



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# FAO Country Annual Report

Nutrition Section Results - 2021

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAR	Country Annual Report
CPF	Country Programming Framework
COs	Country Offices
ENACT	Education for Effective Nutrition in Action
FFS	Farmer Field Schools
GIFT	Global Individual Food composition Tool
HGSF	Home Grown School Feeding
ICN2	Second International Conference on Nutrition
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
MDD-W	Minimum Dietary Diversity Women
N4G	Nutrition for Growth
NFSP	National Food Systems Pathways
SOFI	State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition
SUN	Scaling up Nutrition Movement
UN	United Nations
UNCCA	United Nations Common Country Analyses
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WHO	World Health Organization
WFP	World Food Programme

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, the nutrition section of the Country Annual Report<sup>1</sup> (CAR) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) included four (4) questions and related sub-questions. The nutrition section aims at better understanding the contribution of FAO Country Offices (COs) to the work of the Organization in terms of nutrition, and their progress in setting an enabling environment to work on nutrition as well as supporting corporate accountability to FAO's Members.

The set of questions also serves to assess: the level of CO commitment in supporting the implementation of the framework of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and UN Decade of Action on Nutrition; and activities and capacities related to nutrition across COs. The questions build on a series of output indicators of the Accountability Framework and key performance indicators of the Implementation Plan of the [Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition](#) .

**Nutrition in FAO:** In 2021, FAO Members welcomed and adopted a corporate Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition that consists of coordinated action towards one mission: to tackle malnutrition in all its forms by accelerating impactful policies and actions across agrifood systems to enable healthy diets for all, to contribute to a vision of a world where all people are eating healthy diets.

In that respect, in FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, *better nutrition*, along with *better production*, a *better environment*, and a *better life*, is a key organising principle and aspirational achievement, while the technical area of nutrition is also recognized as a key theme of a cross-cutting nature to be explicitly visible in the Priority Programme Areas (PPAs) with specific accountability to FAO Members.

The results provided by COs are presented in this report around the five interdependent action areas<sup>2</sup> of FAO's work in nutrition for accelerating impactful policies and actions across agrifood systems to enable healthy diets, as well as one additional part reflecting progress in terms of strengthening an enabling environment to work on nutrition in FAO. The results allowed for quantitative as well as qualitative analysis.

All 141 COs involved in the CAR reporting exercise this year responded to at least one question from the nutrition section. Only 45 percent of COs reported having sufficient nutrition expertise to realize fully FAO's ambitious vision for nutrition, highlighting the critical need to dedicate more human resources to nutrition at country level. Despite this limitation, COs were extensively involved in nutrition-related dialogues, activities and initiatives covering various areas pertaining to diets, nutrition and agrifood systems, and contributing to the five action areas of FAO's work in nutrition.

In 2021, COs reported major efforts to support the following areas of work as embedded in the framework of the ICN2 and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition: food safety for nutrition; governance and coordination mechanisms for food security and nutrition; agrifood systems for nutrition; related policies and programmes; and nutrition education and information for behaviour change.

FAO also provided guidance and technical assistance to countries in areas such as dietary-related data and evidence generation, dissemination and use, as well as in terms of capacity building, and policy and normative work. It played the role of convener and supporter of multi-stakeholder dialogues for policy coherence covering

<sup>1</sup> The Country Annual Report (CAR) is the main reporting tool at country level on the overall FAO performance in achieving country-level results (Country Programming Framework (CPF) outputs) during the reporting period.

<sup>2</sup> The five action areas of FAO's Work in Nutrition are: Action area 1 (Using Data for Impact); Action area 2 (Using Evidence on Healthy Diets); Action area 3 (Convening for Policy & Catalyzing Action); and Action area 5 (Strengthening Commitment).

many themes pertaining to diets, nutrition, and the various dimensions of agrifood systems (food supply, food environment and consumption).

Throughout the year, COs provided continual support to governments around the world in response to the call of the UN Secretary General to carry out national dialogues on sustainable agrifood systems. These dialogues, often organized and supported by COs, were part of the process that led up to the UN Food Systems Summit held in September 2021. Based on the agrifood system assessment focusing on strategic issues including healthy diets, findings from dialogues, and the inputs from consultative meetings led to the formulation of national food system pathways together with national roadmaps. Building on findings from national agrifood system assessments focusing on healthy diets, COs held a series of dialogues and consultations to support the formulation of food system pathways and roadmaps for implementation. The roadmaps shape future national policies and strategies on how agrifood systems can contribute to healthy diets for all.

Other examples of activities carried out by FAO range from advocacy with Parliamentary alliances, to strengthening national nutrition institutions, to policy and normative work for supporting the development process of the country roadmaps for the implementation of action under the [UN Global Action Plan on Child Wasting](#), or a new law on labelling. Further, some of the COs supported the formulation of governments' commitments to nutrition for the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G) held in December 2021 and participated in the launch of the Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement 3.0 at country level, whose actions aim to eliminate all forms of malnutrition.

As well as reporting on activities and achievements, this exercise offered an excellent opportunity to understand the expertise available across COs to support nutrition.

Critical to inform the implementation of FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, the results led to the identification of some takeaway messages related to FAO's work in nutrition. First, FAO is highly mobilized for nutrition at the country level with a progressively larger number of COs carrying on healthy diets and nutrition-related activities since 2020<sup>3</sup>. Second, global events catalyzed national action for healthy diets and nutrition with the support of FAO as per the UN Food System Summit and the Tokyo N4G. Third, partnerships for nutrition conducted by FAO are essential and reached a large variety of stakeholders from multiple sectors. Fourth, great ambitions for impact in countries mean there is a continued need for increased FAO human resources dedicated to nutrition. Fifth, COs can learn from these results regarding the wide range of initiatives on healthy diets and nutrition carried out by FAO in diverse contexts across the globe.

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<sup>3</sup> From previous year, the results from the nutrition section of the Country Annual Report showed that 63 percent of COs (79 out of 125) are working on healthy diets and nutrition-related activities.

## INTRODUCTION

In 2021, the Country Annual Report (CAR) reporting exercise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) took place while the Organization was embarking on the operationalization of its 2021 [Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in nutrition](#), including by strengthening monitoring efforts through its Accountability Framework and Implementation Plan. This guides the Organization in its mandate to raise levels of nutrition, as described in the [Preamble to its Constitution](#), while strengthening corporate nutrition mainstreaming work.

To support these efforts, the nutrition section of the 2021 CAR included four (4) questions to better understand FAO Country Offices' (COs) contribution to FAO's work in nutrition and their respective progress in establishing an enabling environment to work on nutrition, building on a series of output indicators of the Accountability Framework and key performance indicators of the Implementation Plan. (See full list of questions in [Annex: List of questions and results from the nutrition section](#))

This report provides a summary of the inputs provided by COs to the nutrition section with the objective of highlighting interesting initiatives in the area of nutrition while supporting peer-to-peer learning across FAO on its work in nutrition. It also help setting a baseline for the Accountability Framework and the Implementation Plan for 2021.

The results of the nutrition section focused on the accomplishment of FAO's activities and achievements in nutrition. They are presented around the five interdependent action areas<sup>2</sup> that guide FAO's work in nutrition for accelerating impactful policies and actions across agrifood systems to enable healthy diets, as well as one additional part reflecting progress in terms of strengthening an enabling environment to work on nutrition focusing on nutrition expertise available across COs.

**Note on the methodology:** Among the 144 country entries included into the [CAR data system](#), there were 3 entries that were refer to Multi-Accredited Template, i.e., Entry 49: Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles, Entry 83: SAP (Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands), and Entry 99: OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States). For the analysis purpose, to use the individual entries for each of the countries, those three entries were removed. The adjusted number of 141 entries (as "Country Offices") is used as the total number in the analysis.

## RESULTS

All 141 COs involved in the CAR reporting exercise this year responded to at least one question from the nutrition section. Forty-seven COs are in the African region, 33 COs in the Asian and the Pacific region, 14 COs in the European and Central Asia region, 31 COs in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, and 16 COs in the Near East and North African region. They have all been involved in nutrition-related dialogues, activities, and initiatives during 2021, covering various contexts across countries and regions, as well as areas pertaining to diets, nutrition and agrifood systems.

Compiled data against each question and related sub-questions of the nutrition section are available in the Annex: List of questions and results from the Nutrition section together with the link to the [CAR Nutrition Analyses Dataset](#) presenting results by COs.

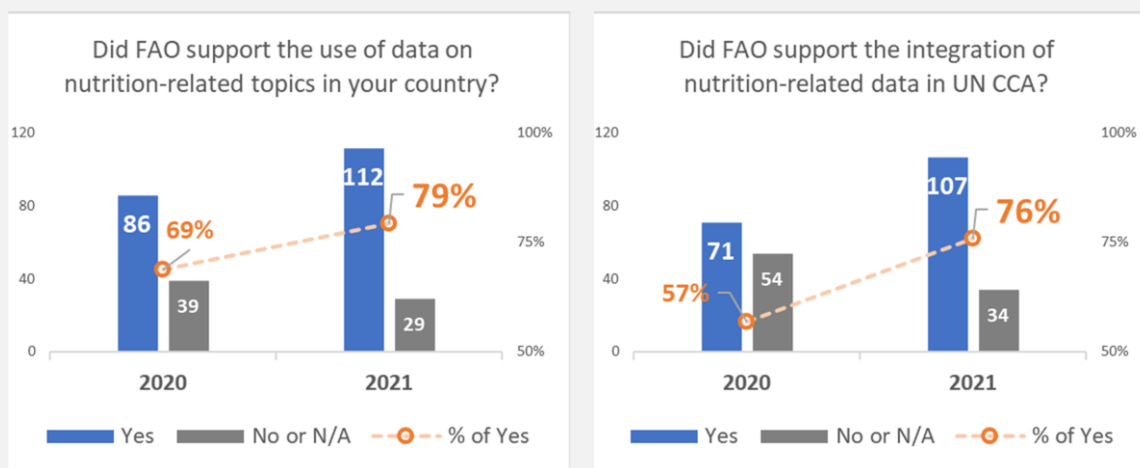
## A. USING DATA FOR IMPACT (ACTION AREA 1)

### Country Office contribution to generate, collate and share data on healthy diets and agrifood systems

#### Questions from Country Annual Report on Action area 1

The number and the percentage of COs that supported host countries in using data on healthy diets and agrifood systems increased significantly from 2020.

In 2021, **112** COs (**79%**) mentioned their engagement in support of the collection, understanding, and use of data and metrics on nutrition-related topics (See [Question 1.A](#)) and **107** COs (**76%**) confirmed their support for the integration of dietary and nutrition-related data and analysis in the UN Common Country Analysis (UNCCA) (See [Question 1.B](#)).



In 2021, there were a broad range of activities and achievements conducted under data collection and analysis on diets, food systems and nutrition that took place with the support of COs from across all regions. Some examples are found throughout this section.

FAO **Gambia** and FAO **Uruguay** undertook activities to improve national information systems on food and nutrition security. FAO **Eritrea** was involved in consultations for the United Nations Common Country Analyses (UNCCA) development process.

Contribution to nutrition surveys was an important activity for FAO **Burkina Faso** and FAO **Mali**. In addition, other COs reported having contributed to training activities to enhance the National Food Consumption Survey (FAO **Gambia**), to build capacities on data coding via the FoodEx2 system, and to disseminate efficiently Individual Quantitative Food Consumption Data under the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool (GIFT) project (FAO **Nigeria**). FAO supported the implementation of food insecurity measurement using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale or equivalent in 17 countries<sup>4</sup> from the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

<sup>4</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

COs played a critical role in developing comprehensive assessments of national agrifood systems focusing on strategic issues, including healthy diets. One of the main drivers for conducting such assessments was the preparation of governments' contributions to the Food Systems Summit held in September 2021. FAO's support in this respect was reported by more than 50 COs, among them were: FAO **Central African Republic**, FAO **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, FAO **Guinea-Bissau**, FAO **Moldova**, and FAO **Sierra Leone**. Similarly, FAO **Zimbabwe** supported an agrifood systems analysis to define the key barriers and impacts of agrifood systems on the environment, socio-economy, food security, nutrition and health. Specific partnerships were created with the Centre for International Development, a French agricultural research and cooperation organization, to assess agrifood systems in selected countries, including in **Belize**, **Guatemala**, and **Jamaica**, with the technical support from COs and financial support of the European Union. In response to the new wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, FAO **Armenia** collected and analyzed information to put in place systems for continued monitoring and assessments of policy responses, which minimize the negative impact of COVID-19 in rural areas. FAO **Tajikistan** conducted the Agrifood Supply Chain Survey dedicated to the monitoring and assessment of the situation of farmers and food producers.

Other interesting examples of activities included the engagement of FAO **Côte d'Ivoire** within the Technical Subcommittee of the National Multisectoral Information Platform for Nutrition to support various analyses covering the drivers of all forms of malnutrition, as well as Infant and Young Child Feeding practices and minimum dietary diversity. In addition, FAO **Nigeria** collaborated with the World Food Programme (WFP) on the Fill the Nutrition Gap analysis to support the Government of Nigeria to develop strategies to increase availability, access and choice of nutritious foods, in order to improve nutrient intake among children under 5 years old, adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women.

## B. USING EVIDENCE ON HEALTHY DIETS (ACTION AREA 2)

*Country Office contribution to generate, collate and share evidence on the options for policies and actions across agrifood systems that enable healthy diets and on trade-offs and synergies with other agrifood system outcomes*

### Questions from Country Annual Report on Action area 2

**78%** of COs (**110**) mentioned their support to governments to draw on knowledge products about **promising practices from across agrifood systems to enable healthy diets** (See [Question 1.C](#)).

**72%** of COs (**101**) confirmed the use of knowledge products by host governments to **analyze synergies and trade-offs associated with agrifood systems** (See [Question 1.D](#)).

In 2021, COs reported having worked on studies contributing to the generation, collection and sharing of evidence to inform policies and actions across agrifood systems in partnership with academia and research centres. Assessments and studies covered various dimensions of agrifood systems (food supply, consumption, environment), and overweight, obesity and non-communicable diseases. Some examples are found throughout this section.

Specific studies related to supply chain focused on: biofortification (FAO **Zimbabwe**); and on import protection for nationally produced vegetables, its seed, plant protection products, and fertilizers (FAO **Mongolia**). FAO **Oman** worked on nutrition sensitive value chain assessment using selected commodities (e.g. papaya and carrot),

in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Water Resources as well as a key partner from the private sector, Zubair Small Enterprises Centre.

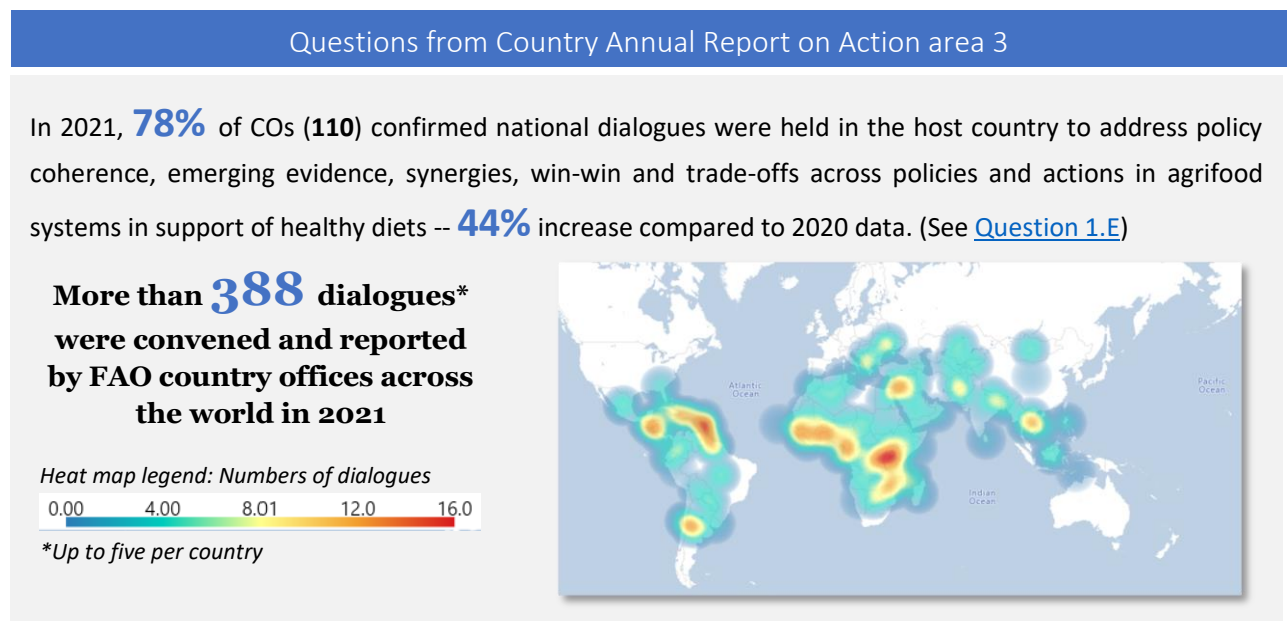
COs were involved in generating evidence on the role of diets and agrifood systems in the prevention of obesity and non-communicable diseases. In partnership with Sultan Qaboos University, FAO **Oman** generated evidence on the role of diets and food systems in the prevention of obesity and non-communicable diseases, focusing on red meat and poultry. FAO **Philippines** and FAO **Lebanon** initiated studies respectively on caloric labelling of menus in fast food establishments aiming at providing healthier options for consumers, and on balancing the trade-offs for a sustainable and healthy diet in the national context to support women’s cooperatives and associations in the agrifood sector. FAO **Benin** organized, in collaboration with the World Vegetable Center, technical consultations to validate findings to promote vegetable consumption in urban and peri-urban areas under the safe vegetables locally produced for West Africa’s Consumers (SAFEVEG) initiative.

FAO **Kyrgyzstan** supported studies on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and social protection, which identify entry points to ensure access to, and utilization and consumption of, healthy diverse diets; and seek to understand needs of communities, including Cash-Plus<sup>5</sup> project participants and small-scale local food producers, in terms of food security, nutrition, dietary diversity, and livelihood strategies.

Finally, FAO **Mongolia** led jointly with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) an analysis on the impacts of climate change on nutrition and food security; FAO **Uganda** worked an understanding of food loss and waste dimensions in the national food systems.

### C. CONVENING FOR POLICY & CATALYZING ACTION (ACTION AREA 3)

*Country office contribution to convening and participating in dialogues to catalyze policy coherence and collective action across agrifood systems for healthy diets*



<sup>5</sup> FAO promotes the use and scale up of Cash+ as a flexible tool for promoting resilience and social protection. FAO Website: [FAO and Cash+: How to maximize the impacts of cash transfers |Policy Support and Governance| Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

COs played a critical role in supporting governments to carry out national dialogues on sustainable agrifood systems in preparation for the UN Food Systems summit.

Fifty COs provided technical and financial support to food systems dialogues, leading to the development of national food system pathways and roadmaps. For example, FAO **Sri Lanka** supported the development of the national food system pathways document entitled "Vision of Sri Lanka for Sustainable Food Systems" and FAO **Chad** supported the development of the roadmap entitled "Transformations of food systems to ensure adequate food and nutritional status for Chadians and support the 2030 Agenda".

COs advocated to ensure the integration of nutrition into dialogues at all levels. FAO **Kenya** lobbied for the nutrition agenda to be integrated in national and subnational dialogues; FAO **Malawi** integrated nutrition into national, district and regional processes; and FAO **Georgia** integrated nutrition even at the level of municipalities. In the framework of these dialogues, **El Salvador** adopted the promotion of sustainable consumption patterns and healthy environments as a national priority to reduce malnutrition and non-communicable disease.

FAO **Cambodia**, FAO **Colombia** and FAO **Somalia** are some examples of COs which demonstrated the ability to convene a large diversity of stakeholders and representatives, including from nutrition governance and through an inter-agency collaboration. With the support of FAO **El Salvador**, 25 dialogues were held, with the participation of approximately 600 key actors from all sectors linked to food security. These included: food producers, academia, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, consumers, indigenous peoples, private sector, business associations, international organizations, women's associations, and municipalities. FAO **Democratic Republic of Congo** was able to mobilize the country at the highest level, i.e. the Office of the President of the Republic, and FAO **Uganda** led the UN Country Team in the implementation of these dialogues.

In 2021, another major process in which COs were involved was the preparation for the Tokyo N4G held in December for which 10 COs reported their involvement. FAO **Benin** supported the formulation of 12 national commitments jointly with national technical and financial partners; FAO **Kyrgyzstan**, in partnership with other UN Agencies, supported preparations for a roundtable consultation to discuss national commitments; and FAO **Kenya** supported the government to outline and articulate country nutrition commitments. Additional COs such as FAO **Nepal**, FAO **Senegal**, and FAO **Yemen** were part of these national efforts.

Finally, FAO **Namibia** supported the strategic analysis and mapping of private sector players in agrifood systems, which identified matchmaking opportunities, focusing on innovation, information and communications technology, and new ways of working towards cost-effective, sustainable, and scalable solutions to long-standing development challenges.

## D. BUILDING CAPACITY (ACTION AREA 4)

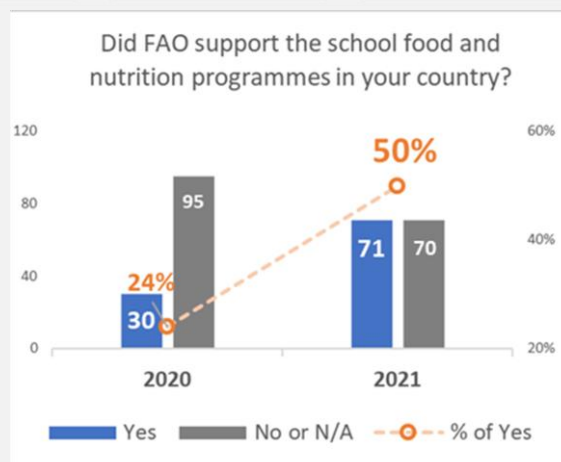
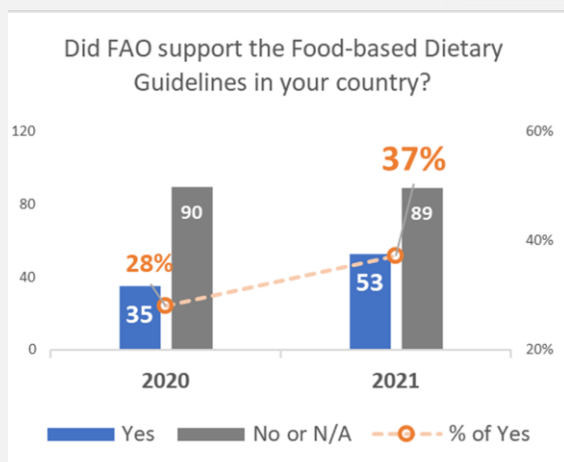
**Country office contribution to build the technical and policy capacity needed to design, implement, and scale-up impactful policies and actions for healthy diets**

### Questions from Country Annual Report on Action area 4

FAO provided financial and/or technical assistance to **112** governments (**79%**) to work on enabling healthy diets in 2021 (See [Question 1.F](#)), which shows an increase of 33% from 2020. Examples of specific support include developing, revising or implementing Food-based Dietary Guidelines in **53** countries (**37%**) (See [Question 1.G](#)) and implementing school food and nutrition programmes in collaboration with partners in **71** countries (**50%**). (See [Question 1.H](#))

Number of countries supported by FAO through agrifood systems

**112** countries received  
FAO's support to work on  
enabling healthy diets in 2021  
  
**+33**  
compared to 2020



In terms of normative, legal and policy as well as technical assistance, many COs reported interesting initiatives. Some examples are found throughout this section.

Among the COs providing normative, legal and policy assistance, FAO **Azerbaijan**, FAO **Botswana**, and FAO **Gambia** framed their work in terms of developing and implementing national Food Based Dietary Guidelines. In **Mexico**, FAO reported legal work through support to the working group for the Adequate Food Law initiative. Through the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, FAO supported **Colombia** and **Argentina** to formulate laws on

front-of-package food labelling. In **Gambia**, the CO launched three national Food Fortification Standards (for edible oil and fat, wheat flour and salt) and drafted a Rice Fortification Standard. In addition, FAO organized an assessment of the Codex System in **Pakistan** in collaboration with the World Health Organization, and contributed to the revision of the National Food Safety Strategy. In addition, FAO **Syrian Arab Republic** provided support to the government to apply for the Codex Trust Fund. FAO **Namibia** reported contributing with the Ministry of Agriculture to the formulation of the National Agriculture Investment Plan, which aims to improve food security and healthy diets, and FAO **Kenya** engaged in the development and dissemination of the national Agri-Nutrition Strategy (2020–2025). FAO **Kyrgyzstan** supported the development of the regulation for the organization of school farms, and FAO **Colombia** supported the development of the National School Feeding Policy.

FAO continued its support to the development of the country roadmaps for the implementation of action under the UN Global Action Plan on Child Wasting in FAO **Mali** and FAO **Pakistan**, focusing on the promotion of nutrition-sensitive value chains, diversified and dense complementary diets, and micronutrient supplementation. In the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) development process, FAO **Armenia** engaged in the national results group, and monitoring, evaluation and learning group. FAO **Colombia** provided technical support to the government to develop policies around food security and the right to food.

FAO **Georgia** developed an internal assessment on the state of food security and nutrition in the country, as well as a stakeholder mapping, including donors interested in food security and nutrition-related support. FAO **Ghana** worked to improve budget tracking on nutrition interventions.

FAO built capacities of producers on diverse agricultural practices using the farmer field-school approach in **Haiti** and **Cameroon**, including on post-harvest management (good practices of processing, packaging and preservation of vegetables and fruits). FAO **Mozambique** and FAO **Comoros** supported agriculture extension services by improving awareness on eating habits, balanced and healthy diets and by building beneficiary capacity to produce high nutritive value vegetables. Specific focus was given to the empowerment of rural women (FAO **Côte d'Ivoire** and FAO **Pakistan**) and to strengthening women's income-generating activities (FAO **Haiti**, FAO **Oman**). In addition, FAO **Azerbaijan** and FAO **Morocco** worked on the reduction of food loss and waste looking at gender issues, while FAO **Tunisia** created connections with the urban food agenda.

FAO **Malawi** focused its work on the production and the consumption of six food groups, ensuring improved nutrition for all through the production and appropriate consumption of animal source foods and bio-fortified varieties, with particular focus on reaching children under 5 and adolescents. FAO **Syrian Arab Republic** contributed to capacity building on nutrition and healthy diets for all actors along the food supply chain, enhancing the production, supply, and consumption of a diversity of food groups for families impacted by the country's protracted crisis.

FAO **Kyrgyzstan** supported the Ministry of Agriculture in the provision of training on food security and nutrition for key staff. FAO **Kenya** and **Somalia** invested in internal capacity building on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and agrifood systems approaches. FAO colleagues learnt about the pathways that link agriculture to improved nutrition outcomes and how to apply them in practice; how to formulate nutrition sensitive objectives; how to identify key nutrition sensitive activities in programme design involving crops, livestock, and fisheries; and monitoring and evaluating nutrition sensitive programmes using FAO indicators.

With WFP and partners, FAO supported school feeding programmes for improving the food security and nutritional status of schoolchildren and their families in many countries, including in **Colombia** and **Chad**. In **Ecuador**, FAO supported the redesign of the national School Feeding Programme within the framework of the Organic Law on School Feeding and its General Regulations, leading to pilot activities in selected districts. FAO,

together with WFP, conducted training on school garden legal regulations, nutrition, and ways of improving the effective use of land resources in **Kyrgyzstan**.

FAO **Albania** worked in collaboration with the private sector to provide milk in schools; FAO **Oman** worked on promoting the consumption of nutritious food (fruits and vegetables) in schools, involving nutrition education and e-campaigns. FAO **Nigeria** worked on the integration of nutrition education in university and school curricula, as well as a component to educate professors and teachers. FAO **Ecuador** provided training on food and nutrition education to technical teams within the Ministries of Health and Education.

FAO led efforts on enhancing nutrition education and communication for behaviour change to support work in **Eritrea** and in **Bhutan**, including through the development of a roadmap for the national Nutrition Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy. FAO **India** provided technical services for implementing the ENACT (Education for Effective Nutrition in Action) programme in collaboration with the government, training institutions and key partners. FAO **Ecuador** supported strategic alliances with academia, the private sector and WFP to develop and roll out education and communication materials at national level; FAO **El Salvador** adjusted similar materials to enhance uptake at community level.

## E. STRENGTHENING COMMITMENT (ACTION AREA 5)

**Country office contribution to advocate for and secure commitment to healthy diets as a priority goal for governance of nutrition and agrifood systems**

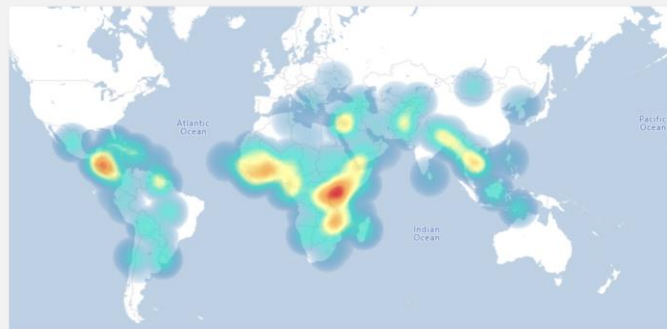
### Questions from Country Annual Report on Action area 5

In 2021, **73%** of COs (**103**) engaged with strategic coordination mechanisms and platforms for nutrition. (See [Question 1.i](#))

**Country offices** engaged in more than **327** coordination mechanisms and platforms for nutrition in 2021.

*Heat map legend: Number of dialogues, strategic coordination mechanisms and platforms for nutrition*

0.00 4.00 8.01 12.0 16.0



Throughout the year, COs advocated to strengthen political commitment, governance and investment in favour of nutrition. FAO **Chile** participated in the Commission on Fundamental Rights to support the integration of the right to adequate food in the country's new "Magna Carta". FAO **Burundi** took part in the National Forum of Women Leaders for Nutrition organized by the First Lady, and FAO **Burkina Faso** joined the technical Coordination Committee of the Presidential Initiative "ensuring every school-age child eats at least one balanced meal per day".

Some respondents emphasized FAO's key role with the National Parliamentary Alliances to support coherence of national policy integrating policies and measures that influence agrifood systems so that everyone can eat healthy diets (e.g. FAO **Central African Republic**, FAO **Djibouti**). Some of the National Parliamentary Alliances for Food and Nutrition Security were mobilized around the Zero Hunger Challenge and the Covid-19 pandemic

(e.g. FAO **Congo** and **São Tomé and Príncipe**). FAO **Uruguay** was asked to support the Parliamentary Special Commission on the Right to Adequate Food, and FAO **Dominican Republic** supported the relaunch of the Parliamentary Front within the Chamber of Deputies.

In **Thailand**, FAO leveraged the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables to call for commitments to enable healthy diets. FAO **Chile**, with the Ministry of Social Development and Family, and FAO **Brazil**, with the Ministry of Health, supported the implementation of national activities and collected examples of incentives on the production, availability, access and consumption of fruits, vegetables, and pulses. FAO **Tajikistan** focused on the promotion of diversified, balanced, and healthy diets and lifestyles, directing policy attention to sustainable food systems, and reducing loss and waste of fruits and vegetables. FAO **Argentina**, together with the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, organized an event to support the yearly International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

The 2021 World Food Day offered the opportunity to raise awareness on improving agricultural production for healthy foods, and to reinforce messages towards better eating for good nutrition and healthy diets. COs used media coverage to ensure key messages around healthy diets (e.g. FAO **Guinea-Bissau**, FAO **Mongolia** and FAO **United Arab Emirates** at EXPO Dubai). FAO **Türkiye** shared the results of the SOFI 2021 through a broadcast live event, and organized a joint symposium with the World Health Organization on “Our actions are our future. Better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life” in collaboration with national universities and research institutions.

FAO **Timor-Leste** supported seminars, cooking competitions, children’s drawing competitions and quizzes on locally grown healthy and nutritious food and diets, as well as a conference of farmers at which FAO facilitated a session on the role of agriculture in sustainable food security and nutrition in the country. FAO **Cabo Verde** contributed to an advertising spot and an e-book on promoting healthy diets, and FAO **Bosnia and Herzegovina** initiated the organization of the Pre-World Food Day celebration: ‘Being a food hero like Peter Rabbit!’ in selected primary schools. FAO **Madagascar** participated in National Nutrition Day to demonstrate products of high nutritional value. Similarly, FAO **Bangladesh** participated in National Nutrition Week, organizing healthy cooking demonstrations and the development of recipe video clips.

COs supported the launch of specific national communication campaigns throughout 2021 on promoting healthy diets and improving good nutrition, including for the prevention of non-communicable diseases. FAO **El Salvador** through a campaign which included radio spots, posters, and short videos, promoted healthy food and hygiene practices that contribute to the nutrition and health of the educational community, and raised awareness of physical activity for the prevention of non-communicable diseases. In **Gabon**, FAO and the private sector jointly organized an exhibition to promote using local products in young child feeding. FAO **Somalia** in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources supported an intensive National Fish for Nutrition Campaign in English and Somali, targeting school-age children and women through behavior change messages and accompanying material (i.e., Fish for Nutrition Colouring Book, Join the Dots Book and Fish for Nutrition Puzzle, Fish for Nutrition Flyer). To coincide with Ocean Week FAO **Cabo Verde** developed communication material for promoting a healthy diet with the consumption of fish, including the promotion of species that are under-marketed but have good nutritional value.

The SUN Movement platform served as an entry point for FAO engagement in some countries. In **Ethiopia**, **Mauritania**, and **Rwanda**. FAO **Malawi** participated in the launch of the SUN Movement 3.0 at country level, whose actions aim to eliminate all forms of malnutrition, and engaged in the creation of the UN SUN Network and the newly formulated SUN Donor Group. Through the engagement within the UN SUN Network, FAO **Honduras** was part of the elaboration of the national 2021-2022 SUN Roadmap and FAO **Mauritania** engaged in dialogue strengthening common strategic vision for nutrition for the country. FAO **Nigeria** was also active in the UN Nutrition Thematic Group, while FAO **Sierra Leone** and **Mali** developed joint UN programmes.

## F. NUTRITION EXPERTISE IN COUNTRY OFFICES

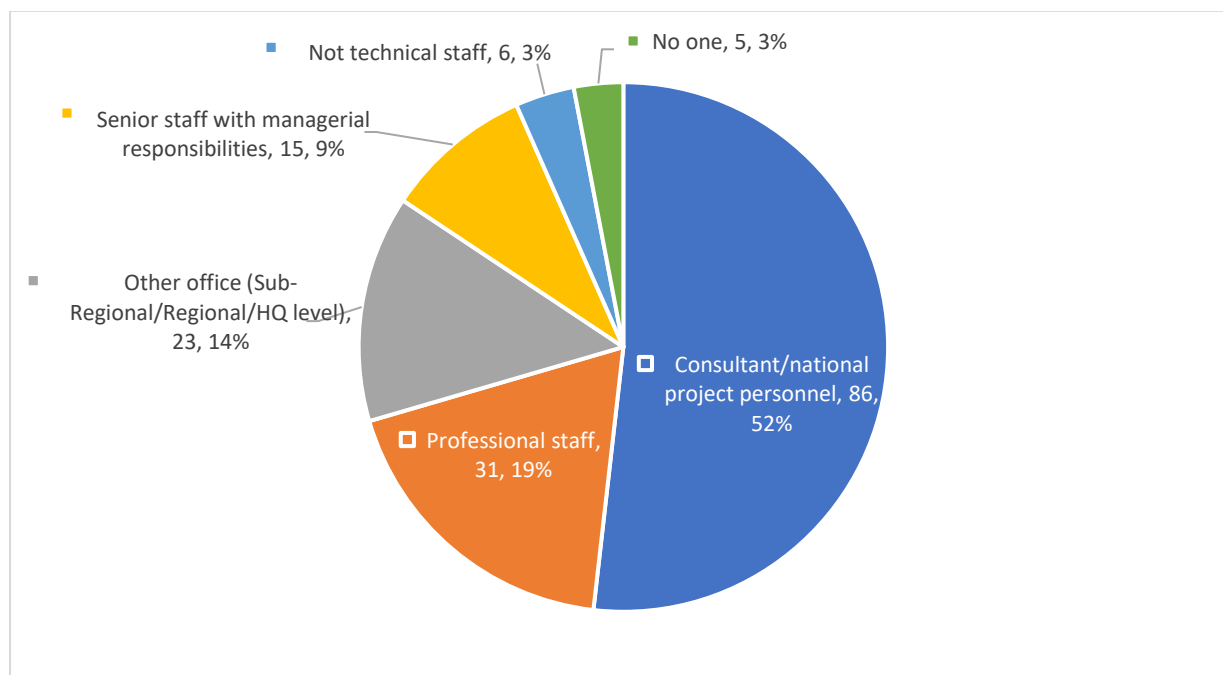
### *Meeting the needs for nutrition awareness, knowledge, and expertise in Country Offices.*

Out of 141 COs, a minority replied that they have sufficient nutrition expertise to 1) complete activities aligned with the Nutrition Strategy relevant to the country context (**65 COs**; 46 percent), and to 2) effectively support relevant policies and actions to enable healthy diets from across the agrifood system in the UNSDCF (**64 COs**; 45 percent) (See [Question 3](#)).

In total, **84 percent** (119 out of 141) of COs reported having at least one FAO colleague in charge of overseeing the nutrition work in the office, against **77.2 percent** (78 out of 101) from last year. In 2021, **16 percent** (23) of them indicated that they relied on the Regional/Sub-regional Offices and/or FAO Headquarters (ESN particularly).

When looking at the contractual arrangements of the colleagues overseeing the nutrition work in the COs, **52 percent** (86) are consultants, often hired for a specific project. Technical staff specialized in food security, nutrition, and food systems (e.g., Nutrition Officers, Food Security Officers) represent **19 percent** (31). Others colleagues overseeing FAO's work in nutrition were senior staff with managerial responsibilities (**9 percent** (15)) and non-technical staff (**4 percent** (6)), as per the below figure .

### *Contractual arrangements and/or grade of the main colleagues who oversee FAO's work on nutrition in COs*



Only **50 COs** (35%) reported that their colleagues overseeing nutrition work had specific nutrition expertise while **46 COs** (33%) had food security profiles and **16 COs** (11%) had different profiles such as management (e.g. Assistant FAO Representative Programme), policy and programme, food safety, and agronomy. (See [Question 4](#))

## KEY TAKEAWAYS MESSAGES

1. **FAO is highly mobilized for nutrition at country level.** A vast majority of FAO COs around the world, in fact 79 percent (112 out of 141), are working on healthy diets and nutrition-related activities in support of realizing FAO's vision for nutrition of a world where all people are eating healthy diets. The results show a progression from 2020 in terms of engagement to work on healthy diets and nutrition from FAO COs.
2. **Global events catalyzed national action for healthy diets and nutrition with the support of FAO.** Global events, such as the UN Food System Summit and the Tokyo N4G, did translate into action for healthy diets within countries as indicated by national governments' engagement in dialogues for food systems' transformation and formulation of national nutrition commitments for the Tokyo N4G.
3. **Partnerships for nutrition conducted by FAO are essential.** Aligned with the guiding principle of FAO's Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in nutrition, FAO COs rely on support and collaboration with national governments, including through their engagement through multi-stakeholder dialogues and platforms (e.g. launch of Scaling Up Nutrition Movement 3.0), including UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, as well as with private sector actors for carrying on nutrition-related initiatives.
4. **Great ambitions for impact in countries mean there is a continued need for increased FAO human resources dedicated to nutrition.** This situation was confirmed by the fact that colleagues who oversee FAO's work in nutrition in COs are not always experts in nutrition-related issues, and that they are employed under diverse contractual arrangements. Great ambitions for impact in countries mean there is a continued need for human resources.
5. **FAO Country Offices can learn from each other.** The results provide lessons and an opportunity to share experiences across the Organization looking at a wide range of initiatives on nutrition carries on in any given contexts, e.g., in low, medium and high level income countries from all regions or in conflict or fragile states as well as more stable contexts. It offers a unique opportunity to maximize greater impact of FAO's work in nutrition with peer-to-peer learning.
6. **Findings on nutrition are critical for the implementation of FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31.** Findings are critical as nutrition supports many PPAs and all four Betters - better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind. These findings also inform the FAO Governing Bodies on the extent of success of actions towards completion of FAO's mission in nutrition and hold the Organization accountable for completion of its commitments to nutrition made at the Tokyo N4G.

## ANNEX: LIST OF QUESTIONS AND RESULTS FROM THE NUTRITION SECTION

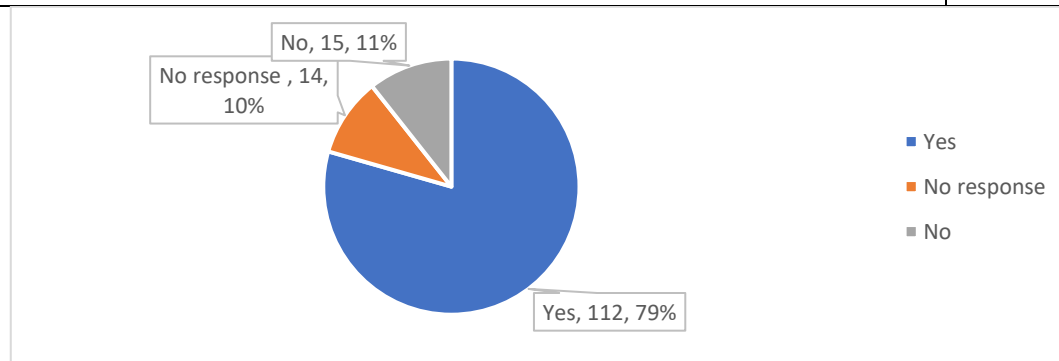
Access to the [Dataset of nutrition section results of the 2021 Country Annual Report](#).

*FAO's work in nutrition is to define and advocate for improvements in all forms of malnutrition through integrated and food-based approaches, agrifood systems and healthy diets. It comprises five interdependent action areas for accelerating impactful policies and actions across agrifood systems to enable healthy diets for all as follows:*

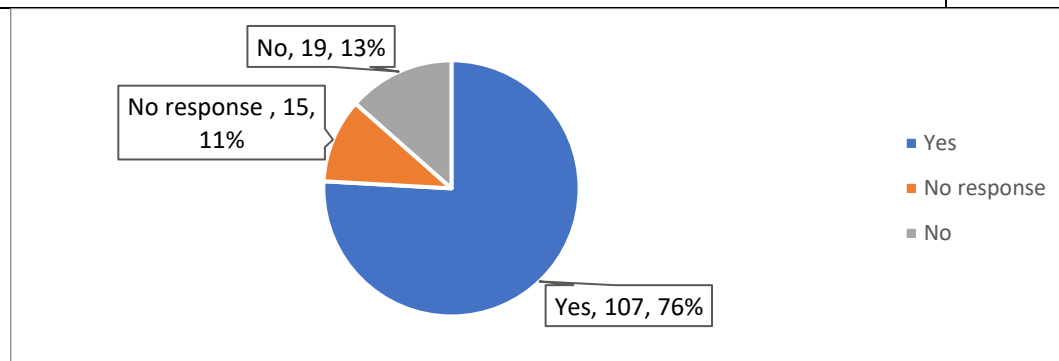
- **Action area 1 – Using Data for Impact.** *Generate, collate, and share data on healthy diets and agrifood systems.*
- **Action area 2 – Using Evidence on Healthy Diets.** *Generate, collate, and share evidence on the options for policies and actions across agrifood systems that enable healthy diets and on trade-offs and synergies with other agrifood systems outcomes.*
- **Action area 3 – Convening for Policy & Catalyzing Action.** *Convene and participate in dialogues to catalyse policy coherence and collective action across agrifood systems for healthy diets.*
- **Action area 4 – Building Capacity.** *Build the technical and policy capacity needed to design, implement, and scale-up impactful policies and actions for healthy diets; and*
- **Action area 5 – Strengthening Commitment.** *Advocate for and secure commitment to healthy diets as a priority goal for governance of nutrition and agrifood systems.*

To track progress in terms of accomplishment of FAO's activities and achievements related to each action area, Country Offices were invited to respond to the following questions:

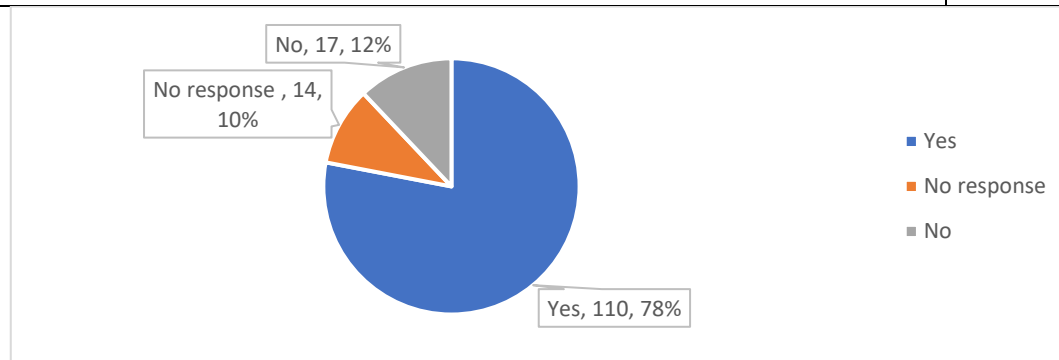
<b>Question 1: In terms of FAO's support to your host country in 2021, please check the appropriate box:</b>		
A. Did FAO support the collection, understanding, and the use of data and metrics on food composition, diets, dietary socio-cultural beliefs and practices, food safety, food security and agrifood systems in your country?	YES	NO



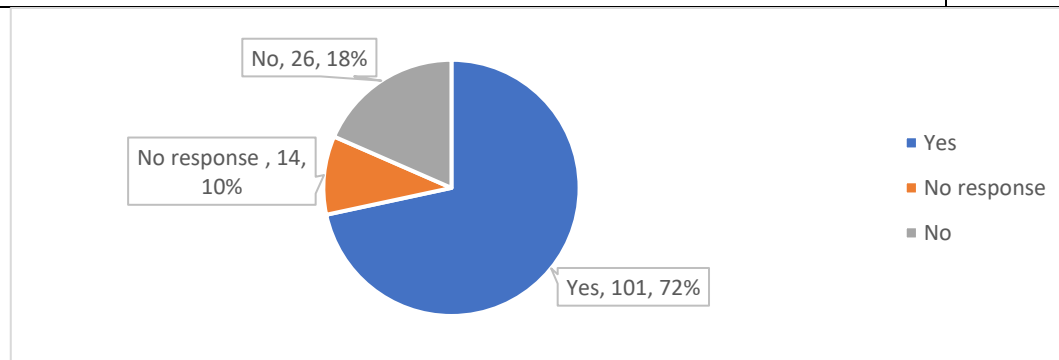
<b>Question 2: Did FAO provide support to ensure the integration of dietary and nutrition-related data and analysis in the UN Country Common Analyses as part of the overall process for developing the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework?</b>		
B.	YES	NO



<p>C. <i>Did your host country draw on knowledge products* about promising practices on impact from across agrifood systems to enable healthy diets by or with support from FAO to inform policies and actions?"</i></p> <p><i>* Knowledge products include traditional publications, digital media (social media and web content), and videos, among others.</i></p>	<p>YES NO</p>
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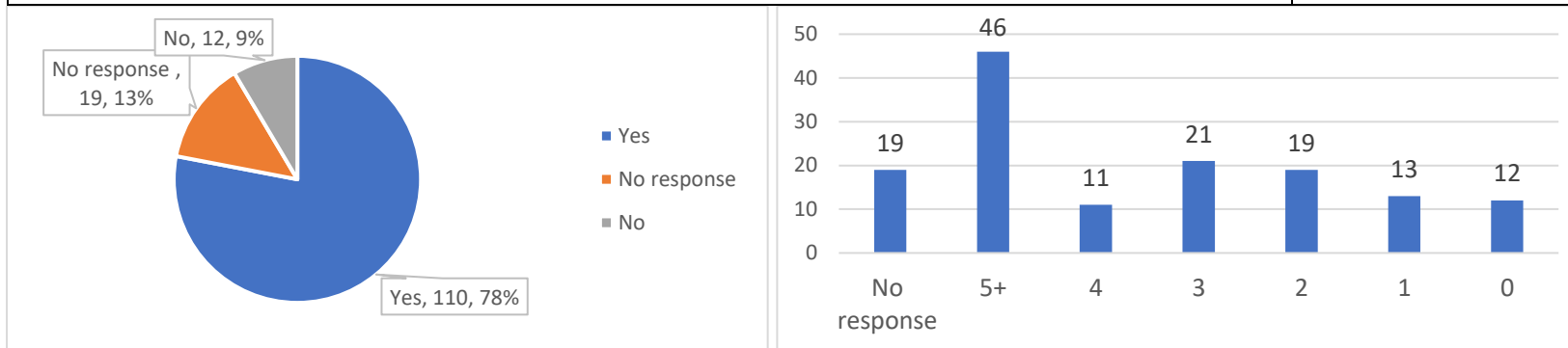
<p>D. <i>Did your host country make use of knowledge products* developed by or with support from FAO to analyze synergies and trade-offs associated with an agrifood system approach to enable healthy diets?"</i></p> <p><i>* Knowledge products include traditional publications, digital media (social media and web content), and videos, among others.</i></p>	<p>YES NO</p>
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E. How many national dialogues\* convened by FAO were held in your host country to address policy coherence, emerging evidence, synergies, win-win, and trade-offs across policies and actions in food systems in support of healthy diets?

\* A dialogue refers to a meeting, conference, congress, summit, or equivalent virtual event for knowledge sharing, debate, negotiation, and consensus building.

Drop-down list with numerical figures ranging from 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 and more  
(Optional: Please specify titles)



F. Did the government of your host country receive FAO policy, investment, and technical assistance\* to enable healthy diets?

\* Including in the form of South-South and Triangular cooperation, direct assistance in areas of production, investment in sustainable value chains, climate change, natural resource management, gender, etc.

As per the [Resource guide](#) from the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), please specify FAO's support to the following themes by checking appropriate box

**FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS**

- Water management for nutrition
- Food safety for nutrition
- Enhancing resilient food supply in crisis-prone areas
- Antimicrobial resistance for nutrition
- Food loss and food waste prevention and reduction for nutrition

**FOOD ENVIRONMENT**

- Saturated fat, sugars, salt, and trans-fat reduction

Yes      No

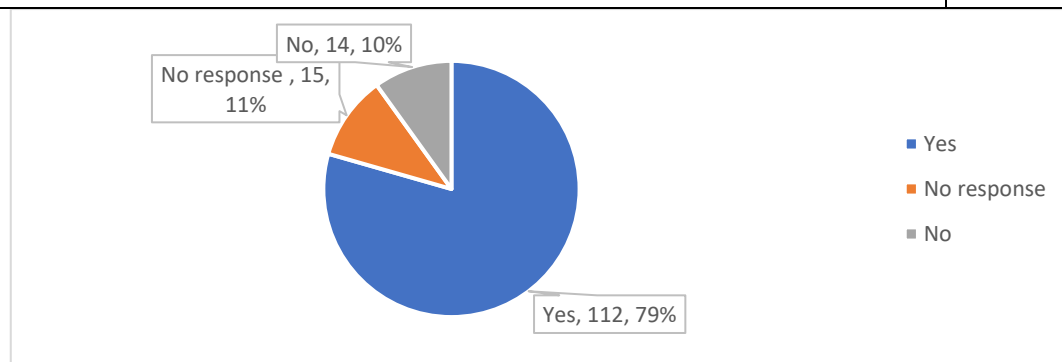
- *Influencing the food environment for healthy diets*
- *International trade for nutrition*

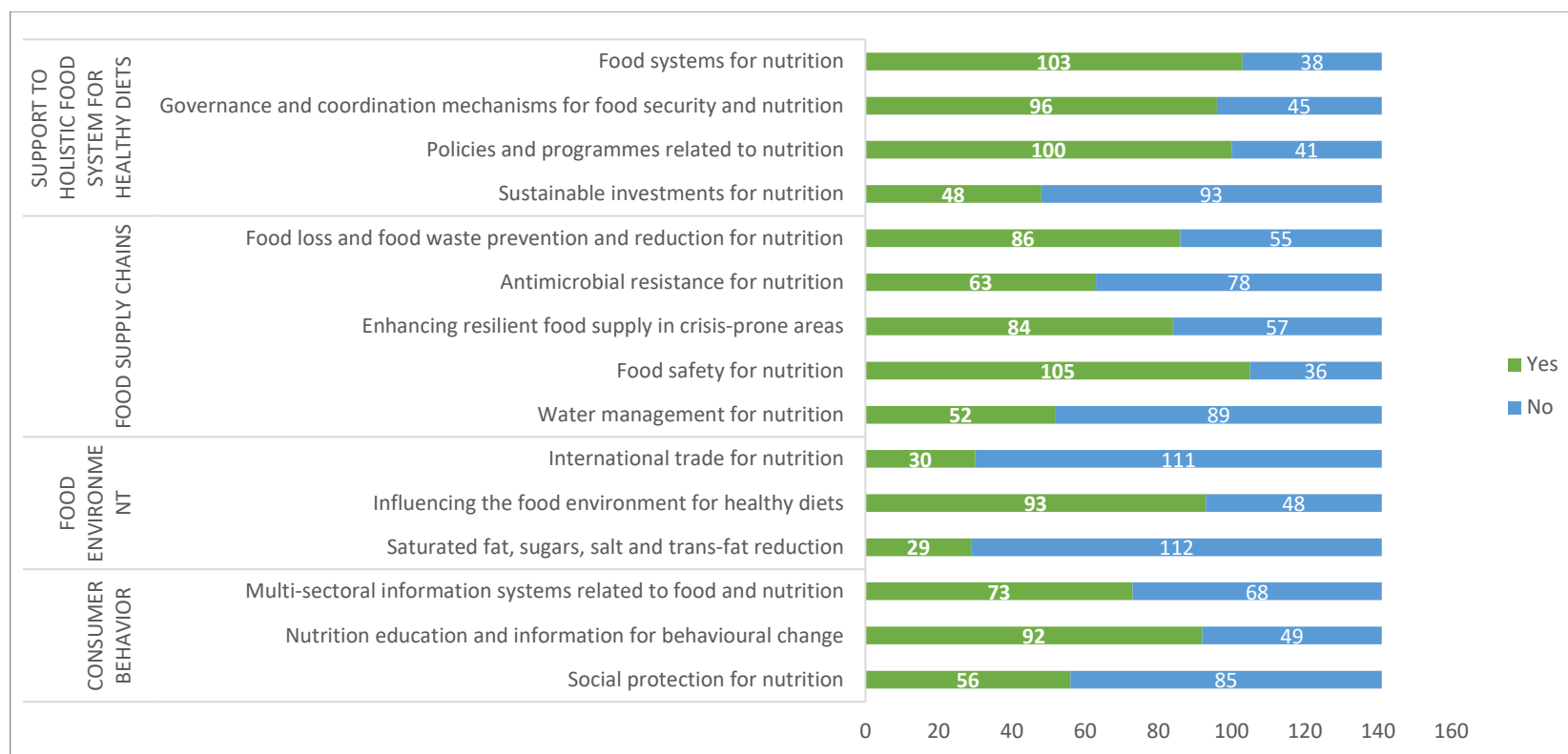
**CONSUMER BEHAVIOR**

- *Social protection for nutrition*
- *Nutrition education and information for behavioural change*
- *Multi-sectoral information systems related to food and nutrition*

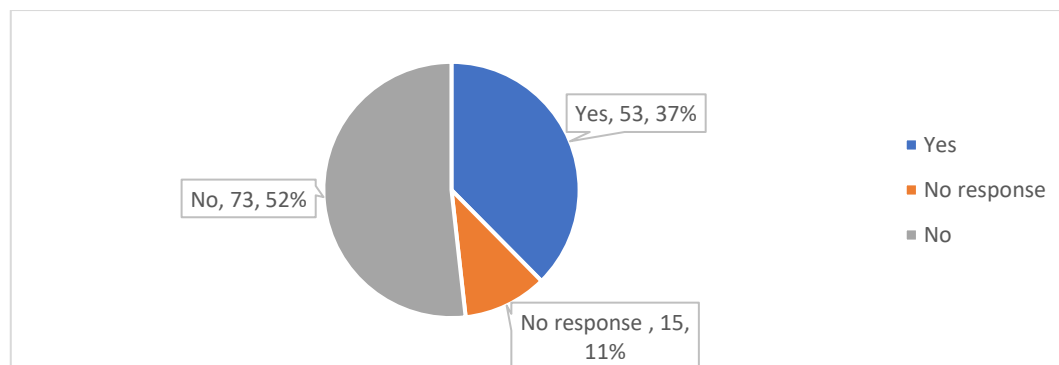
**SUPPORT TO HOLISTIC FOOD SYSTEM FOR HEALTHY DIETS**

- *Sustainable investments for nutrition*
- *Policies and programmes related to nutrition*
- *Governance and coordination mechanisms for food security and nutrition*
- *Food systems for nutrition*

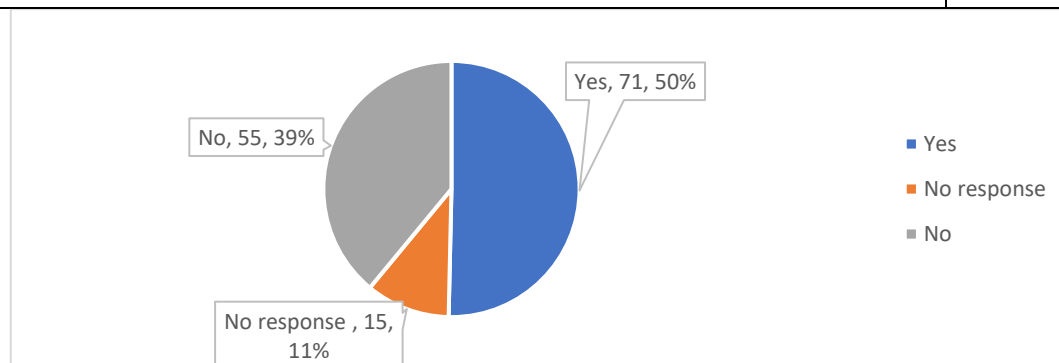




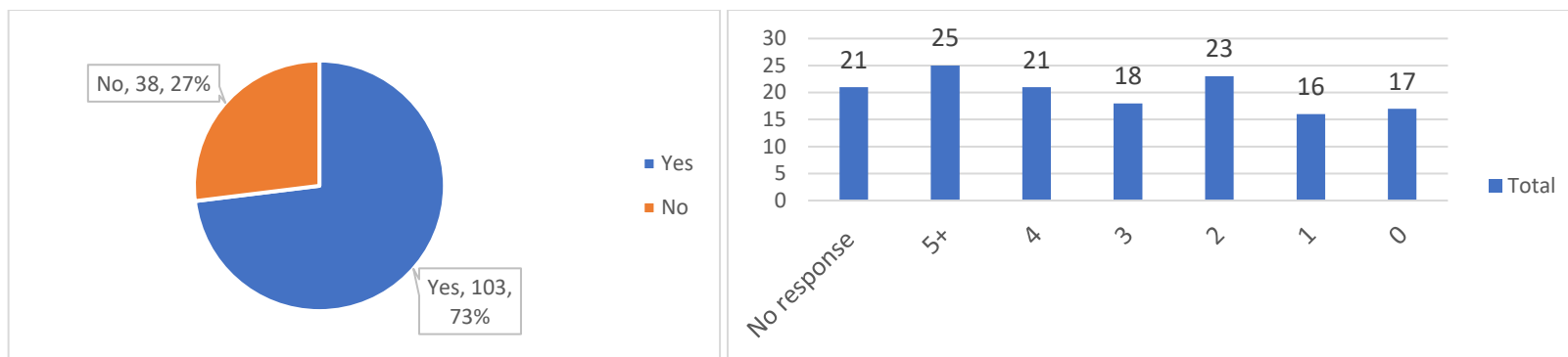
<p>G. Did the government of your host country develop, revise, or implement Food-based Dietary Guidelines with the financial and/or technical support from FAO?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
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H. Did the government of your host country receive FAO's support with school food and nutrition programmes and policies?	Yes	No
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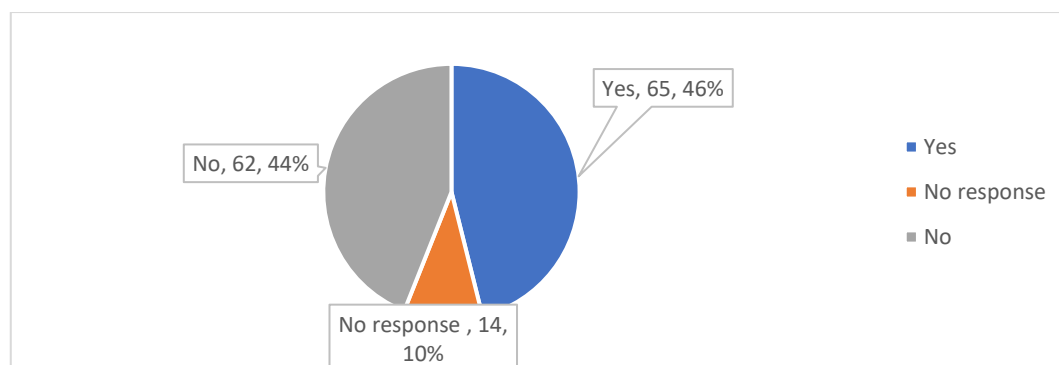
I. At the national level, with how many strategic coordination mechanisms and platforms for nutrition (e.g., Nutrition Cluster, Food Security Cluster, UN Nutrition, and SUN movement) did FAO engage?	Drop-down list with numerical figures ranging from 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 and more) (Optional: Please specify titles)
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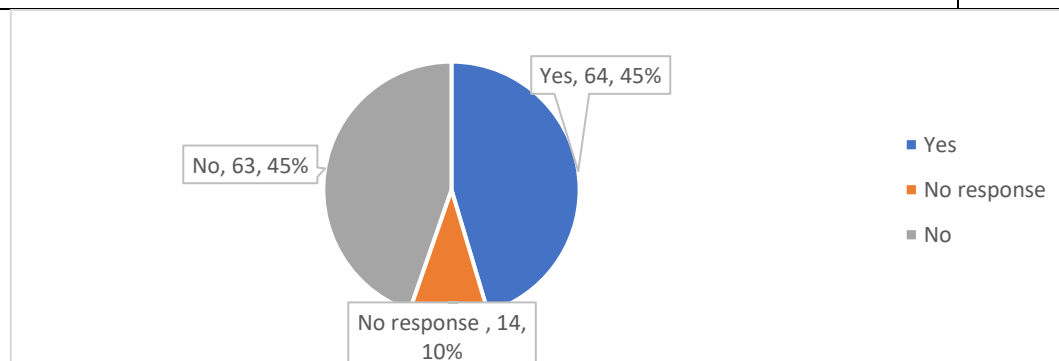
**Question 2: Please describe key events, initiatives, collaborations, projects, and activities in which the Country Office has been involved to accelerate impactful policies and actions across food systems to enable healthy diets for all in 2021.**

To support FAO’s enabling environment to work on nutrition, Country Offices are invited to respond to the following questions:

<b>Question 3: In terms of sufficient nutrition expertise within your Country Office, please check the appropriate box</b>	
A. Did your Country Office have sufficient nutrition expertise to complete activities aligned with the Nutrition Strategy relevant to the country context?	Yes No



<p>B. Did your Country Office have sufficient nutrition expertise to effectively support relevant policies and actions to enable healthy diets from across the agrifood system in the UNSDCF?</p>	<p>Yes No</p>
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**Question 4: Please specify the contractual arrangements and/or grade of the main colleague who oversees FAO's work on nutrition in your Country Office, as well as his/her areas of expertise <Please check the appropriate box>**

Professional Staff Senior staff with managerial responsibilities Consultant/National Project Personnel  
 Not technical staff No one other Office (sub-regional/regional/HQ level)

Nutrition Food security Others\* \* Please specify:

