

# Goal 12

**Target number:** 12.3

**Indicator Number and Name:** 12.3.1 Global Food Loss Index

**Sub-indicator:** 12.3.1.a Per capita food waste (kg/per year)

**Sub-indicator:** 12.3.1.b Global Food Loss Index.

The target will be monitored with two separate indicators, one on the waste component and one on the loss component. This solution, proposed by FAO and UNEP at last IAEG-SDG meeting of November 2018 was approved by the group during a web consultation with FAO in July 2018.

FAO and UNEP proposed to have an additional indicator for waste, as the nature of the target implies the identification of two separate aspects of an efficient food system. While the two concepts are related and the precise boundaries between food losses and food waste may be blurred conceptually, for operational clarity and to bring more effective and efficient outcomes, it is necessary to separate the components. The two proposed indicators to measure the target adequately would therefore, focus on the ‘reduction of losses along the food production and supply chains’ (supply oriented) and the second to measure the ‘halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level’ (demand oriented).

**Agency:** UNEP (lead 12.3.1a), FAO (lead 12.3.1.b)

**Has work for the development of this indicator begun?** Yes for both.

FAO and UNEP have agreed to take the lead on the respective components and collaborate on the overall monitoring of target 12.3.

Work on 12.3.1.b is further advanced. A reclassification application has been submitted for the IAEG-SDG’s consideration at its next session in Bahrain. The index design has been further refined, guidelines for data collection for the main food groups (cereals and pulses) have been published and an e-learning course on the guidelines is now available. Draft annexes to the guidelines on remaining food groups (fruits and vegetables, milk and meat, fish and products) are now available and are undergoing field tests (due in September and October 2018). The guidelines are being implemented in Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The GFLI will be piloted in the USA, Turkey and India, the latter being the only country in the world that is implementing regular postharvest loss sample surveys on a national scale for 45 commodities. The first international workshop training of trainers that took place in Turin in April 2018 with 21 participants from 17 countries and 4 regional offices or organizations. The index has been presented and further discussed with the IAEG-SDG in a Webinar in July 2018. Comments from participants will be addressed in view of the re-submission for the up-grade in November 2018.

The remainder of this work plan therefore focuses on the food waste component.

Indicator 12.3.1.a will build on work from the Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard (FLW Standard) that was published in June 2016 and the Global Food Loss Index. Following the External Consultation on Measuring SDG 12.3 held in Rome (28th and 29th September, 2017) under UNEP’s lead and in close collaboration with FAO, an expert working group has been convened since January 2018 to work on the methodology.

FAO and UNEP are working together to design and propose a way to combine the two components in a single coherent indicator for 12.3.

**Who are the entities, including national and international experts, directly involved and consulted in developing the methodology/and or data collection tools?**

The main entities for undertaking the work on 12.3.1.a will be UNEP, FAO, WRAP, Wageningen University, and WRI. This group, with others, within the auspices of the EU Food Waste and Loss Platform have been developing a more specific measuring framework and testing the framework in EU Countries.

While methodologies for directly measuring food waste were tested in a sample of countries, they indicated that a measurement approach to estimating food waste is too ambitious at this stage for many member states. The expert group is therefore working to develop a modelling approach to estimate food waste based on a “mass balance” approach. The approach takes estimates of calorific food availability as defined by the UN FAO and deduct estimates of calorific consumption to infer calories wasted. This will then be converted into an index of food waste.

**What is the involvement of or how do you plan to involve National Statistical Systems in the development of the methodology?**

The methodologies will be presented to as many national statistical offices as possible (through regional workshops) and the results of this peer review process will be taken into account. This will include the tools for statistical surveys and sampling methodologies.

**Please briefly describe the process of developing the methodology for the indicator**

12.3.1.a UN Environment convened a workshop in Q1 2018 to further build consensus on the detailed methodology and work on its publication.

Steps for finalising this indicator include:

- 1) Clarifying detailed definitions and boundaries between Food Loss and Waste. This was largely agreed at a recent expert workshop at the FAO in September.
- 2) Provide detailed guidance on measurement at each stage in the supply chain based on existing best practice for the waste indicator, covering retail to household. The measurement guidelines for farm up to, but excluding retail have been developed, piloted and will be disseminated by FAO. A similar approach detailing the cost-effectiveness, feasibility and reliability will need to be undertaken for the proposed guidelines on food waste.
- 3) For countries that will be unable to collect direct measurements on waste, a model and methodology will also need to be developed. This includes, how to extrapolate national data for countries who have not yet measured their baseline.
- 4) Providing specific capacity building to countries on using the methodology to measure the food waste component of Target 12.3, based on the measurement and modelling guidelines that will be developed.

**Please indicate new international standards that will need to be proposed and approved by an intergovernmental process (such as UNSC) for this methodology.**

- i) two separate sub-indicators for target 12.3, one for loss and one for waste covering different segments of the Food Supply Chain (supply and demand);
- ii) the methodological proposal for sub-indicator 12.3.1.a;
- iii) possibly a combined indicator with a different name for the whole target.

**When do you expect the methodological work on this indicator to be completed?**

12.3.1.a Q4 2018/Q1 2019

12.3.1b Q3 2018

**Are data and metadata already being collected from the National Statistical System for one or more components of this indicator?**

Yes for both sub indicators.

**If yes, please describe:**

12.3.1.a. A number of countries are using the Food Loss and Waste Protocol to report on the various components of the food system. In Europe this tool is being used by the European Commission as basis for measurement of food waste, as part of the Circular Economy package. Detailed discussions are underway with EuroStat on the details of reporting waste.

12.3.1.b A number countries estimate postharvest losses of key commodities and food losses along the supply in the framework of their Supply Utilization Accounts

**How do you plan to collect the data?**

12.3.1.a. data collection will be based on the reporting format developed for the FLW Protocol.

**If the indicator involves multiple components from different data sources, please describe how each individual component of the indicator will be collected here.**

12.3.1.a. Indicator consists of: household, grocery retail, hospitality, food service and some manufacturing components. Guidance on measurement for each of these components is being developed, based on international best practice.

**With what frequency is data expected to be collected?**

12.3.1.a. Every four years. In some parts of the world (such as the EU) it may be more frequent e.g. biennially.

**Is there a process of data validation by countries in place or planned for this indicator?**

Yes

**If yes, please briefly describe:**

A validation process has yet to be clearly defined with countries for either of the sub-indicators.

In general for 12.3.1.a countries will measure their own food waste data in accordance with the agreed methodology. They will be encouraged to indicate the level of uncertainty of the estimates where possible. Modelled estimates will be used for those countries that are not able to submit their own data, based on a methodology under development. Countries will be able to comment or validate this data via written consultation and/or regional workshops.

**If you have any additional comments that you believe would be helpful to IAEG-SDG members in analysing the work plan and methodological development of the indicator, please provide them here:**

FAO and the UNEP are working and in partnership with other national and international stakeholders on the development of methodologies for measuring Food Losses and Waste. The two organisations have formed a dynamic and well-functioning working group to start the process on the development of the waste indicator and refinement of the concepts and boundaries between the two components.

*(as of July/August 2018)*