



Local Food Supply Chains

The Opportunity

The Alliance for **Local Food Supply Chains** will seek to address a combination of priority areas that have emerged from national dialogues and game changing solutions contributed by a variety of stakeholders, including member states, with the objective of transforming local food systems to withstand disruption and shocks in the short term and support resilient and inclusive economies and societies in the long term. The Alliance supports the achievement of universal food access, nutritious food availability and human capital development within transformed food systems in ALL countries.

The priority areas include: Strengthening Local and Regional Food Supply Chains, Local Production for Local Consumption, Public Procurement - local level for demand-driven and well-functioning community agri-food markets, including vibrant commercial/private sector trading, Increasing Women's Agency for Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Securing Equitable Access to Land and Resources, Investment in Infrastructure, including for Post-Harvest Losses, Food Storage Facilities/Grain Stores and Public-Private Actions for Buffer Stocks and Strategic Reserves, Policy and Institutional Innovations for Rural Areas (including digitalisation), and Pandemic Resilient Food Systems. However, these priority areas are not exhaustive and/or fixed. As the Alliance is strengthened with more partners, priority areas can evolve, be changed or dropped as appropriate. However, partners should acknowledge that priorities and food system challenges differ among countries.

Why an Alliance for Action?

Without a strong focus on local development that can build in social and economic resilience in food systems, with complementary tools for greater environmental resilience, it will be impossible for some countries and their peoples to achieve the SDG goals by 2030. The main goal of the Alliance is to leave no one behind and, through the lens of resilient, transformational and inclusive food systems, the Alliance priority areas address 10 of the seventeen SDGs. See Annex 1. Resilient food value chains at the local and community levels are the foundation for sustainable national, regional and global food systems. Market inefficiencies and inadequate or lack of enabling policies in these areas are the main root causes of food insecurity and hunger. Historically, the dominant narrative in policy debates around production at national and international level has underlined the importance

of international exports and trade, often disregarding the crucial role of local production and markets for local consumption and trade. This Alliance will seek to advance and widen the narrative in these the policy debates. However, the emphasis that governments, especially in developing countries, place on exports is often because of local market inefficiencies caused by weak food systems, followed by their need for foreign exchange. Although growing globally, the food for direct human consumption that is traded in the international market is estimated around 25% (D'Odorico et al., 2014). However, even though the majority of food produced is consumed nationally, in many cases this food does not reach some communities within countries and some regions experience persistent shortages – in particular, poor communities across urban, peri urban and rural districts in all countries are most affected. Moreover, fragmented smaller farm plots erode viable food production at subsistence level.

This inequitable distribution of food, often coupled with highly dispersed rural populations with physical access to markets limiting their viable economic options, is again a factor of weak local food systems that are often inefficient, expensive, poorly internally coordinated, placed in areas with depleted ecosystems, often subject to social tensions and conflict, and poorly resilient to shocks and stresses.

Weak food systems are characterised by limited range of transport options and inadequate infrastructure, weak market integration within territories and low levels of local trade. At the same time, a large volume of locally produced food in most developing countries is lost due to lack of processing and storage facilities. This significant food loss, low incomes and the high poverty compounded by a limited nutritional basket result in poor nutrition, overnutrition (lack of key micronutrients¹) and food shortages all of which threaten human wellbeing, social cohesion and peace. Robust local food systems are crucial for food security and resilience, but also provide opportunities for enhancing local trade, cross border and at regional levels and for improving farmers' access to assets and information.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the fragility of local, national and global food supply chain systems and their vulnerability to sudden shocks. Pandemic resilient food systems will enable food systems to cope, absorb and respond to external shocks while maintaining one of its basic features, namely feeding people adequately and guaranteeing that all peoples are free from hunger.

¹ The hidden hunger

Moving the policy shift towards strengthening local food systems, improving market efficiency and function of local agri-food sectors, securing increased production of the basic products and a more diverse range of nutritious, climate resistant varieties that constitute the local food basket, without limiting the potential of sustainable international and domestic trade that equitably shares the benefits of the value chains across all

What are the Alliance's actions?

Partners will be expected to create a forum for cooperation and consultations. They will consider research, analyses and evidence from countries, significantly priorities emerging from national dialogues.

For Enhanced Local Production for Local Consumption

Develop a set of measures for implementation that will boost local production, including by improving access to domestic finance for local producers, and stimulate the market economy, addressing both the supply and demand sides of food systems to tackle inefficiencies and inequalities. This will be particularly relevant for systems with multiple structural vulnerabilities and in fragile contexts (for example in arid, semi-arid and coastal countries), which leave them more vulnerable to environmental and health shocks.

For Pandemic Resilient Food Systems

The Alliance will approach this important area with a four-pronged compact that will propose policy interventions that have been proven to enhance resilience of food systems such as: safety nets, schools as hubs to secure nutritious food for children, civic collective actions for food based on cooperation, solidarity, mutual aid and caring for others, and public policies that guarantee agri-food trade flows.

For Local Supply Chains

Alliance partners will discuss and collectively engage other partners, members states, international organizations that are not part of the Alliance as well as civil society through actions that can be adopted by countries to discuss and define actions that will (i) transform national systems and concomitant outdated policy architecture; (ii) agree on updated modes of conducive business environments, with regulations that promote market integration, ICT and including the right advocacy and investments; (iii) link these initiatives to the social safety nets with a focus on access to more efficient and resilient markets, game changing solutions contributed by a variety of stakeholders, including member states that would lead to better prices and availability of food beyond staples, where local markets for fresh foods are energized at the local level.

Elements of the Alliance

The Alliance aims to be a multi-stakeholder partnership – representation from developed and developing countries. A global representation, see Annex 1, including member states, women and youth groups, local and international private sector participants, NGOs, IFIs, research institutions, academia and other financing institutions. The Alliance will propose actionable programmes that address, specifically, the priorities that have emerged from countries during their national dialogues. Individual country priorities will be discussed for providing technical assistance through technical co-operation and follow up on the progress on an individual country's path to achieving the SDGs by 2030. Alliance country partners are expected to

actors in the chain (especially across borders), could be a relevant contribution of this Summit. This will contribute to the 'end hunger' objective, improved food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture at the community level without which SDG2 cannot be achieved. This goal cannot be applicable as a blueprint for every country, but high-profiling "local and embedded food systems" instead of "dis-embedded long food chains" could be a relevant message

make a collective long-term commitment to food availability for all by building resilience of their food systems to shocks and stresses, by transforming their food systems through strengthening people's agency, changing policies, promoting better and inclusive governance, use of innovations such as enhanced land restoration and fertility management, major shifts in efficient irrigation, local crop diversification, research and adaptation, and digital technology to increase productivity and greater investments to effect structural changes, for example gender dynamics and your employment in agriculture.

What can commitments be and tracking progress?

- Commit to the Alliance until 2030 and beyond
- Ensure national and regional stakeholders' representation
- Determine the coordination/facilitation structure such as its placement within regional and continental institutions supported by existing UN organisations, e.g- WFP with UNCDF support.
- Promote and sustain partnership-building among countries and in different regions
- Develop or leverage existing bilateral agreements between partners, such as SSTC
- Share expert knowledge, best practices and experiences on trade-offs, e.g imported food, as members develop national investment plans to build resilience of their food systems
- Make recommendations for regional/global review of agreements that support or prevent countries from achieving/accelerating progress towards the SDGs
- Forge alliances with the other action areas of the Food Systems Summit to develop integrated biodiversity, water management and climate mitigation and adaptation activities and propose investments for these resilience building activities at local and regional levels, specific to local and regional priorities.
- Champion and build linkages with local, regional and global financing institutions and local, regional and global private sector players
- Review members' progress towards the achievement of the relevant SDG targets of the Alliance priority areas and make recommendations where appropriate
- Propose financing mechanisms to support post summit country implementation, oversight and reporting – specifically strengthened local and regional research and M&E facilities to track progress
- Propose financing mechanisms to enhance domestic financing and close funding gaps for financing national investment plans
- Support each other in resource mobilisation activities to seek financing that will close funding gaps for other local and regional identified priorities

LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS



WHAT IS INTENDED FROM THIS ALLIANCE?

Partners are expected to **make a long-term commitment (a decade long between 2021-2030)** using this platform of transforming food systems through **strengthening people's agency, changing policies, better governance and greater investments to effect structural changes.**

