



# ACCELERATING FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION THROUGH A SCALABLE SUCCESS MODEL

## Background document - design phase

This note provides an overview of the design phase of the “Accelerating Food Systems Transformation through a Sustainable Scalable Model” project, complementing the information provided in the project summary. The aim of the design phase (April to June 2025) is to identify and define priority areas for technical support that can be delivered through the project. The design will be informed by two complementary outputs: a needs assessment and a mapping of the ecosystem of support, to be carried out by the UNCT Taskforce in close coordination with the National Convenor and with backstopping from the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.

### Needs assessment

The scope of the needs assessment is to systematically identify **capacity gaps and critical barriers** hindering the implementation of national pathways, and specific **needs for technical and financial assistance**. The needs assessment should be carried out through consultations with National Convenors (NC), as well as through a review of existing knowledge products (e.g. official reports from governments, sectoral strategies, policy documents, analytical pieces from UN and other partners), as relevant. Where applicable, the findings of the [Food System Assessments](#) supported by the EU, FAO and CIRAD should be integrated in the assessment, to facilitate the identification of key challenges for food systems transformation. The needs assessment can help identify the priorities of actions to foster an enabling environment to advance food systems transformation and define the boundaries for the stakeholder mapping. In case countries have already identified a clear set of needs and priority actions, the needs assessment can be tailored to delve deeper into specific activities that can accelerate progress on those specific areas.

In this regard, the needs assessment can help address the following questions:

- What are the current gaps in the national enabling environment affecting the implementation of the national pathways. Gaps can be identified across one or more of the following areas:
  - Policy coherence and integration
  - Inclusive governance and coordination mechanisms
  - Financing and investments
  - Monitoring and evaluation
  - Institutional setup and capacities
  - Other as relevant



- What actions and needs for technical, financial or other types of assistance are identified to accelerate the implementation of national pathways?

### Mapping of national ecosystems of support

The mapping of the ecosystem of support (EoS) is intended as a practical tool for National Convenors, UN and development partners at large to **gather a clear picture** and/or **fill knowledge gaps** about stakeholders that are active in the national food systems space and their ongoing initiatives. It helps to answer the question: in the context of the national food systems transformation journey, **who** is doing **what, where** and **how/with what resources**?

The primary use of the EoS mapping is to identify **relevant actors** and **partners, policies and initiatives (national programs, projects from UN and other development partners)** that can support the **implementation of national food systems pathway**, and their potential **involvement** in the technical support package that will be supported by the project. In this regard, the EoS mapping should be complementary to the needs assessment and can be customized to focus on specific segments of national food systems.



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Ultimately, the outcome of the mapping exercise provides useful information on the food systems landscape at country level that can support the identification of gaps in specific areas (e.g. policy areas, coordination mechanisms, financing, research), inform decision-making and open opportunities for strengthening or forging new partnerships. The mapping exercise provides a solid foundation for National Convenors and development partners to identify opportunities and strategies to harmonize interventions and create synergies of action to address the priorities and gaps identified through the needs assessment.

The EoS mapping can contribute to filling the following knowledge gaps:

- **Clarifying roles and interactions:** mapping helps NCs understand who does what, where, why, and with whom to uncover gaps and opportunities for coordination.
- **Tracking resources:** it enables NCs to visualize the flow and distribution of financial, technical, and human resources, ensuring understanding of the available capacities.
- **Identifying entry points and opportunities for coordination:** the mapping exercise can help uncover areas of overlap between initiatives, providing the foundation to identify strategies to strengthen alignment of action.

Combined with the global review of best practices, which will be carried out by the Hub, the needs assessment and the stakeholder mapping will support the identification of a range of priority actions and options for technical assistance that can be facilitated by the project. The project will also contribute to a national multi-stakeholder workshop to validate the two outputs.



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## Outline of the needs assessment

### 1. Overview of the national food system

***This section should provide background information on food systems outlook in the country, including the main challenges and priority areas across different policy domains (e.g. agriculture, climate, nutrition), based on the review of available information (e.g. relevant national strategies and plans, official reports and documents from the government, UN and other partners) and on consultations with the National Convenor. Max. 1 ½ pages.***

#### 1. Situation Analysis

Sierra Leone, with a population of 8.5 million (World Bank, 2023)<sup>1</sup>, is characterized by substantial natural resource endowments including extensive arable land and adequate rainfall. The country maintains a predominantly rural demographic structure, with 53% of the population residing in rural areas (FAO, 2025)<sup>2</sup>.

The economy is anchored by two primary sectors: agriculture, contributing 29.1% to GDP and employing 54% of the workforce, and mining, accounting for 7% of GDP while generating 65% of export earnings<sup>3</sup>. The nation's economic trajectory has been significantly influenced by historical disruptions, including the 1991-2001 civil war, the 2014 Ebola outbreak, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2015 decline in iron ore prices precipitated severe economic hardship and constrained GDP growth.

The rapid intensification of the effects of climate change and global shocks have revealed the fragility of our food systems and the pressing need for increased investment in food and nutrition security. Food insecurity is a major challenge in the country, with 88.6% of the population experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity (2021-2023)<sup>4</sup>. The prevalence of undernourishment stands at 28.4% (FAO, 2022), with particular vulnerability among children and women<sup>5</sup>. Poverty rates remain elevated at 56.8% nationally (2018)<sup>6</sup>, increasing to 73.3% in rural areas and 72% among agricultural workers. Rural agricultural communities face compounding challenges including low education levels and high poverty rates.

Despite increasing urbanization which is influencing diet, the dietary patterns still demonstrate limited diversification, concentrated primarily on staple cereals, starches, and oils. Rice consumption averages 104 kg per capita annually, among the highest rates on the continent,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FP.CPI.TOTL.ZG?locations=SL>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#country/197>

<sup>3</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FP.CPI.TOTL.ZG?locations=SL>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#country/197>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#country/197>

<sup>6</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FP.CPI.TOTL.ZG?locations=SL>





while cassava serves as the secondary staple<sup>7</sup>. Micronutrient deficiencies, particularly iron and vitamin A, are prevalent and vary regionally.

Agricultural production faces significant constraints including unsustainable land use practices, limited adoption of innovative technologies, and inadequate post-harvest management. Rice import dependency currently stands at 29% (2021), with 63% of rice consumption sourced from markets rather than domestic production. Rising global rice prices have reduced consumer purchasing power and increased food insecurity while depleting foreign reserves.

Government agricultural budget allocation remains insufficient but has substantially increased from 2.4% to 7% by 2025 and committed to increase to 10% by 2028 to meet the Malabo Declaration target. Current expenditure allocation prioritizes input subsidies (45% of budget after wages), while research and development receive only 0.14% of agricultural GDP<sup>8</sup>. Extension services receive minimal budget allocation (2.5%), constraining farmer access to technical support and knowledge transfer<sup>9</sup>. The transition from national subsidy programs to private sector distribution systems faces implementation challenges including elite capture and corruption<sup>10</sup>. Although government has increased budget allocation to agriculture, budget allocations to agriculture and rural infrastructure fall short of policy commitments, and smallholder farmers, SMEs, and agribusiness start-ups face significant barriers in accessing credit and investment capital. Financially, the sector continues to rely heavily on donor funding, with limited domestic financing available for food systems transformation.

The fisheries sector provides 80% of animal-source protein consumption, contributes significantly to GDP, and employs over 500,000 people<sup>11</sup>. However, unsustainable exploitation threatens fish stock depletion, potentially reaching irreversible levels without appropriate interventions.<sup>12</sup> Sierra Leone has experienced substantial environmental degradation, with an increasing forest cover lost over the past 50 years, yet the exact percentages are debateable.

Climate change is creating significant challenges for the agricultural sector through increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. Rainfall has become more variable with a general declining trend over time, while temperatures continue to rise. These changes are particularly problematic because only 4% of farmers<sup>13</sup> have access to irrigation infrastructure, making the sector highly vulnerable to climate variability. This situation highlights the urgent need for climate adaptation strategies that balance agricultural productivity with environmental sustainability.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/031f61b5-fa96-4f8d-ae90-99ff734aa0a0/content>

<sup>8</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/031f61b5-fa96-4f8d-ae90-99ff734aa0a0/content>

<sup>9</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/031f61b5-fa96-4f8d-ae90-99ff734aa0a0/content>

<sup>10</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/031f61b5-fa96-4f8d-ae90-99ff734aa0a0/content>

<sup>11</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/031f61b5-fa96-4f8d-ae90-99ff734aa0a0/content>

<sup>12</sup> Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR). 2020. Progress Report.

<sup>13</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/031f61b5-fa96-4f8d-ae90-99ff734aa0a0/content>





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## 2. Enabling environment

*This section should provide a snapshot of the national framework and enabling environment for food systems. It should include available information on policy frameworks and coherence, existing governance and coordination mechanisms, financial architecture for food systems, monitoring and evaluation, other(s). Max. 1 ½ pages.*

The agrifood systems transformation in Sierra Leone enjoys substantial political commitment and support from the highest levels of government. This commitment is demonstrated through concrete policy initiatives and institutional frameworks designed to advance agricultural development and food security objectives.

The government's strategic approach to food systems development emphasizes both productivity enhancement and import substitution as key policy objectives. Therefore, the agrifood system transformation agenda for Sierra Leone is closely linked to national development plans. The Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2024-2030 identifies agriculture, food security, nutrition and sustaining the environment as the top priority of the Government, encapsulated in the Feed Salone program, which is one of the "Big Five Game Changers".

Sierra Leone's government prioritizes a comprehensive transformation of its food systems through increased agricultural productivity, climate resilience, nutrition improvement, market development, and enhanced governance to ensure food security and economic growth in the immediate and medium term. These are grounded in the MTNDP and the Feed Salone Strategy. This requires coordinated action across agriculture, nutrition, environment, markets, innovation, governance, and social inclusion domains. The President has formally established



an inter-ministerial council to coordinate food systems initiative, highlighting the critical importance of agriculture to national development. This institutional mechanism represents a significant component of the country's food systems governance architecture, ensuring coordinated policy implementation across relevant government ministries and agencies. The Feed Salone Ministerial Council, also known as the Presidential Council for Delivering the Feed Salone Initiative, was formally launched by Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio as part of his government's flagship program to transform agriculture in the country. The council's mandate is to ensure food security, achieve food sovereignty, create jobs, reduce hunger, and boost economic growth through a scientific and technology-driven revolution in agriculture.

The council is composed of experts from various fields including researchers, bankers, farmers, nutritionists, civil society, the private sector, politicians, and government officials. It is chaired by President Bio himself. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security maintains technical leadership and field implementation, while the council facilitates cross-cutting issues, coordinates investment, ensures policy consistency, monitors implementation, and provides advocacy support for the Feed Salone Initiative.

The overall goal of the council is to lead a revolution in agriculture that drives Sierra Leone's industrialization and economic growth, recognizing that no country has industrialized without an agricultural revolution. The council members are tasked with identifying, leading, and stimulating growth across the country by applying innovative practices and moving away from traditional farming methods.



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This governing body plays a critical facilitating role in the transformation of Sierra Leone's agriculture ecosystem to ensure food security for all citizens and position the country as a global leader in food systems transformation.

With these daunting tasks, reliable data and information systems are lacking. Agricultural, nutrition, and market data are often fragmented, outdated, and collected in silos. Data-sharing between ministries and with development partners is limited, and there is no integrated monitoring platform capable of tracking progress on the food systems, the Feed Salone agenda or related SDG targets in a timely and accessible way.

Financially, the sectors continue to rely heavily on donor funding, with limited domestic financing available for food systems transformation. Budget allocations to agriculture, environment, health & nutrition and rural infrastructure fall short of policy commitments, and smallholder farmers, SMEs, and agribusiness start-ups face significant barriers in accessing credit and investment capital.

Infrastructure constraints further limit progress. Poor rural road networks increase transport costs and post-harvest losses, while inadequate storage, processing, and cold chain facilities constrain the ability to add value to agricultural products. Irrigation coverage is low, leaving the sector highly vulnerable to seasonal variability in rainfall.

Climate change and environmental degradation are exerting increasing pressure on food systems. More frequent floods, droughts, and erratic rainfall patterns threaten agricultural productivity, while deforestation, land degradation, and biodiversity loss undermine the long-term sustainability of natural resources. The integration of climate adaptation measures into mainstream agricultural planning remains limited.





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These challenges are further complicated by cross-cutting social issues. Gender inequalities persist in access to land, inputs, and decision-making, while young people are often disengaged from agriculture due to limited incentives, modern technology, and viable business opportunities. Low levels of public awareness about nutrition and sustainable consumption also weaken demand for healthier and more diverse diets.

Taken together, these constraints form a complex set of interlinked barriers that must be addressed through a coordinated, well-resourced, and evidence-based approach if Sierra Leone is to build a truly sustainable and resilient food system.

Following the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), Sierra Leone embarked on an ambitious food systems transformation journey by identifying and prioritizing eight pathways. These pathways were strategically designed to serve as primary entry points for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, recognizing food systems as fundamental to national development. The eight pathways include:

1. Pathway 1: Increase agricultural productivity using climate smart agricultural approaches, especially among rural smallholders, who constitute the poorest segment of society. This includes a variety of support measures along the agricultural value chain, from pre-planting to marketing.

Most of Sierra Leone's population relies on agriculture – primarily through small-scale producers – but often lack the tools needed to cope with severe climate change impacts. In response, the country has prioritized increasing the productivity and resilience of vulnerable rural smallholders through climate-smart agriculture (CSA), which forms the foundation of its first pathway for agricultural development.





To effectively monitor progress along this pathway, a comprehensive set of outcomes and outputs has been identified. In the long term, progress will be measured by increased yields and production among smallholder farmers, improved resilience of farming systems to climate change shocks such as droughts and floods, and better livelihoods resulting from CSA adoption.

2. Pathway 2: Establish private sector supply chains for inputs such as fertilizers, integrated pest management and high-yielding seed varieties, irrigation facilities and the enhancement of agroprocessing marketing and distribution points.

A dynamic and functioning agrifood system hinges on the active participation of the private sector – from smallholder farmers to complex enterprises. Historically, the state has largely provided agrifood sector services in Sierra Leone, putting strain on public budgets and limiting private sector involvement. However, the MAFS policy shift highlighted earlier aims to improve the enabling environment for private sector engagement across the entire supply chain – from input provision to agroprocessing and distribution. This priority, clearly reflected in the Feed Salone strategy, is crucial for the overall transformation of the agrifood system.

3. Pathway 3: Promote commercial agriculture through private sector participation by creating an enabling environment that is attractive for private sector investment.

Transformation of the agrifood sector hinges on greater liberalization and specialization, primarily driven by increased market reliance and deeper engagement of enterprises. This commercialization of agriculture requires supportive policies to facilitate the transition and foster an enabling environment for private sector participation and investment.

4. Pathway 4: Improve access to rural credit through the establishment of community banks and financial services associations to support rural farmers

The government has identified improving access to rural credit – through the establishment of community banks and financial services associations – as a priority transformation pathway. Access to credit is a main pillar of the Feed Salone strategy, recognized as essential for enabling farmers and agribusinesses to invest in inputs, technology, and infrastructure. Expanding access to credit is expected to boost productivity, improve livelihoods, and strengthen the resilience of agrifood systems. Credit access facilitates risk management associated with agricultural production activities, such as offering weather index insurance to address weather variability, and enables farmers and fishers to expand into new markets to increase their income.

5. Pathway 5: Improve agricultural research and extension delivery systems backed up by a social National Agricultural Research and Extension policies, including strategies and programmes.





Research and innovation are crucial to food systems transformation, underpinning sustainable productivity, climate resilience, informed policymaking, economic empowerment, and inclusive growth. They underpin national strategies such as Feed Salone and Scaling Up Nutrition, as well as market access initiatives and Africa-wide initiatives. In recognition of this, the government established a specialized unit to coordinate agricultural research by unifying all five research stations under one umbrella, with MAFS as the supervising agency. The creation of the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI) in 2007 as a semi-autonomous government agency marked an early step towards reviving and institutionalizing agricultural research and innovation.

6. Pathway 6: Effectively manage Sierra Leone's fishery and marine resources. This will involve a specific focus on providing adequate surveillance capabilities, facilitating the lifting of the ban on fish exports to EU markets, improving infrastructure and support services for commercial fishing, and providing adequate extension support for artisanal fishers.
7. Pathway 7: Manage Sierra Leone's forestry resources to enhance water cycle regulation and environmental protection.

Sierra Leone's forests are under growing pressure from deforestation and degradation, reflecting a global crisis where forests disappear at a rapid rate. UNEP estimates the country lost more than 30 percent of its forest cover between 1975 and 2015. According to information available up to 2015, forests now cover approximately 39 percent of the national land area – equivalent to 25 152 km<sup>2</sup> out of 73 068 km<sup>2</sup>. Sierra Leone ranks 96th globally among 194 nations for forest coverage.



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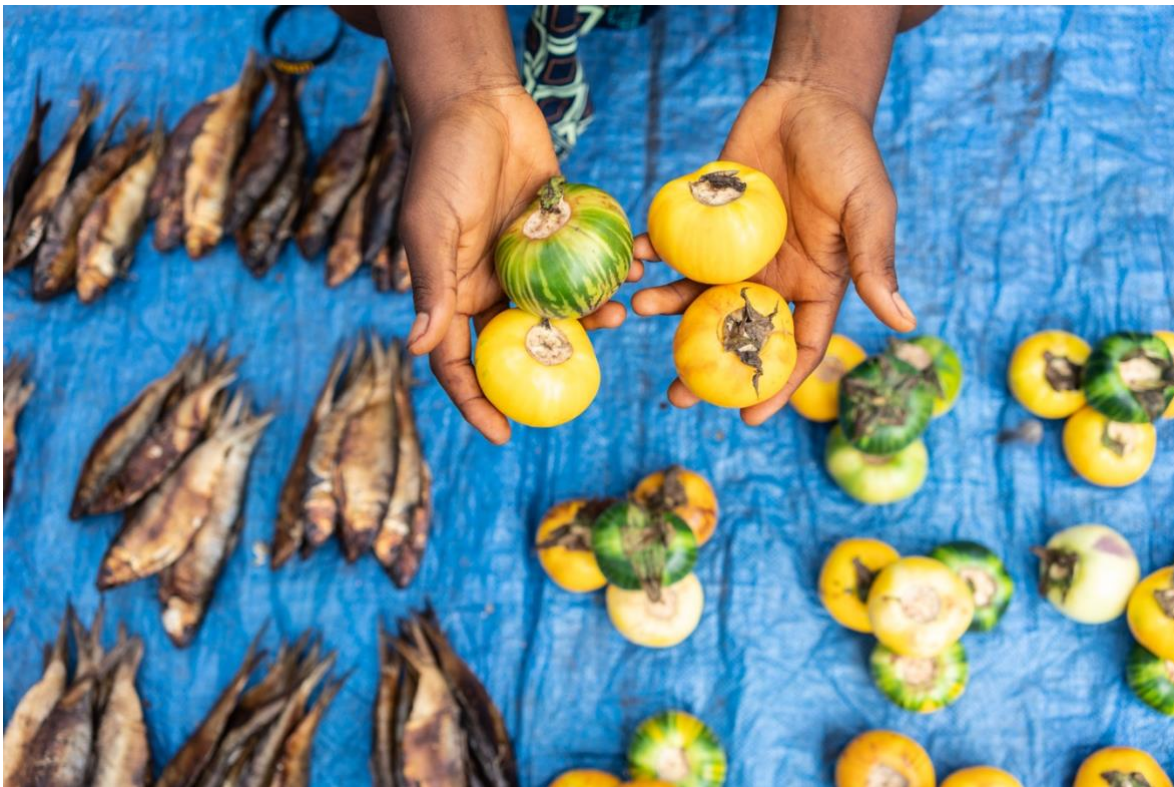




8. Pathway 8: Restructure and strengthen the capacity of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat in the presidency to ensure multisectoral coordination of the food systems and the implementation of the Action Plan for Sustainable Food Systems.

Sierra Leone's food systems transformation emphasizes strengthening institutional coordination through restructuring and building the capacity of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat within the Office of the Vice President. This pathway aims to ensure effective multisectoral coordination and implementation of comprehensive action plans to achieve three core outcomes: effective coordination across food sectors, evidence-based policy development, and improved nutrition outcomes.

To accelerate the food systems transformation, a comprehensive review will contribute to ensuring Sierra Leone's food system transformation pathways are fit-for-purpose, integrated, and capable of driving the transformation needed to achieve sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agrifood systems by 2030. The revised pathways should form a coherent framework that tells a compelling story about Sierra Leone's food systems future – and offer practical, synchronized roadmaps to reach that vision through coordinated, multistakeholder action.



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### 3. Needs assessment matrix

Based on the context provided in Section 1 and 2, identify one or more focus areas from the list below for the needs assessment:

- Policy coherence and integration
- Financing and investments
- Coordination/Governance

For each focus area, indicate the gaps, action and needs:

Area	Gaps	Actions and needs
<p>1. Policy coherence and integration</p> <p>The Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2024-2030 identifies agriculture, food security, nutrition and sustaining the environment as the top priority of the Government, encapsulated in the Feed Salone program, which is one of the "Big Five Game Changers". That is aligned with the agenda 2063 and the SDGs (2 &amp; 7).</p> <p>The Feed Salone (2023 – 2028) with the six pillars is aligned with the ECOWAAP and the MTNDP.</p>	<p><b>Limited integration of food systems priorities in national sector plans and partner plans</b></p> <p>Despite significant progress across individual pathways made in terms of policy coherence and integration, Sierra Leone's food systems transformation faces fundamental challenges and gaps that threaten the coherence and effectiveness of the overall transformation. The ministries and coordinating structures require further support to strengthen the policy coherence and integration coupled with enough financial resources to fund the implementation.</p>	<p><b>1a) Strengthen the food systems Coordination and governance structure:</b></p> <p>Collaboration between the SUN and Food Systems Coordination Unit and other line ministries in food systems (the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Ministry of Environment) should be strengthened to create synergies between the revised pathways and the national Feed Salone strategy. Success will require leveraging existing high-level coordination mechanisms, including</p>





Area	Gaps	Actions and needs
<p>Feed Salone Strategy for the Fisheries and Marine Resources Sectors" is aligned with MTNDP, national nutrition policy. This policy document outlines a strategic framework for the nation's fisheries and aquaculture sectors, encompassing both marine and freshwater environments.</p> <p>Sierra Leone unveiled its National Nutrition Commitments Framework (NNCF) for 2025–2030. This Framework outlines 11 multi-sectoral pledges that align both with the country's own development priorities and with global nutrition targets.</p> <p>2. Financing and investments</p> <p>Budget allocations to agrifood system and rural infrastructure fall short of policy commitments and even below the Malabo Declaration target of 10% of GDP to agriculture. The sectors continue to rely heavily on donor funding, with limited domestic financing available for food systems transformation, Private sector</p>	<p>1) The existing eight pathways currently operate as disconnected interventions lacking a unified vision for the country's 2030 agrifood system transformation. This fragmentation is compounded by a heavy bias toward agricultural productivity and production that neglects the full value chain and multi-sectoral nature of food systems transformation. Indicators to measure the MTNDP, continental CAADP, Agenda 2063, and SDG (2 &amp;7) are not comprehensively captured</p> <p>2) Nutrition and health objectives, while central to food systems transformation, are not systematically mainstreamed across pathways, creating ambiguity about which specific pathway prioritizes these critical outcomes. The interministerial governance structures created are non-functional. They operate only on ad hoc bases</p>	<p>interministerial committees, while boosting the convening and coordination power of the Food Systems Coordination Unit. The capacity of the staff of the coordination unit should be strengthened. This will enhance the overall policy coherence and integration using the already in use Whole-of-government approach. The government should strengthen the collaborative role of the Minister of State and SUN&amp;FSCU working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Ministry of environment &amp; Climate Change to create synergies between revised pathways and the national "Feed Salone" agenda. There is an urgent need for capacity strengthening the Food System Coordination unit with clear clarity of mandate to other partners.</p> <p><b>1b) Develop revised pathways using a whole of society approach to integrate all</b></p>





Area	Gaps	Actions and needs
<p>investments in the food systems transformation are limited and smallholder farmers, SMEs, and agribusiness start-ups face significant barriers in accessing credit and investment capital.</p> <p>The food systems pathways which are anchored on Feed Salone initiative has an estimated budget of USD 1.6 billion to be mobilized over the five years (2023 -2028). In 2023, over USD 1 billion in pledges were made to support this flagship programme from the government's donor consultative meeting held in Austria.</p> <p>3. Coordination and Governance</p> <p>Institutionally, coordination and governance remain fragmented across the key ministries responsible for agriculture, health, trade, environment, and local government. Overlapping mandates and the absence of a fully functional inter-ministerial mechanism have led to duplication of efforts and inefficient</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) The current approach is inadequately inclusive, with a noted absence of differentiated strategies for women and youth as key agents and beneficiaries of transformation efforts.</li> <li>4) The pathways fail to capture Sierra Leone's rich territorial and ecosystem diversity, missing opportunities to leverage distinct agroecological zones for targeted interventions.</li> <li>5) Climate resilience and sustainability considerations are not systematically integrated across pathways, lacking clear links to adaptation and mitigation outcomes.</li> <li>6) Value addition opportunities are consistently under-prioritized across productive sectors including agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, limiting potential for economic transformation and job creation.</li> </ol>	<p><b>aspects of food systems, beyond production, and incorporate indicators for M&amp;E.</b></p> <p>This process should engage both central and regional governance stakeholders, along with a broad range of non-state actors. It should build on existing achievements and lessons learned, while also incorporating grassroots perspectives and territorial specificities to strengthen ownership and alignment among implementation partners. The implementation strategy of the revision of food system pathways should prioritize participatory and bottom-up approaches through regional consultation workshops, the establishment of technical working groups for thematic pathway development, and comprehensive integration assessments for cross-pathway synergies. Strategic resource mobilization efforts should be coupled</p>





Area	Gaps	Actions and needs
<p>resource use. Furthermore, weak vertical integration between national and district governance structures limits the flow of information and the translation of national policies into local action. Policy enforcement—whether on land tenure, quality standards, or environmental safeguards—remains inconsistent, while short political cycles often disrupt program continuity.</p>	<p>7) Despite policies and plans, malnutrition rates remain high, requiring scaling up of high-impact nutrition-specific interventions and multi-sectoral approaches involving agriculture, education, and social protection</p> <p>8) Financial disbursement and coordination among stakeholders remain challenges, although government commitment is evident through budget allocations and policy prioritization</p>	<p>with detailed implementation planning that includes clear timelines and accountability mechanisms.</p> <p><b>1c) Broaden the scope of the pathways beyond production, to encompass entire agrifood value chains and the wider socioeconomic dimensions of transformation:</b></p> <p>This expansion should explicitly mainstream food security, nutrition, and health objectives, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations. It should also integrate diverse food production systems – including crop, livestock, fisheries, and forest-based approaches – to capitalize on synergies.</p> <p><b>1d) Promote inclusivity and equity:</b></p> <p>This requires the development of gender-responsive pathways and youth-specific interventions, with explicit targets for empowerment and</p>





Area	Gaps	Actions and needs
		<p>leadership. The government should adopt a territorial approach that recognizes distinct agroecological zones – and integrates territorial equity considerations into implementation strategies.</p> <p><b>1e) Develop a new implementation strategy with action plan and results framework</b></p> <p>The new implementation strategy that reflects the revised food system pathways should prioritize participatory and bottom-up approaches through regional consultation workshops, the establishment of technical working groups for thematic pathway development, and comprehensive integration assessments for cross-pathway synergies. Strategic resource mobilization efforts should be coupled with detailed implementation planning that includes clear timelines and accountability mechanisms. The ultimate objective is developing revised pathways that are fit for purpose, integrated, and capable of delivering sustainable,</p>





Area	Gaps	Actions and needs
	<p><b><i>Insufficient financing and investments flowing to the implementation of priority actions identified in national food systems pathway</i></b></p> <p>2a). Sierra Leone requires substantial and diversified financial resources for a sustainable food system. The funding landscape at the moment is heavily dependent on donor support with limited public and private investment. There is an ardent need for increased investment especially from private sector and government. The government is making strides through innovative financial</p>	<p>resilient, and inclusive agrifood systems by 2030. This transformation would position Sierra Leone as a regional leader in food systems innovation, while ensuring that the benefits of transformation reach all segments of society – particularly the rural poor, who make up the majority of the population and rely most heavily on agricultural livelihoods for their survival and prosperity.</p> <p><b>Concrete Actions to Address Gaps and Unlock Investments</b></p> <p><b>1) Establish Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) Platforms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create structured platforms for dialogue and collaboration among government, private sector, and development partners to align investments with national food system priorities.</li> <li>• Promote risk-sharing mechanisms and incentives for private sector</li> </ul>





Area	Gaps	Actions and needs
	<p>mechanisms by engagement of international donors, bi and multilateral institutions and other governments. Government has substantially increased budget allocation from 3% to 7% in 2024 and hoping to reach the 10% benchmark of the Malabo Declaration. For a sustained food system, government need about 1.8Billion United State Dollars. However, substantial pledges of 1 billion have been made. There is a huge deficit to properly finance the proper sustainable food systems transformation.</p> <p><b>Current Funding Landscape and Gaps in Sierra Leone Food Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sierra Leone faces significant food insecurity, with about 82.3% of the population food insecure and heavy reliance on food imports, especially rice.</li> <li>• The government has secured substantial investments, including \$100M from the African Development Bank (AfDB), plus \$480M from OPEC</li> </ul>	<p>investment in agro-processing and supply chain infrastructure.</p> <p><b>2. Capacity Building in Climate Finance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train government agencies and financial institutions on accessing international climate finance.</li> <li>• Develop frameworks to integrate climate resilience financing into agricultural investments.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Develop Agro-Processing Clusters and Infrastructure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in agro-parks or zones with integrated services including energy, transportation, and irrigation.</li> <li>• Support SMEs in agribusiness with technical assistance and access to finance to increase productivity and competitiveness.</li> </ul>





Area	Gaps	Actions and needs
	<p>and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, as part of an ambitious \$1.8 billion food system transformation project under the "Feed Salone" initiative.</p> <p><b>Major gaps include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate agro-processing infrastructure leading to dependence on imports despite local production potential.</li> <li>• Fragmented agribusiness sector with many small, low-productivity firms and few medium or large formal enterprises.</li> <li>• Limited capacity in climate finance knowledge and access, hindering environmental sustainability investments.</li> <li>• Need for improved supply chain infrastructure (roads, energy,</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. Innovative Funding Mechanisms for Smallholders and Civil Society:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design results-based funding models and grant systems to support smallholder farmers and civil society in sustainable practices.</li> <li>• Facilitate aggregation models to connect smallholders to markets and investors.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Leverage Multilateral Funding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate the utilization of funds from AfDB, World Bank, EU, GAFSP, and other sources in a complementary way to cover short-term food security and long-term system transformation goals.</li> </ul>





Area	Gaps	Actions and needs
	<p>irrigation) to boost productivity and reduce post-harvest losses.</p> <p><b>Potential Funding Streams Identified</b></p> <p><b>Public Funding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National budgets and local councils are already contributors. Government increased budget allocation from 2.4% to 7% of the national budget for agriculture in 2024, with a target above 10% in coming years. Additional funds decentralized to community-level for other rural development projects.</li><li>• International development credits such as from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), African Development Bank and other regional development banks, Climate finance mechanisms and carbon markets (currently underutilized due to lack of capacity), IFAD, and EU.</li></ul>	





Area	Gaps	Actions and needs
	<p><b>Private Sector Investments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agribusiness enterprises, especially medium and large firms.</li><li>• Investments in agro-processing and export-oriented crops like cocoa, cashew, rice, and cassava.</li><li>• Private sector engagement in climate-smart agriculture technology.</li><li>• Innovative Financing and Partnerships:</li><li>• Results-based financing and financing mechanisms for non-state actors.</li><li>• Creation of multi-stakeholder initiatives to pool resources.</li><li>• Private-Public-Partnership platforms to leverage funds from private investors and share risks.</li></ul>	





Area	Gaps	Actions and needs
	<p><b>Strategic Investments Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Infrastructure:</b> Roads, irrigation, and storage to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market access.</li><li>• <b>Sustainable renewable energy:</b></li><li>• <b>Climate-Smart Agriculture:</b> Investment in agroecology, drought-resistant seeds, and sustainable land management.</li><li>• <b>Capacity Building:</b> Training for farmers, extension services, and technology transfer.</li><li>• <b>Value Chain Development:</b> Support for processing, aggregation, and market linkages, particularly for rice, cassava, cocoa, and palm oil.</li></ul>	





#### 4. List of Sources

*Provide a list of resources used for the needs assessment (including documents and consultations).*

- Mid Term National Development programme (MTNDP)
- Feed Salone strategy for Agriculture and Food security
- NAT 2023
- Feed Salone Strategy for the Fisheries and Marine Resources Sectors
- Revised SLARI Act,
- Smallholder Commercialization and Agribusiness Development Project (SCADeP) documents
- Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVDP) project documents
- Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) project documents
- Palm Oil Production Project in Sierra Leone in the Framework of Capacity Building (POPSLCB) project documents
- Sierra Leone Rice Agro Industrial Cluster (SL-RAIC) project documents
- Sierra Leone Regional Rice Value Chain Development Project (SLRRVDP) project documents
- Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Development SLARiS), Project documents
- Livestock and Livelihoods Development Project (LLDP) project documents,
- Protect Sierra Leone Program (PSLP) Report
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
- Sierra Leone's Food System Profile (2022) report,
- The country's National Pathways for Sustainable Food Systems (2021)
- Inclusive policies and private sector engagement report
- Land use and agriculture planning report

#### Outline of the Ecosystem of Support mapping

##### 1. Key actors and roles (who)

*This section should provide a list of relevant stakeholders identified, against the following categories, and their role/mandate:*

- *public sector, including national and subnational institutions*
- *private sector, including associations of small and medium-sized agrifood enterprises, large agribusinesses and inputs, business and financial service providers*
- *civil society, including community-based, grassroots, Indigenous Peoples' groups and non-governmental organizations, consumers and citizens' associations*





- organizations representing small, medium and large producers (farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, forest dwellers)
- other food systems workers, including informal actors
- international community, including EU Delegations, EU member states, other development partners and donors
- academia and knowledge institutions, including those funded by and responding to the research interests of the other stakeholders
- media

### Key actors in the food systems and their roles

Sector	Key Actors	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>Public Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS)</li> <li>• Ministry of Health and Nutrition</li> <li>• Ministry of Environment and Climate Change</li> <li>• Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources</li> <li>• Ministry of Trade and industries</li> <li>• Mistry of Local Government and Rural development and</li> <li>• Other Government Agencies, MIB, PI-CREFS, SUN, SLRA, EPA etc</li> </ul>	Lead policy formulation, coordination, monitoring, and implementation of national food systems strategies like Feed Salone; infrastructure development; support extension services; regulation and oversight.
<b>Private Sector</b>	Smallholder farmers, Producer organizations, Agribusiness entrepreneurs, MSMEs, Larger processing companies eg Pee Cee and Sons, Sierra Agrobased Industries and Services SL Ltd and Mountain Lion Agriculture Sierra Leone Limited.	Drive agrifood value chains through production, processing, value addition, marketing, and distribution; invest in agro-processing; innovate and adopt climate-smart agriculture; create jobs and income opportunities.





Sector	Key Actors	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>Development Partners</b>	UNDP, FAO, UNICEF World Bank, IFAD, ISDB, African Development Bank, EU, BADEA, OPEC Funds, GAFSP, NGOs, ATO	Provide financial and technical support; capacity building; design and implement programs for resilience, nutrition, and sustainability; facilitate knowledge sharing and partnerships.
<b>Civil Society Organizations</b>	NGOs, Farmer cooperatives, Community-based organizations, Advocacy groups, Eg NAMATI,	Advocate for social and environmental accountability; facilitate community engagement and representation; support vulnerable groups; contribute to dialogue and awareness on food system issues.
<b>Academic &amp; Knowledge Institutions</b>	Universities, Advanced Research centers (CGIAR - IITA, AfricaRice, PI-CREF (Policy Innovation for Climate Resilience and Food Security), Agrinatura	Conduct research and provide evidence-based policy advice; promote innovation and climate-smart agriculture; facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building for stakeholders.



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## 2. Relevant policies, programs, initiatives and resources (what, where, how)

Stakeholder	Domain	Policies/Programs/ Initiatives (What)	How (Operations, Focus)	Resources
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS)	Agriculture and Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Agricultural Policies formulation and implementation</li> <li>Feed Salone Strategy (national food security strategy)</li> <li>West Africa Food System Resilience Program (World Bank funded) Sustainable Agrifood Systems Initiative (SASI): Supported by the EU and FAO, focusing on transforming agrifood systems through enhancing value chains, jobs, economic viability, and marketing of nutritious foods. It also looks at public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on food security, agricultural productivity, resilience, climate adaptive capacity, market integration, capacity building for farmers</li> <li>Promotes sustainable agrifood systems linking producers to markets</li> <li>Advice and technical support through extension services and digital platforms Support to smallholders and agribusiness value chains (rice, cassava, livestock)</li> <li>Digital Advisory Services for agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded by national budget allocations and enhanced by multilateral funding including World Bank, FAO, WFP, EU partners, IFAD</li> <li>Human resources include senior management, technical staff, extension officers</li> <li>Workshop and monitoring indicators system supported by 50x2030 Initiative and other donor data supports</li> </ul>



Stakeholder	Domain	Policies/Programs/ Initiatives (What)	How (Operations, Focus)	Resources
		<p>expenditure for financing agrifood systems. Other key policies include: Revised SLARI Act, (Rice, Cocoa, Cashew, policies) 2012,</p> <p><b>Programme/Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smallholder Commercialization and Agribusiness Development Project (SCADeP), Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVDP), Food System Resilience Program (FSRP), Palm Oil Production Project in Sierra Leone in the Framework of Capacity Building (POPSLCB), Sierra Leone Rice Agro Industrial Cluster ( SL-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate-smart agriculture initiatives</li> </ul>	



Stakeholder	Domain	Policies/Programs/ Initiatives (What)	How (Operations, Focus)	Resources
		RAIC), Sierra Leone Regional Rice Value Chain Development Project ( SLRRVDP), Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Development Project ( SLARiS), Livestock and Livelihoods Development Project		
Ministry of environment and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOE plays a critical role in embedding climate resilience into the country's food systems transformation efforts.</li> <li>Supports the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, which includes actions to reduce pollution, greenhouse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan</li> <li>Feed Salone Strategy (Government-wide initiative with environmental components)</li> <li>Alliance of Champions for Food Systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leads climate-related policy, regulations, and actions to support sustainable, climate-resilient food systems</li> <li>Integrates climate goals with agriculture and food security</li> <li>Collaborates across ministries to ensure environmental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government funding dedicated to environment and climate action</li> <li>Collaboration with UNDP, FAO, European Union, and international climate funds</li> <li>Institutional frameworks for multi-sectoral coordination (e.g., PI-</li> </ul>



Stakeholder	Domain	Policies/Programs/ Initiatives (What)	How (Operations, Focus)	Resources
	<p>gas emissions, and improve ecosystem management that directly impact agriculture and food sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operations involve multi-sectoral coordination to align environmental goals with agriculture, finance, trade, and health ministries for cohesive and inclusive food systems development.</li> <li>Champions climate-smart technologies, promotes renewable energy especially in rural areas, and enhances waste management to reduce</li> </ul>	<p>Transformation (ACF) partnership</p>	<p>sustainability in food production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focuses on reducing deforestation, biodiversity loss, and greenhouse emissions linked to food systems</li> <li>Promotes renewable energy uptake, waste management, and climate-smart agriculture</li> </ul>	<p>CREF, Presidential Council for Feed Salone)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical and financial support from international partners and climate action networks Resources include a combination of national budgets, international funding (e.g., UNDP, FAO, EU), and technical partnerships fostering innovation and sustainable practices.</li> <li>Actively engaged in global food systems and climate initiatives, including co-chairing the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation (ACF).</li> </ul>



Stakeholder	Domain	Policies/Programs/ Initiatives (What)	How (Operations, Focus)	Resources
	environmental degradation linked to food systems.			
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources	Fisheries management, marine resources, aquaculture, food security, nutrition enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fisheries reform for productivity and sustainability including mandatory observer programs and fisheries protection</li> <li>● Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Operational Framework (2010)</li> <li>● Promotion of artisanal and commercial fishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enforcement of fishing gear regulations and combating illegal fishing (IUU fishing)</li> <li>● Ecosystem approach to fisheries management</li> <li>● Participatory and inclusive governance mechanisms involving fishers and stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Technical assistance from development partners (FAO, EU, etc.)</li> <li>● Funding and support for policy formulation and enforcement</li> <li>● Capacity building programs and training</li> <li>● Infrastructure development support</li> </ul>



Stakeholder	Domain	Policies/Programs/ Initiatives (What)	How (Operations, Focus)	Resources
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sustainable management of fisheries resources including establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)</li> <li>● Reduction of post-harvest losses in fisheries</li> <li>● Integrated rice-fish farming in inland valleys</li> <li>● Collaboration with development partners to enhance livelihoods and nutrition</li> <li>● Support for small, medium, and large-scale agribusinesses along food value chains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Capacity building and training in fisheries practices</li> <li>● Promotion of nutrition-sensitive agriculture and diversified food production</li> <li>● Development of infrastructure such as roads, storage, processing, and marketing facilities</li> <li>● Use of scientific data for sustainable fisheries management</li> <li>● Gender inclusion and resilience building in fisheries sector</li> <li>● Strengthening agri-food research and innovation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research and innovation support</li> <li>● Legal and regulatory frameworks to guide sustainable fisheries management</li> <li>● Collaborative international frameworks such as Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)</li> <li>● Local community engagement and participatory frameworks for co-management of resources</li> </ul>



Stakeholder	Domain	Policies/Programs/ Initiatives (What)	How (Operations, Focus)	Resources
Ministry of Health and Sanitation	Improve nutrition and health outcomes	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2012)	Multisectoral approach to improve nutrition and health outcomes.	Funded through national health budgets with strong support from UN agencies (e.g., UNICEF, WFP), NGOs, and development partners.
		Advocacy for nutrition-sensitive policies	Collaboration across government ministries, districts, UN agencies, and NGOs.	Human resources include Ministry staff, Nutrition Technical Committees at national and district levels.
	Promotion of adequate household food security and feeding practices	Coordination via Nutrition Technical Committee and district-level structures.	Promotion of adequate household food security and feeding practices	Additional funding and technical assistance from bilateral and multilateral partners.
	Monitoring through nutritional surveillance systems; operational research and data-driven decision making.	Programs such as Free Health Care Initiative for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under 5 years.	Strengthening preventive and curative nutrition services	Monitoring through nutritional surveillance systems; operational research and data-driven decision making.
	Coordination of multi-stakeholder nutrition activities	Multi-sectoral task forces ensuring integration with broader food security and health programs.	Coordination of multi-stakeholder nutrition activities	Resource mobilization through government, UN, NGOs, and community-based organizations.



Stakeholder	Domain	Policies/Programs/ Initiatives (What)	How (Operations, Focus)	Resources
	Provides maternal and child nutrition-related health services.	Free Health Care Initiative	Provides maternal and child nutrition-related health services.	Funded by government with partner support to improve access to nutrition and health care for vulnerable groups.
		National Nutrition Policy Implementation Plan (2013-2017)	Targets reduction of malnutrition through specified interventions.	Log-frame and budgeting included coordination with Agriculture, Education,
	Integrated School Feeding Policy (home-grown model)	Ensures nutritious meals for school children using locally produced food.	Integrated School Feeding Policy (home-grown model)	Supported by government and partners like the World Bank to link local agriculture to nutrition outcomes in schools.



### 3. Recommendations

*This section should highlight entry points and opportunities for increased collaboration and synergies among stakeholders and specific initiatives.*

Based on comprehensive stakeholder consultations and pathway assessment discussions, it has become evident that Sierra Leone requires a fundamental review of its existing eight food system transformation pathways to ensure their continued relevance and strategic alignment with the country's 2030 agrifood system vision.

Expert assessments conveyed during the interviews confirmed the high relevance of the eight food system pathways identified in 2021 to Sierra Leone's context, representing a major success in strategic alignment. Unlike the initial phase where pathways were not fully owned by implementers due to limited understanding and weak SUN secretariat capacity, current implementation demonstrates genuine ownership and commitment from government agencies and partners. It also came up clearly that Sierra Leone should strengthen the collaboration between the Minister of State within the Office of the Vice President and the SUN and Food Systems Coordination Unit, working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Environment, Fisheries & Marine Resources and Ministry of Trade and Industry to create synergies between the revised pathways and the national Feed Salone strategy on agriculture and Fisheries and Marine Recourses. Success will require leveraging existing high-level coordination mechanisms, including inter-ministerial committees, while boosting the convening power of the Food System Coordination Unit.



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The implementation coordination is heavily centred at headquarter (Freetown) – Top – Bottom. The implementation strategy should prioritize participatory and bottom-up approaches through regional consultation workshops, the establishment or replicating similar structures at regional and district levels with technical working groups for thematic pathway development, and comprehensive integration assessments for cross-pathway synergies. Strategic resource mobilization efforts should be coupled with detailed implementation planning with clear measurable outputs/results, outcomes and clear timelines and accountability mechanisms.

The ultimate objective is developing revised pathways that are fit for purpose, integrated, and capable of delivering sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agrifood systems by 2030. This transformation would position Sierra Leone as a regional leader in food systems innovation, while ensuring that the benefits of transformation reach all segments of society – particularly the rural poor, who make up the majority of the population and rely most heavily on agricultural livelihoods for their survival and prosperity.

## **Annex - Methodology**

***The Hub has developed a light methodology for the EoS mapping, based on a review of different approaches and mapping tools. Country teams can use this methodology as a starting point for their mapping and adapt to their context as relevant.***

***In this section, the process that was followed to carry out the mapping should be explained, including how the boundaries of the mapping exercise were established. For instance, it should be explained how many key informant interviews were conducted, how the key informants were identified, and how the desk-based review was designed. This section should be added as an annex.***

A systematic stakeholder mapping was conducted to identify key stakeholders implementing the eight (08) pathways and the coordinating entities as key informants through a desk-based review. This approach, combining desk research with preparatory tools for interviews and analysis, aligns with FAOSL team guidance. We considered all actors focused on agriculture, environment and climate change, nutrition, and trade for regional market integration. This mapping focuses on stakeholders involved in the food system nodes, which entails production, processing, distribution, consumption, and governance in Sierra Leone's sustainable food system context. We compiled a preliminary list of stakeholders from existing documents, reports, project databases, government and NGO records, academic publications, and media sources. This list included:

- Government departments and agencies related to agriculture, health & nutrition, environment, and trade and Industry
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) working on food systems and nutrition
- Private sector actors such as agribusinesses, cooperatives, and financial institutions





- Research institutes and universities involved in agriculture and nutrition
- International partners and donors active in Sierra Leone's food systems.

We used a standardized template/excel sheet for collating stakeholder data, gather for each stakeholder:

- Mandate or mission and area of operation
- Role and level of involvement in the food system or sustainable food system initiatives
- Past, ongoing, and planned activities related to food and nutrition security
- Their views on food system challenges, vulnerabilities, and needs for sustainability
- Resources available (human, financial, technical)
- Existing networks and partnerships with other stakeholders.

Summarized the mapping results in a report covering the stakeholder landscape, gaps, opportunities, and recommendations for engaging key informants in future data collection and participatory processes for sustainable food systems planning

A results framework, including relevant indicators, was developed to evaluate the implementation progress of Sierra Leone's prioritized food system pathways. This framework systematically documents achievements, identifies challenges, highlights emerging opportunities, and pinpoints critical gaps requiring immediate attention.

The framework employed an *ex-ante* approach, delineating expected outcomes and outputs for each pathway, along with potential indicators for their measurement. Recognizing potential data limitations, the framework also identifies alternative proxy indicators to supplement missing data points. The excel sheet showing the results framework (see annex 3).

The development and review process for this results framework included examination of national and sector-specific policies, as well as relevant regional and global commitments, assessing their alignment with pathway implementation. Furthermore, the review identified existing cross-cutting programs and projects undertaken by the government and partner organizations that contribute to the food system pathways, ensuring their integration into the review process.

The team engaged in in-country data compilation and key informant interviews encountered series of challenges in data collection. Annex 2 is the list of key informants that were interviewed. See annex 2. The collected data was analysed and presented to national and regional stakeholders for their validation and ground truthing. A significant achievement, as recognized by stakeholders, is the collaborative process of co-developing and validating the indicators already developed by the consultants not to waste too much time on that in the validation process and the overarching results framework for measuring progress in the food





system pathways. However, amendments were made of some indicators and some were rephrased.

Despite this development, a persistent and significant challenge remains in consolidating the robust and comprehensive underlying data required to fully populate and validate the indicators. A recurring issue highlighted is the difficulty in accessing reliable and consistent data, particularly the specific information necessary for the complete operationalization of the results framework.

