

## UNFSS+2 Side Event

### National Pathways:

#### Spotlight on nutrition, gender and food systems policy actions

CARE, the [Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All \(HDSFS\)](#) and the [Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition \(GLOPAN\)](#) organized a virtual side-event during the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) on 25 July 2023 to share an analysis of nutrition, gender and food system policy actions included in over 100 national food systems pathways and experiences from Chile and Zambia.

The major highlights of the event included:

- **A call to urgent action for increased attention to nutrition and the affordability and quality of diets in national food systems transformation pathways** – A WHO analysis showed that a minority of national food systems pathways integrated cost-effective strategies on public food procurement, food fortification, labelling, fiscal policies, reformulation of foods and the regulating of marketing. The Global Panel shared an analysis which demonstrated that countries need more support in identifying actions to improve the affordability of food and diet quality. Therefore, national pathways require prioritization of public sector policies and strategies to increase access and affordability of healthy diets to ensure healthy food environments are conducive for improving nutrition.
- **Gender Discourse Analysis of the resulting pledged commitments** – A review of the national pathways showed that 33% of the commitments were gender-sensitive, 5% were gender-responsive, and 20% were gender transformative, while in 40% of the commitments, gender was not referenced at all. The most notable finding was that 54% of the pathways referenced nutrition in the context of gender – demonstrating the widely recognized linkages between gender and nutrition linkages. A study conducted by CARE showed that of 84 global policies and plans designed to address hunger in 2020 and 2021, only 4% referred to women as leaders who should be part of the solution, while 39% overlooked women entirely. Overlooking the importance of gender equality is downplaying the magnitude of the problem. This requires investing time and money in training women leaders, listening to their voices and honouring their right to be at all tables where decisions are made. Nonetheless, the prevalence of transformative approaches observed in 22 of the 110 national pathways does offer a starting point for the future of gender-nutrition actions and women and girls' inclusion in food systems.
- **Multisectoral approach to nutrition** – Mathews Mhuru, Deputy Executive Director of the National Food and Nutrition Commission of Zambia highlighted the importance of multi-sectoral nutrition governance. He shared their successful experience in positioning nutrition within the food systems transformation agenda by placing the nutrition coordination in the Office of the Vice President and by appointing the Secretary to Cabinet as the chairperson of the National Food and Nutrition Coordination Committee. This approach has resulted in broad support for nutrition at various levels.
- **Innovative and long-term solutions to improve physical and economic access to healthy foods** – Amanda Baker, policy analyst from the Ministry of Social Development in Chile, shared examples of policies and programs for improving access to healthy foods from sustainable food systems. These include updating national dietary guidelines to promote fresh, safe, nutritious and minimally processed foods and that consider territorial diversity, seasonality

and sustainability; labelling of foods and beverages high in sugar, salt, saturated fats and alcohol; the introduction of food banks; and a parental responsibility law requiring both parents to support their children.

