

Axis: 3. Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems ▾

Key objective: 10. Equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all ▾

Solution: Advancing Food Security and Nutrition through Food Recovery and Food Loss & Waste Reduction

Host initiative: The Global FoodBanking Network (GFN), with partners including: Champions 12.3, WRI, WRAP, ReFED, SDSN, and WWF, as well as implementation by more than 60 independent, locally-led food banking organizations spanning 50+ countries.

Scope: Organizations across the global food system are working together to improve food security and nutritional outcomes, while reducing food loss & waste. They will achieve these outcomes by advancing work on the recovery and redistribution of surplus food, reducing on-farm losses, addressing waste throughout supply chains, improving business practices, and working with governments on policies and actions to reduce waste. This plan will address hunger and food security, and improve nutrition, while reducing food waste and emissions, and strengthening local communities, including for farmers. The approach will span over 50 countries, primarily in the Global South, and will focus on areas where the need and opportunities are greatest.

Topline goal:

If fully enacted, this plan would feed more than 50 million people annually, while reducing up to 1.3 billion tonnes of food loss and waste and cutting 4.65 gigatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 — putting the world on a credible pathway toward achieving SDG 12.3.

Goal reference notes:

- *The emissions estimate is based on halving global food loss and waste, which currently accounts for 8–10% of global GHG emissions. This includes 3.23 GtCO₂e from supply chain emissions and 1.42 GtCO₂e from waste management systems, as reported in Nature Food (2023), using 2017 baseline data.*
- *Feeding 50 million people is based on projected recovery and redistribution targets through food banking and related*

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- interventions.*
- *Figures are rounded and intended to illustrate the scale of potential impact, not precise forecasts.*

Specifically, the plan will: [Lead organizations indicated in parentheses]

1) Catalyze action and expand capacity among local organizations, especially food banks, that are engaged in collecting and redistributing surplus food in order to provide food to 50 million people. [GFN, WRAP, WWF].

This includes:

- a. Ensure at least 60% of redistributed food consists of higher nutritional lever categories (fruits, vegetables, grains, pulses, legumes and dairy, and animal protein consistent with the highest nutritional standards) [GFN]
- b. Address on-farm losses by supporting farmers, as well as agricultural companies and supporting organizations, to prevent waste and improve food recovery and redistribution practices, with an aim to recover of on-farm produce provide training, tools and other resources to reach farmers [GFN, WWF + Global Farm Loss Tool]

2) Support 50 of the world's largest food companies to develop strategies and plans, including measurement and reporting, to actively reduce their food loss and waste, as well as increase the amount of food that they provide to food banks (and similar organizations) [Champions 12.3; WRI, GFN, WRAP, WWF, and ReFED];

This includes:

- a. Tackle supply chain waste by promoting public-private partnerships through the Food Waste Pacts Network in at least 7 countries that bring together key stakeholders from private sector, government, civil society and academia to provide resources and develop strategies that help companies from the food industry, from farmers to producers, retailers and hospitality, to measure and reduce food waste through the target-measure-act approach. [WRAP; ReFED, WWF]

3) Work with governments to create strong policies at all levels that encourage actors across the food system to increase the amount of surplus food collected and distributed, and to set ambitious targets and implement food

loss & waste aligned with reducing food waste by 50% by 2030. [Multiple]

- a. Work with government representatives on their Nationally Determined Commitments, national climate plans and related de-carbonization and food waste reduction strategies to create strong goals and targets that catalyze action [WRI, WRAP, ReFED, WWF, SDSN, GFN]
- b. Support governments in developing policies at the national and subnational level that encourage food recovery and redistribution as well as other food waste prevention measures, including ensuring alignment in legal frameworks [GFN; WRAP]
- c. Provide support to cities and sub-national governments to both increase immediate commitment (within 12 months) from the PRIVATE sector and the PUBLIC sector to take action on food waste reduction and diversion from landfill. We then leverage this commitment to get the PUBLIC sector to use blended finance and financial institutions to invest in the imperative infrastructure needed to get food out of landfills and into a circular food economy. [WWF]

4) Reduce food waste at household level and improve nutrition through tailored and impactful citizen campaigns developed based on citizen science and research conducted in each country to influence behavior change [WRAP, WWF].

Levers assessment: *(each lever is described in the guidance document)*

Risk-informed decision-making: Medium maturity ▾

- *Rationale: Methodologies such as FRAME (Food Recovery to Avoid Methane Emissions) enable organizations to measure verifiable emissions data and rigorous impact measurement, supporting evidence-based decision making across the food system across the food system. Organizations involved in food recovery, redistribution, and waste reduction demonstrate solid capacity in assessing food safety, supply chain, and operational risks. Enhancing data quality and quantity across —particularly in regions where needs and opportunities are greatest—will strengthen risk-informed decision making and support evidence-based policies to reduce food loss and waste while improving nutritional outcomes.*

Technology shifts: Medium maturity ▾

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- ***Rationale:** Food recovery and redistribution organizations utilize apps and technology for data collection. AI-powered tools being developed with Microsoft, but technology adoption varies significantly across emerging markets with infrastructure limitations. Food recovery and redistribution organizations utilize apps and technology for data collection. AI-powered tools being developed with Microsoft, but technology adoption varies significantly across emerging markets with infrastructure limitations.*

Knowledge & Capacity building: High maturity ▾

- ***Rationale:** Partners across the network provide comprehensive technical guidance, knowledge sharing, and training programs. Strong focus on developing local staff capabilities and institutional capacity building exists, with established training programs for food recovery operations, supply chain management, and waste reduction practices across diverse contexts..*

Inclusive decision-making governance & design: High maturity ▾

- ***Rationale:** Locally-led models promote inclusive governance across stakeholders. Multi-actor engagement effectively connects diverse participants—including food recovery organizations, businesses, governments, and civil society—while respecting local contexts and ensuring community ownership of solutions.*

Standards & Taxonomies: Medium maturity ▾

- ***Rationale:** Methodologies such as FRAME (Food Recovery to Avoid Methane Emissions) provide rigorous emissions measurement standards, food safety protocols are established, and data collection systems are being standardized across networks. The primary challenge remains ensuring consistent data quality and reporting across diverse organizations and geographies, particularly in emerging markets.*

Supply: Medium maturity ▾

- ***Rationale:** Food recovery and redistribution organizations possess operational knowledge and deep community understanding as local entities, but currently address only a small percentage of total global food loss and waste. With enhanced financial support, removal of policy barriers, and infrastructure investments—including cold storage, transportation, recovery systems—these organizations can significantly scale their capacity to collect and redistribute food, increasing food access while contributing to food loss reduction, increasing food access and environmental impact mitigation.*

Demand: High maturity ▾

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- **Rationale:** Strong global demand exists for integrated outcomes including methane emissions reduction, increased food access, enhanced nutritional benefits, and prevention of food loss and waste. This is demonstrated by millions of people reached through food recovery programs, while businesses actively seek cost savings, reduced Scope 3 emissions, and reputational gains through surplus food donation and waste reduction partnership.

Public/private finance: Low maturity ▾

- **Rationale:** Limited access to scaled financing constrains operations across the network. Carbon market monetization opportunities remain underdeveloped, blended finance mechanisms for integrated impact are scarce, and funding gaps exist particularly for infrastructure investments in priority regions and for supporting local organizations in low- and middle-income countries.

Partnerships and collaboration: High maturity ▾

- **Rationale:** Effective multi-stakeholder collaboration exists across sectors, connecting food recovery organizations, governments, businesses, academic institutions, and civil society. Strategic partnerships span multiple domains including technology (Microsoft), policy research (Harvard Law School), climate finance (Global Methane Hub, EnergyLab), technical assistance (Carbon Trust, Resilum, SAJOMA), international organizations (FAO, UNEP, CCAC), food system initiatives (Champions 12.3, WRAP, ReFED, FOLU, WWF, WRI), and private sector (various food companies and retailers), demonstrating strong coordination capacity and commitment to collective action.

Policy & regulatory: Low maturity ▾

- **Rationale:** Analysis across multiple countries reveals gaps in food donation laws, liability protections, and food loss and waste reduction policies. Regulatory uncertainties, lack of standardized frameworks, and insufficient integration of food waste into national climate plans (NDCs) create scaling barriers. Only a limited number of countries have comprehensive policies supporting food recovery, donation, and waste reduction across the full supply chain.

Public opinion: Medium maturity ▾

- **Rationale:** Growing public awareness of food waste and hunger issues exists, but limited understanding of integrated climate, biodiversity, and nutritional co-benefits requires enhanced public education and behavior change campaigns. Consumer engagement strategies are emerging but need scaling, particularly in priority regions where cultural contexts and communication approaches must be tailored to local needs.

Expected impact of this plan on the 2030 targets (if any):

This plan aims to unlock measurable progress through 8 main, cross-cutting impact pathways:

- 1) **Strengthen data collection, measurement and analysis** to improve food loss and waste management by government, businesses and others, including using tools including the FRAME methodology, Pact data collection tools, and others
- 2) **Drive improvements and alignment in government policies** related to food loss and waste, and surplus food donation, especially at the national, sub-national, and city-levels
- 3) **Create new funding opportunities through blended finance, carbon markets, and other institutional financial flows**, especially to support local organizations and farmers in the low- and medium income countries.
- 4) **Support businesses improvements and efficiencies** across the supply chain to improve their strategies and practices and create incentives for them to meet their food loss & waste goals
- 5) **Support local organizations engaged in food collection and redistribution (food banks)** by building capacity, technical assistance, identifying investment opportunities and knowledge sharing- including around health and nutrition - to expand their reach.
- 6) **Strengthen nutritional impact** by prioritizing recovery and redistribution of high-value foods (fruits, vegetables, animal protein, grains, pulses and legumes and dairy) and strengthen cold chain infrastructure to preserve nutritional value
- 7) **Increase the creation and adoption of technology** to identify food waste reduction opportunities, and to reduce the distance between where food is lost and where it is needed, as well as the better measure and manage food waste – this includes through the development of AI, Apps and other digital tools
- 8) **Conduct awareness and public campaigns, as well as advocacy**, that raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities to reduce food waste and encourage action by government, business and consumers

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Expected contributions to global processes:

- **Global Stocktake (GST):** provides verifiable methodology through FRAME for countries to report food waste reduction in climate inventories and demonstrates scalable locally-led climate solutions
- **2030 Climate Solutions targets:** contributes to methane emission reductions and circular economy approaches
- **SDGs:** Directly supports SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), especially SDG 12.3, and SDG 13 (Climate Action)
- Support advancement of the goals of the **Global Methane Pledge** and the **LOW-Methane Initiative**.

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement ¹	Committed Stakeholders
Food recovery and redistribution organizations have more capacity and resources to expand the collection and redistribution of more food for vulnerable people.	Global especially in targeted developed countries	Scale food bank and food recovery organizations to redistribute surplus food from wholesale markets, retailers, manufacturers, and food service to vulnerable populations Create investment and market opportunities, provide technical support to food banks, work with businesses to collect more surplus food. Establish standardized food recovery agreements with partners across the entire supply chain (wholesale markets, distribution centers, manufacturers, retailers, food service) to prevent food from becoming waste through improved logistics, storage, and donation infrastructure.	Existing a... ▾	Public/private ... ▾	GFN	Novemb... ▾	Investors and... ▾	WRAP, Food businesses
Expand the amount of fresh produce and agricultural products collected from farms and redistributed to vulnerable people	Priority agricultural countries	Expand agricultural recovery programs, work with farmers on best practices; develop the Ag Recovery Hub into a global resources	Existing a... ▾	Policy & regul... ▾	GFN	Novemb... ▾	Regulators & ... ▾	With food banks and farmers
Enhance nutritional and methane emissions	Global	Improved nutrition for people and communities facing hunger	Existing a... ▾	Technology sh... ▾	GFN	▮ ▾	▮ ▾	

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reduction impact and measurement of food collection, redistribution FRAME methodology (SDG2 - Zero Hunger, SDG 13 - Climate action)		Deploy FRAME methodology across all food banks to quantify nutritional impact of food distributed and methane emissions avoided through food recovery operations						
>95% of the world's 50 largest food companies have active FLW reduction programs. Among those taking action, half are engaged with their suppliers to reduce the latter's	Global, focus on priority countries	Support companies to develop concrete plans, with tools to implement, measure and report on progress	Existing a... ▾	Policy & regul... ▾	Champions 12.3	Novemb... ▾	National gove... ▾	WRAP; ReFED; WWF; WuR; Champions 12.3; WRI; End Food Waste Australia
Countries with >95% of the global population are actively working at scale to reduce FLW. 50 countries halve their rate of FLW.	Global, focus on priority countries	See call to action in the GAD 2025 Report.	Existing a... ▾	Policy & regul... ▾	Multiple	Novemb... ▾	National gove... ▾	WWF, WRAP, GFN, WRI, SDSN
Improved nutrition for people and communities facing hunger	Global network	Develop nutrition standards and tracking systems integrated with FRAME	Existing a... ▾	Standards & T... ▾	GFN	June 20... ▾	Multi-stakehol... ▾	Foodbanks and National Networks
Enhance greenhouse gas emissions avoidance measurement through FRAME methodology (SDG13 - Climate Action)	Global Network	Deploy standardized FRAME methodology across all food banks to quantify and verify methane emissions avoided through food recovery, creating auditable carbon impact data for climate reporting and carbon credit generation	Existing a... ▾	Standards & T... ▾	GFN	June 20... ▾	Multi-stakehol... ▾	Foodbanks and National Networks

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Delivery of improved technical and administrative capabilities of food banks to effectively manage MRV systems for carbon markets.		Technical training on carbon financing and MRV systems for market participation	Existing a... ▾	Partnerships ... ▾	GFN	Novemb... ▾	Academic an... ▾	WRAP; Food Banks
Improved data and tools to identify where food loss and waste is occurring, identify solutions, and to connect surplus food with consumers and people in need.	Global	Develop tools, apps, and AI and provide training to businesses, food banks, governments and others to better use such technology	New action ▾	Technology sh... ▾	GFN	▮ ▾	▮ ▾	ReFED
Countries have understanding of national and subnational policies and strategies needed to advance food loss & waste action		Conduct country-level and policy both in the NDCs/Nation Plans and national policies (through the Food Donation Atlas and other tools) to support countries in taking FLW action. Integrate emissions data into national BTRs (Biennial Transparency Reports) and NDCs to strengthen countries' climate commitments.	▮ ▾	▮ ▾	WRI	▮ ▾	Multi-stakehol... ▾	
More financial flows are moving to support FLW activities, including within government and for non-profit sector	Global	Inform, advise, and provide funding opportunities to funders of global climate, nature, and food security focus areas to catalyze more funding into FLW Link verified emissions reductions to carbon markets,	▮ ▾	▮ ▾	WWF?	▮ ▾	▮ ▾	ReFED

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		climate finance mechanisms, and national GHG inventories to demonstrate food recovery as credible climate mitigation						
A food loss and waste baseline and measurement and reporting mechanism for the food industry in each country, with PACTs in at least 7 countries		Implement pilots with companies to adapt the 'target-measure-act' methodology Develop a baseline representing at least Companies representing X% market share reporting food loss and waste data	Existing a... ▾	Standards & T... ▾	WRAP	Novemb... ▾	Multi-stakehol... ▾	ReFED
Food industry practices improved and more efficient delivering measurable food loss and waste reductions		Tools, guidance and resources as well as technical support provided to food businesses through working groups to facilitate and encourage individual and collective action	Existing a... ▾	Knowledge & ... ▾	WRAP	Novemb... ▾	Multi-stakehol... ▾	ReFED; GFN
Citizens awareness on the issue of food waste increased with proved behavior influenced to reduce food waste and improve nutrition at household level		Research to understand citizens behaviors on why food is wasted and food habits Design campaign aligned with research findings to influence behaviors towards reduction of food waste at home and adoption of healthier eating habits	Existing a... ▾	Public opinion ▾	WRAP	Novemb... ▾	Multi-stakehol... ▾	ReFED
Elevate awareness of the opportunities and benefits related to food collection and redistribution and food loss and waste reduction		Testing and refinement of messages, as well as dissemination of messages through public social media campaigns, media, and participation in global and	Existing a... ▾	▮ ▾	Champions 12.3	▮ ▾	▮ ▾	GFN; WRAP

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through communications campaigns, online engagement, media, events and related activities		regional forums to raise awareness.						

