



Backcasting

*Supporting and connecting change makers
in taking systems thinking to action*

Introduction to the process
Thursday 22 June 2023

GAIN

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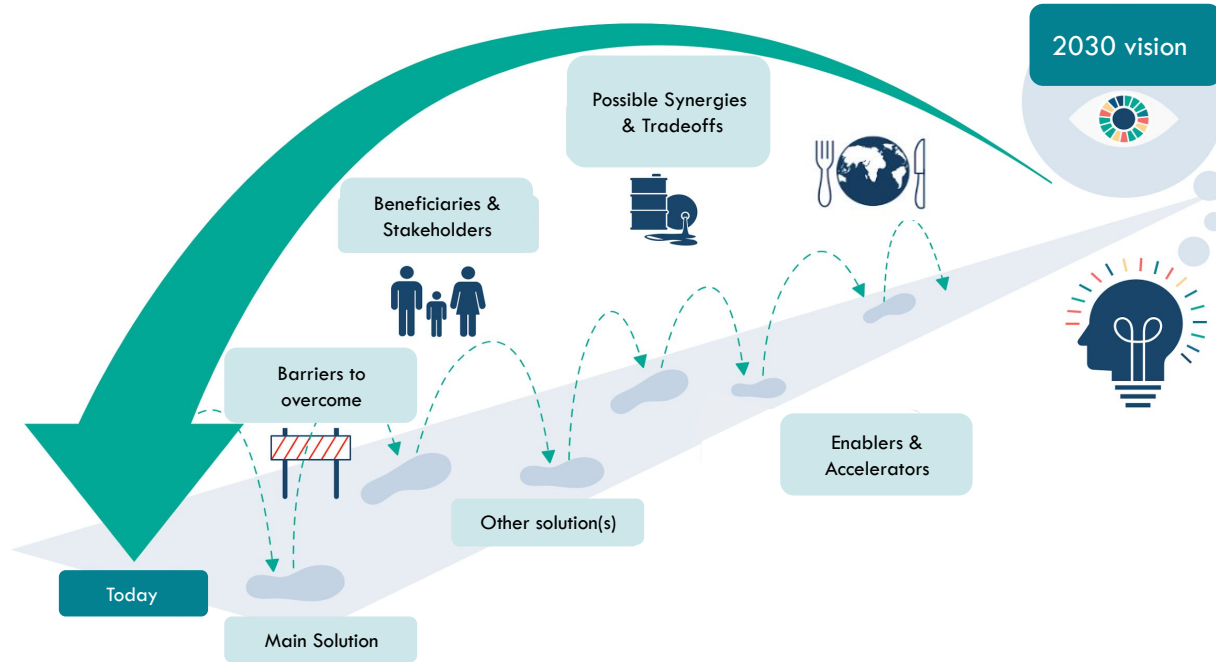
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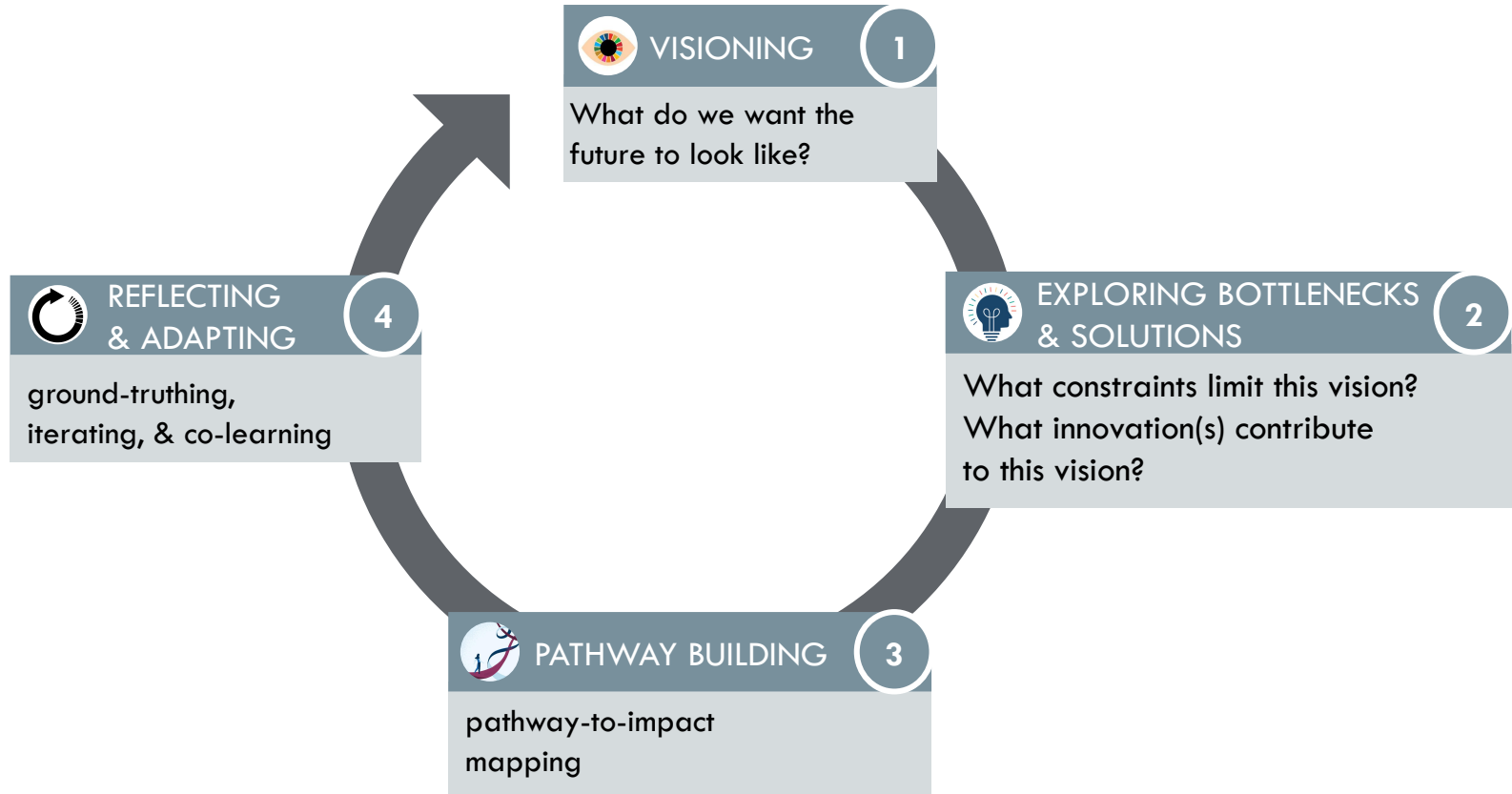
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What?

To imagine a desirable future(s) and then work backwards from there



How?





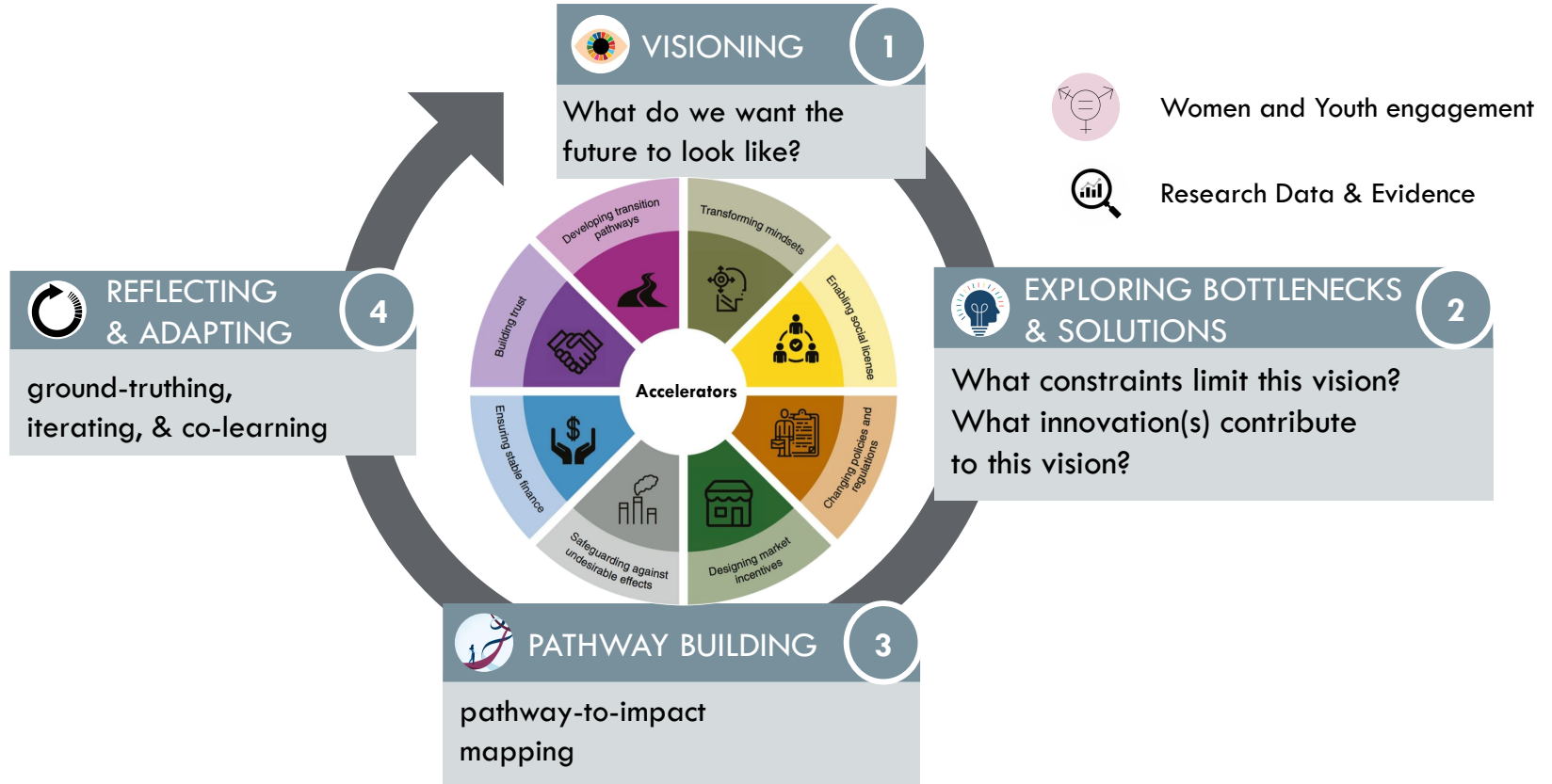
VISIONING

1

What do we want the
future to look like?

*Please take a moment and write
down a few sentences or ideas
about how you imagine some
positive changes by 2030
in the systems that you work in*

How?





Accelerators



Women & Gender Empowerment

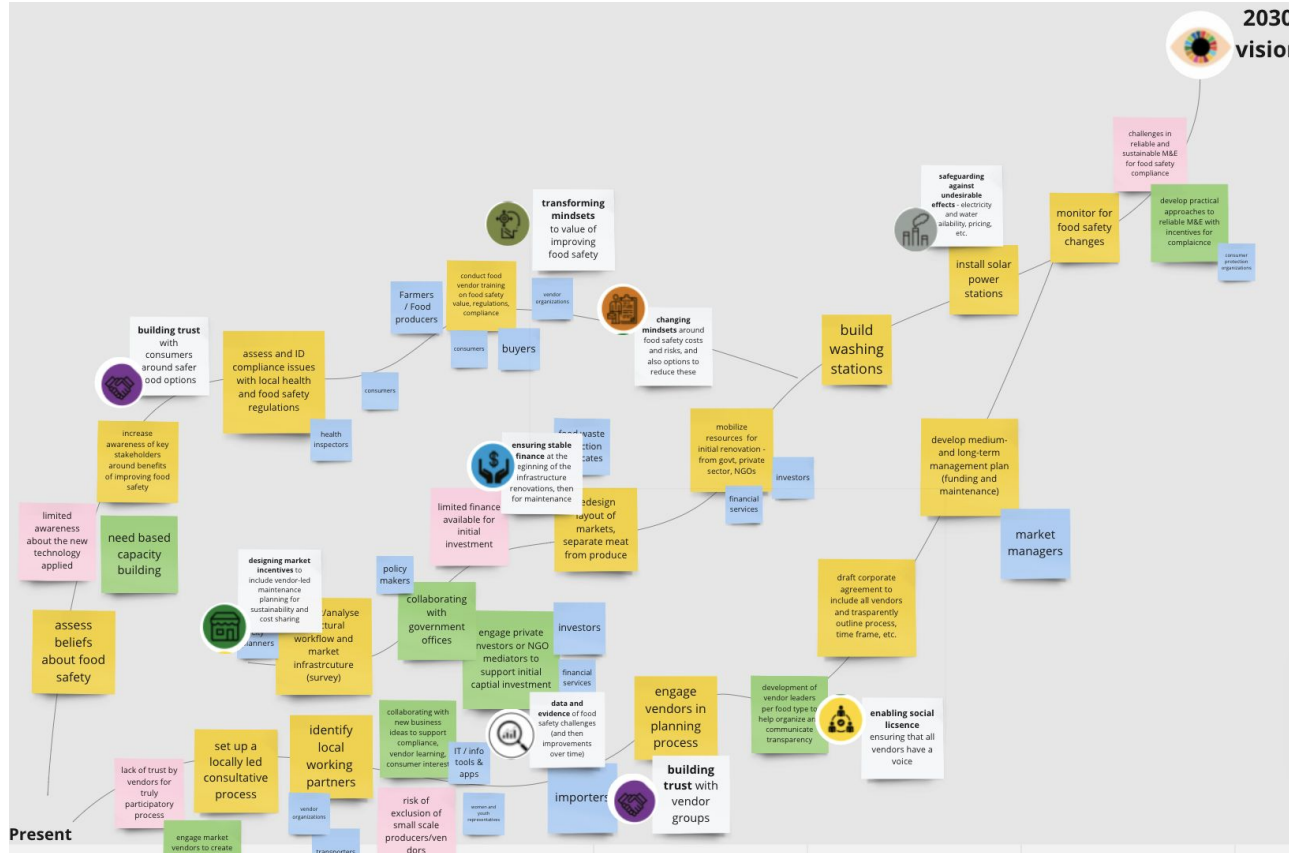


Youth Involvement



Research Data & Evidence

Co-created pathway maps with game-changing elements & accelerators



Drastically improved local market infrastructure in rural Tanzania enabled by public-private partnerships & innovations make high-nutrient food products locally sourced, nutritious, and the source of local health and pride

Backcasting: Moving Ideas Towards Actions for Impact

This worksheet packet and the online backcasting tool kit has been developed by the team at the Innovative Food System Solutions (IFSS) Portal Initiative (<https://ifssportal.nutritionconnect.org/>) and partners at Glocolearning. The goal is to help a wide range of food system actors from different backgrounds to better understand the **what, when, and how** of moving a food system solution (or set of solutions) towards uptake for major positive impact(s) in a specific context.

Overview

The backcasting process helps to define and develop a clear future vision of a food system solution being used in a specific place and context to solve dietary and planetary health problems in more equitable ways.

Working backwards from that future vision (2030 - in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals), this process can help to identify the necessary steps going forward from today to turn this idea into a reality.

Backcasting can also help to identify and plan for possible barriers along the way, as well as help to identify other solutions and key essential elements that will help to accelerate or "boost" the positive impact for both human and environmental health.

The end result of the backcasting process is a clearly defined "pathway-to-impact" map that outlines the **what, when and how** of moving an idea towards a desired impact, and also **who** to work with along the way.

"See the last page of this packet for a full example 'pathway-to-impact' map from the IFSS portal"

Steps & Activities in the Backcasting Process



Let's get started!

Backcasting_PathwayBuildingWorksheet_v1.0_06.2022

2

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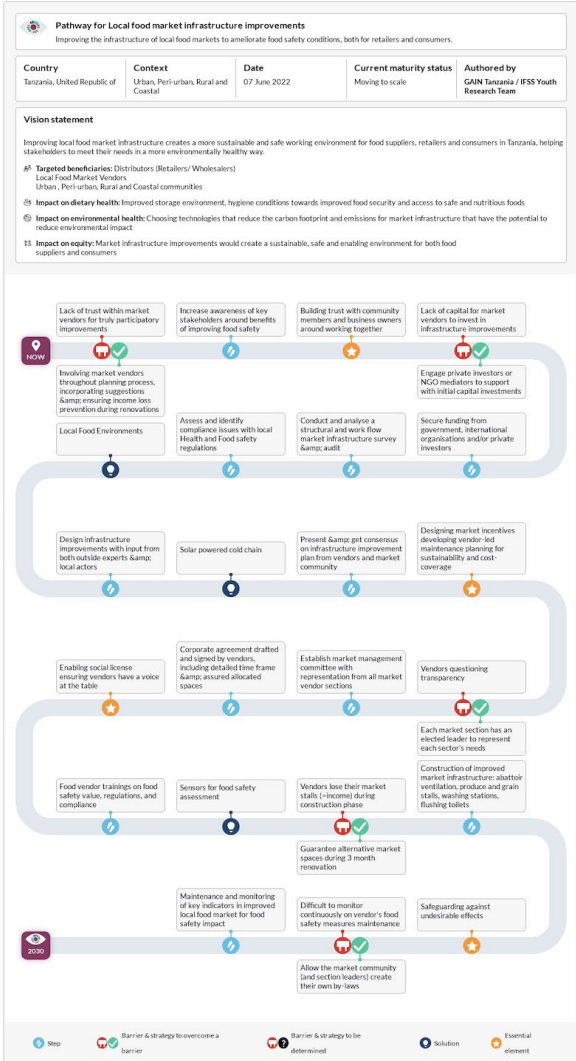
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*from the online open access IFSS portal Backcasting tool kit & pathway builder <https://ifssportal.nutritionconnect.org/moving-to-action/backcasting-tool/explore>



Accelerators



Women & Gender Empowerment



Youth Involvement



Research Data & Evidence



Accelerators



Building Trust - the need for trust between key actors in the food system AND in the ability of innovations to deliver benefit to society; Also trust in the processes that effectively deal with intermittent problems or failure on the way to having a positive impact.



Changing Policies & Regulations - fulfilling policy and regulatory support for innovations—whether for the innovator, the consumer, or other food system actors.



Designing Market Incentives - mitigating large start-up costs and/or risks associated with deploying new innovations at scale; recognizing the public policy responsibility to ensure opportunities are aligned to sustainability.



Enabling Social Licence - public trust in genuinely responsible innovation must be built and maintained for innovations to be adopted and extensive public dialogue must be facilitated, particularly to include marginalised actors.



Ensuring Stable Finance - more steady and longer-term finance for innovations to drive transformational shifts.



Safeguarding Against Undesirable Effects - minimise the negative tradeoffs or unintended indirect effects of innovations. Requires monitoring of innovation moving to scale and taking corrective action when necessary, taking into account all stakeholders needs.



Transforming Mindsets - supporting actors of the food system to embrace change in the food system. It recognises the deeply ingrained cultural relationship that many people have with food and encourages transformation of the way that people think about food and the values that shape their choices.



Women and Youth engagement - refers to the need for inclusive engagement of underrepresented but essential perspectives:



- Gender inclusion
- Youth involvement
- Indigenous knowledge engagement



Research Data & Evidence - adequate data is available to improve existing research and contribute new evidence to the ongoing public dialogue. It looks to science-based and evidence-driven models to effectively monitor all aspects of the food system

Examples

- **With SMEs - Eat Safe Innovation Challenge**
 - To boost proposals with food systems thinking & cross-disciplinarity
 - To stimulate moving beyond a silver bullet approach

- **With agriculture & environmental conservation stakeholders - Foodscape development in the Central Highlands in Kenya with TNC**
 - To create a shared vision among very different stakeholders
 - To prioritize how to better integrate people and nature objectives



- **With governments, private sector & experts - Danish national food systems dialogue**
 - To stimulate action-oriented dialogue between experts and other stakeholders
 - To contribute to national strategy development for the UNFSS

- **With professionals and students - Wageningen Food Systems for Healthier Diets course**
 - to put HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE DIETS central in the future of food systems
 - to CO-LEARN & Co-creation a shared vision and pathway
 - to RE-THINK and to link thinking & learning TO ACTION

Innovative food systems solutions (IFSS) Portal

Correspondence | [Published: 24 November 2022](#)

Upping our ambition for food system adaptation



[Bruce M. Campbell](#), [Philip K. Thornton](#)  & [Gerald C. Nelson](#)

[Nature Food](#) **3**, 970–971 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

THE LANCET
Planetary Health

PERSONAL VIEW | VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1, E50-E62, JANUARY 2021

Articulating the effect of food systems innovation on the Sustainable Development Goals

[Prof Mario Herrero](#), PhD   • [Philip K Thornton](#), PhD • [Daniel Mason-D'Croz](#), MA • [Jeda Palmer](#), BSc • [Benjamin L Bodirsky](#), PhD • [Prajal Pradhan](#), PhD • et al. [Show all authors](#)

[Open Access](#) • Published: December 08, 2020 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(20\)30277-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(20)30277-1) •



An open-access collaborative initiative

<https://ifssportal.nutritionconnect.org/>

Hosted on [NutritionConnect.org](https://nutritionconnect.org/)

See Video : Introduction to the Backcasting Process & IFSS portal

Click here to watch video

The screenshot shows a Miro board titled "Business Fights Poverty Summit on 21-22 June 2023". The main content is a circular diagram titled "Consider ACCELERATORS & ENABLERS" centered on "Sustainable food systems". The diagram is divided into several segments, each with an icon and a label: "Building Trust", "Changing Policies", "Designing Market", "Enabling Social Lia", "Ensuring Stable Fin", "Research Data & E", "Safeguarding Age", "Transforming Mind", "Women & Gender", and "Youth Involvement". A large red play button is overlaid on the diagram. The Miro interface includes a search bar, navigation icons, and a video feed of a participant in the bottom left corner.

- Building Trust
- Changing Policies
- Designing Market
- Enabling Social Lia
- Ensuring Stable Fin
- Research Data & E
- Safeguarding Age
- Transforming Mind
- Women & Gender
- Youth Involvement

Consider ACCELERATORS & ENABLERS

Sustainable food systems

Youth Involvement

Research Data & Evidence

Women & Gender Empowerment

Be the Change. Connect with us !

Please let us know if we can help you build a “Pathway To Impact” to achieve your development goals, to plan a workshop, or curate your knowledge products and communicate to a wider audience

Nutrition Connect is an open access Knowledge Hub for you, convening public and private sector actors in the food systems transformation space, to better **C**ollaborate, **C**urate, and **C**o-create (The 3 Cs's) on what works, how and why, in the race to a shared Vision in the year 2030.

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Thank you!



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