

Impact Story 5: THE UN Food Systems Summit



THE OPPORTUNITY

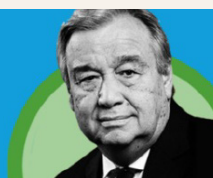
In September of 2020 the UN Secretary General (UNSG) António Guterres announced that in September 2021 the UN would convene a [Food Systems Summit](#). The Summit was launched to address the problems of hunger, malnutrition, climate change, environmental degradation, low income and vulnerability to shocks and stresses by making positive changes to the world's food systems.

None of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to food were on track to be met for 2030. It was thought a Summit that focused on food systems – all aspects of food from production to consumption and their interactions – would galvanise the world's stakeholders and generate ideas, initiatives, action and commitment to intensify efforts towards meeting the SDGs by 2030.



Food systems **hold the power** to realize our shared vision for a better world."

READ: the Secretary-General's Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit



The Summit was unique in bringing all different stakeholders – governments, youth, indigenous peoples, Civil Society Organizations, academia and many others – together for the first time in such a high-profile event.

THE SOLUTION

The UNSG's Special Envoy for the Summit, Dr. Agnes Kalibata invited GAIN's Executive Director Dr. [Lawrence Haddad](#) to lead Action Track 1 (AT1) on [Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All](#). This recognised GAIN's standing in the field of food systems and nutrition.

Leading AT1 involved assembling and working together with a group of over 100 stakeholders drawn from country governments, researchers, civil society advocates, youth representatives, NGO program implementers, business networks, FAO and other multilateral organizations to generate ideas, action and ideas to transform food systems. A few of our main donors generously allowed us to allocate resources to support this work.

Country Coordinating Group working with GAIN government partners in 9 countries: Mandira Neogi (Bangladesh), Aster Zewdie (Ethiopia), Supreet Kaur (India); Drajat Martianto (Indonesia, consultant), Charles Opiyo (Kenya), Diva Dessai (Mozambique), Joyce Akpata (Nigeria), Faiz Rasool (Pakistan), Obey Nkya (Tanzania), and Sharada Keats

Action Track 1 – Lawrence Haddad, Chair, Anouk De Vries, project manager

GAIN staff supporting solution clusters: Barbel Weiligmann, Caroline DeWaal, Christina Nyhus Dhillon, Christina Pedersen, Naina Qayyum, Penjani Mkambula, Sadia Kaenzig, Sharada Keats, Stella Nordhagen

GAIN Board supporting solution clusters: Cherrie Atilano, Ndidi Nwuneli

Action Track 2 – Ashish Deo in the Leadership team, Eva Monterrosa supporting

Action Track 4 – Lynnette Neufeld Science Group lead; part of AT4 Leadership team

Science Group - Joachim von Braun (Chair), Kaosar Afsana (Vice Chair), Lynnette Neufeld

Champions Network: Catherine Bertini, Cherrie Atilano, Tom Arnold

Private Sector Guiding Group: Steven Godfrey, Candela Fito

Figure 1: GAIN staff and Board members contributing to the UN Food System Summit process

THE IMPACT

After 18 months of planning, the UN Food Systems Summit took place in New York in September 2021. GAIN put energy and resources into the preparations and convening of the UNFSS because for the first time, it took a systems approach – connecting poor diets and malnutrition to other global challenges such as COVID-19, climate change and conflict. It also prioritised bringing stakeholders from all walks of life together to find solutions, and such alliance building is core to our way of working. At the FSS over 100 countries set out their plans for changing their food systems – these pathways provide new and different opportunities to make diets healthier and do this in a sustainable way.

What did GAIN Support, Catalyse, Develop and Co-Lead in the UN Food Systems Summit process?		
Catalyse <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Global Food 50/50 2. Reset on Wasting 	Develop <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Zero Hunger Coalition 4. Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge 5. Facility to Support National Pathway Implementation 	Co-Lead <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Act4Food Act4Change Youth Initiative 7. Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food System Coalition 8. Food Systems Countdown to 2030 9. True Value of Food Initiative 8. Anaemia Action Alliance
Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped facilitate National Food System Dialogues • Helped develop National Food System pathways • In Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania 		

Figure 2: The main contributions of GAIN to the UN Food Systems Summit

Three of these GAIN-driven initiatives are highlighted below: one on youth, one on gender, and one on the private sector.

Act4Food Act4Change: Is a youth led campaign which now has over 160,000 signatures from around the world and was supported by GAIN and the Food Foundation. It raises awareness of food system issues among youth. The campaign is pushing for youth representation in food system decision making fora, including at GAIN. The campaign is not just about awareness and representation, it is about making decision makers in public and private sectors aware of the priorities of youth, challenging them to do something about them. Finally, it is sharing information about what the youth themselves can do to change food systems, without waiting for permission.



Figure 3: Act4Food Act4Change Youth Campaign to “Fix our broken food systems” – 160,000 pledges have been received, as of May 2022.

Global Food 50/50: The key role that women play in food systems and food businesses—growing, processing, purchasing and preparing food—is well known and yet too many organisations neglect women in their own decision-making processes or in their programme and policy work. GAIN has been a big supporter of Global Health 50/50, a gender accountability process promoting gender equality in health system organisations and we saw an opportunity to do the same in food systems. We played a key catalytic connector role and IFPRI together with Global Health 50/50 did the rest: the Global Food 50/50 was born.



Figure 4: The Global Food 50/50 scorecard

The Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge:

A combination of climate change, COVID-19, conflict and underinvestment in agriculture has led to a dramatic rise in hunger in the last 2 years. With governments and donors so cash strapped due to COVID and more recently the conflict in Ukraine, what can the private sector do? Together with IISD **International Institute**

for Sustainable Development), WFP (World Food Programme) and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), GAIN established the Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge where companies commit to spend and invest in the 10 high impact investment areas that the science has shown can end hunger. We help them allocate their spending in these 10 areas, we link them to implementing partners to convert pledges into actions and we track their actions. The goal is to reach 50 billion USD by 2030. We are currently (May 2022) at 456 million USD.

Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge: What have we achieved so far?

43

companies

\$456

million

47

Countries



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Better Nutrition for All