

Why & How to Incorporate Reducing Food Loss and Waste into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

This summary has been developed by member organizations of [The Global Action Drive](#)

A CALL TO ACTION

Reducing food loss and waste is a clear opportunity to deliver on commitments made under the Paris agreement for reducing GHG emissions, while also saving money and improving livelihoods. We call on all countries to:

1. **Commit to delivering UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3:** *By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses*
2. **Include this commitment in their new NDCs** to be submitted by early 2025
3. **Set meaningful targets and intersectoral mechanisms** to operationalize follow up
4. **Back this commitment with specific, practical policy measures**
5. **Start measuring and reporting on food loss and waste** (at the national / sector levels)
6. **Include solid national data** to report on progress through the biennial transparency reports.



THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

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

This level of inefficiency costs the global economy more than US\$1 trillion, exacerbates global hunger, and is responsible for 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions and 12% of methane emissions from production and landfill.

Reducing food loss and waste is a rare “triple win” – it alleviates environmental impacts while saving money and improving livelihoods. In a world where 1 in 3 people struggles to afford a healthy diet, we cannot let this level of waste in our food system continue unabated.



FOOD LOSS AND WASTE & THE NDCs

151 countries have signed the COP28 UAE Declaration, yet only 24 countries have incorporated food loss and waste – a key lever for reducing GHGs - into their NDCs.

Many countries are already addressing food loss and waste but not linking it to climate action, which impedes efforts to reduce both waste and emissions.

Countries can unlock new sources of funding, improve livelihoods for their citizens, strengthen their agricultural sectors, and reduce climate emissions by incorporating food loss and waste into NDCs and government strategies.



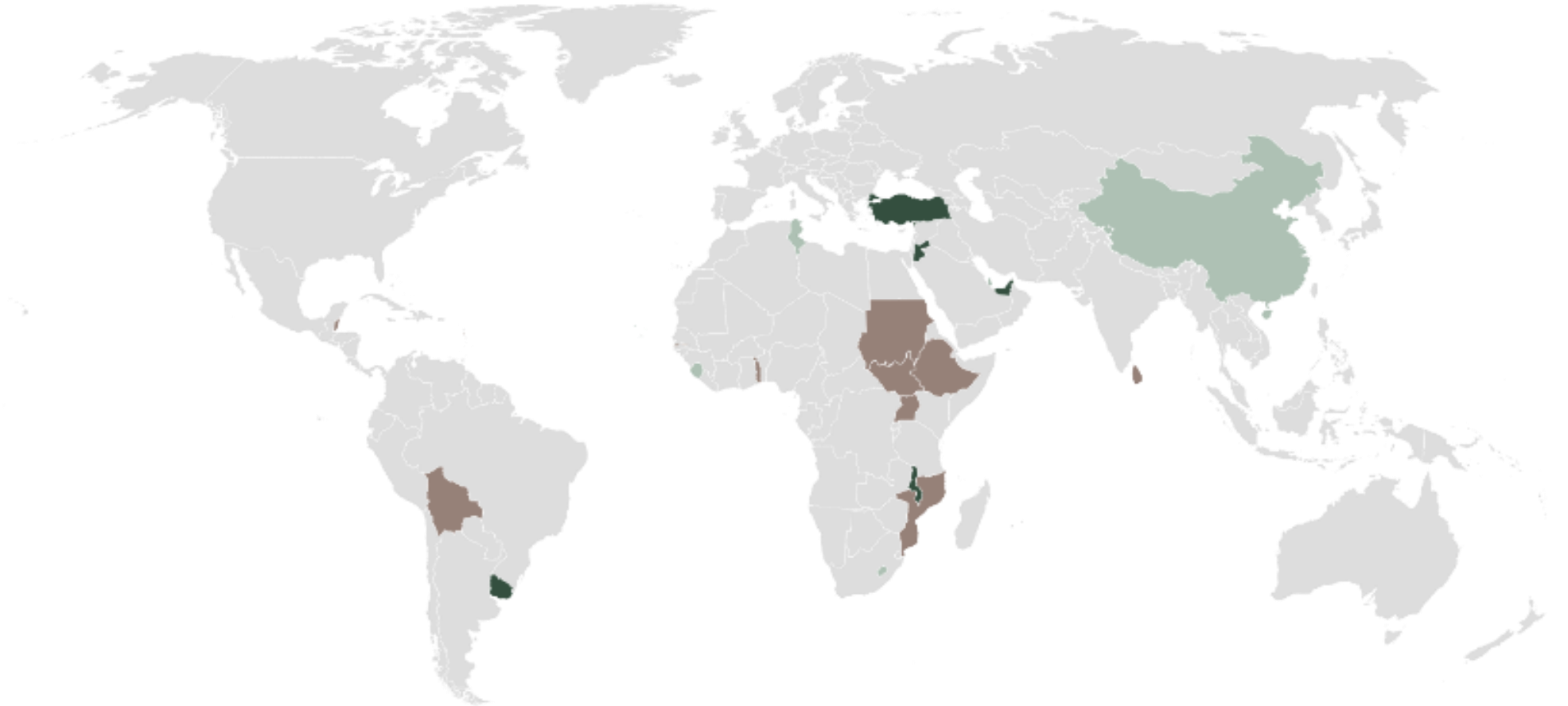
COUNTRIES WITH FOOD LOSS AND/OR WASTE IN THEIR NDC

NDC COMMITMENT TYPE	COUNTRIES
Food Loss and Waste Reduction	Jordan, Malawi, Turkiye, Uruguay, UAE
Food Loss Reduction (only)	Belize, Bolivia, Dominica, Ethiopia, Gambia, Maldives, Mozambique, Sudan, Uganda, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Togo
Food Waste Reduction (only)	Andorra, Cabo Verde, China, Lesotho, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Tunisia

Note: Commitments specific to tackling food waste' refers to any policy or indication of schemes or programs to specifically reduce edible food waste amounts. Food loss, including supply chain and post-harvest loss, is treated separately in this report unless stated otherwise.

COUNTRIES WITH FOOD LOSS AND/OR WASTE IN THEIR NDC

■ Food loss and waste reduction ■ Food loss reduction ■ Food waste reduction



Source: WRI analysis of existing NDCs.

STEPS TO ADD FOOD LOSS AND WASTE INTO NDCs



1. Identify food loss and waste hotspots and key opportunities in your country. Focus on key commodities and stages of the value chain for your country to maximize impact to improve livelihoods and reduce GHGs. Key tools and approaches include policy analysis, GHG impact assessments, and including food loss and waste scenarios in GHG modeling.

Relevant resources: national agricultural data, national waste data, the [FAO Food Loss Index](#), the [UNEP Food Waste Index](#)



2. Engage affected stakeholders, including government agencies, businesses, farmers, financiers, and affected populations. To achieve transformational change, countries must engage the whole of society. This allows the priorities set in NDCs to be reflected in long-term goals and ensures that solutions are fit for purpose.

Relevant resources: [NDC Partnership Good Practice Database](#)



3. Develop specific, actionable targets and strategies. Specific targets and plans provide a clear framework for action and implementation. Many countries have established examples that can serve as inspiration. Key considerations include finance, implementing agencies, and monitoring and evaluation over time.

Relevant resources and examples: [NDC Navigator](#), [Climate Watch NDC Explorer](#), [WRAP – From Commitments to Action](#), [Food Forward NDCs Tool](#)



4. Incorporate food loss and waste into an ambitious and implementable NDC that reflects national priorities, with indicators to be tracked over time. The [NDC 3.0 Navigator](#) helps countries identify opportunities to raise ambition in their NDCs 3.0s. This includes ensuring the highest possible ambition and considering how this ambition will be implemented.

INCORPORATING FOOD LOSS AND WASTE INTO YOUR NDC



BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Starting Point | General statements identifying food loss and waste as an area for action. An indication is made that food loss and waste reduction will be incorporated into national efforts to reduce GHG emissions.

Good | Specify actions needed to support goals and aims. Identification of priority sectors, stages of the value chain, and commodities, as well as key actors involved

Ex: “Available data indicates that significant amounts of rice crops spoil during transportation and storage. Therefore, food loss and waste reduction efforts will be targeted at improved storage mechanisms. Key stakeholders include farmers associations, the agricultural ministry, and wholesalers.”

Better | Support actions with supplementary documents and strategies. Identification of relevant national strategies, plans and documents

Ex: The above specificity, and statements such as: “These actions are reflected in the Five-Year Agricultural Strategy and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture.”

Best | Specific targets and indicators with strategies to achieve them. Specific targets are set, with clear plans and strategies in place to achieve those targets

Ex: All of the above specificity, and additional statements such as: “We will aim to reduce rice loss in storage by 50% by 2030. The Ministry of Agriculture will measure losses annually and publish data publicly. \$100 million in investment between the private and public sector will be necessary to achieve this reduction.”



REFERENCES AND FURTHER RESOURCES

- The [NDC Partnership](#) supports countries to advance climate action by accelerating NDC implementation, raising NDC ambition and quality, mobilizing finance for climate action, and mainstreaming NDCs into development plans and budgets. Countries can [engage](#) the partnership directly for assistance and also consult the [Knowledge Portal](#) for quick and easy access to data, tools, guidance, good practice, and funding opportunities. The [Climate Funds Explorer](#) also provides information and connections to sources of funding for implementing climate solutions.
- The [Food Forward NDCs Tool](#) provides concrete examples of how food loss and waste can be incorporated into NDCs, including specific focus areas relating to storage, transportation and distribution, and at the consumer level.
- The [FAO Food Loss Index](#) and [UNEP Food Waste Index](#) provide estimates of food loss and waste for countries and key commodities, which can help countries identify hotspots. The WWF [Global Farm Loss Tool](#) can be used to measure on-farm loss and the [FLW Protocol](#) can be used to construct a food loss and waste inventory.
- The [FLW Value Calculator](#) can provide estimates of the environmental impacts of different types of food loss and waste. The US EPA [Waste Reduction Model \(WARM\)](#) tool can provide high-level comparisons of potential greenhouse gas emissions reductions when comparing different waste management practices.



THE GLOBAL ACTION DRIVE

The **Global Action Drive (GAD)** brings together several internationally active non-governmental organizations around a shared agenda to accelerate regional and national action on food loss and waste.

Key activities include:

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



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