



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2023  
(9:00 AM – 11:30 AM EST)



# OPEN MEETING

**UNITED NATIONS  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON  
FOOD SECURITY, AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL STATISTICS  
(UN-CEAG)**

**54TH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL  
COMMISSION**

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# Data collection and analysis tools for Food Security and Nutrition

towards enhancing effective, inclusive,  
evidence-informed decision making

HLPE-FSN Report #17

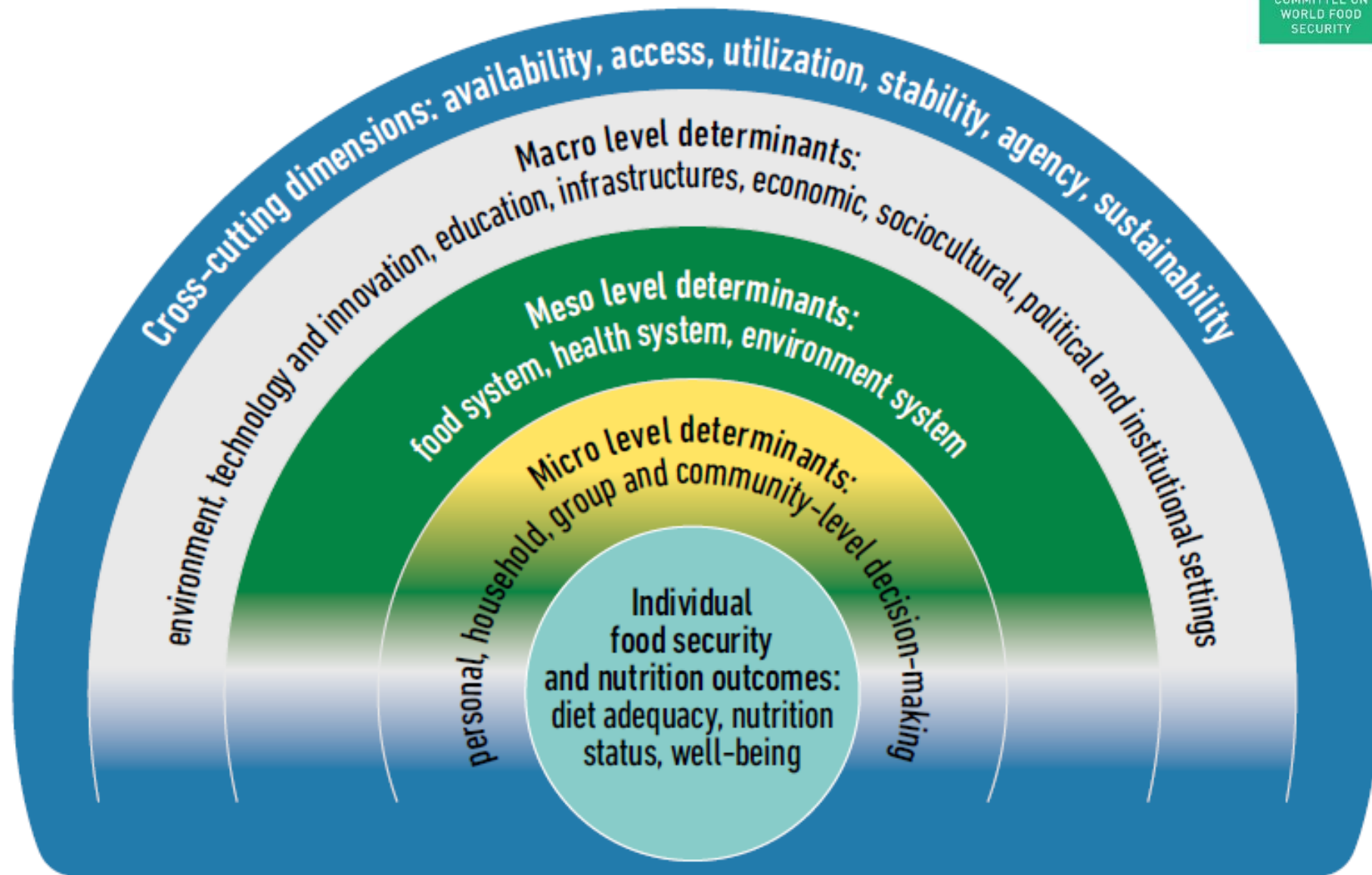
Presented by  
Carlo Cafiero, project team leader  
16 February 2023

# Six chapters

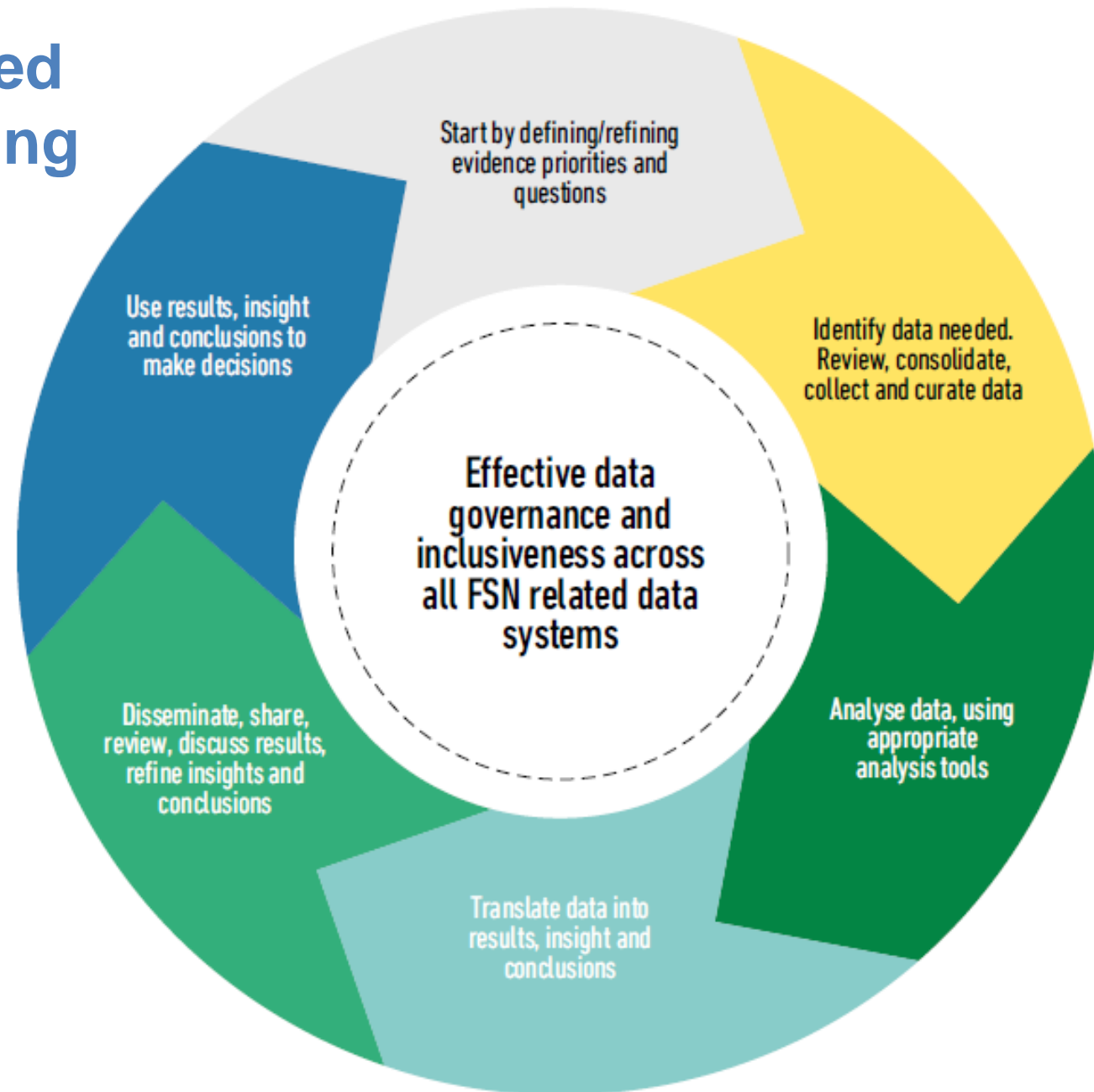
- 1. Setting the stage**
  - Definitions and conceptual frameworks.
- 2. A review of existing FSN data collection and analysis initiatives**
  - Illustrating good practices and the richness of what is already there.
- 3. Constraints, bottlenecks (and some solutions) for effective use of FSN data**
  - Focusing on what is still lacking, especially in countries where resources are more limited.
- 4. New and emerging digital technologies for FSN data**
  - Opportunities and risks associated with the diffusion of new data technologies.
- 5. Institutions and governance for FSN data collection, analysis, and use**
  - Perhaps the key challenge.
- 6. Final reflections and recommendations**
  - Presented to provoke further, in depth discussions.



# A framework for a systemic view of FSN



# A data-informed decision-making cycle



# Key message and call for actions

Despite the abundant and growing availability of data and information relevant to food security and nutrition, often decision makers are not aware of the existence, breadth, and relevance of such data, or do not use them appropriately, due to challenges at each step of the data cycle.

## Calls for action

- **Create** (even) **greater demand for data** for decision-making among governments, policy makers and donors, by promoting a broader data and information analytic culture among decision makers at all levels.
- Optimize and, if needed, repurpose current data-related investments, while increasing collaboration between international organizations, governments, civil society, academia and the private sector, to **harmonize and maximize the sharing of existing FSN data**.

# Key message and call for actions

Fundamental data gaps still exist to correctly guide action and inform policymaking, especially in terms of timely and sufficiently granular data on people's ability to locally produce and access food, on their actual food and nutrient consumption, and on their nutritional status. Increased and sustained financial investment is needed to overcome these gaps.

## Calls for action

- **Increase** and **sustain** investment in the collection of essential data for FSN, both for emergency response and for long-term structural policy planning.
- **Provide technical and financial assistance** to resource poor countries.
- **Promote** efforts to **modernize national statistics systems** in order to establish comprehensive, coordinated FSN data systems and to sustain the collection of the disaggregated and detailed data needed over time.

# Critical urgent data gaps areas

Level	Dimensions of food security and nutrition					
	Availability	Stability	Sustainability	Access	Utilization	Agency
<b>Macro</b>	Natural resource base Earth Observation International food commodity stocks and trade	Global/regional food commodity stocks and reserves	Weather and other risk trends and predictions	International food commodity prices	Food composition data Food safety data	
<b>Meso</b>	Domestic food availability	National food stocks and reserves		National food price indices	Water & Sanitation	Market concentration shares
<b>Micro</b>	Local food systems	Early Warning Information Systems		Local food prices Household incomes and consumption patterns Food insecurity experiences	Household living conditions Household water access	Food insecurity assessment surveys Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Rural Livelihood and Information Systems
<b>Individual (Outcomes)</b>	Dietary intake/diet quality; malnutrition prevalence and related health outcomes					



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Meso	Domestic food availability	National food stocks and reserves		National food price indices	Water & Sanitation	Market concentration shares
Micro	<b>Local food systems</b>	<b>Early Warning Information Systems</b>	<b>(Environmental, social and economic sustainability of farming)</b>	<b>Local food prices Household incomes and consumption patterns Food insecurity experiences</b>	Household living conditions <b>Household water access</b>	Food insecurity assessment surveys Women's Empowerment in Agriculture <b>Rural Livelihood and Information Systems</b>
Individual (Outcomes)	<b>Dietary intake/diet quality</b> ; malnutrition prevalence and related health outcomes					

# Key message and call for actions

Several other constraints limit the effectiveness of data-informed policy action, especially in low-resource countries. Key among them is the low level of data literacy and analysis skills (for both qualitative and quantitative data) on the part of data and information users at all levels – from data collectors and analysts, to decision-makers, and to the people, as the ultimate beneficiaries of food security and nutrition policies.

## Call for action

- **Invest in human capital** and in the **needed infrastructures** to ensure the sustainability of data collection, processing and analytic capacity especially in resource poor countries.

# Key message and call for actions

The complexity of the system of public and private actors and institutions involved in food security and nutrition data, coupled with the rapidly changing characteristics of today's data ecosystems due to the digital revolution and the pervasiveness of the internet, brings to centre stage the need for global coordination to improve data governance.

Particularly urgent is the need to reach agreement on the nature of FSN data and information as a public good, and, on that basis, to establish a global legal framework that allows for the broadest possible circulation of relevant information, while preserving the rights of the people to whom the data ultimately belongs.

## Call for action

- **Improve data governance** at all levels, promoting inclusiveness to recognize and enhance agency among data users and data generators

# The team



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**Thank you!**

*HLPE*  
*High Level  
Panel of Experts*