

Entry points for transforming agricultural and food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition for all

This impulse paper is aimed at GIZ staff and other international cooperation partners involved in project planning and implementation for stronger health and nutrition outcomes through agricultural and food systems approaches. It suggests entry points in agricultural and food systems likely to contribute to improved nutrition as a priority outcome of the transformation. These entry points encompass **actions** that target specific food system components and **levers** that cut across food systems components and sectors and have the power to effect significant change in the availability and access to healthy diets and improved nutrition for all people. An appendix details external approaches and GIZ project examples for these actions and levers.*

1 THE URGENCY OF TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

‘Our food systems are broken,’ said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres at the UN Food System Summit + 2 Stocktaking Moment (UN FSS+2) in 2023.¹ Numerous recent reports detail how current food systems are causing enormous economic, ecological, social and health costs (see Box 1).^{2,3,4,5} Since the first UN FSS in 2021, the transformation of agricultural and food systems has been identified as the accelerator needed to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2030, with this approach adopted by many international and national initiatives, including e.g., the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28 & 29 and Nutrition for Growth 2021.

European Union and German international cooperation have adopted it as their guiding paradigm. Transitioning to sustainable food systems is at the heart of the EU ‘Farm to Fork strategy’ (2020) which ‘recognises the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet’.⁶ The ‘external window’ of the strategy stipulates that the ‘EU will support the global transition to sustainable agri-food systems’.⁶ The BMZ is strengthening its systemic approach for food and nutrition security with its core area strategy ‘Transformation of agricultural and food systems’, and its priority area, ‘Poverty, Hunger and Inequality’.⁷

Box 1: How current food systems are failing people and the planet



Globally, approximately 735 million people suffer from hunger, 1.6 billion suffer from hidden hunger (micro-nutrient deficiencies) and 3.1 billion cannot afford a healthy diet. Simultaneously, more than 1 billion people are obese.



Agriculture accounts for 70% of global freshwater withdrawals, up to 30% of greenhouse gas emissions and the threat of extinction to over 80% of mammal and bird species.



20-40% of food is lost and wasted in global food production.



Smallholder farmers produce a third of the world's food but are most affected by poverty.

* According to the ‘High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) (2020)⁸, food systems include agricultural systems. In this paper, we use the terms food systems and agricultural and food systems interchangeably, recognising food and non-food components of food systems.

2 FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH – OVERCOMING SECTORAL SILOS IN FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

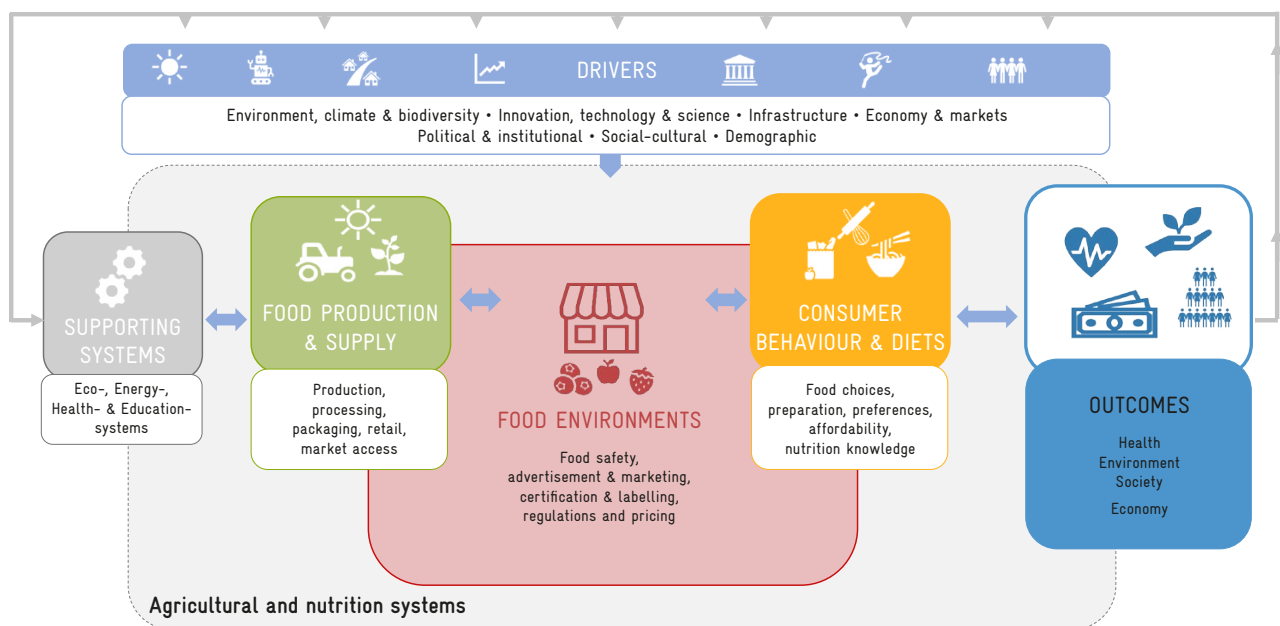
Food systems include all components (environment, people, policies, inputs, processes, infrastructure, institutions, etc.) and activities related to the production, processing, distribution, and consumption of food.⁸ Food systems are shaped by drivers, such as environment, climate change, science, economy and culture, and are dependent on supporting systems, such as ecosystems and energy and health systems (see Figure 1).

Food systems encompass agricultural systems (production, processing and supply), including farming, animal production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, and related activities – but also treat consumer behaviour and diets as key to achieving positive impacts in terms of health,

natural environments, society and economy. ‘Food environments’ are the places where people make choices about food that is available, accessible, affordable and desirable to them. Food environments connect food suppliers with consumers.

Health and nutrition are essential outcomes of food systems transformation alongside environmental protection, social equity and economic viability. A healthy diet “is human health-promoting and disease-preventing. It provides adequacy (without an excess of nutrients) and health-promoting substances from nutritious foods and avoids the consumption of health-harming substances”⁹

Figure 1: Food Systems (adapted from HLPE-FSN, 2020)⁸



3 ENSURING THAT THE TRANSFORMATION DELIVERS MULTIPLE OUTCOMES

What does transformation mean?

Transformation means major, significant, deep and broad changes beyond piecemeal reforms, incremental change and narrowly focused projects and programmes.¹⁰ Instead of trying to fix the existing system, transformation is asking for a future vision that will guide the creation of new systems.

Direction of transformation

Future food systems must ensure food and nutrition security for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate the food and nutrition security of future generations are not compromised.⁹ Future food systems must strive towards the following qualities to support all dimensions of food and nutrition security and ensure positive outcomes for people, planet and prosperity:

- productive and prosperous (to ensure the availability of sufficient food);
- equitable and inclusive (to ensure access for all people to food and to livelihoods within that system);
- empowering and respectful (to ensure agency for all people and groups, including those who are most vulnerable and marginalised, to make choices and have a voice in shaping the system);
- resilient (to ensure stability in the face of shocks and crises);
- regenerative (to ensure sustainability in all its dimensions); and
- healthy and nutritious (to ensure nutrient uptake and utilisation) (see Figure 2).

Food system transformation thus requires a shift from an exclusive focus on quantity to addressing multiple dimensions of quality, including access to healthy diets for all.

Figure 2: Transformation towards multiple outcomes in order to achieve food and nutrition security (adopted from HLPE-FSN, 2020)⁸



Accounting for trade-offs

Transforming food systems is not a linear process and will inherently lead to expected and unexpected impacts on outcomes for health, natural environments, society and the economy. For example, the primary focus of most agricultural programmes is to increase yields and income generation through staple crop production, supported by government subsidies. Over the past decades², these measures have improved food security (in terms of providing sufficient calories per person) but neglected the production of enough fruit and vegetables to satisfy nutritional needs (in terms of essential vitamins and minerals).¹¹ Today, healthy diets remain unavailable for many people and unaffordable for 42% of the global population.²

Harmonising goals between different sectors and stakeholders as well as identifying joint solutions for systemic change is core to the food systems transformation. Joint analysis (e.g. of future scenarios) and discussions of trade-offs will allow for compromises and prioritisation of food systems outcomes.

4 ACTIONS FOR HEALTHY DIETS IN FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

In this paper, actions refer to individual activities targeting food production, the supply chain, food environments and consumers and which have the potential to improve healthy diets (among other outcomes for food systems transformation). The actions have been selected because of their clear pathway to impact on availability, affordability, appeal/acceptability and safety of food.¹² The action wheel (Figure 3) summarises these actions.

Actions in agricultural production mainly aim to increase the availability and affordability of a diversity of nutritious foods to local populations. Actions in food processing and supply chains can increase the availability of micronutrients and the availability, appeal and safety of nutritious foods throughout the year to all populations. Actions

within the food environment can increase the availability, affordability and access to nutritious foods and reduce access to foods high in fats, sugars and salt to people. Actions aiming at consumer behaviour and dietary choices can increase the appeal of nutritious foods and reduce the appeal of foods high in fats, sugars and salt to populations. A more detailed list of actions and examples is provided in Appendix 1.

While not claiming to be exhaustive, the action wheel gives examples of actions that can contribute to cross-sectoral food system links. As such, these actions could be added to programmes related to agriculture, rural development, climate mitigation and adaptation, social protection or health.

Figure 3: Action wheel for healthy diets in food systems transformation (adapted from Hawkes et al., 2020)¹³ (more details and examples in Appendix 1)

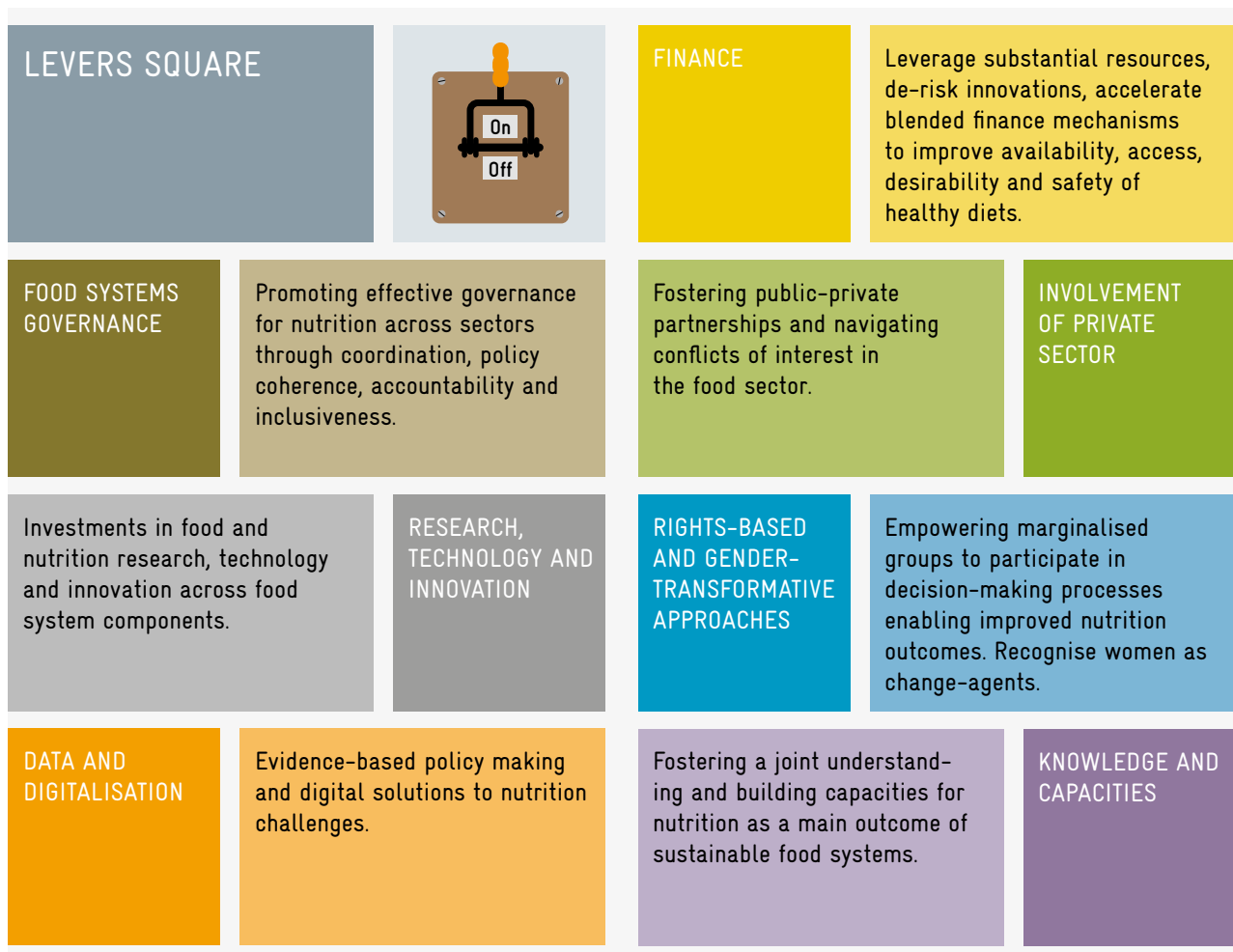


5 LEVERS OF CHANGE

A lever of change is an area of work that has the potential to deliver wide-ranging positive change beyond its immediate focus.¹³ The levers cut across all food systems elements and sectors and have the power to enable significant progress on mainstreaming, decision-making and operationalisation of measures for improved nutrition and other economic, environmental and societal outcomes.

The levers square (see Figure 4) describes seven levers of change: (1) governance, (2) finance, (3) knowledge and capacities, (4) research, technology and innovation, (5) data and digitalisation, (6) private sector collaboration, and (7) human-rights based and gender transformative approaches. The levers have been selected according to recent international reports on food systems transformation and their high potential for improving nutrition in GIZ's current and future portfolio.^{14,15,16}

Figure 4: Levers square for healthy diets in food systems transformation (see Appendix 2 for more details and examples)







6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS


Food systems have many entry points with a high potential to improve health and nutrition outcomes. This paper has described individual actions in each food systems component as well as levers of change, representing broader areas of interventions that cut across food systems. The successful implementation of these actions and levers will depend on the complex and context-specific interplay with other food systems outcomes related to the economy, natural environments and society.


Within GIZ's framework Destination 2028¹⁷ and its focus on integrated solutions, the food systems approach is highly conducive to enabling healthy diets and improved nutrition. It is recommended to:

- Revisit existing project approaches to move from fragmented activities to systemic approaches that link multiple components of food systems, such as production, supply, food environments and consumption.
- Recognise the importance of sectoral expert knowledge while placing more effort on combining actions across sectors. This requires mutual learning, collaboration and coordination.
- Build effective multi-sectoral and stakeholder collaboration to harmonise synergies and negotiate trade-offs of multiple objectives for achieving improved health and nutrition outcomes amongst other objectives related to the economy, environment and society.
- Be courageous to implement a combination of existing and new levers and actions that contribute to transformative change in food systems.
- Measure progress in food system transformation with diet and nutrition indicators.



Appendix 1: Examples of actions to improve nutrition outcomes in food systems transformation



FOOD SYSTEM COMPONENT	DESCRIPTIVE ACTIONS	EXAMPLES / CONTRIBUTION TO TRANSFORMATION
<p>Production</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Re)design agricultural development programmes beyond income generation by focusing on growing and marketing a diversity of climate-resilient and nutritious foods (including agricultural, animal-husbandry, aquaculture, forestry and indigenous systems). • (Peri-)urban agriculture programmes, providing land and other inputs, support local market development. • Sustainable, regenerative and agroecological production practices in agriculture. 	<p> The case of smallholder coffee-growing communities in San Ramón (Nicaragua) and Veracruz (Mexico) provides an example of successful agroecological transition resulting in increased food and livelihood security and improved diets. <i>The transition initiatives in San Ramón and Veracruz – which linked household nutrition, local food production, building alternative markets (locally and globally), diversification, improving natural soil fertility, and empowering community members – underline the benefits of casting the net wide in order to build sustainable food systems</i>.¹⁸</p> <p>GIZ Agroecological Transformation Processes The technical cooperation project 'Support to Agroecological Transformation Processes – SuATI' (funded by BMZ) in India aims to strengthen agroecological transformation processes of agricultural and food systems at national and state level in India.</p>
<p>Processing, supply chains and trade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Bio-)fortification programmes, supporting adoption, market development and public awareness campaigns. • Improve post-harvest storage, packaging and processing for nutritious foods to reduce nutrient losses, remove antinutrients, prevent contamination and reduce food losses. • Improvement of roads, transportation, storage, cold chain and logistical distribution infrastructure to enable the delivery of safe, perishable nutritious foods to urban and rural markets. • Trade policies prioritising the supply of nutritious foods, taking account of local and international supply chains. 	<p> Mandatory food fortification of staple foods (several examples)¹⁹</p> <p>In Ghana, a local start-up company, SESI Technologies, is helping maize farmers to limit storage losses by measuring moisture levels before storage with its low-cost GrainMate meter, which was invented in 2018.²⁰</p> <p>Ghana implemented an innovative food standards policy to limit the amount of fat in beef, mutton, pork and poultry in response to rising imports of low quality meat following trade liberalisation in the early 1990s. This led to a reduced availability of specific 'low quality' high-fat meats in the Ghanaian food supply.²¹</p> <p>Supporting value chains for shared prosperity in Tanzania (Agri-Connect, EU-funded). This initiative aims to contribute to inclusive economic growth, to promote private sector development and job creation in the agricultural sector and to increase food and nutrition security. Its specific objective is to promote productivity, commercialisation and competitiveness of the tea, coffee and horticultural sectors. The action capitalises on the strong links between gender, women's empowerment and nutrition.²²</p> <p>GIZ Green Innovation Centres for the agriculture and food sector This project in Zambia aims to promote innovations in the agriculture and food industry sector that contribute to sustainable rural development by supporting value chain development for soya beans and groundnuts in the Eastern and dairy in the Southern provinces of Zambia. Soya beans and groundnuts are ideally suited for cultivation in rotation with maize and furthermore help to improve soil quality. Milk production, meanwhile, provides farmers with a continuous, non-seasonal source of income. The high protein content of both legumes and milk is also beneficial, especially in combating malnutrition.</p>



FOOD SYSTEM COMPONENT	DESCRIPTIVE ACTIONS	EXAMPLES / CONTRIBUTION TO TRANSFORMATION
		<p>Global Programme Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience</p> <p>This project in India, together with the national rural development scheme (MGNREGA) implements Community Nutrition Gardens (CNGs) in 4 project districts in the state of Madhya Pradesh. About 4,500 women from poor and underprivileged families have been mobilised and trained in agriculture and nutrition. In addition, Self Help Groups have been formed. The women combine their earnings for the purpose of loaning and mobilising agricultural inputs for CNG activities.²³</p> <p>In Togo, this project introduced the cultivation of biofortified crops. The lessons learned were taken up by the Ministry of Agriculture. Besides the integration of biofortified maize in the national seed catalogue, it was decided that biofortified sweet potato should become an integral part of school meals.²⁴</p>
<p>Enhancing food environments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public institution actions, e.g. school nutrition programmes and public food procurement policies that apply nutritional guidelines to food procured for public institutions and prioritise purchasing from smallholders, local, family and/or sustainable food producers. • Regulations and laws, such as food quality and safety standards, mandatory limits on fat, sugar and salt in packaged foods; nutrition labelling; marketing and advertising of unhealthy foods or zoning laws (e.g. restricting the number of fast food outlets in area). 	<p> A tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) of 1 peso per litre came into effect in January 2014 in Mexico as a national health policy to tackle the high overweight and obesity prevalence.²⁵</p> <p>Chile adopted a law requiring food companies to place front-of-package labels on foods and drinks that are high in sugar, salt, saturated fat and energy.²⁶</p> <p>The Food Environment Policy Index aims to track governments' progress towards good practice in improving food environments and nutrition. It identifies critical gaps in policies and infrastructure, provides a means of benchmarking against international best practice, and tracks progress over time. The methodology for developing the Index was designed by international group INFORMAS.²⁷</p> <p>Eat Right India is an initiative of the country's government and food safety and standards authority (FSSAI) to transform the food system to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians. Its implementation is still in progress.²⁸</p> <p>The global RECAP programme aims to build regulatory and fiscal capacity and links between different sectors (government, civil society, academia) to support the development, adoption, implementation and monitoring of regulatory and fiscal policies for the promotion of healthy diets and physical activity to prevent NCDs. Five countries participate in the programme: Kenya, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda. The EU is one of the donors.²⁹</p>


FOOD SYSTEM COMPONENT	DESCRIPTIVE ACTIONS	EXAMPLES / CONTRIBUTION TO TRANSFORMATION
		<p>GIZ Global Programme Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience</p> <p>In Cambodia, this project strengthened government enforcement on the ban on breastmilk substitutes and the establishment of nursing rooms in factories as well as maternity leave to enhance breastfeeding rates in the first 6 months after birth.</p> <p>In Burkina Faso, the project is strengthening the National Fortification Alliance in its mandate to align national food fortification activities, to enhance compliance with standards and regulations and to support implementation of the micronutrient deficiency strategy.</p>
<p>Consumer behaviour and dietary choices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and consumer awareness, including nutrition education, food literacy and dietary counselling to women during pregnancy and after childbirth. • National dietary guidelines that are aligned to food systems policies and programmes and are widely communicated to the general public. • Social protections programmes, including cash or food transfers, school meal programmes, savings groups, input or food subsidies 	<p> In Kenya, the Nutrition Improvements through Cash and Health Education (NICHE) programme provides an example of nutrition-sensitive social protection. It provides cash, nutrition counselling and child protection services to poor households to tackle the determinants of undernutrition. This improved households' purchasing power, access to food and nutrition services.</p> <p>GIZ Global Programme Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience</p> <p>The country package in India (SENU)¹⁴, together with Welthungerhilfe and the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) in Madhya Pradesh, India, developed a social and behaviour change (SBC) strategy for improved nutrition of women and young children. Frontline staff are trained to apply the strategy in a participatory, action-oriented way.³⁰</p> <p>In Madagascar, the project supported the updating of the national food and nutrition policy framework and strategy. A unique feature is the multisectoral action plan for nutrition including a 5 year monitoring plan.</p> <p>Conditional transfers of cash were combined with nutrition screening of children, cooking demonstrations, theatre for change and top-up services for pregnant and lactating women in response to lean-season food shortages, implemented by GIZ's Food and Nutrition Security Project (FNSP) in Malawi.³¹</p> <p>A cash-for-work programme supported by GIZ's Food and Nutrition Security Project in Mali helped restore natural resources, pastures, and prevent overflowing of ponds to secure access to food for households in the project region.³²</p>

Appendix 2: Examples of projects that act as levers for healthy diets and improved nutrition in food systems transformation

LEVERS	EXAMPLES
<p>Food Systems Governance</p> <p><i>Promoting effective governance for nutrition across sectors through coordination, policy coherence, accountability and inclusiveness.</i></p>	<p> The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)³³ is the foremost inter-governmental and global platform for dialogue on food security and nutrition, involving a broad range of stakeholders (governments, international organisations, civil society, private sector, research bodies). It works in an inclusive manner and endorses guidance and policy recommendations such as the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.³⁴</p> <p>As a follow-up to the 2021 Summit on Food Systems³⁵ Stocktaking Moment, actions to transform food systems are being stepped up including on governance³⁶, in line with countries' commitments.</p> <p>GIZ</p> <p>The Global Programme 'Food Systems Transformation' supports transformation initiatives in India, Malawi and Zambia, as well as two global transformation initiatives, the Food City Network of ICLEI and the Next Gen(d)eration for food security with the aim to transform food systems for healthier and more sustainable diets. The programme offers advisory and facilitation services, enabling stakeholders to develop the required competencies and optimise processes in order to implement their strategies for change.</p>
<p>Knowledge and Capacities</p> <p><i>Fostering a joint understanding and building capacities for nutrition as a main outcome of sustainable food systems.</i></p>	<p> Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) facilitate access for millions to knowledge and education. FAO has developed many online MOOCs, for example on open data management in agriculture, farm data management and information literacy and access to global online research in agriculture.</p> <p>GIZ</p> <p>Capacity Development for Nutrition</p> <p>As part of the implementation of the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) strategy, Capacity Development for Nutrition (C4N SUN)³⁷ offers capacity development and technical assistance to countries on food systems transformation and healthy diets. The initiative is co-funded by BMZ and the EU and implemented by GIZ.</p> <p>Sector Network Rural Development Africa (SNRD Africa)</p> <p>All GIZ projects commissioned by the BMZ participate in at least one sector network with sector and/or regional relevance for the project. The Sector Network Rural Development Africa (SNRD Africa) for example brings together local and international GIZ professionals working in the rural development sector in Africa. A profound knowledge sharing hub, it promotes capacity development and better project management practice.</p> <p>Atingi</p> <p>Atingi is a free learning platform designed with more than 200 partners across the globe to provide high-quality, inclusive and relevant learning aimed at emerging markets. It is commissioned and funded by the BMZ and was implemented by GIZ in 2019.</p>

LEVERS	EXAMPLES
<p>Research, Technology, Innovation</p> <p><i>Investments in food and nutrition research, technology and innovation across food system components</i></p>	<p> CGIAR's Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH) initiative works with partners to increase fruit and vegetable consumption, enhance diet quality and improve health outcomes while promoting sustainable livelihoods, starting with consumers and working back through the food system.</p> <p>GIZ</p> <p>The Fund for International Agricultural Research (FIA)³⁸ project supports international agricultural research to develop sustainable solutions for crops, aquaculture and livestock and to bring them into widespread use in order to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers worldwide.</p> <p>Food Systems and Nutrition Evidence and Gap Map</p> <p>The Food Systems and Nutrition Evidence and Gap Map monitors and presents the evidence available and knowledge gaps in the field of food systems and nutrition. The initiative is funded by BMZ through the GIZ 'Knowledge for Nutrition' programme.</p>
<p>Data and Digitalisation</p> <p><i>Evidence-based policymaking and digital solutions to nutrition challenges.</i></p>	<p> The Global Diet Quality Project aims to collect dietary quality data about the adult population worldwide and to provide the tools for valid and feasible diet quality monitoring within countries. The project enables the first ever collection of consistent, comparable dietary data across countries.</p> <p>Bioversity's initiative on indicators of Sustainable Diets and Food Systems aims to generate metrics to support decision-making related to food system policies. Several indicators have been suggested covering a range of dimensions, including the environmental impact of the foods produced, dietary diversity, income and health.³⁹</p> <p>Food Systems Dashboard is the first dashboard of country-level data across all components of the food system and provides deeper analysis and guidance on how to use the data in meaningful ways. It brings together extant data for over 275 indicators to give users a complete view of food systems, including their drivers, components and outcomes.</p> <p>GIZ</p> <p>Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations</p> <p>The Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in the Agri-Food Sector (i4Ag), funded by BMZ and the EU, is implementing the Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations project (DERPIN) in 5 African countries (Benin, Ghana, Malawi, Uganda and Senegal). The project leverages data, analytical evidence and digital resources to bolster the capacity of government and value-chain actors to design impactful solutions for the sustainable transformation of food systems in Africa. It provides an open-access, web-based tool which incorporates machine learning for the prognosis of nutritional status, agricultural production and crop-specific yields.</p> <p>National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN)⁴⁰ is an initiative (co-funded by BMZ and the EU) which supports countries to strengthen their information systems for nutrition. It improves data analysis to better inform decisions and ultimately, prevent malnutrition and its consequences.</p>

LEVERS	EXAMPLES
<p>Human rights-based and gender-transformative approaches</p> <p><i>Empowering marginalised groups to participate in decision-making processes enabling improved nutrition outcomes. Recognise women as change agents.</i></p>	<p> The Youth Leaders for Nutrition Programme is a Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Network (CSN) initiative to engage with and empower young people in CSN member countries to become powerful agents of change for nutrition.</p> <p>The Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture, implemented by FAO, IFAD and WFP in collaboration with and through financial support from the European Union, developed a Theory of Change (ToC) for Gender Transformative Programming. The 'Compendium of 15 good practices', showcases successful gender transformative approaches across different settings. It outlines good practices and experiences that contribute to positive gender-related transformational changes towards food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>UNESCO's Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme (LINKS) promotes local and indigenous knowledge and its inclusion in global climate science and policy processes.</p> <p>GIZ</p> <p>The Global Programme 'Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience' focuses not only on realising the human right to adequate food, but also on the promotion of gender-sensitive and gender-transformative approaches. Men are addressed as indirect beneficiaries in project implementation. Using 'soap operas', core messages of gender-transformative approaches in Burkina Faso are conveyed in a vivid and simple way. In India, participatory and community-based street theatres have been piloted in Khandwa district to expose and challenge gender norms and stereotypes in nutrition and childcare.</p>
<p>Involvement of the private sector</p> <p><i>Fostering public-private partnerships and navigating conflicts of interest in the food sector.</i></p>	<p> World Benchmarking Alliance is a multi-stakeholder alliance that is building a movement to measure and incentivise business impact towards a sustainable future.</p> <p>The Access to Nutrition Initiative (ATNI) produces high-quality research and accountability tools designed to drive and support food market transformation culminating in healthy diets for all.</p> <p>GIZ</p> <p>Improving food and nutrition security for resilience in Yemen</p> <p>The GIZ transitional assistance project 'Improving food and nutrition security for resilience in Yemen' works closely with the QIMA Coffee Corporation to strengthen the capacities of coffee farmers to integrate nutrient-rich crops in their production through intercropping.</p>

LEVERS	EXAMPLES
<p>Finance</p> <p><i>Leverage substantial resources, de-risk innovations, accelerate blended finance mechanisms to improve availability, access, desirability and safety of healthy diets.</i></p>	<p> In 2005, Malawi introduced the Farm Input Subsidy Program (FISP), which distributes vouchers to poor agricultural households. The goal of FISP was to enhance food self-sufficiency by increasing smallholder farmers' access to and use of improved agricultural inputs, thereby boosting the incomes of resource-poor farmers. The programme positively influenced food production, and also showed that subsidy programmes, when accessible to those who need them, can also help address gender inequalities in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>Debt relief and domestic resource mobilisation</p> <p>Debts burdens have been growing in low- and middle-income countries. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), about 60% of low-income countries are at high risk of or in debt distress. Such a level of debt prevents countries from investing in the transformation of food systems, food security and nutrition. Furthermore, food systems which are heavily reliant on imports (e.g. food, fertilisers) are important contributors to rising debts. IPES-Food calls for 'debt relief and development finance on a scale sufficient to meet the needs of COVID-19 recovery, climate-resilient food systems, and the Sustainable Development Goals.'</p> <p>For instance, the IMF offers debt relief through the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (to which the EU and Germany contributed). The Addis Tax Initiative (co-funded by the German cooperation and the EU) is an example of a global domestic resource mobilisation initiative.</p> <p>GIZ</p> <p>Global Programme Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience</p> <p>Decentralised budget lines for nutrition</p> <p>In January 2023, the Ministry of Finance announced that budget lines for food and nutrition security would be established in all districts of Malawi in the coming financial year. One of the Ministry's recommendations to the districts with regard to the new budget line was to consider the areas of „prevention of malnutrition“ and „gender equality“ in their planning</p>

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