



UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SYSTEMS COORDINATION HUB

Food Systems Coalitions FAQs

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions

2022



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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

(September 2022)



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What are coalitions?

Coalitions are groups of people and/or institutions (State and/or non-State actors) developed in the context of the UN Food Systems Summit and assembled to challenge business as usual and champion an integrated, systemic approach at scale to address (a) specific issue(s) related to food systems. In each case, the coalition members' priority is to catalyse the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supporting national pathways for food systems transformation by 2030.



They commit to doing so in line with the principles, targets, and indicators of the 2030 Agenda. While coalitions are self-organising and independent, the Food Systems Summit leadership encouraged them to be:

- **Country-driven:** Coalition members commit to aligning behind coalitions that are designed in support/response to and/or in alignment with national development agendas and championed by countries.
- **Systemic and transformative:** Coalitions address core issues with the ambition to advance transformation towards sustainable food systems. They do so through a holistic, multistakeholder and multisectoral approach, which considers together the impact on People, the Planet, and Prosperity.
- **Inclusive and based on coordination:** Coalition members commit to overcoming the current landscape fragmentation, thinking long-term and focusing on resource efficiency; collaborating rather than competing; investing time in the sharing of information, dialogue and collective decision making; and aligning their own actions, knowledge and technical expertise, tools and resources, finance, networks, and advocacy power to the collective roadmap.
- **Accountable:** Coalition members hold each other mutually accountable and are willing to report on their progress at regular intervals in a transparent manner.
- **Action-oriented:** Supported by tangible plans, including measurable targets, to achieve systemic change of food systems.

The Hub is not directing the actions of the independent coalitions, but rather serving as a connector and knowledge management point for the coalitions. It will assist to connect coalitions with the countries for accelerating food systems transformative actions.

The Hub will showcase and report on coalitions' added value, tools, and frameworks as well as concrete actions in support of the implementation of national pathways.

What is the added value of a coalition?

The 2030 Agenda commits us to work differently to support countries and national governments – which are ultimately accountable to their citizens to achieve sustainable development – with their priorities. Rather than competing or replacing existing initiatives, coalitions aim to provide a space for actors to come together and redirect efforts and resources more effectively along a systems approach for greater sustainable impact. They commit to holding themselves mutually accountable in the context of the Summit's follow-up throughout the next decade.

The value addition of the coalitions is:

- **Networking local to global:** They can serve as a conduit to stitch together local, national, and global levels, communities, countries, and constituencies around key food systems transformation priorities.
- **Fostering alignment and coherence:** They can provide a mechanism for greater alignment and coherence of efforts, reducing fragmentation of effort and investment.
- **Catalysing coordinated investment and collective action:** They can catalyse coordinated investments on key priorities at country level and in regional and global public goods.
- **Mobilize resources:** They can help to repurpose existing funds or galvanize new funds and partnerships for top priorities.
- **Mobilize energy and political will:** They can draw and maintain attention on key priorities and elevate the voices of various actors to generate the required political will and ensure they have a seat at the table.
- **Transferring lessons, best practices, and capacities:** They can facilitate the transfer of knowledge and capacities on priority areas to accelerate action and impact.

Which stages of development are the coalitions in?

Of the 31 coalitions (full list in annex), 27 responded to a survey organized by the Hub in May 2022. Almost all the coalitions gave the Hub the authorization to process the responses to the survey and make them available in the public domain. The results of the survey are summarized below.

At the time of the survey, almost half of the coalitions were active and running, while others were being established, setting up governance structures, developing work plans and reaching out to partners.

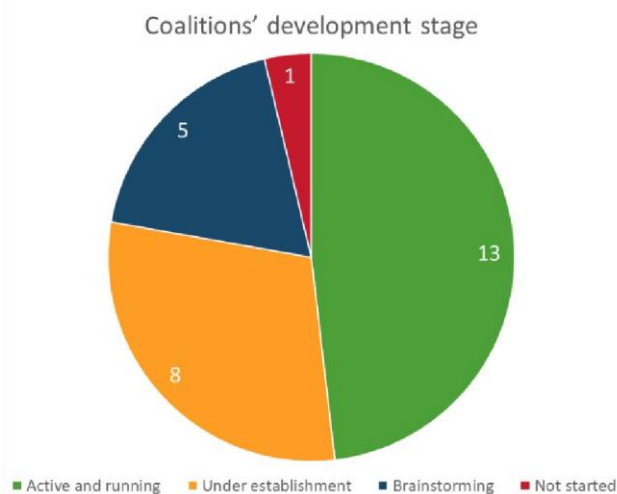


Figure 1. Chart measuring the stages of development for

Progressively, more coalitions are becoming active and ready to support countries and other actors.

What are the areas the coalitions are working on?

Coalitions are framed under the Five Action Areas, referred to in the UN Secretary-General's Statement of Action and listed in the table 1 below; they speak directly to issues and priorities that emerged through the national dialogues process.

Table 1: Topics addressed by coalitions by Action Area

Action Area	Topics addressed by coalitions
1. Nourish all people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School Meals, Nutrition, Health, and Education - Healthy Diets - Food Loss and Waste - Food Quality and Safety - Achieving Zero Hunger, Malnutrition - True Value of Food - Family Farming - Sustainable Consumption
2. Boost nature-positive solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable Livestock - Aquatic / Blue Foods - Vulnerable Peoples Food Systems - Soil Health - Nature-Positive Innovation - Sustainable Productivity Growth - Sustainable Production - Land and Water - Halting Deforestation & Conversion from Agricultural Commodities - Agroecology
3. Advance equitable livelihoods, decent work, and empowered communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food Systems for Women and Girls - Equitable Livelihoods - Decent Work and Living Incomes and Wages for All Food Systems Workers - Indigenous Peoples Food Systems - Urban Food Systems
4. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate and Disasters Resilience Development Pathways (CRDP) - Resilient Food Supply Chains - Resilience to Stress and Vulnerabilities - Resilience to Shocks/Violent Conflicts and Food Crises - Resilience to Health Crises
5. Accelerating the Means of Implementation (finance, governance, science and innovation, data, and trade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finance and Investment - Public Information, Digital - Governance, Policy, and Regulation - Better Data

What are the SDGs directly addressed by the coalitions?

Across the SDGs, the international community has established clear and ambitious goals for food systems that reflect complex relationships between the environmental, economic, and social pillars of sustainable development. In his Statement of Action, the UN Secretary-General reinforces that “*the Food Systems Summit provided an essential boost of energy into the 2030 Agenda. All stakeholders need to reaffirm a commitment to act with urgency, at scale and in solidarity with one another to keep the promise of the SDGs*”.

The voluntary, multi-stakeholder and independently working coalitions help to accelerate progress towards SDG achievement, informed by the Five Action Areas at country level. The Action Areas help inform the transitions needed to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

The coalitions’ work supports the achievement of almost all the 17 SDGs, with an emphasis on SDG2 (Zero hunger and ending all forms of malnutrition) and SDG13 (Climate action).

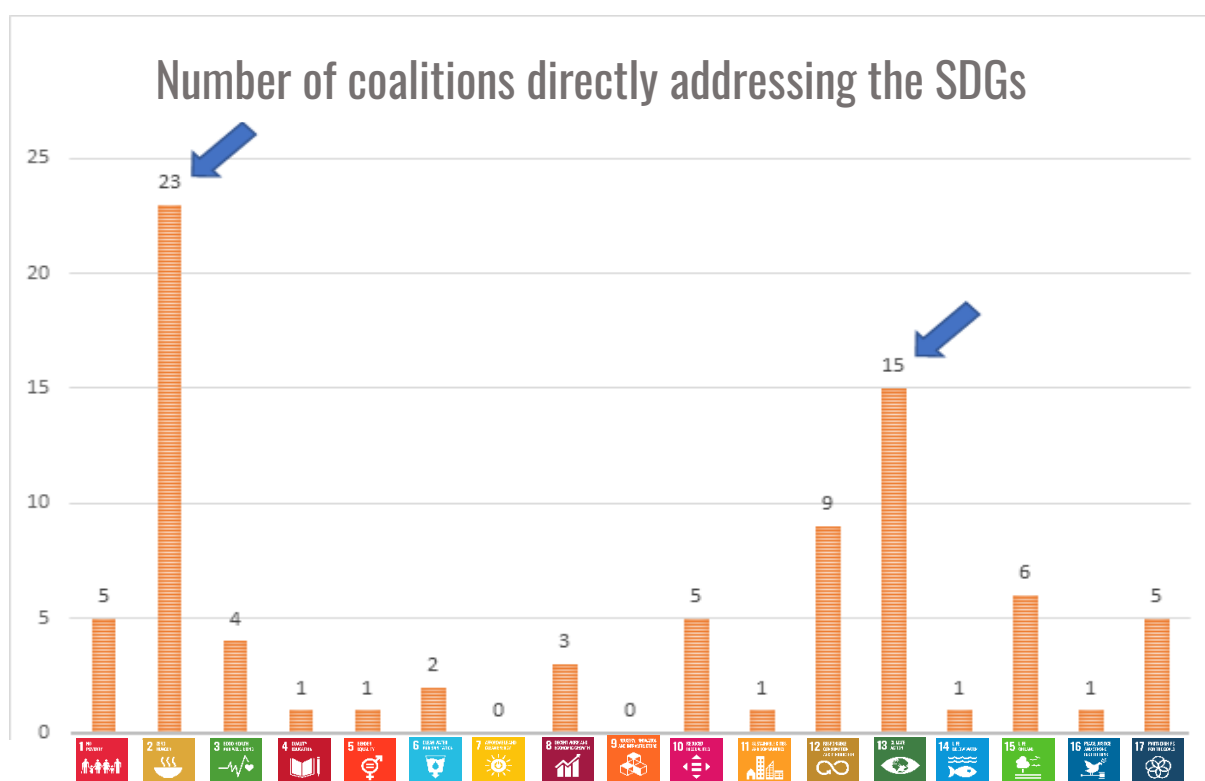


Figure 2. SDGs directly addressed by the coalitions.

Who leads coalitions?

Coalitions are multi-actor in nature. They can be led by Member States, UN Agencies, Funds, or Programmes (AFPs) – or any organisation or group of organisations. Coalition leads need to have sufficient capacity and resources, and inspire leadership in line with the [UN Secretary-General’s Statement of Action](#).

Leading entities of the coalitions

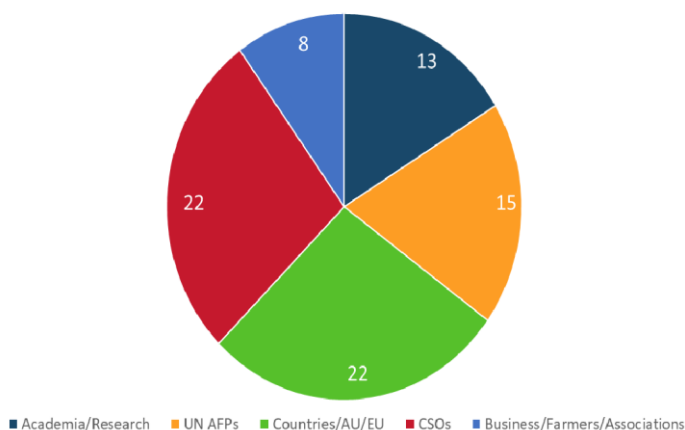


Figure 3. Leading entities of the coalitions

Hosting arrangements of the coalitions require necessary assets to ensure the effective functioning of the coalition, for example, from administrative and secretarial support to implementation, monitoring, and reporting. These arrangements differ for each coalition.

Member States who are interested and have the capacity, are encouraged to engage in the coalition’s leadership structure to further shape its terms of reference, structure, aim and work plan; this responsibility is entirely with coalition initiators and leaders.

A total of 85 organisations are listed as leaders in the coalitions including 15 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs), 22 civil society organisations, 13 academic/research organisations and 8 private sector companies; 22 Member States are part of a coalition’s leadership. On average, a coalition is led by 5 member organisations/countries.

Which countries are participating in the coalitions?

As of May 2022, a total of 106 countries, the African Union, and the European Union are members of one or more coalitions. The European Union, the African Union and 18 countries are members of 4 or more coalitions. Some coalitions also include cities and local entities as members.

Which UN AFPs are supporting the coalitions?

A total of 26 different UN AFPs are engaging in 21 coalitions.

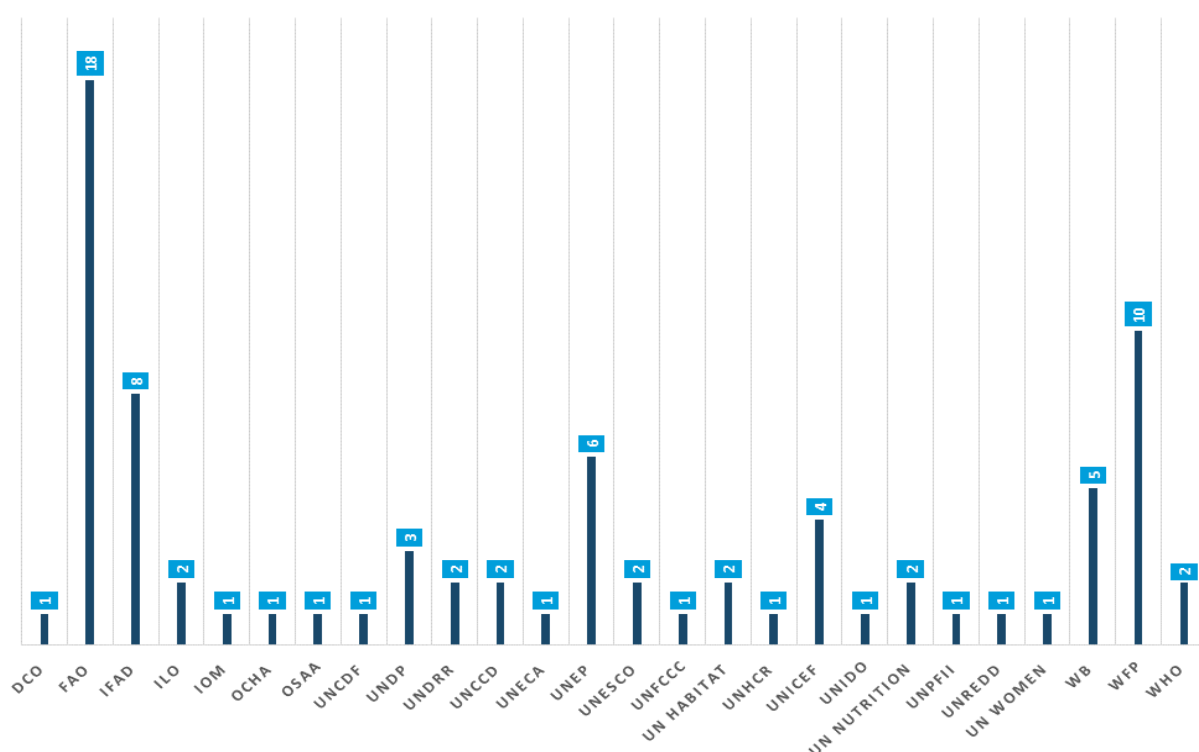


Figure 4. Number of coalitions each UN AFP is participating in.

Who can join a coalition? Is membership open to anyone?

Coalitions are multi-actor initiatives that are led or co-led by Member States, UN AFPs or non-State actors. Coalitions can be joined by an institution, Member State or group with the knowledge, infrastructure, technical capacity, and dedication to be part of the efforts of the coalition’s aim and vision.

Member States who identify issues of relevance to their national context – for example, issues that are already identified as a strategic priority in national development plans, in their national pathway, or others – and want to advance this issue through the holistic, integrated, and systemic approaches promoted by a coalition, can decide to join it. In doing so, they become part of the community of practice on the issue. As the coalitions are independent mechanisms, their activities, frequency of meetings and implications for time resources vary according to each coalition.

There are no fees required to join a coalition. However, for coalition leads, they can be expected to consider the resources required to sustain the coalition’s activities. The procedure to join a coalition is not standard for all coalitions, so it is best to reach out to the focal point(s) of the coalition of your interest to obtain further information (see [Compendium of Food Systems Coalitions, September 2022](#)).

Currently, for 19 coalitions, membership is open to anyone; while for another 9 coalitions, membership is subject to certain criteria. For example, support to the coalition’s mission, suitable involvement in the focus area, and alignment to the coalition’s Principles of Engagement. Members may also be required to submit statements of intent or to sign a declaration of engagement. In some coalitions, involvement of the private sector is currently on hold until a framework of engagement is developed. In others, a due diligence assessment may be carried out on all prospective members to evaluate their adherence with the agreed criteria.

At what geographical level do the coalitions work?

Coalitions work at all levels, including with cities and subnational entities, but with the ultimate aim of supporting the implementation of national food systems transformation pathways and relevant action plans.

At the global level, efforts are dedicated to ensuring food systems receive the needed political attention in global fora, filling the evidence gap, developing policy implementation tools, as well as building the capacity of countries through peer-to-peer learning. At national and subnational levels, coalitions can support translating the national pathways into impactful action. This support can be delivered by one or several of the member organisations of the coalition.

Geographical level where the coalitions work

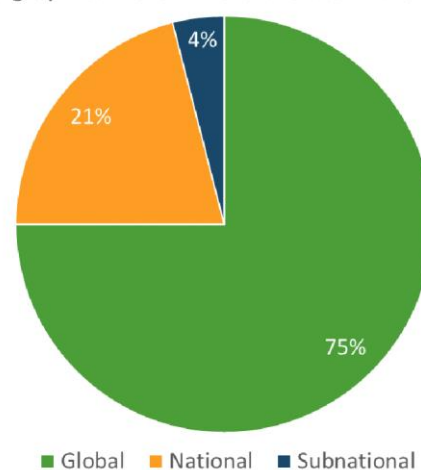


Figure 5. Geographical level where the coalitions primary work.

How can I join a coalition?

To express interest to join or for any further queries related to a specific coalition, a contact list of coalition focal points is available [here](#). For queries on the Hub's engagement with coalitions, please contact the Hub's Engagement Coordinator, Lina Mahy, (mahyl@who.int).

[Annex 1: List of coalitions per action area](#)

[Annex 2: Compendium of Food Systems Coalitions, September 2022](#)

[Annex 3: Solutions Dialogue: Engaging for food systems transformations - Coalitions of Action, 29 June 2022](#)