

## S.10 Gender Transformation National Food Systems Policies

### 1. What is the solution?

At least 50% of countries have national food systems policies and action plans with clear targets for gender transformative initiatives (including % of budget to these initiatives), gender transformative impact, and have integrated collection of sex disaggregated data across the food system in their national statistics.

### 2. What problem is your solution addressing?

Across countries, many agricultural, forestry, natural resource management, climate change or trade policies and investments do not include or provide for gender equality and women's empowerment despite the critical roles that women play across food systems, as producers, processors, traders, and consumers. For example, in Africa, despite substantial gender gaps, regional and national agricultural investment plans (NAIP) insufficiently address gender inequalities and do not provide an enabling environment for women's empowerment and gender equality in agri-food systems (incentives, levels of investments, conducive legal and policy framework, institutional gender capacity etc.). A gender audit of 38 NAIP shows they rarely integrate a thorough gender analysis and do not always use sex-disaggregated data. The effective participation of women's organizations and gender institutions in the elaboration process of such plans remains too often insufficient<sup>[1]</sup>. A review of climate change policies in Latin American countries also showed a lack of integration of gender in the policies, and where gender was mentioned, this was not carried through into the action plans and budgets and neither was sex-disaggregated data collected to evaluate the impacts of these policies<sup>[2]</sup>. In the fisheries sector, a recent review<sup>[3]</sup> found that despite the role of blue foods in promoting economic livelihoods and nutrition, an evaluation of 173 countries' national production- and consumption-related policy documents uncovered little recognition of gender difference. There was positive 49 blue food outcomes in countries where policy documents acknowledged the structural drivers of injustice, centered principles of equity and human rights, and specified procedures to ensure representation.

### 3. How does your solution address the problem?

Integrating gender in food systems policies and action plans will provide the legal framework for driving action and allocating the required investments to not only close current gender resource gaps, but also address underlying causes of gender inequality and women's empowerment in food systems. It will:

- Provide a legal framework for the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment in food systems.
- Integrate gender equality and women's empowerment as a key driver for food systems transformation, into specific action plans and develop key actions for targeting and for the implementation of interventions aimed at closing current gender gaps and addressing underlying social norms, and structural causes of gender inequality in food systems.
- Allocate specific budgets across Ministries including agriculture, water, trade, nutrition to implement gender specific interventions.
- Gender transformative food policies at the national level will ensure and make provisions for the inclusion of women in the development of policies, action plans and budget allocations.
- Adoption of gender responsive budgeting principles in the allocation of national and devolved budgets for food systems development will ensure enough resources are allocated to the implementation of interventions aimed at improving gender equality and empowerment of women.

- Inclusion of indicators and targets for measuring progress towards achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in food systems, identifying gaps for further investments.
- Inclusion of gender indicators, and sex disaggregated data in national statistics will allow for monitoring of progress in achieving indicators and in identifying key gaps for future investments.

**4. Is this a new solution or an existing solution that needs scaling?**

While some countries have integrated gender in agriculture, trade, or NRM policies, often these are not accompanied by action plans and budgetary allocations and indicators for systematically measuring progress. Other countries have women's focused programs, but these are not anchored in policy and have not been monitored for their effectiveness. The full solution of gender transformative policies, action plans, investments, indicators and data collection mechanisms are new.

**5. Which organization/s, institution/s or group of individuals are associated with the solution?**

IFPRI, FAO, IFAD, SEWA, RECOTF, WFP

**6. If selected as a game-changing solution, how will you leverage the UN Food Systems Summit to scale your solution?**

Member states are a critical constituent of the UN Food Systems Summit. We will use the summit to mobilize members states to make commitments to ensure they have gender transformative food policies, and allocated resources for implementation. We will also engage civil society organizations including national policy think tanks, women's rights organizations, researchers and UN agencies in countries to form coalitions to support governments in ensuring the development of the policies and actions plans and to provide accountability mechanisms for government.

**7. Is this idea applicable to a particular geography, demography, landscape or other type of setting (e.g. high- or low-income countries, aquaculture)? If so, please specify.**

Global with potential for North South and South-South collaboration for technical support, lesson sharing, and resource mobilization

**8. Who are the main actors that would put this action into place?**

National Governments /Member States, Women's Rights Organizations, National Policy Think Tanks, UN Women, Donor organizations

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[1] FAO and AUC, 2018. *Leaving no one behind. Empowering Africa's rural women for zero hunger and shared prosperity.* <http://www.fao.org/3/CA1506EN/ca1506en.pdf>

[2] Tatiana Gumucio and Mariana Tafur Rueda (2015) *Influencing Gender-Inclusive Climate Change Policies in Latin America.* *Journal of Gender, Agriculture and Food Security* Vol 1, Issue 2, pp 42-61, 2015

[3] Hicks et al, 2020: *Towards Justice in Blue Food Systems.* *Submitted to Nature*