



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

How to fight against food loss and waste

Senior Officials Meeting 26-28 March 2024

Theme: Resilient agrifood systems and inclusive rural transformation



Definitions

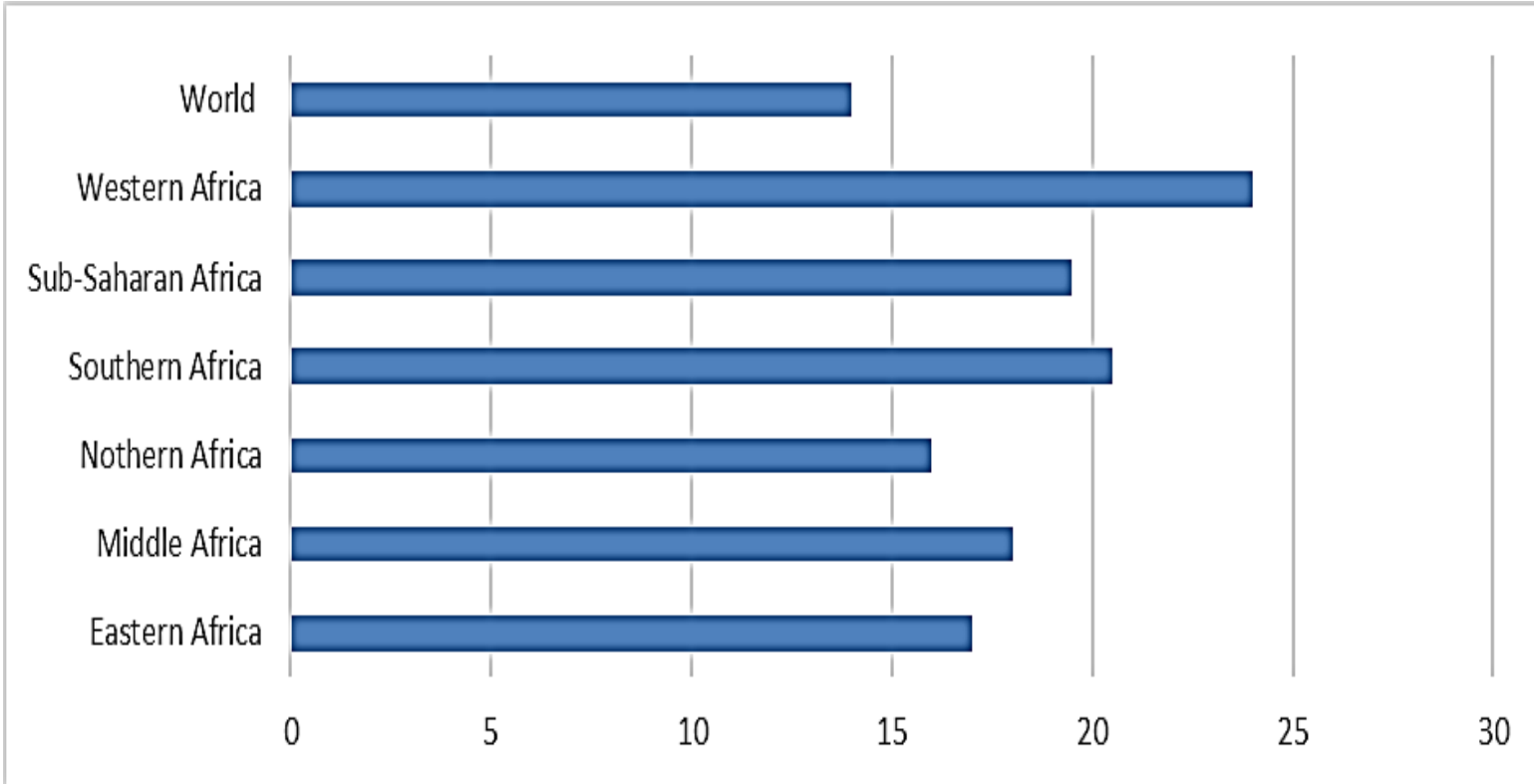
- ❑ **Food loss and waste** - decrease in food quantity or quality along the supply chain.
- ❑ **Food loss** - decrease in the quantity or quality of food along the food supply chain up to, but excluding, the point where there is interaction with the final consumer and thus excludes retail, food service providers and consumers.
- ❑ **Food waste** - decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by retailers, food service providers and consumers. Food waste results from consumer purchasing decisions or decisions by retailers and food services that affect consumer behaviour.

Situational Analysis

- ❑ In 2011, FAO estimated that around one-third of the world's food is lost or wasted annually, corresponding to about 1.3 billion tonnes of food per year – **Still a widely quoted figure.**
- ❑ More precise estimates - food loss index – SDG indicator 12.3.1.a) – FAO - and of the food waste index - SDG indicator 12.3.1.b) - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❑ The first estimates for the food loss index were published in 2019, indicating that approximately 14 percent of the world's food, valued at USD 400 billion, is lost on an annual basis between harvest and retail markets.
- ❑ In addition, an estimated 17 percent of food is wasted at the retail and consumer levels, according to data from UNEP.

Situational Analysis

Food Loss



Food Waste

UNEP Estimates:
76 kg/capita in Libya;
92 kg/capita in Ethiopia;
84 kg/capita in Ghana;
100 kg/capita in Kenya;
189 kg/capita in Nigeria;
164 kg/capita in Rwanda;
and 78 kg/capita in Zambia.

Percentage food losses in Africa (from SDG Indicators Portal) as of 31 January 2024: <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals-data-portal/data/indicators/1231-global-food-losses/en>

Causes of FLW

- ❑ Spread across the agrifood value chains – from farm to fork.
- ❑ On-farm losses e.g. inadequate harvesting time, climatic conditions, practices applied at harvest and handling and challenges in marketing produce.
- ❑ Off farm caused e.g. inadequate storage, handling, packaging and transportation conditions.
- ❑ Food wastage at household level or retail levels – unplanned buying, expiration dates.
- ❑ Some of major causes of FLW in Africa, especially Post Harvest Loss (PHL) include inadequate and fragmented policies and strategies, poor infrastructure, a weak institutional framework, lack of access to finance and a weak private sector.

Significance of the problem

Negative, social, Economic and and environmental consequences

Social

Reduces the amount of food available for consumption at the time when the world and Africa is food insecure.

At a time when

Nearly 282 million people in Africa were undernourished in 2022, an increase of 57 million people since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Environmental

Unjustified and unnecessary GHG emissions and leads to inefficient use of energy, human labour, water and other environmental resources.

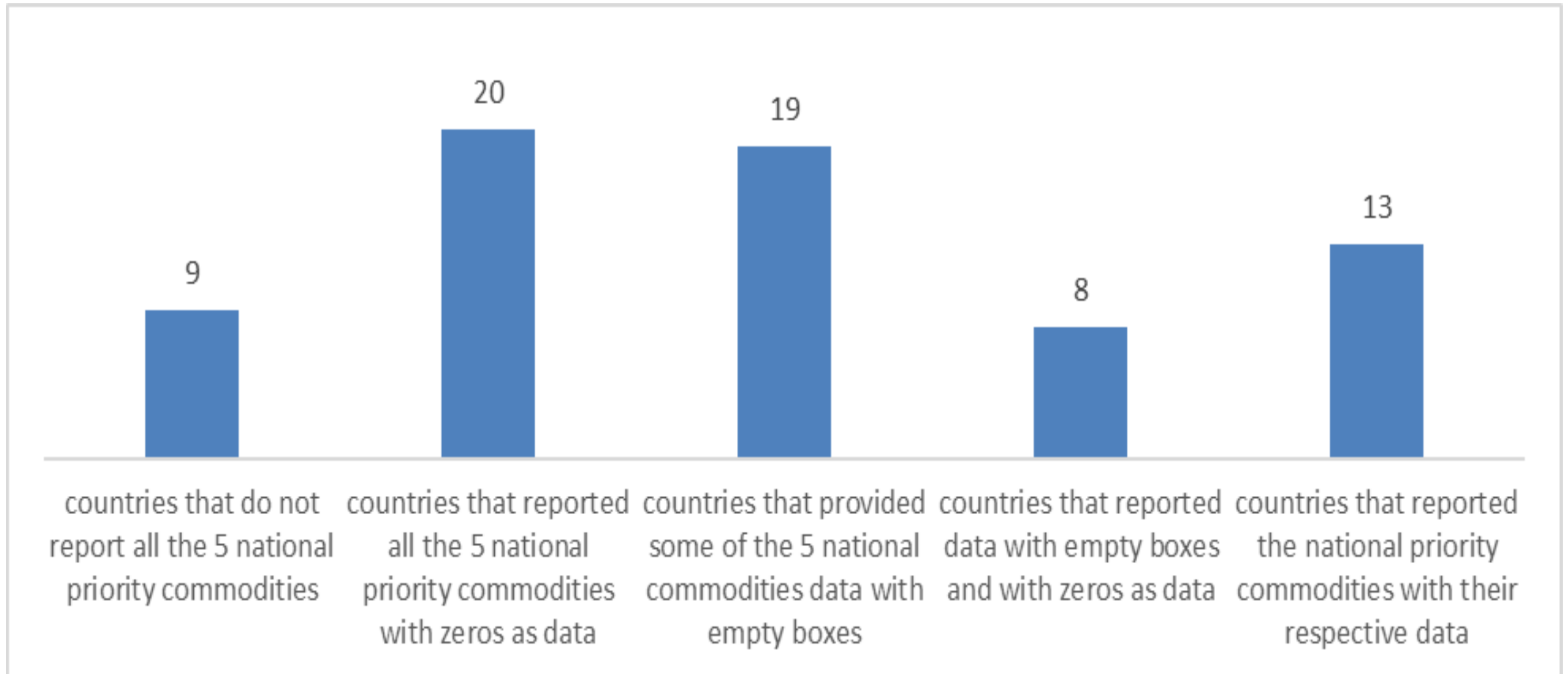
FAO's environmental footprint study indicated that FLW in SSA generates 140 million tonnes CO2 equivalent or about 180 kg CO2 equivalent per capita annually, while about 180 million hectares of land and around 10 km³/year of water are used to produce food that is ultimately lost or wasted in SSA.

Economic

FLW imposes a significant burden by causing a loss of invested economic resources and reduced income of actors across the food value chain.

The economic burdens of FLW are commodity specific. E.g. estimates are that post-harvest losses of grains in SSA is approximately USD 4 billion per year.

Other Challenges – Poor Data and Reporting e.g Categories of data submitted for the PHL BR report



Some Efforts to address the problem

At Global level

- ❑ United Nations (UN) SDG 2 of Zero Hunger and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), which includes a specific target, i.e. target 12.3 which calls for halving per capita global food waste at retail and consumer levels and reducing food loss along production and supply chains, including post-harvest loss by 2030.
- ❑ Since 2020, the UN General Assembly designated 29 September as the “International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste”, to raise awareness about the problem.
- ❑ The UN Food Systems Summit, in 2021, further raised the profile of FLW reduction as an effective means for agrifood systems transformation and progress on multiple SDGs.

At Continental level

- ❑ The African Union's Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods set the ambitious Commitment 3 – to halve the current levels of post-harvest losses by the year 2025, from 2015 benchmark.
- ❑ Africa-wide Postharvest food loss reduction Congress and Exhibition of the African Union.

Some of FAO support to reduce FLW

- ❑ The Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction (CoC) is recognized as a crucial global framework for tackling Food Loss and Waste – use of framework to support FLW strategies at country level.
- ❑ The FAO Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste is a global platform with technical resources for awareness-raising, capacity building and knowledge exchange.
- ❑ FAO is also collaborating with the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to empower young entrepreneurs with an emphasis on value chain development and digitalization of marketing.
- ❑ FAO has developed an app for food loss measurement, Food Loss Application (FLAPP).
- ❑ FAO is a key partner in continued coordinated efforts to reduce FLW, including but not limited to the Africa-wide Postharvest food loss reduction Congress and Exhibition of the African Union.
- ❑ FAO leads the Malabo Thematic area 3 of Ending Hunger where PHL is tracked.

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference is invited to:

- a. Urge Members to recognize the importance of reducing FLW to improve the efficiency, inclusiveness, resilience, and sustainability of agrifood systems, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b. Call on Members to integrate FLW reduction in their national and regional policies, programmes and strategies dealing with agrifood systems, including those related to climate change;
- c. Encourage Members to invest in creating an enabling environment to support private sector action and facilitate collaboration with all other actors to support FLW reduction at national and subnational levels; and
- d. Request FAO to support countries in their efforts to reduce FLW, including gathering and analyzing FLW data and information, developing policies and strategies, supporting investments in processing and storage technologies, awareness-raising, and capacity building.

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**FAO Regional
Conference for Africa**

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de la FAO pour l'Afrique**



Thank you

Merci

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Obrigado

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