



# Overview of the Food Systems Transformation Funding Round

**THE JOINT SDG FUND'S FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION PORTFOLIO**

FEBRUARY 2025



UNITED NATIONS  
FOOD SYSTEMS  
COORDINATION HUB



JOINT SDG FUND

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# 1. BACKGROUND

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The UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), held during the 2021 UN General Assembly, and the first UNFSS Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) in 2023, elevated the role of food systems as a crucial catalyst for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and spurred national and global action. Since the 2021 UNFSS, 127 countries have adopted National Food Systems Pathways, and 155 Food Systems National Convenors have been appointed to coordinate national food systems agendas in their respective countries. Building on the UNFSS momentum, the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub (the Hub) spearheads the joint efforts and facilitates coordinated action by the global ecosystem of support including the UN system and UNFSS Coalitions of Action, in support of national governments in achieving their National Pathways.<sup>1</sup>

The Joint SDG Fund works closely with the Hub to advance the objectives set forth by the UNFSS and UNFSS+2. The Fund facilitates the UN development system collective engagement, under the leadership of Resident coordinators, and the convening of the broader Ecosystem of Support – including coalitions, international financial institutions, the private sector, science institutions, and other stakeholders – each contributing knowledge and expertise to support delivery of results at country level.

The Food Systems Investment Strategy is designed, in synergy with other Joint SDG Fund thematic strategies and building on the Development Emergency Modality, to support and sustain the implementation of food system transformations, empower National Convenors and their teams to elevate food systems issues on national agendas.<sup>2</sup>

As part of its Strategy 2023-2026, the Joint SDG Fund is prioritizing country support to promote transitions towards sustainable, equitable, healthy, and resilient food systems as a catalytic investment for SDGs acceleration. Co-designed with the Hub, the funding round on food systems was launched to deliver results across four objectives:

- Promote sustainable food systems to accelerate SDG progress in countries.
- Advance all-of-government, rights-based, multi-stakeholder food system transformations as envisioned in the national pathways through ONE UN implementation.
- Reshape the national food finance architecture towards healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems, and catalyse more SDG value for money.
- Contribute to building national, regional, and global knowledge and learning around food systems transformations; monitor and communicate progress and impact.

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1. For information about the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, UNFSS Coalitions, or National Food Systems Transformation Pathways, please refer to the Hub website. [Home | UN Food Systems Coordination Hub](#).

2. The Joint SDG Fund activated the Development Emergency Modality in 2022 to respond to the global cost-of-living crisis exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, providing \$22.9 million to support 87 UN country teams across over 100 countries and territories. Over 80% of the joint programmes focused on addressing food security and nutrition challenges in the countries.

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The funding round also responds to the **six priority areas** set out in the Secretary-General's Call to Action issued at the UNFSS+2:

1. Incorporating food systems strategies into all national policies for sustainable development, for people's livelihoods, nutrition, and health, for economic growth, climate action and nature, and to address post-harvest losses, leaving no one behind.
2. Establishing food systems governance that engages all sectors and stakeholders for a whole of society approach, combining the short and long term.
3. Investing in research, data, innovation, and technology capacities including stronger connections to science, experience, and expertise.
4. Deepening joined-up participatory design and implementation inclusive of women, young people and indigenous peoples at the local level, with knowledge sharing, cross-sector programming, multi-stakeholder partnering, context and place-based actions, stronger and more diverse production, and mutual accountability.
5. Promoting increased engagement of businesses, including through public private partnerships, to shape the sustainability of food systems and establish and strengthen accountability mechanisms, recognizing their centrality for food systems.
6. Ensuring access to short and long-term concessional finance, investments, budget support and debt restructuring.

Thanks to the invaluable support of all contributing governments for SDG acceleration, the Fund prioritises areas that foster innovation and digital transformation, ensuring the effective development, management, and scaling up of the digital funding track. These contributions reflect the spirit of the Funding Compact, exemplifying key principles such as predictability, transparency, and flexibility. The Funding Compact has set an ambitious target for the Fund: to mobilize US\$ 500 million in annual voluntary contributions by 2027, up from a baseline of \$56 million in 2023. This goal highlights the critical importance of diverse funding sources to achieve transformative impact at scale.

By pooling resources and expertise, the UN development system can mobilize action toward collective goals, drive systemic change, and accelerate progress towards the SDGs. Together, these contributions ensure that the Fund remains agile and responsive, supporting innovative financing strategies and delivering impactful, system-wide development outcomes.

## 2. Overview of the funding round

The first funding round was launched in 2024 and is supporting joint programmes in 18 countries for a total value of \$25 million, of which the Joint SDG Fund provides \$15 million through the contributions from Spain, Germany, Ireland, and Italy. Participating countries were identified based on the commitments demonstrated during the UNFSS and its follow-up, for instance through the adoption of National Pathways, their integration in national strategies and plans, and the set-up of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms. The funding round operates through two funding tracks:

The **High Impact Track (HIT)** supports countries that have reached an advanced stage in their food systems transformation journeys, demonstrating strong ownership of national processes around food systems both nationally and within the UNCTs. High-impact proposals are catalytic interventions, designed to mobilize and deepen partnerships, leverage substantial financing and bring to scale both existing and new initiatives with potential to accelerate the pace of transformation. The first funding round is supporting six HIT joint programme in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, Tajikistan, and Timor-Leste. Each receiving \$2 million for 24 months of implementation.

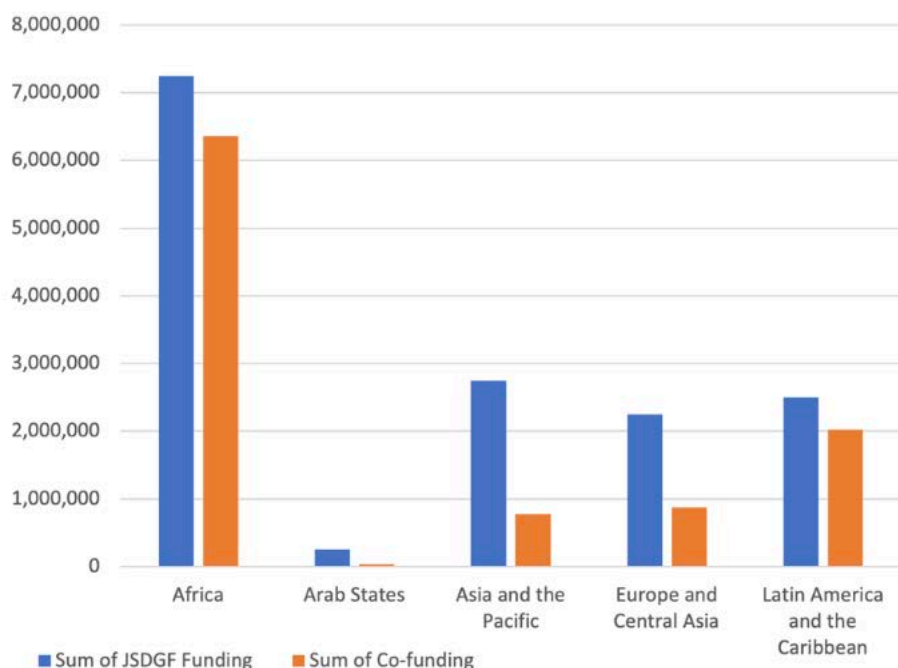
The **Seed Funding Track** supports countries to incubate transformative solutions and contribute to an enabling institutional environment to accelerate progress in their food systems transformation journey. The first funding round is supporting twelve seed joint programme in Cambodia, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Jordan, Kenya, Rwanda, Samoa, Serbia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Viet Nam. Each receiving \$250,000 for 12 months of implementation.

FIGURE 1

**Map of the 2024 Food Systems Transformation joint programme countries**



FIGURE 2  
Distribution of joint programme funding across regions

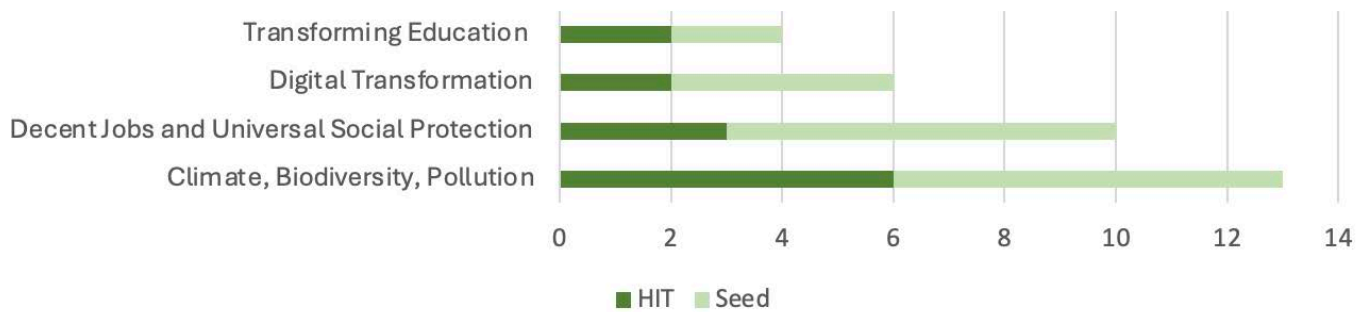


The anticipated impact includes policy and regulatory shifts that enhance governance, foster innovation, and attract additional financing—delivering concrete benefits at scale, especially for vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and indigenous people.

- At least 8 million people to directly benefit within the duration of the joint programmes through activating levers in agricultural productivity, improved nutrition outcomes, social protection, access to markets, food systems governance and investments. This includes over 1.3 million small-holder farmers, over 350,000 women and 10,000 children. Over 2000 government service providers will be trained on nutrition, climate resilience and e-services.
- At least \$100 million of broader financing leveraged for systemic impact.
- Over 50 policies and innovative solutions have been developed to enhance food security and agricultural sector governance with a focus on leveraging data and localizing capacity, including strengthening the agricultural value chain to incentivize market growth and private sector investments.
- At least 230 cooperatives/SMEs will be empowered with market participation capacity, with potential financial and technical support. Additionally, 15 pipeline projects will be investment-ready.

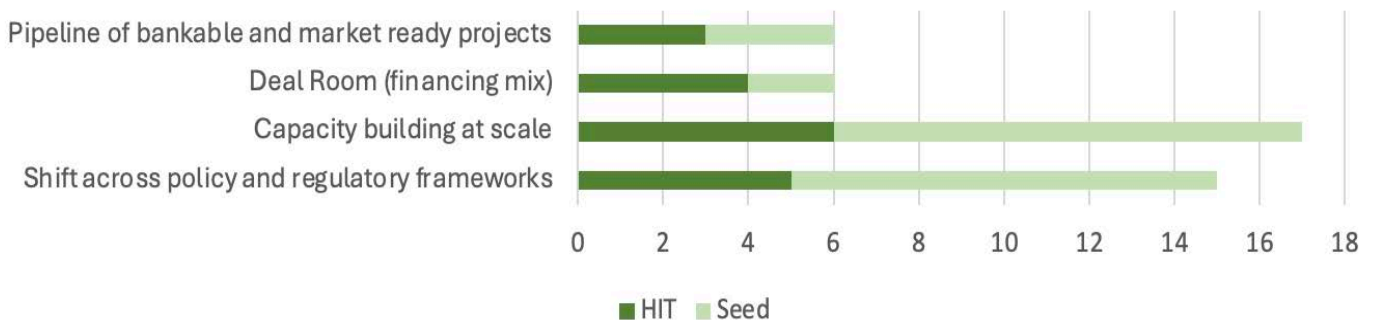
The joint programmes are designed to cross-fertilize with other SDG transitions to build synergies across traditional silos for systemic change, which also incubates integrated actions in Seed joint programmes to become future HITs.

FIGURE 3  
**SDG-transition cross-fertilisation for HIT and Seed joint programmes**



Amongst the enabling actions, the joint programme prioritise capacity building at scale, and shifts across policy and regulatory frameworks. A third also incorporates the development of a ‘deal room’ (i.e. build partnerships with relevant actors to unlock the necessary financing from all sources including traditional donors, development banks, capital markets, philanthropic foundations, and remittances, and thereby help develop the ‘deal room’ – a financing mix with innovative instruments – for each of the transitions).

FIGURE 4  
**Engine Room Actions for HIT and Seed joint programmes**



### 3. High Impact Track: Demonstrating transformative impact

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#### **Bolivia: SDG Localization focus - Building Resilient Traditional Agriculture in the Bolivian Amazon**

The joint programme will enhance national food system resilience, benefiting Amazonian small-scale producers, especially indigenous women, and youth. It will boost productivity and resilience of traditional agricultural methods across 14 municipalities in the Amazon, focusing on vulnerable groups. It will integrate small producers into markets and develop business plans for Amazonian producers in value chains like coffee and fruits. It will build local and national capacities to implement the National Food System Pathway. Partnerships with WFP, FAO, and ILO, alongside the IFAD Agroecology Frontier Programme, will leverage \$23 million for scaling business plans and policies nationally, improving food security, market access, and gender equality.

#### **Ethiopia: Strengthening Markets for Agriculture**

This joint programme will enhance the commercialization of the agricultural value chain in target areas to develop a market-based food system. At community level, it will establish produce quality assurance mechanisms, increase access to finance, and strengthen market bargain capabilities among 2200 farmers, including 17 women groups and 4 youth groups. At the market level, it will improve infrastructure and access to information, directly empowering 80 cooperatives. At the regional level, it will improve governance and investment planning capacity under a federally aligned framework, while building local knowledge bases. An additional \$21.8 million will be leveraged from partner programmes to scale initiatives across regions, strengthening sustainability and resilience in the food system.

#### **Nigeria: Agri-Food System Transformation and Innovation in Nigeria**

The joint programme will strengthen the governance capacity of the National Food System Transformation Support Facility (NFSTSF) to enhance leadership and coordination for food system transformation agenda at federal, state, and local level. It will improve income for small-holder farmers in target areas leveraging a mobile-accessible digital platform with real-time data and knowledge to enhance productivity and climate resilience. Business-to-Business (B2B) market models and innovative technologies increasing market linkage will be implemented to reduce post-harvest loss. The National Food Based Dietary Guidelines will be updated and guide the delivery of nutrition education to target population such as women and youth.

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### **Tajikistan: Transforming Food Systems for Better Nutrition in Tajikistan**

The joint programme will catalyse Tajikistan's comprehensive transformation towards a sustainable and nutrition-sensitive food system. At community level, it will improve public knowledge to stimulate demand for nutritious food, with special attention to women and school children's access. Innovative and scalable on-farm and value chain interventions will be piloted to stimulate local production of nutritious food. At national level, it will deliver the National Food-Based Dietary Guidelines to promote healthy dietary habits, and address policy constraints in the production of locally sourced nutritious food, leveraging strategic partnerships in domestic and external financing.

### **Timor-Leste: Food System Transformation**

This joint programme aims to improve economic, market and social access to nutritious food for a third of the population in Timor-Leste. It will improve economic access by facilitating large-scale investments in agricultural infrastructure, food distribution, processing, and storage facilities, and enabling legal and regulatory environments for additional financing. The programme will improve market access by engaging farmers and SMEs at municipal level to build their technical, financial, and business capacities through open innovation centers, especially for women. Successful innovations in agricultural practices and financing solutions will be institutionalized at the national level. To improve social access, the programme will provide targeted nutritional education programmes for pregnant and lactating mothers to improve their eating behaviors and promote breastfeeding and other nutritionally adequate child feeding practices.

## **Follow-up to Development Emergency Modality support**

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### **Somalia: SDG Localization Focus - Transform the Food Systems with Nutrition-Sensitive and Climate-Adaptive social protection systems**

This joint programme operationalizes Somalia's National Food Systems Pathway to adopt a Productive Social Safety Net model, focusing on improving food security and resilience by implementing nutrition-sensitive, climate-adaptive livelihood interventions to diversify income, enhance market access, and boost productivity, particularly targeting youth and women. It also enhances social protection by providing technical assistance for a nutrition-sensitive, climate-adaptive safety net, innovative financing mechanisms, early warning systems, and improved Unified Social Registry interoperability. Building on UN and World Bank programmes, it promotes climate-smart agriculture and leverages Green Climate Fund resources to protect vulnerable communities from food security shocks while enhancing their recovery and productivity of nutritious foods.

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With sincere appreciation for the contributions from the European Union and Governments of Spain, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Ireland, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Poland, Monaco, for a transformative movement towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.



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## Annex 1: Summaries and funding allocation for High Impact Track joint programmes

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## Sustainable Food Systems: Building Resilient Traditional Agriculture in the Bolivian Amazon

## Investments

**TOTAL BUDGET**  **\$3.1 M**

**FINANCIAL LEVERAGE**  **\$23 M**

## Reach

- Over 280,00 people from 14 municipalities will benefit through improvements in production, access to healthy food and the sustainability of local food systems.
- 550 family and community productive units representing at least 2,750 people, mainly indigenous small producers, and harvester in traditional agriculture, will have strengthened capacity in productivity, production organization, and climate adaptation.
- Close to 3,000 students, teachers, and directors from 5 educational units will have strengthened capacity to address dietary health and nutritional value of local and traditional foods.
- 100 public, national, departmental, and municipal officials will have enhanced food system governance capacity.

## Introduction

The joint programme seeks to transform Bolivia's food system by strengthening its traditional agriculture sector, which underpins 40-60% of the country's food production. At community level, it will build productivity, organizational and adaptive capacity among small producers from 14 municipalities in Bolivian Amazon, improving food access, malnutrition, poverty, while addressing inequitable participation for indigenous people, women, and youth. At the market level it will enhance mechanisms to improve regional and global market access for more diverse Amazonian produce. At the country level it will support policy initiatives and institutional capacity building to enable implementation of the National Food Systems Pathway. Additional financing leveraged will scale the programme across the country, promoting food systems transformation in harmony with Amazon's culture and ecosystems.

## Country Context

Bolivia, a lower middle-income country ranked 120/193 in the Human Development Index, faces persistent challenges of poverty, unemployment, and climate change. Despite reducing extreme poverty by more than half, the COVID-19 pandemic reversed progress, and by 2020, one-third of the population still lived in poverty, facing food insecurity. Rural areas are disproportionately affected, with nearly half of the workforce engaged in informal agricultural activities, which support 40-60% of the country's food production. However, climate change, water shortages, and land degradation are worsening conditions, pushing many into deforestation and illegal mining, further threatening biodiversity and livelihoods.

Indigenous people, women, and youth are especially vulnerable due to limited market participation, poor food security, and cultural discrimination, particularly in the Amazon region, where gender and age bias deepen economic marginalization and extreme poverty.

## Partners



## Expected Key Results:

- Small producers, including women and youth from the indigenous population in the Bolivia Amazon, have strengthened their productive, organizational, climate adaptive, and business capacity to participate more effectively in the agri-food value chain.
- Small producers and local market participants have increased commercial competitiveness and better access to local, national, and international markets with a wider range of quality and safe Amazonian produce.
- Technical capacity of decision-makers in municipal and national governments is enhanced to create enabling environment for sustainable food value chains and support the implementation of the National Food Systems Pathway.

The **pathway to impact** is built on the premise that a strengthened traditional agriculture sector in harmony with Amazon's ecosystem and indigenous culture will anchor the sustainable and climate resilient transformation of Bolivia's food system. The programme will improve small producers' productive and resilience capacity with special attention to marginalized groups and strengthen community market access and competitiveness. Governance capacity in local and national governments will be enhanced to create enabling environment for food systems transformation. The Joint Programme will achieve this through the following key actions:

- **Strengthen the production and climate resilience of small producers:** provide accessible training and assistance to small producers on productivity improvement, organizational skill, and climate adaptation, with targeted support for indigenous women and youth.
- **Enhance market links:** strengthen local cooperatives, improve market infrastructure, and build local business capacity by equipping small producers with better access to national and international markets and increased competitiveness to realize value addition for a more diverse selection of Amazonian produce.
- **Enable Political and Social Environment for food system transformation:** equip institutional decision makers with more comprehensive capacity to govern the food sector and enable the political and social environment for inclusive, sustainable and climate resilient food systems.

The joint programme Steering Committee is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and Bolivia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with representatives from WFP, FAO, ILO, IFAD.

## UN Joint SDG Fund

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## Food System Transformation: Strengthening markets for agriculture

### Investments

**TOTAL BUDGET**  **\$2.6 M**

**FINANCIAL LEVERAGE**  **\$21.8 M**

### Reach

- The programme supports 2,200 farmers, including 17 women's groups and 4 youth groups, and enhances governance and investment planning.
- 80 market associations will be equipped with market intelligence and business-to-business linkage with actors across the value chain
- Regional Bureaus of Agriculture, Pastoral Development, Industry and related institutions, regional universities and regional research institutes will build knowledge and capacity in holistic policy design and implementation, investment planning, cooperative promotion, and job creation for food systems
- 3 key line Federal Ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lowlands and Irrigation, Ministry of Industry) will strengthen governance and coordination aligned with regional levels to foster cross-sectoral collaboration

### Introduction

The joint programme aims to strengthen commercialization of the agricultural value chain to increase value addition in agrarian and agro-pastoralist target areas, to catalyse a market-based food system. This programme operationalizes Ethiopia's Food Systems Transformation Pathway and roadmap, and is designed to benefit local, regional, and national stakeholders, integrating vulnerable groups, especially women and youth. It will focus on strengthening local productivity, improving market competitiveness of local produce, enhancing market access and integration to underpin commercial value addition of the agri-food value chain. Governance capacity will also be strengthened in local, regional, and national institutions to create an enabling environment for inclusive and resilient food systems.

### Country Context

Ethiopia is a low-income country and ranked 176/193 in the Human Development Index. It is a large landlocked country, with a population of over 130 million, the second largest in Africa. Its average 10% annual GDP growth between 2004-2019 placed it among Africa's top economic performers. However, natural disasters exacerbated by climate change threaten Ethiopia's agriculture, livelihood, and food security. A confluence of recent crisis including the pandemic, political conflicts and droughts has reversed progress and plunged many into food insecurity. 1 in 4 families live in food poverty, and the number doubles in rural areas. 1 in 6 rely on international aid programmes for food. Half of the children aged 6-23 months face extreme food poverty and malnutrition.

To strengthen the resilience of its agriculture sector and reduce reliance on food aid, Ethiopia has developed a clear and comprehensive set of frameworks to advance national food and nutrition security. However, inter-governmental and multi-stakeholder coordination remain a barrier to effectively achieve policy objectives. Progress made in productivity gains in the past years is also challenged by limits in commercialization capabilities, hindering transformation of the food system.

Despite progress in promoting inclusive development, significant inequity persists. Women and youth's participation in decision-making remains low, and violence against women and girls is prevalent.

### Partners



## Expected Key Results:

- Enhanced value addition for the agri-food value chain through improved post-harvest processing techniques, quality assurance practice and increased community adoption.
- Better access to productive inputs, finance, information, and market for farmers, enhancing their competitiveness and market integration.
- Strengthened regional food systems governance model under a federally aligned framework, enabling local commercialization knowledge build-up and transfer across regions.

The **pathway to impact** is built on the premise that addressing the bottlenecks to the commercialization of agriculture products will have transformative impact on the broader food system. In selected agrarian and agropastoral areas with lower level of conflict risk, the programme will leverage strategic partnership with institutions and communities to enable and strengthen market integration and agriculture sector value addition for higher income. By prioritizing commercialization, the programme aims to unlock livelihood opportunities and improve food security, especially for women and youth. The joint programme will achieve this through the following key actions:

- **Improve produce competitiveness** by establishing quality assurance standards and adopt quality control, value addition and climate smart technologies to increase local producers' market competitiveness and strengthen their position in regional and global market.
- **Enhance market linkage** by improving market infrastructure to facilitate access to information, finance, and other inputs for actors across the value chain, scaling up national market information system at regional level.
- **Strengthen regional governance** by establishing a regional governance framework responsive to both federal and local contexts in target regions, build capacity for regional decision-makers to make target investments to accelerate sectoral commercialization, develop local knowledge bases and facilitate knowledge exchange.

The joint programme Steering Committee is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture, with representatives from relevant government agencies, WFP, FAO, and civil society groups.

## UN Joint SDG Fund

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## Transform the Food Systems with Nutrition-Sensitive and Climate-Adaptive social protection systems

### Investments

**TOTAL  
BUDGET**

 **\$2.4 M**

**FINANCIAL  
LEVERAGE**

 **\$35.2 M**

### Reach

- 28,000 individuals will gain labour condition improvement and capacity building in productivity, market participation and climate change adaptation.
- An additional 575,000 people will benefit indirectly from strengthened nutrition-sensitive and climate-adaptive social protection programmes.
- Over 200 local and national government officials will be trained on evidence-based decision-making and data management.

### Partners



### Introduction

The joint programme will strengthen Somalia's nutrition-sensitive and climate-adaptive social protection programmes to promote equitable access to nutritious food, finance, and skill development for vulnerable groups including women, children, and youth. At community level, it will improve smallholder farmers' labour condition, productivity, market participation and climate change adaptation. At national level, Food Systems Nutrition and Climate Change Council will be empowered to better coordinate stakeholders, enhance agricultural labour market regulation, strengthen evidence-based decision making, and operationalize the National Food Systems Pathway.

### Country Context

Somalia is ranked last of 193 countries in the Human Development Index. It has a population of 18 million and more than half are trapped in poverty facing food insecurity and severe malnutrition. Combined shocks of historic drought, floods, high food prices, prolonged conflict have worsened food security, nutrition, and livelihood of millions.

Somalia has abundant natural assets to support strong growth of its agriculture sector, including the longest coastline on mainland Africa and two major rivers. Building resilient food systems is the government's top priority solution to combat the combination of poverty-climate change impact-conflicts. Limited governance capacity and inadequate investment in market infrastructure are key factors leading to low sectoral productivity and poor market access. Environmental degradation, including deforestation and unsustainable land-use, compounded by climate change induced shocks, further threatens agricultural productivity and food security. Risk is multiplied for marginalized groups of women, children, and youth with poor access to resources.

Social protection programmes, which many households depend on for essential services, is limited due to underfunding, heavy reliance on donor support, uncoordinated programme and fragmented delivery. A comprehensive approach scaling existing fragmented social protection initiatives such as Baxnaano and linking them to productive safety nets could support communities to combat poverty and hunger and facilitate humanitarian-development-peace collaboration essential for reducing reliance on aid and achieving long-term stability and resilience.



## Expected Key Results:

- Improved social safety net coverage for rural populations and those whose livelihood are dependent on the local food system through scale up of nutrition-sensitive and climate-adaptive social protection programmes.
- Operationalized National Food Systems Pathway and Climate Change Council with enhanced institutional capacity in evidence-based governance, management, and multi-stakeholder coordination when developing policies on sustainable and resilient food systems.

**The Pathway to Impact** is built on the premise that strengthening nutrition-sensitive and climate-adaptive social protection programmes will improve the rural population's food security and accelerate Somalia's food system transformation. The programme will develop government capacity to leverage data and multi-stakeholder collaboration to operationalize the pathway for food system transformation. It will prioritize scaling up social protection measures to provide inclusive and equitable coverage for food security, financial access, and climate smart agricultural livelihood. The joint programme will achieve this through the following key actions:

- **Increase government capacity to develop and implement relevant frameworks on the food systems agenda:** establish National Food Systems Pathway and Climate Change Council aligned with national priorities, enhance multi-stakeholder engagement to build food system sustainability and resilience, build capacity in evidence-based decision making with good data management.
- **Scale up Nutrition-Sensitive and Climate-Adaptive Social Protection Programme to mainstream food security in social safety nets:** align the social protection system with nutrition, food security and climate change policies, strengthen its adaptive and shock-response capacity; improve government implementation capacity at community level to deliver inclusive, equitable and diversified livelihood support.

The joint programmes steering committee will be co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, Somali government represented by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, with representatives from FAO, WFP, and relevant donors.

### The joint programme demonstrated localization in the following way:

- The programme builds on inclusive national dialogues with civil society actors at national and sub-national levels, fostering a more holistic programming approach across levels. It leverages existing local social protection platforms and by linking nutrition sensitive programming to government unconditional cash transfer recipients, facilitates service delivery to leave no one behind.
- The programme supports the government in building community management, and local agency capacities to deliver social protection services around food systems. Local implementation experiences will be documented and shared to build knowledge.

## UN Joint SDG Fund

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Agri-Food System Transformation and Innovation in Nigeria

Investments

**TOTAL BUDGET**  **\$2.4 M**

**FINANCIAL LEVERAGE**  **\$10.5 M**

Reach

- 500,000 smallholder farmers will have access to mobile-based digital extension services with improved market information and direct market linkage programming.
- 100 smallholder farmer cooperatives, with at least 35% women cooperatives, will receive post-harvest technology packages and market linkage support through government digital platform.
- 500,000 people with at least 50% women and girls in 6 target states will have improved nutrition knowledge and better dietary practices based on updated Food Based Dietary Guideline.
- 7.3 million citizens will benefit from food systems transformation through improved governance.

 Introduction

The joint programme will strengthen the governance capacity of the National Food System Transformation Support Facility (NFSTSF) to enhance leadership and coordination for food system transformation agenda at federal, state, and local level. It will improve income for small-holder farmers in target areas leveraging a mobile-accessible digital platform with real-time data and knowledge to enhance productivity and climate resilience. Business-to-Business (B2B) market models and innovative technologies increasing market linkage will be implemented to reduce post-harvest loss. The National Food Based Dietary Guidelines will be updated and guide the delivery of nutrition education to target population such as women and youth.

 Country Context

Nigeria is a lower middle-income country, ranked 161/193 in Human Development Index. Located in West Africa on the Atlantic Ocean, it is the largest economy in Africa and agriculture contributes to a quarter of its GDP. Its 230 million population is the largest in Africa, and 40% still live in poverty. Food insecurity is prevalent, with 60 % of the population facing moderate to severe hunger and widespread malnutrition, especially among children.

Nigeria's food system faces a multitude of challenges to reach its productive potential. Limited investment in agricultural infrastructure and human capital, reliance on small-scale, rain-fed farming led to low productivity. Compounded with ongoing security challenges and violence in rural agricultural areas, and the increasing impact of climate change on already fragile agro-ecological zones, food price inflation has risen from 14,67% at the start of 2020 to 40.53% in April 2024. Poor nutritional knowledge and dietary practice threatens public health.

Environmental degradation caused by unsustainable use of land and water resources and rapid urbanization further jeopardizes agricultural productivity. Gender disparity persists as women have less access to productive resources and nutritious food.

Partners



## Expected Key Results:

- Strengthened governance capacity with enhanced leadership and coordination for food system transformation agenda.
- Demonstrated increase in production, sales, and income generation for smallholder farmers through promotion of digital technologies that improve information access and decision-making in targeted areas.
- Reduced Post-Harvest losses using advanced management and business to business (B2B) model and innovative technologies for market linkage.
- Improved knowledge and behaviour on nutrition and healthy diets among target groups of women, school-age children, and adolescents.

**The Pathway to Impact** is built on the premise that a strengthened National Food System Transformation Support Facility NFSTS with enhanced leadership will deliver coordinated transformation agenda at federal, state and local levels, with a focus on households and their demand for nutritious food, small holder farmers and climate resilient production, and the food value chain. This multi-modal approach seeks to push multiple levers in ways that ensure continued accelerated improvements in Nigeria's food system that elevate and prioritize nutrition, sustainability, resilience, climate, and the environment. The joint programme will achieve this through the following key actions:

- **Strengthen the governance of the National Food System Transformation Support Facility (NFSTSF)** to enhance leadership and coordination for food system transformation agenda at federal, state, and local level, and support six states to develop localized food systems transformation plans.
- **Streamline extension service delivery through digital platforms in target regions** to improve access to tailored region-specific knowledge on production, risk mitigation, and market linkage.
- **Promote the business-to-business model (B2B) as a proof-of-concept for reducing post-harvest losses** through digital platforms linking farmers directly to wholesale consumers and support other business models through at least four investment fairs.
- **Review and update the national Food Based Dietary Guidelines and deliver nutrition education to target population** such as women and youth, by integrating nutrition education into national school curriculums and community development programmes.

The joint programme Steering Committee will be chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and include representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Livestock, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health & Social Welfare, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNICEF, and an NGO.

## UN Joint SDG Fund

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## Transforming Food Systems for Better Nutrition in Tajikistan

### Investments

**TOTAL BUDGET**  **\$2.4 M**

**FINANCIAL LEVERAGE**  **\$10.5 M**

### Reach

- 15,000 primary school children, women, and adolescent girls will have increased access to nutritious food and dietary health knowledge.
- 50 producer associations will have improved capacity to produce locally sourced nutritious food.
- 400 community health workers, 900 teachers will be trained on nutrition and dietary knowledge.
- 80 policy makers from the government, NGOs, CSOs, and media will build coordination capacity for driving transformative impact

### Partners



### Introduction

The joint programme will catalyse Tajikistan's comprehensive transformation towards a sustainable and nutrition-sensitive food system. At community level, it will improve public knowledge to stimulate demand for nutritious food, with special attention to women and school children's access. Innovative and scalable on-farm and value chain interventions will be piloted to stimulate local production of nutritious food. At national level, it will deliver the National Food-Based Dietary Guidelines to promote healthy dietary habits, and address policy constraints in the production of locally sourced nutritious food, leveraging strategic partnerships in domestic and external financing.

### Country Context

Tajikistan is a lower middle-income country, ranked 126/193 in Human Development Index. The smallest country in Central Asia with a population of 10 million, Tajikistan is land-locked with an economy characterized by low diversification, with significant reliance on agriculture and remittance from migrant workers. The agriculture sector employs 60% of the labour force but contributes only 20% to the GDP, due to low productivity, low produce diversity and outdated practices. 20% of the population live in poverty, and 75% of the rural population experience food insecurity.

Malnutrition, anaemia, and a rising level of obesity due to poor access to a healthy variety of locally sourced nutritious food and poor dietary practice are critical public health concerns, especially among women and children under five. Tajikistan's food system is also highly vulnerable to seasonal variability and shocks caused by climate change, leading to inconsistent food supply and availability. Environmental degradation caused by deforestation and unsustainable practices in agriculture has put future productivity at risk and threatens livelihood. Vulnerable groups such as women, school-aged children, and adolescents face disproportionately high risk of food insecurity.

The lack of evidence-based guidelines on healthy diets, and weak policy coherence to sufficiently leverage financing further limit the government's ability to effect collective behavioural change and transformation of the food system.



## Expected Key Results:

- Enhanced government capacity to regulate and promote healthy food systems based on data, and development of National Food Systems Based Dietary Guidelines.
- Improved availability of locally sourced healthy food with innovative approaches in the agricultural value chain.
- Improved institutional capacity for integrated multi-agency response and leveraging financing for strengthening nutrition-sensitive food systems.

**The Pathway to Impact** is built on the premise that evidence-based policy guidelines on nutritious food could help better allocate resources to promote healthy dietary habits, promote social equity and long-term food security for low-income rural communities. Enabling policies and regulations will create incentives and momentum in local food value chain innovations. Complemented by improved public awareness and capacity in dietary health, public behavioural change will reinforce the enabling environment strengthening food system transformation and addressing key human rights such as access to food and education for women and children. The joint programme will achieve this through the following key actions:

- **Enhance policies and regulations on nutrition and healthy diets:** improve government capacity in evidence-based decision-making, develop the National Food System Based Dietary Guidelines and implement across food systems, conduct a nation-wide and community-based healthy diet campaign.
- **Increase incentives for local production of nutritious food and consumption of locally sourced food:** introduce innovative solutions for nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices and value chain development. Increase demand for locally sourced nutritious food through local organizations such as provide training on school meal menus and preparation, linking schools with local farmers to train them on local supply management.
- **Improve government capacity for data-driven and coordinated interventions leveraging all available financing:** promote multi-agency coordinated and integrated actions to strengthen nutrition-sensitive food systems governance, leverage financing and expertise from development partners to scale programme reach and impact.

The joint programme Committee will be co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) and the Committee for Food Security under the Government of Tajikistan, and include representatives from FAO, WFP, UNICEF, WHO and key stakeholders.

## UN Joint SDG Fund

All joint programmes of the Joint SDG Fund are led by UN Resident Coordinators and implemented by the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations development system. With sincere appreciation for the contributions from the European Union and Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and our private sector funding partners, for a transformative movement towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.



## Transforming Food Systems in Timor-Leste

### Investments

**TOTAL BUDGET**  **\$2.5 M**

**FINANCIAL LEVERAGE**  **\$10 M**

### Reach

- 30% of Timorese population (approximately 400,000 people) will benefit from three large scale investment projects in agricultural infrastructure, processing and storage facilities facilitated by the programme.
- 1000 farming households will benefit directly from improved access to agriculture inputs, services, and financing; entire populations of Covalima and Viqueque municipalities (approximately 153,963 people) will benefit indirectly.
- 36,000 pregnant women, 56,000 lactating women, and 56,000 children aged 0-23 months will be trained annually on healthy feeding practices from nutritional education programmes.

### Partners



### Introduction

This joint programme aims to improve economic, market and social access to nutritious food for a third of the population in Timor-Leste. It will improve economic access by facilitating large-scale investments in agricultural infrastructure, food distribution, processing, and storage facilities, and enabling legal and regulatory environments for additional financing. The programme will improve market access by engaging farmers and SMEs at municipal level to build their technical, financial, and business capacities through open innovation centres, especially for women. Successful innovations in agricultural practices and financing solutions will be institutionalized at the national level. To improve social access, the programme will provide targeted nutritional education programmes for pregnant and lactating mothers to improve their eating behaviors and promote breastfeeding and other nutritionally adequate child feeding practices.

### Country Context

Timor-Leste is a lower income country ranked 155/193 in Human Development Index. It is one of the most food insecure countries in the world. As of 2020, 36% of its population suffered from chronic food insecurity, while 22% faced acute food insecurity. 22.3% of the population suffers from undernourishment. The interactions between monetary poverty, low availability of food, and high food prices lead to multidimensional poverty that intensifies food insecurity and malnutrition.

Timor-Leste's agricultural sector is among the least developed globally, dominated by subsistence farming heavily impacted by climate events, with only 30% of the country's arable land utilized for agricultural activities. Limited technical and business knowledge of farmers hampers their agricultural productivity and market engagement. Inadequate rural infrastructure, including roads and storage facilities, complicates the distribution of agricultural inputs, constrains farmers' access to markets, and leads to 20% to 35% post-harvest losses for crops like rice, soybeans, and maize. Limited food production leads to price instability and high reliance on food imports. Increasing agricultural productivity is hence a key priority for enhancing food security in Timor-Leste.

In addition, Timor-Leste records one of the highest rates of stunting globally - 47.1% of children are stunted, 32.4% are underweight. This high level of stunting impairs both physiological and cognitive capacities of children, diminishing their future productivity and perpetuates the cycle of poverty. Malnutrition and stunting not only results from but also causes poverty, exacerbating the cycle of food insecurity and socio-economic disadvantage.



## Expected Key Results:

- Established national investment partnership platform acting as a central coordination hub for policies enabling financing for food systems and identifying investment opportunities. 3 large-scale bankable projects will be developed.
- Established national innovation hub and two pilot municipal resource centres facilitating access to financial, technical, and business resources for farmers, cooperatives and MSMEs to increase their productivity and income. Local markets will be strengthened with more stable and diverse food supply.
- Stunting and malnutrition among children will be significantly reduced with widespread adoption of nutritionally optimal diet for pregnant and lactating women and better child feeding practices.

**The Pathway to Impact** is built on the premise that the convergence of large-scale investments in agricultural infrastructure and direct provision of resources and education to beneficiaries will increase the population's economic, market and social access to nutritious food and transform Timor-Leste's food systems. The joint programme will achieve this through the following key actions:

- **Facilitate the establishment of an investment partnership platform** involving the Government of Timor-Leste, development partners, the private sector, and farmer cooperatives to facilitate large-scale investments especially in climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable land management, as well as to address policy and regulatory bottlenecks of financing for food systems
- **Establish a national innovation hub including a financing solutions innovation unit** (in partnership with Banco Nacional de Comércio de Timor-Leste) and an agricultural innovation unit, and two pilot municipal-level resource centres to promote agricultural innovation, capacity building, and access to small-scale financing for farmers, cooperatives, MSMEs. Facilitate the unlocking of additional investment from both public and private sectors
- **Provide nutritional education programmes** to drive improvements in the eating behaviors of pregnant and lactating mothers and feeding practice for 0- to 23-month-old children

The joint programme Committee will be co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, the Minister of Agriculture, and Convenors of the Inter-ministerial Coordination Task Force for Social Affairs – Nutrition and Food Security. The Committee will include representatives from FAO, UNICEF, and relevant stakeholders.

## UN Joint SDG Fund

All joint programmes of the Joint SDG Fund are led by UN Resident Coordinators and implemented by the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations development system. With sincere appreciation for the contributions from the European Union and Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and our private sector funding partners, for a transformative movement towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

## ANNEX 2: Summaries and funding allocation for Seed Funding Track joint programmes

### Cambodia - Transforming Cambodia's food systems to become more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient

*JSDGF Funding:* \$250,000

*Co-funding:* \$110,000

*UN Agencies:*  
FAO, WFP

*Time frame:*  
August 2024 - July 2025

The joint programme will focus on supporting an enabling environment and better policy capacity for public investments in food systems, to advance both economic and nutritional outcomes. The national Food Systems Roadmap will be updated to incorporate stronger climate sensitivity, an investment strategy for the roadmap will be developed and the multisectoral priorities of the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition 2024-28 will be costed. In addition to working on food systems, the joint programme will activate SDG acceleration pathways for decent jobs and social protection, and for climate, biodiversity, pollution.

### Costa Rica: Empowering Communities: Empowering families and communities through local food system transformation in Costa Rican municipalities

*JSDGF Funding:* \$250,000

*Co-funding:* \$320,000

*UN Agencies:*  
FAO, UNICEF

*Time frame:*  
July 2024 - June 2025

Costa Rica's National Pathway focuses on strengthening governance, partnerships, and local initiatives for sustainable food systems. The joint programme supports resilient food production, distribution, and consumption in municipalities to enhance climate resilience, local economies, and public health. Two municipalities will develop participatory governance strategies, integrating gender and human rights perspectives. "Decision worktables" will facilitate collaboration among authorities. A digital platform will promote local markets, cultural recipes, and food waste reduction. The programme will also build local capacity for sustainable policies, circular economy, nutrition, and eco-friendly agriculture while advancing SDG goals for digital transformation, climate, biodiversity, and pollution.

### Egypt: Strengthening Sustainable and Resilient Food and Nutrition Systems in Egypt for SDG Acceleration

*JSDGF Funding:* \$249,999

*Co-funding:* \$87,000

*UN Agencies:*  
FAO, WFP, UNICEF

*Time frame:*  
July 2024 - May 2025

The joint programme aims to transform Egypt's food systems through capacity building, strategy development, and evidence generation. It strengthens government institutions, including the National Committee for Food and Nutrition Systems, to develop and monitor food system plans. Expected results include financially supported initiatives to reduce food waste, enhance nutrition, and generate evidence for policy decisions and public awareness. Activities involve capacity-building, workshops on food security, monitoring frameworks, and analytical reports on food value chains and child nutrition policies. Additionally, the joint programme will support SDG acceleration for climate, biodiversity, and pollution.

## El Salvador: Political advocacy to promote the transformation of sustainable and nutrition-sensitive food systems in El Salvador

*JSDGF Funding: \$250,000*

*Co-funding: \$600,000*

*UN Agencies:  
WFP, PAHO, UNICEF*

*Time frame:  
July 2024 - July 2025*

El Salvador's National Pathway prioritizes responsible consumption to reduce malnutrition, sustainable agriculture, and resilience to climate shocks. The joint programme strengthens governance and policy frameworks to promote sustainable food consumption and improve nutrition. It facilitates multi-sectoral dialogues to review legal frameworks for food systems, including family farming and school feeding. Additionally, the programme supports capacity development for officials, public awareness initiatives, and a cash transfer programme to encourage healthy food production and consumption. Beyond food systems, the joint programme advances SDG pathways for education, decent jobs, and social protection.

## Jordan: Transforming Jordan's agri-food system toward greater sustainability and resilience

*JSDGF Funding: \$250,000*

*Co-funding: \$30,000*

*UN Agencies:  
FAO, UNIDO*

*Time frame:  
September 2024  
- September 2025*

The joint programme supports Jordan's UN Food Systems Pathway and National Food Security Strategy by strengthening government capacity. It focuses on structural transformation in the agri-food sector, addressing gender disparities, and integrating women, youth, and refugees into value chains. The joint programme builds institutional capacity through training and experiential learning, ensuring long-term sustainability, and pilot-tests scalable strategies in collaboration with the National Food Security Council and Ministry of Agriculture. Beyond food systems, the programme advances SDG pathways for decent jobs and social protection.

## Kenya: The climate-friendly home grown-school feeding programme and the Inclusive and Sustainable coffee value chain

*JSDGF Funding: \$250,000*

*Co-funding: \$200,000*

*UN Agencies:  
UNIDO, WFP*

*Time frame:  
July 2024 - June 2025*

Kenya's joint programme focuses on evaluating the feasibility and scalability of investments in two key food systems dimensions: the Inclusive and Sustainable Coffee Value Chain, which will address challenges in Kenya's coffee value chain like low productivity and market volatility, aiming to unlock its potential through policy review, stakeholder engagement, and innovative financial mechanisms; and the Climate-Friendly Home-Grown School Feeding programme, which focuses on coordinating programme scale-up with communities, testing a climate-friendly aggregator model to link smallholders to schools in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). In addition to working on food systems, the joint programme will activate SDG acceleration pathways for decent jobs and social protection and for climate, biodiversity, and pollution.

## Rwanda: Resilient Food Systems: Enhanced Value Chain and Post-Harvest Management

*JSDGF Funding: \$250,000*

*Co-funding: \$4,520,000*

*UN Agencies:*  
**FAO, WFP**

*Time frame:*  
**July 2024 - June 2025**

The joint programme in Rwanda aims to enhance income, food and nutrition security, and resilience for smallholder farmers and youth. By introducing cost-effective, sustainable, and resilient post-harvest technologies, the programme reduces food losses, improves food quality and marketability in the grains value chain, empowers farmers, and ensures nutritious food availability. Portable shellers and mobile drying units operated by local youth entrepreneurs boost productivity and green energy use. The programme also improves farmers' knowledge, focusing on women and youth, for safe, nutritious diets, addressing climate change. It promotes market linkages and profitable businesses through public-private partnerships, enabling quality crop production for domestic and export markets. In addition to working on food systems, the programme will activate SDG acceleration pathways for decent jobs and social protection and for energy access and affordability.

## Samoa: Catalysing the Samoa National Food Systems Transformation Agenda Through Collective Action

*JSDGF Funding: \$250,000*

*Co-funding: \$78,000*

*UN Agencies:*  
**FAO, WFP**

*Time frame:*  
**July 2024-June 2025**

Samoa's National Pathway prioritizes food security, nutrition, and affordable healthy diets in its food systems transformation. The joint programme strengthens policy frameworks to translate the Pathway into action, mobilizing financial resources through fundraising and bankable proposals. It expands the evidence base for policy reforms, promotes sustainable consumption, and finalizes the costing of the Pathway while developing a monitoring and evaluation framework. To unlock further investments, the programme will create and market at least three funding proposals. Beyond food systems, the programme advances SDG pathways for climate, biodiversity, and pollution.

## Serbia: The climate-friendly home grown-school feeding programme and the Inclusive and Sustainable coffee value chain

*JSDGF Funding: \$250,000*

*Co-funding: \$202,500*

*UN Agencies:*  
**FAO, UN-WOMEN, UNEP**

*Time frame:*  
**September 2024 -  
September 2025**

The joint programme is designed to strengthen inter-institutional coordination for the implementation of the National Pathway for food systems transformation and promote the adoption of an inclusive and gender-sensitive bio-district model for organic food production, piloting its launch in the Kolubara district, as a nature-positive production method for sustainable resource management. In addition to working on food systems, the programme will activate SDG acceleration pathways for climate, biodiversity and pollution, for decent jobs and social protection, and for digital transformations.

## Tanzania: Advancing Sustainable Food Systems in the United Republic of Tanzania

*JSDGF Funding:* **\$249,620**

*Co-funding:* **\$50,000**

*UN Agencies:*  
**FAO, IFAD, WFP**

*Time frame:*  
**August 2024 - May 2025**

The joint programme builds on previous work, integrating the updated National Pathway into the national development agenda through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. The programme combines high-level strategies with localized actions. It will map food system coordination mechanisms, facilitate dialogues to identify a leading convenor, and align efforts with Vision 2050 while engaging women, youth, and people with disabilities. At the local level, the programme will develop gender-responsive and inclusive guidelines for district plans, tailored to different regions. Beyond food systems, the joint programme advances SDG pathways for climate, biodiversity, pollution, and digital transformation.

## Uganda: Strengthening Uganda's capacity to enable sustainable, equitable, healthy and resilient food systems

*JSDGF Funding:* **\$250,000**

*Co-funding:* **\$100,000**

*UN Agencies:*  
**FAO, WFP**

*Time frame:*  
**August 2024 - June 2025**

The joint programme strengthens food systems governance at national and district levels while ensuring inclusive participation of non-state actors. Using a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, the programme supports finalizing and implementing key policies, including the food and nutrition policy, school feeding policy, and the Food and Agriculture Regulatory Authority Bill. It also enhances access for women and youth to innovative practices, technologies, and financial resources, boosting employment and livelihoods. Beyond food systems, it advances SDG pathways for decent jobs, social protection, and education transformation.

## Viet Nam: Incubation of innovations in partnerships and financing for agri-food systems transformation in Viet Nam

*JSDGF Funding:* **\$250,000**

*Co-funding:* **\$80,000**

*UN Agencies:*  
**FAO, UNDP**

*Time frame:*  
**August 2024 - May 2025**

Viet Nam's National Pathway prioritizes food security and nutrition through transparent, responsible, and sustainable food systems. The joint programme supports governance and financial reforms to create an enabling environment for transformation, emphasizing strong coordination and partnerships. Key initiatives include establishing the Food Systems Transformation Partnership (FSTP) to foster collaboration, strengthening food financing to attract investment, and enhancing capacity development for public and private institutions. The programme promotes gender-sensitive, integrated policy support for sustainable development. Beyond food systems, the programme advances SDG pathways for climate, biodiversity, pollution, decent jobs, social protection, and digital transformation.



JOINT SDG FUND