

Launch of the HLPE-FSN report **Building Resilient Food Systems**

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Setting the table

Why are the food systems, their people and related environments **so vulnerable** to shocks and stresses? And how do **food systems contribute** to these shocks and stresses?

How can they be **more resilient** over the **long-term**?

Can food systems help **diminish future shocks and stresses**?

Successful and long-term interventions need to be **equitably transformative** so they realize human rights and operate in all parts of food systems.

How can we achieve resilient food systems?

Evidence shows that by reducing underlying stresses, **communities can respond meaningfully to shocks**, improve livelihoods, be more food secure and ensure planetary well-being for generations to come.

Action is needed now to bring about equitably transformative resilience (ETR) in food systems.

Planning and action towards equitably transformative resilience (ETR) must happen **long before a shock and should address the underlying stresses**.



INTRODUCTION

CFS request, definitions, the concept of ETR, and structure of the report.



SHOCKS, STRESSES, AND DIFFERENTIAL VULNERABILITIES

Shocks, stresses, and differential vulnerabilities.



FROM BOUNCING BACK TO EQUITABLY TRANSFORMATIVE RESILIENCE

Resilience and equitably transformative resilience as a guiding concept.



STRATEGIES AND ACTION: PATHWAYS TO ETR

Examples from around the world of working towards ETR.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Guidelines and principles for integrating ETR into their planning and action.



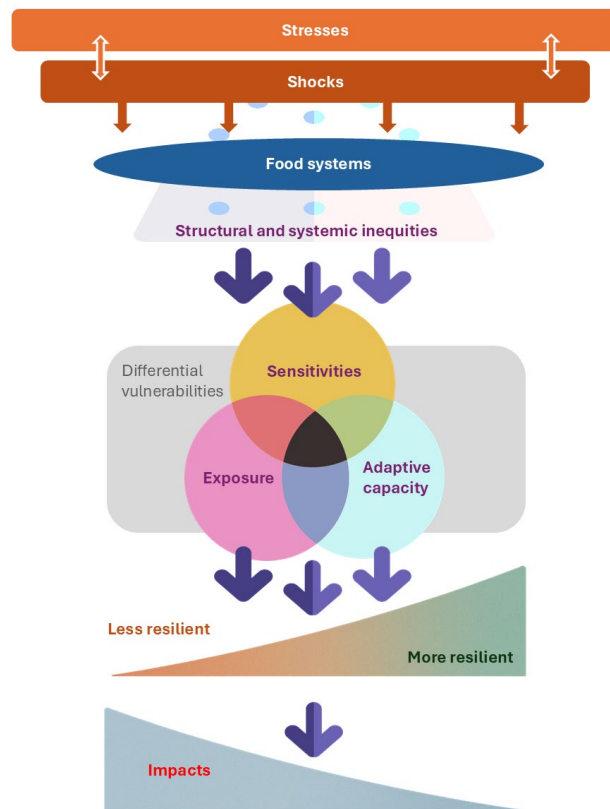
Key definitions


- **Shocks** are abrupt, short-term, sometimes unforeseen events that negatively impact people and ecosystems.
- **Stresses** are longer-term conditions or processes, frequently linked to inequitable development, that reduce capacities to deal with risks.
- **Risk** is the likelihood of negative impacts occurring because of shocks and stresses that affect people and their communities and countries as well as the environment.
- **Vulnerability** is the capacity to cope or adapt to shocks and stresses, and can be aggravated or tempered by social, environmental and economic interconnections.

Stresses and differential vulnerabilities

“Differential vulnerabilities” recognize that vulnerability can result from a combination of contextual, historical, structural conditions and socioecological inequities.

Resilience is usually defined as the capacity of a system to continue functioning well despite shocks and stresses.

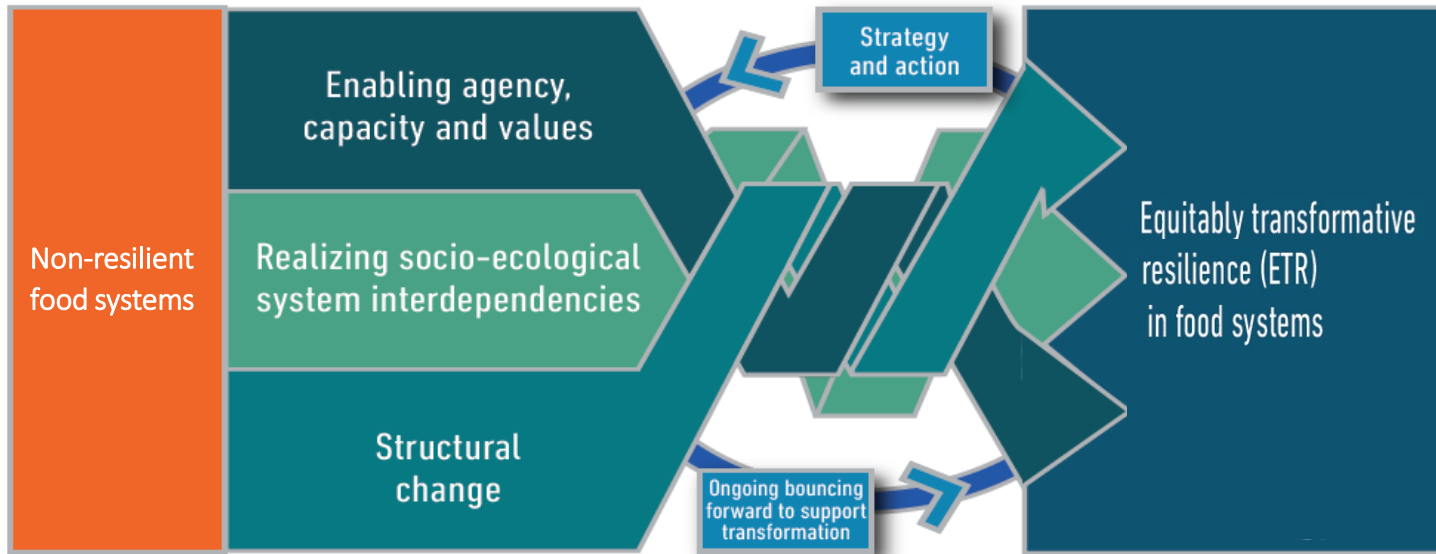




Resilience spectrum	Resilience principles
Equitably transformative resilience	<p>Equitably bouncing forward by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurturing socio-ecological equity and justice • Centering resilience efforts in the knowledge, experiences and resistance of those made vulnerable and marginalized • Addressing inequities in structures through redistribution and redress, with states being accountable for their duties to protect, fulfill and respect human rights • Putting human rights and PANTHER at the centre of all efforts
Transformative resilience	<p>Bouncing forward by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harnessing socio-ecological interdependencies • Changing structures of power • Enabling individual and collective capacities, agency and values
Bouncing back resilience	<p>Bouncing back from shocks and stresses by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resisting • Absorbing • Adapting • Recovering • Preventing

Theory of change

Reducing differential social, political, economic and ecological vulnerabilities



FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Rights

Integrity of nature

Equity

Care

PANTHER

Strategies and action: Selected examples of pathways to equitably transformative resilience (ETR) in food systems

Key themes

The recommendations proposed in this report are organized around the following themes:

- 1) Governance and policy coherence – transforming structures
- 2) Emergency preparedness, contingency planning and foresight
- 3) Diverse socio-ecological systems for equitably transformative resilience (ETR)
- 4) Knowledge systems and processes

1) Governance & policy

Transforming structures to realize equitably transformative resilience (ETR)

- Coherent governance, democratic engagement and policy and programme initiatives can contribute to resilient food systems by realizing synergies and complementarities across scales.
- Examples:
 - State-supported agroecological transitions
 - City-region approaches
 - Food policy groups
 - Declarations and rights-based frameworks
 - CFS and other spaces



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1) School feeding programmes

- **Public procurement** represents a significant opportunity for governments and institutions to support ETR
- School feeding programmes reach **418 million children worldwide** yet only 18 percent of children in low-income countries receive a daily meal
- School feeding programmes can **enhance local agricultural value-chain** development encourage local food production, create jobs along the food supply chain offering producers greater market access and terms of trade

National School Feeding Programme in Brazil provides meals to **40 million students** and helps ensure year-round access to nutritious foods, emphasizing local, minimally processed foods.



2) Humanitarian aid

Short and long-term action

- Where shocks exceed preparedness capacity, **humanitarian relief is essential to address urgent needs and protect lives**. This requires the equitable, efficient and safe distribution of aid to all affected communities, with particular attention to those who may be marginalized while simultaneously safeguarding agricultural livelihoods and production systems from the impacts of shocks.
- Addressing food crises requires policies that not only **alleviate immediate symptoms but also tackle root causes** so that communities can move towards equitably transformative resilience (ETR) and reduce long-term vulnerability.

2) Need for emergency preparedness, contingency planning & foresight

- Effective foresight, contingency planning and emergency preparedness often minimize the harm from crises cause and protect FSN. **Short- and long-term approaches are required to bounce back and bounce forward.**
- **Foresight** efforts can facilitate planning and strategizing to equitably transform our food systems for resilience, guide decisions today and better prepare.

2) Need for emergency preparedness, contingency planning & foresight

- Preparedness and contingency planning are important elements of **disaster risk reduction** strategies and policies. Relevant systems and mechanisms must be strengthened to enable swift mobilization and efficient distribution of emergency food supplies and associated logistics.

Actions must be anchored in broader sectoral policies and be accompanied by investment in data collection and transparent information.

2) Social protection programmes & systems

- Social protection strengthens absorptive, anticipatory, adaptive and transformative capacities.
- It helps **bounce back** from shocks and also **bounce forward** by building long-term agency & equity.
- Substantial evidence exists that **national cash transfer programmes** reduce deprivation and enable investments in health, education, and livelihoods.



Social protection programmes & systems

- **Environmental cash transfers** and **public employment programmes** like India's National Rural Employment Guarantee and Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program go a step further by contributing to ecosystem restoration and food security.
- Integrating with disaster risk management and humanitarian assistance is key to bridging the **humanitarian–development–peace nexus**.
- Paired with **complementary policies** and **right-based approach**, it enhances equity, inclusion & long-term resilience



3) Diversifying food systems

Diverse, complex, overlapping pathways, functions, places and components in socio-ecological systems enhance a system's capacity to function in the face of shocks and stresses and directly contribute to resilience.

- **Territorial markets** that focus on trade from households out to the territorial scale offer the most cost effective and bio-culturally appropriate access to affordable and fresh foods.



3) Diversifying food systems

- **Localized** micro, small and medium-sized enterprises shift supply chains and offer greater flexibility to shocks.
- While territorial markets can provide fresh, nutritious food, national and international markets can be relied on as '**just-in-case**' and for commodities and minimally processed foods not produced within a territory.



3) Resilience in city region food systems

- In Antananarivo, existing initiatives to protect land and address FSN coupled with planning tools and multi-stakeholder engagement networks resulted in **increased agility and resilience** during COVID-19.
- **Networks of people, physical infrastructure, a multi-sector food strategy and supportive policies and programmes were key to resilience** and benefited Antananarivo city region and the national territory.



3) Pastoral Women's Council, Tanzania

- With over 7 000 Masaai women, champions the rights of women pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to further economic empowerment and access to services.
- Programmes supporting climate-change adaptation, ensuring access to clean water, and instituting programmes to provide women with land allotments.
- Awarded the Local Adaptation Champions Award for re-greening desolate lands by establishing a women's cooperative focused on planting and cultivating grass seeds.



4) Knowledge systems & processes

Knowledge systems include the production, validation of scientific knowledge, the dissemination and use of knowledge, foster agency, as well as connections to nature and its ecological processes

The questions of – what knowledge? whose knowledge? and innovation for whom? – are important to consider in decisions about which knowledge processes are best suited to build equitably transformative resilience (ETR).

An equitably transformative resilience (ETR) approach should draw the best from science and technology, using a precautionary approach, and bring science and technology into dialogue with local and Indigenous Peoples' knowledges in a way that respects rights to forge new pathways towards equitably transformative resilience (ETR) .

4) Cocina Colaboratorio (CC)

- Cocina Colaboratorio develops innovative solutions for small-scale food systems, combining community-driven approaches and scientific expertise.
- Working in three Mexican territories, regenerates biocultural heritage, fosters agroecological practices and creates sustainable food systems by developing protocols, prototypes, media and manuals that inspire local-to-global movements.
- CC empowers community leaders, practitioners, youth and academics, strengthens their transformative agency and nurtures a vibrant network.
- Innovations are scaled through trans-local learning across the territories and with partner organizations and networks nationally and globally.



Recommendations for moving towards equitably transformative resilience in food systems

Recommendation characteristics: Towards equitably transformative resilience in food systems

1. Reduce the probability and impacts of future shocks.
2. Prepare food systems and actors for future and uncertain shocks.
3. Strengthen foundations and enable the capacity of food systems and actors for swift, equitable responses in the event of shocks such as emergencies.

1) Governance and policy

Governance includes decision-making processes that can support structural reforms, systems approaches and socioecological interdependencies. From the local to the global, governance structures are more effective when they ensure synergies and complementarities and are linked across scales.

To strengthen governance and policy coherence, countries can:

- **Embed** equitably transformative resilience (ETR) in food systems and the right to food into national policies and action plans;
- **Coherently** address environmental, health and equity impacts;
- **Direct subsidies, programmes and other support** towards nutrition-sensitive agroecological practices.

1) Governance and policy

To ensure inclusive and meaningful participation of all actors in food systems, countries can:

- Create participatory, locally driven decision-making processes;
- Promote financing mechanisms for debt relief to reduce and adapt to stresses and shocks; and,
- Strengthen inclusive access to fair and democratic, multilateral financial tools for smallholder farmers and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises throughout food systems.

1) Governance and policy

To protect the vulnerable and marginalized, policy-makers can:

- **Strengthen access** to universal, adequate, comprehensive and sustainable social protection;
- Ensure food-system workers are covered by national labour legislation that is consistent with **international labour standards**; and,
- **Expand social protection coverage** to all food system workers. Guarantee a living income for all food workers, especially in global value chains.

2) Emergency response, contingency planning and foresight

Foresight, emergency preparedness, contingency planning and disaster risk reduction should **go beyond reacting to crises** to identify and manage risks and differential vulnerabilities as well as build equitably transformative resilience (ETR) against shocks and stresses.

Foresight approaches can help better anticipate future risks and stresses, undertake careful, anticipatory action planning for interventions in food-system resilience, and develop contingency response plans according to major classes of shocks.

2) Emergency response, contingency planning and foresight

Foresight approaches can :

- Integrate agroecology into contingency planning including community seed banks, developing neglected crops, enhance food-processing facilities and reinforce local distribution networks;
- Invest in disaster-resilient infrastructure;
- Develop and fund multi-hazard comprehensive early warning & early action systems; and,
- Proactively and comprehensively integrate food-systems resilience into all aspects of urban disaster risk management

3) Diversify production, markets & diets

To foster diversity in production, markets and diets and support of FSN, countries can:

- Support programs to rehabilitate, restore or rebuild productive eco-systems and biodiversity.
- Invest in supply chains and infrastructure.
- Enable participation of marginalized and excluded groups.
- Support legal, legislative and regulatory means that ensure all people have access and rights to resources and agency to invest in long-term resilience.
- Protect against and prevent zoonotic disease transmission; and
- Support small scale, diversified farms, fisheries and forests.

3) Diversify production, markets & diets

Countries can use market mechanisms to increase stability by:

- restructuring markets and enforcing existing laws and rules to address market concentration
- provide mechanisms that stabilize market access and that distribute risk
- strengthen the use of insurance by participatory engagement

3) Diversify production, markets & diets

Facilitate access to diverse nutritious foods through:

- vibrant, diverse food environments that support affordable, accessible healthy, culturally appropriate diets
- valuing and recovering neglected and traditional practices and knowledge
- supporting consumer education and information on diverse foods.

4) Knowledge systems

Knowledge systems should **promote resilience and inform evidence-based governance and policies** on production, markets and diets. To move from a production-centred focus to equitably transformative resilience (ETR), countries can:

- Enhance biodiversity to improve pest resistance;
- Invest in data collection and analysis for shock preparedness, contingency planning and foresight;
- Invest in and actively support innovations that promote equitably transformative resilience (ETR);
- Undertake participatory assessments.

4) Knowledge systems

Countries can **ensure ethics and data governance** as they:

- Incorporate ethics and equity into intellectual property rights
- support responsible data governance; and,
- develop open-access platforms



4) Knowledge systems

Countries can **broaden and democratize knowledge systems** as they:

- acknowledge, value and harness marginalized knowledge, ways of knowing and social technology, including traditional, Indigenous and local knowledge systems;
- work with policymakers and land-use planners to support national and territorial food systems;
- support food diversification; and,
- invest in open access data systems.

4) Knowledge systems

- Governments can **enhance education** to support food-system resilience, as they:
 - facilitate access to education and training; and
 - support formal and informal education to build capacities to respond to stresses and shocks

ETR monitoring and assessment

Develop monitoring and assessment systems for resilience, which includes:

- indicators to monitor and assess equitably transformative resilience (ETR) developed through a participatory approach based on PANTHER principles with all food systems actors, especially those most exposed to shocks and stresses, to ensure resilience assessment processes are socially legitimate and ethically grounded, and context-specific.
- indicators that consider structural inequalities as well as local, experiential knowledge about vulnerability to shocks and stresses alongside scientific data, ensuring that monitoring becomes a transformative process (see Annex 1 for more details).

Key messages

Equitably transformative resilience (ETR) in food systems moves beyond bouncing back to help ensure that food systems remain within planetary boundaries and meet food security and nutrition (FSN) for all in the face of shocks, stresses and differential vulnerabilities.



Key messages

Planning and action towards equitably transformative resilience (ETR) must happen long before the occurrence of a shock and should address the underlying stresses facing individuals, communities, food systems and the environment.



Madagascar, 2020

Key messages

There is evidence from across the world from people in communities making these changes.



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Key messages

But this is not widespread or happening fast enough, so the clock is ticking.

Action is needed now to bring about equitably transformative resilience in food systems.



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Africa Solidarity Trust Fund boosts Agribusiness Centers in Sierra Leone after Ebola outbreak

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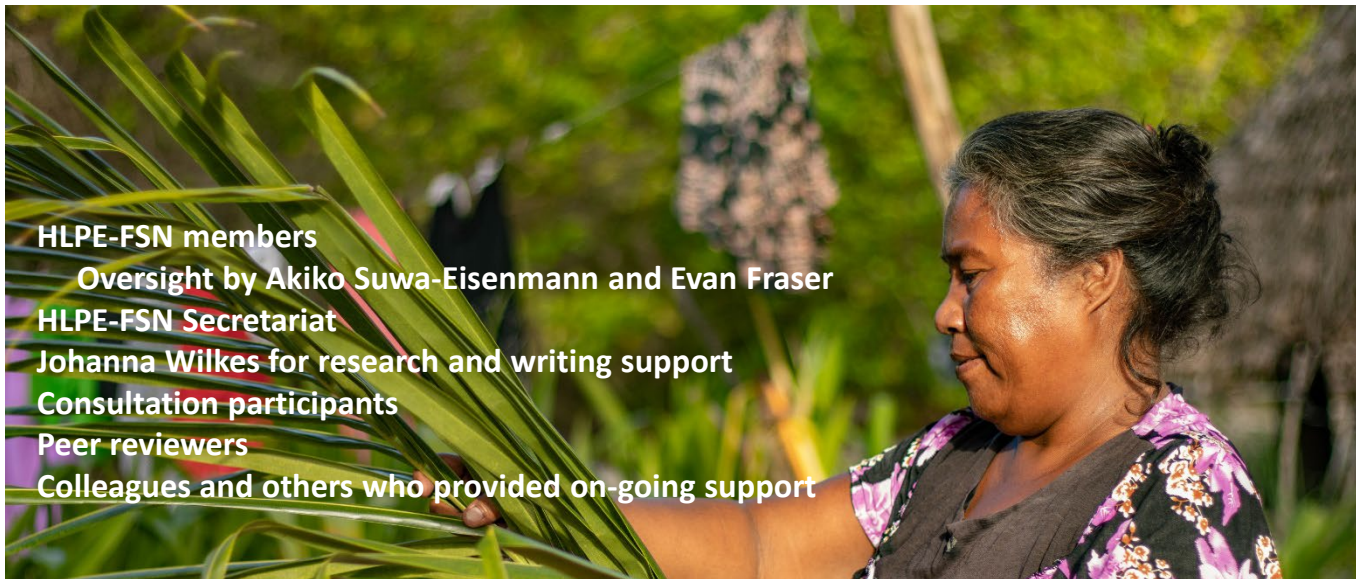
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This report is dedicated to the people on the ground working to bring healthy, culturally appropriate, accessible, sustainable food to their communities in the face of many pressures beyond their control.

For those listening now, use the power you have to amplify their impact, help realize FSN for everyone and heal the planet for our children and future generations.



THANK YOU



bit.ly/HLPEreportResilience