



FS-TIP Brief #1

Food System Transformative Integrated Policy

A Comprehensive Food Systems Diagnostic Approach to Inform Policymaking Toward Sustainable Healthy Diets for All

JUNE 2021



1. Introduction

The year 2020 has proven to be a breakthrough year for food systems. All over the world, people have come to realize that food systems play a crucial role in the health of populations, the state of the environment, the economies of countries, and the livelihoods of their populations—as well as in humanity’s ability to achieve the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The announcement of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 has boosted the engagement of a wide range of actors and triggered a wave of activities to transform food systems to be more nourishing, equitable, resilient, and regenerative. It should be clear, however, that the UN Food Systems Summit is only one milestone—albeit an important one—on what should be an intergenerational journey towards a transformed food system that can deliver sustainable healthy diets for all human beings.

In Africa, food systems play a central role in countries’ social and economic structures, providing the primary source of livelihood for more than 60% of Sub-Saharan Africa’s population, with agriculture making up about 15% of Sub-Saharan Africa’s GDP.¹ In addition, Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the impacts of climate change.² Even so, food systems are still maturing across the continent and can be nudged in a healthier and more sustainable direction. For African countries to realize food systems transformation, they will need to develop a long-term vision, balance competing priorities, and bring together a fragmented policy and governance landscape.

To support those countries in Africa that demonstrate courageous and visionary political will to embark on this journey, the **Food System Transformative Integrated**

Policy (FS-TIP) initiative has been launched. The initiative supports those governments that demonstrate robust integrative leadership and capacity the development and implementation of transformative and integrated food systems policies—transformative in that they are sufficiently ambitious to deliver sustainable and healthy diets for all and integrated in that they are addressing the linkages and trade-offs in setting policies from field to fork. FS-TIP has a long-term, intergenerational perspective that leverages the momentum of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 to build a lasting platform for transformation, policy development, capacity building, innovation, and investment. The initiative consists of three phases, with the first one—which runs from April 2021 to the end of 2021—underway in Ghana, Rwanda, and Malawi.

The initiative is supported by the African Population Health Research Centre, AKADEMIYA2063, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Boston Consulting Group, International Development Research Centre, International Food Policy Research Institute, Rockefeller Foundation, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change and the World Food Programme. The first phase focuses on conducting a landscaping and diagnostic analysis of the current state of each country’s food systems, identifying key stakeholders, policy gaps, and opportunities. Subsequent phases will focus on integrated policy development and implementation. This brief introduces the objectives of the FS-TIP initiative and shares its unique approach to food systems diagnostics, which is free to be leveraged by all food system stakeholders who want to conduct a similar diagnostic.



¹ World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files 2018. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS>. Accessed May 26, 2021.

² Godfrey, S. and Tunhuma, F.A. The Climate Crisis: Climate Change Impacts, Trends and Vulnerabilities of Children in Sub Sahara Africa, United Nations Children’s Fund Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Nairobi. September 2020.

2. Why We Need to Transform Our Food Systems

2.1 Need for Sustainable Healthy Diets for All

Our current global food system is unfit for the purpose of nourishing people and the planet. Malnutrition, in all its forms, is a threat to the health and wellbeing of populations across the world, with 462 million underweight people and 1.9 billion people overweight or obese.³ Unhealthy diets account for nearly 1 in 5 deaths worldwide and Africa is home to 8 of 20 countries in the world with the fastest rising rates of adult obesity.⁴ Globally, there is overconsumption of harmful foods and underconsumption of healthy, protective foods. In addition, some of the greatest environmental challenges we face are directly connected to our food system. The food sector presently accounts for 70% of global freshwater use⁵ and nearly 25% of all greenhouse gas emissions,⁶ generates an overwhelming amount of waste, and is straining critical planetary boundaries. The current system is not equitable either. Communities and groups that have been historically marginalized are far more likely to experience hunger and lack access to healthy foods. More than three billion people, primarily smallholder farmers and low-income urban residents, cannot afford a healthy diet.⁷

Definition of Sustainable Healthy Diets for All

A healthy diet is one that provides an adequate amount of nutrients from foods while avoiding excess and avoids the introduction of health-harming substances.⁸ Making these healthy diets sustainable means considering environmental, sociocultural, and economic sustainability. Dietary patterns need to promote all dimensions of individuals' health and well-being while minimizing environmental impact and fostering socioeconomic development.

Transforming the currently unfit food system to realize sustainable healthy diets for all would have many benefits on the health and well-being of individuals as well as on people's economic circumstances and the environment. Sustainable healthy diets would contribute to realizing optimal growth

and development of individuals and the physical, mental, and social well-being of present and future generations. Healthier and more productive individuals would contribute to stronger and faster economic growth and development. In addition, sustainable healthy diets would support the preservation of biodiversity and overall planetary health.⁹

This can be illustrated by the fact that currently about 20%¹⁰ of Africa's population faces undernourishment, and a transition to sustainable healthy diets for all, would not only reduce levels of malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and obesity, but also limit the risks of diet-related non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease, which would have a very strong positive effect on people's health and well-being and their economic productivity.

The need for sustainable healthy diets has only become more important in the context of demographic shifts, income growth and redistribution of wealth, changing dietary patterns, and climate change. And while achieving sustainable healthy diets for all is a great challenge, it also offers a unique opportunity to contribute to many of the world's ambitions, such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. To realize these ambitions, a holistic approach to food systems is essential.

“ Food is much bigger than what is on your plate... transforming food systems is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. ”

UN Deputy Secretary-General
Amina Mohammed

³ World Health Organization, Malnutrition, April 2020. Available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition>

⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization: SDGs linked with curbing the health crisis, March 26, 2019.

⁵ Water for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 2017

⁶ Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers, J. Poore and T. Nemecek, Science, 1 June 2018

⁷ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets. Rome, FAO. Available at <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9692en>

⁸ Healthy diet: A definition for the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021. Available at https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/healthy_diet_draft-scientific_group_25-11-2020.pdf, November 25, 2020

⁹ WHO and FAO, 2019. Sustainable healthy diets-Guiding principles. Rome. Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ca6640en/ca6640en.pdf>

¹⁰ Global Nutrition Report 2020. Malnutrition in Africa at a glance. Available at <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/africa/>

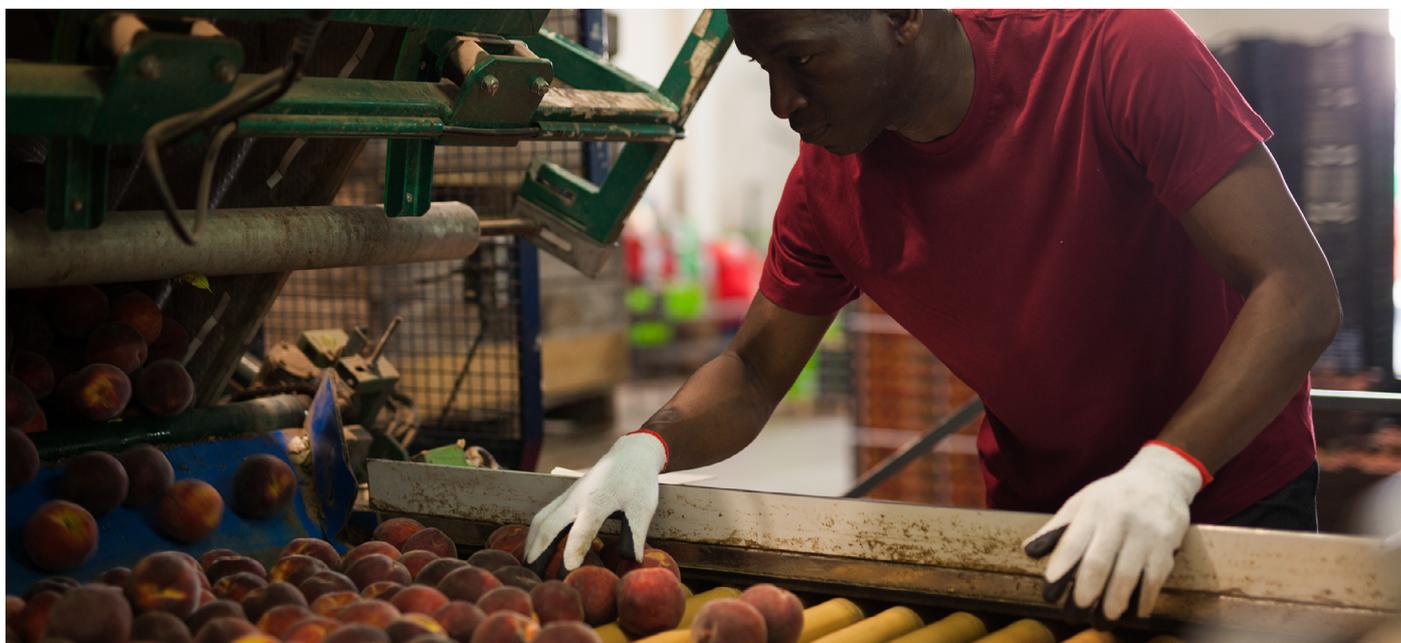
2.2 Case for Viewing Food Systems Holistically

Definition of Food Systems

In 2014, the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition proposed the following definition for food systems: “A food system is a system that embraces all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, markets, and trade) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution and marketing, preparation, and consumption of food and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes”.¹¹

The world food price crises of 2007–2008 and 2010 as well as the emergence of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement in 2010¹² influenced the development of food security and nutrition strategies in many Sub-Saharan Africa countries over the past decade.¹³ Despite their commendable efforts at cross-sectoral policy coherence and the progress achieved in countries such as Senegal,¹⁴ Zambia,¹⁵ and

Ethiopia,¹⁶ these strategies have focused primarily on agricultural production or maternal and child nutrition. Even approaches coined as integrated, such as South Africa’s Integrated Food Security Strategy, often boiled down to sectoral approaches—for example, tasking governmental departments with improving agricultural production—and were not sufficiently coordinated to handle multidisciplinary challenges such as nutrition security.¹⁷ Similarly, Brazil’s Fome Zero program focused on combatting hunger and led to major reductions in the number of poor and undernourished persons in Brazil through job creation and economic growth. However, the policies were insufficient to solve the problem of food insecurity due to their highly concentrated focus on accessibility of food,¹⁸ while not taking other factors such as the availability of foods into account. Paradoxically, obesity rates among Brazilian adults increased significantly in the same period.¹⁹ Such unintended outcomes might have been avoided had a more holistic approach to food systems been used, considering all potential outcomes and considering the trade-offs upfront.



¹¹ Nutrition and food systems. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security. Rome. Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/i7846e/i7846e.pdf>

¹² The history of the SUN Movement. Available at <https://scalingupnutrition.org/about-sun/the-history-of-the-sun-movement/>, October 28, 2020.

¹³ Candel JJJ. Diagnosing integrated food security strategies. *NJAS - Wageningen Journal of Life Sciences* 84 (2018) 103–113.

¹⁴ Kampman H et al. How Senegal created an enabling environment for nutrition: A story of change. *Global Food Security* 13 (2017) 57–65.

¹⁵ Harris J et al. From coherence towards commitment: Changes and challenges in Zambia’s nutrition policy environment. *Global Food Security* 13 (2017) 49–56.

¹⁶ Gillespie S et al. Stories of Change in nutrition: An overview. *Global Food Security* 13 (2017) 1–11.

¹⁷ Pereira, Laura M., and Shaun Ruysenaar. ‘Moving from Traditional Government to New Adaptive Governance: The Changing Face of Food Security Responses in South Africa’. *Food Security* 4 (2012): 41–58. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-012-0164-5>

¹⁸ Mariano de Souza et al. Review of Agrarian studies. *Food Security in Brazil: An Analysis of the Effects of the Bolsa Família Programme*

¹⁹ Gomes, D.C.K., Sichieri, R., Junior, E.V. et al. Trends in obesity prevalence among Brazilian adults from 2002 to 2013 by educational level. *BMC Public Health* 19, 965 (2019). Available at <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-7289-9>

3. FS-TIP Approach to Food Systems Diagnostics

3.1 Overview

As part of the FS-TIP initiative, we have developed an approach to address and strengthen food systems in a holistic way, guided by 11 principles.

FS-TIP Will Be Guided by 11 Principles

Sustainable Healthy Diets for All as the Vision. The ultimate vision of FS-TIP is a future state in which every human being has consistent access to a nutritious, high-quality diet that promotes human and planetary health.

Food Systems Transformation as the Journey. Achieving the vision requires transformational change in the food system toward a fit-for-purpose future state that is nourishing, equitable, and regenerative.

Systems Approach to the Challenge. A systems approach will lead to action that is comprehensive, thoughtful, effective, and adaptive while avoiding siloed interventions, unintended consequences, and short-term, short sighted measures.

Iterative Approach to the Journey. All problems cannot be solved at once. FS-TIP will follow an iterative approach, with increasingly broader, deeper, and more ambitious iterations that are always systemic in nature.

Purpose-Led and Values-Driven. FS-TIP thinking and actions will always be guided by its purpose and values—including equity, justice, fairness, inclusivity, and transparency.

National Governments as the Entry Point of Governance and Agency. Although transformation of the global food system is the ultimate goal, national governments with the necessary combination of leadership, vision, and capacity are the ideal anchor agents and partners to engage first.

Supportive and Co-Creative Rather Than Prescriptive. The main aspiration of FS-TIP is to be a trusted partner and strategic supporter of national governments willing to embark on a bold food systems transformation journey. FS-TIP's role will be to co-create with them based on their priorities and context, not prescribe priorities or canned solutions. Local ownership is key.

Built on Existing Structures When Feasible, Creating New Ones Only When Necessary. FS-TIP will never happen in a vacuum. Carefully assessing existing structures and processes will be essential to ascertain how fit for the transformative purpose they are. By doing so, FS-TIP will avoid reinventing the wheel while discerning the legitimate cases in which new structures and processes are critical to success.

Embracing Both Evidence and Innovation. FS-TIP embraces evidence and innovation equally. Relevant evidence should always inform decision-making, yet past evidence should never constrain future possibility. Many situations represent evidence gaps and call for innovation and experimenting with new approaches that, in turn, generate fresh evidence.

Proactively Addressing Frictions Related to Facts, Interests, and Values. Developing improved food system policy necessitates overcoming data and knowledge gaps, resistance from interest groups, and differing values. These challenges should be intentionally mitigated by a policymaking process designed to build trust and a shared understanding of the facts among stakeholders, pre-empt policy grabs by special interests, and creatively mediate between differing values.

Approaching the Challenge with an Attitude of Learning, Humility, and Optimism. FS-TIP approaches this challenging journey with the awareness of how much can be learned from each other along the way, and with an unshakeable optimism that, with unity of vision and action, we can build a food systems legacy in which humanity and the planet can thrive.

3.2 Built on Existing Structures When Feasible, Create New Ones When Necessary

Extensive work has been done by various organizations and stakeholders to understand food systems, and FS-TIP builds upon these existing resources as much as possible.

- Comprehensive frameworks to methodically describe food systems have been under development for several years. While one can expect such frameworks to continue to evolve in future years, the latest versions of the HLPE framework have become the basis for much of the analytical work in this area. Related publications such as the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 also inform FS-TIP's approach to diagnostic analysis.
- When looking at indicators used to measure the different components of the HLPE Food Systems framework, one can easily gather hundreds of different indicators. While this allows measurement of many different elements of the food system, the amount of information this creates can be overwhelming and difficult to use, interpret, and act upon. To address this complexity, FS-TIP proposes to structure this set of indicators and use only a selection of high-quality supra- and key indicators (see details in later sections of this brief).
- When considering policies on food systems, there are different global and regional agendas and commitments, such as the SDGs, World Health Organization Global Nutrition Targets 2025, African Union Agenda 2063, and East African Community Vision 2050, that inform national-level policies. Given their extensive buy-in and contextualization to the African Continent, the Malabo Declarations and related Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) indicators, as monitored by the African Union Commission in its Biennial Review, form a core component of the FS-TIP approach.

FS-TIP adds several unique components in its diagnostic approach to complement existing resources and structures. It not only builds a very strong fact-based foundation but does so in a much more action-oriented way than most other efforts, and aims to directly inform policy development. The FS-TIP diagnostic will stand out for the holistic and actionable picture it will produce for all stakeholders interested in conducting a similar diagnostic. Some of the unique elements of FS-TIP include:

- Approach tailored to each country's context and priorities (see Section 3.3. on the iterative approach and co-creation within the initiative).
- Diagnostic conducted with a focus on eventually informing policy design and implementation.
- Indicator and data gaps identified in current food systems analyses (see Section 3.4 on addressing frictions related to facts).

- Quantitative analysis complemented by qualitative insights to provide additional context, explain historical trends, and highlight performance against benchmarks and ambitions.

3.3 Iterative Approach to the Journey, Supportive and Co-Creative Rather Than Prescriptive

The overall performance of food systems is the result of the intertwined conduct of all actors in the system.⁴ To address this complex network, FS-TIP will use an iterative and human-centered approach to ensure the diagnostic analysis focuses on the most relevant components to local stakeholders and that the results are presented through an interface tailored to the needs of its users (policymakers and others).

FS-TIP will involve key stakeholders from the initial design phase of the diagnostic approach (through interviews), throughout successive iterations on the diagnostic analysis (through workshops with policymakers), all the way to drawing implications for policy design and implementation (through exchanges with senior government officials). A key component of the human-centered approach will be the presentation of the diagnostic analysis on a platform that connects outcomes of the food system to their drivers and effects, pointing to areas of intervention. This platform will have a concise, compelling, and intuitive interface to enable all types of stakeholders to develop an understanding of the current state of the country's food system.

3.4 Proactively Address Frictions Related to Facts, Interests, and Values

As previously indicated, holistically addressing food systems is a relatively new development, and many current efforts show significant gaps in terms of indicators and data to measure all components of the food system. Such gaps can lead to blind spots for policymakers and other stakeholders, limiting their ability to develop and implement the most effective policies and interventions. This underscores the need to identify and develop methods to fill gaps in current food systems diagnostic analyses.

As part of the FS-TIP initiative, we will identify gaps in current food systems diagnostic analyses and propose solutions to close these gaps in a prioritized and cost-efficient manner.

The FS-TIP diagnostic builds a fact-base that is as comprehensive as possible, but also recognizes the limitations it faces in terms of indicator and data availability. It will proactively identify these gaps, describe them, and propose solutions to close these gaps in a prioritized and cost-efficient manner. Gaps should be distinguished as areas not covered by indicators at all or gaps in data availability

or quality. These identified gaps can then be used to inform the evolution of existing frameworks and monitoring mechanisms, including national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms such as Joint Sector Reviews and regional frameworks and reviews such as the CAADP Biennial Review.

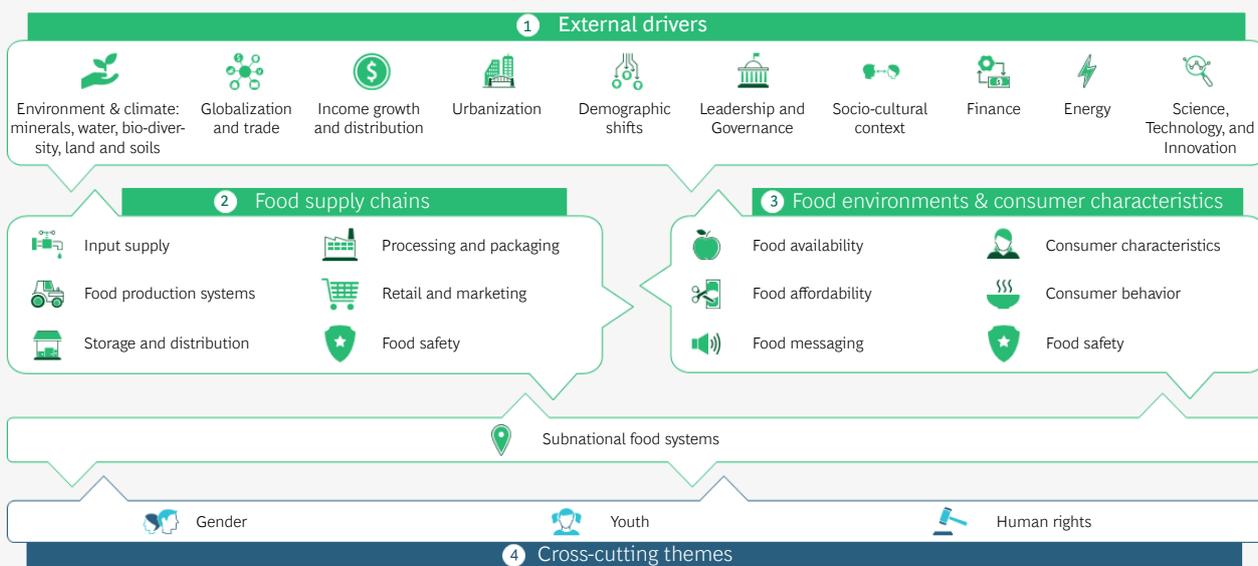
Previous research has shown that investments in data collection and reporting require multi-stakeholder partnerships but pay back in terms of improved performance. For example, Indonesia adopted a One-Data Policy that integrates data across agencies and various data sources. This has enabled comparability and production of timely reports that feed into their Agriculture War Room, which serves as a control center for decision-making and monitoring of agricultural policies.²⁰ This has already highlighted existing policies and land allocation procedures that encourage encroachment of forests. As a result, the government is currently collaborating with various partners to optimize land use and minimize degradation.²¹ Effective data collection and reporting is not easy and requires significant investment

in time and funding. It is therefore essential to conduct cost-benefit analyses and prioritize efforts.

3.5 Embrace Both Evidence and Innovation

Given the stakes involved, it is essential to have the right type and amount of existing evidence, both of a qualitative and quantitative nature, while exploring new ideas to expand the frontiers of evidence and impact. To understand the state of food systems in a country, the FS-TIP initiative proposes to start the diagnostic analysis with a qualitative overview describing the context and highlighting some of the root causes of food systems issues. Our qualitative analysis will not only cover all components of the food system but also include country-specific elements such as subnational food systems, cross-cutting themes, finance, energy, science, technology, and innovation, which are important for a comprehensive food system perspective. This representation allows for understanding food system outcomes at various levels and where policy changes would be most effective.

Figure 1 | Qualitative component of diagnostic framework

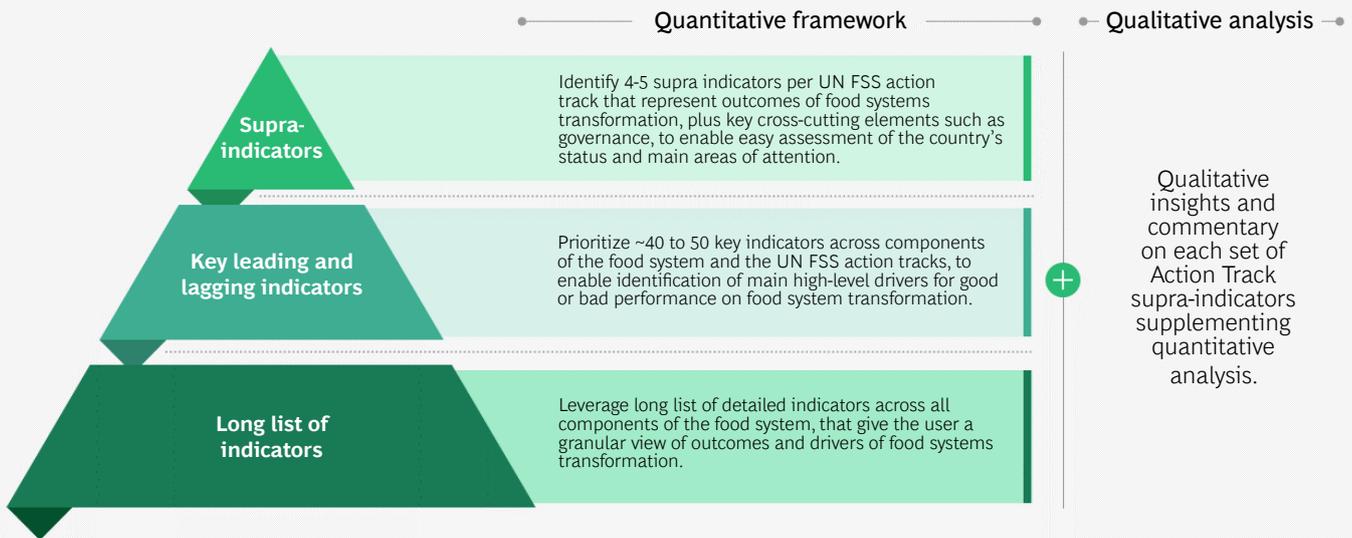


Source: Adapted from the Food Systems Dashboard, the Food systems Decision-Support Toolbox; HLPE; and FS-TIP research

²⁰ Committee on World Food Security. 'Data for food security: Taking forward the CFS data workstream', February 10 2021

²¹ Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. Annual Operation Plan 2020-2021 Indonesia. Available at <https://aci-ar.gov.au/publication/aop2020/indonesia>

Figure 2 | Quantitative component to diagnostic framework



Source: FS-TIP analysis

The second part of the food systems diagnostic analysis is structured along three levels and aligned to the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) Action Tracks and Action Areas for their outcome orientation. The three levels are:

- 1. Supra-Indicators.** Four to five supra-indicators per UN FSS Action Track that represent outcomes of food systems transformation, plus key cross-cutting elements such as governance, to enable easy assessment of the country's status and main areas of attention.
- 2. Key Leading and Lagging Indicators.** 40 to 50 key leading and lagging indicators across components of the food system and the UN FSS Action Tracks, to enable identification of main high-level drivers for good or bad performance on food systems transformation and their transformation.
- 3. Long List of Indicators.** Long list of over 200 detailed indicators across all components of the food system that give the user a granular view of outcomes and drivers of food systems transformation. Existing resources such as CAADP, the Food Systems Dashboard, and national policies were used to source indicators.

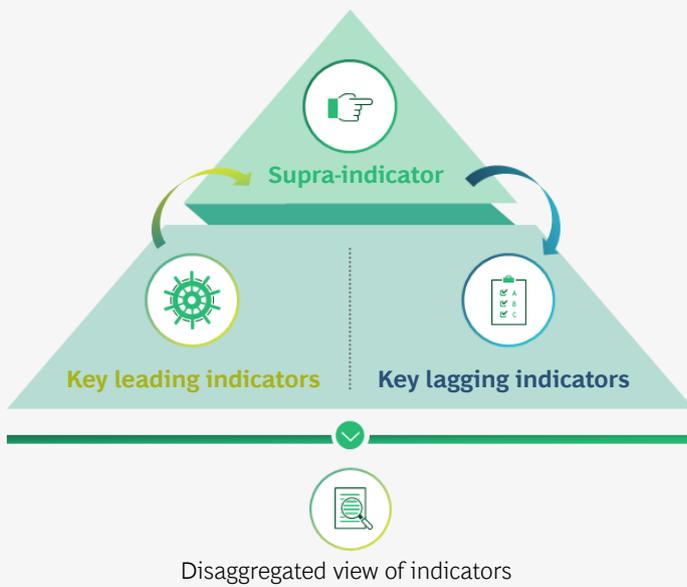
Rigorous selection criteria are used to prioritize a comprehensive set of high-quality indicators at all levels:

1. Combined, they cover all key elements and outcomes of food systems and point to key areas of attention.
2. Data is available, of good quality, has breadth, is frequently updated, has buy-in, and where possible possesses strong history of more than 15 years.
3. Most informative indicators for policymaking and monitoring, as they are output-focused and sensitive to show results of policy changes.
4. Covers key areas in food systems where transformation can be instigated and catalyzed.
5. Most relevant indicators to country-specific context with potential to break down at subnational level.
6. Sensitive enough to inform about trade-offs and synergies.

Based on the above selection criteria, 22 supra-indicators have been identified, 21 across FSS Action Tracks and one of them cross-cutting.

Action Tracks	Supra-Indicators
<p>1. Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all</p>	<p>Diet quality: Food Consumption Score—To be replaced by Diet Quality (Global Dietary Recommendations+) in due course; to be used already where data exists</p> <hr/> <p>Nutrient supply: Net supply in country of key macro- and micro-nutrients as a share of total consumption requirements for a healthy diet</p> <hr/> <p>Undernourishment: Percent of population undernourished (%)</p> <hr/> <p>Overweight and obesity: Percent of population overweight or obese (%)</p> <hr/> <p>Food safety: Africa Food Safety Index</p>
<p>2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns</p>	<p>Affordability: Cost of a healthy diet as a percent of household food expenditure (%)</p> <hr/> <p>Sustainability of diets: Per capita greenhouse gas emissions of food consumption (Kg CO₂eq/person)</p> <hr/> <p>Food waste: Food Waste Index</p> <hr/> <p>Food environment: Composite Index combining food environment policies (under development)</p>
<p>3. Boost nature-positive production</p>	<p>Emissions: Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture (MtCO₂e)</p> <hr/> <p>Land: Percent deforestation for agricultural land (%)</p> <hr/> <p>Food loss: Percent food loss across supply chain (%)</p> <hr/> <p>Regeneration: Biodiversity Habitat Index</p>
<p>4. Advance equitable livelihoods</p>	<p>Income: Gini coefficient (specific) based on incomes across the food system (under development)</p> <hr/> <p>Income: Gap between farm gate price and retail price</p> <hr/> <p>Gender equity: Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index</p>
<p>5. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress</p>	<p>Economic: Household Resilience Capacity Index</p> <hr/> <p>Risk distribution: Proportion of men and women engaged in agriculture with access to financial services</p> <hr/> <p>Social: Government social security budget as a percent of total requirements to cover vulnerable social groups (%)</p> <hr/> <p>Environmental: Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Country Index</p> <hr/> <p>Production diversity: Crop Diversity Index (under development)</p>
<p>Cross-cutting</p>	<p>Governance: Food Systems Transformation Governance Index (under development)</p>

Figure 3 | Linkages between indicators



Source: FS-TIP analysis

Supra-indicator: Indicators reflecting desired outcomes of food systems transformation and that are representative of action tracks
e.g., prevalence of undernourishment

Key leading indicators: Drivers of supra-indicators, that inform policy-makers on areas to focus on
e.g., focus on cash crops and staple crops, consumption patterns, and food insecurity leading to undernourishment

Key lagging indicators: Showing the effects of supra-indicators on different aspects of population, environment etc.
e.g., undernourishment contributing to stunting, wasting

Disaggregated view: Detailed view of indicators per group, region, etc. (to be shown when value adding and TBD what is feasible in FS-TIP phase 1 vs. 2)
e.g., undernourishment in Northern province for women

To reflect the interconnected nature of all components in the food system, it is essential to show the interdependencies, feedback loops, and trade-offs between indicators. The first step of FS-TIP is to link supra-indicators to leading and lagging key indicators. This connects indicators that reflect the outcome of food systems transformation to the drivers that policymakers can influence to realize transformation. Key leading indicators are drivers of the supra-indicators that inform policymakers on areas to focus on to influence root causes. Key lagging indicators are outcome-focused, showing in more detail the effects from lack of interventions

on root causes on different aspects of the population and environment.

And while the initial version of the diagnostic analysis will focus on national-level data, there is a need to gather, analyze, and present data that can be disaggregated at a much more granular level. For example, disaggregating data on supra-indicators for regions, income groups, genders, and age levels will allow narrowing in on those areas that require the most attention and developing tailored policy interventions.

Examples

Let's imagine that the data for one of the supra-indicators of Action Track 1 indicates that a third of the population of one of the analyzed countries is undernourished. This would have a strong effect on the health outcomes of the population with a large proportion of children under the age of five stunted and only a small portion of children aged 6 to 23 months receiving the minimum acceptable diet. To understand where to focus policymaking, one needs to understand the key drivers and obtain a more disaggregated view. This might show drivers such as poor complementary feeding practices, regional commercial monocropping that lowers access to healthy foods, food insecurity in certain regions linked to a focus on cash crops, and stunting in other regions linked to poor sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Within Action Track 2 we look at the affordability of a healthy diet, through the supra-indicator of "cost of a healthy diet as a percentage of household food expenditure". Imagine this would be >200% in a country, with >60% of the population being unable to afford a healthy diet.²² To understand how this could be addressed with policy interventions we need to look at the drivers of affordability. A driver to consider might be the level of formal, semi-formal and informal trade barriers that people experience, especially in countries where rural-urban supply chains play a very important role. Another driver to consider is the overall income of the population, as this determines the ability of people to buy (healthy) food.

²² FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets. Rome, FAO. Available at <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9692en>

4. Looking Ahead

As mentioned earlier, FS-TIP will span across three phases. The first phase focuses on conducting a landscaping and diagnostic analysis of the current state of each country's food system, identifying key stakeholders and policy gaps and opportunities. Subsequent phases will focus on integrated policy development and implementation.

Currently, work on phase 1 of the initiative is underway and focuses on:

- Collecting required data and conducting analyses to diagnose current food system performance. This is being done with in-country expert teams and local stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and compelling diagnostic analysis is completed.
- Using a human-centered design approach to identify, map, and engage critical food system stakeholders along the journey and bring focus to those elements of the analysis that matter most.
- Consolidating and communicating results from the analyses and sharing preliminary recommendations on policy development and implementation in future FS-TIP Briefs in advance of the UN Food Systems Summit.

- Providing a Toolkit that can be leveraged in other countries across the continent.
- Advising governments on the establishment of a governance and operating model, for example, an inter- or supra-ministerial food systems transformation agency, tasked with the development of truly integrated policy and invested with the mandate to realize the required transformation in the food system.

The next phases of this initiative will focus on policy development and policy implementation to address the main issues identified in phase 1 of diagnostics and landscaping. This will involve designing and acting upon policy recommendations, supporting coordination among stakeholders, capacity building, and setting up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure a continuous feedback loop in an inherently iterative journey.

The FS-TIP approach, as described in this brief and with its intergenerational vision, will help countries to develop a view on the current status of their food system and generate the evidence base for integrated and transformative policy development, supporting its implementation to deliver on the full promise of an equitable, resilient, and regenerative food system that ensures sustainable healthy diets for all.



5. Acronyms

List of Abbreviations

CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
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FSS	Food Systems Summit
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FS-TIP	Food System Transformative Integrated Policy
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HLPE	High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition
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SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
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UN	United Nations
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6. Acknowledgements

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