



## **United Nations Food Systems Summit**

### **Republic of Yemen**

## **National Pathways: Transforming Food Systems in Yemen by 2030**

**December 2021**

### **Executive Summary**

The Food Systems Pathways of the Republic of Yemen is the culmination of the government's commitment to the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit and is the result of a combination of research, strategy and policy review and national dialogues for the United Nations Food Systems Summit in Yemen held during 2021. The dialogues focused on the most important vital sectors of agriculture, fisheries, industry, education, social protection, water, environment and health.

The fisheries sector is one of the promising sectors that can be relied upon to contribute to moving the national economy, enhancing food security and raising the level of nutrition in Yemen. The government is seeking to implement a package of priorities that are included in the framework of a strategic plan that accommodates all stages, starting with the stage of resilience and recovery, to expand employment and income opportunities for all fishermen to reach a sustainable livelihood that will enable them to recover to provide the requirements for advancement; Towards the implementation of other strategic stages aimed at restoring infrastructure and revitalizing the economic cycle, and to provide livelihoods for the population on the coasts in order to make them less vulnerable and more able to resist economic shocks.

In the agricultural field, the government seeks to increase agricultural growth rates to achieve food and nutritional security, combat poverty through the production of food commodities for consumption and marketing, improve and diversify sources of nutrition, increase dependence on food resources, improve income and access to food, and improve the relationship between consumers and food sources.

As for the education and social protection sector, the government is trying to respond to urgent and emerging needs in the economic and social arena through a package of policies and procedures to ensure the provision of appropriate solutions and interventions. It pursues policies aimed at integrating a range of nutrition-sensitive programs, including: enhancing the awareness and educational aspect, developing curricula to carry messages that improve nutrition situation, as well as providing nutritional incentives. The Ministry is also seeking to expand the scope of nutrition in schools by expanding the provision of school meals in addition to distributing

biscuits to students and providing nutritional supplements for adolescent girls. In addition to rehabilitating health facilities in schools, providing safe water and a healthy environment in schools, and limiting the spread of diseases.

In order to increase water, hygiene and sanitation interventions, the government is working in coordination with international and voluntary organizations working in this field to provide the necessary support for water and sanitation institutions to get out of the current situation crisis in order to provide support for the operation and maintenance of the water and sanitation system and to deliver safe water to subscribers.

With regard to public health, the technicians stress the need to expand the scope of nutrition interventions in the health sector to include all vulnerable groups by strengthening nutrition interventions in hospitals through the provision of nutrition specialists, and supervision of kitchens in hospitals; As well as providing therapeutic and tube feeding and nutritional supplements to patients as well as building the capacity of the health staff to link nutrition with therapeutic protocols. Meanwhile, the Ministry is oriented towards strengthening food safety interventions, controlling children's food, and promoting environmental health interventions.

During November 2021, the SUN-Yemen Secretariat organized several national dialogues; with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP); It included the first, second and fifth UNFSS's tracks of actions; which focus on shifting towards healthy and sustainable consumption patterns, providing healthy food for all at all times, as well as the resilience of food systems in the face of crises. The team organizing the dialogues worked to support the participants during the dialogue workshops to find practical solutions that are compatible with the requirements of the current context in the country, taking into account the current and future opportunities to support the resilience of food systems in Yemen. The dialogues focused on the following axes: building national systems, by strengthening infrastructure, information, communication, coordination and learning; eradicating hunger in Yemen; promoting access to nutritious and healthy food, especially for the most vulnerable groups such as women (mothers and adolescents), children and the elderly; promoting food safety, along the value chains of food systems (from seed to fork); supporting national public policies and strategies to strengthen food control and interventions (from production to consumption); promoting effective integration and coordination through strategic partnerships between government, local communities and international partners to build sustainable food systems; As well as raising the demand for healthy and nutritious food, and changing behavior and practices that promote healthy nutrition.

While the outcomes of the food systems dialogues in Yemen draw features for the country's near future; However, it also lays the foundation for strategic interventions. These outputs take the form of national working groups, which are clustered within purposeful national Working Groups; every Working Group has a mission to change towards healthy and sustainable diets. These national Working Groups also represent a nucleus for global and regional communication and partnerships with similar and related Working Groups at the regional and global levels. These national Working Groups are the result of an urgent need at the national level; it is also an extension of international efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals. These Working Groups focus on targeting the following core areas: (i) agricultural and fisheries investments: focus on improving access and availability and reducing food insecurity; (ii) economic development: focus on increasing investment and productivity while taking advantage of diversified sources of funding; (iii) empowering the most vulnerable (women and children): demonstrating the long-term impact of improving women's and children's

health, education, and participation in the economy and society; (iv) Strategic Development Partnerships: transparent policies, government effectiveness, and effective partnerships between multiple sectors, public and private, community and international partners in infrastructure development; (5) human capacities: addressing human development, particularly population health and education; and (6) quality: food safety from seed to table.

These dialogues also identified a number of priority themes that, when acted upon, will constitute a transformative path towards a sustainable, resilient and equitable food system. The following is a brief description of the priority thematic areas that emerged from the national dialogues in Yemen, which took the form of a group of Working Groups that the participants in the national dialogues agreed on the need to establish as mechanisms for advocacy, follow-up and implementation.

#### **Thematic Priority 1: Expanding social protection**

- 1.1 National of Social Protection Mechanisms and Zero Hunger;
- 1.2 Government subsidized bread Working Group;

#### **Thematic Priority 2: Expanding/Increasing the quantity and quality of agricultural and fishery products**

- 2.1 The Supreme Council for achieving food self-sufficiency;
- 2.2 National Working Group to Increase Domestic Agricultural Production;
- 2.3 National Working Group to support the agricultural and fisheries investment environment;
- 2.4 National Working Group of Governmental Support for the Fishermen;
- 2.5 National Working Group to Support Integrative Agriculture (Aquaculture);

#### **Thematic Priority 3: Providing lifelong nutrition, health education and awareness raising**

- 3.1 School Meals Working Group;
- 3.2 Hospital Nutrition Working Group;
- 3.3 The Higher National Committee for Awareness of Healthy Nutrition;
- 3.4 National Working Group for Children Food;

#### **Thematic Priority 4: Ensuring food safety from a multi-sectoral perspective**

- 4.1 National Working Group to Monitor the Use and Impact of Agricultural Pesticides;
- 4.2 The National Committee for Regulating Food Safety;

#### **Thematic Priority 5: Building strategic collaboration and partnerships across sectors and multi-stakeholders**

- 5.1 Food Policy Dialogue Forums (Food Security Secretariat)

#### **Thematic Priority 6: Scaling up the national readiness for food systems' positive transformations and responding to emergencies and shocks.**

- 6.1 The National Working Group to Build National Capacities to Respond to Emergencies and Shocks.