Food Waste baseline measurement
SDG 12.3.1b Capacity Building
ESCWA UNEP Workshop

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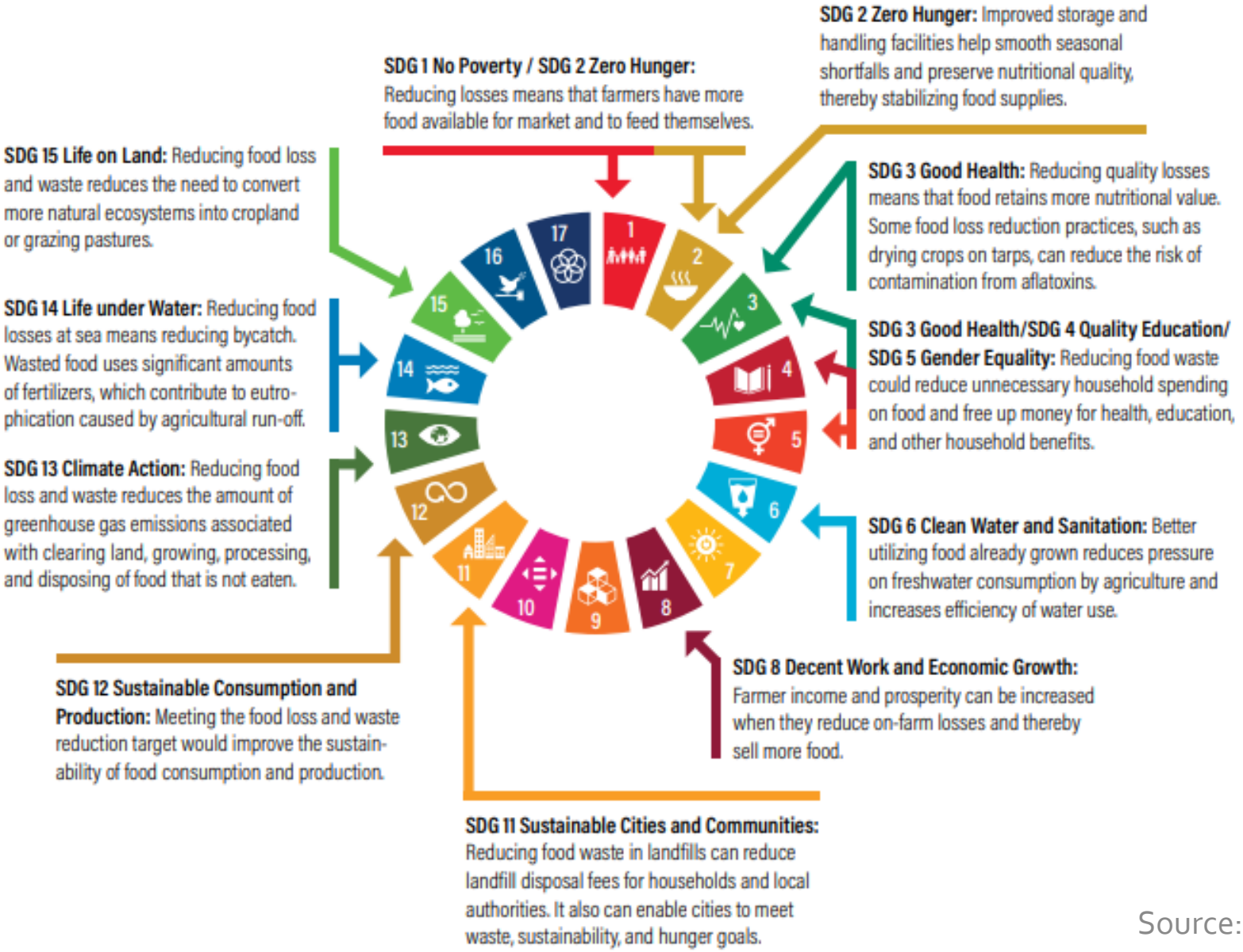
Curbing food loss and waste can help deliver multiple SDGs…



Source: WRI, 2019

…And raise ambition in NDC revisions

Article 4.2 "**Each Party** shall **prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions** that it intends to achieve. Parties shall **pursue domestic mitigation measures**, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions."

Food Loss and Waste in Climate Strategies

Generating 4.4 Gt CO2e (8% of GHG), food loss and waste has an important role to play in national and business climate strategies.

UNEP's report with WWF, *Enhancing NDCs for Food Systems*, provides recommendations on how to raise climate ambition in NDC revisions with FLW indicators, policies and interventions.

Tracking Progress on SDG 12.3

Food Loss Index- focus on supply

Custodians of 12.3 indicators: FAO & UNEP

"By 2030, …

12.3

12.3.1 Food Loss

"…reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses."

12.3.2 Food Waste

"…halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels."

Food Waste Index- focus on demand

UN environment programme

17% of all food available at consumer levels is wasted

- 931 million tonnes of food sold to households, retailers, restaurants and other food services wasted in 2019
- Study finds food waste is a global, not just developed world, problem
- 690 million people affected by hunger in 2019 - expected to rise sharply with COVID-19 - and three billion people unable to afford a healthy diet: Consumers need help to reduce food waste at home.
- Food Waste Index report helps countries track progress on UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 to halve food waste by 2030

Food Waste Index approach

Level 1 Data coverage

Income group	Number of countries with measured data		
	Household	Food service	Retail
High-income	28	18	20
Upper middle-income	12	3	2
Lower middle-income	10	2	1
Low-income	2	0	0
Total	**52**	**23**	**23**

152 food waste data points were identified in 54 countries.

Level 1 Modelling & extrapolation

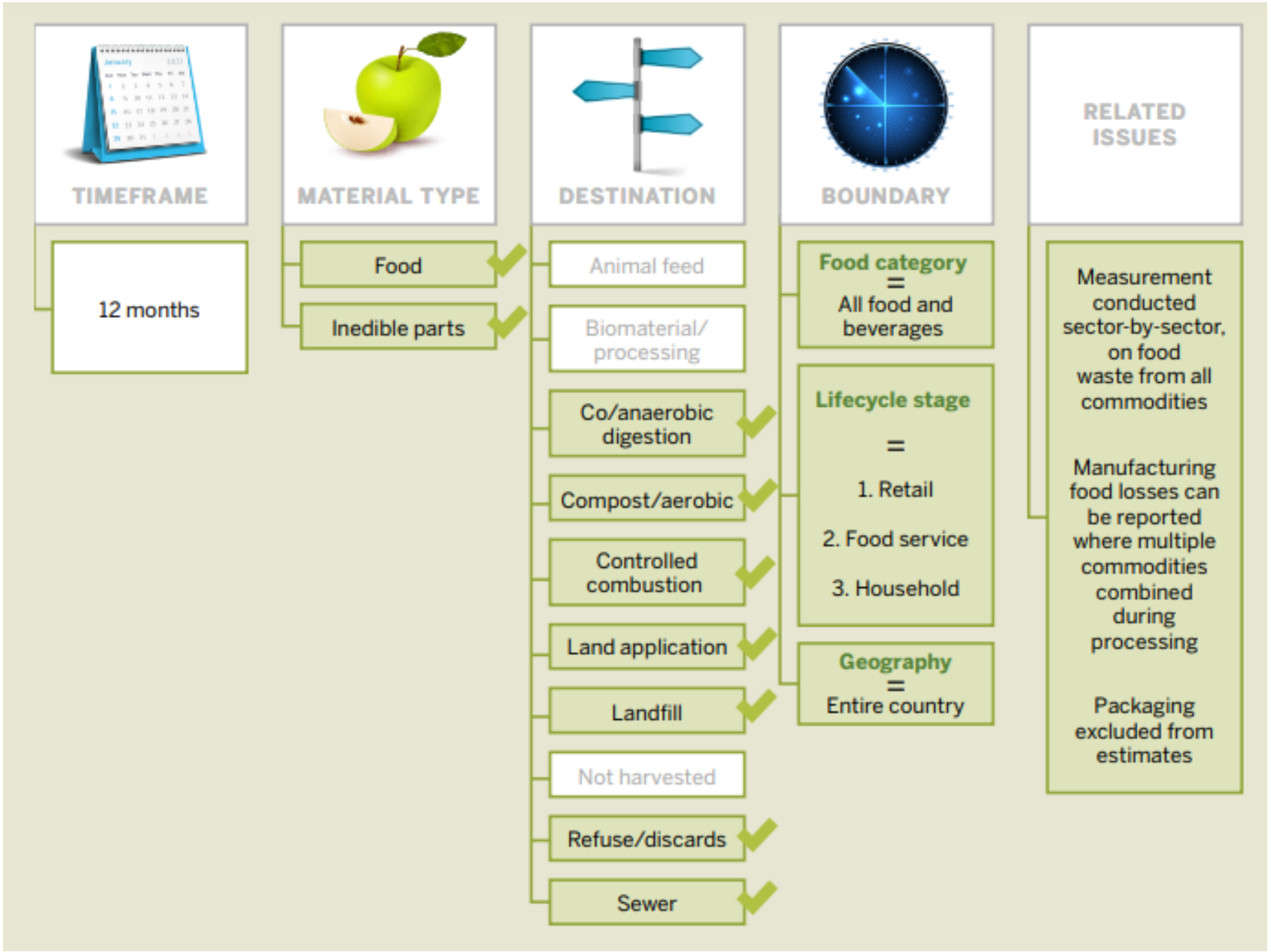
Sector	Global food waste, 2019	
	Average (kg / capita / year)	Total (million tons)
Household	74	569
Food service	32	244
Retail	15	118
Total	**121**	**931**

Household food waste = 74 kg / person / year

Household food waste, 2019, by World Bank country income group

Income group	Average, kg / capita / year
High-income	79
Upper middle-income	76
Lower middle-income	91
Low-income	Insufficient data

Level 2 Scope



Level 2 Appropriate methods of measurement by sector

Sector	Methods of measurement					
Manufacturing (if included)	Direct measurement (for food-only waste streams)	Waste composition analysis (for waste streams in which food is mixed with non-food)	Volumetric assessment	Mass balance		
Retail					Counting/ scanning	Diaries (for material going down sewer, home composted or fed to animals)
Food service						
Household						

How to Report on SDG 12.3

SDG 12.3 food waste data will be collected using the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) / UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics (Waste Section).

- Questionnaire sent out every two years to National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Environment, which will nominate a single food waste focal point in the country to coordinate data collection and reporting.
- Data will be made publicly available in SDG Global Database and in UNEP's Food Waste Index Report, which will be published at regular intervals up to 2030.
- The next questionnaire will be sent to Member States in **September 2022**, and results will be reported to the SDG Global Database by February 2023.
- Countries do not need to conduct new measurements every two years, or to measure every sector simultaneously. Measuring each sector at least once every four years is recommended.

Regional Food Waste Working Groups

Regional Food Waste Working Groups have been constituted in Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America and West Asia.

They seek to address data gap in middle- and low-income countries and catalyze action, supporting Member States in:

- Developing Food Waste Baselines (Household, Food Service, Retail)
- Using Food Waste Index approach for SDG 12.3 Reporting in 2022
- Designing National Food Waste Prevention Strategies
- Leveraging international finance to deliver strategies

They are facilitated via quarterly online workshops hosted by UNEP and WRAP, and promote South-South Collaboration on measurement challenges and policy approaches.

Composition of the Working Groups

Africa	Asia Pacific	Latin America & the Caribbean	West Asia
Mauritius	China	Argentina	Bahrain
Nigeria	Philippines	Brazil	Jordan
South Africa	Indonesia TBC	Chile	Palestine
Uganda	India TBC	Colombia	Qatar
Algeria TBC	Japan	Costa Rica	Saudi Arabia
Ghana	Malaysia	Mexico	UAE
	South Korea TBC	Uruguay	
	Thailand TBC	Dominican Republic	

United Nations | Food Systems Summit 2021

Food Loss & Waste Action Area

A Global Initiative to halve food loss and waste by 2030

At least 50 countries to prioritize food loss and waste reduction from farm to fork, setting national targets aligned with SDG 12.3, measure baselines and report progress, develop national strategies and act via policies and practices to halve food loss and waste by 2030.

How will it work?

The Global Initiative will work with countries to identify most appropriate approaches to fit their circumstances, using proven interventions such as: measurement and diagnostics, on-farm and near-farm food loss reduction technologies and investments, public private partnerships across the supply chain, accessing finance, circular economy policies, and consumer behaviour change.

How to get involved: Contact UNEP, FAO, WRI, World Bank or other organizing institutions.

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https://www.unep.org/resources/report/unep-food-waste-index-report-2021

Annex: Country Food Loss Index

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. Focuses on 10 commodities **in 5 main groups**
2. Measures **Food Loss Percentages** (FLP) and not total losses
3. Monitors changes in the Food Loss Percentage **over time**
4. Based on **nationally representative** loss percentages along the 10 selected supply chains

Required components:

i) Selecting the **Basket of Commodities**

ii) Choosing the **Base Year**

iii) Compiling the **Weights**

iv) **Collecting data** and estimating food losses percentages at national level for each commodity over time