

# UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake

## SIDE EVENT REPORT

### From Fragility to Resilience: Food-Based Solutions to Prevent Malnutrition in Crisis Context

29 July 2025 | 7:45 – 9:00

**Organizers and partners:** The Government of Yemen and the Government of Sudan, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s Food and Nutrition Division (ESN) and FAO's Office of Emergencies and Resilience (OER).

**Side event overview (50-100 words):** In crisis-affected countries, malnutrition is not just a health issue, it is a systemic barrier to recovery, resilience, long-term development and well-being. This event is especially timely as countries face overlapping challenges, including climate shocks, conflict, and economic instability. Despite these pressures, several governments and partners are advancing promising food-based interventions that deliver both nutrition and resilience outcomes. However, these efforts are often isolated, under-resourced, and lack the visibility or coordination needed for broader successful impact. The event responds to these gaps by creating a space for countries and partners to collectively reflect on what works, share policy-relevant lessons, and explore how to scale solutions that bridge humanitarian and development divides in crisis contexts.

#### List of speakers and key messages

NAME AND TITLE OF SPEAKER	KEY MESSAGES OR/AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
1. Ms. Amira Abdelrahim Ali Mohammed, <b>National Convenor and Secretary General, Food Security Technical Secretariat - Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Sudan</b>	<b>From Pathway to Action Plan:</b> Sudan finalized and submitted its National Food Systems Pathway in 2021 and subsequently developed a Food Systems Transformation Action Plan (2021–2030), aligning national priorities with the SDGs. <b>Crisis at scale:</b> Today, 54% of the population faces acute food insecurity (IPC 2024), more than double pre-conflict levels. This underscores the urgency of implementing resilience-focused strategies.

	<p><b>Community resilience:</b> Grassroots initiatives such as Takaya communal kitchens and Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) remain vital lifelines in conflict-affected areas. Supporting farmers groups/cooperatives, and women and youth associations are also essential investments to address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition.</p> <p><b>Nutrition in practice:</b> To operationalize the Action Plan, Sudan has mobilized resources, including the FAO-supported Healthy Diet Project in Red Sea State, which targets five localities with high malnutrition rates through integrated approaches (nutrition awareness, home gardens, dietary diversity).</p> <p><b>From aid to resilience:</b> Moving forward, Sudan calls for investment in climate-smart and organic farming, efficient water management and agroforestry, post-harvest loss reduction, and reshaped policies and institutions, shifting from short-term aid to long-term resilience and sustainable food systems.</p>
<p>2. Mr. Mohamed Abdi Sheikh Yusuf, <b>National Convenor and Lead Food Systems and Agriculture Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Somalia</b></p>	<p><b>Crisis persists, but progress is visible:</b> Despite ongoing food insecurity driven by climate shocks, insecurity and displacement, and low productivity, Somalia has advanced national governance and analytical structures for food systems transformation.</p> <p><b>National Food Systems Pathway endorsed:</b> Following multi-stakeholder dialogues and stocktaking milestones (2021–2023), Somalia now has a comprehensive pathway and Food Systems Strategy guiding its transformation agenda.</p> <p><b>Institutionalization of governance:</b> The Food Systems, Nutrition and Climate Change Council (FSNCC), established under the Office of the Prime Minister in 2023, anchors coordination across ministries, ensuring policy coherence, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring.</p> <p><b>Seven game-changing pathways:</b> Somalia’s strategy spans inclusive value chains, durable solutions for displacement, climate adaptation, nutrition-sensitive safety nets, women’s empowerment, youth engagement, and digital innovation.</p> <p><b>Partnerships for resilience:</b> FAO and UN partners are supporting Somalia to align the Food Systems Pathway with the National Transformation Plan (2025–2029), strengthen</p>

	<p>monitoring systems, and mobilize investment for scalable, inclusive solutions.</p>
<p>3. Ms. Karima Ahmed Hussein Al-Hada'a, <b>Alternate National Convenor, Planning &amp; Liaison Specialist of Planning and International Cooperation Ministry and SUN-Yemen, Yemen</b></p>	<p><b>Institutions at the center:</b> Prolonged reliance on humanitarian aid has weakened public systems; rebuilding and empowering institutions is critical for resilient and sustainable food-solutions.</p> <p><b>Food systems as a stabilizing force:</b> Investing in food systems and nutrition is not just for humanitarian action, it is a strategic pathway for stability, recovery and resilience.</p> <p><b>Active leadership:</b> Yemen underscored that crisis-affected countries are agents of change, committed to leading food systems transformation.</p> <p><b>From aid to long-term investment:</b> Yemen advocates integrated strategies that link emergency relief and development with systemic transformation to deliver better nutrition outcomes.</p> <p><b>National frameworks in action:</b> With the National Food Systems Transformation Pathways and the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MSNAP), Yemen has localized the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus and established practical guidelines for coherent, long-term action.</p> <p><b>Call to action:</b> Donors across Humanitarian, Development, Peace systems are called to align, catalyze, and support the national initiatives aim to improve the working environment and create synergy and convergence. Development spending must evolve to support locally identified priorities, resilient agricultural infrastructure, inclusive governance, and institution building, bridging humanitarian and development financing for durable impact.</p>
<p>4. Ms. Ianja Raolisoa, <b>Food Systems Focal Point, Chair of the SUN Government Platform, and Head of the Food Security and Nutrition Service (SSAN), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Madagascar</b></p>	<p><b>Climate and funding challenges:</b> Madagascar faces recurring shocks and limited financing that constrain progress on food security and nutrition.</p> <p><b>Turning constraints into opportunities:</b> Funding gaps can drive more efficient, collaborative, and nationally owned solutions.</p>

**Local priorities first:** Investment must strengthen home-grown, climate-resilient food systems and align with national strategies.

**Community engagement:** Women's and youth initiatives, cooperatives, and inclusive governance structures are central to resilience building.

**Integrated approach:** Applying the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus, linking emergency aid with long-term resilient food systems.

**Key responses:** anticipatory actions (targeted food assistance, resilient seeds, nutrition prevention, cash transfers, community engagement).

**Inclusion:** active participation of women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and strong community involvement.

#### Overall session summary, conclusions and recommended actions (max 300 words)

This session showcased the realities faced by countries navigating fragility, protracted crises, and recurrent shocks driven by conflict, climate, and economic instability. Speakers, in their leading roles of convenors or focal person for National Food Systems pathways from Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and Madagascar emphasized that building resilience goes beyond food production. It must also encompass the entire journey of food, from production through to access, consumption, and nutrition. It calls for transforming food systems to restore and boost production, markets, supply chains, and institutions, while fostering inclusive governance and community ownership.

Key lessons emerged across contexts. Sudan underscored the urgency of rebuilding food systems that can absorb and adapt to climate shocks and sustain local markets. Somalia highlighted both the heavy reliance on imports and the opportunities in engaging youth and scaling programmes that can transform agrifood systems at large. Yemen emphasized institution-building and alignment with national priorities, while Madagascar pointed to funding challenges that could be reframed as opportunities for innovative, efficient, resilient and nationally owned solutions. All countries stressed the need to link local production with consumption-focused actions, ensuring awareness and access to nutritious and healthy diets.

The discussion also underlined that humanitarian financing alone is insufficient. Moving towards resilience requires diversified, predictable investments in multi risk and impact management across the agrifood systems and by all public, private and community actors. The

transformation into more resilient agrifood systems must integrate nutrition outcomes into both production and consumption-oriented interventions which are context specific and at scale.

**Recommended actions** include:

- Prioritize national leadership and institutional strengthening to integrate resilience and nutrition actions into country's national food systems pathways and other related agriculture and food strategies.
- Scale up nutrition-sensitive, risk informed food-based solutions for more inclusive and resilient production, markets, and consumption.
- Leverage youth and women's leadership in solutions for food systems transformation.
- Strengthening cross-sector collaboration and investment linking humanitarian, development and climate actions, and making use of innovative mechanisms and repurposing subsidies.
- Support mindset shifts across humanitarian and development partners to "do things differently," boosting preventive, anticipative and adaptive efforts in national nutrition action plans anchored in more resilient national food systems pathways.