, with specific focus on the most vulnerable.

GAIN works with government institutions, international organizations, UN agencies, civil society organizations, research institutions and the private sector to transform food systems so that they deliver more nutritious foods for all people. The foundation develops strategic alliances at national, regional and global level, bringing together stakeholders who provide the support needed to improve how businesses and governments shape food systems for improved nutrition. For example, through the Making Markets Work programme, GAIN engages six development agencies in identifying the best ways to catalyse the power of markets and the private sector to make safe nutritious foods more available, affordable and desirable.

The wide array of programmes implemented by GAIN can be clustered in four thematic areas:

- fortification and commercialization of biofortified crops;
- nutrition, livelihoods and private sector enterprises;
- drivers of food system change – reshaping how we produce and consume foods in a way that is better for people and for the planet; and
- policy and governance – enabling governments to transform food systems, and supporting evidence-based policymaking.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

The Food Systems Dashboard is a set of tools that present data and information on national food systems through simplified and user-friendly graphics to enable stakeholders to set priorities for action and track progress on achievements. The dashboard was jointly developed by GAIN, FAO and Columbia Climate School, with multiple collaborators from universities and research institutions.

In 2020, FAO and GAIN organized a trio of high-level virtual round-table webinars on the role of the private sector in healthy diets, with a focus on SMEs. The two organizations have developed three background papers (step one, step two and step three) to inform the series of webinars.

FAO and GAIN have jointly conducted a study on the food retail environment in three cities (Tunis, Dar es Salaam, Lima). In 2022, based on the experiences and lessons learned from the joint initiative, the two agencies developed a methodological guidance.

The two organizations have jointly established an informal urban food system working group to raise the voices of cities and local governments in the global and national food system transformation. The working group has been instrumental in raising the voice of cities and establishing the Urban Food Systems Coalition.

Read more

GAIN's work on nutrition and food systems: <https://www.gainhealth.org>

The list of GAIN partners: <https://www.gainhealth.org/about/partnerships>

GLOBAL CHILD NUTRITION FOUNDATION

The Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) is a non-profit organization that focuses on stimulating investment in nutritious school meals and unlocking the political will and resources necessary to implement and sustain national programmes.

The foundation helps governments around the world build national school meal programmes that are locally sourced. It also helps to develop markets for smallholder farmers and to create opportunities for female entrepreneurs. To achieve these goals, GCNF develops capacity, shares best practices and tools, engages civil society and businesses, and coordinates with relevant partners in the field. These activities are grouped into three major programme areas:

- The Global Child Nutrition Forum: a learning exchange and technical assistance conference held annually to support countries in developing and implementing sustainable school feeding programmes.
- The Global Survey of School Meal Programs: a project that maintains an up-to-date global database of standardized information on school meal programmes, tracks progress over time with the view to direct efforts and investment to the areas of greatest need, and makes data available for school meal partners and donors.
- The Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award: an award that honours individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the worldwide target of ending childhood hunger.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

FAO and GCNF collaborate in the area of home-grown school feeding. In 2018, FAO and GCNF, together with other partners including WFP, IFAD, the Global Partnership for Child Development, AUDA-NEPAD and WFP's Centre of Excellence in Brazil, developed the Home-Grown School Feeding Resource Framework.

Read more

Website: <https://gcnf.org>

HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL

Helen Keller International (HKI) is a nonprofit organization mandated to improve nutrition, health and well-being by supporting the improved local supply and consumption of nutritious food. It provides micronutrient supplementation (particularly vitamin A) and life-saving medical treatment with particular focus on preventing and treating blindness and vision loss.

Read more

HKI's work on nutrition: <https://helenkellerintl.org/our-stories/hunger-report-how-we-are-combatting-malnutrition-and-food-insecurity>



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is volunteer-based humanitarian network that comprises 192 members coordinated by a global secretariat. The network is committed to saving lives, tackling a wide array of humanitarian and development challenges, reducing vulnerabilities, improving people's resilience and promoting peace around the world.

IFRC's work on food security and nutrition is focused around improving the availability and utilization of food. Activities target the most vulnerable households and range from humanitarian relief to development interventions.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

IFRC is a member of the Global Food Security Cluster and the Global Network Against Food Crisis.

Read more

Brief on IFRC's work on food security and nutrition: <https://www.ifrc.org/document/food-security-and-nutrition-policy>

MICRONUTRIENT FORUM

The Micronutrient Forum is a non-profit organization with the mandate to serve as a key catalyst and convener for sharing knowledge, evidence, expertise, insights and experience on micronutrient-related multisectoral approaches to health promotion and disease prevention.

The forum works at the intersection of policymaking, policy implementation and research. It identifies critical gaps and provides a platform that brings together international scientists and stakeholders across sectors and disciplines to shape and establish an evidence-based agenda on health challenges related to micronutrient deficiency.

The organization hosts the Standing Together for Nutrition (ST4N) consortium, a group of nutrition, economics, food and health system experts working to address global economic, conflict, climate and health shocks.

Read more

Website: <https://micronutrientforum.org>

NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL

The core mandate of Nutrition International is promoting the right to adequate food and nutrition for populations in need.

Nutrition International implements evidence-based life-saving treatment such as micronutrient supplementation while promoting integrated approaches to address various drivers of malnutrition. It does this through nutrition education, behaviour change communication, food fortification, research, policy support, technical assistance and advocacy.

Read more

Website: <https://www.nutritionintl.org>

OXFAM INTERNATIONAL

Oxfam is a confederation of 21 organizations dedicated to saving and protecting lives in emergencies and helping people rebuild their livelihoods. It also advocates for social justice and the rights of the most vulnerable.

Nutrition-related work areas include:

- enabling small-scale farmers and value-chain actors (particularly women) to achieve their own food security through targeted investment;
- building resilience to climate crisis;
- advocating on climate change repercussions on women and small-scale farmers; and
- supporting communities in defending their rights to access natural resources.

Current initiatives in collaboration with FAO

Oxfam is a member of the global Food Security Cluster, the Global Network Against Food Crisis and the IPC.

Read more

Website: <https://www.oxfam.org/en>

RIKOLTO

Rikolto is an international NGO with more than 50 years' experience in partnering with farmer organizations and food chain stakeholders across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Their work is structured around three global programmes: Rice, Cocoa & Coffee, and Good Food 4 Cities.

Current initiatives in collaboration with FAO

Rikolto is collaborating with FAO on leveraging local and traditional food markets and public procurement to improve the availability of nutritious food.

Read more

Website: <https://www.rikolto.org/about-us>

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Save the Children is committed to addressing children's unique needs and safeguarding their nutrition, health, education and well-being through child-focused humanitarian response, policy advice and advocacy.

In humanitarian settings, the organization focuses on early detection and treatment of acute malnutrition and on infant and young child feeding among the most vulnerable populations.

Save the Children engages on child malnutrition prevention by implementing multisector nutrition interventions with specific focus on the first 1 000 days. Interventions include food safety promotion, support to improved access to nutrition services delivered through health and agriculture workers, and policy advice and advocacy. The organization hosts the SUN Civil Society network and facilitates coalitions in several countries. It supports the 1 000 Days partnership and is a member of the Standing Together for Nutrition multidisciplinary consortium.

Current initiatives in collaboration with FAO

Save the Children is a member of the global Food Security Cluster, GNAFC and the IPC.

Read more

Save the Children's work on nutrition: <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/health/nutrition>

THE HUNGER PROJECT

The Hunger Project (THP) is a global non-profit organization working in 22 countries, of which 9 are in Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia). The institution was established in 1977 with the mandate to facilitate individual and collective action to transform the systems of inequity that create hunger.

Interventions are implemented through community-based approaches with epicentres as strategic hubs. An epicentre is a dynamic centre of community mobilization and action, as well as an actual facility built by community members. Through the Epicenter Strategy, typically 5 000 to 15 000 people are brought together as a cluster of rural villages.

The organization operates on a host of interventions to improve food security, nutrition and livelihoods by improving production of healthy foods, building capacity on adequate food processing, improving access to quality agricultural inputs, and supporting the storage and distribution of seeds, among others.

Read more:

Website: <https://thp.org>

WORLD VISION

World Vision's mandate is to help the most vulnerable children living in poverty or in contexts of humanitarian emergency, with an emphasis on disaster risk reduction and operational research on food security and livelihoods.

World Vision's work on nutrition is focused around the treatment of acute malnutrition. It implements interventions to address the primary causes of maternal, newborn and child malnutrition through capacity development for health workers, counselling, and awareness-raising on optimal child nutrition, hygiene, and WASH practices. The organization promotes nutrition-sensitive small-scale agriculture production to improve the availability of nutritious products for the most vulnerable children.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

FAO and World Vision collaborate through a number of global initiatives such as the Committee of World Food Security, World Food Day, the Zero Hunger Challenge and the gFSC. Specifically, the two organizations have joined forces to improve linkages between livelihoods, agriculture, health and nutrition through integrated multisectoral approaches.

Read more

World Vision's work on nutrition: <https://www.wvi.org/our-work/nutrition>

FAO and World Vision collaboration: <https://www.fao.org/partnerships/news-archive/news-article/en/c/1439222/>



3.3 Academia, research institutions and think tanks

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND HEALTH ACADEMY

The Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH) Academy is a global community of interdisciplinary researchers, practitioners and policymakers working on agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health. The academy aims to build an interdisciplinary community to share research in agriculture and food systems, stimulate development of new research, and facilitate the uptake of robust evidence in policies and programmes.

The academy also:

- organizes the annual ANH Academy Week, where members meet for learning labs and a conference on interdisciplinary research;
- convenes thematic working groups to accelerate research by sharing experience and synthesizing disparate research methods and metrics;
- delivers skills-based trainings via face-to-face gatherings and webinars; and
- provides curriculum enrichment resources and support for educators in higher education in interdisciplinary topics on agriculture, food systems, nutrition and health.

For research and educational activities, the academy offers the Support Centre for Agriculture and Nutrition Research (SCANR), a web-based tool that provides expert critical perspectives for each stage of the research processes. This includes curated resources for educators and a forum for connecting with fellow researchers, educators and practitioners.

The ANH Academy is co-funded by UK Aid and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It is led by the London School of Tropical Hygiene and Medicine in partnership with Tufts University and other organizations around the world.

Read more:

Website: <https://www.anh-academy.org>

ALLIANCE OF BIOVERSITY INTERNATIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TROPICAL AGRICULTURE

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) was created to address climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and malnutrition through research-based solutions. It is part of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR) system.

The alliance's work on nutrition is focused on connecting agricultural production with consumption, transforming food environments and shaping the behaviour of producers, market actors, and consumers to promote fair, safe, healthy foods for everyone.

These activities are organized in six key priority areas:

- social inclusion with a focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups;
- resilience and system adaptability to shocks and risks;
- sustainability in terms of reducing environmental footprint and ensuring affordability and equity;
- consumer behaviour to promote environmental sustainability, food safety and increased desirability of healthy food choices;
- business innovation by spearheading green jobs for women and youth, and focusing on nutrient-rich commodities; and
- unlocking enabling policies that can actively incentivize healthy food choices.

Read more:

Website: <https://alliancebioversityciat.org>

CENTRE FOR FOOD POLICY – CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The Centre for Food Policy at City, University of London, is an interdisciplinary centre dedicated to improving understanding on how food systems work in practice and what policies are needed to ensure they improve population and planetary health while promoting equitable socioeconomic systems.

The main research areas are focused around three themes: systems approaches to decision-making in food policy, policies to reshape the food system, and generating insights from lived experience for more equitable and effective policy.

Read more

Website: <https://researchcentres.city.ac.uk/food-policy>

COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL

The Columbia Climate School's key mandate is to develop, inspire and educate on knowledge-based solutions for just and prosperous societies on a healthy planet.

Its signature Food for Humanity initiative is being established. The university hosts the Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems Network, a collaborative effort to advance interdisciplinary research and education on healthy and sustainable food systems. Specifically, the network focuses on:

- health and sustainability of food systems, including nutrition and health equity;
- economics and policy incentives for healthy food systems;
- interaction of food systems with climate and land use;
- community engagement for healthy diets; and
- food systems under shocks, conflict, and migration.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

FAO collaborated with GAIN and the Columbia Climate School in the development of the Food Systems Dashboard.

The Food System Countdown Initiative – led by GAIN, FAO, Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Columbia Climate School – tracks global food systems and their changes to inform decision making and promote greater accountability.

The Climate School partners with the AU, FAO, and the Office of Global Food Security (United States of America Department of State) on the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) initiative. Launched in 2023, it leverages investment on underutilized indigenous and traditional crops to strengthen climate resilience and nutrition across the African continent.

Read more

Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems Network: <https://people.climate.columbia.edu/networks/profile/healthy-and-sustainable-food-network>

The Food System Countdown Initiative: <https://www.foodcountdown.org>

The Food System Dashboard: <https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/information/about-the-dashboard>

A report providing evidence-based analysis on selected crop varieties under the VACS initiative: <https://doi.org/10.7916/7msa-yy32>

CONSORTIUM OF INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRES

The Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR) is a global research partnership made up of a number of research centres including the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, and WorldFish. It is mandated to deliver science and innovation that advances the transformation of food, land and water systems in a climate crisis for a food-secure future. The goal is to contribute towards ending hunger and enabling safe, affordable and healthy diets for the world's most vulnerable people. To contribute to these goals, CGIAR works on:

- providing evidence and policy options for improving diets and human health through food systems outcomes, policy research and technical and institutional innovation;
- accelerating innovation in agronomy, livestock and fisheries management to increase and diversify food supply and to manage zoonotic diseases, food safety and antimicrobial resistance;
- advancing research on a wider range of foods and farming systems, including vegetables, insects, and urban farming, with a focus on affordable diets and perishable foods;
- focusing on dietary diversity, quality and resilience through custodianship and distribution of genetic materials of nutrient-dense foods (e.g. biofortification, breeding of nutrient-dense crops and their wild relatives and livestock).

In the focus area of dietary diversity, the HarvestPlus programme promotes the production and consumption of staple food crops that are bred to be high-yielding, climate-smart and rich in the micronutrients necessary for health.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

FAO and CGIAR collaborate to improve interoperability between food and agricultural information systems. For example, FAO and CGIAR have joined forces to enhance data-sharing through the AGROVOC tool, a multilingual vocabulary (available in 40 languages) covering food, nutrition, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and the environment.

Read more

Website: <https://www.cgiar.org>

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

The Division of Nutrition Sciences at Cornell University works on generating knowledge through scientific research, facilitating learning, and informing policymaking on nutrition and human health. Specifically, it promotes a better understanding of the complex linkages between human health, nutritional status, human genetics, food and lifestyle patterns, social and institutional environments, and governmental policies.

Additionally, the university hosts the Cornell Institute for Food Systems, which comprises a multidisciplinary group of faculty fellows working on addressing multiple challenges across food systems, including collaborative research with industry partners, scientific advisory services and development of talent pipelines. These areas of work are framed under the institute's flagship programme – the Food System's Industry Partnership Program.

The Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) engages in cross-cutting research to support actionable progress towards healthier diets from sustainable food systems.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

CALS collaborates with FAO and the Columbia Climate School on the Food Systems Countdown Initiative.

CALS and FAO also collaborate on the Agrifood Systems Technologies and Innovation Outlook, a biennial flagship publication that disseminates information on science, technology and innovation in agrifood systems.

Read more

The Division of Nutrition Sciences at Cornell University: <https://www.human.cornell.edu/dns/about>

The Cornell Institute for Food Systems: <https://cals.cornell.edu/food-science/industry-engagement/cornell-institute-food-systems/cifs-ipp>

The Food System Countdown Initiative: <https://www.foodcountdown.org/about>

The Agrifood Systems Technologies and Innovations Outlook publication: <https://cals.cornell.edu/food-systems-global-change/atiao>

The CALS work on food systems: <https://cals.cornell.edu/food-systems-global-change/our-work>

EAT-LANCET COMMISSION ON FOOD, PLANET, HEALTH

The EAT-Lancet Commission was made up of 37 leading scientists from 16 countries who collaborated to reach consensus on targets for healthy diets and sustainable food production.

The Commission identified the first ever scientific targets for healthy diets and sustainable food production that will allow the world to feed up to 10 billion people by 2050. The Commission's findings were published in the report *Food in the Anthropocene: the EAT-Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems* (Lancet, 2019).

Read more

Website: <https://eatforum.org/eat-lancet-commission/>



FEED THE FUTURE INITIATIVE

Feed the Future is an initiative by the Government of the United States of America to address global food security and malnutrition. Led by the Agency for International Development, the initiative draws on the agricultural, trade, investment, development and policy resources and expertise of multiple federal departments and agencies.

Through the Feed the Future Innovation Labs, the initiative leverages knowledge and expertise from various US universities and from research institutions in developing countries to tackle the main challenges in agriculture and food security.

Read more:

Feed the Future Initiative: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/about/>

Feed the Future Innovation Labs: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/feed-the-future-innovation-labs/>

FOOD SYSTEM ECONOMICS COMMISSION

The Food System Economics Commission is an interdisciplinary group of experts on the economics of climate change, health, nutrition, agriculture and natural resources with the primary goal to provide political and economic decision-makers with tools and evidence to transform food and land-use systems.

By combining computer modelling with policy analysis, the Commission delivers state-of-the-art scientific assessments and recommends policy interventions that can contribute to healthy, sustainable and inclusive food systems.

Read more:

Website: <https://foodsystemeconomics.org>

FOOD SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION INNOVATION LAB

The Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab is a consortium of research partners who generate evidence and translate existing evidence to harness novel technologies and innovations to reduce food loss and waste, improve access to nutrient-rich foods, and enhance food safety.

Activities are grouped in three key areas:

- research to identify, test and disseminate proven technologies and practices to enhance nutrition sensitivity and the resilience of food systems and value chains;
- human and institutional capacity development to address the needs of current and future researchers, policymakers and private-sector actors; and
- in-country and global stakeholder engagement (donors, researchers, development partners, etc.) that links suppliers, regulators and other influential market stakeholders to identify innovations with the potential to impact on nutrition.

Read more:

Website: <https://foodsystemsnutrition.org>

GLOBAL PANEL ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION

The Global Panel is an independent group of influential experts with a commitment to tackling global challenges in food and nutrition security. The Global Panel:

- conducts research on how changes in agriculture and food systems can improve nutrition;
- promotes a new understanding of the role and future potential of agriculture and food systems in improving nutrition; and
- catalyses collaboration in agriculture and food systems that will improve diets and nutrition outcomes for all.

The Global Panel produces and publishes policy briefs and advocacy materials.

Read more:

Website: <https://www.glopan.org>

HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The mission of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health is to advance the public's health worldwide, including through improved nutrition and lifestyle.

The nutrition work at the school is carried out under the Department of Nutrition. The Department seeks to improve nutrition through:

- research on how diet influences health at molecular and population levels;
- development of nutritional strategies and informing policy;
- educating researchers and practitioners; and
- disseminating nutrition information to health professionals and the public.

The knowledge and scientific evidence generated through research activities feed into The Nutrition Source, a platform that offers comprehensive information through scientific articles, FAQs and the translation of scientific knowledge into daily practice.

Read more

The Nutrition Source: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/>

INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION

The International Dairy Federation (IDF) is a recognized international authority in the development of science-based standards for the dairy sector. Its primary goal is to provide a mechanism for the dairy sector to reach global consensus on how to help feed the world with safe and sustainable dairy products. The federation pursues this goal by providing scientific and technical information that orients policies, standards, practices and regulations.

Read more

Website: <https://fil-idf.org>

INTERNATIONAL FARM COMPARISON NETWORK – DAIRY DATA

The International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN) is a research network linking farm economic researchers who are independent from third parties, including policymakers, lobby groups and industry. The Dairy branch was established in 1997 with the goal to create a better understanding of milk production worldwide.

Members of the network collaborate to generate and exchange scientific data and knowledge on the dairy sector, including price monitoring, sector analysis, development of dairy supply chains and policy impact analysis.

Read more

Website: <https://ifcndairy.org>



INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. IFPRI is a research centre of CGIAR, a large global network for agricultural innovation.

The institute's work on nutrition and food systems can be grouped into five strategic research areas:

- fostering climate-resilient and sustainable food supply;
- promoting healthy diets and nutrition for all;
- building inclusive and efficient markets, trade systems, and food industries;
- transforming agricultural and rural economies; and
- strengthening institutions and governance.

IFPRI leads the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), which was created to ensure that agriculture practices, interventions and policies can maximize health and nutrition benefits while reducing health risks. The Food Systems Resource Center is a repository of data, evidence, tools, innovative ideas, and findings generated under the A4NH programme.

The research institute leads the Transform Nutrition consortium of international research partners working on research-based evidence to help policymakers, civil society and business leaders in their efforts to promote effective action on undernutrition.

In the African continent, working in partnership with the African Union Commission and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), IFPRI facilitates the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS), which provides accessible, high-quality analysis, data, and tools to promote evidence-based policy planning and implementation. IFPRI also supports social protection and HGSF programmes.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

IFPRI and FAO have a long-established collaboration on generating evidence-based technical knowledge and expertise to support policymakers in making decisions to improve food security nutrition through sustainable agriculture and food systems. For example, FAO and IFPRI have joined forces to improve access to quality information and data by developing the Agricultural Market Information Systems (AMIS), an interagency platform that encourages major players in agrifood markets to share data, best practices and methodologies across primary producing, consuming and exporting countries for four key crops: maize, rice, soybeans and wheat. The two institutions also collaborate on the Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies initiative, which works with African countries to strategically prioritize, reform and implement policies on food and agriculture.

FAO and IFPRI have collaborated on an array of joint publications on agriculture, nutrition and food systems. For example, in 2020 the agencies published a joint report on food policies and their implications on overweight and obesity in selected countries in the Near East and North Africa (FAO and IFPRI, 2020).

Read more

Website: <https://www.ifpri.org/about>

Brief on ReSAKSS: <https://ebrary.ifpri.org/utils/getfile/collection/p15738coll2/id/133003/filename/133213.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR FOOD AND OBESITY/NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES RESEARCH, MONITORING AND ACTION SUPPORT

The International Network for Food and Obesity/Non-Communicable Diseases Research, Monitoring and Action Support (INFORMAS) is a global network of public-interest organizations and researchers that aims to monitor, benchmark and support public and private-sector actions to increase healthy food environments and reduce obesity and NCDs and their related inequalities.

The network supports WHO's Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (2013–2020), and the World Cancer Research Fund International NOURISHING framework.

Read more

Website: <https://www.informas.org>

INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF EXPERTS ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) is an independent panel of 24 experts from 16 countries dedicated to shaping the debate on global food system reform through policy-oriented research and direct engagement with policy processes.

Through democratic approaches to knowledge and scientific evidence, the panel promotes a transition to sustainable food systems through scientific reports and detailed policy recommendations.

Read more:

Website: <https://www.ipes-food.org>

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES

The International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) is a worldwide organization dedicated to advancing nutritional science, research and education through global collaboration. Established in 1948, IUNS unites national scientific organizations from more than 85 countries. Its core objectives are to promote cooperation among nutrition scientists, organize the International Congress of Nutrition, and support the spread of nutritional knowledge to address global challenges.

IUNS leads several task forces to address more specific challenges in any area relevant for nutrition that requires collaborative effort from individuals and organizations across the world. The International Collaboration on Nutrition in Relation to Cancer (ICONIC) is one of the IUNS-led task forces established in collaboration between several organizations in the field of cancer and nutrition. Its aim is to promote awareness of the importance of diet and nutrition in the causation and management of cancer.

Read more

IUNS website: <https://iuns.org/about-iuns>

ICONIC website: <https://cancerandnutrition.nihr.ac.uk/international-nutrition-and-cancer-task-force-2>

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY – BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE BERMAN INSTITUTE OF BIOETHICS

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health is dedicated to improving public health through research, education, training and advocacy on improving diets and the nutritional status of vulnerable populations. More specifically, the school hosts the Center for a Livable Future, which works towards achieving healthy, equitable and resilient food systems.

The Berman Institute of Bioethics works on complex public health related moral issues including food systems, equity and environmental sustainability.

Through research programmes such as the Global Food Ethics & Policy Program and the Human Nutrition Program, the university works on finding innovative solutions to challenges involving nutrition, food security and socioeconomic and environmental systems.

Research activities are focused on:

- the role of nutrition in the growth, development and health of populations;
- innovative tools and methods for assessing nutritional status, food systems and health outcomes;
- the efficacy and effectiveness of promising interventions; and
- the uptake of research findings into programmes and policies.

The Sight and Life Global Nutrition Research Institute hosted at the School of Public Health works on global micronutrient deficiency prevention and the promotion of maternal, foetal, infant and child survival.

The university hosts the Alliance for a Healthier World, made up of Johns Hopkins faculty, staff, students and multidisciplinary partners from around the world. The alliance works on structural determinants of health including food systems and diets.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

In 2019, FAO and the Johns Hopkins University (particularly with the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Berman Institute of Bioethics) signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen collaboration on evidence-based policymaking through systems-wide approaches to nutrition and health equity for vulnerable and underserved populations. The partnership played a key role in the development of the Food System Dashboard.

Read more

Centre for a Livable Future: <https://clf.jhsph.edu>

Global Food Ethics and Policy Program: <https://bioethics.jhu.edu/research-and-outreach/projects/global-food-ethics-policy-program/>

Human Nutrition Program: <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/departments/international-health/programs/program-areas/human-nutrition>

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine conducts research on both the impact of the food systems on the environment and the effect of the changing environment on food systems. The university seeks to generate evidence to inform policy on optimal solutions to promote healthy and sustainable diets for all.

Read more

The university's work on food systems: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres/centre-climate-change-and-planetary-health/food-systems>

NUTRITION SOCIETY

The Nutrition Society is a community of independent researchers established in 1941 to accelerate the development of evidence-based nutritional science for an informed and healthier society.

The community provides access to the latest evidence and thinking on the role of nutrition in human and animal health through 12 journals and textbooks and by hosting a range of nutrition science conferences and webinar platforms.

Read more

Website: <https://www.nutrition society.org>

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Based at the Imperial College London, the Partnership for Child Development (PCD) supports governments in low- and middle-income countries to implement and develop effective and sustainable school health and nutrition programmes by linking academic research to effective programme and policy interventions.

PCD carries out operational and academic research to inform and strengthen the evidence base around school health and nutrition. It provides technical assistance to governments by providing decision-makers with the knowledge, skills and tools to design and implement effective school health and nutrition programmes. Supported programmes are focused on locally sourced school feeding, inclusive school health, HIV education, WASH promotion and school-based deworming.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

FAO collaborates with PCD in the area of home-grown school feeding. In 2018, FAO and PCD, together with other partners, developed the Home-Grown School Feeding Resource Framework.

The two organizations also contribute to the WFP's School Menu Planner (SMP PLUS) tool, a global school menu planner that uses artificial intelligence to create more nutritious and affordable local meals.

Read more

PCD website: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/partnership-for-child-development/>

The SMP PLUS tool: <https://innovation.wfp.org/project/smp-plus>

TRANSFORM NUTRITION

Transform Nutrition is an IFPRI-led consortium of five international research and development partners that provides research to support policymakers and other relevant stakeholders in their efforts to address undernutrition in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. From 2017 to 2021, the consortium implemented the Transform Nutrition West Africa project to enhance the links between knowledge and policymaking. The project was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and focused on Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal.

The consortium works on three research pillars – scaling up nutrition-specific interventions, leveraging nutrition-sensitive interventions, and creating enabling environments for nutrition. In addition, it focuses on cross-cutting themes including governance, inclusion and fragile contexts.

Read more

Website: <https://archive.ids.ac.uk/tn/index.html>

TUFTS UNIVERSITY – GERALD J. AND DOROTHY R. FRIEDMAN SCHOOL OF NUTRITION SCIENCE AND POLICY

The key mission of the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy is to generate knowledge and educate on nutrition science and policy.

The Friedman School pursues research and education on a wide spectrum of nutrition-related themes, including molecular nutrition, human nutrition, human metabolism, population studies, clinical trials, behaviour change communication, food systems, sustainability, global food insecurity, humanitarian crises, and food economics and policy.

The Friedman School plays a critical role in addressing global gaps in dietary data. Particularly, in partnership with members of the Global Nutrition and Policy Consortium, the school has developed the Global Dietary Database, a comprehensive compilation of information on food and nutrient consumption levels in countries worldwide.

The university implements the Global International Dietary Data Expansion (INDDEX) Project, with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The work under this initiative consists in developing dietary data-collection tools and resources that promote the streamlined collection, use and interpretation of high-quality quantitative dietary data.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

Since 2016, FAO and the Friedman School have collaborated on the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool (FAO/WHO GIFT), with the objective to harmonize and disseminate individual-level dietary data worldwide.

In 2019, The INDDEX team supported the updating of the West African regional food composition data.

Read more

The Friedman School website: <https://nutrition.tufts.edu>

The INDDEX project: <https://inddex.nutrition.tufts.edu/international-dietary-data-expansion-project>

The Global Dietary Database: <https://www.globaldietarydatabase.org>

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE (WRI)

The World Resources Institute (WRI) uses research-based approaches to work for the protection and restoration of nature, the stabilization of the climate, the building of more resilient communities and the meeting of people's essential needs. Its aim is to transform the way the world produces food, uses energy and designs its cities to create a better future for everyone. The institute's core business consists in producing research, data products and data-based tools to inform policy and programme implementation.

Food-related research initiatives focus mainly on promoting strategies that increase productivity while restoring ecosystems, promoting dietary choices that are climate-friendly and have lower carbon footprint, and reducing food loss and waste.

Read more

Website: <https://www.wri.org>

WORLD VEGETABLE CENTER

The World Vegetable Center is an international nonprofit research and development institute with a mission to alleviate poverty and malnutrition in the developing world through increased production and consumption of nutritious and health-promoting vegetables.

From the supply side, the centre conserves and distributes vegetable genetic resources that are subjected to systematic evaluation and characterization to identify desirable nutritional qualities. The research and breeding activities are carried out through participatory approaches involving smallholder farmers and relevant actors along the supply chain. Public and private financial resources are mobilized to help farmers increase vegetable harvest through improved access to genetic resources and effective and environmentally sustainable production methods. The goal is to raise their income by creating business opportunities while increasing the availability of healthier and nutritious diets for families and communities.

From the demand side, the centre promotes the consumption of diverse and safe vegetables with enhanced nutritional qualities to improve the nutrition and health of the rural and urban poor. These include underutilized African species such as African eggplant, Ethiopian kale, moringa and amaranth.

Read more

Website: <https://avrdc.org>

WORLD FISH

WorldFish is an international non-profit research and innovation organization focusing on aquatic food systems. It is part of the CGIAR consortium. The organization provides holistic thinking and scientific evidence to transform aquatic food systems to ensure equitable and sustainable access to food from water by the most marginalized groups.

Research and innovation activities include climate change, food security and nutrition, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, the blue economy, ocean governance, One Health, genetics and agritech. It integrates evidence and perspectives on gender, youth and social inclusion.

Read more

Website: <https://worldfishcenter.org>



3.4 The private sector and public-private partnerships

EAST-WEST SEED

East-West Seed is a large, privately-owned tropical vegetable seed company that provides innovative seeds and services that help improve the income and livelihood of tropical vegetable farmers and promote sustainable farming and business practices.

The company produces a wide portfolio of hybrid and open-pollinated seeds and educates farmers on crop management methods to maximize productivity. It works closely with national gene banks and plant genetic resource laboratories on research, training and germplasm conservation. A pool of smallholder farmers, known as product development support farmers, actively engage in conducting on-farm trials of newly bred vegetable varieties and deciding which ones to be introduced in the market. East-West Seed engages in extension and knowledge transfer activities by organizing farmer field schools, setting up demonstration farms, and conducting field days and harvest festivals to promote profitable and sustainable production practices.

Drawing from country-level operational experience, the company has developed several “good practices” for the implementation of Article 9 (Farmers’ Rights) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. They collaborate with AUDA-NEPAD on the nutrition focus.

Read more

Website: <https://www.eastwestseed.com>

GALLUP

Gallup is a global analytics and advisory firm known for its public opinion polls. It supports leaders and organizations to solve their most pressing challenges through quality analytics, knowledge products and advisory services on the attitudes and behaviour of employees, customers, students and citizens.

Gallup contributes to nutrition policymaking by tracking diet quality worldwide. In partnership with GAIN and the Harvard Department of Global Health and Population, Gallup has engaged on the Global Diet Quality Project, an initiative to enable countries to track diet quality year to year or more frequently. Under this initiative, partners developed the Diet Quality Questionnaire, an internationally standardized survey instrument that captures local realities and interprets diet quality within and across countries. In 2022, the project implementers published the first global diet quality report, titled Measuring what the world eats (Global Diet Quality Project, 2022).

Read more

Gallup’s work on nutrition: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/6424/nutrition-food.aspx>

GLOBAL COLD CHAIN ALLIANCE

The Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA) is an international organization representing the key industries involved in temperature-controlled warehousing, logistics and transportation. GCCA brings together partners to drive innovation and lead the global movement of perishable goods.

The alliance's vision is to build a strong and reliable global cold chain that ensures the quality and safety of products at every stage, while the mission is to promote industry growth and achieve a leadership role within the cold-chain sector.

GCCA's roots trace back to the foundation of its core partner associations: the International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses (founded in 1891), the International Refrigerated Transportation Association (established in 1994), and the Controlled Environment Building Association (formed in 1978). In 2007, these organizations merged under the GCCA umbrella to serve as the dedicated voice of the cold-chain industry, offering a platform for communication, networking and education.

The alliance has collaborated with GAIN on many initiatives to promote post-harvest loss reduction.

Read more

Website: <https://www.gcca.org/about/>

GLOBAL DAIRY PLATFORM

The Global Dairy Platform (GDP) is an industry association representing the global dairy sector actors including dairy companies, farmer-based cooperatives, associations, scientific bodies and other partners.

GDP has led the dairy sector's collaborative efforts to encourage appropriate intake of nutrient-rich dairy foods and to promote sustainable livelihoods and production systems.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

FAO and GDP collaborate on the regional public-private livestock-sector programme Pathways to Dairy Net Zero: Promoting Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Livestock in East Africa. The initiative aims to promote public-private partnership to increase resilience and climate mitigation in dairy cattle in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

FAO and GDP are active partners in the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, a partnership of livestock stakeholders committed to building consensus on viable paths towards sustainability and catalysing coherent practice change through dialogue, consultation and joint analysis. The collaboration has included joint advocacy and awareness-raising, knowledge and data-sharing, technical cooperation, and sustainability assessments of global dairy systems.

In collaboration with the FAO Food and Nutrition Division, GDP supported the International Symposium on Protein and Human Health held in September 2023 and is working on improved methods to assess protein quality.

Read more

GDP website: <https://globaldairyplatform.com>

GLOBAL PULSE CONFEDERATION

The Global Pulse Confederation (GPC) represents all segments of the pulse industry value chain from growers, researchers, logistics suppliers and traders to government bodies, processors, canners and consumers. It comprises 24 national associations and over 600 private-sector members.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

FAO and GPC have established a partnership to promote the sustainable production, consumption, and international trade of pulses for improving food nutrition and sustainability of agricultural systems.

Joint activities include raising public awareness of the role of pulses in addressing food security challenges, conducting assessments and case studies to foster investments in pulses, and promoting multistakeholder dialogues.

Read more

Website: <https://www.globalpulses.com>

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

The World Economic Forum is an international organization for public–private cooperation engaging political organizations, businesses, academic institutions, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Flagship initiatives include the Food System Initiative, the New Frontiers of Nutrition project, and Food Innovation Hubs. The Food Systems Initiative is a collaborative effort engaging more than 1 000 diverse organizations to catalyse and support multistakeholder partnership platforms to deliver regional and country action at scale. It also seeks to accelerate levers for change that can unlock systemic challenges and opportunities in food systems by generating insights, mobilizing collaboration and delivering innovation.

The New Frontiers of Nutrition project convenes stakeholders to shape transformative solutions to elevate nutrition as a key enabler for responsible consumption and societal resilience.

Food Innovation Hubs is a multistakeholder, precompetitive and market-based partnership platform engaging governments, private-sector innovators, farmer organizations and others to sustainably scale solutions for food systems transformation.

Read more

The World Economic Forum's work on nutrition: <https://www.weforum.org/projects/new-frontiers-of-nutrition>

3.5 Governments

CANADA

Canadian international development assistance is anchored around a set of key values that include the eradication of poverty and inequality, the promotion of human rights, the enhancement of gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and the promotion of climate action to achieve environmental sustainability. Global Affairs Canada is the governmental institution coordinating the Canadian international development funding initiatives in both humanitarian and development contexts worldwide.

In humanitarian contexts, the Government of Canada supports short-term solutions that respond to the immediate needs of affected populations, including refugees and displaced people. These interventions include provision of emergency cash and vouchers, in-kind food assistance, provision of specialized nutritious foods for targeted populations, and support for WASH and other health and nutrition outcomes. As a founding partner of Nutrition International, Canada promotes micronutrient supplementation in over 70 countries to ensure vulnerable populations get the vitamins and minerals they need to survive. Canada is the largest donor to vitamin A programmes and a lead donor in the global effort to curb iodine deficiency. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank was established to provide timely food assistance as well as agricultural supplies and cash to restore production activities.

In development contexts, Canada supports programmes that promote gender-inclusive and climate-smart agriculture and food systems, nature-based solutions and biodiversity protection, improved climate governance, and social protection and safety-net programmes. Particularly, the country's investment in sustainable agriculture includes improving the availability of nutritious foods by providing training to small-scale farmers, supporting livelihoods and developing agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation and livestock-rearing facilities. Canada recognizes the important role of agricultural research in addressing hunger and malnutrition by finding solutions to increase the nutritional value of crops, improving crop resilience and generating data and evidence on effective interventions. Canada is one of the founding members and top donors of CGIAR.

Read more

Foreign assistance on nutrition and food security: https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/global_health-sante_mondiale/nutrition_security-nutrition_securitaire.aspx?lang=eng

CHINA

China has long referred to itself as a developing country. From this perspective, the country sees international cooperation for development as a form of mutual assistance between developing countries. The South–South cooperation principle derives from this vision and is widely promoted and applied in the international development cooperation strategy. These efforts are coordinated by the China International Development Cooperation Agency.

Two other development organizations have also been formed:

- the South–South Cooperation Assistance Fund, which supports international development aid operations; and
- the Institute of South–South Cooperation and Development, an academic think tank that generates knowledge and evidence on effective development policies.

In line with this approach, China supports developing countries to accelerate progress on food security and nutrition. To this end, it funds initiatives focused on:

- technical assistance and capacity strengthening;
- business development and income generation;
- trade, innovation and technology;
- agricultural research;
- infrastructure development (e.g. the Belt and Road Initiative); and
- agro-industrial food chains to improve efficiency and reduce food loss and waste.

In contexts of humanitarian emergency, the Government of China has been providing emergency food aid while assisting post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.

Read more

Agriculture cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative: http://english.scio.gov.cn/beltandroad/2022-08/22/content_78383522.htm

FAO–China South–South Cooperation Programme: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc9429en>

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union remains the largest donor of development aid in the world. Its commitment on nutrition is focused on addressing acute malnutrition through a multisectoral approach that combines the assessment of nutritional status of children, the treatment of acute malnutrition and the prevention of all forms of malnutrition.

In humanitarian emergencies, the European Union supports treatment-related nutrition programmes. It also supports disaster preparedness, capacity strengthening and shock responsiveness of existing community and health systems.

Prevention-related interventions include enhancing WASH facilities, improving access to health care for children and pregnant and lactating mothers, and promoting the humanitarian–development–peace nexus to ensure coherence and complementarity in the field of nutrition.

In partnership with FAO and WFP, the European Union (specifically the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations) founded the Global Network Against Food Crisis.

Read more

European Union priorities on food security and nutrition funding: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/climate-environment-and-energy/nutrition-and-food-security_en

FINLAND

Finland's development assistance for nutrition and food systems focuses on promoting sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing food security and improving nutritional outcomes in partner countries. Finland supports initiatives that aim to strengthen local food systems, increase agricultural productivity and ensure access to nutritious food, particularly for vulnerable populations such as women and children. The country prioritizes integrated approaches that address both immediate nutritional needs and long-term sustainability, such as supporting smallholder farmers, enhancing climate resilience and promoting biodiversity. Additionally, Finland collaborates with international organizations, NGOs and local governments to implement programmes that contribute to global food security and the achievement of the SDGs, particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

Read more

Finland's priorities on climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable development: https://um.fi/web/kehityspoliikan-tulosraportti-2022/results/climate-and-natural-resources#ank_1

IRELAND

The Government of Ireland has a strategy for development called A Better World. Under the strategy, the government has committed to deliver 0.7 percent of gross national income to official development assistance by 2030. The strategy outlines four key priority areas: humanitarian need, climate action, gender equality, and governance.

Irish Aid is the national institution coordinating the country's international development assistance. Interventions are grouped into three key clusters: protection, food, and people. Protection and people-oriented interventions focus on social protection interventions that seek to prevent any groups from being left behind due to vulnerability, conflict, climate change and extreme poverty.

As a country with historic experience of famine, Ireland prioritizes action supporting developing countries to achieve food security and nutrition through integrated approaches that address both the immediate nutritional needs of vulnerable people and the structural drivers of poverty and malnutrition. In development contexts, the country supports interventions that transform food systems to address hunger, enhance livelihoods and support environmental sustainability. Other interventions include research, knowledge transfer, the strengthening of business and entrepreneurial skills, improved access to credit and investment by smallholder farmers, and the support of income-generation opportunities for women and the youth.

Read more

Ireland's A Better World policy: <https://www.irishaid.ie/about-us/policy-for-international-development/>





ITALY

Italy has kept agriculture and food security high in its international development cooperation agenda. In 2015, the country hosted the Expo Milano 2015 exposition on the theme “Feeding the planet, energy for life” as a key advocacy platform for the inclusion of food security and rural development in the post-2015 development agenda. As a member of the Group of 20 (G20), Italy is committed to contribute to the efforts of the Food Coalition initiative, which aims to promote equitable, resilient and sustainable food production systems, among other goals.

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation is the institution coordinating the Government of Italy’s aid programmes worldwide. The agency has been focusing its support on food security and nutrition by funding initiatives such as:

- strengthening livelihoods and building resilience to food crises in affected countries;
- improving natural resource management and protection of biodiversity;
- promoting knowledge and innovative technologies for better food safety and quality;
- promoting production diversification and availability of nutritious foods;
- promoting entrepreneurial opportunities for the youth;
- empowering women;
- supporting smallholder farmers and producer organizations; and
- raising awareness of healthy dietary habits.

Italy continues to support with life-saving food assistance interventions in humanitarian crises in collaboration with specialized agencies such as WFP, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross and other actors. The country hosts one of the six international hubs of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot, an international network of hubs around the world that provide supply chain solutions to the international humanitarian community.

Read more

Italy’s commitment on food security: https://www.esteri.it/en/politica-estera-e-cooperazione-allo-sviluppo/cooperaz_sviluppo/litalia-per-la-sicurezza-alimentare/

JAPAN

The Government of Japan actively engages in advancing nutrition through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Thematic areas include:

- promoting maternal, newborn, and child nutrition and health with a special focus on the first 1 000 days of life;
- supporting school meal programmes through community approaches (the School for All project);
- strengthening partnerships with the private sector and civil society for nutrition improvement (knowledge generation and dissemination through the Japan Public Private Platform);
- supporting developing countries in their efforts to address obesity and diet-related NCDs;
- supporting capacity development for multisectoral nutrition-sensitive programming; and
- promoting awareness on improved sanitation and hygiene through the Hand Washing for Health and Life campaign.

JICA actively participates in global advocacy initiatives and multistakeholder networks to build and sustain momentum for nutrition engagement. For example, it is a member of the lead group in the SUN Movement. In 2021, the Government of Japan hosted the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit.

In Africa, the Government of Japan supports nutrition advancement through the Initiative for Food and Nutrition in Africa. The initiative aims to establish a framework for collaboration with African governments to accelerate the implementation of their food and nutrition security policies on the ground.

Read more

JICA's work on nutrition: <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/issues/nutrition/index.html>

The Initiative for Food and Nutrition in Africa: <http://ifna.africa>

NORWAY

The Government of Norway uses the 2030 Agenda as a guiding framework for its development assistance strategy. International cooperation interventions are coordinated through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They are grouped in seven key thematic areas: climate change and environment, education, access to clean and affordable energy, global health, higher education and research, macroeconomics and public administration, and oil for development.

Food security matters are addressed under the climate change and environment theme, with agriculture and fisheries as key sectors and the right to food as the central approach. Norway has been a key partner in supporting FAO's work on strengthening the right to food in several countries.

Read more

NORAD nutrition efforts: <https://www.fao.no/images/pub/2020/20746.pdf>

SPAIN

Spain is committed to achieving sustainable and equitable development as outlined in the 2030 Agenda.

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) is a state agency responsible for designing and implementing development cooperation projects and programmes, either directly with its own means or in combination with other local and international bodies.

Key priority interventions on international development assistance are defined through the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation and the Foreign Action Strategy. The Third Plan Africa Strategic Framework 2019–2023 defines Spain's support in the continent with a set of measures addressing food security and nutrition through humanitarian and development interventions.

FAO and the AECID have been collaborating on promoting greater parliamentary engagement to address food security and all forms of malnutrition. In 2018 and 2023, the two agencies, in collaboration with other partners, organized the First and Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition.

Read more

2021–2024 Foreign Action Strategy: https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/consejodeministros/resumenes/Documents/2021/270421-foreign_action_strategy_2021-2024.pdf

Plan Africa Strategic Framework 2019–2023: <https://www.exteriores.gob.es/en/PoliticaExterior/Documents/ENG%20DOCUMENTO%20FOCO%20AFRICA%202023.pdf>

Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition: <https://www.fao.org/events/detail/second-global-parliamentary-summit-against-hunger-and-malnutrition/en>

SWEDEN

The Government of Sweden supports development cooperation and humanitarian assistance in many countries and regions through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Initiatives are grouped into 16 key thematic areas that include environment and climate, agriculture and food security, sustainable sea and water resources, health, access to water and sanitation, gender equality, migration and development, and trades.

Within the agriculture and food security area, SIDA works to improve employment and livelihoods of small-scale producers working in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, while promoting access to food produced through environmentally sustainable methods.

Read more

SIDA's work on agriculture and food security: <https://www.sida.se/en/sidas-international-work/thematic-areas/agriculture-and-food-security>

SWITZERLAND

The Government of Switzerland is committed to supporting the achievement of food security and nutrition in both humanitarian and development contexts. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is the government body that coordinates the funding initiatives worldwide.

Agriculture and food security is one of the key thematic areas within the foreign aid portfolio. In development contexts, the SDC works to secure the human right to adequate food for the most vulnerable population groups, including smallholder farmers, women and young people. Specifically, the agency promotes equitable access to land and natural resources. It helps these groups make productive but sustainable use of natural resources, deal with the effects of climate change and adopt effective storage and marketing strategies for their produce. In these interventions, the SDC pays special attention to the preservation of highly endangered biodiversity and to the prevention of desertification and soil erosion. It also promotes demand-driven and need-oriented research and advisory services.

In humanitarian emergencies, the SDC is committed to ensuring that people in conflicts, crises and disasters are provided with basic food supplies and other essential goods and services.

Under the Health thematic area, the SDC works with local communities in low and middle-income countries to promote healthy lifestyles and to prevent NCDs.

Read more

Switzerland's priority areas on agriculture and food security: <https://www.fdfa.admin.ch/deza/en/home/themes-sdc/agriculture-food-security.html>



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The United Arab Emirates plays a dynamic role in the development assistance arena by supporting economic growth in developing countries and providing communities in need with resources to improve their quality of life. The main purpose of its foreign assistance is to reduce poverty, promote peace, protect the planet, and foster mutually beneficial relations through expanding trade and investment ties with developing countries.

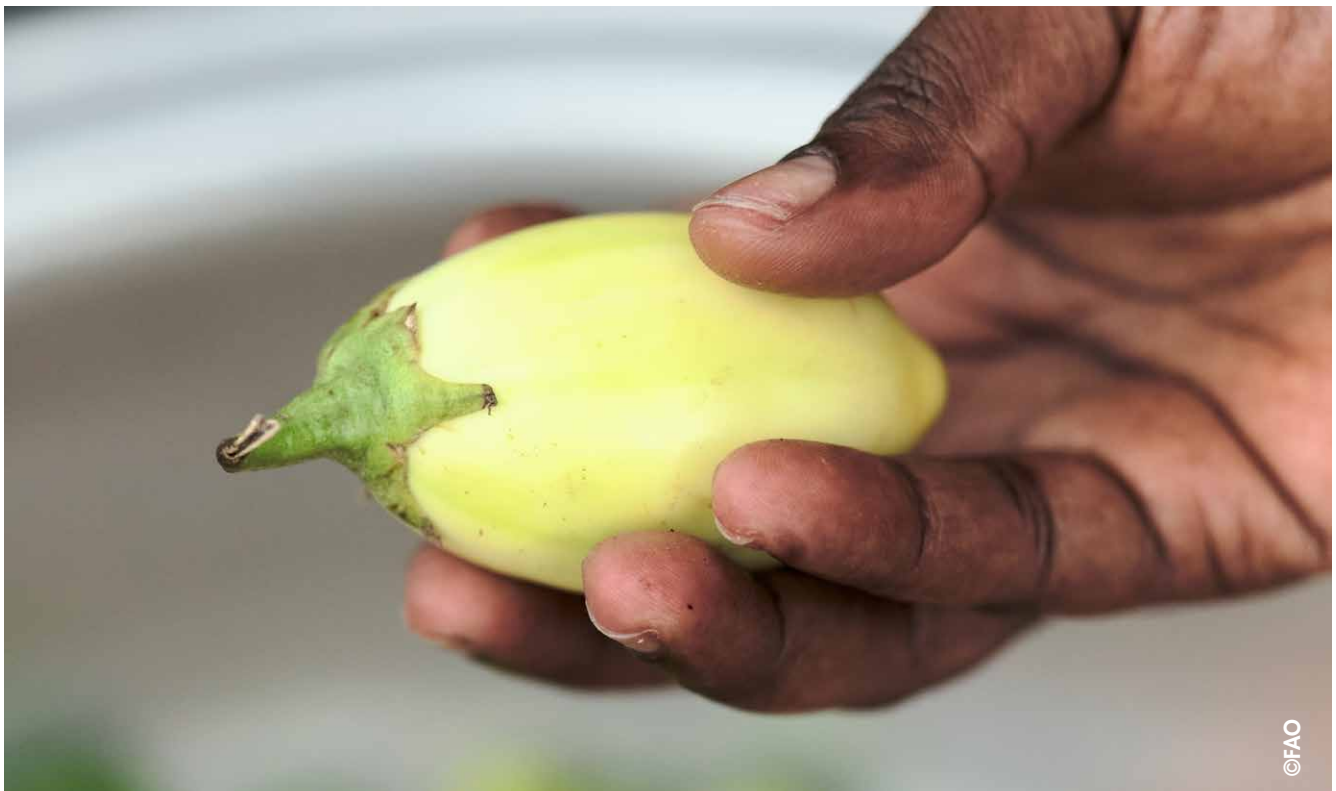
Addressing food security is one of the seven key pillars of the country's foreign assistance policy. It also contributes towards the achievement of SDG 2 by promoting both humanitarian and development initiatives.

The United Arab Emirates promotes humanitarian assistance initiatives to save lives, alleviate suffering and protect human dignity in crises. Numerous charities, foundations, government entities and private companies operate from the city of Dubai, making it one of the world's largest UN humanitarian hubs. The country has launched the 10 Million Meals, 100 Million Meals, and One Billion Meals endowment initiatives to provide food aid to vulnerable people, especially victims of natural disasters, conflicts and crises around the world.

Within the development domain, the United Arab Emirates prioritizes support for food system transformation by promoting an enabling business environment and overcoming key barriers such as access to technology, finance and infrastructure. In addition, it supports initiatives that promote environmental protection through access to renewable energy, sustainable use of natural resources, knowledge and skills on improved climate mitigation, and the strengthening of data analysis and early warning systems.

Read more

Policy for Foreign Assistance: <https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/The-Ministry/UAE-International-Development-Cooperation/UAE-Foreign-Aid-Policy>



UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) – formerly the Department for International Development – is the national institution that coordinates the United Kingdom’s funding for international development. The FCDO is committed to solving global challenges such as poverty, public health, mass migration, insecurity and conflict.

As part of its Ending Preventable Deaths approach, and in line with its Nutrition for Growth commitment, the FCDO provides funding to support to scale-up nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in both humanitarian and development contexts.

In humanitarian contexts, the FCDO supports emergency food assistance interventions. In development contexts, the FCDO provides funding for interventions that tackle the underlying drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition while supporting sustainable food systems that make safe and nutritious diets accessible to all (with particular focus on women and children). Within this area, the government allocates substantial funding to the development of technologies that improve food security, such as new drought-resistant crop varieties.

The FCDO also supports the advocacy work of the SUN Movement and promotes the implementation of commitments made at global events such as Nutrition for Growth.

Read more

The FCDO’s approach to ending preventable deaths of mothers, babies and children:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1039221/Ending-Preventable-Deaths-Approach-Paper.pdf





3.6 International financial institutions and multilateral funding initiatives

GLOBAL DONOR PLATFORM FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development is a network of 40 bilateral and multilateral donors, international financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and development agencies.

It was established in 2003 following the first High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2002 to broker donor collaboration to enhance the impact of their policies, investments and programmes on food systems and rural development.

Specifically, the platform focuses on tackling global poverty and hunger, developing agriculture, reshaping food systems, improving environmental sustainability and investing in rural communities.

Read more

Website: <https://www.donorplatform.org/our-work/>

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the largest multilateral fund dedicated to addressing environmental threats to the planet. Established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, it supports developing countries to prioritize environmental action on biodiversity, climate change, land degradation and international waters.

GEF contributes to food system transformation efforts by promoting:

- sustainable and nature-positive production;
- use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies;
- circularity in supply chains and engaging more local stakeholders;
- food loss and waste management;
- internalizing environmental costs of production (i.e. using positive incentives); and
- shifting towards sustainable diets and reduced risk of zoonotic spillovers.

Read more

Website: <https://www.thegef.org/what-we-do>

NUTRITION FOR GROWTH (N4G)

Nutrition for Growth (N4G) is a global pledging initiative that brings together country governments, donors, philanthropies, businesses and NGOs to drive greater action towards ending malnutrition and helping ensure everyone, everywhere can reach their full potential.

The first N4G Summit was held in London in 2013 where 100 stakeholders endorsed the Global N4G Compact and pledged more than USD 4 billion in new nutrition-specific projects and USD 19 billion in nutrition-sensitive projects. The second summit, which took place in London in 2017, made further progress in building a coalition of global nutrition champions. The summit generated an additional USD 3.4 billion in nutrition pledges. In the third N4G Summit, in Tokyo in 2021, donor governments, development partners, civil society and other organizations committed to new financing of over USD 27 billion to tackle all forms of malnutrition.

The Global Nutrition Report (GNR) brings together and analyses the best available data on nutrition since 2014. It was a key commitment of the 2013 N4G Summit to monitor nutrition commitments and assess progress in tackling poor diets and malnutrition. To support registration and reporting on N4G commitments, the GNR has set up the Nutrition Accountability Framework.

Read more

Website: <https://nutritionforgrowth.org>

The GNR's Nutrition Accountability Framework: <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/naf>



ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT – DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organization that works to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all. The organization provides a forum and knowledge hub for data, analysis, exchange of experiences, best practice sharing, and advice on public policies and international standard-setting. Unlike the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund, the OECD does not dispense grants or make loans.

The OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) is an international forum bringing together many of the largest providers of aid to accelerate achievement of the SDGs. Efforts include sustainable economic development, the advancement of equalities within and among countries, poverty eradication and improvement of living standards in developing countries. The aim is for a future in which no country will depend on aid.

The OECD-DAC contributes to global efforts on food security and nutrition by:

- monitoring country spending on official development assistance;
- peer reviewing development systems and policies, including lessons learned on selected thematic issues; and
- developing standards and non-binding recommendations on effective policy approaches.

The OECD-DAC monitors the nutrition spending through the Creditor Reporting System. In 2018, a nutrition marker was designed to improve the identification, reporting and monitoring of multisectoral and cross-cutting nutrition activities. In collaboration with the SUN Donor Network and the Sun Movement Secretariat, the OECD Secretariat developed the OECD Nutrition Policy Marker Handbook, which provides information for data reporters and users on how to correctly mark activities with the nutrition marker and how to better interpret the data.

Read more

OECD-DAC website: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/development-assistance-committee>

OECD-DAC Nutrition Policy Marker Handbook: <https://scalingupnutrition.org/news/oecd-nutrition-policy-marker-handbook-available-online>

OECD's work on food systems: <https://www.oecd.org/food-systems>

SCALING UP NUTRITION MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) was established in March 2012 to provide catalytic grants for the development and implementation of actions for scaling up nutrition. Most of the funds were directed towards supporting civil society and initiatives that played a key role in advancing nutrition in programme countries. Since the creation of the SUN Movement, around 66 countries have committed to scale-up nutrition and hundreds of stakeholders have pledged to work together to support country actions and investments.

Read more

Website: <https://scalingupnutrition.org>

SPECIAL FUND FOR EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES

The Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) was established in 2004 to enhance FAO's capacity to rapidly respond to food security and agricultural emergencies. The fund has three main components – a working capital component, a revolving fund component, and a programme component.

The working capital component advances funds towards the immediate procurement of inputs to protect livelihoods, restart agricultural activities or respond to an immediate crisis.

The revolving fund component supports FAO's involvement in needs assessment and programme development, the early establishment and reinforcement of emergency country team capacities, and Level 3 emergency preparedness and response activities.

The programme component:

- pools resources in support of a programme framework for large-scale emergencies;
- strategically complements ongoing programmes through the Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity window; and
- responds to corporate early warnings.

Read more

SFERA annual report 2022: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/special-fund-emergency-and-rehabilitation-activities-sfera-annual-report-2022>

WORLD BANK GROUP

The World Bank Group is an international financial institution that provides loans, grants and technical support to the governments of low and middle-income countries with the goal to reduce poverty, increase shared prosperity and promote sustainable development.

The World Bank supports access to nutritious diets for vulnerable people in the most food-insecure countries of the world by:

- providing food assistance;
- helping improve food production for households;
- providing short-term income opportunities (e.g. cash-for-work initiatives);
- increasing the production and sale of crops, livestock and fish; and
- building capacity to manage food security and improve climate resilience.

The World Bank leads FoodSystems 2030, an umbrella multidonor trust fund that supports countries to transform their food systems to achieve the SDGs, particularly ending poverty and hunger, by 2030. Through the trust, the World Bank supports several African countries with their Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) national agriculture investment plans. FAO was a key partner in this process. FAO and the World Bank jointly supported the CAADP Nutrition Capacity Building Initiative for a multisectoral approach for policy and nutrition programming.

Read more

The World Bank's work on nutrition: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/nutrition>

FoodSystems 2030 trust fund: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/food-systems-2030/overview>

WORLD CANCER RESEARCH FUND

The World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) International is a charity that funds pioneering global cancer prevention research to identify how diet, weight and physical activity affect the risk of developing and surviving cancer.

As part of an international network of charities, the WCRF has been funding life-saving research to influence global public healthy policy and educating the public since 1982.

Read more

Website: <https://www.wcrf.org>



3.7 Philanthropic organizations

BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is a philanthropic institution with the mission to create a world where every person has the opportunity to live a healthy and productive life. It does this by:

- accelerating innovation and taking risks that the private sector cannot afford to take (e.g. giving scientists the resources to innovate for the benefit of those who cannot afford to pay);
- strengthening global cooperation by bringing together different governments, businesses, philanthropies and communities to transform lives around the world;
- creating market incentives to ensure access to products and services that people need to thrive; and
- generating high-quality data and evidence to drive progress by showing what is working and what isn't.

The institution funds initiatives to reduce preventable deaths and improve maternal and child health, with particular focus on the 1 000-day window of opportunity. Areas of specific focus include:

- Large scale food fortification. Investing in producing actionable data, delivering high-quality technical assistance to millers and food producers, achieving innovation in technology (e.g. micronutrients, food vehicles and devices).
- Nutritious food systems. The institution works on improving collaboration between agriculture and nutrition sectors, improving the production and delivery of nutritious foods and empowering women to expand their control of resources in the home.
- Maternal, infant and young child nutrition. The foundation supports service delivery and product innovation to improve maternal nutrition and prevent and treat malnutrition in infants and young children. This includes studying novel delivery channels for nutrition products and services, as well as supporting the research, policy reforms and commercialization that are required to implement these innovations on a broad scale.
- Upstream research and innovation. Supporting evidence for nutritional products such as micronutrient supplements, and developing new approaches to anaemia prevention and treatment.
- Policy, advocacy and communications. This workstream aims at increasing domestic and donor resources for nutrition, ensuring that these resources are being allocated to high-impact interventions. It also aims at improving multistakeholder coordination to achieve long-term impact. The foundation works with organizations, movements, and initiatives such as the SUN Movement, the Global Report, Save the Children, Helen Keller International and many more to build evidence, advocacy and political to reduce malnutrition globally. In Africa, the foundation supports several activities of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

Read more

The foundation's priorities on nutrition: <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/our-work/programs/global-growth-and-opportunity/nutrition>

ELEANOR CROOK FOUNDATION

The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) is a philanthropy established in the United States in 1997 to fight global malnutrition through research, policy analysis and advocacy.

ECF's research portfolio focuses on evidence generation to support the sustainable scaling up of proven nutrition interventions. Investments in research are mainly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, with a particular focus on East Africa. For example, ECF has funded several activities under the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting (GAP) initiative.

The policy portfolio aims to improve global understanding on how policy environments and institutional barriers impact malnutrition and what approaches are needed to improve them. Similarly, ECF supports many activities under the GAP initiative.

ECF invests in advocacy initiatives to make the case for global malnutrition as a policy and funding priority. This includes communication campaigns, policy-maker education efforts, and shoe-leather advocacy.

Read more

ECF website: <https://eleanorcrookfoundation.org>



ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

The Rockefeller Foundation is a philanthropic institution that promotes the well-being of humanity by finding and scaling solutions that advance opportunity and reverse the climate crisis.

In March 2022, the foundation launched its new Good Food Strategy with a commitment to invest USD 105 million over three years – between 2022 and 2025 – to increase access to healthy and sustainable foods for 40 million underserved people around the globe. The programme aims to support a shift in public and private spending towards foods that are nutritious, which regenerate the environment and which create equitable economic opportunity for people across the food supply chains. It does this through focusing on three levers of action – improving food data and science innovation, food policy, and food purchasing.

The *food data and science innovation* lever supports data systems that can better inform decision making on the real costs and benefits of the food consumed. This includes:

- expanding investments in the True Cost Accounting initiative, which evaluates all costs in the American food system beyond what consumers pay in stores;
- standardizing and democratizing principles, outcomes and metrics for regenerative or agroecological agriculture, including connecting a fleet of demonstration projects that show the impact potential of regenerative agriculture;
- harmonizing definitions of dietary quality; and
- launching the Periodic Table of Food Initiative, a global effort to create a public database containing the comprehensive biochemical composition and function of the most important foods from around the globe.

The *food policy* lever is expressed through the Food is Medicine programme. This addresses diet-related diseases by, for example, introducing prescription programmes and integrating healthy food as a covered health care benefit.

The *food purchasing* lever focuses on supporting large institutions such as schools and hospitals to use their existing food procurement budgets to buy foods that benefit people and the planet. This includes piloting a programme in Rwanda and developing the Good Food Purchasing Program Standards to guide institutions to make food choices that contribute to a healthier and more sustainable food future.

In Africa, the foundation is working to increase the availability of nutritious and environmentally sustainable food. It does this through institutional procurement by outfitting markets with clean and sustainable infrastructure, investing in smarter and more generative supply networks and practices, and enhancing livelihoods by supporting the growth of SMEs.

The Rockefeller Foundation funds the Food System Transformative Integrated Policy (FS-TIP), a collaborative effort between several research institutions to support African governments committed to developing and implementing transformative and integrated food systems policies to ensure sustainable healthy diets for all. The FS-TIP Food Systems Analysis Toolkit was developed under this initiative to help users conduct a landscaping and diagnostic analysis of a country's food system to understand key challenges and opportunities. The toolkit was implemented in Ghana, Malawi and Rwanda.

Read more

Rockefeller Foundation website: <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org>

3.8 Multilateral institutions, alliances, initiatives and networks

AGRICULTURE-NUTRITION COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice (Ag2Nut) is a global informal network of roughly 7 500 professionals from national and international NGOs, UN organizations, governments, universities, independent professionals, bilateral institutions and donor organizations from 129 countries.

The Ag2Nut platform and activities facilitate information sharing, networking and dialogue in support of a broader evidence base and shared advocacy. Core activities of the network are thematic webinars proposed by group members, announcement-only email lists and a LinkedIn Group.

In the past years the network has opened a space for country subgroups for Ethiopia, Ghana and Nigeria.

Read more

Ag2Nut website: <https://www.anh-academy.org/anh-academy/partnerships/ag2nut>

Link to joint the community: <https://communities.cc/ag2nut>

ALLIANCE2015 PARTNERSHIP

Alliance2015 is a strategic network of seven European non-government organizations including ACTED, Ayuda en Acción, Cesvi, Concern Worldwide, HELVETAS, People in Need, and Welthungerhilfe. The Network is engaged in humanitarian and development action for a world free from poverty, hunger, injustices and inequality.

Transforming food systems to tackle hunger and malnutrition worldwide is one of the key focus areas under the implemented activities.

Member organizations under Alliance2015 have jointly developed the Global Hunger Index (GHI), a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional and national levels. GHI scores are calculated each year to assess progress and setbacks in combating hunger.

Read more

Website: <https://www.alliance2015.org>

Global Hunger Index: <https://www.alliance2015.org/project/global-hunger-index>

COALITION OF ACTIONS ON HEALTHY DIETS FROM SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR CHILDREN AND ALL

The Coalition of Actions on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS) was launched during the 2021 UN Food System Summit. Its aim is to promote multistakeholder engagement for accelerated actions towards transforming food systems to deliver healthy diets within planetary boundaries.

The HDSFS conducts three interrelated functions:

- addressing priorities and challenges at the country level through aligning action across food systems for collective impact;
- facilitating peer-to-peer learning between countries; and
- managing special projects on integrating nutrition, health and sustainability through food, determined by country priorities.

The HDSFS has been working on projects such as healthy and sustainable diets in nationally determined contributions, sustainability and dietary guidelines, and healthy diets in fragile contexts.

The coalition membership comprises governments, civil society organizations, UN agencies, NGOs, and academic entities with the secretariat hosted by FAO, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat and WHO.

Read more

Website: <https://www.unnutrition.org/coalition-action-healthy-diets-sustainable-food-systems-children-and-all-hdsfs>

COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is an intergovernmental platform that develops and endorses policy recommendations and guidance on food security and nutrition-related themes through multistakeholder participation. Membership of the Committee is open to all FAO Member States, UN Member States, IFAD and WFP. The CFS reports to the Economic and Social Council and the FAO Conference.

The platform holds an annual plenary session every October at FAO headquarters in Rome. Participants include representatives of UN agencies and bodies, civil society, NGOs, international research institutions and think tanks, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and donors.

CFS recommendations are informed by scientific and evidence-based reports produced by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) and technical inputs provided by representatives of the CFS Advisory Group. The advisory group consists of UN agencies and other UN bodies, civil society, international agricultural research institutions, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and philanthropic foundations.

Read more

CFS website: <https://www.fao.org/cfs/en>

HLPE website: <https://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/en>

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE NETWORK ON THE HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

The Community of Practice Network (CoPN) on the Humanitarian Development Nexus is a network of practitioners established by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Humanitarian Development Nexus Task Team. It provides support and guidance on ways to strengthen collaboration across humanitarian, development and peace actors who have agreed to work together to solve problems of common concern, share knowledge, and cultivate best practices.

The CoPN brings together field practitioners from the UN, NGOs, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and IFRC, with possibilities to expand participation by other constituencies. The CoPN strongly supports non-UN-centric cross-regional representation of actors.

Read more

Brief on the Community of Practice: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-task-team-strengthening-humanitarian-development-nexus-focus-protracted-contexts/documents-68>

CONSCIOUS FOOD SYSTEMS ALLIANCE

The Conscious Food Systems Alliance (CoFSA) is a UNDP-led movement that supports the capacity of actors across agrifood systems to significantly contribute towards systemic changes and regeneration.

The movement explores ways to integrate evidence-based consciousness approaches and practices such as nature-connection, compassion, mindfulness, non-violent communication and self-reflection into food systems initiatives. These practices are considered pivotal to foster awareness, connection and creativity that can unlock structural solutions.

CoFSA works on achieving these objectives through:

- pioneering the application of consciousness approaches and practices across food systems through interventions including training, coaching and facilitation services, supported by research and learning frameworks; and
- establishing a community of practice and learning, within which individuals and organizations can connect, learn, support and inspire each other to build conscious food system.

Read more

Website: <https://www.undp.org/facs/conscious-food-systems-alliance>



FOOD AND LAND USE COALITION

The Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) is a partnership among different stakeholders working together to promote sustainable, equitable and resilient food and land-use systems. Core partners of FOLU are AGRA, EAT, GAIN, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), SYSTEMIQ, the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), and World Resources Institute (WRI).

Activities of the coalition focus on:

- building a shared understanding of hidden economic, environmental and health costs associated to the way in which we use land and produce, distribute, market and consume foods;
- identifying key opportunities to address these challenges through evidence and science-based solutions; and
- empowering farmers, policymakers, businesses, investors, and civil society to unlock collective action at scale.

Read more

Website: <https://www.foodandlandusecoalition.org>

FOOD FORTIFICATION INITIATIVE

The Food Fortification Initiative (FFI) is a public, private and civic sector partnership that works on addressing the global burden of micronutrient deficiencies through food fortification. It does this by providing technical assistance to governments, regional bodies, food producers and implementing agencies to plan, implement and monitor the fortification of three commonly consumed commodities – industrially milled wheat flour, maize flour, and rice.

In Africa, FFI supports countries to develop and scale-up fortification strategies by providing expertise, training and programme monitoring. FFI also works closely with regional bodies such as the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and the East, Central, and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC).

Read more

Website: <https://www.ffinetwork.org>

FOOD SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK

The Food Security Information Network (FSIN) is a technical global platform where government institutions and development partners engage in consultative processes to support country-led food security information systems and address critical data and information gaps.

The platform promotes timely, independent, flexible, demand-driven, and consensus-based information while facilitating exchange of expertise, knowledge and best practices on food security and nutrition analysis.

Read more

Website: <https://www.fsinplatform.org/about-us>

FORTIFIED WHOLE GRAIN ALLIANCE

The Fortified Whole Grain Alliance (FWGA) is a coalition that brings together expertise, resources, operations, funding, and convening power of its members to engage relevant stakeholders across the food system including nonprofit and private sector.

The alliance aims at increasing the global consumption of fortified whole grains, with a specific target to reach more than ten million people with fortified whole grains by 2025.

In Africa, FWGA works in Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda with initial focus on maize, rice and wheat. It has plans to include sorghum, millet and other nutritious and hardy grains in multigrain configurations.

Read more

Website: <https://fwg-alliance.org/about-us/who-we-are>

GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK

The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock is a partnership of livestock-sector stakeholders, including governments, civil society organizations, producers, academics and international organizations, who have joined forces to promote the sustainable development of the sector.

Identified key work areas include improving production efficiency, restoring value to grasslands, and managing manure to reduce air and water pollution. The organization supports these activities by promoting supportive policies through political dialogue and by developing tools, promoting economic incentives and encouraging further research.

Read more

Website: <https://www.livestockdialogue.org>

GLOBAL DIET QUALITY PROJECT

The Global Diet Quality Project is a collaboration between Gallup, the Harvard Department of Global Health and Population, and GAIN.

The project aims to collect quality dietary data in the general adult population across countries and to provide the tools for valid and feasible diet quality monitoring within countries. The project has enabled the collection of consistent, comparable dietary data across countries for the first time.

Read more:

Website: <https://www.dietquality.org>

GLOBAL NETWORK AGAINST FOOD CRISIS

The Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) is an alliance of humanitarian and development actors working on addressing the root causes of food crises and promoting sustainable solutions through shared analysis and knowledge. It strengthens coordination in evidence-based responses and collective efforts across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. It is co-led by FAO and WFP.

GNAFC publishes reports such as the Global Report on Food Crises, Hunger Spots, and other available resources to inform advocacy and policymaking. It organizes events addressing food insecurity and its root causes in climate, conflict and economic factors.

Read more:

Website: <https://www.fightfoodcrises.net>

GRAND BARGAIN

The Grand Bargain is an agreement among the largest donors and humanitarian organizations who are committed to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian efforts to better provide resources to those in need. It was launched at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit.

In 2021, signatories adopted a reformed version of the agreement to reframe the overall objective to achieving, “Better humanitarian outcomes for affected populations through enhanced efficiency, effectiveness, and greater accountability, in the spirit of quid pro quo as relevant to all.” The reforms focused on addressing specific strategic issues on an ad hoc basis, with clear objectives and limited timeframe.

One of the priority areas of the agreement is harmonizing engagement between humanitarian and development interventions. In 2018, FAO, IFAD and WFP launched a five-year programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Niger and Somalia. The joint programme aimed to meet immediate food needs while sustainably increasing food security and strengthening the resilience of food-insecure households in regions affected by protracted and recurrent crises.

Read more

Website: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/content/grand-bargain-hosted-iasc>

FAO’s country-level implementation of the Grand Bargain: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain-official-website/grand-bargain-practice-faos-implementation-country-level>

The five-year programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Niger and Somalia: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/fd3fc11d-9259-492a-857b-05530e5c1175/content>

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR ADVOCACY ON NUTRITION

The International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN) is a global network of 30+ organizations, including advocates, implementers, campaigners and foundations. Their goal is to strengthen civil society coordination and advocacy to realize the World Health Assembly (WHA) global nutrition targets, the 2025 NCD targets and SDG 2 by 2030.

Established shortly after the first Nutrition for Growth Summit in London, the coalition aims to sustain the momentum created by the summit and continue influencing and inspiring governments and donors to mobilize resources and policies for nutrition while also holding N4G commitment makers accountable for their pledges.

The advocacy work of the coalition is predominantly focused on bilateral governments and donors. It also has a strong focus on key global institutions including the World Bank, other development banks, the UN and related UN agencies (WHO, FAO, WFP, UNICEF).

The coalition also supports international movements and multistakeholder networks such as the SUN Movement and SUN Civil Society Alliances.

Read more

Website: <https://thousanddays.org/ican>

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is a multilateral agency with a joint mandate with the World Trade Organization and the UN (through the United Nations Conference on Trade Development) to improve the lives of people in developing countries through inclusive and sustainable trade. Pursued goals include:

- achieving economic empowerment and fairly paid job opportunities for women, youth, refugees, migrants and other vulnerable populations;
- supporting businesses to transition towards sustainable development through the circular economy; and
- leveraging technology to narrow the digital divide.

These goals guide the centre's contribution towards the global nutrition agenda by:

- building more sustainable and competitive agrifood business environments;
- building public-private partnerships, alliances between supply-chain operators, meaningful investment and enabling policies that are essential for lasting impact; and
- helping micro, small and medium-sized businesses across the food supply chain thrive in global, regional and local markets.

Supported food and nutrition-relevant sectors include fruits, vegetables and live animals.

Read more

ITC nutrition: <https://intracen.org/our-work/topics/food-and-agriculture>

HUMANITARIAN–DEVELOPMENT–PEACE NEXUS COALITION

The Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus Coalition is co-led by FAO, the G7+, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and WFP. It has a wide membership that comprises UN organizations, NGOs, civil society and research institutions, as well as Member States and regional organizations – including fragile, conflict-affected and donor states.

The coalition's priority areas focus on two main workstreams: research and advocacy:

- The coalition shares relevant research, promotes a common understanding, and advocates for action and commitment to address them.
- The advocacy work aims to leverage the coalition's membership and seize the momentum generated by the Food Systems Summit to strengthen the humanitarian–development–peace nexus approaches to addressing food crisis.

The coalition's operations are coordinated by a dedicated secretariat funded by the European Union and hosted by GNAFC.

Read more

Website: <https://www.fightfoodcrises.net/hdp-coalition/en/>

INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION AND THE CADRE HARMONISÉ

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multipartner initiative that provides decision-makers with rigorous analysis of food insecurity and acute malnutrition situations to inform emergency responses and the development of policies and programmes.

Governments, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society and other relevant actors use IPC classification and analytical approaches to determine the severity and magnitude of acute and chronic food insecurity and malnutrition situations.

The Cadre Harmonisé is a unifying tool that helps to produce relevant, consensual, rigorous and transparent analyses of current and projected food and nutrition situations. Similarly to the IPC, it aims to classify the severity of food and nutrition insecurity based on the international classification scale. It relies on existing food security and nutrition information systems already in place in most Sahel countries and coastal countries in West Africa.

In recent years, the IPC and Cadre Harmonisé have increased their convergence to improve the comparability of their analyses findings in more than 40 countries.

Read more

IPC website: <https://www.ipcinfo.org>

Cadre Harmonisé website: <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ch/>



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is a group of parliamentarians with 179 members and 14 associate members from around the world dedicated to promoting peace through parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue.

The union actively promotes awareness-raising on global nutrition challenges and advocates for greater political engagement needed to achieve global nutrition targets. In 2021, the IPU collaborated with FAO, WHO and others to publish Food Systems and Nutrition, its 32nd handbook for parliamentarians. The handbook provides lawmakers with practical guidance on legislative processes that prioritize nutrition.

Read more

The IPU's work on nutrition: <https://www.ipu.org/news/news-in-brief/2014-11/parliamentary-perspective-nutrition-challenges-and-opportunities>

The Handbook for Parliamentarians: <https://www.ipu.org/handbook-nutrition2021>

ONE PLANET SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME

The One Planet Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) programme is a voluntary global multistakeholder partnership in which various parties agree to work together to promote and accelerate the implementation of sustainable public procurement globally as a way to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The SPP programme is co-led by the Environmental Development Centre of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands (Rijkswaterstaat) playing a fundamental role as a strategic partner.

The SPP envisions a world in which environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability are embedded in public procurement policies and practices as a means of promoting efficiency, value for public spending, good governance and integrity in public procurement.

Read more

Programme outline: <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-public-procurement>

More information: <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-public-procurement/about>

SCALING UP NUTRITION (SUN)

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is a platform that brings governments and non-governmental entities together to drive action to improve nutrition through integrated multisectoral approaches. The initiative is country-driven, with 65 adhering countries and four Indian states that are collectively known as the SUN countries. It is organized in four networks: business, civil society, donors, and the UN system.

The SUN initiative aims at sharply scaling up evidence-based, cost-effective interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition and incorporate nutrition objectives into relevant sectors. These sectors include agriculture, social protection, health, WASH, education and cross-cutting issues such as gender, governance and state fragility.

Read more

Website: <https://scalingupnutrition.org>

SCHOOL MEALS COALITION

The School Meals Coalition is an international initiative launched at the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 to improve or restore national school meal programmes disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve access to healthy school meals by all school-age children by 2030. A committed task force and a small secretariat are hosted by the World Food Programme.

The coalition is led by governments with support from regional institutions, academia, think tanks, foundations, development banks, international financial institutions, NGOs, cities and UN agencies, among others.

The coalition initiatives are intended to support governments in making national commitments and fostering country-to-country exchanges and regional level initiatives.

Read more

Website: <https://schoolmealscoalition.org>

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, THE INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE AND THE HUMANITARIAN CLUSTERS

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is a body established by the UN General Assembly to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters. It does this through five core functions – coordination, advocacy and communications, humanitarian financing, policy and information management.

OCHA carries out these functions through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), a forum that brings together UN and non-UN humanitarian partners, demarcates responsibilities across the various dimensions of humanitarian assistance, identifies and addresses gaps, and advocates for effective application of humanitarian principles.

In 2005, after a major reform known as the Humanitarian Reform Agenda, the cluster approach was introduced in the humanitarian coordination system as a way to address gaps and strengthen the effectiveness of humanitarian response through building partnerships. Clusters are groups of UN and non-UN organizations operating in key sectors of humanitarian intervention, including food security, nutrition, health, WASH, protection, shelter and education. They are designated by the IASC and have clear responsibilities for coordination:

- The Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) was established in 2011 to coordinate food security responses during humanitarian crises and to address issues of food availability and utilization. It is co-led by FAO and WFP. Improving humanitarian-development collaboration is one of the key priority actions under the IASC operational framework. The gFSC has been working on implementing this principle in several African countries by leveraging the network of different stakeholders and cluster coordination structures at country level. The cluster has developed guidance materials on best approaches to operationalize the humanitarian–development–peace nexus at country level to address key drivers of food insecurity and hunger in fragile contexts.
- The Nutrition Cluster was established in 2006 to safeguard and improve the nutritional status of emergency-affected populations by ensuring a response that is predictable, timely and effective at scale. UNICEF is the lead agency.

Read more

OCHA website: <https://www.unocha.org>

IASC website: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org>

Global Food Security Cluster website: <https://fscluster.org>

Global Nutrition Cluster website: <https://www.nutritioncluster.net>

URBAN FOOD SYSTEM COALITION

The Urban Food System Coalition is an informal urban food systems working group co-led by FAO and GAIN that promotes the sustainable and inclusive transformation of food systems. It is composed of city networks, NGOs, academia and UN agencies. The coalition emerged from the 2021 UN Food System Summit where the importance of the urban food agenda was strongly highlighted.

Key work areas include:

- connecting small, intermediary and larger metropolitan cities and national governments;
- driving dialogue and inclusion to better understand barriers and opportunities for urban food system transformation and to share experiences and best practices;
- promoting evidence-driven decision making through facilitation of knowledge and experience exchange among key stakeholders and the production, management and distribution of data;
- mobilizing and leveraging human and financial resources to support the capacities of urban administrations to integrate food systems into urban policies, planning and investments;
- engaging with networks and strengthening partnerships between governments, civil society, the private sector and non-governmental actors; and
- advocating at local and global level for inclusive and sustainable urban food systems.

Read more

Website: <https://ufs-coalition.org>

WORLD FOOD FORUM

The World Food Forum (WFF) is an independent, youth-led network of partners facilitated by FAO. The Forum was launched in 2021 to provide a platform that empowers young people and enables them to actively contribute towards shaping agrifood systems.

The forum was conceived as a youth platform in global food governance to encourage youth-led solutions in innovation, science and technology. In practice, the forum promotes engagement and advocacy, mobilizes resources, and connects youth groups, influencers, companies, academic institutions, nonprofits, governments, media and the public.

Read more

Website: <https://www.world-food-forum.org>



4. Regional stakeholders

This section identifies key regional nutrition stakeholders operating in Africa.

4.1 Continental institutions and initiatives

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is one of the flagship projects of the African Union Agenda 2063. It was established to eliminate trade barriers and enable the free flow of goods and services across the member countries, helping to boost African economies. The agreement came into effect in May 2019 when 24 Member States deposited their instruments of ratification. By February 2023, 46 of the 54 signatories had ratified the agreement.

According to a study that modelled the potential impact of trade liberalization on food security and nutrition (Simola *et al.*, 2021), the availability of and access to food commodities is expected to increase. Food prices are also expected to rise more than the wages of the low-income groups, negatively affecting their economic access and requiring additional attention towards establishing food safety nets for the most vulnerable.

While available studies base their analysis on modelling, further studies might be needed to accurately assess the impact of the continental agreement on food security and nutrition.

Read more:

Website: <https://au-afcfta.org>



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The African Development Bank Group is a regional multilateral development finance institution that comprises three entities – the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Development Fund, and the Nigeria Trust Fund. Being the continental development finance institution, it aims to help reduce poverty, improve living conditions for Africans and mobilize resources for the continent's economic and social development.

The AfDB's development agenda is focused around five key priority areas known as the "High 5s" for transforming Africa: Light up and power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialize Africa, Integrate Africa, and Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa.

Nutrition is regarded as a priority area and is addressed under the "Feed Africa" and "Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa" agendas.

The AfDB leads the African Leaders for Nutrition initiative, which engages heads of state and ministers of finance to champion nutrition and support greater visibility, accountability and financing for nutrition on the continent. The initiative pursues its goals through two advocacy tools: the Nutrition Accountability Scorecard, which tracks country and continental progress on global nutrition targets, and the Economic Investment Case for Nutrition, a biannual review of economic studies of cost-effective nutrition interventions in Africa to identify gaps and needs to finance nutrition targets.

In addition, the AfDB has launched the Banking on Nutrition programme in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the African Commission. The programme aims to generate long-term economic growth across Africa by unlocking the nutrition potential of the bank's investment portfolio through a three-part approach:

- mainstreaming nutrition into the bank's portfolio and pipeline;
- working to increase the production and consumption of safe and nutritious foods through partnerships with regional member countries and regional and private sector partners; and
- encouraging regional member countries to prioritize nutrition-smart lending requests and investments that deliver greater social and economic return together with nutrition impact.

Read more

The AfDB's work on nutrition: <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors-topics/nutrition>

AFRICAN UNION AND AUDA-NEPAD

The African Union (AU) is an African continental body that consists of 55 member countries. The institution plays a critical role in setting the continental nutrition agenda, promoting political engagement, and coordinating international cooperation efforts to facilitate translation of high-level commitments into pragmatic actions at country level.

Agenda 2063 is the African Union's strategic framework for transforming Africa into a global powerhouse of the future. It aims to achieve inclusive and sustainable development by the year 2063 through regional integration, economic growth and social progress. It recognizes the importance of ensuring that African citizens have a high standard of living, quality of life, and sound health and well-being.

The **African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD)** plays a crucial role in implementing Agenda 2063. Originally established in 2001 as NEPAD, it was rebranded as AUDA-NEPAD in 2018 to focus more explicitly on the technical implementation of the Agenda 2063 projects and programmes. The agency is mandated to:

- coordinate and execute priority actions to accelerate the achievement of the continental strategic priorities;
- strengthen the capacity of AU Member States and regional bodies;
- advance knowledge-based advisory support;
- undertake resource mobilization; and
- serve as the continent's technical interface with all of Africa's development stakeholders and development partners.

The **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)** framework is a strategic initiative of the AU that guides African countries in reforming their agrifood systems. The focus is on increasing investment, enhancing productivity, ensuring food security, promoting sustainable food systems and ensuring that agriculture contributes to economic growth and poverty reduction. The framework was established through the Maputo Declaration in 2003 and further refined through the Malabo Declaration in 2014. The AU is currently spearheading technical consultations to define the strategic framework for the post-Malabo decade.

Within this background, meaningful continental initiatives that can be mentioned include:

- The African Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS): a strategy that provides guidance on nutrition policies and programmes over 10-year periods (1993–2004, 2005–2015 and 2015–2025) and sets nutrition targets, action plans, budgets and expenditure tracking systems for effective implementation and monitoring of nutrition interventions.
- The AUDA-NEPAD Nutrition and Food System Implementation Plan (2019–2025): a plan developed in 2018 with the theme, "Towards a coordinated and accelerated action for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition in Africa".
- Continental Accountability Nutrition Scorecard: a tool launched by the AU in 2019 to promote accountability and to monitor progress towards achieving continental nutrition targets.
- Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study: an initiative that emerged from the 2014 Malabo Summit to end hunger and reduce child stunting and underweight. The study enables AU Member States to estimate the social and economic impacts of child undernutrition in a given year.
- African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN): an initiative endorsed by AU heads of states and government that promotes high-level political engagement to advance nutrition in Africa.
- The Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFSN) and the Africa Day for School Feeding: focus days institutionalized in 2010 and 2016 respectively to generate momentum around these themes.

Read more

AU priorities on nutrition: <https://au.int/en/promoting-health-nutrition>

AUDA-NEPAD work on food security and nutrition: <https://www.nepad.org/nutrition>

The CAADP website: <https://caadp.org>

PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) is a legislative body of the AU established to provide a platform for African people and their grassroots organizations to participate in discussions and decision-making on issues affecting the continent. Formally inaugurated in 2004, the PAP serves as a consultative and advisory institution aimed at promoting democracy, human rights, good governance and sustainable development across Africa. With members drawn from the parliaments of AU Member States, the PAP seeks to foster greater integration and unity within the continent by harmonizing laws and policies and ensuring that the voices of African citizens are represented in continental governance.

In 2016, the PAP in collaboration with FAO and the AU endorsed the Pan African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. The purpose of the alliance is to involve parliamentarians more actively in addressing food security and nutrition issues across the continent, recognizing the critical role they play in legislating, budgeting and overseeing the implementation of policies. By bringing together parliamentarians from across Africa, the alliance aims to create a unified legislative response to the pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, aligning with both regional priorities and international frameworks such as the SDGs.

The PAP-FAO partnership has produced a Model Law on Food and Nutrition Security, adopted by the PAP in November 2022. Other areas of collaboration include home-grown school feeding, biofortification and engaging the Youth Parliamentary Forum on various topics concerning youth, nutrition and food systems.

Read more

Website: <https://pap.au.int/en>

Model Law on Food Security and Nutrition: <https://pap.au.int/sites/default/files/files/2024-06/papmodellawonfoodandnutritionsecurityinafricafinal.pdf>



4.2 Regional bodies and alliances

ARAB MAGHREB UNION

The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) was founded by Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia in 1989 to strengthen economic and political unity in the region. The goals of the AMU are to:

- achieve progress and prosperity for their societies and to defend their rights;
- harmonize policies and strategies to achieve sustainable development;
- preserve peace based on justice and equity; and
- work together towards achieving free movement of persons, services, goods and capital within the region.

With reference to nutrition, Article 3 of the AMU Treaty highlights the relevance of jointly working on the development of agriculture, industry and commerce, and achieving food security.

Read more

Website: <https://maghrebarabe.org/fr>



COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is a regional economic community created to achieve sustainable economic and social progress. It aims to do this through increased cooperation and integration in all fields of development, particularly in:

- trade and transport;
- customs and monetary affairs;
- communication and information;
- technology, industry and energy;
- agriculture and natural resources; and
- gender issues.

In 2015, COMESA, EAC and SADC made a joint commitment to set up a Tripartite Free Trade Area to cooperate on industrial development, market integration and infrastructure development.

COMESA's 2021–2025 strategic plan is based on four pillars: market integration, physical integration/connectivity, productive integration, and gender and social integration.

Food security and nutrition-related issues are addressed under the productive integration pillar, which defines a set of priority action areas:

- promoting increased agricultural production – including post-harvest management and processing of strategic food value chains (crops, fisheries, livestock and forestry);
- promoting competitiveness and market access/linkages for agricultural goods and services for micro enterprises and SMEs;
- strengthening food safety and technical standards (phytosanitary and zoosanitary norms);
- promoting and supporting regional agriculture research and innovation for development;
- developing a comprehensive regional database with information on agricultural markets and food security to inform programming and opportunities for investment; and
- promoting nutrition resilience and security through strengthening regional coordination and linkages to information and tools for managing climate risks, diseases and other hazards.

In 2020, COMESA developed the COMESA COVID-19 Food and Nutrition Security Response Plan to help the region with the impact of COVID-19 on food security. The plan aimed to tackle the immediate needs while building long-term regional agriculture and integration.

In 2022, COMESA partnered with the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to develop a digital Regional Food Balance Sheet to inform data-driven decisions on production support, trade policy and stock management.

Read more

COMESA priorities on food security: <https://www.comesa.int/food-security>

COMMUNITY OF SAHEL-SAHARAN STATES

The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) was established in 1998 by six countries and since then has grown to 29. CEN-SAD was formally recognized as a regional economic community in 2000.

The primary objectives of the community are:

- the establishment of a comprehensive economic union;
- elimination of all obstacles impeding the unity of its Member States to promote economic, cultural, political and social integration; and
- coordination of pedagogical and educational systems at the various educational levels as well as in the cultural, scientific and technical fields.

The revised treaty emphasized two other areas of cooperation, namely, regional security and sustainable development.

Although some online documents mention the existence of regional food security strategies, direct links to the strategies were not found.

Read more

CEN-SAD profile in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) website:

<https://archive.uneca.org/oria/pages/cen-sad-community-sahel-saharan-states>

CEN-SAD's revised treaty: <https://edit.wti.org/document/show/5dbd7174-6ed3-403d-a5ed-9b1de76cd34e>





EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization of seven countries – Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The community is constituted with the mission of deepening economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments.

Enhancing food security through harmonized agriculture and livestock policies is one of the priority areas in the EAC integration process. The EAC Food Security Action Plan (FSAP) was the first regional policy framework developed to guide the coordination and implementation of flagship projects to catalyse agricultural transformation. FSAP was succeeded by the EAC Food and Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan (2019–2024), which was formulated to address hunger, malnutrition and extreme poverty challenges in the East African region.

These two regional policies have played critical roles in providing a framework for action within the region. In 2018, the EAC Secretariat, with technical and financial support from AUDA-NEPAD, organized a regional capacity development workshop on Food and Nutrition Security Knowledge Management. In line with the Malabo Declaration, the initiative aims at improving the capacity of Member States on knowledge sharing and monitoring in the region. The workshop led to the creation of Community of Practice and launch of the EAC regional hub on food and security matters.

To facilitate information exchange and support decision-making processes, EAC has established two online systems: the Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) and the Animal Resources Information System (ARIS). The RFBS provides evidence-based data on food stock availability to inform policy food movement within the region from areas of surplus to those of deficit. The ARIS database generates data and information to inform policymaking and investment in the livestock and fisheries subsectors.

Read more

EAC's agenda for agriculture and food security: <https://www.eac.int/agriculture>

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) was created in 1983, but due to inactivity it was designated a pillar of the African Economic Community in 1999. ECCAS Members States are Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe.

ECCAS aims to promote cooperation for balanced and self-sustained economic development. In particular, it focuses on industry, transport and communications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, trade, customs, monetary and financial matters, human resources, tourism, education, culture, science and technology, and the movement of people.

FAO, in collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, has been actively supporting the Network of Central African Parliamentary Alliances on Food Security and Nutrition (REPAC-SAN). The network was established in 2019 to advocate for high political commitment on food security and nutrition.

Read more

Activities of the REPAC-SAN network: <https://www.fao.org/partnerships/parliamentary-alliances/news/news-article/es/c/1633149/>

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional political and economic union of 15 West African countries.

Addressing food security and nutrition is a key priority area for the region and is reflected in key regional strategic plans, including the ECOWAS Agriculture Policy (ECOWAP) 2015–2025 and the West African Health Organization (WAHO) Regional Nutrition Strategic Plan for West Africa 2018–2025. Under the framework provided by these sectoral policies, global and regional actors have been actively promoting improved nutrition and health in different ways. The ECOWAS Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has developed a nutrition agenda that aims at effectively integrating nutrition into agriculture sector policies and programmes. The agenda provides Member States with strategic orientation on priority actions required to enhance nutrition through sustainable agrifood systems.

The West African Health Organization (WAHO) is an ECOWAS specialized institution responsible for health issues, spearheading regional nutrition and health policies and coordinating their implementation. Among other activities, WAHO convenes the ECOWAS Nutrition Forum, a biennial meeting established in 2004 to provide a platform for ECOWAS countries and relevant non-state nutrition stakeholders to build a collective understanding of sustainable and integrated approaches to food security and nutrition.

Read more

ECOWAS website: <https://www.ecowas.int>

ECOWAP website: <https://ecowap.ecowas.int>



INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is an East African trade bloc that comprises Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda. It was created in 1996 to supersede the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), which was founded in 1986 to address widespread famine, ecological degradation and economic downturns deriving from recurring droughts and other natural disasters in the region. Through the new structure, member countries have expanded the scope of the cooperation to incorporate new emerging political and socioeconomic challenges. The IGAD Regional Strategy (2021–2025) identifies several key priority areas:

- food security and environmental protection;
- economic cooperation and regional integration;
- health and social development; and
- peace and security.

Within the framework provided by the Regional Strategy, IGAD has been supporting different initiatives to promote nutrition, food security and climate-smart agriculture:

- In 2020, the institution developed the IGAD Food Security and Nutrition Response Strategy (2020–2022) to significantly reduce food insecurity and malnutrition posed by multiple disasters affecting the region.
- In 2022, IGAD and partners launched the Regional Learning Network on Monitoring Nutrition with the goal of establishing effective policies, advocacy and action planning around nutrition in the region.
- In June 2023, IGAD in collaboration with FAO and with financial support from the World Bank, organized a high-level ministerial meeting to validate the IGAD Regional Food Safety Strategy.

Read more

Website: <https://igad.int>



REGIONAL ALLIANCES AND INITIATIVES IN THE SAHEL

Several regional cooperation institutions have been established in the Sahel region to pursue diverse purposes and can be considered as potential drivers to promote cross-country collaboration for improved nutrition and food systems.

The **G5 Sahel** is a platform for coordinating regional cooperation policies and security matters. It was adopted in 2014 by Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger.

The **Sahel Alliance** is composed of five Sahel countries – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger. It was created in 2017 to advance cooperation and development between the countries. Specifically, it aims to provide more effective and structured support in the areas where Sahel countries face particular challenges, including:

- agriculture, rural development and food security;
- decentralization and basic services;
- education and youth employment;
- energy and climate; and
- governance.

The **Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel** (*Comité permanent inter-État de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel*, abbreviated as CILLSS) comprises 14 Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Togo. It aims to invest in research for food security and the fight against the effects of drought and desertification for a new ecological balance in the Sahel.

The **Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR)** is an international initiative that brings together governments, regional organizations, donors and the aid community. The regional governance of the alliance relies on the political and technical guidance from ECOWAS, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and CILLSS. It was launched in 2012 to build resilience to the recurrent food and nutrition crises that affect the Sahel and West Africa. The initiative focuses on SDG 2 Zero Hunger through four strategic pillars:

- restore, strengthen and secure livelihoods and improve social protection for the most vulnerable communities and households;
- strengthen nutrition of vulnerable households;
- sustainably strengthen agriculture, food productivity and incomes of vulnerable households and improve their access to food; and
- strengthen governance for food and nutritional security.

Read more

G5 Sahel website: <https://www.g5sahel.org>

The Sahel Alliance website: <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/>

CILLSS website: <https://www.globalresiliencepartnership.org/partner/cilss-permanent-interstate-committee-for-drought-control-in-the-sahel/>

AGIR website: https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/agir-global-alliance-resilience-initiative_en



SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) promotes cooperation and integration between states in Southern Africa. More specifically, it works to achieve development and economic growth, alleviate poverty and enhance people's living standards while supporting the socially disadvantaged through regional integration. The SADC programmes and activities are facilitated through the SADC Secretariat.

Considering the concerning levels malnutrition in the region, SADC has developed a regional policy framework – the SADC Food Security and Nutrition Security Strategy (2015–2025) – to reduce food and nutrition insecurity. It does this by:

- promoting the availability of food through improved production, productivity and competitiveness;
- improving access to adequate and appropriate food in terms of quality and quantity;
- improving the utilization of nutritious, healthy, diverse and safe food for consumption under adequate biological and social environments with proper health care; and
- ensuring stable and sustainable availability, access and utilization of food.

SADC has prioritized the role of nutrition in several key regional policy frameworks, including the Health Policy Framework, the SADC Protocol on Health, the Regional Agricultural Policy, the Maseru Declaration on HIV/AIDs, and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, among others. These policies aim to address health research and surveillance, health information systems, NCDs, nutrition and nutrition safety.

Within this policy panorama, SADC has been actively promoting initiatives to translate these high-level commitments into programmes and initiatives to support member countries in developing and implementing nutrition-enhancing programmes. In 2020, the region developed the SADC Minimum Standards for Food Fortification to provide safe and nutritionally rich food products to consumers while assisting producers and importers to meet regional market requirements. In 2021, SADC Member States developed regional school nutrition guidelines to inform policymakers on minimum principles to be considered when developing or reviewing national programmes, provide a common monitoring and evaluation framework, and share regional best practices.

Read more

SADC nutrition and health priorities: <https://www.sadc.int/pillars/health-and-nutrition>

4.3 Regional academia, research institutions and think tanks

AFRICAN NUTRITION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME – NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY, SOUTH AFRICA

The African Nutrition Leadership Programme, based at the North-West University in South Africa, is an initiative to develop individual and institutional leadership capacity at various levels in nutrition across the African continent.

Read more

Programme website: <https://africannutritionleadership.org>

AFRICAN NUTRITION SOCIETY (ANS)

Founded in 2008, the African Nutrition Society (ANS) is a registered scientific professional organization, established as a learned society for nutritional scientists, food scientists and health professionals focused on advancing the nutrition agenda across Africa. ANS serves as an umbrella organization dedicated to developing and promoting the nutrition profession in Africa and overseas. It also convenes the African Nutritional Epidemiology Conferences, which have been held since 2002.

The ANS prioritizes advancing food and nutritional sciences as a field aligned with medicine and which is essential for effective health policies and optimal population health. The society is committed to supporting members in their efforts to enhance the nutritional well-being of their communities while ensuring that they meet high standards in scientific training, research capability and professional practice. Although the organization is based in Africa, its membership is open globally to nutritionists and professionals interested in the impact of nutrition on human and economic development across the African continent.

Read more

Website: <https://www.ansnet.org/en/about/>

AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is a pan-African non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal. It was established to support CAADP implementation through policy research and capacity strengthening.

The organization was created in 2020 and hosts the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS), the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modelling Consortium, and the Malabo Montpellier Panel (MaMo Panel). These initiatives are led by IFPRI and aim to support the CAADP implementation efforts at regional and country level.

Read more

Website: <https://akademiya2063.org>

ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) is a regional coordination body established in 1985 to strengthen cooperation among national, regional and international research institutions and centres through the exchange of information, experiences and research results.

Its goals are to contribute towards achieving more self-reliance in food and agriculture and to improve the nutritional well-being of the people of the Near East and North African Region while sustaining and further improving the productive capacity of the natural resources base.

The institution covers five main subregions:

- Maghreb (Algeria, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia);
- Nile Valley and Red Sea (Djibouti, Egypt, Somalia, the Sudan, Yemen);
- Mashreq (Cyprus, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic);
- Arabian Peninsula (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates); and
- West Asia (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Türkiye).

Read more

Website: <https://aarinena.org>

FEDERATION OF AFRICAN NUTRITION SOCIETIES

The Federation of African Nutrition Society (FANUS) is a conglomeration of nutrition societies committed to improving the visibility and functionality of member countries' nutrition societies so that they can unite their efforts to improve nutrition in Africa.

The consortium has organized five international conferences to promote scientific and technical exchanges and to deepen knowledge of food and nutrition issues with the view to supporting decision-makers and raising public awareness of nutrition issues.

Read more

Website: <https://fanus.org>

FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is a continental organization that coordinates and advocates for agricultural research for development. The institution serves as the technical arm of the Africa Union Commission on matters concerning agriculture science, technology and innovation. It was conceived to strengthen and bring together the fragmented agricultural research system under a common banner, provide a continental forum for stakeholders in research and development, and shape a common agenda and vision for the subsector in line with CAADP.

As a coordination body, FARA operates according to the principle of a subsidiarity, devolving the implementation of programmes to national agriculture research institutions and the subregional organizations, including:

- the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA);
- the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA);
- the West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research (CORAF); and
- the North African Sub-Regional Organization (NASRO).

Implemented programmes are grouped into four clusters: knowledge management and decision support, capacity development for agriculture entrepreneurship, innovation to impact partnerships and systems, and research management and leadership.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

In collaboration with FAO, FARA has developed a compendium of nutrient-dense indigenous crops to inform and advocate for policies that promote their effective integration into modern food systems.

Read more

Website: <https://faraafrica.org>

FAO-FARA *Compendium of forgotten foods in Africa*: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/d2e7ab4b-0035-45d2-b643-4ac4d75b3684>

ASARECA website: <https://www.asareca.org>

CCARDESA website: <https://www.ccardesa.org>

CORAF website: <http://www.coraf.org>

GHANA ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

The Ghana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (GAND) is a professional association representing the professional, educational, public and workplace interests of licensed and registered dietitians and nutritionists in Ghana. The academy seeks to pursue the advancement of nutritional knowledge and practice. Members of the academy include registered dietitians and nutritionists. The academy has associate members that are scientists and practitioners with relevant qualifications in nutrition, dietetics or food-science related field and students.

The vision of the academy is to represent highly skilled nutrition and dietetics professionals contributing towards achieving optimal nutrition through credible sources of nutrition and food information. The mission is to promote a supportive environment responsive to the needs of highly skilled nutrition and dietetic professionals who are committed to providing a high standard of practice, research and advocacy.

Read more

Website: <https://gandonline.org/about>

JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Nairobi is a public university with a strong research interest in biotechnology and engineering.

JKUAT plays an effective role in the development of agriculture and technology in conjunction with industry and provides extension services to contribute to the social and economic development of Kenya. It also cooperates with the government in the development of new university faculties, departments, degree courses and subjects of study.

In 2023, under a government-led national food fortification programme, the university launched the EU-funded Kenya National Food Fortification Reference Laboratory to address the micronutrient deficiency challenge in the country. Equipped with modern tools for analysis, the laboratory will support the government's efforts to reduce malnutrition through the addition of essential micronutrients in widely consumed staple foods.

FAO and JKUAT have partnered in the implementation of a project aimed to strengthen the capacity of SMEs to deliver healthy and nutritious diets.

Read more

Website: <https://www.jkuat.ac.ke>



REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

The Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) is a specialized institution established in 2019 as a collaboration between WFP and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. CERFAM serves as a hub to support African countries in their efforts to develop and implement sustainable policies and programmes to achieve SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and combat all forms of malnutrition in line with the 2030 Agenda.

Core functions of the centre include:

- conducting research;
- building capacity; and
- sharing knowledge and best practices to address hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in Africa.

Read more

Website: <https://www.wfp.org/centre-of-excellence-against-hunger-malnutrition>

REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES FORUM FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN AGRICULTURE

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of universities in Africa created to catalyse sustainable and inclusive agricultural development by providing demand-driven solutions for smallholder farmers and other actors in the food value chain.

Read more

Website: <http://www.ruforum.org>

SENGHOR UNIVERSITY

Senghor University offers a specialization in global food and nutrition policy. In line with the SDGs, it provides practical training through a multidisciplinary approach to food and nutrition policy with a focus on African countries. Content of the training resources is produced in partnership with research institutions, large NGOs and UN agencies.

The training provides young nutritionists and health professionals wishing to get involved in the field of international nutrition with the methods and tools enabling them to work on nutrition policies and programmes.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

The university has partnered with FAO in the development and implementation of the Effective Nutrition in Action (ENACT) programme.

Read more

The training programme: <https://www.usenghor-francophonie.org/nutrition-internationale/>

SOUTHERN AFRICA FOOD LAB – STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

The Southern Africa Food Lab is an initiative that promotes multistakeholder engagement and collaboration to transform food systems. The initiative is housed under the umbrella of the Food Security Initiative at Stellenbosch University, with the Faculty of Agrisciences providing administrative and logistical support.

The Food Lab supports multistakeholder teams to understand food security issues and transform food systems through dialogue, collaborative learning and experimental action.

The university's broader Food Security Initiative aims to build resilient food systems for Southern Africa by reconceptualizing the food security challenge and creating new models of practice through research on key issues, collaboration across disciplines, capacity-building and systematic impact assessments.

Read more

Website: <https://www.southernafricafoodlab.org>

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

The University of Ghana is a public university located in Accra. Founded in 1948, it is the oldest and largest of the 13 public universities in Ghana.

Departments relevant to nutrition and food system include the School of Agriculture and the Department of Nutrition and Food Science.

Initiatives in collaboration with FAO

The university has partnered with FAO on several initiatives to promote nutrition through sustainable food systems, including the development of food-based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) and the implementation of the Education for Effective Nutrition in Action (ENACT) course.

Read more:

Website: <https://www.ug.edu.gh>

The Department of Nutrition and Food Science: <https://www.ug.edu.gh/nutrition/home>

The School of Agriculture: <https://agric.ug.edu.gh/content/history>

4.4 Regional non-governmental and civil society organizations

AFRICA SEEDS

Africa Seeds is an African seed-sector development organization. It was established to promote the sector's capacity to contribute to agricultural transformation and enhance food and nutrition security in the continent.

The organization was mandated by the AU to coordinate the implementation of the Africa Seed and Biotechnology Programme. Specifically, the organization focuses on three priority areas: the development of a seed database and statistics on the seed sector in Africa, capacity-building, and coordination of all seed-sector interventions in Africa.

Read more

Website: <https://www.africa-seeds.org/en/about-us>

AFRICAN CONSUMER UNION

The African Consumer Union (AUC) is a continental non-governmental, non-profit organization that brings together national and independent consumer organizations in Africa. It comprises around 40 consumer organizations from 30 African countries.

The organization was created in 2015 with the purpose of:

- boosting the well-being of consumers of the continent;
- promoting consumption models and choices that promote development in Africa; and
- promoting political dialogue between consumer organizations, governments, the business community and others on major issues of consumption in Africa.

The institution pursues these goals by:

- working to build the capacity of its members;
- promoting information sharing on relevant consumer protection issues;
- carrying out studies and research on relevant thematic areas affecting African consumers;
- launching information and advocacy campaigns at regional or subregional level to promote political engagement;
- ensuring representation of the AUC members at continental and international levels; and
- fostering consultation and cooperation with relevant institutions around the world.

The organization contributes to continental nutrition efforts by actively taking part in the design and orientation of food, agriculture and nutrition policies and giving voice to consumers' rights.

Read more

Website: <https://www.africaconsumers.org/index.php/en>

AFRICAN FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES

The African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) is a continental umbrella organization that seeks to strengthen national agricultural advisory services and knowledge sharing. It also works to improve access to productivity-enhancing technologies and promotes the adoption of value-adding processes and post-harvest loss-reducing practices.

The organization aims to contribute to the momentum of CAADP processes by working closely with subregional bodies on issues such as agricultural research, farmer organization and private-sector involvement.

Read more

Website: <https://www.afaas-africa.org>

ALLIANCE FOR A GREEN REVOLUTION IN AFRICA

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is an African-based institution that seeks to boost agriculture productivity and incomes to lift smallholder farmers out of poverty and hunger while safeguarding the environment. The institution's work is guided by CAADP, Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, food security and economic growth.

The institution's work covers the themes of seed systems, sustainable farming, inclusive markets and trade, and policy and state capability. It includes the cross-cutting issues of climate change adaptation, inclusivity and nutrition.

Within these areas, AGRA aims to advance nutrition by:

- supporting increased production of diverse, nutrient-dense varieties and biofortified seeds;
- promoting overall increased crop diversification at the farm level by transforming production systems;
- encouraging the development of policies and regulatory frameworks; and
- improving state capacity to design and implement nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions.

Read more

Website: <https://agra.org>

4.5 Multilateral institutions and networks

AFRICAN LEADERS FOR NUTRITION

African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) is a platform for high-level political engagement to advance nutrition in Africa. It was endorsed by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Governments in 2018 and is part of the flagship programmes of the African Development Bank.

The initiative is supported by a group of ALN Champions that include current and former heads of state, finance ministers and eminent leaders with the power to catalyse and sustain high-level leadership and commitment to end malnutrition in Africa.

The three pillars of the initiatives are accountability, investments, and leadership:

- On the accountability pillar, ALN and its partners have launched the Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard, a data-based advocacy tool that gives a snapshot of global and continental commitment towards nutrition targets. Targets include those of the Malabo Declaration, the World Health Assembly, and the SDGs.
- On the investments pillar, the initiative conducts the Economic Investment Case for Nutrition – a biannual review of economic case studies of cost-effective nutrition interventions in Africa – to inform advocacy and identify gaps in financial resources.
- On leadership, the ALN provides a platform that enlists champions to spearhead high-level political commitment and provide leadership to transform nutrition in the continent.

Read more

Website: <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/african-leaders-for-nutrition-initiative>

EASTERN AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY ALLIANCE ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

In April 2019, members of parliament from East African countries established the Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN) in Arusha in the United Republic of Tanzania. The alliance includes members of parliament from Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. It also includes the East African Legislative Assembly and the IGAD Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) as members.

Serving as a subregional platform, the alliance facilitates cross-border exchange of experiences and best practices to enhance advocacy efforts for food security and nutrition.

Read more

Website: <https://agrinatura-eu.eu/news/eastern-africa-parliamentary-alliance-for-food-security-and-nutrition-eapa-fsn/>

NETWORK OF CENTRAL AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY ALLIANCES ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Network of Central African Parliamentary Alliances on Food Security and Nutrition (*Réseau des Alliances Parlementaires pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle* – RAPAC-SAN).

The network was formed in 2019 by parliamentarians from ECCAS countries and ECCAS partners such as FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

The network has been implementing initiatives in several ECCAS countries to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians to address food security and nutrition issues in their respective countries.

Since its establishment, RAPAC-SAN has played a key role in forming seven national parliamentary alliances focused on food security and nutrition throughout Central Africa.

Read more

Examples of the network's activities: <https://www.fao.org/partnerships/news-archive/news-article/en/c/1633149/>



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Appendix: Summary of key stakeholders

An quick-reference listing of the key nutrition stakeholders operating in Africa.

1. Global stakeholders

1.1 United Nations system

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD)
UN-Habitat
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
World Food Programme (WFP)
World Health Organization (WHO)

1.2 International non-governmental, non-profit and civil society organizations

Action Against Hunger (AAH)
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and the Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund
CARE International
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Concern Worldwide
EAT
Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN)
FHI 360
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
Global Child Nutrition Foundation
Helen Keller International (HKI)
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
Micronutrient Forum
Nutrition International
Oxfam International
Rikolto
Save the Children
The Hunger Project
World Vision International

1.3 Academia, research institutions and think tanks

Agriculture, Nutrition & Health Academy
Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
Centre for Food Policy - City University of London
Columbia Climate School
Columbia Climate School
Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR)
Cornell University
EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health
Feed the Future initiative
Food System Economics Commission
Food Systems For Nutrition Innovation Lab
Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM), also known as WorldFish
International Dairy Federation (IDF)
International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN) – Dairy data
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
International Network for Food and Obesity/Non-Communicable Diseases Research, Monitoring and Action Support (INFORMAS)
International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-FOOD)
International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS)
Johns Hopkins University – Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Berman Institute of Bioethics
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Nutrition Society
Partnership for Child Development (PCD)
Transform Nutrition
Tufts University – The Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy
World Resources Institute (WRI)
World Vegetable Center

1.4 Private-sector and public-private partnerships

East-West Seed
Gallup
Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA)
Global Dairy Platform
Global Pulse Confederation
World Economic Forum

1.5 Governments

Canada
China
European Union
Finland
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Norway
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
The United Arab Emirates
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
The United States of America

1.6 International financial institutions and multilateral funding initiatives

Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Nutrition For Growth (N4G)
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC)
Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)
Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA)
World Bank Group
World Cancer Research Fund

1.7 Philanthropic organizations

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
Eleanor Crook Foundation
Rockefeller Foundation

1.8 Multilateral institutions, alliances, initiatives and networks

Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice (Ag2Nut)
Alliance2015 partnership
Coalition of Actions on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS)
Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
Community of Practice Network (CoPN) on the Humanitarian Development Nexus
Conscious Food Systems Alliance
Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU)
Food Fortification Initiative (FFI)
Food Security Information Network (FSIN)
Fortified Whole Grain Alliance
Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock
Global Diet Quality Project
Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)
Grand Bargain
Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus Coalition
Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and the Cadre Harmonisé (CH)
Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN)
International Trade Centre
Inter-Parliamentary Union
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
One Planet Network Interest Group on Sustainable Public Food Procurement
Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)
School Meals Coalition
Urban Food System Coalition
World Food Forum (WFF)

2. Regional stakeholders

2.1 Continental institutions and initiatives

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement
African Development Bank and the African Leaders for Nutrition initiative
African Union and AUDA-NEPAD
Pan-African Parliament (PAP)

2.2 Regional bodies and alliances

Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)
East African Community (EAC)
Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
Southern African Development Community (SADC)
Regional alliances and initiatives in the Sahel:

- G5 Sahel
- Sahel Alliance
- Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)
- Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR)

2.3 Regional academia, research institutions and think tanks

African Nutrition Leadership Programme
African Nutrition Society (ANS)
AKADEMIYA2063
Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA)
Federation of African Nutrition Societies (FANUS)
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
Ghana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (GAND)
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)
Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM)
Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)
Senghor University
Southern Africa Food Lab
University of Ghana

2.4 Regional non-governmental and civil society organizations

Africa Seeds
African Consumer Union (AUC)
African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)
Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

2.5 Multilateral institutions and networks

African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN)
Eastern African Parliamentary Alliances on Food Security and Nutrition
Network of Central African Parliamentary Alliances on Food Security and Nutrition

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ISBN 978-92-5-139640-7



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CD4428EN/1/03.25