
UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2024

17th April 2024

David Rubia (UNEP)

Preparatory Workshop on Food Loss and Waste Prevention in Sub-Saharan Africa

UNEP Food Waste Index estimates world wasted 1.05 billion tonnes of food in 2022



Environmental:

Food loss and waste generates **8-10% of global GHG emissions**. Particularly large source of methane.



Economic:

Food loss and waste estimated to cost upwards of **\$940 Billion** per year



Humanitarian:

Food being wasted, despite an ongoing crisis of hunger. In 2022, **783 million people** faced severe food insecurity.

UNEP's Role delivering Sustainable Development Goal 12.3

Mandated by United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 4/2

Data

- Custodian of SDG 12.3 Food Waste Index
- Methodology for national food waste measurement
- Global & country-level estimates
- In-country measurement

Advocacy

- Co-convenor of International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste
- Campaign and activations
- #123Pledge

Cooperation

- Fostering global and regional collaboration through e.g.
 - UNFSS
 - MEAs
 - G20
 - EU Platform
 - Regional Food Waste Working Groups

Capacity Building

- National and regional capacity building on:
 - Measurement
 - Policy and NDCs
 - Public-Private Partnerships
 - Consumer Behaviour Change
 - Circular Food Systems

Tracking Progress on Sustainable Development Goal 12.3

Food Loss Index- focus on supply

Custodians of 12.3 indicators:
FAO & UNEP



“By 2030, ...



“...reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.”

Food Waste Index- focus on demand



“...halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels.”



The Scale of the Problem

- **1.05 billion tonnes wasted**
- **19% of food available to consumers goes to waste**

	Global Average (kg/capita/year)	2022 Total (million tonnes)
Household	79	631
Food service	36	290
Retail	17	131
Total	132	1,052

One billion meals a day wasted

- We waste **631 million tonnes** from households globally
- This is more than **one billion meals' worth of food** thrown out by households each day
- That is **more than one meal per day** for each person facing hunger around the world

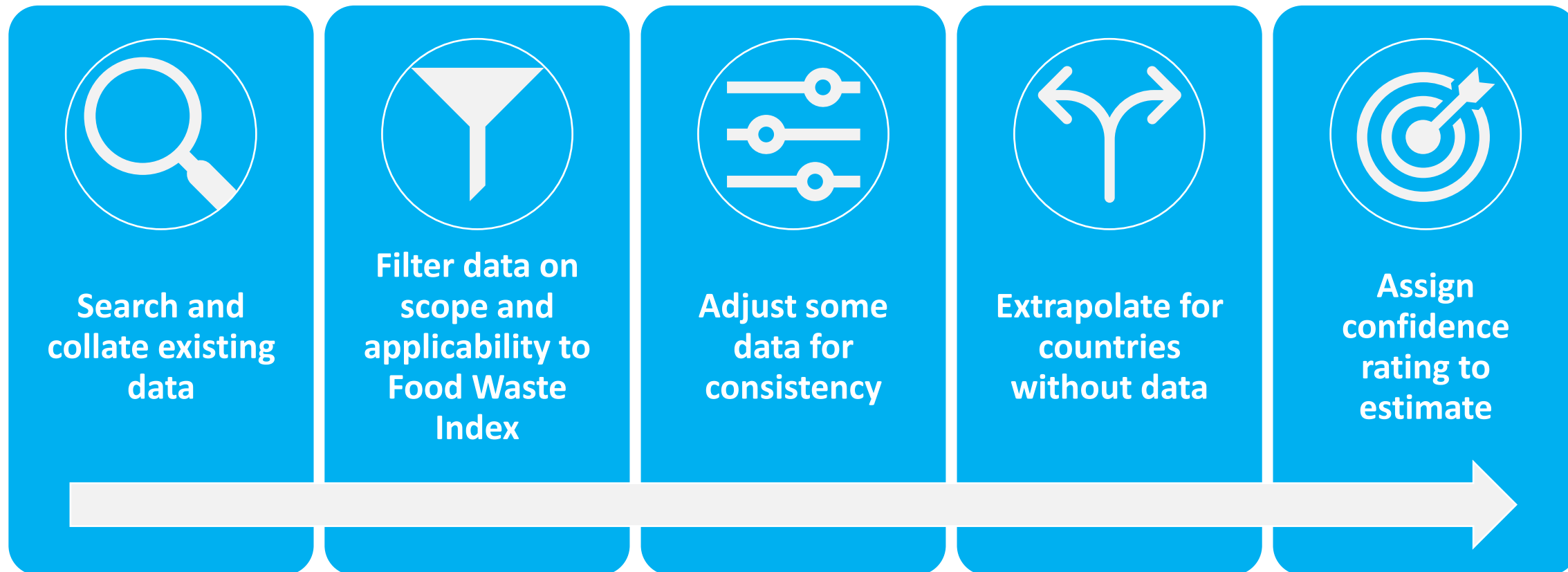


What's in the report?

- **New estimates of food waste for every country**
 - *Literature review, regional data summaries and global estimates*
- **Expanded methodological guidance for countries to measure food waste**
 - *Detailed guidance from GO4SDGs UNEP Regional Working Groups*
- **Solutions focus: Public-Private Partnerships**
 - *First of new series looking at how we achieve SDG 12.3*



Methodology



Big increase in data coverage

**Nearly doubling the number of countries with primary data in households...
... but most of this growth is from subnational, rather than national, studies.**

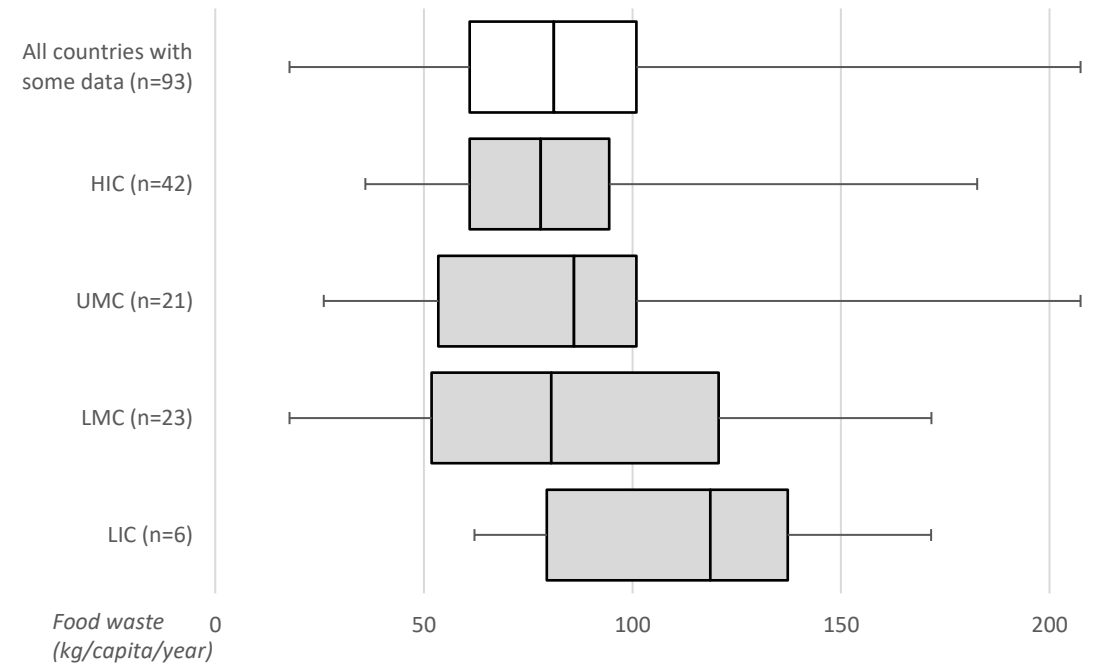
Included in 2024 report (change from 2021 report)	Household	Food Service	Retail	Total
Number of datapoints	194 (+103)	49 (+17)	45 (+16)	288 (+136)
Number of countries	93 (+41)	41 (+18)	45 (+22)	102 (+48)

More national baselines urgently needed.



Not just a rich country problem

- Substantial household food waste identified in all countries, **regardless of country income group**
- Just **7 kg/capita/yr** between the average household food waste of high, upper-middle and lower-middle income*



**Low income not included due to much smaller sample size*



Action at scale is possible!

Japan: 31% reduction

- Mandatory reporting of food waste from large businesses
- Industry reduction targets
- Effective animal feed diversion
- Public awareness ('No-foodloss')



See:

<https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/env/fr/ecycle.html>

United Kingdom: 18% reduction

- Voluntary reporting and engagement through *Courtauld Commitment* Public-Private Partnership – **retail 26% reduction**
Manufacturers 34%
- Product- and sector-specific best practice guidance
- Redistribution working group
- Public awareness ('Love Food, Hate Waste')



See: <https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/food-drink/actions/action-on-food-waste>

Per capita, 2008-2020, household, food service and retail.

Per capita, 2007-2021, household, food service, retail, manufacture



Solutions focus: Public-Private Partnerships

Public-Private Partnerships are a “Pact” between businesses, Governments and NGOs, **bringing the supply chain together**, to act towards a shared goal in a **systemic manner**. For food waste, the approach is:

- **Target:** Decision-makers agree targets e.g. halve food waste by 2030, and commit to delivering them
- **Measure:** All businesses agree to monitor food waste annually, identifying sources of food waste and the causes, and to reporting these findings
- **Act:** on the data to reduce food waste in operations and then help customers and suppliers to act by for example sharing insights and best practice.

Impact: mobilises supply chain to reduce food waste/capita in manufacturing and retail e.g. by 32% in UK



Some examples of Public-Private Partnerships



Countries can take action

- **G20 has an opportunity to lead on food waste reduction**
 - *Only four G20 countries + EU have food waste estimates suitable to track progress across multiple sectors*
- **2025 NDC revision process as a key opportunity to integrate FLW**
 - *Just 21 countries include food loss and/or waste reduction in their NDCs*



Examples of direct commitments to reduce food waste within NDCs

- Cabo Verde:** Plans for improving "insects and equipment for solid and organic waste control, **reduction management and awareness raising among households and communities.**"
- China:** "The Code of Conduct for Environmental Protection (Trial) was released to encourage the public across the country to practice low-carbon lifestyles through measures such as energy conservation and green consumption." The "Clean Plate campaign has been launched nationwide to reduce food waste."
- Namibia:** Proposed future adaptations in Namibia's blue economy include to "Promote innovations in food processing, food losses and waste" within their adaptation measures.
- Sierra Leone:** Sierra Leone commits to improving value chains through "technologies and tools for reducing food waste."
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE):** The UAE aims to cut food waste by half by 2030. "The UAE has taken a comprehensive approach to reducing food waste by engaging food retailers, government organizations and businesses in initiatives to reduce, and encourage treatment of, food waste." The nationwide Food Waste Pledge launched in 2018 encourages the UAE's hospitality sector to adopt efficient food production practices.

18 WRAP | Food Loss and Waste: From Commitments to Action

Source: WRAP (2022), *Food Loss and Waste: From Commitments to Action*



Conclusions

- **Food waste is huge global problem with more than 1 billion tonnes per year thrown away.**
- **It is a problem everywhere, and requires global action.**
- **We know how to reduce food waste at scale – it's time to act**

Report link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/food-waste-index-report-2024>



Thank you

Clementine O'Connor UNEP

www.stopfoodlosswaste.org

clementine.oconnor@un.org

Richard Swannell WRAP

www.wrap.org.uk

richard.swannell@wrap.org.uk