

A Practical Guide

EMBEDDING “FOOD LOSS AND WASTE” IN CLIMATE POLICY

October 2025



WHO IS BEHIND THIS GUIDE

This guide has been prepared by members of The Global Action Drive (GAD). The GAD brings together several internationally active non-governmental organizations around a shared agenda to accelerate regional and national action on food loss and waste.

Key activities include:

- Engaging critical stakeholders
- Advancing evidence-based policies
- Catalyzing targeted global projects
- Increasing awareness through coordinated communications campaigns
- Monitoring, assessing and publicizing global progress

MEMBERS



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COMMIT TO DELIVERING UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGET 12.3*

And include this commitment in new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and related strategies on food systems and resilience

DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION PLANS TO TURN COMMITMENTS INTO ACTION

With practical policy measures and an emphasis on cross-sectoral, whole-of-society approaches

BACK UP COMMITMENTS WITH DEDICATED RESOURCES

Including sufficient funding and the political capital necessary to effectively deliver implementation plans

MEASURE AND REPORT ON FOOD LOSS AND WASTE DATA

To enhance transparency, evaluate effectiveness of policies for continuous improvement, and share emerging best practices, including through Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs)

Accelerating the reduction and prevention of food loss and food waste presents a unique opportunity to mitigate climate-harming emissions, strengthen food security and economic development, and protect nature.

We call on all countries to...

***SDG Target 12.3:** By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD WASTE ACTION

40% of the world's food supply is lost or wasted at some point along the supply chain.

By minimizing this, we can ensure more food is available to feed a growing global population while responsibly using natural resources and improving livelihoods.

Failure to address the problem will continue to cost the global economy more than US\$1 trillion, exacerbate global hunger, and result in 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions and 12% of methane emissions from production and landfills. Most importantly, in a world where 800 million people suffer from hunger, we cannot tolerate this level of waste.

Now is the moment to maximize food's full potential – for people, communities, and the planet.



GLOBAL CLIMATE COMMITMENTS TO REDUCE FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

Food loss and waste are rising on the political agenda thanks to global commitments and pledges. Many countries have signified their support for these commitments and pledges, creating a strong foundation for global policy action on food loss and waste.

160 COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS



[GLOBAL METHANE PLEDGE \(2021\)](#)

196 COUNTRIES ADOPTED



[KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK \(2022\)](#)

151 COUNTRIES SIGNED



[COP28 UAE DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS, AND CLIMATE ACTION \(2023\)](#)

102 COUNTRIES JOINED



[GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER & POVERTY \(G20\) \(2024\)](#)

65 COUNTRIES ENDORSED



[COP29 DECLARATION ON REDUCING METHANE FROM ORGANIC WASTE \(2024\)](#)

FOOD LOSS & WASTE IN NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCs)

NDCs are powerful platforms to send strong policy signals, encourage global exchange, and raise public awareness. Many countries are already addressing food loss and waste in their domestic policies but are not always linking it to their NDCs.

The inclusion of food loss and waste in NDCs and related plans is critical to unlock new sources of funding while leveraging political action and capital across sectors. Action on food systems leveraged through NDCs can benefit climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as broader economic livelihoods and efforts to address agricultural drivers of nature loss.

HOW TO TAKE SYSTEM-LEVEL ACTION

This framework should be tailored on a country-basis.

The following steps apply across the board, but more actions will need to be taken based on the country's context.

COMMIT TO DELIVERING UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGET 12.3

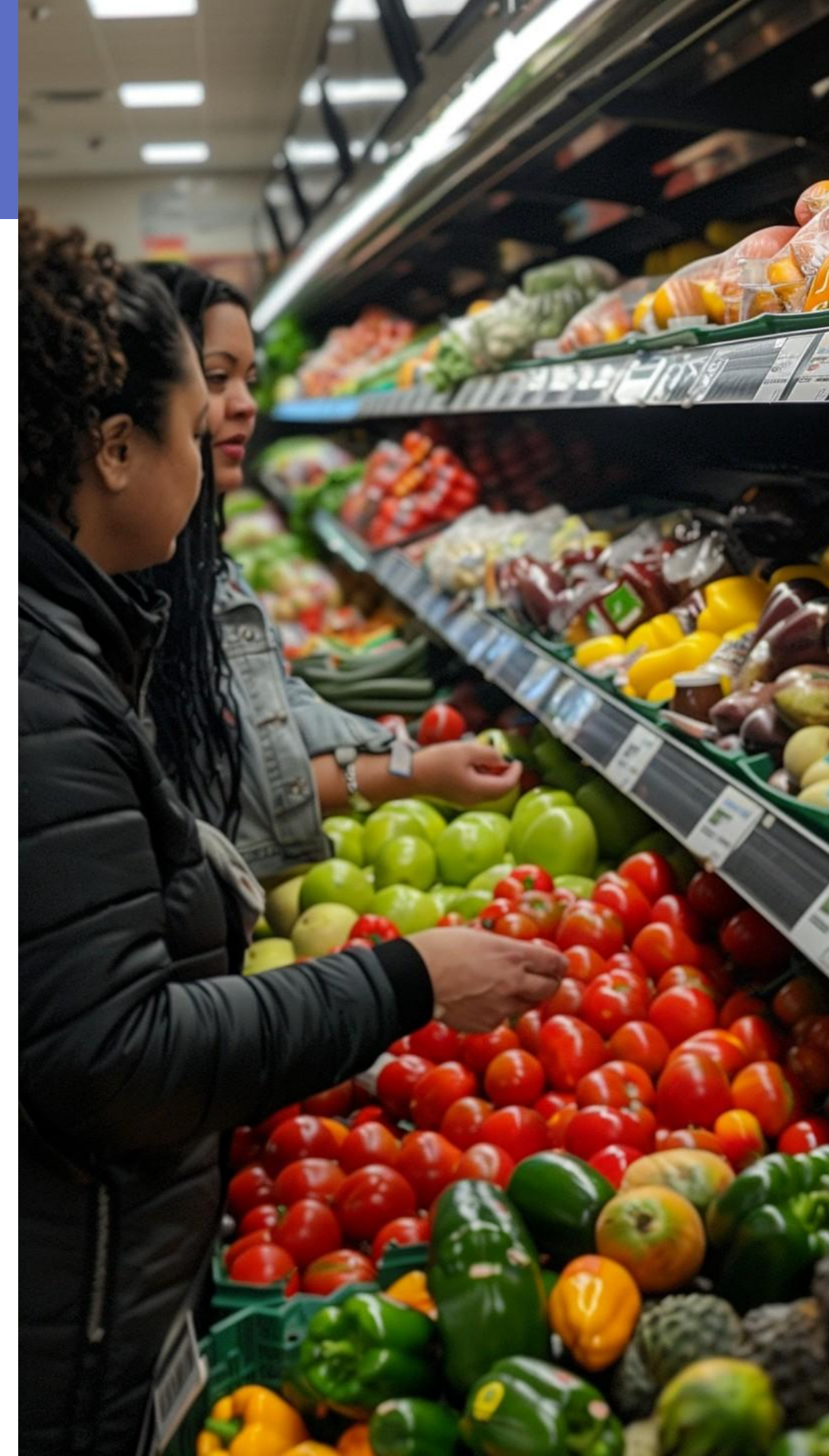
And include this commitment in new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and related strategies on food systems and resilience

- Focus on the strategic placement of your national priorities, targets and actions related to food loss and waste in key national and international plans, strategies and frameworks. NDCs and NAPs as well as NBSAPs represent important opportunities to signal your priority actions to both international and domestic stakeholders.
- Frame and specify your commitments as they best reflect your country's context, mitigation profile, and priorities for both adaptation and mitigation.
- Identify co-benefits of these actions for improving food security and addressing related environmental and economic impacts.
- Back up your priorities and actions with available evidence and data from national sources.
- Establish measurable targets and indicators across relevant sectors.

Examples:

Countries including Chile, Colombia, South Africa, the UK and Uruguay have included food loss and waste in their [NDC 3.0](#).

Others, like Brazil, [China](#) and [Spain](#) have committed through national strategies and laws that address food loss and waste throughout the whole food supply chain.



DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION PLANS TO TURN COMMITMENTS INTO ACTION

- Transform national commitments into practical policy measures.
- To achieve transformational change in an equitable and sustainable manner, take a whole-of-society approach that involves all stakeholders across sectors, including relevant government departments, private sector, farmers and consumers.
- Due to its intersectoral nature, food loss and waste action requires effective collaboration and coordination across ministries and sectors. Clearly define roles and responsibilities to deliver on commitments.
- Agree on joint approaches to foster broad political support and ensure that solutions are sustainable and fit for purpose.

Examples:

Uruguay's NDC 3.0 included the development of a National Strategy for the Prevention and Reduction of Food Losses and Food Waste, as well as an Action Plan prioritizing sectors. It also described plans to develop measurement strategies and specific indicators.

Colombia incorporated the Food Bank Network (ABACO) into the implementation of its NDC 3.0 to reduce methane emissions through the recovery and redistribution of food surpluses.



BACK UP COMMITMENTS WITH DEDICATED RESOURCES

- The effective implementation of policies and national priorities depend on solid planning and the availability of necessary resources– financial, human and otherwise.
- The alignment of budgets and technical capacity to support implementation of specific policies is critical to ensure plans to achieve food loss and waste commitments are actionable.
- Develop a clear roadmap for implementation that identifies cost estimates and resource-mobilization strategies as well as technology and capacity-building needs.
- Highlight the resources that need to be raised externally i.e., from international funders.

Example:

The Gambia's NDC 2.0 identifies 'reducing food losses' and 'organic waste recovery' as mitigation measures and specifies activities to achieve reduction in food losses.

The Gambia also submitted an NDC Implementation Plan which details specific targets on food loss and waste reduction, identifies the primary institution and focal point for implementation, and provides a five-year cost estimate.



MEASURE AND REPORT ON FOOD LOSS AND WASTE DATA

- The availability of data and establishment of baselines play an important role in efforts to reduce food loss and waste.
- Given the intersectoral nature and challenges of coordinating coherent policy implementation across government ministries and economic sectors, data is critical to evaluate the effectiveness and relative impact of existing policies, and to inform continual improvements.
- Specify data collection methods, and the frequency in which data will be collected and reported.
- Document and communicate progress in both domestic and international reports, such as Biennial Transparency Reports, for transparency and to facilitate policy learning.

Example:

In Japan, around 200 local governments collect food loss and waste data through statistical surveys, private sector reporting, and garbage composition surveys to inform national rates of food loss and waste.

Through this data collection, Japan has been able to report over a 50% reduction in national levels of FLW from 2000-2022. Using this data, Japan adjusted their 2030 food loss and waste targets to be more ambitious and to better reflect the progress made so far.



RESOURCES

NDCs

- NDC Partnership:
 - [Knowledge Portal](#)
 - [Climate Funds Explorer](#)
 - [NDC Implementation Plan Online Tool](#)
- [Food Forward NDCs Tool](#)
- FOLU Coalition. [From Global Commitments to National Action: A Closer Look at NDCs from a Food and Land Perspective](#)

Broader Policy Landscape

- The Global FoodBanking Network (2024). [Policy integration across climate and food systems](#).
- Global FoodBanking Network. (2024)
- [Global Food Donation Policy Atlas](#).
- OECD (2024). [Beyond food loss and waste reduction targets: Translating reduction ambitions into policy outcomes](#).
- FAO (2019). [Policy coherence for food security and nutrition](#).
- UNEP (2021). [National food waste policy development guidelines](#).
- FOLU Coalition, SDSN. [FELD Action Tracker](#) (assessing action across FOLU's 10 critical transitions, including food loss and waste)

Tools & Data

- [FAO Food Loss Index](#)
- [UNEP Food Waste Index](#)
- [WWF Global Farm Loss Tool](#)
- FLW Protocol
- [FLW Value Calculator](#)
- US EPA [Waste Reduction Model \(WARM\)](#) tool
- The Global FoodBanking Network, Global Methane Hub and Carbon Trust (2024). [FRAME Methodology: Food Recovery to Avoid Methane Emissions](#).

ABBREVIATIONS

FLW

Food loss and waste

BTR

Biennial Transparency Report (under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

NAP

National Adaptation Plan

NBSAP

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (under United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity)

NDC

Nationally Determined Contributions (under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)