
**Progress report on the implementation of IFAD's
commitments to the Food Systems Summit
follow-up (October 2021-June 2022)**

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Technical questions:

Satu Santala

Associate Vice-President
External Relations and Governance Department
e-mail: s.santala@ifad.org

Nadine Gbossa

Director
Food Systems Coordination
e-mail: n.gbossa@ifad.org

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I. Background

1. September 23, 2022 marks the one-year anniversary of the United Nations Food Systems Summit called by the Secretary-General following conversations with the joint leadership of the three United Nations Rome-based agencies (RBAs) – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IFAD and the World Food Programme (WFP). The objective was to mobilize the global community to transform food systems in order to meet the challenge of providing food security and nutrition for all and livelihoods for the millions of people involved in farming and the food chain, while contributing to environmental sustainability.¹
2. One year post-Summit, food systems transformation is more needed than ever. Between 702 million and 828 million people faced hunger in 2021, an increase of 150 million people since 2019.² Three billion people cannot afford a healthy diet, and malnutrition in all its forms, including obesity, is deeply entrenched.³ Public health expenditure deriving from unhealthy diets and over-consumption is an estimated US\$6 trillion per year.⁴ Food systems pose a major risk to the climate and environmental agenda, contributing up to one third of greenhouse gas emissions, up to 80 per cent of biodiversity loss and up to 70 per cent of fresh water consumption.⁵ While food systems are the largest source of employment globally, two thirds of people living in extreme poverty are agricultural workers.⁶ The war in Ukraine has placed even greater pressure on food systems with rising prices for food and energy and tighter financial conditions.⁷ The global community is deploying urgent measures to sustain the food supply to the most vulnerable. In parallel, it is equally urgent to sustain the Summit's commitment to transform food systems towards equity, sustainability, healthy practices and resilience.
3. This progress report provides an update on the implementation of IFAD's commitments to the Summit's follow-up actions, namely to: (i) co-lead, together with the other RBAs a United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub; (ii) lead, on behalf of the United Nations system, the work on finance as a means of implementation for food systems transformation; (iii) support national pathways for food systems transformation through its programme of loans and grants; (iv) co-lead the Coalition of Action on Decent Work and Living Incomes and Wages for All Food Systems Workers (DWLIW) for economic and social justice and the right to adequate and nutritious food for food systems workers; and (v) lead the Coalition of Public Development Banks to step up green and inclusive investments in agriculture and across food systems.

¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD), *Making Better Policies for Food Systems*. (Paris: OECD Publishing, 2021).

² FAO, IFAD, United Nations Children's Fund, WFP and World Health Organization, *2022 – The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 – Repurposing Food and Agricultural Policies to make Healthy Diets more Affordable*. (New York, 2022).

³ United Nations, *Secretary-General's Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the United Nations Food Systems Summit*. (2021).

⁴ World Bank, *Food Finance Architecture – Financing a Healthy, Equitable and Sustainable Food System*. (World Bank, 2021).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ OECD, *Making Better Policies for Food Systems*. (Paris: OECD Publishing, 2021).

⁷ United Nations, *United Nations Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance Brief No.2: Global Impact of the War in Ukraine – Billions of people face the greatest cost-of-living crisis in a generation*. (New York, 2022).

II. Status of implementation of IFAD's commitment to the Food Systems Summit Follow-up (October 2021-June 2022)

A. Co-leadership of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub

4. In the Summit's Statement of Action, the Secretary-General committed the RBAs to jointly lead a coordination hub that collaborates with and draws upon the wider United Nations system capacity to support the follow-up to the Summit. The United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub was established in December 2021 following consultations between the Deputy Secretary-General and the principals of FAO, IFAD, WFP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO). It is hosted by FAO with oversight by a steering group comprised of the principals of the RBAs, UNDCO, and UNEP. Six agencies have already committed staff and resources to the hub to date, namely FAO, UNDCO, IFAD, UNEP, WFP and WHO. The hub currently employs eight professional staff on a full or part-time basis in addition to support staff. FAO, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) and Italy have pledged seed funding to support the operations of the hub. IFAD is processing a contribution grant of US\$250,000 over 12 months.
5. At start-up, the hub conducted a needs assessment to map priority areas for support. Funding is the highest area of support sought by countries, followed by knowledge and technical expertise to leverage connections, tools, knowledge and networks for food systems transformation; support for implementation of national pathways; monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for food systems transformation; and communication and advocacy. Countries have also called for coordination with coalitions and collaboration with the private sector for rapid sustainability gains in implementing their national pathways. The hub leveraged this needs assessment to develop its workplan for the 2022-23 biennium and its key functions, which were approved by its Oversight Steering Group as follows:
 - (i) Support countries in the development and implementation of their national pathways for food systems transformation;
 - (ii) Strengthen thought leadership through analyses, facts and figures, and tools to inform country strategies and policies for food systems transformation;
 - (iii) Engage the ecosystem of support to mobilize capacities to help countries implement their national pathways;
 - (iv) Mobilize the global community for the means of implementation for food systems transformation, prioritizing finance over the 2022-23 biennium;
 - (v) Communication and advocacy for food systems transformation; and
 - (vi) Organize the 2023 stock-taking post-Summit.
6. Accordingly, the hub spearheaded operational deliverables:
 - (i) **Support for national pathways.** The hub engaged consultations with the Joint SDG Fund to set up a catalytic funding window for food systems transformation at country level led by United Nations Resident Coordinators with technical support from the hub. Other planned deliverables include a food systems solutions library and guidance for reflecting food systems transformation in common country assessments and cooperation frameworks.
 - (ii) **Strategic thought leadership.** The hub's priority is to develop an M&E framework to guide countries and the global community in setting targets and monitoring progress towards food systems transformation. The

hub is also planning to organize food systems sciences updates, policy briefs, webinars and science-policy roundtables.

- (iii) **Engaging the ecosystem of support.** The hub is setting up a Stakeholder Engagement, Networking Advisory Group that sustains the Summit's commitment to inclusivity for food systems transformation. It will comprise representatives of youth, indigenous people, producers, women, the private sector, and the science and technology community. The hub also responded to stakeholders' request to facilitate a connection between coalitions and national conveners through dialogue and consolidated data on coalitions for ease of reference.
 - (iv) **Communicating and advocating for food systems transformation.** The hub is developing a communication and advocacy plan strategy. It will include a food systems tracker and a web portal that will be the main point of information for national governments and stakeholders.
 - (v) **Means of implementation for food systems transformation.** This workstream is led by IFAD. Section B below provides an overview of achievements to date.
7. Finally, the hub has launched Food Systems Solutions Dialogues, which bring together the hub with national conveners, United Nations country teams and the ecosystem of support on current and emerging issues for food systems transformation. To foster country exchanges on how national pathways are affected by the conflict in Ukraine and measures to protect the most vulnerable and build resilience, the hub has also organized regional touch points with national conveners, the Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group, and representatives of the RBAs and other regional bodies.

B. Leadership on finance as a means of implementation for food systems transformation

8. IFAD, as the international financial institution (IFI) specializing in food and agriculture, was designated by EOSG to lead, on behalf of the United Nations, the finance agenda for food systems transformation. The objective is to operationalize the ambitious new Food Finance Architecture (FFA) launched during the Summit. The FFA aims to mobilize the global community on five financial imperatives for food systems transformation, i.e.:
- (i) Reshape public support and incentives to repurpose the US\$500 billion to US\$700 billion per year of agricultural subsidies, which incentivize unsustainable choices;
 - (ii) Integrate health, environmental and social risks into financial decisions by food businesses and public institutions;
 - (iii) Scale fit-for-purpose financial products and business models to de-risk private investments and improve access to finance for primary producers;
 - (iv) Secure equitable food systems, rebalancing bargaining power and investments to provide decent livelihoods to food value chain workers living in poverty; and
 - (v) Strengthen food governance and stability for physical and financial resilience to shocks.
9. During the period under review, IFAD brokered engagement with the World Bank to co-lead on this agenda. Co-leadership brings together the know-how, resources and outreach of both IFIs. They designated senior focal points to lead on their contribution and act as a connector with the hub. They set up a Food Finance Consultative Group comprised of experts and leaders from food businesses, leading policy and research institutions, development partner agencies, investors and small

and medium agribusiness. This group serves for feedback, expertise, and outreach to the political, business and scientific spheres on the FFA agenda.

10. Based on the dialogue with national governors and the food finance consultative group, IFAD and the World Bank supported the hub in creating a vision for success and specific deliverables for the FFA over the 2022-23 biennium, as follows:
 - (i) **Country support.** IFAD and the World Bank, together with the hub, are engaged with development partners and investors to back a first cohort of 10 to 15 countries to broker a 4I (Information, Investments, Incentives and Innovation) Package for food systems transformation that brings together: (i) Information through national pathways that allow governments to make evidence-based policy decisions; (ii) Investments through complementary domestic, private and development financing; (iii) Incentives for farmers, agribusinesses and financial institutions to integrate health, environmental and social risks in investment decisions; and (iv) Innovation *access* to meet the dual challenge of feeding additional people while turning around negative trends in food systems. Several countries and development partners have expressed interest in taking part in this initiative. Work is ongoing to conceptualize objectives, country eligibility criteria, partnership modalities and bankable projects.
 - (ii) **Food finance markers.** IFAD and the World Bank, together with the hub, are engaged with representatives of food businesses, development partners and leading academic, research and policy institutions to define a system and standards of measurement that help the global community and countries to (i) assess the way they finance food systems; (ii) raise awareness where change is needed; and (iii) access a toolbox to cost national investment plans.
 - (iii) **Influencing development finance windows for food systems transformation.** IFAD and the hub are engaged with development partners interested in setting up development financing windows for food systems transformation.

C. Operationalization of food systems transformation in IFAD's programme of loans and grants (PoLG)

11. Post-Summit, IFAD committed to operationalize food systems transformation in its PoLG in the context of alignment to country-led plans and strategies. This is being done by:
 - (i) Aligning country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) to national food systems transformation priorities;
 - (ii) Contributing to the initiatives for food systems transformation in-country;
 - (iii) Providing technical and policy support for food systems transformation; and
 - (iv) Leveraging coalitions, resources and knowledge to support IFAD's contribution to national pathways.
12. **COSOPs guidelines.** IFAD has updated the COSOP guidelines to facilitate the analysis of national food systems and the identification of partnerships (particularly RBA cooperation), South-South and Triangular Cooperation and country-level policy engagement (CLPE) opportunities. Of the COSOPs approved after the Summit, seven, or 73 per cent, included food systems transformation either as their goal or as a strategic objective. All COSOPs approved in 2022 (Burundi, Eswatini and the United Republic of Tanzania), as well as some COSOPs approved during the fourth quarter of 2021 (Guatemala), address challenges faced by national food systems.
13. **IFAD-financed projects.** About 75 per cent of the resources for new IFAD projects represent direct investments in improving national food systems. Some examples include the Programme for Strengthening Sustainable

Entrepreneurship and Economic Integration of Rural Youth in Madagascar (US\$120 million) which will support the development of pro-poor, climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive food systems; the Project to Strengthen Youth and Women Agropastoral Entrepreneurship in Chad, which will invest US\$103.4 million in the transformation of food systems starting with rural youth and rural women; or the Promotion of Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems for Family Farming Programme in Argentina, which is a project of US\$36.1 million to support the transition towards agroecology with a comprehensive food system approach.

14. **Development of national pathways.** After supporting 55 countries to organize their national dialogues, IFAD has supported more than 60 governments to develop their national pathway for food systems transformation with outcomes as outlined below:
 - (i) In Ethiopia, the new project under design is directly linked with the country's national pathway for food systems transformation and will develop CLPE linked with food systems; and
 - (ii) In Bangladesh, a cross-organizational project to finance actions identified in the national pathway is under design.
15. The Summit's follow-up gives the opportunity to country teams to increase their CLPE and foster partnerships, particularly with the RBAs. By end-2023, a detailed analysis of how projects for the period covered by the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources will contribute to food systems transformation will be conducted.

D. Co-leadership of the DWLIW

16. IFAD committed to host and co-lead the DWLIW Coalition together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE). The objective of the coalition is to ensure economic and social justice and the right to adequate and nutritious food for all food systems workers.
17. Post-Summit, the DWLIW Coalition set up a governance framework to manage engagement and its deliverables. The coalition is hosted by a rotating United Nations agency, currently IFAD with ILO and CARE as co-leads. An advisory group has been set up, which includes representatives from FAO, the United Nations Private Sector Mechanism and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development; and the Self-Employed Women's Association co-lead on priority areas. The coalition's extended network comprises over 160 representatives from multilateral organizations, Member States (including Antigua and Barbuda and the Netherlands); the private sector (including IKEA and Unilever); NGOs (including ISEAL and Fair Trade Advocacy Office); producers and farmers associations; and academia (including Peking University, China).
18. Based on stakeholder consultations, the concept of decent work defined by the ILO and embedded in the SDGs, and the Decent Work Agenda, the DWLILW Coalition has framed its work around five priority areas:
 - (i) Institutionalizing and strengthening labour and human rights and improving labour governance in food systems;
 - (ii) Promoting decent employment in food systems, with a focus on more and better jobs for the most vulnerable;
 - (iii) Empowering food system workers by strengthening workplace organization and effective social dialogue;
 - (iv) Ensuring the right to social protection and income security; and
 - (v) Achieving 100 per cent living incomes and wages.

The coalition also co-defined six core deliverables for the period 2022-23:

- (i) Engage at least 15 to 30 countries in the coalition;
- (ii) Support at least ten countries in the implementation of DWLIW in their national pathways, policies and strategies;
- (iii) Mobilize development actors to support at least 25 global, regional and national initiatives mainstreaming the principles of DWLIW;
- (iv) Develop tools and standards to support the work of stakeholders: Member States, multilateral organizations; NGOs and the private sector;
- (v) Develop a knowledge repository for improved data and knowledge gathering and sharing on decent work and living incomes; and
- (vi) Organize at least four thematic and outreach events to sustain stakeholder mobilization around DWLIW in the food system sector.

19. **Outreach and country support.** Four countries - Antigua and Barbuda, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands - are in the process of engaging in the DWLIW Coalition as champions who want to foster global progress on decent work and living incomes and wages for all food systems workers. The coalition is also engaging with national convenors through the hub to understand how to best support countries in their national pathways bringing together the ministries in charge of labour and agriculture and other relevant government institutions around a shared DWLIW agenda. Early planning and progress has been made towards specific deliverables. The DWLIW Coalition is elevating decent work issues in food systems through international engagements. Among others, the coalition hosted a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) dialogue in collaboration with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology; contributed to a high-level event convened by Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands on living incomes and wages; and participated in a panel at the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development Annual General Assembly.
20. Moving forward, the coalition's co-leads are in the process of signing a letter of intent to frame their collaboration. Thirty organizations and entities are undergoing due diligence to join the coalition. The coalition is engaging with national convenors to identify five countries by the end of the year that are seeking support in mainstreaming DWLIW in their national pathways. A roadmap towards rolling out a tool and knowledge repository on decent work is currently under development. The coalition is planning events during the African Green Revolution Forum 2022 and the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and will participate at Climate Week New York City and the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27).

E. Leadership of the Agricultural Public Development Banks Coalition

21. IFAD is leading the coalition of 75 national, regional and international agricultural public development banks (PDBs) that have collectively committed to increase investments towards inclusive and sustainable agriculture and food systems. The PDB Coalition spans over 49 countries. The overall objective of the PDB coalition is to increase and catalyse green and inclusive investments in agriculture and across food systems. To that end, the coalition is developing a platform that will deliver services to its members - technical assistance, sharing of experience and financial tools, and support to innovation - to help them scale up financing for inclusive and sustainable food systems.
22. The coalition launched the PDB Platform for Green and Inclusive Food Systems in October 2021 during the Finance in Common Summit held in Rome, Italy. IFAD led the design of the platform, building on a technical assessment of its engagement

experience with PDBs and the role of PDBs in promoting sustainable agriculture. To operationalize the PDB platform, the coalition is:

- (i) Conducting a mapping of PDBs to identify those holding portfolios dedicated to green and inclusive food systems, define green and inclusive finance products, and reinforce synergies between existing networks on services to PDBs (such as the African Rural and Agricultural Association, Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association, Near East and North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association, Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions and think tanks); and
 - (ii) Conducting a feasibility study to design concrete services to the PDBs and a business model. The platform business model will include implementation modalities, budget, and organization for the next five years.
23. To raise awareness on the key role of PDBs in financing sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, IFAD, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the International Food Policy Research Institute, the Brazilian Development Bank and the Green Climate Fund convened a high-level event on PDBs' access to climate finance for adaptation during COP26 in November 2021, which highlighted the fragmentation of the PDB landscape and the need for more coordination, bankable projects and blended finance. During the Nutrition for Growth Summit that took place in Japan in December 2021, the coalition also convened with IFAD, the Asian Development Bank, AFD, nutrition experts, PDBs from Asia and Latin America and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition to share with development partners, governments, donors and businesses their experience and pivotal role in financing for nutrition. These events provided important opportunities for the PDBs to reinforce their capacity to work together while lending high visibility to the PDB platform and share a common vision on next steps.
24. In the area of knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer exchange between PDBs, the coalition brought together PDBs, regional financial organizations and technical partners (SMEs, fintech, farmers' organizations, international cooperation agencies, etc.) around key issues such as: (i) accessing climate and green finance; (ii) environmental, social and governance aligned investment products; (iii) financial products for climate adaptation and mitigation; (iv) exploring ways public capital can help small businesses make food systems greener and more inclusive in Latin America and Africa; (v) digital solutions and how fintech can help the PDBs; (vi) the war in Ukraine and its consequences on food security, and the role of agricultural PDBs; and (vii) finance for agrifood systems transformation in the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
25. In October 2022, the 3rd edition of the Finance in Common Summit will be hosted by the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The Summit will be an opportunity to report on the progress and results of the PDB Coalition. Discussions will be renewed with the potential technical and financial partners of the platform, to secure the financing of the platform for the next five years.

III. Looking ahead

26. One year post-Summit, global food security and nutrition and food systems transformation have become grave concerns on the international agenda. The global community is deploying urgent measures to sustain food supply to the most vulnerable. IFAD has launched a Crisis Response Initiative to protect productive livelihoods and is engaged in the G7 Global Alliance for Food Security, the United Nations Global Crisis Response Group on food, finance and energy, the France/European Union Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission, the IFI Action Plan to Address Food Insecurity, the Global Food Security Call to Action and the African Development Bank's Africa Food Emergency Production Plan, among others. In parallel to the crisis response, IFAD is following up on its Summit's commitments to

sustain the global pledge to move from short-term responses to food crises to food systems transformation. Results span the co-creation of deliverables, the set-up of organizational arrangements, engagement with stakeholders and outreach. Lead departments are now engaging in operational deliverables. Internal prioritization of resources for results at scale will be required to meaningfully influence the food systems transformation agenda.