



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

# Global Programme Food Security

Programme Framework 2021–24



Cover Photo: People buying and selling in a market in Nigeria. Copyright: IITA

# Preface



*“Food is more than just what we eat! The ways in which we produce, process and consume food touches every aspect of life on this planet. It is the foundation of our cultures, our economies and our relationship with the natural world. And has the power to bring us together, as families, communities and nations.”*

These inspiring words are introducing the objectives of the United Nations Food Systems Summit to be held in autumn 2021 in New York in presence of head of states. The international community is committed to finding solutions to fix the unsustainable food systems. However, this is a complex task: at the time of writing these lines, 690 million people are hungry and 2 billion overweight; the food systems contribute to 30% of the greenhouse gas emissions globally but are also very much affected by climate change; one third of the food produced is lost or wasted.

Transforming food systems is considered by many stakeholders and in particular the United Nations as the opportunity to address most of the Sustainable Development Goals. The COVID-19 crisis and its consequences have shown the vulnerability of current food systems and the necessity for a joint response to avoid that the health crisis becomes a food crisis.

Adherent to global governance mechanisms, the present programme framework of the Global Programme Food Security (GPFS) 2021–24 aims to contribute to sustainable and resilient food systems. Leaving no one behind, the programme framework puts women and young smallholder farmers as well as vulnerable urban consumers at the center of its endeavour. Thanks to the Swiss expertise in this field, the GPFS has set itself the ambitious target of increasing the level of agroecological investments to 50% for the duration of this programme framework. Furthermore, the GPFS will enhance the links between consumers and producers and strengthen the roles of cities for improved nutrition. Innovative collaborations with the private sector will tackle the considerable lack of investments in rural areas.

I am confident that with these new features, the GPFS will make a meaningful and lasting contribution to transforming food systems as well as to ensuring the right to adequate food for all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, flowing letters that appear to read 'Patricia Danzi'.

Patricia Danzi

Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Bern, December 2020

# Content

<b>1. Context analysis</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1. Global challenges and policy context	5
1.2. Swiss interests	6
1.3. Swiss added value	6
<b>2. Results, lessons learnt and implications for 2021–24</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1. Results 2017–20	7
2.2. Lessons learnt	8
2.3. Implications for 2021–24	8
<b>3. Our commitment</b>	<b>9</b>
Priorities and objectives for 2021–24	10
3.1. Strategic component 1: Enhanced global governance	10
3.2. Strategic component 2: Agroecological food production	12
3.3. Strategic component 3: Inclusive agricultural and food market systems	13
3.4. Strategic component 4: Sustainable and healthy diets for improved nutrition	14
<b>4. How we act – joint action on global challenges</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1. Principles of action	15
4.2. Joint action on global challenges	15
4.3. Strategic steering	16
<b>5. Resources</b>	<b>17</b>
5.1. Financial resources	17
5.2. Human resources	17
<b>Annex</b>	<b>18</b>
Annex 1: List of acronyms	18
Annex 2: Results framework 2021–24	19
Annex 3: Indicative financial planning	24
Annex 4: Transversal themes	25
Annex 5: Endnotes and references	27

# 1. Context analysis

Today's food systems are unsustainable, exclusive and fail to enable healthy and sustainable food choices for a large part of the global population, despite considerable progress in the fight against hunger in the last two decades. Growing scientific evidence calls for an urgent and profound transformation of the global food systems in order to address the multiple burdens on environmental and human health. Business as usual pathways and upscaling of current unsustainable practices will not only exacerbate current devastating environmental impacts, but could ultimately threaten food security and nutrition in an unprecedented way at global scale. The world is not on track to achieve zero hunger by 2030. If recent trends continue, the number of people affected by hunger would surpass 840 million by then. According to the World Food Programme's (WFP) latest estimates, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic may add up to 270 million people facing acute food insecurity by the end of 2020. The pandemic has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities of affected communities. Trade and movement restrictions are disrupting production, transport, processing and delivery of food. This is accompanied by rising unemployment affecting mostly daily wage earners in the informal sector.

The state of food security and nutrition in the world is alarming. The recently published report for 2020<sup>i</sup> confirms the trend reported in past editions: the number of people affected by hunger globally has been slowly on the rise since 2014. Current estimates show that nearly 690 million people are hungry (8.9% of the world population). At the same time, over 2 billion people are overweight or obese and one third of the food produced is lost or wasted. Globally, the burden of malnutrition in all its forms (undernutrition and obesity) remains a challenge. Poverty, inequality, conflicts, climate change, loss of soils and biodiversity, economic shocks and pandemics, such as the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, exacerbate food insecurity and malnutrition.

## 1.1. Global challenges and policy context

In this challenging context, global governance mechanisms are required to address the issues of trade, equitable distribution, fair prices and adapted measures to feed the growing urban population. Given that food systems are central to the 2030 Agenda and as part of the decade of action to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a UN Summit on Food Systems (FSS21) will be convened in 2021. Announced as a people's and solutions summit, concrete commitments

and action plans are expected as outcomes of the FSS21. The summit preparation includes the organisation of multi-stakeholder food systems dialogues to be held in each country and at the international level. Countries and organisations from the different sectors (companies, NGOs, research) are contributing to priority action tracks. Switzerland is actively contributing to this global debate through its close partnership with the Rome-based UN Agencies (Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP)), its leadership role in relevant global multi-stakeholder partnerships and a complementary response of the Federal Offices, academia, civil society organisations and the private sector.

Inequities persist in food systems. Although smallholder farmers contribute to 80% of the food produced in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa<sup>i</sup>, they lack access to inputs, knowledge and finance. Within the smallholder farmers, youth and women face particular challenges. The majority of rural youth is employed in informal economy<sup>1</sup> and lack access to skills development; female and young farmers have limited access to land and often do not participate effectively in decision-making processes of food value chains. It has been estimated that closing the gender gap in agriculture would increase yields by 20–30%<sup>2</sup>. In addition to that, the cost of diverse and nutritious food is unaffordable for the most vulnerable people and exceeds average food expenditures in most low and lower-middle income countries (LICs and LMICs): around 60% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia cannot afford a healthy diet throughout the year, with women being particularly affected by food insecurity and malnutrition<sup>ii</sup>.

Food systems significantly contribute to and are impacted by climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. Interactions between food, human and planetary health are multidimensional, intertwined and complex. Food, including livestock and meat production, accounts for roughly one third of net emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG)<sup>iii</sup>. Land use change, deforestation and pollution associated with agriculture, such as nitrogen and phosphorus run-off and the inappropriate use of pesticides are amongst the key drivers of global biodiversity loss. Land degradation, depletion of freshwater resources and the deterioration of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems affect agricultural production environment. On the other hand, the impact of climate change is becoming increasingly tangible and is disrupting food systems everywhere in the world through extreme weather events such as droughts and floods or pest outbreaks like the 2019 locust swarms that have affected the Horn of Africa and the Middle East.

1 HLPE draft report: [Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems](#).

2 FAO report: [SOFA 2010/11: Women in Agriculture – Closing the Gender Gap](#).

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the global governance mechanism for food security and nutrition. As a member state, Switzerland is actively involved in the CFS and consequently supports the activities of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE)<sup>iv</sup>, which provides independent, science-based analysis and advice. The CFS facilitates inclusive policy convergence processes, such as the ongoing 'Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches'<sup>v</sup> and the 'Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition'<sup>vi</sup>.

## 1.2. Swiss interests

In its Federal Constitution (Art. 104a), Switzerland commits to enabling sustainable food systems. The sustainability of global and local food systems is hence strongly in Switzerland's interest, particularly as Switzerland imports 50% of its food and long-term sustainability of global food systems is directly relevant to a steady and diverse food supply<sup>3</sup>. Similarly, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, especially agrobiodiversity and soil health, are key to our domestic food production and consumption of healthy food, as they ensure vital ecosystem services for enhanced resilience to climate change. In the recently drafted Swiss Sustainable Development Strategy, sustainable consumption and production is one of the priorities to achieve the SDGs. Maintaining political stability is vital, since hunger and rising food prices are not only a major consequence but also a driver of conflict and contribute to economic migration. Planetary health and global environmental sustainability are decisive for Switzerland's long-term prosperity. Switzerland is also considered a food and nutrition hub. Many large and important players in the complex global food ecosystem, such as multinational agribusiness groups, agricultural commodity traders, active start-ups (from agribusiness to food technology) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) headquarters, are based in the country. Finally, the Swiss sustainable finance organisations (in particular impact investors) have specific interests in the agriculture sector and are key to contribute to responsible agriculture investments.

## 1.3. Swiss added value

In Switzerland, the well-established agricultural research sector, the strong advisory system for farmers and direct payments to farmers underscore government support for agriculture. This Swiss experience, knowhow and thematic expertise in fields such as agroecology can contribute significantly to the transformation of food systems. In cooperation with other government agencies, in particular the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), the Global Programme Food Security (GPFS) contributes to global policy dialogue, especially within the CFS. In the name of the SDC, the GPFS is the lead entity for the Swiss contribution to and the steering of IFAD and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), two of the 16 priority multilateral organisations of the SDC, as well as the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Thanks to the SDC Agriculture and Food Security (AFS) Network, relevant expertise from practitioners, research institutions, NGOs and the private sector is made available and shared with and among the SDC partner countries, thus contributing to greater impact. The GPFS brings also together key stakeholders (public and private sector, civil society, academia) with the aim of influencing policies and their implementation at all levels.

<sup>3</sup> Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG report: <https://www.agrarbericht.ch/de/markt/marktentwicklungen/selbstversorgungsgrad>.

## 2. Results, lessons learnt and implications for 2021–24

### 2.1. Results 2017–20

1. The GPFS contributed to the establishment and promotion of a number of key international policies and norms. Switzerland was strongly involved in the development of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP) and the UN-CD landmark decision on linking land degradation with land tenure. Currently, Switzerland plays an important role in the elaboration of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and the preparation of CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecology. Switzerland has also intensively supported the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible Governance of Tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT), as well as the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI). This was achieved for instance through dissemination of the guidelines, awareness raising and multi-stakeholder processes toward improving land governance and security of tenure in more than 50 countries.

2. Strategy development processes of a range of multilateral institutions and global networks were supported. For example, the GPFS has contributed to the evolution and orientation of global research programmes of CGIAR, to the inclusion of transversal themes and to the strategy of private sector engagement of IFAD, to the 2018–30 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and to the strategy development process of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement 3.0.

3. A series of technological, digital, organisational, institutional and financial innovations was tested and scaled up, such as engaging with the private sector in [water effectiveness for agriculture, remote-sensing and digital applications for crop insurance mechanisms, bundled agri-services on mobile phones](#), improved farm practices for rice farmers and blended finance/impact investment approaches. These innovative approaches have impacted the lives of smallholder farmers in many countries, increasing their crop productivity and incomes. For instance, more than 44 million farmers in 30 countries have benefitted from the plant clinics of the [Plant-wise](#) initiative. 500,000 households have adopted sustainable rice production practices and improved their yields. 1.5 million smallholders (40% women) got access to financial and information services on their mobile phones and could earn a higher, steady income over the long-term. The support of post-harvest management practices in different countries in Africa has nurtured a [global knowledge portal](#) established by the FAO, IFAD and the WFP that were partners of the project.

4. Movements for change led by key stakeholders have been supported by the GPFS and have led to increased visibility of agroecology and nutrition in political agendas. This is the case of the increasingly recognised principles of agroecology to guide action (FAO, HLPE) and the establishment of global and multi-stakeholders movements in support of improved nutrition (SUN).

5. The AFS Network – through webinars and online exchanges – contributed to an increased integration of climate resilient agriculture, agroecology and rural-urban linkages in bilateral programmes of the SDC's South Cooperation.



Organic vegetables market, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.  
Copyright: Daniel Valenghi, SDC

## 2.2. Lessons learnt

A review of the previous GPFS programme framework 2017–20 observed that the eight thematic priorities and the portfolio continue to be relevant, but this sectoral approach tended to lead to fragmented working in the team. The review also pointed out the weak integration of gender equality aspects in the programme implementation. Finally, in relation to norm-setting, experience clearly shows that support for the elaboration of policy guidance is not enough: policies and norms need to be applied on the ground, be evidence-based and require social mobilisation and buy-in from relevant stakeholders in order to really achieve impact.

## 2.3. Implications for 2021–24

The programme framework 2021–24 will therefore follow a circular economy for food vision, from production to consumption and develop the GPFS' key themes according to this perspective. This will contribute to a more holistic conceptual and operational approach, looking systematically for inter-thematic synergies and ensuring the work of the GPFS is developed in a more integrated way from the onset (i.e. initial project ideas).

The GPFS' major working modalities (i.e. shaping policies/norms, innovative projects, stimulating systemic change and knowledge management) will be carried forward into the programme framework 2021–24. However, the GPFS' engagement will put a stronger emphasis on supporting concrete policy implementation mechanisms, through financial contributions and technical guidance and in partnership with a wide variety of actors from both the public and private sector.

The GPFS will maintain good collaboration with other units of the Federal Administration with the objective to increase coherence and create synergies with other development efforts and policy priorities, with a whole of government and nexus approach. With regard to the AFS network, collaboration with other units will increase, especially through the participation of the Cluster Green<sup>4</sup> and with the South Cooperation and the Humanitarian Aid.

<sup>4</sup> Cluster Green is composed of the AFS, Climate Change and Environment (CCE), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and RésEau networks.



Women discussing on cocoa beans drying, Ben Tre Province, Vietnam.  
Copyright: Daniel Valenghi, SDC



### 3. Our commitment

The GPFS aims at enhancing the sustainability of food systems and shares the FAO's vision aligned with the universal right to adequate food:

A sustainable food system is a food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised. This means that: i) it is profitable throughout (economic sustainability); ii) it has broad-based benefits for society (social sustainability); and iii) it has a positive or neutral impact on the natural environment (environmental sustainability) – FAO 2020.

The transformation to more sustainability encompasses the way food is produced, processed, transported, sold and consumed, as well as a significant reduction in food losses and waste. Current efforts known as climate-smart or resilient agriculture are mainly focused on boosting resource efficiency<sup>vii</sup> in production. Other approaches advocate for a more equitable and fair trade. Finally, nutrition aspects are increasingly considered in food production and marketing. However, there is so far no consensus within the international community on the path to achieve sustainable food systems which are resilient to climate change and enable healthy diets.

In this context, the GPFS considers agroecology as the most promising approach to guide and support food systems' transformation. As described in the related HLPE report<sup>viii</sup>, agroecology is considered as a science, a set of practices and a social movement. It applies ecological principles to agriculture, thereby ensuring a regenerative use of natural resources and ecosystem services. It also addresses the need for socially equitable food systems within which people have a choice over what they eat and how and where their food is produced. It finally stresses the importance of local knowledge and participatory processes and fair conditions for smallholder farmers. Applying agroecological principles should transform the way food is produced and reconnect consumers and producers. The GPFS' commitment to agroecology will be tracked across the overall portfolio with the aim to reach 50% of all interventions being agroecology-relevant by the end of this framework period.

**Overall goal:** The GPFS supports transformation towards sustainable and resilient food systems in line with agroecological principles to achieve food security and nutrition, realising the right to adequate food for all, in particular for women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers in LICs and LMICs.

**Theory of change:** If the GPFS enhances agroecology, nutrition and inclusive markets responsive to the priorities of women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers and the GPFS contributes to inclusive and effective governance processes, then food systems will become more sustainable and resilient, because the right to food and food and nutrition security for all will be realised through the implementation of global norms and standards and innovative and scaled-up approaches.

## Priorities and objectives for 2021–24

With the main goal to contribute to sustainable and resilient food systems, the GPFS is putting women and young small-holder farmers in rural and peri-urban areas as well as disadvantaged urban consumers in LICs and LMICs at the center of its interventions (see figure 1).

Following the logic of circular economy, the programme will consider three thematic entry points or components: agroecological production, inclusive agricultural and food market systems and improved diets for healthy nutrition. An overarching component of global governance encompasses the three themes.

With the achievement of all 17 SDGs in mind, this programme framework focuses particularly on SDG 1 reduction of poverty, SDG 2 zero hunger, SDG 3 health and welfare, SDG 10 reduced inequalities and SDG 12 responsible production and consumption, while restoring the natural resources we depend on (SDGs 6, 13, 14, 15). Furthermore, the current framework will contribute to most of the objectives of Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021–24, in particular to sub-objective 2 (job creation) through the market component, to sub-objectives 3 (climate change) and 4 (natural resource management) through its agroecology approach, as well as to sub-objectives 7 (access to services) and 9 (gender equality), thanks to the global governance, nutrition and gender focus.

## 3.1. Strategic component 1: Enhanced global governance

The GPFS contributes to global governance mechanisms in order to achieve its overall goal of transforming food systems. This includes active participation in the different policy processes within the CFS, contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit and its follow-up actions, continuous dialogue with its multilateral partners (e.g. IFAD, CGIAR, UNCCD) as well as with selected multi-stakeholder platforms like the SUN movement, the WEF Food Systems Initiative, or civil society organisations on the right to food. In its related topics of interest, the GPFS is also collaborating with other relevant international institutions without being a core contributor or in the lead position. This includes for instance the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Crop Trust, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and in a lesser extent other UN organisations, the World Bank and regional development banks.

The GPFS builds on bilateral programmes and innovation to inform global policy work and shaping. At the same time, the programme supports the local implementation of globally agreed norms and frameworks, for instance in the field of land governance and the implementation of the related voluntary guidelines. To do so, further collaboration will be promoted with global and regional entities, including CFS/FAO, International Land Coalition (ILC), Global Land Tenure Unit managed by UNHABITAT and regional organisations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and its Land Unit. Synergies will also be ensured with the SDC country interventions on land governance issues.

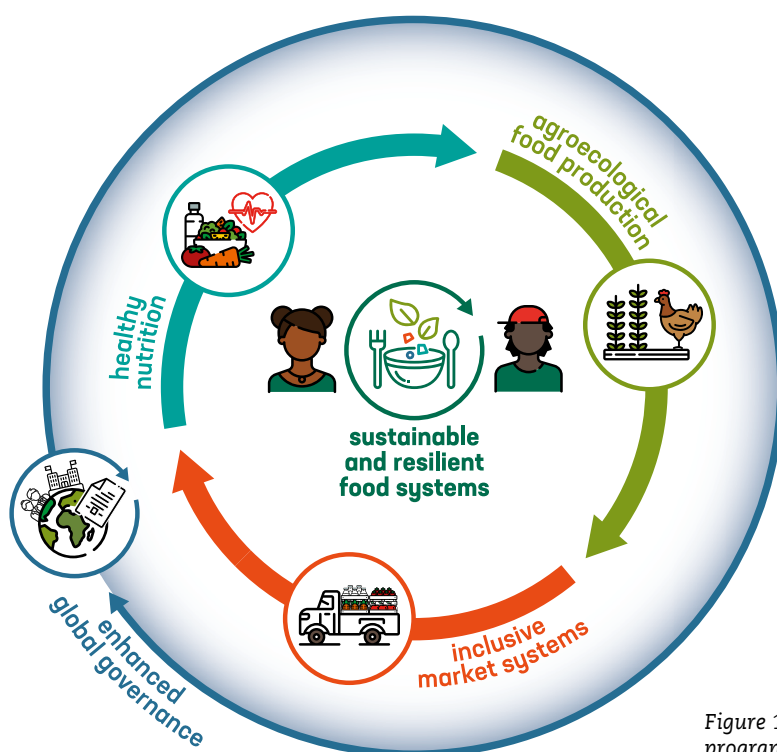


Figure 1: Key elements of the GPFS programme framework

The GPFS will advocate for the human right to adequate food for all and relay its thematic priorities in global fora. Particular effort will be placed on including gender equality in the dialogue with its multilateral partners, as well as agroecology and nutrition, for instance within the international research agenda.

**Theory of change:** If the GPFS supports participatory and inclusive global policy processes, as well as the implementation of regulatory frameworks, then a conducive normative environment can enable food and nutrition security for women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers, because the engagement of multi-stakeholder platforms will contribute to reach a consensus on the pathways towards sustainable and resilient food systems.

As reflected in the results framework 2021–24 (see annex 2), the GPFS pursues the following three outcomes:

**Outcome 1.1:** An inclusive and participatory process towards sustainable food systems and the FSS21 bring concrete solutions. The GPFS will support in particular the action tracks of the FSS21 related to sustainable consumption and nature-positive food production.

**Outcome 1.2:** Key multilateral partners effectively contribute to transform food systems. The GPFS will engage through core support and institutional engagement with the following multilateral actors:

- the CFS and its High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) as the most inclusive platform gathering stakeholders in the field of food security and nutrition. Critical HLPE reports published recently<sup>x</sup> guide ongoing policy convergence processes for the development of voluntary guidelines and/or policy recommendations
- the CGIAR for the generation of scientific evidence and innovation as global public goods in the fields of agriculture (food policy, crops, livestock, aquaculture and forestry, climate change)
- IFAD as the only multilateral organisation with a mandate focused on smallholder agriculture and the capacity to link private investment with development cooperation
- the UNCCD linking sustainable land management to social and economic development to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought

**Outcome 1.3:** Development and implementation of international frameworks, voluntary guidelines or technical standards deriving from the right to adequate food. The GPFS focuses its interventions in relation to its three components on agroecology, markets and healthy nutrition.



*Animal traction ploughing, Burkina Faso.  
Copyright: Daniel Valenghi, SDC*

### 3.2. Strategic component 2: Agroecological food production

In this component, the GPFS aims to address climate change, loss of biodiversity and declining land and water resources through the application of agroecological principles.

Climate change and weather extremes are key drivers of recent rises in global hunger (FAO 2018) while at the same time the global food systems contribute to a third of total GHG emissions. Many species that contribute to vital ecosystem services, including pollinators, natural enemies of pests, soil organisms and wild food species, are at risk of extinction. Globally, the variety of crop and livestock populations and species is decreasing and biological communities are becoming more homogenous. Unsustainable management of crop and grazing lands, such as overexploitation, pollution and overuse of external inputs, drives land degradation, leading to desertification affecting 2.7 billion people<sup>x</sup>. 20% of the earth's vegetated surface show persistent declining trends in soil health and productivity, jeopardised by biodiversity loss and climate change. Crop and livestock production accounts for 70% of water used. Growing water scarcity is a major challenge to future food and nutrition security. The monetary value of positive or negative externalities (e.g. water pollution) of agricultural production is not adequately reflected in the price of products. This leads to distorted markets and hinders transformation towards a more ecological production.

To address these challenges, the GPFS will support innovative initiatives to be tested and then scaled-up through international networks or organisations in order to influence or implement global norms or standards for instance on agrobiodiversity, integrated seed systems, ecological and organic agriculture, sustainable landscape management, water efficient agriculture, circular economy of nutrients, rural-urban food nexus or climate smart advisory services. The GPFS will hence collaborate with partners from research (Swiss and international scientific institutions), with national governments, cities, NGOs, civil society organisations, farmers' organisations and private sector actors (agribusinesses). It will contribute to global and regional policy processes for instance on integrated seed systems through the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR-FA) or while promoting organic agriculture within the African Union. The GPFS will aim at influencing private sector norms through standard-setting bodies such as the Sustainable Rice Platform. Innovative models will also be proposed for consideration to international financial institutions. In line with agroecological principles, the GPFS will explore pathways in the coming years to assess the impact food systems have on natural, human and social capital and how this could be better reflected in food prices (true cost of food).

**Theory of change:** If the GPFS supports the dissemination and application of agroecological principles, then the resilience of women and young smallholder farmers and their capacity for adaptation to climate change will be improved, because co-creation of knowledge delivers innovations that lead to sustainable food production and social equity.

The GPFS' interventions will contribute to the following two outcomes:

**Outcome 2.1:** Improving resource efficiency and resilience of agroecosystems, including recycling, food loss reduction, input reduction or substitution, enhancing soil health and ecological synergies and the sustainable use of natural resources as well as maintaining and sustainably using agrobiodiversity.

**Outcome 2.2:** Co-creation and sharing of knowledge, including local and scientific innovation in the context of improving resource efficiency, increasing diversity and strengthening resilience. This will be addressed among other ways through youth- and gender-responsive rural advisory systems.



*Woman farmer proudly showing her agroforestry field.  
Cabo Delgado, Mozambique. Copyright: Michel Évéquoz, SDC*

### 3.3. Strategic component 3: Inclusive agricultural and food market systems

Caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, recent disruptions in major global, regional and national value chains showcased the vulnerability of the current food supply system with smallholder farmers and rural labourers hit most. Such disruptions emphasise the critical importance of national food markets providing a diversity of foods to assure food security and nutrition for rural and urban communities. The transformation towards sustainable food market systems favours shortened, local food value chains from producers to consumers, the use of renewable energy for food production, processing and distribution, reduced food waste and food waste recycling into organic fertiliser, in line with a strengthened circular economy. Last, but not least, agricultural and food markets can only become more resilient if their chronic under-capitalisation can be overcome by promoting responsible agricultural investments and systemic change towards inclusive financial agricultural markets. The latter constitute the biggest socio-economic opportunities for smallholder producers, processors and retailers, if these favour responsible and green market methodologies.<sup>xi</sup>

The GPFS will support inclusive agricultural and food market systems built on diversified and sustainably produced agricultural and food products and promote income and employment for decent livelihoods. To do so, the GPFS will promote responsible investments to overcome the persistent failure of agricultural financial markets while raising the environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards in smallholder agriculture and food production in line with the CFS-Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI) framework. The GPFS will work with other donors, impact investors and IFAD to mobilise private capital in order to responsibly finance farmers' organisations, small and medium agri-businesses and rural financial intermediaries. It will do so, for instance, through the IFAD-initiated Agri-Business Capital Fund (ABC Fund) or the Aceli Africa platform. The GPFS will promote a mix of blended finance instruments, notably the application of social impact incentive payments that allow the generation of additional measurable outcomes in food security, gender inclusiveness and climate-resilient agriculture.

Catalytic partnerships with impact investors enable the GPFS to leverage substantial private capital for smallholder agriculture (worth CHF 784 million projected by the ABC fund by the end of 2023 and CHF 1.6 billion by Aceli Africa by the end of 2025). The proven high ESG standards of the GPFS' partner investors ensure that their investments contribute to the transformation of smallholder agriculture and food systems towards agroecological standards, more healthy nutrition and more gender inclusiveness. In relation to the RAI framework, the GPFS will support its implementation within the ASEAN region, but also through responsible land investments and the development of tools for agricultural companies and investors.

The GPFS will also promote agriculture safety nets that include: (i) access to inputs, services, market information and finance allowing for increased productivity; (ii) innovative risk mitigation and transfer solutions, such as agricultural insurance, contributing to smallholders' resilience against adverse weather events; and (iii) social protection schemes. The multi-donor Smallholder Safety Net Up-scaling Programme (SSNUP) aims at improving livelihoods of around three million smallholder households applying more sustainable farm practices by the end of 2023. The GPFS will continue to contribute to the African Risk Capacity (ARC) agency that offers drought (and soon flood, tropical cyclone and outbreak of epidemics) insurances to African Union countries. Pay-outs do reach smallholder households and vulnerable people.

**Theory of change:** If the GPFS supports responsible and inclusive investments and market systems that integrate agroecological and nutrition principles, then women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers will have access to diverse and nutritious food, because increased income and resilience allows for decent livelihoods and healthy food choices.

**Outcome 3.1:** Inclusive and responsible agricultural investments are promoted, that enable effective and competitive agroecological rural-urban value chains and ensure that business actors develop and implement practices and standards related to international frameworks.

**Outcome 3.2:** Resilience of women and young smallholder farmers are strengthened through safety nets and risk transfer mechanisms.



*Diversification through vegetable production, Nepal.*  
Copyright: Christina Blank, SDC

### 3.4. Strategic component 4: Sustainable and healthy diets for improved nutrition

While agronomic improvements in recent decades have contributed to an increased availability of food that has reduced infant and child mortality rates, improved life expectancy and decreased global poverty, hunger has been on the rise again since 2014, largely as a consequence of conflicts and climate-induced natural disasters. However, in parallel, a global shift has happened towards the consumption of low quality food and unhealthy diets that are heavily processed and high in calories, fats and sugars. As a result, many more people are at increased risk of micro-nutrient deficiencies and of developing obesity and consequently non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly also in rural areas of LICs and LMICs. The resulting pronounced nutrition inequities particularly affect women, children and the most vulnerable.

In order to improve consumers' access to food that is sustainably produced, available, affordable and desirable for a healthy, safe and diversified diet, the GPFS will advocate for nutrition-sensitive policies and regulations as well as for scaled investments for nutrition. Together with global partners (e.g. SUN), the GPFS will continue to promote strong multi-stakeholder collaboration. It will also engage in global part-

nerships for innovation through research (e.g. through CGIAR) and initiatives for better data and monitoring of malnutrition in all its forms (e.g. on diet quality). The GPFS, in partnership with the civil society, the private sector and academia, tests and scales innovative solutions through collaborations with urban municipalities and global city networks. This includes adapting public procurement systems, strengthening local rural-urban value chains, building food-based safety nets for the most vulnerable groups and triggering behaviour change among food producers and retailers.

Furthermore, the GPFS will support behaviour change communication, social marketing and social mobilisation (particularly among youth). It will work towards improved information through education and health systems as well as transparent consumer information (e.g. through product information and labeling) in order to enhance consumer demand and desire for healthy and sustainably produced food choices and diet diversity.

The GPFS' work on sustainable and healthy food consumption focuses on urban consumers, particularly women, youth and the most vulnerable, but also on female and young rural producers who are consumers too.

The pursuit of the GPFS' goals in this area will be undertaken in close collaboration with selected multilateral organisations and initiatives (SUN, CFS, CGIAR, WHO, FAO) as well as with partners from the civil society, private sector and academia.

**Theory of change:** If the GPFS facilitates availability and affordability of safe and nutritious food for a healthy diet and if consumers are well-informed, then food security and nutrition can improve for all, in particular for urban women, youth and disadvantaged consumers, because behaviours have changed through the promotion of healthy and affordable food.

The GPFS will contribute to the following three outcomes:

**Outcome 4.1:** Policies, initiatives and innovation enable conducive framework conditions for healthy and sustainably produced food as the most accessible, affordable and desirable choice for all consumers and empower consumers to take informed decisions on their daily food consumption, in particular for women, youth, children and the most vulnerable groups.

**Outcome 4.2:** Improved access to food that is sustainably produced, available, affordable and desirable for a healthy, safe and diversified diet and improved nutrition, in particular for women, children and the most vulnerable groups.

**Outcome 4.3:** Enhanced consumer demand and desire for healthy and sustainably produced food choices through information and behaviour change.



Woman in her organic family kitchen garden,  
Karnali Province, Nepal. Copyright: Karin Gross, SDC

# 4. How we act – joint action on global challenges

## 4.1. Principles of action

Guidelines of the SDC's global instruments for Development and Cooperation 2021–24:

- 1. Influencing international policy and norms:** Switzerland will provide agile and candid support for international dialogue to develop and implement voluntary policies, norms and standards at regional and global levels. Such agreements influence a variety of stakeholders and can contribute to transformative change. The GPFS also helps to ensure that food security and nutrition perspectives of low and lower-middle income countries are taken into account in ordinary Swiss policy consultation processes with the objective of increasing policy coherence.
- 2. Innovation:** Especially in the context of enabling transformative change, capabilities to test and scale up technological (e.g. digitalisation), organisational and institutional innovations for the benefit of and through the participation of farmers and consumers are of particular importance. The GPFS will work with selected partners to ensure that innovations with the potential to achieve impact at scale are given the opportunity to do so.
- 3. Expertise and knowledge management:** Given the complexity and interconnectedness of food systems, expertise in a selected number of themes is a crucial success factor. The GPFS will support and tap into relevant capacities in Switzerland and abroad through its AFS network and its partners.
- 4. Systemic change:** All of the GPFS' efforts aim at contributing to systems change at global level in the form of more effective, sustainable and resilient food systems, following the approach of circular economy for food, that bring producers and consumers back into a virtuous relationship.

## 4.2. Joint action on global challenges

It is the GPFS' ambition to lead the way in the topics of agriculture, food and nutrition security and food systems within the SDC. With its global and multi-country initiatives, but also through its AFS network, the GPFS fosters regular exchange with other SDC departments. The AFS network increases thematic coherence through knowledge sharing, allowing good practices from project interventions to be fed into global policy initiatives and concepts from global dialogues

to be transferred into operations. Collaboration with other themes is particularly close within the Cluster Green. Besides playing an in-house reference role, the main AFS network priorities will be the promotion of agroecological principles and the coordination of contributions of other networks to the food systems debate (in preparation for the FSS21 and its follow-up measures).

Within the Global Cooperation department, the GPFS will work mainly with the global programmes: (i) the Global Programme Water (GPW) on water effectiveness and water governance in agriculture; (ii) the Global Programme Climate Change and Environment (GPCCE) on the linkages between climate change and food security, principally in terms of climate resilience of agriculture (prevention or risk transfer mechanisms, services for climate-smart agriculture) or on the reduction of GHG emissions generated by the agricultural sector and food systems; (iii) the Global Programme Health (GPH) on nutrition as a determinant of health, the promotion of the One Health approach and newly on the links between COVID-19, agriculture and food security and nutrition; and (iv) the Global Programme Migration and Development (GPMD) with a focus on food insecurity as a cause of migration and rural-urban migration.

In order to improve the complementarity of approaches between global efforts and regional/national processes and to benefit from the knowledge of local contexts and conditions, the GPFS will increase its collaboration with the South Cooperation and the Humanitarian Aid, their respective geographic divisions and the Swiss representations abroad with a strong focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Special emphasis will be given to early consultation with the geographic divisions in the design of new projects (e.g. participation in calls for proposals) and close collaboration during the projects implementation. For instance, innovative financing instruments supported by the GPFS will complement the market systems development carried out at country level. In Africa, the GPFS can also count on a team in Addis Ababa which will facilitate interactions between the global, regional and country levels. As far as the Humanitarian Aid is concerned, the various collaborations with the World Food Programme and other humanitarian actors, for example on DRR, climate risk financing and resilience-building for food security, will require further coordination and the GPFS and the Humanitarian Aid will engage in joint support to the African Risk Capacity mechanism. Being one of the pioneers within the SDC concerning private sector engagement, the GPFS will continue developing innovative partnerships with the support of the Competence Center for Private Sector Engagement on inclusive and impact finance for women and young smallholder farmers.

The management and implementation of the current framework will be made possible thanks to: (i) a dedicated team at the SDC headquarter in charge of the design, finance, follow-up and steering of partnerships and initiatives; (ii) one programme manager and one national programme officer (NPO) based in Addis Ababa in charge of regional policy processes, the follow-up of multi-country initiatives and links with the SDC country offices and embassies in Africa; (iii) the Swiss Permanent Mission in Rome for the follow-up of the IFAD contribution, the engagement with global governance mechanisms (CFS and FSS21) and the link to the Rome-based Agencies; (iv) the Swiss Permanent Missions in New York, Geneva and Nairobi for ad-hoc support, for instance for the coming FSS21 and subsequent steps.

In addition to this internal support, the GPFS will need the contribution of the following partners to achieve the objectives of the 2021–24 framework:

The partners of the GPFS in Switzerland include: (i) the Federal Administration: within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the United Nations and International Organizations (AIO), the Sectoral Foreign Policies (SFPD) and Sub-Saharan Africa and Francophonie (ASAF) divisions; the GPFS is in regular contact with the different Federal Offices in charge of the topics in relation to AFS, mainly with the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) with joint contributions to global mechanisms, but also the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) in order to strengthen the coherence of policies and the Swiss position in international policy processes; (ii) academia, think tanks and centres of excellence with international outreach such as the Federal Institutes of Technology (Zürich and Lausanne), the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), the School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Science (HAFL), the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), the Center for Agriculture and Bioscience (CABI), Agroscope and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD); (iii) civil society and NGOs active in this theme (among others Biovision, Swissaid, HEKS/EPER); (iv) private companies (COOP, Hydrosolutions, SwissRe, impact investors like ResponsAbility and others) and private sector mechanisms (such as the Swiss Capacity Building Facility).

At the international level, the GPFS will focus on the following types of partners mentioned earlier in the different components: (i) Multilateral organisations and partners, including the United Nations, international bodies, international finance institutions and regional development banks; (ii) donor alliances, initiatives and jointly managed multi donor trust funds and networks/alliances/institutions; (iii) international agriculture research and advisory networks and (iv) private companies, including finance partners such as impact investors in blended public and private finance mechanisms.

### 4.3. Strategic steering

In the realm of the strategic portfolio management, the GPFS will provide strategic steering, increasingly applying agroecological principles and contributing in a more significant way to improved nutrition. The current framework is embedded in the IC strategy 2021–24 and contributes in particular to 6 of the 9 sub-objectives, as shown in annex 2. The GPFS will continuously track the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of its programme implementation through the following instruments:

- The results framework of the programme will be monitored against the SDGs and the SDC Aggregated Reference Indicators (ARI) and Thematic Reference Indicators (TRI), gathering information from partners and global processes. The results achieved each year by the programme will be consolidated in the annual report as the main monitoring instrument. The Core Contribution Management instrument will be applied for IFAD and CGIAR. Projects will go through regular evaluations and mid-term reviews and the overall framework will be reviewed by mid-term in order to assess achievements and the need for adjustments.
- Financial planning: The monitoring of planned and realised disbursements is a constant task of the programme team and is regularly reviewed. The current COVID-19 situation that could have implications on the longer term will also be regularly monitored, especially its consequences on portfolio implementation. The status of planning will be documented annually in the internal Annual Report.

The GPFS will regularly assess and monitor the main risks linked to its portfolio. These include: the lack of political momentum at national policy makers' level; frequently slow trickle down of international norms which is beyond the control of the GPFS and cost inefficiencies, which are occasionally an issue when working with large international institutions. Innovative approaches can also be more risky. In that sense, careful ex-ante selection of new alliances and partners as well as partner risk assessment are crucial to mitigate risks. The GPFS will favour multi-donor initiatives, especially in public private partnerships, so that risk taking and risk monitoring (due diligence processes) are shared and risks for the SDC are reduced. Coordination with the SDC's partners in priority countries at the national level is a mean to enhance awareness of potential risks in specific local contexts and helps to increase effectiveness.



# 5. Resources

The financial allocation and human resources are indicative and may be amended based on external influence or the SDC internal decisions.

## 5.1. Financial resources

The total expenditures of around CHF 251 million or an average CHF 62.8 million annually are proposed for the next four years (see annex 3). This corresponds to the average yearly level of disbursement during the previous years, including CHF 133 million (53%) for the support to multilateral organisations and CHF 118 million (47%) for project and programme support (bilateral budget).

The GPFS will ensure that the enhanced focus on agroecology and nutrition will be tracked and reflected in the budget in the coming years. For this purpose a specific marker for agroecology will be used in the SDC SAP system and the OECD policy marker on nutrition introduced in 2018 will be monitored. The intention is that at least 50% (16% in 2019) of the GPFS' bilateral budget will support agroecological agriculture and food systems and at least 20% (13% in 2019) of projects will be nutrition relevant by 2024. In addition, the GPFS will strive to invest at least 1% of its operational budget for culture.

Responding to the climate change targets of the IC strategy 2021–24, the GPFS will ensure to achieve the objectives set by the Global Cooperation department, in aligning its projects and initiatives accordingly.

## 5.2. Human resources

As with any organisation dedicated to human development, human resources are the cornerstone of success. The GPFS promotes thematic expertise and aims at sufficient, qualified and motivated human resources to fulfil the outlined mandate and to assure that Switzerland can make a difference. The GPFS is committed to using best working practices by seeking out continuously new efficiency gains and optimisations.

At the time of publication of this framework, no major changes in human resources allocation for the GPFS are foreseen. The team in head office is made up of 11 employees, representing 9.2 full time equivalents (FTE), including the Focal Point of the AFS network. The programme managers have specialised thematic expertise and represent the SDC in multilateral fora. The Focal Point position will be split into 2 positions from 2021 onwards in order to increase interconnectiveness between the network and the GPFS activities. The human resources abroad include 2 FTE in the Embassy in Addis Ababa (1 expat, 1 NPO) in charge of linking global to continental and national policies and initiatives in Africa, as well as 1 FTE in Switzerland's Permanent Mission in Rome for the follow-up of IFAD and other global mechanisms. Ad-hoc support of colleagues in cooperation offices and embassies could be strengthened in the future, according to needs and mutual interest.

# Annex

## Annex 1: List of acronyms

<b>AFS</b>	Agriculture and Food Security network (SDC)
<b>ARI</b>	Aggregate Reference Indicators
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>CCE</b>	Climate Change and Environment network (SDC)
<b>CFS</b>	Committee on World Food Security
<b>CGIAR</b>	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
<b>COVID-19</b>	Novel Coronavirus 2019
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>ESG</b>	Environmental, social and governance
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FDFA</b>	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
<b>FOAG</b>	Federal Office of Agriculture
<b>FSS21</b>	Food Systems Summit 2021
<b>GHG</b>	Global Greenhouse Gases
<b>GPFS</b>	Global Programme Food Security
<b>HLPE</b>	High Level Panel of Experts, Committee on World Food Security

<b>IED</b>	Inclusive economic development
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
<b>IISD</b>	International Institute for Sustainable Development
<b>ILC</b>	International Land Coalition
<b>LIC</b>	Low Income Countries
<b>LMIC</b>	Lower-Middle Income Countries
<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind
<b>RAI</b>	Responsible Agriculture investments
<b>RésEau</b>	Water network (SDC)
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SHF</b>	Smallholder farmer
<b>SUN</b>	Scaling Up Nutrition Movement
<b>TRI</b>	Thematic reference indicator
<b>UNCCD</b>	UN Convention on Combating Desertification
<b>WEF</b>	World Economic Forum
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme of the United Nations

## Annex 2: Results framework 2021–24

### Overall goal

The GPFS supports the transformation towards sustainable and resilient food systems in line with agroecological principles to achieve food security and nutrition, realising the right to adequate food for all, in particular for women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers in LICs and LMICs.

**Theory of change:** If the GPFS enhances agroecology, nutrition and inclusive markets responsive to the priorities of women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers and the GPFS contributes to inclusive and effective governance processes, then food systems will become more sustainable and resilient, because the right to food and food and nutrition security for all will be realised through the implementation of global norms and standards and innovative and scaled-up approaches.

### Strategic component 1: Enhanced global governance

**Theory of change:** If the GPFS supports participatory and inclusive global policy processes, as well as the implementation of regulatory frameworks, then a conducive normative environment can enable food and nutrition security for women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers, because the engagement of multi-stakeholder platforms will contribute to reach a consensus on the pathways towards sustainable and resilient food systems.

#### Contribution to selected sub-objective(s) of the IC strategy 2021–24

Sub-objective 2: Promoting innovative private sector initiatives to facilitate the creation of decent jobs

Sub-objective 3: Addressing climate change and its effects

Sub-objective 4: Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources

Sub-objective 6: Preventing disasters and ensuring reconstruction and rehabilitation

Sub-objective 7: Strengthening equitable access to quality basic services

Sub-objective 9: Strengthening and promoting human rights and gender equality

---

#### Targeted SDGs

1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

---

2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

5.1: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

## Partners

CFS, CGIAR, IFAD, ILC, SUN, UNCCD, FAO, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD)/Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL); FOAG, SECO; academia, private sector and civil society organisations

	Description	Indicator (incl. ARI and TRI)
<b>Outcome 1.1</b>	An inclusive and participatory process towards sustainable food systems and the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 (FSS21) brings concrete solutions.	Voice and participation of women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers in the FSS21 process and in the implementation of the summit's results at national and local levels. <i>Indicator will be assessed qualitatively.</i> <u>Baseline (2020):</u> n.a. <u>Target (2024):</u> Evidence of voice and participation of women and young smallholder farmers and vulnerable urban consumers in the FSS21 process and in the implementation of the summit's results at national and local levels.
<b>Outcome 1.2</b>	Key multilateral partners (CGIAR, IFAD) effectively contribute to transform food systems.	Food systems transformation in favor of women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers is the core of (i) the new CGIAR research strategy and (ii) the IFAD12 (2022–24) Results Management Framework (26 indicators to track rural transformation and food systems) <sup>5</sup> .
<b>Outcome 1.3</b>	International regulatory frameworks, voluntary guidelines or technical standards deriving from/related to the overarching right to adequate food for all are implemented and monitored.	<b>AFS TRI 2:</b> Effectiveness of existing or newly introduced national policies and legal frameworks in Agriculture and Food Security (AFS) for smallholder farmers (SHF)  <b>AFS TRI 4:</b> Number of smallholder farmers, who have secure land tenure/land rights <u>Baseline (2020):</u> at least 86,200 SHF/year of which 25% are women <u>Target (2024):</u> at least 150,000 SHF/year of which at least 40% are women

<sup>5</sup> Related indicators are reported annually and followed closely with the SDC core contribution management tool.

## Strategic component 2: Agroecological food production

**Theory of change:** If the GPFS supports the dissemination and application of agroecological principles, then the resilience of women and young smallholder farmers and their capacity for adaptation to climate change will be improved, because co-creation of knowledge delivers innovations that lead to sustainable food production and social equity.

### Contribution to selected sub-objective(s) of the IC strategy 2021–24

Sub-objective 3: Addressing climate change and its effects

Sub-objective 4: Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources

Sub-objective 9: Strengthening and promoting human rights and gender equality

### Targeted SDGs

2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater

13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

### Partners

Farmers' organisations, civil society, research, academy, governments, regional and continental organisations (IGAD, AU), standard setting bodies, multilateral organisations

	Description	Indicator (incl. ARI and TRI)
<b>Outcome 2.1</b>	Resource efficiency and resilience of agro-ecosystems are improved, especially for women and young smallholder farmers	<p><b>AFS ARI 2:</b> Number of women and young smallholder farmers applying more agroecological farming practices  <u>Baseline (2020):</u> 60,000 (approx. 10% women)  <u>Target (2024):</u> 325,000 (30% women, 30% young)</p> <p><b>CCE TRI 3:</b> Number of women and young farmers who consider that they are more resilient to deal with the adverse effects of climate change  <u>Baseline (2020):</u> 4 million (40% women)  <u>Target (2024):</u> 5 million (40% women)</p>
<b>Outcome 2.2</b>	Increased co-creation and sharing of knowledge including youth and gender responsive rural advisory systems deliver services to smallholder farmers	<p>Youth and gender responsive rural advisory services systems in place based on co-creation of knowledge  <u>Baseline (2020):</u>            → 10 countries where rural advisory providers integrate gender and youth sensitive e-extension in their offer.            → 10 countries demonstrating training and education standards, based on principles of demand-driven, youth and gender sensitive approach  <u>Target (2024):</u>            → 30 countries            → 25 countries</p>

## Strategic component 3: Inclusive agricultural and food market systems

**Theory of change:** If the GPFS supports responsible and inclusive investments and market systems that integrate agroecological and nutrition principles, then women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers will have access to diverse and nutritious food, because increased income and resilience allows for decent livelihoods and healthy food choices.

### Contribution to selected sub-objective(s) of the IC strategy 2021–24

Sub-objective 2: Promoting innovative private sector initiatives to facilitate the creation of decent jobs

Sub-objective 3: Addressing climate change and its effects

Sub-objective 4: Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources

Sub-objective 9: Strengthening and promoting human rights and gender equality

### Targeted SDGs

2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

2.4: Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

### Partners

Facilitators of market systems, private sector including financial service providers, impact investors, governments, regional and global bodies such as ASEAN, AU and CSF

	Description	Indicator (incl. ARI and TRI)
<b>Outcome 3.1</b>	Inclusive/responsible finance supports/enables effective agroecological and competitive rural-urban agricultural value chains	<p><b>Inclusive economic development (IED) ARI 3:</b> Number of women and youth having access to and making use of formal financial products and services  <u>Baseline (2020):</u> 0  <u>Target (2024):</u> ~1,700,000<sup>6</sup> (at least 30% women)</p> <p><b>AFS ARI 1:</b> Number of women and young smallholder farmers with increased incomes from agricultural production  <u>Baseline (2020):</u> 0  <u>Target (2024):</u> ~3,500,000 (at least 50% women)</p> <p>Number of business actors applying agroecological and nutrition-relevant practices/standards  <u>Baseline (2020):</u> 0  <u>Target (2024):</u> ~1'000</p>
<b>Outcome 3.2</b>	Safety nets and risk transfer mechanisms improve/increase the resilience of agri-market actors, especially for women and young smallholder farmers	<p><b>Inclusive economic development (IED) TRI 4:</b> Number of women and young smallholder farmers who thanks to insurance consider that they can more easily recover from shocks and adverse events  <u>Baseline (2020):</u> 0  <u>Target (2024):</u> ~400,000 (65% women)</p>

<sup>6</sup> The projections presented in outcome 3 are based on the GPFS' different projects that are mobilising private capital.

## Strategic component 4: Sustainable and healthy diets for improved nutrition

**Theory of change:** If the GPFS facilitates availability and affordability of safe and nutritious food for a healthy diet and if consumers are well-informed, then food security and nutrition can improve for all, in particular for urban women, youth and disadvantaged consumers, because behaviours have changed through the promotion of healthy and affordable food.

### Contribution to selected sub-objective(s) of the IC strategy 2021–24

Sub-objective 7: Strengthening equitable access to quality basic services

Sub-objective 9: Strengthening and promoting human rights and gender equality

### Targeted SDGs

2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

### Partners

Multilateral and global initiatives (SUN, CFS, CGIAR, WHO, FAO), civil society, academia

	Description	Indicator (incl. ARI and TRI)
<b>Outcome 4.1</b>	Policies, initiatives and innovation enable conducive framework conditions for healthy and sustainably produced food as the most accessible, affordable and desirable choice for all consumers and that empower consumers to take informed decisions on their daily food consumption	Evidence of effectiveness of policies, regulations, guidelines or products, tools or approaches approved and implemented to reduce unhealthy diets. <i>Indicator will be assessed qualitatively.</i> Baseline (2020): n.a. Target (2024): Evidence of effectiveness of policies, regulations, guidelines or products, tools or approaches approved and implemented to reduce unhealthy diets adopted from 2021 onwards in the GPFS interventions.
<b>Outcome 4.2</b>	Improved access to food that is sustainably produced, available, affordable and desirable for a healthy, safe and diversified diet and improved nutrition	Additional number of households having access to a variety of food groups (Household Dietary Diversity Score as a proxy) Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2024): tbd <sup>7</sup>
<b>Outcome 4.3</b>	Enhanced consumer demand and desire for healthy and sustainably produced food choices through information and behavior change	<b>AFS ARI 3</b> Additional number of people whose diet is healthy (disaggregated by sex, age groups and socio-economic group); (proxy: Women's Minimal Diet Diversity) Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2024): tbd

<sup>7</sup> The targets of outcomes 4.2 and 4.3 will be determined within the frame of a new flagship project.

## Annex 3: Indicative financial planning

### Financial planning 2021–24

### Programme framework of the Global Programme Food Security

#### Annual budget allocation according to components (tentative), in CHF

	source	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021–24	in %
Component 1:							
Enhanced global governance	bilateral	11,200,000	10,600,000	9,800,000	13,300,000	44,900,000	18%
	multilateral	31,100,000	33,300,000	33,300,000	35,300,000	133,000,000	53%
Component 2:							
Agroecological food production	bilateral	9,500,000	10,000,000	9,400,000	8,200,000	37,100,000	15%
Component 3:							
Inclusive agricultural and food market systems	bilateral	5,300,000	5,300,000	5,900,000	4,100,000	20,600,000	8%
Component 4:							
Sustainable and healthy diets for improved nutrition	bilateral	2,900,000	3,000,000	3,500,000	3,000,000	12,400,000	5%
FS General	bilateral	600,000	600,000	900,000	900,000	3,000,000	1%
<b>Total budget allocation</b>		<b>60,600,000</b>	<b>62,800,000</b>	<b>62,800,000</b>	<b>64,800,000</b>	<b>251,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Annual budget allocation (tentative), in CHF

	source	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021–24	in %
Global Programme	bilateral	29,500,000	29,500,000	29,500,000	29,500,000	118,000,000	47%
Multilateral cooperation	multilateral	31,100,000	33,300,000	33,300,000	35,300,000	133,000,000	53%
<b>Total budget allocation</b>		<b>60,600,000</b>	<b>62,800,000</b>	<b>62,800,000</b>	<b>64,800,000</b>	<b>251,000,000</b>	



## Annex 4: Transversal themes

The Global Sustainable Development Report 2019 identified Food Systems and Nutrition Patterns as one of six connected entry points to move towards achieving all of the SDGs as part of its recognition that eradicating poverty and reducing inequality are closely interrelated and that gross domestic product (GDP) growth alone is insufficient to address multidimensional poverty.

Growing scientific evidence calls for an urgent and profound transformation of the global food systems in order to address the multiple burdens on environmental and human health. Failure to do so will not only exacerbate existing devastating environmental impacts, but will ultimately threaten food security on a global scale.

This context of global and local interconnectedness, the link between inequality and nutrition as well as effective participation in markets and the necessity of taking a holistic approach to food systems and nutrition, provide the basis for the transversal topics in the current GPFS programme framework: gender, youth, Leave No One Behind, governance and agroecology.

### Leave No One Behind (LNOB), gender and youth

**Leave No One Behind:** Unequal access to resources and employment and the transformation of rural demographics through outmigration of youth (primarily men) are typical features of the functioning of food systems.

As described in the IDS/AFS network paper 'Leave no one behind in practice' marginalised people in the AFS domains comprise a range of overlapping social categories facing a diversity of challenges: smallholder farmers practising subsistence agriculture, smallholder farming households headed by women, landless or land-poor people in rural areas, particularly women and young people, indigenous people and traditional communities, pastoral and semi-nomadic communities, displaced people, peri-urban and urban-poor, particularly women, children and people with disabilities who struggle to ensure access to sufficient quantities of food. Some of the priority interventions include: targeting those left behind in market access and participation, harnessing local knowledge and promoting technology that can be appropriated from below, protecting and promoting land and food rights, providing social protection to mitigate risk and vulnerability and finally championing women's empowerment. The GPFS programme and portfolio is planning to address these different aspects through the agroecology, the rights-based and the inclusive market approaches.

**Gender:** Globally, women make up almost half of the agricultural workforce. They also play a vital role in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. In spite of this, women remain economically marginalised, have limited access to knowhow and inputs, do not participate in decision-making and their contributions often remain unrecognised. On the other side of the value chain, women have limited access to nutritious food. Applying gender lenses to the four dimensions of food security (availability, access, utilisation and stability) shows that women and men have different needs, different roles and for women limited access to services, resources and participation.

**Youth:** In many places of the world, rural youth face a crisis of unemployment. While the world's youth cohort is expected to grow, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth – particularly those living in LICs' and LMICs' economically stagnant rural areas – remain limited, poorly remunerated and of poor quality. Rural youth possess energy, creativity and a desire to positively change their world.

The GPFS will ensure that women and young smallholder farmers will be at the centre of all interventions across the different components, at the innovation as well as at the policy level.

### Governance

Despite a relative consensus around factors that influence sustainability of food systems, coordinated and consistent efforts to tackle food systems transformation are lacking. One potential pivot point to change this situation is the UN Food Systems Summit that is part of the decade of action and will be convened in 2021. It will provide an opportunity to unleash new actions, innovative solutions and plans to transform our food systems and leverage required shifts. The objectives are to raise awareness, align stakeholders around a common understanding and narrative, recognise the need for inclusivity and innovation, motivate and empower, catalyse, accelerate and enlarge.

Governance of the global food systems is at the apex of a series of interconnected governance systems that have determining effects on the economy of local food systems as well agricultural production in general, thus contributing to environmental impacts of food systems.

Differing power relations in the governance of these systems have an influence that puts profit before food security and nutrition, leading to various forms of under- and malnutrition, that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable people (women and youth in LICs and LMICs).

The GPFS' engagement in global cooperation contributes to positively influencing international norms regarding agricultural investment and the equitable governance of land, water and other resources, builds on past experience and complements local efforts to transform the food systems.

## Agroecology

Mounting scientific evidence suggests profound and complex interactions between diets, human health and environmental sustainability. Food production cannot be separated from consumption which in turn cannot be separated from environmental consequences and human health. It is therefore not surprising that science considers food as the single strongest lever to optimise human health and environmental sustainability on earth<sup>xiii</sup>.

For these reasons, an approach that adheres to principles of agroecology – enabling a holistic understanding of the economic, health, climate and cultural aspects of food systems – is essential to informing the work of the GPFS.

Transforming food systems will require a substantial dietary shift, sustainable food production practices and a significant reduction of waste and loss, to be achieved with technological and organisational innovation, strategic use of economic incentives, new forms of governance and changes in values and in individual and collective behaviour. Such a comprehensive set of requirements must be driven by an understanding of the interdependencies of food, health and environment, which is provided by an agroecological perspective and partly operationalised by a Circular Economy For Food approach.

The GPFS will apply the agroecological approach and the five levels of change (from incremental to transformation) across the different components of its portfolio, not only within the component agroecological food production, but also those promoting inclusive market systems and raising consumers' awareness of nutritious and agro-ecologically produced food.

## Nutrition

Calories obtained from meat, sugars, oils and fats have been increasing around the world and those from fiber-rich foods such as wholegrains, pulses and roots have been declining. These trends are driven partly by rapid urbanisation, increasing incomes and inadequate accessibility and affordability of diverse and nutritious foods leading to pronounced nutrition inequities that particularly affect women, children and the poorest in LICs and LMICs. Suboptimal diet is the number one risk factor for disease and early death, responsible for one third of the global population suffering from malnutrition and one fifth of adult deaths today. The number of undernourished people has been rising since 2015.

The GPFS will introduce a 'nutrition lens' across all components of its portfolio, with a particular focus on value chains that promote diverse and nutritious foods.

## Annex 5: Endnotes and references

- i [FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets. Rome, FAO.](#)
- ii State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI, 2020: Women still had about a 13% higher chance of experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity than men, and close to 27% higher chance of being severely food insecure at the global level. Women, youth and persons with disabilities will likely be much more affected by the COVID-19 crisis, given that they are already disadvantaged in accessing economic and financial resources.
- iii IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land 2019: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) activities accounted for around 13% of CO<sub>2</sub>, 44% of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and 81% of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions from human activities globally during 2007–16, representing 23% (12.0 ± 2.9 GtCO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup>) of total net anthropogenic emissions of GHGs (medium confidence). The natural response of land to human-induced environmental change caused a net sink of around 11.2 GtCO<sub>2</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup> during 2007–16 (equivalent to 29% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) (medium confidence); the persistence of the sink is uncertain due to climate change (high confidence). If emissions associated with pre- and post-production activities in the global food systems are included, the emissions are estimated to be 21–37% of total net anthropogenic GHG emissions (medium confidence).
- iv The most recent HLPE report recommends complementing the existing four elements (access, availability, stability and use) of the concept of food security and nutrition with the dimensions of ‘agency’ and ‘sustainability’. These additional dimensions refer to the ability of all to make decisions about what they eat, how their food is produced and take into account the long-term perspective of the food needs of future generations.
- v HLPE. 2019. Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.
- vi HLPE. 2017. Nutrition and food systems. A report by by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.
- vii More concretely: produce more crops with less land, labor, water, fertiliser, pesticides, etc.
- viii HLPE. 2019. Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.
- ix Reports #12 Food Systems and Nutrition in 2017, #14 ‘Agroecology and other innovations approaches’ in 2019 and #15 Food security and nutrition: Building a global narrative towards 2030 in 2020.
- x IPBES Summary for policymakers of the assessment report on land degradation and restoration.
- xi For a fuller description of the elements and actors that make up market systems, see <https://beamexchange.org/market-systems/what-market-system/>.
- xii Food in the Anthropocene: the EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems. 2019.

## **Imprint**

Editor:  
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC**  
3003 Bern  
[www.sdc.admin.ch](http://www.sdc.admin.ch)

Specialist contact:  
SDC Global Programme Food Security  
E-mail: [gpfs@eda.admin.ch](mailto:gpfs@eda.admin.ch)  
[www.sdc.admin.ch](http://www.sdc.admin.ch)

This publication can be downloaded from the website [www.sdc.admin.ch/publications](http://www.sdc.admin.ch/publications)

Bern, 2020 / © SDC