

# Transforming Food Systems to deliver healthy and sustainable diets for all

*A virtual workshop for UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams on food systems transformation programming*

20-21 March 2023

## Summary of key findings

- Two workshops on transforming food systems to deliver healthy and sustainable diets for all took place with participation of Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs) and UN country teams (UNCT) of 10 countries (Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mali, Somalia, Timor Leste, Yemen).
- The workshop showed that close collaboration between RCOs and UNCTs leads to good representation of food systems and nutrition in UN planning documents, in particular the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDCF).
- Great collaboration between RCOs and UNCTs has been showcased, including in humanitarian contexts where substantive efforts are being made to address the nexus.
- More joint UN programming on food systems and nutrition would be welcome to address all pillars and outcomes in development frameworks and humanitarian response plans.
- The workshops indicated that in general, having the SUN national focal point and the food systems convenor being the same person were adding value through higher alignment and integration of nutrition consideration in different sectoral plans including cross sectoral ones.
- Continued advocacy efforts for multisectoral collaboration and integration are needed, as Government and partners' personnel turnovers can hamper continuation and sustainability of programmes.
- It is encouraged to showcase these countries' work and share best practices in international fora and platforms so that other countries can learn from their experience.

## Background

There is no country immune to malnutrition. Food insecurity and different forms of malnutrition are worsening in many regions, jeopardizing development gains from public health. Following the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), 117 countries have developed Food Systems Transformation Pathways. These documents detail the roadmap to address unique challenges, opportunities and needs to transform food systems. Good nutrition and access to healthy diets are referred to in many national pathways. However, recent analyses show that there is room for considerable improvement in policy action<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2805en/>

Reducing food insecurity, ending all forms of malnutrition and improving access to healthy and nutritious diets are essential outcomes of effective implementation of the Pathways.

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, which acts as a catalyst and connector in relation to food systems transformations, frequently organizes Food Systems Solutions Dialogues with Nation Convenors to disseminate knowledge and exchange lessons learned. National Convenors are the leading actors within governments moving this agenda forward in partnership with multiple stakeholders. As part of peer-to-peer learning exercises, a dialogue that took place with National Convenors and the SUN Focal Points (FP) on 23 November 2022 identified the need to put health and nutrition at the core of food systems transformation. That dialogue highlighted several win-wins at the nexus of climate and nutrition action, identifying opportunities to scale up policy action and multistakeholder collaboration.

The [UN Food Systems Coordination Hub](#), the [UN-Nutrition Secretariat](#), and the [SUN Secretariat](#) organized two clinics on 20 and 21 March 2023 for UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and Country Teams (UNCTs) of 10 countries<sup>2</sup> to create a shared understanding of how effective policy and strategic food systems actions can be used to deliver healthy and sustainable diets and good nutrition for all. The 10 countries were selected based on the fact that the National Convenors and the SUN FP in these countries are one and the same, providing the opportunity for better coordination, collaboration, and alignment between nutrition and food systems. More than 50 participants attended each clinic including Resident Coordinators (RCs) and representatives from IFAD, FAO, PAHO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO (Please see Annex for list of participants). These clinics, featuring global food systems experts and drawing on UN development frameworks, helped foster a shared understanding of food systems concepts, terms and approaches as well as raise awareness on the available food systems transformation tools, frameworks and other resources. In a spirit of openness and learning, the clinics aimed:

- To share current knowledge on the concept of food systems and increase understanding of the importance of transforming them towards ending all forms of malnutrition and ensuring healthy and sustainable diets to achieve the SDGs;
- To build the capacities of UN RCs and UNCTs and increase alignment on food system transformation action and initiate internal programmatic deep dives on required food system transformation for healthy and sustainable diets;
- To continue building coherent and coordinated in-country UN support to host governments to set policy and action to transform food systems toward healthy and sustainable diets leveraging existing coordination platforms;
- To share tools that are instrumental to promote healthy diets from sustainable food systems (e.g. Food-based dietary guidelines (with sustainability criteria); improvements in the food environment, available guidance for integrating nutrition and food systems in development and humanitarian frameworks<sup>3</sup>).

The anticipated outcome was a shared understanding of how effective policy and strategic food systems actions can be used to deliver healthy and sustainable diets and good nutrition for all. The clinics would contribute to improved UN support to the host government towards food systems transformation for improved nutrition and consumption

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<sup>2</sup> Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mali, Somalia, Timor Leste, Yemen

<sup>3</sup> [A guidance note on nutrition for United Nations country teams, their government counterparts and other stakeholders \(fao.org\)](#)

of healthy and sustainable diets with a better understanding of the UN resources and organizations working on food systems transformation.

### Setting the scene

Dr Corinna Hawkes, Director of FAO's Division of Food Systems and Food Safety and Dr Jennifer Clapp, Canada Research Chair in Global Food Security and Sustainability and Professor in the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability at the University of Waterloo, Canada set the scene on respective days, defining the what, why and how of a food system. Sustainable healthy food systems have potential to deliver on all aspects of sustainability, which revolve around four narratives - the ability of the system to nourish the growing population; to deliver a healthy diet; to produce equal and equitable benefits; and to be environmentally sustainable. They defined a sustainable food system as one "that it is profitable throughout, ensuring economic sustainability, it has broad-based benefits for society, securing social sustainability, and it has a positive or neutral impact on the natural resource environment, safeguarding the sustainability of the environment". A sustainable food system is also resilient, defined as "the capacity over time of agri-food systems, in the face of any disruption, to sustainably ensure availability of and access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for all, and sustain the livelihoods of agri-food systems' actors".

Corinna Hawkes shared that recent crises such as the COVID-19 or the Ukrainian war have also brought to light the critical role that food systems play in food security and nutrition across all economies. To realize the SDGs, food systems need to be enabled to address various challenges from climate change and unsustainable use of natural resources, to high levels of food loss and waste, malnutrition and food insecurity, among others. Many of these challenges are not necessarily new but have persisted, becoming more pressing and urgent to address. In addition, the recent crises have brought to light the vulnerability of food systems in the face of shocks, also leading to increased global food insecurity and malnutrition.

The aim of the UNFSS, which set the stage for global food systems transformation to achieve the SDGs, was to deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals and identify systemic approaches that interconnect solutions and challenges in and beyond the food system. It contributed to the growing realization that policies designed in isolation of one another are unlikely to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond. Unless global food systems transformation is accelerated, the stark challenges facing our food systems are likely to increase. This transformation is no easy task and requires a departure from business as usual. One of the successes of the UNFSS is that 117 countries developed their own national pathways, placing the reform of food systems at the top of the policy agenda. The UNFSS identified the need for a food systems approach to address these interconnected challenges and proposed a paradigm shift in how policies are conceived and designed. She said that RCs, UNCTs, and national convenors can support the national pathways through policy coherence and coordination; multistakeholder coordination and dialogue; financing and budgeting support; data, evidence, and innovation; and through helping build institutional capacity as lessons learned from supporting national pathways in e.g., Jordan, Albania, and Morocco. Jennifer Clapp highlighted the food systems approach emphasizing that it encourages us to recognize the interconnectedness of food systems with other systems (ecosystems, energy systems, economic systems, health systems). She added that the food systems perspective encourages us to widen our understanding of food security to a six-dimensional framework as promoted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) adding agency (improving rights and capabilities of people to feed themselves with dignity and to relate to

and shape their food systems in their own terms) and sustainability (strengthening the social, economic, ecological bases that generate food security and nutrition for future generations) to the traditional four pillars of food security (availability, access, utilization, stability). She concluded that achieving sustainable food systems and food security requires critical policy shifts informed by scientific literature. This includes viewing the food system as a system interconnected with other systems and sectors; focusing on hunger and malnutrition in all its forms as opposed to exclusively focusing on reducing hunger and undernutrition.

## Panel discussion

A panel discussion followed during which guest speakers from five (5) countries per day shared their experience in supporting governments in transforming food systems to deliver healthy and sustainable diets. David Gressly, Resident Coordinator for Yemen; Pacôme Kossy, Head of Office of the RCO, Burundi; and Cecilia Garzon, Country Representative of WFP, Timor Leste served as the three (3) panellists on Day 1. They discussed the extent to which the national food system pathways and nutrition actions are aligned at the national level, as well as the alignment of the UNSDCF. David Gressly highlighted that despite the political challenges in Yemen, a food system pathway is in place that builds upon social protection, response to emergencies and shocks, expansion, and improvement of the quality of agriculture and fisheries products, provision of lifelong nutrition, ensuring food safety and building strategic partnerships. Both the development cooperation framework (2022-2024) and the humanitarian response plan are well aligned in providing strategic support towards food system transformation. The RC is a member of the steering committee overseeing the implementation of the multisectoral nutrition action plan. Interestingly, the SUN Movement works across the frontlines. It is key that food systems transformation should contribute to preparing for peace in the country. Pacôme Kossy highlighted that the recently signed UNSDCF has a pillar dedicated to food systems. The Government of Burundi has established a multisectoral platform on food systems and nutrition involving actors in the sector under the Cabinet of the Prime Minister. The UN provides support by putting programs together and supporting coordination and coherence within the sector. The UN RC and UNCT are currently finalizing the annual work plan. Cecilia Garzon highlighted that the UNSDCF for Timor Leste has one of its six pillars dedicated to nutrition, food security and sustainable agriculture, while other strategic priorities focus on the contributing factors to food systems transformation, such as improving water access and availability, building resilience and social protection. The country imports more than 60% of its food and inflation and climate shocks are affecting food security and nutrition with 22% of the population living under IPC phase 3-4. Current Government places malnutrition and food security high on the agenda, but elections are coming which might imply shifts of priorities.

The panel discussion on Day 2 featured three guest speakers: Alice Shackelford, Resident Coordinator in Honduras; Tania Goossens, Country Director of the World Food Programme in Guatemala; and Mansour Ndiaye, Country Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Mali. The panel members discussed the extent to which the national food system pathways and nutrition actions are aligned at the national level, as well as the alignment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF). Alice Shackelford highlighted the strong political will on improving food and nutrition security in Honduras. A main challenge is the placement of the Department of Food Security and Nutrition under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, as this placement does not have the convening power to work across sectors. Honduras also has a strong

focus on food security and nutrition within the human development peace nexus. Honduras has received funding from the SDG Fund as well as from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Tania Goossens highlighted strong alignment of national policies and UN support with regard to food system transformation in Guatemala. The National Food and Nutrition Policy is addressing the double burden of malnutrition. Food system transformation in Guatemala is being promoted through a multisectoral approach, but still has its challenges including coordination, implementation, and private sector engagement, but progress is being made in addressing these. A new government will start in January 2024 and food systems transformation needs to be positioned high on the national agenda. Mansour Ndiaye referred to the national nutrition policy that includes actions to ensure resilient food systems for healthy diets, while also supporting nutrition through social protection, health, education, and trade and investments, with emphasis on youth engagement. The UN leads specific clusters: one for food security and one for nutrition, and a very strong humanitarian response plan (HRP). Nutrition is built into working towards resilient food systems, revitalization of rural development efforts, harmonizing health systems, strong social protection, and education systems. The UNCT is in policy dialogue with the government. Joint programming actions are underway with UNICEF, WFP and FAO collaborating to include food systems actions through social protection in the context of crisis.

### **The UN Programming Cycle**

The session on the UN programming cycle was an opportunity to present available tools for mainstreaming nutrition and food systems into the UNSDCF, on the basis of the UNSDCF internal guidance, such as the UN-Nutrition guidance note<sup>4</sup>, the series of Food Systems profiles and national Food Systems Pathways, the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Security and Nutrition along with the evidence platform for food systems and nutrition, among others. Each of the four main phases of the cycle namely analysis, development, implementation and results, offers several entry points for integrating nutrition and food systems. Indeed, nutrition is directly embedded into 12 of the 17 SDGs and can be integrated in all UNSDCF pillars, thereby illustrating how it is both a maker and marker of sustainable development. UN country teams may use conceptual tools throughout the UNSDCF cycle to identify key elements of food systems transformation, such as governance mechanisms, multisectoral analyses, engagement with partners and investment schemes.

### **Deep dive sessions**

The “hands on” facilitated deep dives aimed to foster discussions among the RCOs and UNCTs on the alignment of their own country’s UN Cooperation Framework with the National Nutrition Plans (NNPs), and Food Systems Pathways (FSPs) to identify opportunities for improving actions to ensure that food systems are delivering healthy diets for all. Reference documents (NNPs, FSPs, UN Cooperation Frameworks) and discussion questions were shared in advance of the clinics. The deep dives linked to the panel discussions and sought to address the following guiding questions:

1. To what extent are food systems and nutrition policies and actions aligned in the national context? Does the government approach these issues in an integrated way or in siloes?

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<sup>4</sup> [A guidance note on nutrition for United Nations country teams, their government counterparts and other stakeholders \(fao.org\)](#)



2. To what extent are UNCT plans and frameworks supporting national plans on food systems and nutrition? For example, are cooperation frameworks and humanitarian response plans advancing the priorities in national nutrition plans and food systems roadmaps? What about the joint annual work plans: are they connecting nutrition and food systems?
3. Have you, as the Resident Coordinator (RC) or UN Country Teams (UNCT), been able to support/ contribute to the political processes to ensure food systems transformation and nutrition is high on the national agenda? If yes, can you share some examples? How have you achieved this? What are some of the key challenges you have faced?
4. Can you share some success stories or best practices on how the UNCT has supported the government to advance policy and action that transforms food systems and advances healthy and sustainable diets?
5. Is there an advantage/ added value of having SUN FPs and the FS Convenors be the same and whether it is leveraged? If yes, how and what? ( e.g. linking stakeholders from different sectors/ FS pathways having nutrition embedded (nutritious diets, linking nutrition services, etc)).

Deep dives with five countries were conducted with Burundi, Cambodia, Somalia, Timor Leste, and Yemen on Day 1 and Benin, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mali on Day 2. A plenary session followed sharing the main findings of the breakout sessions. Broad discussion points for each country deep dive are shared below:

### **Burundi**

- The UNSDCF is generally well aligned with the national policies including the national development plan where the food systems pathways and nutrition is well integrated. This was recently discussed between the UNCT and David Nabarro. At national level, the UNCT held a retreat to harmonize its activities, where UNICEF, FAO and WFP worked to strengthen convergence. Subnational-level meetings were organized to raise awareness around the National Pathways, fully supported (including financially) by the UN county team.
- Participants stressed the coherence between the National Pathways and the National Multisectoral Nutrition Plan, especially its annual response plan, which brings together all food security and nutrition actors around nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions, ranging from health/nutrition (children and women of reproductive age) to livelihoods, infrastructure (water, storage), etc.
- Additional opportunities to strengthen nutrition aspects in food systems interventions exist, which led to the decision by the Commissariat sur la Sécurité Alimentaire (approved in principle by the Prime Minister) to organize a Round Table, together with the UNRC/UNCT, to discuss and strengthen links between food security and nutrition, with the very active SUN FP/ NC at the steering wheel. This includes better leveraging private sector activities around food fortification and reformulation (oil, salt, flour) and beyond, to fund increased productivity, the greening of agriculture and extending coverage for basic services related to education and nutrition.
- The fact that the SUN Focal Point and Food Systems National Convener functions is the same person offers significant advantages in terms of leveraging existing multisectoral coordination mechanisms (Comité technique intersectoriel de nutrition), networks (5 SUN networks: UN, civil society, private sector, donors, research and academia), and already established relationships of trust between various sectoral ministry focal points (Health and Social protection, Agriculture, Environment, Finance, MFA), moving from competition to collaboration. The UNFSS

follow-up process can harness the outcomes of years of advocacy around the implementation, scaling-up or financing of multisectoral activities. Review mechanisms are also already in place, in terms of tracking the delivery by various sectoral ministries of nutrition-related objectives from the National Development Plan, which benefits food systems related efforts.

## Cambodia

- There is strong alignment between the UNSCDF, the national policies on nutrition and food systems, and the national strategy development plan (NSDP) with relevant indicators and outputs. The challenge is not one of agreement on new policies/ actions but to implement what has been agreed upon. Financing, regulation, and aligning global guidance with feasible country priorities are also challenges.
- Public finance, advocacy, investment analysis, are all essential to mainstream nutrition into food systems transformation. Social protection as a means of access and affordability is crucial.
- There are advantages to having the same person as the SUN FP and the national convener, it is essential to link systems and avoid operating in silos but requires political coordination.

## Somalia

- Somalia faces significant challenges in ensuring adequate access to food and nutrition for its population. The United Nations Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) have identified several key areas for development cooperation, including addressing corruption, durable solutions for displacement of people, and water scarcity. Through the Food System Pathway for Somalia, the government is leading efforts to address food systems, recognizing that it is not just an agricultural agenda. The UN has been working with Somalia to address malnutrition through a multi-sectoral and sustainable approach, with a particular focus on nutrition and food security initiatives.
- The food systems agenda is being championed by the government, with the UN supporting through nutrition and food security initiatives. The UNSDCF and UNDAF are aligned with government priorities and the government is reviewing its national development plan. The National Nutrition Strategy 2020-2025 is in place with a costed action plan. There are many indicators, with a focus on stunting and wasting, and promoting breastfeeding and multiple micronutrients but there is no link to the Food System National Pathway in Somalia.
- The UNSDCF and UNDAF do not have a strong focus on food systems specifically, but there is a lot of overlap with other work. There are opportunities to integrate the food systems approach into nutrition strategy and programming, as well as into the National Development Plan.
- While the government is leading efforts to enhance food systems transformation, there is a need to align food systems and nutrition strategies to enhance the impact of development cooperation. The UN can support this process by increasing investment in food systems transformation approaches and strengthening the capacity of the government and community health workers to promote nutrition and food security initiatives. The development of an operational plan for the Food System National Pathways in Somalia can guide food systems transformation approaches and increase accountability. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress is necessary to inform future programming.

## Timor Leste

- The UNSDCF is a comprehensive document that aligns with the country's strategic priorities related to food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture and is implemented through the Consolidated National Action Plan for Nutrition and Food Security (CNAP-NFS). The CNAP-NFS is a multi-sectoral action plan that consolidates over 300 different interventions across a range of strategies into 18 high-impact, evidence-based priorities spanning seven sectors.
- The CNAP-NFS is aligned with key strategic policies and frameworks for nutrition and food security to achieve SDG2 by 2030, including the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030), the National Health Sector Strategic Plan II (2011-2030), and the Zero-Hunger Action Plan for a hunger and malnutrition-free Timor-Leste 2025 (PAN-HAM-TIL), among others. The government's priorities and national programs align with food security, nutrition, and social protection, and the UN is working to complement the country's actions to achieve meaningful outcomes in accessibility, affordability, and consumption of nutritious food across the country.
- The food systems pathways in Timor-Leste are centred around production, transportation and warehousing, processing, distribution, and consumption. Each area has specific key focuses that the pathway aims to address. The government's country budget of 2.1 billion USD allows for investment in key programs, and there is a strong linkage between food systems and nutrition and government priorities and documents.
- Despite the progress, there are challenges related to inter-ministerial coordination, recurrent climate shocks, difficult terrain, and limited capacities in infrastructure and human resources. The UNSDCF aims to facilitate this process and build the capacity of government institutions and teams on strengthening the quality and coverage of existing programs and projects. The CNAP is linked, and the pillars relate to the five Ps, including nutrition, food security, and sustainable agriculture; sustainable economic opportunities and decent work for all; early childhood development and lifelong learning outcomes and skills; quality healthcare and wellbeing; accountable, inclusive, and participatory government and quality public services, and sustainable management of natural resources and resilience.

## Yemen

- Yemen has made tremendous progress on food systems and nutrition. However, more needs to be done to bridge the development-humanitarian gap as currently, the focus given the situation in Yemen, is on humanitarian needs. RCO and UNCT are coordinating efforts to bring donors on-board for more long-term planning.
- Efforts are underway to implement the nutrition and food systems national plans but challenges of coordination and harmonization remain. Focus needs to shift to operationalization.
- Opportunities for further engagement of the SUN movement, private sector, civil society and subnational structures exists.

## Benin

- The government of Benin and UN agencies prioritize nutrition at a very high level as demonstrated by their application to host the SUN global gathering. Benin has a new UNSDCF that is aligned with the national nutrition and food security policy with clear



indicators and outcomes. It does not however have a food systems transformation roadmap but that is seen as an opportunity to develop a new one.

- There is a good level of collaboration and support between the multilateral agencies, including the UN Agencies, and the government, the school feeding program as an example.

## Honduras

- Honduras has three priority areas and food sovereignty, and nutrition are two of them. The National Food Systems Transformation Pathway is aligned with the country's food policy and nutrition priorities as much as the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is aligned with and supports the national policy. They work on issues such as resilience, livelihood change, and climate change by increasing productivity and focusing on vulnerable groups in line with the UNSDCF.
- Honduras has two national approaches for nutrition. The first is to implement the national action plan for nutrition in Honduras. The second is to bear the double burden of high levels of malnutrition. There is also a major focus on the development-health nexus with the national humanitarian response plan aligned with the food security and nutrition strategies.
- Honduras adopts a systemic approach to address nutrition and food security. The Ministry of Health and other institutions are supported to strengthen the institutional response, promote normative frameworks and strengthen governance to support healthy eating. The law on front-of-package food labelling is a concrete example.
- The national pathways were developed by the former government and the current government is seeking to promote and strengthen the institutional response. The national school meals program for example includes the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development. There are opportunities for further policy convergence, but they are seeking to align food supply chains, food environments, consumer behaviour and diets.
- The RCO and UNCT are seeking to strengthen national systems, support and scale up the government's programs such as the school feeding program, family farming and the social and food assistance programs. The Resident Coordinator added that the entry points for further alignment include the updating of the Common Country Analysis (CCA as an analytical process that helps them to position the issue and strengthen it) and to continue advocacy and lobbying, in collaboration with other strategic actors (EU, UNESCO, and others). The SUN Movement and Networks is active and many of the UN agencies are coordinating efforts to promote advocacy at the highest political level.

## Guatemala

- Strong UNSDCF alignment with the national nutrition strategy but nutrition can be involved better and in more targeted ways. Guatemala is successfully bridging the humanitarian development nexus with longer term capacity strengthening.
- The UNSDCF was approved a year ago before the Food Systems Summit so national pathways are not explicitly included but the food system summit catalysed thinking about addressing results systematically. The UNSDCF operational evaluation due in 2024 and updating of CCA in 2023 that provide opportunities for operational linkages.

- The food systems approach can help bring different stakeholders together, promote further joint action amongst the UN agencies, and ensure better coordination and results by addressing existing structures.
- Guatemala is constantly putting out fires from one crisis after another. It could be a good time to take stock of the CCA after the deep dive as it is an election year.

## Ghana

- There is clear alignment of the UNSDCF with the key government nutrition and food systems policies. The UNSDCF seeks to strengthen coordination and implementation of these policies, e.g., as in the development of the food based dietary guidelines. UNCTs and the RCOs support the government with digital tools to enhance data for food, security and nutrition.
- Opportunities lie in the use of agroecological means to promote production of organic fertilizer; enhance the role of the private sector in the food systems value chain, e.g. in food processing; improvement of the nutrition workforce; using the SUN Movement promoted linking of the food system and nutrition; large scale food fortification, which also aligns with government and industrial policy; separation of a food systems investment structure that seeks to align the government focus on the key competitive advantages within the food system.

## Mali

- The UNCT and RCO are building upon regular coordination mechanisms to bring together actors across the food systems.
- The private sector work is an important opportunity to strengthen value chains and work in food systems in the country, and the national annual response plans that brings together not only government, but also non-state actors, is an excellent opportunity.

Overall, the deep dives led to very rich discussions focused on the extent of alignment of UN support to national nutrition and food systems priorities, identification of gaps and opportunities for future action, and encouraged a systems approach to linking the nutrition and food systems efforts. The takeaway messages from the clinics are:

Systems approach has been embraced by all countries up to a various extent, but all initiatives have always led to enhanced multisectoral collaboration and reduced competition among actors. The food systems transformation efforts are well underway with countries taking sustainability very seriously. The nutrition focus is on malnutrition in all its forms and not only undernutrition.

There is generally good alignment of the UN frameworks with national policies, pathways, legislation and opportunities to either improve upon or better align is intended where absent. Continued and joined advocacy from the UN Family towards the actors in a country, to improve or strengthen the food system and nutrition thinking is needed.

When development frameworks, national policies, plans and pathways are poorly aligned or lack coherence, stakeholders tend to work in silos towards distinct objectives and the food systems narrative does not find a clear positioning in the development landscape. NNP and FS roadmaps need to be coherent.

Development frameworks need to feed into government policies and plans so that nutrition and food systems considerations are integrated in all pillars as nutrition is embedded in all 17 SDGs. UN joint programming is a concrete way to maximize nutrition-sensitive food systems approach.

Such exercises (clinics) help identify overlaps between nutrition and food security national policies and plans, the food systems roadmaps and some sections of the UNSDCF and HRP.

Having the SUN FP being FS convener leverages multi sectoral mechanisms and contributes to tackle competition, although it requires strong government coordination.

## Conclusion

Concluding remarks were given on day 1 by Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Deputy Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and on day 2 by Stineke Oenema, Executive Secretary of the UN-Nutrition Secretariat. It was noted that there is good alignment of NNPs and FSPs and UNSDCFs. Country teams were encouraged to bring this alignment to a level of joint UN programming. For that to happen, different groups need to talk and convene. It is important to deepen understanding of and practice systems thinking (food, health, agriculture, trade, education, social protection and water systems). This is also relevant, if not more, in humanitarian context. Lessons learned and experiences can be brought to the first [Stock-taking Moment](#) which is planned for 24-26 July 2023 at FAO headquarters in Rome.

## Annex

### List of participants

Day 1		Day 2	
Burundi		Bénin	
Pacôme Kossy	RCO	P. Kabore	IFAD
Eugénie Siga Diane	WHO	Ali Ouattara	WFP
Xavier Crispin	WHO	Assiba Houetchenou	RCO
Claude Kakule	WFP	Jelena Katic	RCO
N. Meyer	UNICEF	Salvador Niyonzima	RCO
Valérie Freney	RCO	Isaias ANgue	FAO
Marie Hakizinmana	RCO	Bissoumajledjou	WHO
Ochozias Gbadigui	RCO	D. Mahonde	UNICEF
Apollinaire Masuguru	FAO	<b>Guatemala</b>	
Nicholas Syed	IFAD	Peride Blind	RCO
Habte Selassie	IFAD	Carmen González	RCO
		Tania Goossens	WFP
<b>Cambodia</b>		Carlos Carrera	UNICEF
Nimol Soth	RCO	Ricardo Rapallo	FAO
Anna Lisa Noack	WFP	<b>Honduras</b>	
Claire Conan	WFP	Alice Shackelford	RCO
Frew Behabtu	IFAD	Alexander Leicht	UNESCO
Fumitsugu TOSU	WFP	Ana Treasure	PAHO
Hedy Ip	UNICEF	Fátima Espinal	FAO
Kosal Oum	FAO	José Mauricio Ramirez	UNICEF
Meng Sakphouseth	IFAD	José Perez	UNFPA
Sam Ath Khim	WHO	Lucia Escobar	WFP
Nargiza Khodjaeva	WHO	Marcia Erazo	PAHO
<b>Somalia</b>		Marios Carias	UNFPA
Barbara Ratusznik	RCO	Nahuel Oddone	RCO
Dr Abdulmunim	WHO	Norma Garcia	RCO
Dr Khalid	WHO	Romina Casman	UNESCO
Annastancia Chineka	UNICEF	Stéphanie Hochstetter	WFP
Chandrakala Jaiswal	UNICEF	Wendy Carranza	FAO
Mamunur Rahman Malik	WHO	<b>Mali</b>	
Emma Ouma	FAO	Mansour Ndiaye	FAO
Ezana Kassa	FAO	Christian Itama	WHO
Madina Ali Abdirahman	UNICEF	Eric Perdison	WFP
Nejmudin Kedir Bilal	UNICEF	Aicha Morgaye	WFP
Simon Karanja	UNICEF	Pierre Ngom	UNICEF
Wafaa Saeed	UNICEF	Dr. Tako	WHO
Timor Leste		Gnimbar Poda	WHO

Funmi Balogun	RCO	Isidore Kahoui	RCO
Riccardo Mesiano	RCO	<b>Ghana</b>	
Ali Ahmad Khan	WFP	Charles Abani	RCO
Cecilia Garzon	WFP	Peter Aidoo	RCO
Shweta Sharma	WHO	Gift Tetteh	RCO
Faraja Chiwile	UNICEF	Myra Togobo	RCO
Patrick Mills Lamptey	WFP	Gulana Huseynova	RCO
<b>Yemen</b>		Chris Ibyinsintabyo	WFP
William David Gressly	RCO	Albert Akafari	WFP
Ami Nagamune	WFP	Tani Adukobukari	WFP
Branda Kaijuka Mwaga	UNICEF	Patience Asiedu	WFP
Gabrielle McMichael	WFP	Alexander Osei Yeboah	WFP
Issaka Dangnossi	RCO	Selina Agandaa	FAO
Joel Munywoki	FAO	Mark Offei	FAO
Josephine Ippe	UNICEF	Jefferson Attipoe	FAO
Marg Gorden	WFP	Benjamin Adjei	FAO
Olaf Jan de Groot	RCO	Charles Kwame Sackey	UNIDO
Pierre Fallavier	RCO	Jevaise Aballo	UNICEF
David Gressly	RCO	Robert Osei-Tutu	UNICEF
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