

# CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise 2024

Answers to the question on the use, application and dissemination of CFS outcomes

## Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

FAO continues to support the uptake of CFS products through several outputs within its Strategic Framework, aiming to strengthen i) awareness and knowledge of the policy products; b) capacities for their use and application; and iii) implementation at country level.

In 2024, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Right to Food Guidelines was an opportunity to organize several activities allowing to increase awareness and sensitize constituencies on the importance and continued relevance of the Right to Food Guidelines and related tools and the importance of the RTF for future generations and for the agenda of the [Summit of the Future](#).

For example, in collaboration with partners, FAO organized an event on “ [Right to Food. Right to a Future](#)” in the framework of the United Nations Civil Society Conference (Nairobi, 9-10 May 2024) and a virtual “Multi-stakeholder dialogue on the human rights-based approach to food systems transformations as an accelerator of AU Agenda 2063 and UN Agenda 2030”, during the 10th Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development 2024.

In Latin America and the Caribbean region, FAO delivered presentations to various audiences including academia, parliamentarians, government officials and civil society during events in Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, Guatemala and Colombia. In the Europe and Central Asia region, the first regional meeting of national parliament representatives on agrifood systems was an opportunity for FAO to facilitate a discussion around needed measures and actions to advance the right to food in the region.

Together with FPH-LAC and ODA-LAC, FAO also contributed to the development of a publication on legislative progress in Latin America and Caribbean related to the Right to Food Guidelines, and an article on [The right to Food in the Maghreb and Middle East: A Critical Moment for Action](#). In addition, a series of trainings supporting the uptake of the Right to Food Guidelines were delivered to key stakeholders, including the Spanish FIIAPP (Fundación Internacional e Iberoamericana de Administración y Políticas Públicas), Welthungerhilfe India, the Philanthropic Mechanism of the CFS, and the World Farmers Organization (WFO).

FAO also supported the review of national policy and legal frameworks concerning small-scale fisheries. 15 country profiles are available in an online database (SSF-Lex) <https://ssfex.fao.org/> All CFS SSF-related

resources are disseminated through the SSF Guidelines channels: [SSF Guidelines website](#) (with a dedicated page to [food security and nutrition](#) where the Small-scale fisheries and the human right to adequate food publication is highlighted), [SSF Guidelines newsletter](#) and through SSF networks, e.g. SSF Technical Network.

Regarding the promotion of the uptake and use of the VGGTs more specifically, FAO:

- Prepared a policy brief on the regional learning exchange on investments in the recognition of Indigenous and afro-descendant territories in Latin America ([Land tenure for Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples](#)), in collaboration with the Tenure Facility, ILC, and FAO RLC.
- developed an online toolkit to support the formulation and the development of M&E systems for Land Administration investment projects in which VGGT are promoted: <https://www.fao.org/in-action/herramienta-administracion-tierras/en/>
- promoted the application of VGGTs principles through [UNCCD-FAO joint initiative on tenure security for land restoration](#) including by facilitating national consultations in Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mexico, Senegal and Sri Lanka (lessons learnt and recommendations available [here](#))
- contributed to a study on assessing the uptake and use of CFS policy products, based on the experience of VGGT, CFS-RAI and RfF guidelines. The study is conducted in collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. (Results to be presented at CFS 53).
- led the implementation of the project GCP/GLO/1285-GER (Promoting Multistakeholder Platforms in support to CFS policy products uptake), aimed at providing guidance to CFS members on how MSP can leverage the use of CFS policy products (based on country experience on Sierra Leone, Colombia and Senegal).
- Supported the translation of the Guidelines into three Indigenous Peoples languages (Kuruk, Gondi, Sadri).
- led or co-led the implementation of tenure governance projects and interventions based on the VGGT, in Sierra Leone, Chad, Mauritania, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Cameroun, Guinea Conakry, Niger, Mozambique. Projects cover areas such as Policy and legal review and development, land administration, women's land rights, conflict prevention and improving the governance of pastoralist lands.
- Promoted VGGTs principles in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of IFI- and government-funded programs, and supported several countries to align with the VGGT, specifically in Madagascar (land tenure securitization funded by World Bank and IFAD), Senegal (Support for the implementation of WB-funded investments in land administration), Mozambique (Final evaluation of land administration project MozLand/Terra Segura funded by WB and the Government), Nicaragua (Final evaluation of the third Land administration program/PRODEP funded by WB and the Government), Colombia (Multi-purpose Cadaster funded by WB, IDB, UK cooperation and the Government), and Benin (formulation of a multiphasic land administration project/Terra-Benin funded by WB).

- Provided support and technical assistance to countries in Europe and Central Asia in implementing the VGGTs principles to strengthen land tenure governance (e.g. modernizing the land administration system and establishing a digital land cadaster in Turkmenistan; preparation of the National land Consolidation Strategy 2025-2035 in N. Macedonia; revision of the Land Code in Kyrgyzstan; preparation of the Law on Soils in Kazakhstan);
- Provided legal analyses, including customary laws, supporting cross-sectoral coordination and participatory law-making through *Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme Legal Hub* (<https://www.fao.org/in-action/swm-programme/legal-hub/en>).

In relation to the VG-GEWGE:

- FAO has launched the [Regional Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027 for the Near East and North Africa Region](#). The Strategy is aligned with the key commitments under the VG-GEWGE and aims at supporting the adoption of policies and programmes to promote GEWE.

Regarding the promotion of the uptake and use of the CFS RAI, FAO:

- Engaged in the development and systematization of educational materials in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Introduced the CFS-RAI at the national parliamentary meeting in October 2024.
- Organized a two-day knowledge-sharing workshop aimed at promoting CFS RAI [for the Legislature of Liberia](#) (Monrovia, October 2024) contributing to their application in the country.
- Provided support to a regional adaptation of the CFS-RAI for Southeast Asia (ASEAN RAI) among ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Member Parliaments (Vientiane, 2024; Bali, 2024), including the development of the ASEAN RAI Parliamentary Implementation Framework, a strategic mechanism designed to integrate the guidelines into national legal frameworks.

In relation to CFS policy recommendations on strengthening collection and use of Food security and nutrition (FSN) data and related analysis tools, FAO:

- supported the creation of a new statistical domain on food security and nutrition (FSN) statistics under the aegis of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) ([link](#)), to identify indicators such as affordability of healthy diets and several that aim to quantify the contribution of food consumption to nutrition. the process aims to improve collaboration and harmonization of FSN data, as emphasized in the recommendations.
- led the development of an international definition for FSN data, established an Expert Group, and developed a classification nomenclature for the new data domain on FSN data and statistics, together with a practical guidance document outlining a minimum set of core FSN data.

FAO has also developed an E-learning on [Parliamentary action for food systems and nutrition](#), and presented the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition to FAO-REU members during a [FAO regional workshop](#), using the example of how FAO facilitated the uptake of these guidelines by the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic.

In relation to policy products related to youth, gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment:

- In relation to CFS 2022 Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition, FAO is developing an evidence-based report on "The Status of Youth in Agrifood Systems," to be launched in June 2025.
- In alignment with the principles of the *CFS/HLPE Report on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment* (2021), and the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security And Nutrition* (2023), FAO has been actively promoting youth- and gender-responsive approaches in the design and implementation of inclusive investment project, programs and strategies.
- FAO also conducted an analysis of the current level of integration of youth dimensions in the main agricultural policies and strategies in the Africa region and mapped existing recent technical tools that could support the implementation of the recommendations (a policy brief forthcoming). The main results of the analysis were presented during a [dedicated side event on 31 October 2024](#) at the 20th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP) meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe.

FAO promoted the application of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises across several areas in NENA region including:

- supporting the development of Food Security and Resilience action plans in Yemen and Sudan; providing timely and safe humanitarian livelihoods assistance through country projects (including in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Sudan and Yemen); undertaking the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA) studies in Egypt and Jordan, addressing the lack of information to guide the design of targeted resilience programs for vulnerable populations
- organizing a regional workshop on the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Programmes, to enhance staff understanding of humanitarian protection principles and their application within FAO's mandate
- undertaking a regional study and report "Resilience to multiple shocks on agriculture and food security through a gender lens", with the aim to assess the impacts of multiple and overlapping shocks on women and men whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. Case studies were drawn from Mauritania, Palestine, Sudan and Yemen.
- Strengthening country ownership, participation, coordination and accountability by promoting multi-stakeholder platforms, including MENA AA Community of Practice (CoP), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) platform for Arab States, and national consultations to inform policies and guidelines, strengthening country ownership and coordination.

## International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

I CFS' voluntary principles and guidelines are informed by IFAD's own work and underpin IFAD's efforts towards food systems transformation. IFAD is committed to supporting Member States in utilizing CFS products when relevant and applicable to translate these principles and guidelines into concrete progress for smallholder farmers and the rural poor.

II IFAD continues to work towards integrating CFS outcomes related to GEWE into its operations, aligning IFAD's projects with the Voluntary Guidelines and other CFS outcomes to strengthen gender equality in design and implementation. Additionally, with its work, IFAD contributes to national and regional dialogues on the application of CFS outcomes, encouraging governments, stakeholders, and partners to share their challenges and successes. This collaboration helps scale up best practices for GEWE. IFAD will also continue to collaborate with the RBAs and other partners to drive the adoption and dissemination of CFS principles and outcomes. JP RWEE play a key role in promoting and expanding these principles.

III IFAD is also committed to enhancing the integration of nutrition into its operations by scaling up capacity on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems. This effort is supported by the dissemination of guiding materials and tools, such as the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

IV IFAD continues to update the CFS database, launched in October 2020, to further facilitate the utilization and dissemination of CFS products and recommendations within IFAD. The aim of the database is to assist in expanding the use and application of CFS products, particularly in IFAD's policy dialogue with borrowing country governments. IFAD is also monitoring country level uptake of CFS policy products. In the past 10 years, CFS policy products have been explicitly mentioned in several country programmes strategies.

V The unit responsible for coordinating IFAD's engagement in the CFS also held regular meetings with key technical staff to update them on the CFS workplan, the CFS plenary planning and key engagements where technical expertise was needed, as well as to sensitize staff around CFS products and their use on the ground.

## World Food Programme (WFP)

- CFS policy work has the legitimacy and value-added of being consensus and evidence based.
- CFS policy products are informed by WFP's work and underpin WFP's efforts to save lives and change lives.
- WFP's multi-year Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) not only echo and reinforce principles embedded in the CFS policy products, but also provide a concrete framework to advance their use and application.

- WFP *de facto* applies CFS policy products across its own policies, strategies, and operations, while seeking to promote best practices in this regard.
- WFP's work at country level is demand-driven and in support of governments. Member States have the primary responsibility to use and implement CFS policy products and integrate them into national policies. WFP is fully committed to supporting Member States in using CFS policy products when relevant and applicable.
- Based on the CFS-FFA Principles, the RBA Resilience Initiative, funded by Canada, represents a successful example: it was designed and implemented to strengthen the resilience of livelihoods in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger and Somalia, and in particular, the adoption and adaptation of the CFS-FFA were made a precondition for countries to be included in the initiative.
- In 2024, WFP continued to regularly and timely channel all communications/correspondence from the CFS and HLPE Secretariats to relevant HQ divisions and field offices on a case-by-case basis, particularly regarding requests for inputs to CFS workstreams and HLPE e-consultations.
- WFP Senior Managers are sensitized to CFS' work on a regular basis. Reports and highlights from CFS meetings – including the bi-monthly CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings – were regularly prepared and shared with WFP Senior Management, Directors, as well as relevant divisions/decentralized offices, to keep them abreast of CFS work.
- The outcomes of CFS work were cited/used, where appropriate, in relevant WFP meetings, publications and briefing notes.
- The WFP Multilateral and Programme Country Partnerships Division has launched an "RBA & CFS Newsletter" being disseminated among HQ and field colleagues.
- CFS was referenced in WFP's "Global Initiatives Paper", which provides an overview of WFP's engagement with the various global initiatives and fora aimed at addressing the global food crisis.
- Webcast of CFS meetings and events – including CFS 52 – as well as information about CFS workstreams and policy products, were advertised on WFP intranet.
- Ahead of CFS 52, all relevant information, background documents and registration details were made available with WFP staff globally.
- WFP continued to raise awareness of and disseminate relevant CFS policy instruments/outcomes and related information within the Organization at all levels.
- RBA collaboration on CFS was reported on in the [2024 "Update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies"](#) ('Committee on World Food Security', pages 3-4), which was submitted to the second regular session of WFP Executive Board in November 2024.

***CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition***

- As announced at CFS 52, the RBAs have jointly strengthened their efforts to provide Member States with technical assistance, capacity development, awareness raising and knowledge sharing to ensure the uptake of the Guidelines.
- As of 2025, the RBAs plan to promote the uptake of the Guidelines, including by developing an e-learning course, and a learning guide with civil society organizations; supporting national events and

learning programmes; and promoting successful approaches and methodologies that address the root causes of inequalities and foster women's and girls' empowerment on the ground. The RBAs will do this in collaboration with different countries to support the integration of gender equality into their national food security agendas.

- The RBAs and UN Women are already actively promoting and supporting the implementation of the Guidelines by offering a range of innovative solutions, collaborative efforts, and technical assistance aimed at fostering gender equality and empowering women and girls in the context of food security and nutrition.
- Among the joint initiatives, it is worth mentioning the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE). The JP RWEE empowers rural women economically and socially, reinforcing their access to essential resources, markets, and decision-making opportunities, while addressing structural barriers. By applying gender-transformative approaches that challenge the root causes of gender inequalities, this Programme has improved the food security and nutrition of rural households, fostering long-term, sustainable solutions to poverty and hunger.

## UN NUTRITION

In 2024, UN-Nutrition Members continued promoting the country level uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN), which provide guidance on the integration of nutrition within food systems policies. The VGFSyN were directly promoted to the nine countries – Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Liberia, Myanmar, the Niger, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe – targeted by the FAO project “Fostering ‘one UN’ through UN-Nutrition Country Support”, which was supported by Irish Aid and managed by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat. . The VGFSyN were part of the package of knowledge products and tools made available in support to country action. Additionally, the VGFSyN and CFS's work in general continued to be promoted via UN-Nutrition communication channels and UN-Nutrition Knowledge Hub. Through its participation in the Secretariat of the HDSFS Coalition, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat reached out with CFS related messaging, guidelines and overall information to all Coalition's 22 member countries and other 18 countries that are Friends of the HDSFS Coalition.

Additionally, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat gave visibility to the 20th anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food through its engagement in events and communication channels, including social media.

## SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD

The SR contributed to the application of the CFS products, using them in his report, speeches, lectures and public presentations at the HRC and UNGA. The Special rapporteur promoted the use and application of CFS products in the UNFSS stocktaking discussion, evidencing the existing gap in this regard.

### World Bank - GAFSP

The World Bank is the largest financier of agriculture and food in the developing world. We help countries rethink and transform their food systems from farm to fork, delivering improved livelihoods and affordable, and nutritious diets for all, and progressing towards the Sustainable Development Goals of zero poverty and hunger by 2030 and the climate goals of the Paris Agreement.

The CFS VGFSN lays the foundations for food systems transformation. These guidelines are built around the underlying connections between food systems and nutrition. At the December 2021 N4G Summit, the WBG committed to “Review all agri-food pipeline projects against the CFS VGFSN, to identify opportunities to mainstream nutrition over the next five years.”

To operationalize this commitment, the AGF Department initiated a pilot in October 2022 to mainstream the VGFSN across the AGF pipeline portfolio. The pilot involves reviewing projects 4 against the VGFSN guideline 3.2.3- ‘promoting nutrition within agriculture and food supply chains’ which includes seven recommendations (a to g). Project activities that meet the recommendations are then recorded and are rated on their degree of alignment (the rating is on a five-point scale of alignment: none, weak, moderate, strong, and best practice).

As of January 2025, a little over two years since the pilot, 30 AGF lending operations (valued at over \$6 billion) have been reviewed under this VGFSN engagement. This work is currently ongoing and is part of the AGF Department’s recurring review.

### Civil Society Indigenous People Mechanism

Leveraging the anniversary of the Right to Food Guidelines, the CSIPM published the Peoples' Manifesto on the Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition. Released on World Food Day (October 16) by over 100 civil society and Indigenous Peoples 'organisations from across the globe, the Manifesto urges for a shift towards food sovereignty, agroecology, and the protection of natural commons, while achieving stronger social participation and accountability in global decision-making. The Manifesto highlights the centrality of the advanced normative framework for the right to adequate food and nutrition, including key CFS

instruments central to the CSIPM constituencies and their efforts for a human rights-based food systems transformation, such as the CFS VGGTs, CFS VGs on GEWGE, CFS Policy Recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets. 2024 was a crucial year to call back the attention to the importance of strengthening the use and uptake of the CFS Framework for Action on Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA). Through the letter addressed to the CFS Chair on 5 April 2024, several CFS meetings and CFS 52, the CSIPM emphasized how the CFS-FFA directly tackles the root causes of food insecurity amidst conflicts and occupation and represents the first global consensus on mitigating food insecurity during protracted crises, based on humanitarian, development, and human rights principles. The CSIPM letter to the CFS Chair was also important in supporting the HLPE's work for a briefing note on Conflict induced acute food crises, providing an evidence-based analysis of the Sudan and Gaza contexts and particularly taking into account the CFS-FFA recommendations and how they can address the complexities of food security in these conflict situations.

During the CFS negotiations on the Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition, CSIPM Coordination Committee member Leonida Odongo, from the organization Haki Nawiri in Kenya, organised a workshop in Nairobi, Baringo and Siaya counties with the participation of over 50 women. The workshop addressed food inequalities challenges in Kenya, the CSIPM key priorities identified by constituencies, and the outcomes of the first round of negotiations of the CFS policy document. Underscoring the importance of meaningful social participation in all the phases of the policy convergence process, for the CSIPM constituencies. This kind of initiatives enhance ownership, leading in consequence to increased uptake and dissemination of policy outcomes.

## Private Sector Mechanism

Bimonthly (6) Advisory Group meetings to advise and guide CFS operational planning for CFS events and workstreams were attended to by PSM secretariat.

- 145 guests attended the High-Level Interactive Studio on Climate, Biodiversity, and the Right to Food held during CFS52.
- In addition to macro committee work and the resumed in-person and hybrid meetings (CFS Plenary, Open-ended Working Group and the Annual General Meeting), PSM was an active participant in the negotiations on the Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities in Food systems.
- Briefings and promotion of the Voluntary Guidelines on gender via the PSM newsletter and participation in side events.
- The third FAO-IAFN SME Accelerator Program, launched on October 17 at FAO headquarters in Rome, highlighted its impact on strengthening SME capacities for sustainable agricultural growth and food security, with its first cohort of 50 mentees positively impacting over 500,000 people.



## Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism

CFS products and news on CFS activities are disseminated by the members of the PFM to their respective constituencies. CFS materials were disseminated through The Gates Foundation partners such as 50x2030, Alliance to End Hunger, Ceres2030, SDG2 Advocacy Hub; furthermore, CFS events and outcome documents are always an occasion for donor conversations, such as the SDG2 Roadmap Working Group of Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD, hosted by IFAD). The Global Alliance for the Future of Food and the Agroecology Fund also shared CFS products and activities in different updates to their members, alongside their newsletter dedicated to external audiences. CFS outputs are constantly part of strategy coordination calls organized by Global Alliance and the Agroecology Fund with philanthropic partners to review global food policy negotiations.