The Food Systems Dashboard

What is it? & What is it good for?

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Why do food systems matter?

- Food is an exceptionality in society.
- Poor diet quality remains a leading cause of morbidity, disability and mortality worldwide.
- Increased international attention on how food systems shape and are shaped by diets, health, environment, climate and livelihoods.
- Inform and influence policy and politics.
- Demonstratable inequities across multiple food system outcomes -- with access to healthy and safe diets being one of the most profound.
- Action opportunity with the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.
Global malnutrition is massive, and complex

690 million ** (adjustment for China in 2020) of the world’s population are undernourished

144 million children under five years of age are stunted

47 million children under five years of age are wasted

38 million children under five years of age are overweight

2.1 billion adults are overweight or obese

Why a Food Systems Dashboard?

- Evidence based policymaking requires sound advice, but the data are fragmented
- Policymakers are often in the dark on how to manage their food systems and need to know where and how to start
- Need for tools that contextualize food systems and their linkages to diets, nutrition and other development outcomes
Goals of the Dashboard

- **Describe**: Improve stakeholder understanding of national food systems
- **Diagnose**: Enable stakeholders to compare food systems across countries
- **Decide**: Suggest priority areas of action and necessary actors to improve food system contributions to diets and nutrition
Dashboard Users

- Policymakers at the country, regional, and global levels
- National statistical agency workers
- Policy analysts in government ministries
- U.N. and NGO development practitioners
- Civil society workers
- Business leaders and entrepreneurs
- Researchers, academics, and students
FOOD SYSTEMS DASHBOARD

DESCRIBE. DIAGNOSE. DECIDE.

Food systems data for improving diets and nutrition
The Food Systems Dashboard is a new tool to inform better food policy

The Food Systems Dashboard brings together extant data from public and private sources to help decision makers understand their food systems, identify their levers of change and decide which ones need to be pulled.

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The Organizing Framework

EXTERNAL DRIVERS
- Climate Change
- Globalization and Trade
- Income Growth and Distribution
- Urbanization
- Population Growth and Migration
- Politics and Leadership
- Socio-Cultural Context

FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS
- Food production systems and input supply
- Storage and distribution
- Processing and packaging
- Retail and marketing

FOOD ENVIRONMENTS
- Food availability - type and diversity of foods on offer
- Food affordability - food prices, relative to other foods or to an income/expenditure standard
- Product properties - quality and appeal, safety, and convenience
- Vendor properties - type and characteristics of retail outlet
- Food messaging - promotion, advertising, and information about food

INDIVIDUAL FACTORS
- Economic - income and purchasing power
- Cognitive - information and knowledge
- Aspirational - desires, values, and preferences
- Situational - home and work environment, mobility, location, time resources

CONSUMER BEHAVIOR
- Consumer Behavior - food acquisition, preparation, meal practices, and storage

DIETS
- Nutrition and health outcomes
- Other impacts
- Social Economic Environmental

ADAPTED FROM: HLPE (2017). NUTRITION AND FOOD SYSTEMS. A REPORT BY THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL OF EXPERTS ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, ROME, ITALY.
HOUSES OVER 170 INDICATORS THAT MEASURE ELEMENTS OF FOOD SYSTEMS, DRIVERS AND OUTCOMES

DRIVERS of FOOD SYSTEM CHANGES

24 INDICATORS

FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS

30 INDICATORS

FOOD ENVIRONMENTS

46 INDICATORS

IYCF AND DIETARY INTAKE

34 INDICATORS

CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

0 INDICATORS

NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND NCDs

27 INDICATORS

Number of indicators is approximate and we are constantly looking to add quality data that has a value add

Indicators need to capture many countries, not just high-income countries
Learn about the steps involved in getting food from field to fork and find out more about the food systems framework and types used by the Dashboard.
OUTCOMES OF FOOD SYSTEMS

DIET OUTCOMES

Diets are influenced by all aspects of the food system, and they affect nutrition and health. The World Health Organization states that a healthy diet starts early in life and includes a diversity of foods — starchy staples, legumes, fruits, vegetables, and foods from animals, like meat and dairy. It balances the intake and expenditure of energy, and limits salt, fat, added sugar, highly-processed foods, and sugar-sweetened beverages (23).

Throughout the world, people still do not have access to adequate calories or a diversity of healthy, nutrient-rich foods. This lack of access results in hunger and micronutrient deficiencies. Rising incomes have increased the availability and accessibility of nutrient-rich foods like fruits, vegetables, and seafood. However, globalization and rising incomes have also contributed to people eating more unhealthy foods, like highly-processed foods and sugar-sweetened beverages (24,25). Researchers, policy makers, and consumers are also increasingly focused on the environmental sustainability of diets (26). Diets and food systems have major impacts on the use and degradation of land and water resources, as well as on greenhouse gas emissions.
Country profiles

Food systems data for improving diets and nutrition

Gain in-depth insights into the challenges and opportunities facing individual countries and their food systems.
Macro-view of food systems using visually appealing graphics
Compare and analyze

FOOD SYSTEMS DASHBOARD

DESCRIBE. DIAGNOSE. DECIDE.

Food systems dashboard allows you to visualize and compare food systems around the world. Explore over 180 data indicators globally, regionally, by country, food systems type, or income classification.

ABOUT FOOD SYSTEMS

COMPARE AND ANALYZE

COUNTRY PROFILES
Look at any indicator in various ways
Do hunger & overweight numbers converge over time?
(bubbles are country population size)
Exploring Data by Income Classification
Data in 4 Dimensions: Ultra-processed food sales per capita (bubble size) and obesity (y axis), per capita total consumption expenditures (x axis) by food systems type

Do countries in the Emerging and Diversifying Food System Types have to follow the same path as countries in the Modernizing and Formalizing Types -- or can another path be found?
Outliers within food system types

What can we learn from positive deviance?

Why do Argentina and Spain have lower per capita retail sales of ultra-processed foods compared to other countries in the Industrialized and Consolidated Food Systems?
Outliers within food system types
What can we learn from negative deviance?

Why do Bolivia, Myanmar and Azerbaijan have higher per capita retail sales of ultra processed foods compared to other countries in the Informal and Expanding Food Systems?
It is easy to download data and metadata
Diagnose: Food System Performance

Goal:
Measure food systems performance to better inform policy recommendations

Aims:
- Start from the main goal we want food systems to influence
- Identify sentinel indicators that are associated with achieving the goals of the food system
- Develop targets and a traffic light system for each chosen sentinel indicator