UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2024

17th April 2024
David Rubia (UNEP)
Preparatory Workshop on Food Loss and Waste Prevention in Sub-Saharan Africa
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

Custodians of 12.3 indicators: FAO & UNEP

Food Loss Index - focus on supply

“By 2030, ...”

Food Waste Index - focus on demand

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

12.3.1 Food Loss

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

12.3.2 Food Waste
The Scale of the Problem

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Global Average (kg/capita/year)</th>
<th>2022 Total (million tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food service</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>1,052</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Search and collate existing data

Filter data on scope and applicability to Food Waste Index

Adjust some data for consistency

Extrapolate for countries without data

Assign confidence rating to estimate
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Included in 2024 report (change from 2021 report)</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Food Service</th>
<th>Retail</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of datapoints</td>
<td>194 (+103)</td>
<td>49 (+17)</td>
<td>45 (+16)</td>
<td>288 (+136)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of countries</td>
<td>93 (+41)</td>
<td>41 (+18)</td>
<td>45 (+22)</td>
<td>102 (+48)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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')

**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://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/env/frecycle.html](https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/env/frecycle.html)

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

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

Thank you

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