



CHAPTER 4

Committing to Transform
Food Systems: Responsiveness
of Food Systems Transformation
Pledges by African Governments to
the WHO Priority Food Systems
Policies and Food-Related CAADP
Biennial Review Performance
Categories

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Chapter Preview

For several decades, Africa's food security situation has been dire. However, that dire state has recently been complicated by rising rates of overweight and obesity and other diet-related noncommunicable diseases. By 2030, noncommunicable diseases are predicted to become the leading cause of death on the continent amid other pandemic and economic challenges. Several interventions have been deployed to address the emerging challenges. African heads of state and government have been committing, declaring, pledging, and developing national and regional nutrition strategies, and they have envisioned the Africa they would want by 2063—the African Union's Agenda 2063. Other actions include commitments made as part of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit. With less than a decade to go to meet the 2030 agenda for transforming food systems in a sustainable way, we must ask whether these new commitments and recommitments can fulfill that promise. In this chapter, we assess the responsiveness of some African nations' commitments to (1) the World Health Organization's food priority policy actions, and (2) select Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Biennial Review performance categories. Both actions are touted as game changers—actions that have the potential to pave the way for the needed changes in Africa's food systems.

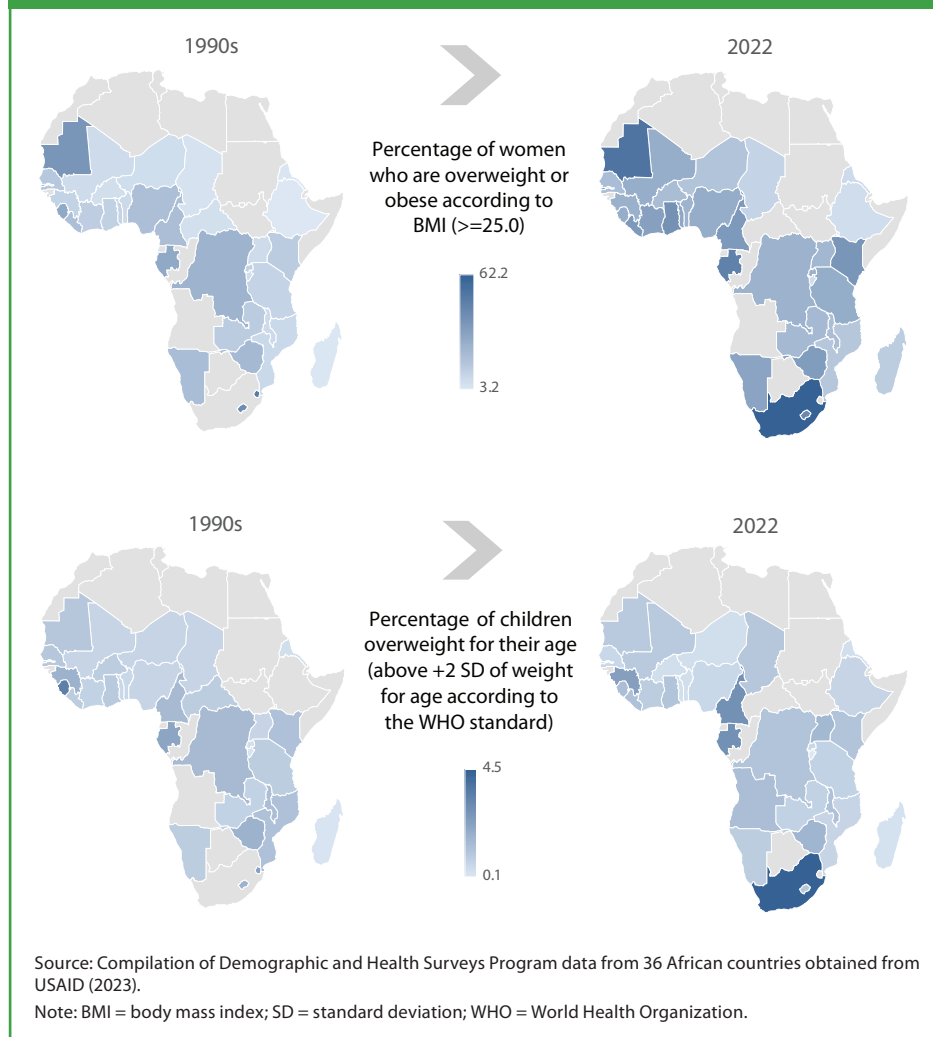
Introduction

Global Crises and Food and Nutrition Security in Africa

Food systems in Africa and worldwide face economic, pandemic, climate change, and related crises that disrupt food production, food distribution, and diets. Since 2019, global hunger rates have increased significantly, affecting about 7.9 percent of the world's population in 2019 and 9.2 percent in 2022 (FAO et al. 2023). By 2030, it is estimated that almost 600 million people worldwide will go to bed hungry (FAO et al. 2023). Regardless of the pandemic and the multiple manmade crises, between 23 and 119 million more people are expected to be affected by hunger by 2023, while in 2021 more than 3.1 billion people, women included, could not afford a healthy diet, representing an increase of 134 million people since 2019 (FAO et al. 2023). Along with high hunger rates, Africa also grapples with obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) (GBD 2015 Obesity Collaborators 2017). Figure 4.1 shows the changes in overweight/obesity

prevalence among children and women across Africa from the 1990s to 2022 using Demographic and Health Surveys Program data from 36 African countries (USAID 2023). Overall, in a little over two decades, most parts of Africa (West,

FIGURE 4.1—CHANGE IN OVERWEIGHT/OBESITY PREVALENCE AMONG KEY POPULATIONS (WOMEN AND CHILDREN) IN AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA FROM THE 1990s TO 2022



East, Middle, and Southern) reported considerable increases in the prevalence of overweight/obesity among both women and children. The agrifood, health, and economic systems face various factors that make it difficult to provide nutritious, safe, and affordable diets to everyone. To address such challenges and ensure food security and healthy diets for Africans, the continent needs regional policies and practices that countries must adhere to.

Commitment to Transform Africa's Food Systems

Faced with the challenge of failing food systems, governments in Africa have pledged to ensure that affordable and healthy diets are accessible to all. Salient efforts to address this issue include, among others, the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods adopted by the heads of state and government of the African Union during the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, June 26–27, 2014 (African Union 2014). Such efforts have provided new impetus and a renewed effort to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty through the agricultural sector (FAO 2020). The following are the seven broad commitments from the Malabo Declaration:

1. Recommit to and uphold the principles and values of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).
2. Enhance investment finance in agriculture, directing at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and rural development policy implementation.
3. End hunger in Africa by 2025.
4. Reduce poverty by half by 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation.
5. Boost intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services.
6. Enhance the resilience of livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other related risks.
7. Ensure mutual accountability for actions and results by conducting a continentwide Biennial Review to monitor progress in achieving the seven commitments.

One year after the Malabo Declaration, world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda to be achieved by 2030. This new global recommitment is consistent with the Malabo Declaration, particularly SDGs 1 and 2, that is, ending poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG 1) and ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture by 2030 (SDG 2). The convergence of the Malabo Declaration and the SDGs was further reiterated by the overlap among most indicators to measure progress in implementing the Malabo Declaration and the SDGs (FAO 2020).

More recently, in 2021, the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS or "the Summit") and its associated dialogues galvanized diverse food system actors and stakeholders to take action on transforming food systems through five action areas (UN 2021):

1. *Nourish all people.* This includes ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all, promoting and creating demand for healthy and sustainable diets, and reducing waste.
2. *Boost nature-based solutions.* Steps include acting on climate change, reducing emissions and increasing carbon capture, regenerating and protecting critical ecosystems, and reducing food loss and energy usage, without undermining health or nutritious diets.
3. *Advance equitable livelihoods, decent work, and empowered communities.* This entails raising incomes, distributing risk, expanding inclusion, creating jobs, and adding value.
4. *Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses.* One way this is done is by ensuring the continued functionality of healthy and sustainable food systems.
5. *Accelerate the means of implementation.* Such means of implementation include finance, science and innovation, data, governance, and trade.

As part of the UNFSS process, African governments and the broader regional bloc, the African Union, expressed their commitments to transform their food systems to deliver nourishment to the African population in an equitable manner and within planetary boundaries.

Progress on Food Systems Transformation

To monitor progress on the Malabo commitments, the heads of state and government of the African Union made decisions about clearly defining targets and indicators to be measured and reported in a Biennial Review Report, the latest of which was published in March 2022 (AUDA-NEPAD 2022a). Mechanisms were also adopted to monitor progress on the SDGs at both national and global levels. The equivalent of the Biennial Review for the SDGs is known as a voluntary national review, and both the voluntary national reviews and the Biennial Reviews serve to facilitate the sharing of experiences by member states, the reporting of successes stories and challenges and lessons learned, and also the strengthening of policies and mobilizing of support and partnerships for the SDGs (FAO 2020).

According to the latest Biennial Review Report (AUDA-NEPAD 2022a), 51 out of 55 countries reported their performance against 46 indicators and only a third of the countries were rated as doing well, of which Rwanda was the only country on track to achieve four out of seven Malabo commitments (1, 4, 6, and 7). Overall, most countries were not on track to achieve the seven Malabo commitments. An exhaustive list of countries and their respective commitments that they are on track to achieve can be found in the 3rd Biennial Review Report (AUDA-NEPAD 2022a).

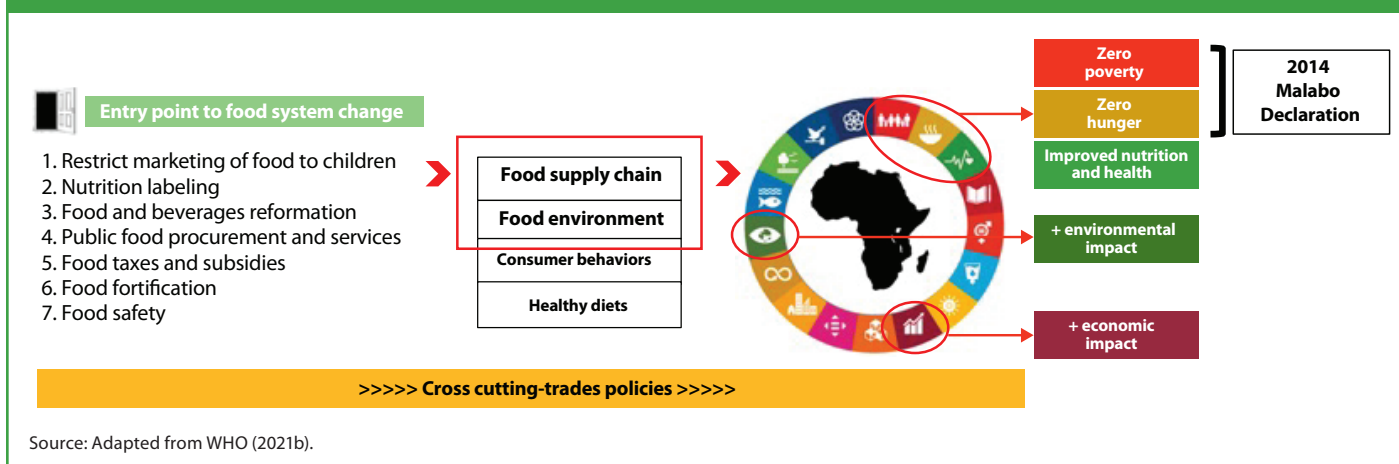
The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition (UN 2023) highlights the fragility and slow progress in achieving the SDGs. The COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia–Ukraine war, and climate-related disasters have exacerbated the slow progress. Shockingly, 30 percent of countries have either made no movement or regressed below the baseline, while estimates suggest that more than 500 million people will still be living in extreme poverty by 2030. Additionally, food prices remain

high in many countries, and carbon dioxide levels continue to rise. It is evident that developing countries and the world's poorest and most vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of our collective failure (UN 2023). Policy incoherence across sectors and the misalignment of food security and nutrition policies are also both significant problems that lead to fragmentation throughout the regulatory system in Africa (AU, NEPAD, and CAADP 2019). Ensuring that food security is part of a prioritized policy agenda and a policy framework that align with both the Malabo targets and national development objectives, including climate change, remains the greatest challenge to Africa (Laar, Tagwireyi, and Hassan-Wassef 2023).

Opportunities for Change

This chapter warns that improving agriculture, enhancing food systems, and establishing effective platforms to boost food system capabilities are crucial. These actions will ensure that nutritious and healthy diets are available for everyone, household incomes are raised, and extreme poverty is reduced. Immediate action is necessary to achieve these objectives. Policies that advance all three pillars of sustainable development—economic, social, and environmental—must fully reflect these goals (FAO 2020).

FIGURE 4.2—POLICY OPPORTUNITY TO FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION



However, until recently, health and development policies and strategies in Africa have focused mainly on addressing undernutrition, communicable diseases, and maternal and child health challenges. The high-level continental agriculture, nutrition, health, and development policy and strategy frameworks that we referred to—including the 2003 Maputo commitments, the 2014 Malabo Declaration, the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy 2015–2025, and the African Union’s Agenda 2063—to a large extent prioritize ridding the continent of hunger and food insecurity (Laar, Tagwireyi, and Hassan-Wassef 2023). Africa must seize the opportunity not only to align existing efforts but also to adopt the policy opportunities and entry points to sustainable food systems transformation that are currently valorized at the global level (Figure 4.2).

The World Health Organization (WHO) in 2021 issued an urgent call for the adoption of seven policy approaches that address health and promote sustainability across economic, social, and environmental domains. The approaches, called policy actions for better nutrition, include specific and cross-cutting actions that can transform food systems and support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Implementing the policies can help end hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition in all forms, while also making nutritious foods more affordable and reducing costs across agriculture, food, health, and environment systems (WHO 2021b). The WHO’s “Food Systems for Health” narrative emphasizes the various ways that food systems affect health and recognizes the interconnectedness of humans, animals, and the planet (WHO 2021a).

The WHO’s priority policy actions for food systems are as follows:

1. *Regulating the marketing of food and beverages to children of all ages.* Such regulation aims to reduce children’s exposure and protect them from the harmful impacts of marketing.
2. *Nutrition labeling.* This policy action aims to ensure clear and accurate front-of-pack nutrition labeling to help inform consumers to make healthier food purchases and to encourage food companies to make positive changes to the nutritional composition of their products.
3. *Reformulation of food and drink products.* Such action would improve the nutritional quality of the food supply, reducing the content of salt, sugars, and harmful fats as needed.

4. *Fiscal policies—food taxes and subsidies:* Levying taxes on unhealthy food options (such as foods that are high in fats, sugars, and/or salt) would increase their price and discourage their purchase and consumption. Subsidies to reduce the price of healthy options (for example, fruits and vegetables) are designed to encourage their consumption.
5. *Food procurement.* Setting criteria for food served or sold in public settings and/or purchased with government funds that enable healthy diets.
6. *Food fortification.* Fortifying foods by adding extra vitamins and minerals can supply essential micronutrients to entire populations to combat micronutrient deficiencies.
7. *Food safety.* Countries can take action to ensure that foods are safe by building the capacity to detect, monitor, and respond to foodborne diseases caused by both microbiological and chemical risks.

In addition to these priority policy actions, the WHO proposed a cross-cutting focus on ensuring coherence of trade policies with nutrition and food safety. A commitment to ensuring coherence between trade and nutrition policy objectives is necessary if international trade is to promote rather than undermine affordable/sustainable healthy diets. (This trade-related cross-cutting theme is not included in the current analysis.)

The above actions, if implemented in combination, are referred to as “multiple-duty actions” as they can address multiple forms of malnutrition simultaneously (Hawkes et al. 2020).

In this chapter, we evaluate the promises African heads of state made at the 2021 UNFSS. Our analysis focuses on how well those commitments align with the WHO’s recommended actions for food systems (such as nutrition labeling, marketing regulations, and food safety measures). Additionally, we examine how closely their promises align with select Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review performance categories, which aim to end hunger by improving access to agriculture inputs and technologies, increasing productivity, reducing postharvest loss, providing social protection, ensuring food security and nutrition, and enhancing food safety.

Approaches

For this chapter, we draw on multiple sources of evidence associated with both the UNFSS and the African Union CAADP Biennial Review performance categories. Thus, the sources include the official statements made by African heads of state and by the African Union at the 2021 UNFSS. We also make use of recent literature—published and gray—covering such subjects as the UNFSS, the CAADP Biennial Review Reports, and the WHO food systems priority policy areas. We draw substantially from the approaches used by Laar, Tagwireyi, and Hassan-Wassef (2023), which we summarize in the following paragraphs.

Both this chapter and Laar and colleagues' 2023 study make use of data from African countries that have submitted pledges on the UNFSS website. The website is publicly available and can be accessed at <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/documentation>. Thirty-six of the 149 countries that lodged their statements on the portal were African. We were able to access 26 national statements from these 36 African countries, which we include in our analysis. We analyzed all the commitments mentioned in these governmental and presidential statements. For non-English statements, we used Google Translate before analyzing them. Additionally, we analyzed the Africa Common Position on Food Systems (AUDA-NEPAD 2021), the African Union's regional submission to the UNFSS (see Table 4.1 for details).

Following the compilation and collation of the commitments, the analysis of the pledges (n = 219 statements) entailed assessing the responsiveness of the commitments. We operationally define responsiveness as alignment or relatedness of the commitments to the WHO priority policies and the CAADP Biennial Review performance categories (performance categories 3.1 through 3.6). We did this by comparing each commitment with the seven WHO food systems priority policy actions (nutrition labeling, marketing regulation, public food procurement, fiscal policies, food fortification, food and drink reformulation, and food safety) and with the six CAADP Biennial Review performance categories (access to agriculture inputs and technologies, agriculture productivity, postharvest loss, social protection, food security and nutrition, and food safety). The performance categories 3.1 through 3.6 were the most explicit and directly related efforts aimed at improving food and diet quality in Africa—hence their selection. The rating was done by two independent coders using a study-specific data-charting

spreadsheet. The coders rated and categorized each commitment as fully responsive, partially responsive, or not at all responsive to each of the 13 domains. This process generated the results shown in Table 4.1, which were then validated. Validation consisted of comparing data charted by the coders for concordance or lack thereof. Where discrepancies were identified, the input of a third individual was invited.

Findings

Africa's Commitment to Ending Hunger by 2025

African countries vary in terms of economic and social development, demographics, culture, religious beliefs, and political governance. Additionally, differences exist in availability of natural resources, stages of nutrition transition, and level of food system challenges. Despite these differences, all African countries are facing a common challenge. They are currently struggling with a surge in obesity and other diet-related noncommunicable diseases, at the same time that undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies persist. This has led to a double burden (in some cases, multiple burdens) of malnutrition that all African countries are battling.

For several decades, national and regional efforts in Africa have focused on addressing undernutrition, communicable diseases, and maternal and child health challenges. Efforts by African governments to address NCDs are nascent and limited in scope and depth (Asiki et al. 2020; Booth et al. 2021; Laar et al. 2020). For example, until recently, high-level continental agriculture, nutrition, health, and development policies/strategies such as the 2003 Maputo commitments (African Union 2003), the 2014 Malabo Declaration (African Union 2014), the Africa Region Nutrition Strategy 2015–2025 (African Union 2015a), and the African Union's Agenda 2063 (African Union 2015b) have all focused more on ridding the continent of hunger and food insecurity.

NCDs are predicted to become the leading cause of death in Africa by 2023 (GBD 2015 Obesity Collaborators 2017). The rate at which they are increasing in Africa is alarming. An analysis spanning 1975 to 2016 showed that six of 60 nations in the world with the fastest-rising rates of adult obesity are in Africa (NCD Risk Factor Collaboration 2016). While efforts to end hunger in Africa must continue, Africa needs transformative food system policies that regional, national,

and local actors can use to promote sustainable, healthy diets (Laar et al. 2022) within a comprehensive vision of integrated sustainable human development. As a mantra, ending hunger in Africa is not new. At the 1996 World Food Summit, leaders from 186 countries pledged to reduce the number of hungry people in the world by half no later than 2015. Reinforcing that was the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1) that specifically set the goal of reducing by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2015. Africa, excluding North Africa, did not meet MDG 1's target. From 1990 to 2015, the proportion (percentage) of people living on less than \$1.25 a day reduced from 57 percent to 41 percent (UN 2015).

Following that, the African Union set a target to “eliminate hunger and food insecurity by 2025” (AUDA-NEPAD 2022b). Both Agenda 2063 and the 2014 African Union Summit's Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods have reaffirmed this commitment. Unfortunately, Africa is not on track to meet its targets (AUDA-NEPAD 2022b). Immediate, mutually reinforcing interventions that focus on feeding and nourishing are required to bring the continent closer to eliminating hunger and food insecurity.

We've organized the remainder of this section into three subsections:

- Africa's commitments to transforming its food systems by 2030
- Responsiveness of Africa's commitments to select CAADP Biennial Review performance categories
- Responsiveness of Africa's commitments to the WHO's priority policy actions for food systems

Africa's Commitment to Transforming Its Food Systems by 2030 Is a Commitment to Achieving the SDGs

Considering the many challenges we discuss in this chapter, there is a growing need for partnerships and collaborative efforts to find solutions. To address this, UN Secretary-General António Guterres organized the Food Systems Summit in September 2021 as part of the Decade of Action, with the goal of achieving the SDGs by 2030. The UNFSS introduced new actions to make progress on all 17 SDGs, all of which depend on having healthier, more sustainable, and equitable food systems. Through the Summit and its related discussions, countries and

food system participants were able to accelerate their journey toward transforming food systems to achieve sustainable and healthy diets for all, and ultimately the SDGs.

Discourses on the subject prior to, during, and after the Summit, generally agree that transforming food systems can accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Caron and colleagues (2018) proposed a four-part food systems transformation plan consisting of four stages of implementation and three prerequisites for successful execution. The plan's first step focuses on food consumption patterns and aims to provide all individuals with access to nutritious and healthy food. The second step aims to promote sustainable agriculture production and food value chains, while the third step seeks to mitigate climate change and promote resilience. The final step of the plan aims to encourage a renaissance of rural territories.

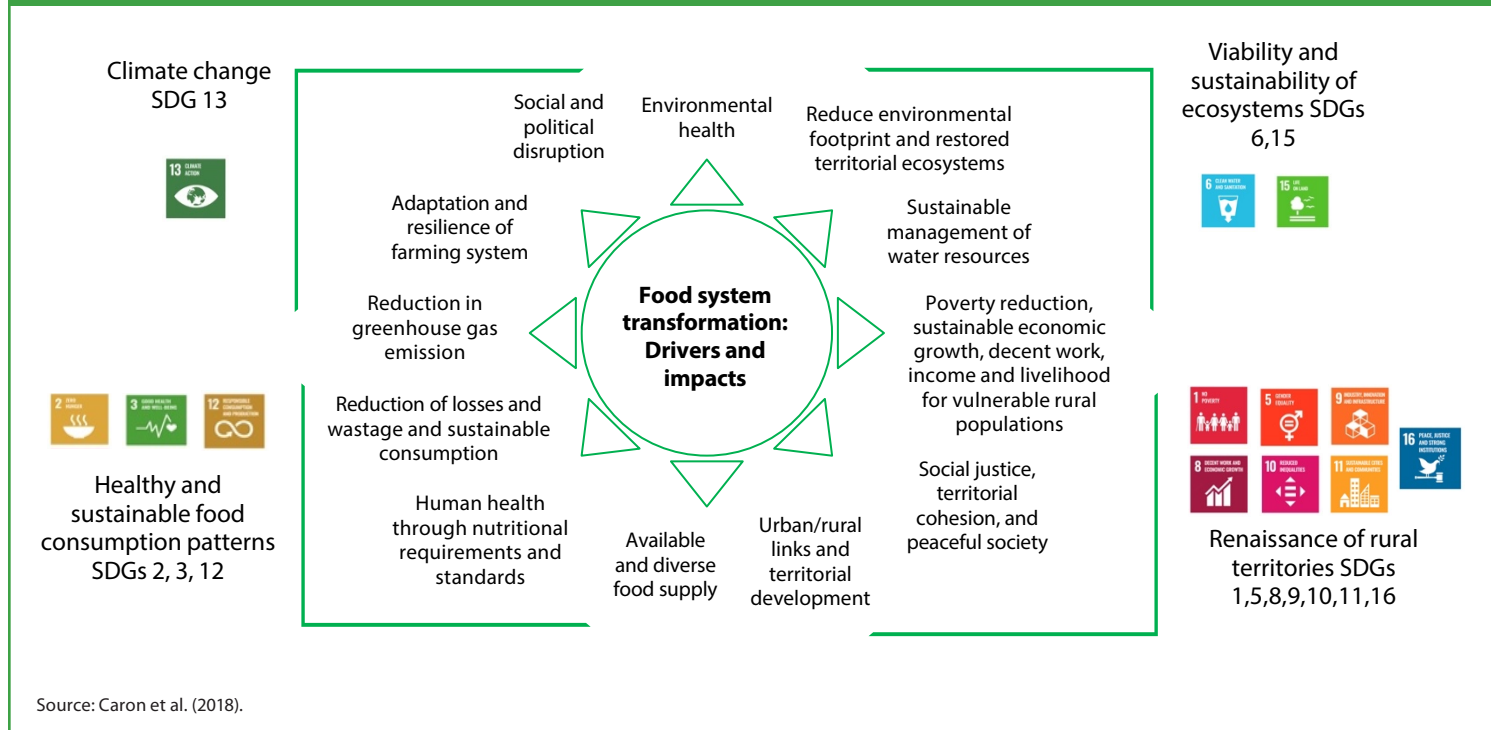
Of note, the transformation will not occur automatically and requires careful planning, design, implementation, and monitoring by local stakeholders. The implementation process must follow agreed-upon sustainable development parameters at both the national and global levels. The successful implementation of the four-part transformation, as Caron and colleagues (2018) note, requires three prerequisites: suitable metrics for decision-making, policies that align local and global priorities, and development approaches that focus on territories.

How can we determine whether efforts to transform food systems are having a positive impact on the SDGs? Caron and colleagues (2018) proposed a framework that considers two main aspects. First, it considers the relationship between food and nutrition security, environmental health, climate, and social justice. Second, it examines how the nexus is affected by changes in food systems (Figure 4.3).

Other researchers have also developed several frameworks for the assessment of food systems transformation—see, for example, van Berkum and Ruben (2021) and Fanzo et al. (2021)—each with their unique strengths and weaknesses. Other frameworks have been inspired by the work of the Committee on World Food Security's High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE 2017). Distilling and enunciating the pros and cons of these frameworks is beyond the scope of this chapter.

It is essential to have inclusive and sustainable food systems to achieve SDG 2 and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable

FIGURE 4.3—A PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION



food systems can lead to four outcomes: nutritious and healthy diets for everyone; regenerated ecosystems; climate change mitigation; and promotion of social justice by focusing on the well-being of poorer rural communities and all 17 SDGs. Therefore, when transforming our food systems, we must also prioritize enhancing livelihood, economic development, and ensuring a healthy planet in line with the four Ps—people, planet, prosperity, and peace/partnerships.

In our observation, African countries and their governments showed significant involvement in UNFSS-related dialogues and summit-related processes. They demonstrated a strong commitment to transforming their food systems. But it is unclear whether the commitments are aligned with prevailing health-promoting policies. After analyzing the political commitments made by the African heads of state and government, we found that they primarily focused

on addressing hunger and food security, promoting sustainable production systems, and building resilience to climate change and other shocks (Table 4.1). In particular, commitments were in alignment with the five action areas outlined at the UNFSS; this finding compares with recent reports. For instance, Kalibata (2022) observed that several African countries had committed to participating in the coalitions on zero hunger (14 countries), school feeding (10 countries), and healthy diets for children and all (16 countries). According to Kalibata, a number of other countries had made commitments to nourish all people (zero hunger, healthy diets for children and all, school feeding) and boost nature-based solutions, especially in the areas of sustainable production, resilience, and attention to climate change.

TABLE 4.1—RESPONSIVENESS OF COMMITMENTS PLEDGED BY AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE TO SELECT CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES AND TO THE WHO'S PRIORITY POLICY ACTIONS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

Country	Commitments	CAADP Biennial Review performance categories (PCs)						WHO food systems for health priority policy actions						
		PC 3.1 Access to agric. inputs and technologies	PC 3.2 Agric. productivity	PC 3.3 Postharvest loss	PC 3.4 Social protection	PC 3.5 Food security & nutrition	PC 3.6 Food safety	Nutrition labeling	Marketing regulation	Public food procurement	Fiscal policies	Fortification	Reformulation	Food safety
Benin	1. Improve national integrated school feeding program.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	2. Strengthen food and nutrition security for all.	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	3. Play a leading role in the global School Meals Coalition under the aegis of the World Food Programme.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	4. Mobilize resources to ensure the financing of food systems transformation.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Botswana	5. Increase sustainable climate-resilient food production.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	6. Increase sustainable value creation and private sector development.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	7. Promote regional and international trade in agriculture commodities.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	8. Improve nutrition and sustainable consumption.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	9. Promote decent employment in agriculture.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	10. Develop and deploy new technologies that help agriculture adapt to changing environmental conditions.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	11. Strengthen institutional capacity for food system governance.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	12. Control food losses from production to consumption.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	13. Include indigenous foods in the local food system.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	14. Intensify collaborations with other nations for mutual benefit.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	15. Invest in research and innovation to help double food production by sustainably increasing productivity through the adoption of high-yielding agricultural varieties.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	16. Valorize inter-Africa trade and with the rest of the world in a mutually beneficial way.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	17. Invest in infrastructure and improve food safety compliance and standards.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

TABLE 4.1—RESPONSIVENESS OF COMMITMENTS PLEDGED BY AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE TO SELECT CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES AND TO THE WHO'S PRIORITY POLICY ACTIONS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

Country	Commitments	CAADP Biennial Review performance categories (PCs)						WHO food systems for health priority policy actions						
		PC 3.1 Access to agric. inputs and technologies	PC 3.2 Agric. productivity	PC 3.3 Postharvest loss	PC 3.4 Social protection	PC 3.5 Food security & nutrition	PC 3.6 Food safety	Nutrition labeling	Marketing regulation	Public food procurement	Fiscal policies	Fortification	Reformulation	Food safety
	18. Reduce endemic nontariff barriers at the border in order to stimulate trade.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	19. Adopt multisectoral approach to transform food systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	20. Advocate for the establishment, under the initiative of the African Development Bank, of a financing mechanism for food and nutrition security in Africa.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	21. Advocate for Africa/regional monitoring system to measure progress and hold each other accountable for the outcome of the UNFSS.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	22. Integrate the food systems approach into monitoring progress toward 2030, and to share DRC lessons and experiences with the rest of the world.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	23. Join coalitions being created to advance solutions favorable to the Africa Common Position on Food Systems and national interests.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Egypt	24. Formulate a practical and implementable national system for transforming Egypt's food systems into sustainable ones.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	25. Integrate and use international visions and solutions toward Egyptian food systems transformation.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	26. Develop a creative financing mechanism that helps developing countries achieve sustainable development and adapt to climate change.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	27. Advocate for greater investment in capacity building and technology transfer to least-developed countries.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	28. Establish a follow-up mechanism at the national level based on clear and measurable criteria and indicators that contains tools to modify and develop existing implementation plans and programs as needed.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	29. Establish a national council for food systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	30. Create awareness on the need to reduce food losses.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	31. Promote healthy nutrition.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	32. Develop food transport chains.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

TABLE 4.1—RESPONSIVENESS OF COMMITMENTS PLEDGED BY AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE TO SELECT CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES AND TO THE WHO'S PRIORITY POLICY ACTIONS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

Country	Commitments	CAADP Biennial Review performance categories (PCs)						WHO food systems for health priority policy actions						
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Ethiopia	33. Improve nutrient-dense food production, food safety, and fortification.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	34. Enhance rural electrification and appropriate climate-smart technologies.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	35. Develop the supply and value chains.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	36. Develop and implement national food-based dietary guidelines, and use for nutrition literacy and awareness creation.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	37. Integrate policymaking, land reform, and improved government finance provision for agricultural and rural transformation.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	38. Invest in agricultural technologies, innovation, and input supplies.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	39. Ensure access to markets, market information, infrastructure, and specialization.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	40. Manage and mainstream risk and protect the poor.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Gabon	41. Intensify the process of diversification of Gabon's economy, based on the inclusion of women and young people and on the preservation of the environment.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	42. Place the agricultural sector at the heart of the priorities of a new development model.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	43. Provide the greatest number of agricultural lands whose land titles are secured.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	44. Facilitate access to inputs or quality technical support, both for small producers and foreign investors.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	45. Gabon will continue its policy of combating climate change. To further preserve our environment, Gabon will adopt at the legal level an ordinance on climate change.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	46. Gabon will transform the human–wildlife conflict into peaceful and harmonious cohabitation between man and fauna.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	47. Develop and promote short supply chains to ensure that national production systems are resilient to shocks.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	48. Offer national producers decent remuneration.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

TABLE 4.1—RESPONSIVENESS OF COMMITMENTS PLEDGED BY AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE TO SELECT CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES AND TO THE WHO'S PRIORITY POLICY ACTIONS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

Country	Commitments	CAADP Biennial Review performance categories (PCs)						WHO food systems for health priority policy actions						
		PC 3.1 Access to agric. inputs and technologies	PC 3.2 Agric. productivity	PC 3.3 Postharvest loss	PC 3.4 Social protection	PC 3.5 Food security & nutrition	PC 3.6 Food safety	Nutrition labeling	Marketing regulation	Public food procurement	Fiscal policies	Fortification	Reformulation	Food safety
	49. Put requirements in place in terms of nutritional quality, quantitative production needs, and preservation of animal health.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	50. Limit the environmental impact of productive activities.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	51. Consolidate the legal and financial framework to support the private sector.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Gambia	52. Increase access to agriculture land, financing, and other productive resources for women, youth, and differently abled persons.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	53. Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the health delivery system.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	54. Exploit sustainably the country's natural resource base.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	55. Double Gambians' food production.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	56. Coordinate a harmonized policy environment that affects food systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	57. Contribute to better understanding and communication within government circles to eliminate the conflicts among policies (policy coherence).	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	58. Increase private sector investment in food systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	59. Contribute to developing livelihoods and reducing the gaps between regions and different strata of society by creating employment opportunities and developing infrastructure.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	60. Respect regional and international fiscal obligations.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	61. Contribute to building partnerships, particularly, the commitment to the CAADP process of allocating 10% of the national budget to agriculture as contained in the Malabo Declaration of 2014, and to our UN and regional partners.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	62. Contribute access to safe and nutritious food, improve consumption patterns, and reduce malnutrition.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	63. Protect the environment.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	64. Build resilience through smart agriculture.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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	65. Improve quality education.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	66. Improve gender equality.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	67. Create jobs.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	68. Enhance the sustainable use of the blue and green economies.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	69. Gambia is committed to the importance of the school feeding program in providing safe and nutritious food to our children and will therefore support the School Meals Coalition and commit ourselves to achieving the goals.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ghana	70. Increase by 40% the production of climate-resilient varieties of diverse vegetables and legumes, fruits, and biofortified staple crops using sustainable agricultural practices.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	71. Develop and implement food-based dietary guidelines by 2022.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	72. Update and consolidate local food composition databases.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	73. Develop a nutrient profiling system to facilitate implementation of food-based policies.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	74. Develop and implement well-structured training programs for agricultural extension workers in nutrition and sustainable agronomic practices.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	75. Increase women's empowerment in agriculture index by 20%.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	76. Support increased production of fruits and vegetables by expanding the proportion of land area under irrigated agriculture from 24% to 30%.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	77. Promote seed security, breed security, and land security for Ghanaian farmers, especially women and youth in agriculture.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	78. Strengthen the integration of essential nutrition actions into the primary healthcare system.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Kenya	79. Ensure 100% food and nutrition security in Kenya.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	80. Develop data-driven, inclusive, and innovative Kenyan food systems that provide a rich and diverse diet and build climate-resilient livelihoods.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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	81. Avail relevant information to farmers and traders through an existing national e voucher program, market information systems, and commodity exchanges.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	82. Engage youth in agriculture.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	83. Increase access to nutritious food and diversify the diet by bringing back forgotten and neglected traditional foods.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	84. Invest in fisheries, aquaculture, livestock, fruits, and vegetable farming.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	85. Enhance existing school feeding and school milk program, and take a leadership role in the School Meals Coalition.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	86. Harness the power of innovation and digital technologies in agriculture and foster an environment that allows our innovators to thrive and contribute to agricultural transformation.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	87. Develop climate-smart agriculture programs, expedite ecosystems restoration efforts through agroforestry and reforestation, and ensure sustainable use of our natural resources.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	88. Challenge global financial institutions to innovate and design appropriate de-risking and financing instruments for increased investment in agriculture.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Liberia	89. Ensure that women, who are widely considered a driving force of local food production, have direct access to basic support and resources—access to arable land through titled ownership, financial loans and grants, market links, technology, and training and extension services to ensure viable food systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	90. Encourage youth to get more involved in food systems to reduce unemployment and enhance well-being.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	91. Have smallholder farmers and agribusinesses supported with machinery and financial grants needed to expand food production and processing.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	92. Commit to enlist and advance the following UNFSS Coalitions of Action: youth employment; making food systems work for women and girls; school meals: nutrition, health, and education for every child; and resilient food supply chains.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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Madagascar	93. Promote access to a diversified, healthy and nutritious diet with the involvement of the private sector and civil society.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	94. Promote governance that promotes equitable and resilient livelihoods.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	95. Promote youth and women's entrepreneurship.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	96. Promote climate-resilient production with local transformation, agribusiness, the landscape approach, and the use of renewable energies.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	97. Accelerate the process of effective decentralization in order to establish a territorial balance and guarantee equity in the distribution of public resources.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	98. Develop agricultural infrastructure and scale up innovative mechanisms to improve access to local agricultural services in terms of advice, extension, training, technical supervision, and funding.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	99. Madagascar has already joined three coalitions, including zero hunger, resilient food supply chain, and transformation through agroecology.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Malawi	100. Improve road infrastructure that makes the transportation of food difficult, raises food prices, and reduces food quality.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	101. Address postharvest losses that expose households to food insecurity.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	102. Diversify the Affordable Inputs Programme and scale up investments in integrated nutritious value chains.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	103. Invest in medium- and large-scale farm mechanization nationwide.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	104. Promote nutrient-rich foods and invest in frontline nutrition workers.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	105. Adopt technologies and innovations for value addition and food preservation.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	106. Invest in digitized and localized early warning systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	107. Construct disaster preparedness infrastructure and review disaster risk management laws.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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	108. Pursue a multisectoral approach in the transformation of food systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	109. Various stakeholders pledge technical and financial support toward this vision of transforming Malawi's food systems—e.g., the Donor Committee of Agriculture and Food Security, the UN System, academia, the Malawi Bureau of Standards, and civil society organizations	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mauritania	110. Invest and prioritize improvement of agricultural production, animal resources, and the rationalization of the management of our fisheries.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	111. Create the conditions for the development of small-scale farming.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	112. Promote a national industrial fabric to add value to local food production and its derivatives in order to reduce dependence on imports and lay the groundwork for meaningful economic and social development.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mauritius	113. Support the call for coordinated action for resilient, fair, sustainable, and more inclusive economies.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	114. Through a resilient agrifood system, increase productivity sustainably and decrease adverse effects on the environment—by addressing malnutrition and mitigating climate change	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	115. Make a new partnership for sustainable agriculture.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	116. Come together with renewed vigor with the solemn aim of finding nature-based solutions to man-made calamities.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	117. Look at the country's food systems through the farmers' eyes.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Morocco	118. Morocco has been able to put in place an integrated approach, which aims to guarantee food availability and promote sustainable agricultural and rural development.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	119. Give priority to the protection of natural resources and adapt to climate change.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	120. Invest in the new agricultural strategy—Generation Green 2020–2030—to improve the resilience and sustainability of food systems in Morocco.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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	121. Commit to three international coalitions: the School Meals Coalition, the Coalition for Food, and the Coalition on Agroecology.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Namibia	122. Protect local environments, including oceans, by enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	123. Implement international law as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	124. Mobilize resources from a variety of sources including through enhanced development cooperation in order to provide adequate and predictable means of financial support.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	125. Design and implement resilient agricultural practices to increase productivity .	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	126. Restore degraded land and combat desertification.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	127. The Namibian government will continue to prioritize land redistribution.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	128. Prioritize capacity building, financial support, and opportunities for value addition to realize agricultural potential.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Niger	129. Ensure that the efforts undertaken in the transformation of local food systems lead to greater resilience to mitigate threats and crises, and on the other hand contribute to reducing the pressure on natural resources and better social inclusion.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	130. Ensure the modernization of the agricultural sector to obtain more significant results in increasing and diversifying production and in creating trade and job opportunities, especially for youth and women.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	131. Ensure social protection measures for vulnerable households, which will help to strengthen peace and social cohesion.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	132. Enshrine the right to food in the constitution of the republic of Niger.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	133. Mobilize of substantial financial resources for food systems transformation.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	134. Commit to various coalitions for the implementation of numerous and better investments.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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Nigeria	135. Set up a food system focused on addressing existing gaps while prioritizing healthy diets and affordable nutrition so as to improve lives and livelihoods of the over 200 million Nigerians.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	136. Have an efficient, inclusive food system, which is vital especially taking into account the impact of climate change.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	137. Follow the recommendations from the dialogues and Nigeria's plan to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty within a decade.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	138. Invest in food security and nutrition knowledge dissemination, skills' development, and information management systems to enhance agricultural productivity.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	139. Build sustainable, responsive, and inclusive food systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	140. Enhance the productivity of smallholder farmers, and empower women and youth for greater access to food production and processing.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	141. Make greater investment in digital technologies, biotechnology, accessible financial services, and other proven innovations.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	142. Adopt nutritious food policies, establish food reserves, and expand school feeding programs.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	143. Support local markets and food supply chains, and expand trade within Africa.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	144. Work to increase agricultural financing to 10% of public expenditure.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	145. Facilitate smallholder farmers and ensure women's access to productive resources.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	146. Expand social safety nets and climate data systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	147. Support broad global partnerships in order to transform food systems, and meet the SDGs.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	148. Promote accountability for advancing these actions, including regular reviews under the African Union's CAADP. Rwanda supports the Africa Common Position on Food Systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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Senegal	149. Senegal's commitments for sustainable food systems is in line with the Plan Sénégal Emergent.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	150. Ensure that access to safe and nutritious food for all is fully guaranteed.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	151. The functioning of consumption patterns remains to be perfected.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	152. Improve the production, processing, marketing, and consumption of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries products.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	153. Strengthen the legislative and regulatory framework for food systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	154. Strengthen the resilience of food systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	155. Senegal pledges to join the Agroecology Coalition.							●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Seychelles	156. To the global call to reform the food systems, we will build on the outcomes of the dialogues, articulate the findings, and project ideas in the country's food system transformation strategy.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	157. Invest within the possibilities of our economic resources to bring to life the vision for a domestic food system less dependent on imports.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	158. Continued partnership to harness our collective resources and know-how to build a network of coalitions in the spirit of a win-win strategy and greater synergy to address the challenges of food systems transformation.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Somalia	159. Investment in agribusiness and food systems by promoting infrastructure, irrigation technology, and mechanization of all stages of production.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	160. Commit to promote durable solutions to prevent the negative impacts of migration and displacement on food systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	161. Intensify efforts to combat climate change effects such as famine, floods, and pests, and promote disaster risk reduction (approaches) that are context specific to Somalia.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	162. Scale up early warning systems, which will support early decision-making and risk mitigation and reduce magnitude of displacement.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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	163. Commit to minimize the impact of shocks and scale up social protection programming within the country.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	164. Advocate for the adoption and scaling up of nutrition-sensitive, government-led social protection programs to ensure no one is left behind.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	165. Stimulate markets and provide livelihood opportunities and more local nutritious food options by increasing investments in diversified nutrition-sensitive value chains.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	166. Encourage and create an enabling environment to support women's access to productive resources such as land, technology, active engagement, and involvement in leadership positions.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	167. Engage the youth in designing and developing digital innovative solutions while creating youth-centric opportunities, meaningful engagement, participation, and access to resources so as to enhance and scale up digital practices and innovations.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sudan	168. Ensure food safety by modernizing laboratories and traceability system.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	169. Standardize channels and implement quality indicators.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	170. Enhance agricultural diversity, support biodiversity, and support biofortification and food fortification (e.g., school feeding and home gardens).	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	171. Improve consumption and good food cultural practices and positively change consumption patterns.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	172. Improve productivity and production by applying innovations and technology transfer.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	173. Reduce food loss and waste.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	174. Raise the efficiency of producers' organizations and encourage adaptive agriculture to climate change.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

TABLE 4.1—RESPONSIVENESS OF COMMITMENTS PLEDGED BY AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE TO SELECT CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES AND TO THE WHO'S PRIORITY POLICY ACTIONS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

Country	Commitments	CAADP Biennial Review performance categories (PCs)						WHO food systems for health priority policy actions						
		PC 3.1 Access to agric. inputs and technologies	PC 3.2 Agric. productivity	PC 3.3 Postharvest loss	PC 3.4 Social protection	PC 3.5 Food security & nutrition	PC 3.6 Food safety	Nutrition labeling	Marketing regulation	Public food procurement	Fiscal policies	Fortification	Reformulation	Food safety
	175. Improve and develop food processing, quality control, and benefits from the value-added by product export.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	176. Commit to fair and equitable livelihoods in terms of assets and strategies, mainly for segments of women, youth, and vulnerable groups.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	177. Involve rural communities in food systems transformation.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	178. Build resilience for communities, improving access to adequate income and managing disasters to build communities' capacities to address them.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	179. Pledges to join coalitions that promote the transformation of food systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tunisia	180. Adopt effective, fair, and multidimensional global governance that takes into account the specificities of developing countries and the challenges they face at the developmental and financial levels.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	181. Implement Resolution 2532 (2000), adopted by the Security Council at the initiative of Tunisia and France, which calls for a cessation of military operations in order to secure the delivery of humanitarian aid in the areas of crisis and conflicts.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	182. Mitigate several challenges, especially monopoly, speculation, inflation, and the rise in food cost.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	183. Ensure access to all safe foods for all, in a sustainable manner and at appropriate cost.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Uganda	184. Improve supportive infrastructure across the country including improvement of the road network and irrigation infrastructure, increased rural electrification, development of subnational and cross-border markets, and supporting digitalization and e commerce.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	185. Ensure existence of an enabling policy environment and that the SDGs have been fully integrated in national development.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	186. Increase investment in research as a critical enabler to resilient, sustainable food systems development.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

TABLE 4.1—RESPONSIVENESS OF COMMITMENTS PLEDGED BY AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE TO SELECT CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES AND TO THE WHO'S PRIORITY POLICY ACTIONS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

Country	Commitments	CAADP Biennial Review performance categories (PCs)						WHO food systems for health priority policy actions						
		PC 3.1 Access to agric. inputs and technologies	PC 3.2 Agric. productivity	PC 3.3 Postharvest loss	PC 3.4 Social protection	PC 3.5 Food security & nutrition	PC 3.6 Food safety	Nutrition labeling	Marketing regulation	Public food procurement	Fiscal policies	Fortification	Reformulation	Food safety
	187. Commit to taking bold and accelerated steps to fast-track the implementation of resolutions and plan of actions from the Summit.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Zimbabwe	188. Develop more sustainable ways of producing, processing, accessing, and utilizing food.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	189. Implement a food systems approach that aims to achieve safe and nutritious food and consumption patterns for all in Zimbabwe's quest to meet the SDGs.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	190. The government of Zimbabwe is implementing the agricultural and food systems transformation strategy toward reviving, restructuring, and transforming agriculture.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	191. Zimbabwe seeks to improve climate resilience through accelerated irrigation development, farm mechanization, and technology-based crop, livestock, land, and water management systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	192. Accelerate rural development as well as achieve equitable access to safe and nutritious food for all.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	193. Build resilience to vulnerabilities and shocks.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	194. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the country's nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	195. Increase production and productivity by smallholder and communal farmers, inclusive of women and the youth.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	196. Promote sustainable utilization of land and improved incomes for rural communities.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	197. Zimbabwe places urgent emphasis on the nexus between food and the health of our planet, given that climate change is both a driver and a consequence of hunger.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	198. Concerted efforts must be made to enhance the resilience and sustainability of agricultural and food production systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	199. Partnerships remain critical as we reach out and draw from the various competencies in our respective countries.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

TABLE 4.1—RESPONSIVENESS OF COMMITMENTS PLEDGED BY AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE TO SELECT CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES AND TO THE WHO'S PRIORITY POLICY ACTIONS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

Country	Commitments	CAADP Biennial Review performance categories (PCs)						WHO food systems for health priority policy actions						
		PC 3.1 Access to agric. inputs and technologies	PC 3.2 Agric. productivity	PC 3.3 Postharvest loss	PC 3.4 Social protection	PC 3.5 Food security & nutrition	PC 3.6 Food safety	Nutrition labeling	Marketing regulation	Public food procurement	Fiscal policies	Fortification	Reformulation	Food safety
Africa Common Position on Food Systems	To catalyze rapid expansion in agricultural and food productivity and production													
	200. Paragraph 54: Access to basic means of production especially by frontline players in the food systems value chain—most of whom are SMEs, women, and operating informally.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	201. Paragraph 55. Boosting nature-positive production and processing-value addition, at scale: Under this area, Africa is committed to	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Boosting investment financing for Africa's food systems transformation agenda													
	202. Paragraph 56. AU's ambition to increase domestic public-private investment financing for Africa's economic growth and development agenda. Foreign finance should progressively move toward direct investments taking the form of financing for capital infrastructure, technology transfer, and market share.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all: Under this area, Africa is committed to:													
	203. Paragraph 57. Promote biofortification of staple foods and industrial fortification of complementary foods to deliver better diets for all.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	204. Paragraph 58. Facilitate the expansion of cash transfer programs and use expanding cash transfer platforms to reach families with nutrition services and programs that focus on producing nutritious foods.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	205. Paragraph 59. Promote and enforce food safety standards in both formal and informal food markets to protect consumers.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	206. Paragraph 60. Expand domesticated school feeding programs to improve nutrition for schoolchildren and create markets for locally produced foods. to increase farmer incomes.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

TABLE 4.1—RESPONSIVENESS OF COMMITMENTS PLEDGED BY AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE TO SELECT CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES AND TO THE WHO'S PRIORITY POLICY ACTIONS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

Country	Commitments	CAADP Biennial Review performance categories (PCs)						WHO food systems for health priority policy actions						
		PC 3.1 Access to agric. inputs and technologies	PC 3.2 Agric. productivity	PC 3.3 Postharvest loss	PC 3.4 Social protection	PC 3.5 Food security & nutrition	PC 3.6 Food safety	Nutrition labeling	Marketing regulation	Public food procurement	Fiscal policies	Fortification	Reformulation	Food safety
	207. Paragraph 61. Design and implement innovative Social and Behavior Change Communication campaigns and nutrition education to improve food and feeding practices for children and society at large and to influence food supply and food environments.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	208. Paragraph 62. Adopt and implement coherent nutritious food policies and strategies that are evidence based, along with enhanced institutional capacities and capabilities for accelerated transformation of sustainable food and nutrition systems.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	209. Paragraph 63. Identify, renew, and implement longer-term actions across multiple systems— food, health, water and sanitation, education and social protection—in the food system to facilitate sustained access to affordable and nutritious foods, essential nutrition services, and positive nutrition practices in all contexts, and to promote diversification, including in nutritious indigenous foods.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	210. Paragraph 64. Adopt policy and fiscal measures across government ministries to support food affordability (i.e., subsidies for healthy and sustainable foods, expansion of social protection programs, taxation for unhealthy foods, and procurement policies for healthy school meals).	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	211. Paragraph 65. Implement long-term inclusive strategies that foster multifaceted investment in agriculture, agribusiness, and agro-industries; and ensure food safety, micronutrient content, and sustained food quality and standards that enable micro and medium agro-SMEs to compete in domestic, regional, and international value-added food markets.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	212. Paragraph 66. Promotion of national, regional, and continental food information systems to share information on the availability of food and food prices at all levels, and how it could be accessed.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	213. Paragraph 67. Ensure adequate regional strategic emergency food reserves and storage facilities.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

TABLE 4.1—RESPONSIVENESS OF COMMITMENTS PLEDGED BY AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE TO SELECT CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES AND TO THE WHO'S PRIORITY POLICY ACTIONS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

Country	Commitments	CAADP Biennial Review performance categories (PCs)						WHO food systems for health priority policy actions						
		PC 3.1 Access to agric. inputs and technologies	PC 3.2 Agric. productivity	PC 3.3 Postharvest loss	PC 3.4 Social protection	PC 3.5 Food security & nutrition	PC 3.6 Food safety	Nutrition labeling	Marketing regulation	Public food procurement	Fiscal policies	Fortification	Reformulation	Food safety
	214. Paragraph 68. Incentivize national and transnational trade corridors for food commodities and services and ensure dedicated attention to regional food markets and trade in all AfCFTA provisions and protocols.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Strengthening and harnessing Africa's growing local food markets													
	215. Paragraph 69. Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	216. Paragraph 70. Advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	217. Paragraph 71. Building resilience to shock and stress	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	218. Paragraph 72. Facilitating and building local implementation capacities at all levels with focus on frontline players and decentralized structures.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Legend:

- Fully responsive (meaning commitment is aligned with the WHO priority policy or the CAADP Biennial Review performance categories).
- Partially responsive (meaning commitment is somewhat aligned with the WHO priority policy or the CAADP Biennial Review performance categories).
- Not responsive (meaning commitment is not aligned at all with the WHO priority policy or the CAADP Biennial Review performance categories).

Source: Authors, based on Laar et al. (2023).

Note: AfCFTA = African Continental Free Trade Area; AU = African Union; CAADP = Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme; SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals; SMEs = small and medium enterprises; UN = United Nations; UNFSS or the Summit = United Nations Food Systems Summit; WHO = World Health Organization.

Responsiveness of Africa’s Commitments to Select CAADP Biennial Review Performance Categories

As Table 4.1 shows, our analysis also assessed the responsiveness of each country’s pledges to the commitments in the CAADP domain “Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025”—specifically, access to agriculture inputs and technologies; agricultural productivity; postharvest loss; social protection; food security and nutrition; and food safety. Table 4.2 summarizes our sample’s responsiveness to the commitments by number of countries and number of commitments. Of the 26 countries we included in the analysis, the total number that are fully responsive to the CAADP Biennial Review performance categories ranges from four countries (for social protection) to 17 countries (for agriculture productivity). Out of 219 commitments that we analyzed, the total number of commitments that are fully responsive to the CAADP Biennial Review performance categories ranges from six (for postharvest loss) to 29 (for both agriculture productivity and food/nutrition security).

In Table 4.1, we provide details of the national commitments that are fully responsive to the CAADP Biennial Review performance categories. For instance, with regard to promoting access to agriculture inputs and technologies:

- Botswana pledges to develop and deploy new technologies that help agriculture adapt to changing environmental conditions.
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo pledges to invest in research and innovation to help double food production by sustainably increasing productivity through the adoption of high-yielding agricultural varieties.
- Ethiopia commits to investing in agricultural technologies, innovation, and input supplies.

- Gabon commits to facilitating access to inputs or quality technical support, for both small producers and foreign investors.
- Ghana pledges to ensure seed security, breed security, and land security for vulnerable farmers.
- Kenya is challenging global financial institutions to innovate and to design appropriate de-risking and financing instruments for increased investment in agriculture.
- Liberia commits to ensuring that women have direct access to basic supports and resources—access to arable land through titled ownerships, financial loans and grants, market links, technology, training, and extension services to ensure viable food systems.

TABLE 4.2—RESPONSIVENESS OF AFRICA’S COMMITMENTS TO SELECT CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES

	Biennial Review indicators					
	PC 3.1 Access to agriculture inputs and technologies	PC 3.2 Agriculture productivity	PC 3.3 Postharvest loss	PC 3.4 Social protection	PC 3.5 Food security and nutrition	PC 3.6 Food safety
N (%)						
Number of countries with commitments somewhat responsive to the CAADP BR performance categories	19 (73)	21 (81)	14 (54)	15 (58)	23 (88)	13 (50)
Number of countries fully responsive	11 (42)	17 (65)	5 (19)	4 (15)	15 (58)	8 (31)
N (%)						
Total number of commitments that are somewhat responsive to the CAADP BR performance categories	52 (24)	64 (29)	20 (9)	23 (11)	51 (23)	16 (7)
Total number of commitments that are fully responsive to the CAADP BR performance categories	17 (8)	29 (13)	6 (3)	8 (4)	29 (13)	12 (5)
Source: Authors.						
Note: BR = Biennial Review; CAADP = Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme; PC = performance category						

- Madagascar plans to develop agricultural infrastructure and scale up innovative mechanisms to improve access to local agricultural services, such as, for example, advice, extension, training, technical supervision, and funding.
- Malawi will diversify its Affordable Inputs Programme and scale up investments in integrated nutritious value chains.
- Rwanda pledges to support smallholder farmers and ensure women's access to productive resources.
- Somalia pledges to encourage and create an enabling environment to support women's access to productive resources such as land, technology, active engagement, and involvement in leadership positions.
- Sudan commits to improve productivity and production by applying innovations and technology transfer.

With regard to reducing postharvest loss:

- Botswana pledges to control food losses from production to consumption.
- Egypt commits to create awareness about the need to reduce food losses.
- Ethiopia commits to supply and value chain development.
- Malawi commits to adopt technologies and innovations for value addition and food preservation.
- Sudan pledges to reduce food loss and waste.

Responsiveness of Africa's Commitments to the WHO Food Systems Priority Policy Actions

Regarding responsiveness to the WHO's priority policies, Table 4.1 shows that even fewer countries committed to them. For example, in terms of food safety:

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo commits to invest in infrastructure and improve food safety compliance and standards.
- Ethiopia pledges to improve nutrient-dense food production, food safety, and fortification.
- Gabon pledges to put requirements in place in terms of nutritional quality, quantitative production needs, and preservation of animal health.

- Gambia commits to contribute to access to safe and nutritious food.
- Senegal pledges to fully guarantee access to safe and nutritious food for all.
- Sudan commits to ensure food safety by modernizing laboratories and a traceability system.
- Tunisia pledges to ensure access to safe foods for all in a sustainable manner and at appropriate cost.
- Zimbabwe commits to implement a food systems approach that aims to achieve safe and nutritious food and consumption patterns for all in its quest to meet the SDGs.

At the continental level, in the Africa Common Position on Food Systems, the African Union responded to some of the WHO's priority policy actions. Among the priorities of African Union member states are the following:

- Promoting biofortification of staple foods and industrial fortification of complementary foods to deliver better diets for all
- Expansion of cash transfer programs and of the reach to families with nutrition services and programs that focus on producing nutritious foods
- Expanding domesticated school feeding programs to improve nutrition for school children and create markets for locally produced foods to increase farmer incomes
- Promoting and enforcing food safety standards in both formal and informal food markets to protect consumers
- Adopting policy and fiscal measures (i.e., subsidies for healthy and sustainable foods, expansion of social protection programs, taxation for unhealthy foods, and procurement policies for healthy school meals)

Discussion

This chapter assesses the responsiveness of the commitments made by African countries at the UNFSS to the WHO's food systems priority policy actions and select CAADP Biennial Review indicators, and contextualizes the findings using available literature on the subject. Our findings indicate that about half of all African countries (26 out of 55) formulated and submitted via the UNFSS portal their national commitments or pledges to transforming their food

systems by 2030. This work recognizes the continuing and crucial efforts being made by African governments to strengthen the continent's food security and other dimensions of food systems. The 2021 UNFSS offered African leaders yet another opportunity to renew their engagement to build a robust food system and identify actions that the continent can leverage in the form of commitments. At the Summit, African countries announced to the world the priority initiatives that they would pursue to transform their countries' food systems. In parallel, the WHO, cognizant of the revelations and insights from the UNFSS, identified food systems as a critical determinant of health and has outlined several priority actions to address the challenges such systems face. Likewise, CAADP aims to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty through agriculture-led development in African countries.

Responsiveness to the WHO Food Systems Priority Policy Actions and to the CAADP Biennial Review Performance Categories

African countries have not fully aligned their commitments with the WHO's priority food systems policies or the select CAADP Biennial Review indicators. Some countries have been more responsive than others, showing varying degrees of commitment. Most countries have focused their commitments on the CAADP Biennial Review indicators, which aim to end hunger and food insecurity by improving agricultural production and increasing farm yields through innovations and the use of appropriate inputs and technologies. However, whereas such an approach may lead to the increased production of food, it will not necessarily lead to a sufficient quantity of healthy food.

A few countries mentioned improving the nutritional quality of food along the food supply chain and creating healthier food environments—policies that align most with the WHO's priority food systems for health policy actions. Among the few commitments were broad statements about nutrition such as “improving national school feeding program,” “strengthening nutrition security,” and “improving nutrition,” but there were also specific statements such as “inclusion of indigenous foods in local food system,” “promot[ing] healthy nutrition,” “develop and implement food-based dietary guidelines by 2022,” “develop a nutrient profiling system to facilitate [the] implementation of food-based policies,” “diversifying the diet by bringing back forgotten and neglected

traditional foods,” and “promote biofortification of staple foods and industrial fortification of complementary foods to deliver better diets for all.”

In comparison with the CAADP Biennial Review performance categories, there was little mention of the WHO recommendations for countries to improve their food systems. The deficiencies we observed in our analysis converged with Laar and colleagues' (2023) observations. In their analysis, Laar and colleagues highlight that very few countries featured the health and nutrition, environmental, and socioeconomic dimensions of sustainability in their commitments and that even fewer countries were responsive to the WHO priority policy actions. Hence, they concluded that any food system unsupportive of public health cannot be said to be sustainable.

Although the commitment to multisectoral/stakeholder collaboration, the use of modern technologies, and mechanisms for monitoring the transformation were laudable, there were few commitments that addressed the data and indicators gap on the continent necessary for monitoring food systems transformation. The question of who would and how to finance such a transformation in Africa was hardly addressed. Proposals mentioned investments from the private sector and government, including committing 10 percent of public expenditure to agriculture as stipulated by the African Union (2014), but there was little mention of empowering the population to demand and make healthier food choices through labeling laws, and the environment and sustainability question remained underdeveloped. The commitments were also less responsive to food safety issues, the environment, and the sociocultural dimensions of sustainability. However, there were pledges to join the Africa Common Position on Food Systems coalition, support small and medium enterprises and other small-scale producers, and create employment, among others.

According to the Biennial Review and the SDG reports, the world is falling behind in achieving the SDGs—of which the Malabo target is a part—and the African nations are no exception. The continent is facing a disproportionately large number of challenges, including economic, health, sanitation, and structural issues. Despite progress made in food security over the past decade, the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing armed conflicts have caused setbacks in this area. Additionally, efforts to make necessary changes in areas such as the environment, health, and sociocultural issues have only just begun. Despite these warning signs, African nations continue to pursue an ineffective and unsustainable model for change, potentially due to the pressures of population growth,

urbanization, and high unemployment exacerbated by COVID-19 and recent climate-related disasters.

It is widely agreed that simply increasing food production will not be enough to achieve sustainable and healthy diets beyond 2030. The Malabo targets and the SDGs call for holistic changes in the food system, moving from feeding to nourishing. African countries struggle to catch up with this concept, which also includes caring for the planet and addressing social injustice. The effects of neglecting such changes will only be worsened by emerging development challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation, social inequalities, and conflicts. However, by integrating both quantitative and qualitative policies, the continent can effectively address these issues.

Conclusions and Recommendations

African heads of state made commitments at the UNFSS that were partly responsive to the CAADP indicators. Those commitments addressed the need to increase agricultural inputs and production on the continent, address economic challenges in society, and, ultimately, improve food security and nutrition. However, they were less responsive to the WHO's proposed priority policies for improving the food environment and curbing the spread of NCDs. To achieve the SDGs, African nations must commit to concrete, integrated, and targeted actions, including eradicating malnutrition in all forms, reducing inequality, caring for the planet, and strengthening national and subnational capacity, accountability, and public institutions. A fundamental shift is required to accelerate progress toward achieving the SDGs.

Numerous assessments have recognized that improving Africa's food systems requires a coherent combination of policies, investments, and legislation. This means reinforcing interconnected actions from sectors such as agriculture, food, trade, and health. Simply increasing agricultural production without considering sustainability and the health of humans will only provide food without leading to a healthy population as envisioned by the SDGs for 2030 and beyond. In light of rising food insecurity and malnutrition in Africa, game-changing actions must be taken to improve the food systems. Actors should shift their focus to food systems that provide quality and nutritious food instead of solely focusing on quantity or food security.

Africa's food systems need a collaborative effort from all African countries to implement and achieve the CAADP indicators and the WHO priority food

system policies. Each country faces unique food system challenges, which require context-specific initiatives. However, managing these initiatives and ensuring coherence among countries is crucial to transforming Africa's food system. Policies with impacts on Africa's food systems must be implemented cohesively to achieve the desired transformation and provide healthy food to meet the nutritional requirements of the African population. Eliminating policy silos and shifting focus toward nutrition security is vital to combatting malnutrition in Africa.

The WHO's priority policy actions provide an avenue to the changes needed for sustainable food systems and diets in Africa. For example, health taxes provide a partial answer to how to finance food system transformation. Taxes can be levied on unhealthy food options (foods high in fats, sugars, and/or salt) to increase their price and discourage their purchase and consumption, while subsidies (collected from unhealthy foods) can be used to reduce the price of healthier options (fruits and vegetables) to encourage their consumption (WHO 2021b). Such intervention, if grounded in policies backed by law with a workable enforcement structure, can provide a financing mechanism for prompting qualitative changes in food systems. Although current efforts in Ghana and South Africa aim at repurposing the funds from levies on unhealthy commodities, evidence in South Africa indicates that taxing sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) is progressive for health. The daily purchased volume of taxed drinks in South Africa fell from 518.99 mL/capita per day (506.90–531.08) to 443.39 (430.10–456.56). Similarly, the *daily* purchased sugar and calories from taxable beverages fell from 16.25 g/capita per day (95% CI 15.80–16.70) to 10.63 (10.22–11.04) and 70.21 kcal/capita per day (68.31–72.11) to 46.45 (44.71–48.15) in the pre-announcement and the post-implementation period of the Health Promotion Levy, respectively (Stacey et al. 2021).

From a policymaking perspective, the near absence of low-agency and high-agency measures (for example, empowering the growing population to demand and make healthier food choices) in the commitments is worrisome. Consumers need to be informed about the importance of a healthy diet and the nutritional quality of foods so that they can make healthy choices. Simplified nutrition information on food packages can be a valuable guide for consumers to choose healthier foods and has been recommended to tackle the increase in NCDs (WHO 2017) and prevent childhood obesity (WHO 2016). Few African nations have these in place or have pledged to develop them.