

## A Coalition of Action for Zero Hunger

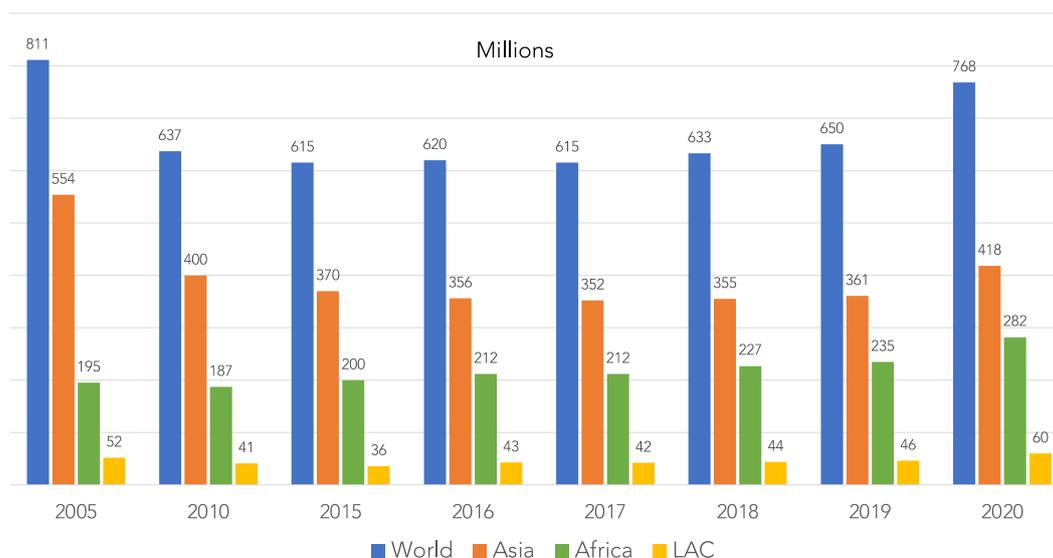
“Hunger is not a problem. It is an obscenity. How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world” ~ Anne Frank

### A Once in a Generation Chance to Achieve Zero Hunger

Today, one in ten people are hungry.

During preparations for the biggest UN Food Summit in a generation, too few people are talking about hunger. Is the eradication of hunger too “20<sup>th</sup> century” for those who seek food systems transformation? Has hunger become unfashionable? Try telling that to the 650 million people who were hungry in 2019. Or the extra 118m to be announced in the forthcoming 2021 State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) report (below). Conflict, climate and underinvestment in agriculture and value chains were driving up hunger numbers before 2020. COVID-19 has added another malevolent driver. Given that women often eat least and last to begin with, they will be disproportionately affected by these additional stressors.

Numbers of undernourished (hungry) people



SOFI 2021

But there is cause for real hope. The UN Food Systems Summit has helped to create a political opportunity to intensify commitment to ending hunger. People around the world have been mobilised to think, strategize and act to change food systems. October 2020 gave them the first ever road map to align their energy: the joint Ceres2030/ZEF/FAO [Report](#). The report, delivered by 25 research organisations from as many countries, lays out an evidence-based pathway of 10 high impact investments on and off the farm that will reduce hunger from 650m to 200m by 2030 (see Annex). The rises in hunger driven by the COVID-19 crisis demand a response if governments are to retain the trust of the peoples of the world who recently voted in a global IPSOS opinion poll that ending hunger was their [number one priority](#).

With a motive (hunger numbers increasing), the means (the Ceres2030 roadmap) and the opportunity (the UN Food Systems Summit) we call on member states, development agencies, civil society, and businesses to join a **Coalition of Action for Zero Hunger**.

The coalition will be a tone-setter for the Summit in a number of ways. First, it reflects priorities emerging from the Summit Country Dialogues such as supporting smallholder agriculture and finding a resilient way to emerge from crisis. Second, it reflects a growing political will to address hunger, recent the G20 [Matera statement](#) being a prime example. Third, the Coalition will be systemic, linking investments from farm to fork. Fourth, the actions it supports will generate co-benefits in addition to ending hunger: meeting the Paris climate emission targets and doubling the income of 545 million food producers while crowding in an additional \$52 billion of national private sector investment. Fifth, it will be multistakeholder, aligning governments, agencies, civil society, and businesses with the 10-high impact Ceres2030 investment areas. Sixth, it will be address hunger wherever it is found in all countries of the world, with a strong focus on where it represents the largest burden. Finally, it is science based and stresses the need for investment in innovation. The Ceres2030 and ZEF reports provide a rigorous, practical, and costed road map towards a world where hunger affects less than 2% of world's population in 2030, making a powerful case for the value add of science, innovation and research.

### **Why is a Coalition of Action for Zero Hunger Needed & How Does it Fit in?**

To date the UN Food System Summit communities have sourced ideas from all over the world as game changing propositions. These have then been grouped into solution clusters. Why is a coalition needed? Why not just support the individual solution clusters?

There are several reasons. First, the stepping-stones of excellence represented by the solution clusters need to be joined up to form a systemic pathway to ending hunger. Action in one area is necessary but not sufficient. Second, coalitions can amplify voice, aggregate organisational resources, and mobilise a strong sense of collective purpose to address a difficult issue. Potentially, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Finally, many of the risks associated with coalitions (lack of common purpose, lack of agreed way of achieving a common purpose, high transactions costs) are strongly mitigated in this case by the Ceres2030 evidence roadmap. Alignment with that roadmap is a unifier.

There will be other solutions that are equally well aligned, and they will be brought to the Coalition by the members. The Coalition complements existing initiatives well. The [Food Coalition](#) is a wide-ranging response to COVID-19 across OneHealth, smallholder resilience, food loss, social protection, and food system transformation and the Zero Hunger Coalition can help to bring a sharp focus on hunger reduction to this initiative. The Zero Hunger Coalition will utilise existing structures and processes and will only require the creation of a small and lean coordinating mechanism.

### **What are the Elements of the Coalition?**

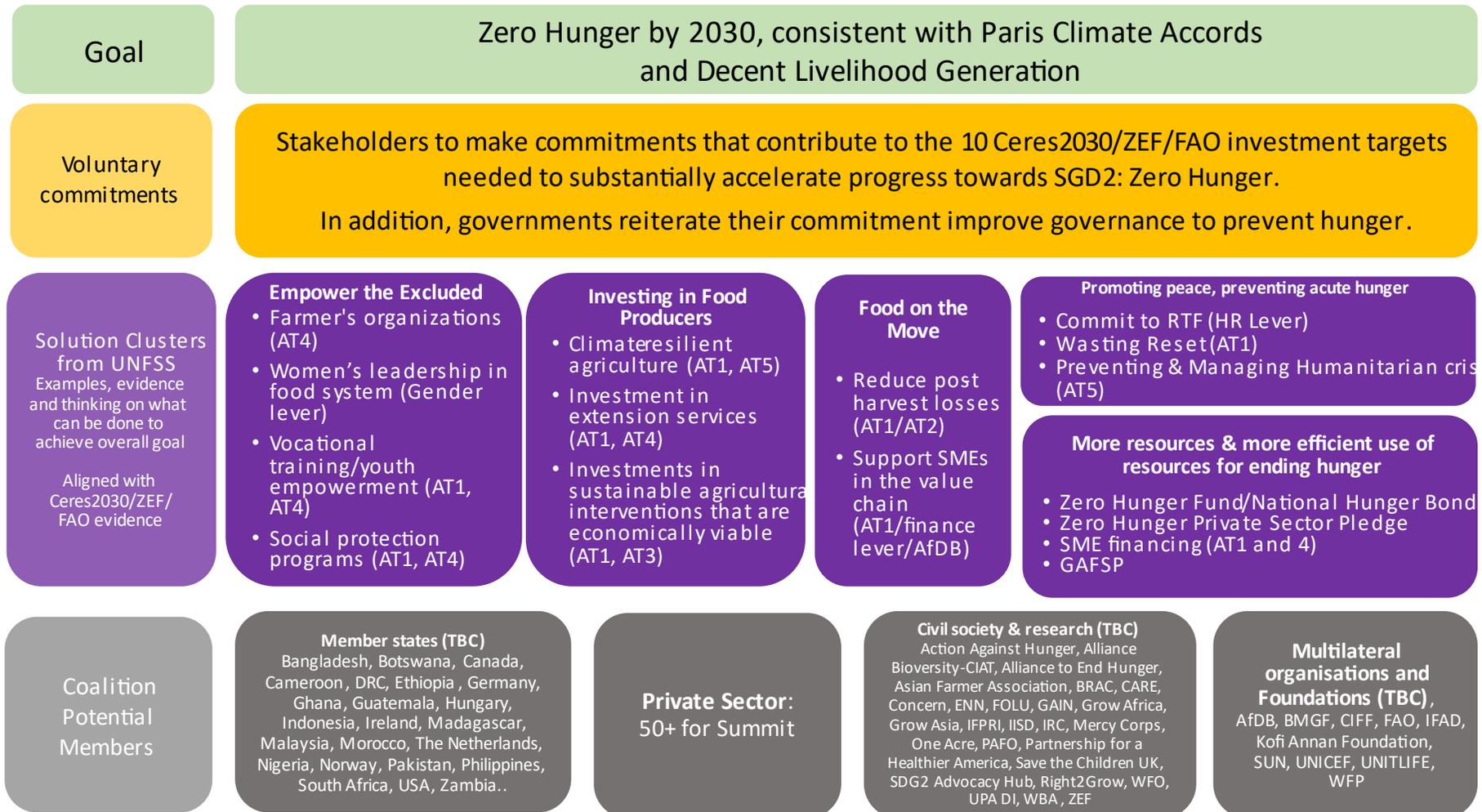
The solution clusters were developed through a multistakeholder process and represent a subset of potential Ceres2030 actions, so they are, in principle, already aligned with each other. The coalition is a way to ensure they are aligned and to realise the potential of

collective impact. The solution clusters are not an exhaustive set of actions needed to zero out hunger and other aligned actions and commitments are encouraged. Committing to the Coalition is the most efficient way of leveraging resources for hunger reduction and producer livelihood generation while meeting food system climate targets.

As the figure below shows, the [solution clusters](#) are the core of the Coalition. There are 14 of them from all 5 ATs plus finance and gender levers. They are all aligned to the Ceres 2030 set of actions: (a) empowering the excluded, (b) supporting food producers, and (c) food on the move. Because a fragility is a significant driver of hunger, exacerbated by COVID-19 the Coalition includes those who can bring energy, commitment and resources to solutions on resilience, peace building and to the prevention and management of complex emergencies. Three funding initiatives are included: A Zero Hunger [Fund](#) from IFPRI including National [Hunger Bonds](#) in discussion with the IMF and the Summit Finance Lever; the Zero Hunger [Private Sector Pledge](#) from AT1 (see Annex) and SME finance mechanisms (Solution Clusters by AT1 and 4).

Conversations on the Coalition have been held with all stakeholders listed in the figure although inclusion does not mean commitment to the Coalition at this stage.

## The Coalition of Action for Zero Hunger



## What are the Coalition's Actions?

Concrete actions undertaken by the coalition will:

**Advocate** for hunger reduction. Make a stronger and more tailored case for an increased focus on ending hunger that uses a systems approach. Make it easier for champions within stakeholders to lobby their decision makers. Achieved via (a) organised events at the Pre-Summit, Summit, COP26 and N4G and (b) in the mainstream media well beyond the Summit.

**Align** existing resources around hunger reduction. Helping to ensure government, donor and private sector actions for food security are better aligned to the 10 Ceres2030 areas. Achieved by (a) identifying which existing commitments are well lined up against the 10 areas and (b) working to better re-align existing commitments that are not.

**Add** resource commitments towards the \$33billion target. Achieved by: (a) working with stakeholders throughout the food, health, environment, and humanitarian systems to identify opportunities for climate, covid and conflict prevention and management to serve “double duty” by also ending hunger and (b) converting those opportunities to win-win commitments at various Summits and other pledging opportunities.

### What is New?

The Coalition brings several new features to the efforts to achieve Zero Hunger.

- *Renewed* member state commitment in the context of rising hunger numbers due to acute (COVID) and underlying (climate, fragility, underinvestment in agriculture) drivers
- *Alignment* of several stakeholders around a science-based set of 10 high impact action areas
- A *systemic* perspective: achieving zero hunger while meeting climate targets and generating decent work from farm to fork
- *Multistakeholder* participation: bringing together public and private resources
- *National Hunger Bonds*: in discussion with IMF
- An *innovative set of solutions* in the 10 high impact action areas sourced from thousands of people all over the world, developed by the Action Tracks, Levers and Science Group

## What do Commitments look like and who will track them?

The commitments made by the Coalition are voluntary and are of 4 types:

- (1) sign up to and be an active member of the Coalition,
- (2) align policy better with the 10 areas,
- (3) align current investment levels better with the 10 areas, and
- (4) increase investment in the 10 areas.

The goal is to get as close as possible to an additional \$33 billion per year: this is the amount of investment the science tells us is required to get hunger numbers down to below 200 million.

The aim is for the private sector to contribute 10% of this amount through better alignment and for CSOs and INGOs to commit a similar amount through better alignment of their considerable resources. Companies would set out where and how they see they can contribute to the solutions and the type and scale of the resources they can bring to bear.

Donors and international financing agencies are asked to increase funding to this agenda, either through reallocation or expansion of resource envelopes.

Governments are invited to commit to lead Zero Hunger programmes and to engage work with coalition partners at a national or regional level.

## **Governance**

Country leadership is critical to priority setting and delivery. The business of the Coalition will be to support that country leadership and mobilise public and private actors to support innovation, alignment, and expansion of targeted plans.

The governance of the Coalition will have to ensure that it mobilises commitments and measures these through a strong reporting and accountability mechanism to ensure fidelity to the Ceres2030 impact areas.

The public sector commitments will be tracked by the agreed Summit process. The private sector commitments will be tracked by the World Benchmarking Alliance: their SDG indicators align closely to the 10 Ceres2030 action areas.

No new architecture is envisaged; a new spirit of cooperation and joint planning led by governments is the critical ingredient for success. The Coalition will rely on a collaborative, multistakeholder structure with modest coordination mechanism/s to maintain the required momentum towards 2030.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Who can join the Coalition?*

- Any type of stakeholder can join the Coalition
- Commitments are voluntary, and non-negotiated. This means that a commitment can look different for every member state, or other type of stakeholder, to fit with the member state's or stakeholder's interest and priorities.

*Are all forms of malnutrition and nutrition in general covered in this Coalition?*

Zero hunger is necessary for undernutrition reduction but far from sufficient. Because hunger numbers are rising so rapidly this Coalition will focus on hunger reduction, although it will also focus on wasting in under 5s as a link to undernutrition. Another coalition launched at the Summit will focus on Achieving Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems and that will be relevant for malnutrition in all its forms.

*How can a stakeholder benefit from joining this coalition?*

The Coalition can serve as a way of matching country and other stakeholder priorities with resources, data and peer support and learning.

*Does this Coalition cover work across all Action Tracks and other parts of the Summit?*

Yes, it brings together many different components of the summit that contribute towards the goal of the End Hunger coalition. Action Track 1 is hosting the coalition because it is strongly embedded in our mandate.

## Endnote

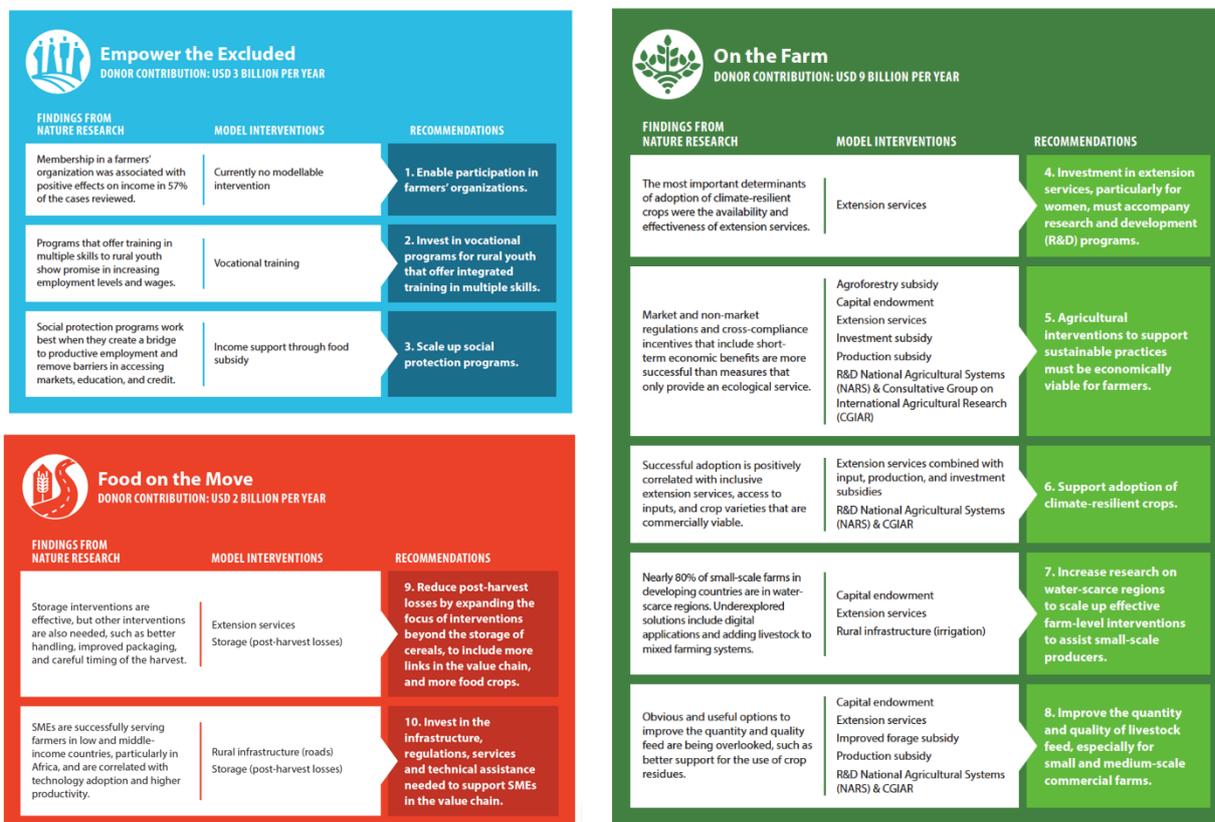
Some reading this might be sceptical that an extra \$33 billion per year to 2030 can be found to align with these 10 areas of action for zero hunger. In one sense it is a great deal of money. But put in context it is not. It represents just one twentieth of one percent of the world's annual GDP. Or the annual cost would be just one seventh of the worldwide value of soft drink sales. To slash global hunger levels.

Trillions of dollars for COVID relief packages have shown that where there is a will, there is a way. And to get to zero hunger is in a lower league of expensive.

As Anne Frank said: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world". Let's make this Coalition be our start.

## Annex

### The Ceres2030 10 Areas of Action



### Example of Private Sector Commitments to the Ending Hunger

Ceres2030 Area for investment	Types of investment needed	Example of aligned company investment
<b>Empower the Excluded</b>	Enabling participation in farmer organisations	Contract with farmers organisations
	Vocational programs for rural youth offering integrated training in multiple skills	Establish programs for young or female farmers that train them on a wide range of skills
	Scaling up social protection programmes	Encourage innovative contract farming that provides multiple services to farmers, and enables them to provide affordable nutritious food to social protection public procurement
<b>On the Farm</b>	Extension services, especially for women, to accompany R&D spending	Support female farmer leadership programs within their value chains
	Agricultural interventions to support sustainable practices that are economically viable for farmers	Provide support to small producers to develop stronger business models for regenerative farming
	Supporting adoption of climate resilient crops	Provide access to climate resilient crops at lower prices through public-private partnerships
	Scaling up farm level interventions in water scarce regions	Support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with innovation services to supply clean irrigation
	Improving quality and quantity of livestock feed for small and medium scale commercial farms	Support responsible sourcing and testing of livestock feed
<b>Food on the Move</b>	Reducing post-harvest loss by focusing beyond cereals to fruits & vegetables, and other parts of the value chain	Provide a package of technologies and services such as: multi-use, circular, aggregation cool storage units that can be purchased by farmer organisations/communities; improved access to testing facilities for safety and quality (e.g. aflatoxin); transparent contracts and price premiums for quality produce.
	Infrastructure, regulations, technical assistance and services to support SMEs in the value chain	Provide innovation support to SMEs in the value chain and workforce nutrition programmes