

# UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2024

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# 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.”



# UNEP Food Waste Index 2024

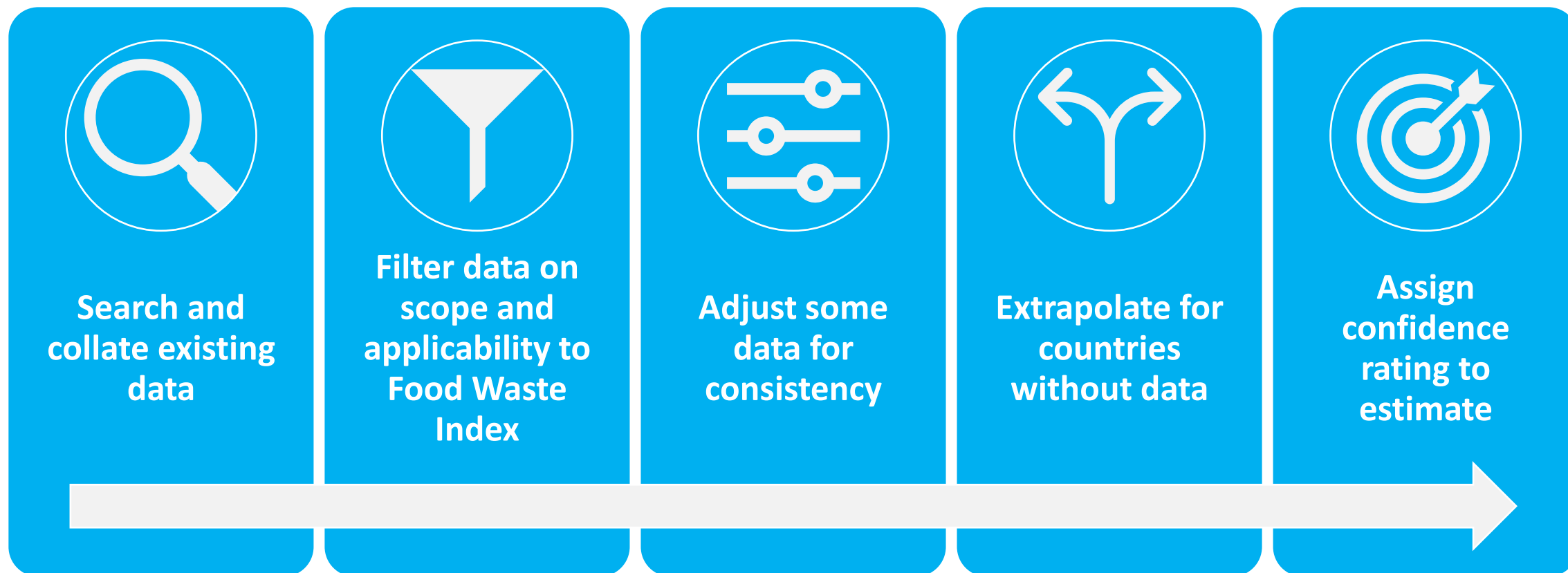
## What's in the report?

- **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 developed through UNEP Regional Food Waste Working Groups*
- **Solutions focus: Public-Private Partnerships**
  - *First of new series looking at how we achieve SDG 12.3*



# Methodology

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# Big increase in data coverage

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**288 datapoints across 102 countries.**

**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.**



# The Scale of the Problem

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- **19% of food available to consumers goes to waste**
- **1.05 billion tonnes wasted at retail, food service and households**

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



# One billion meals a day wasted

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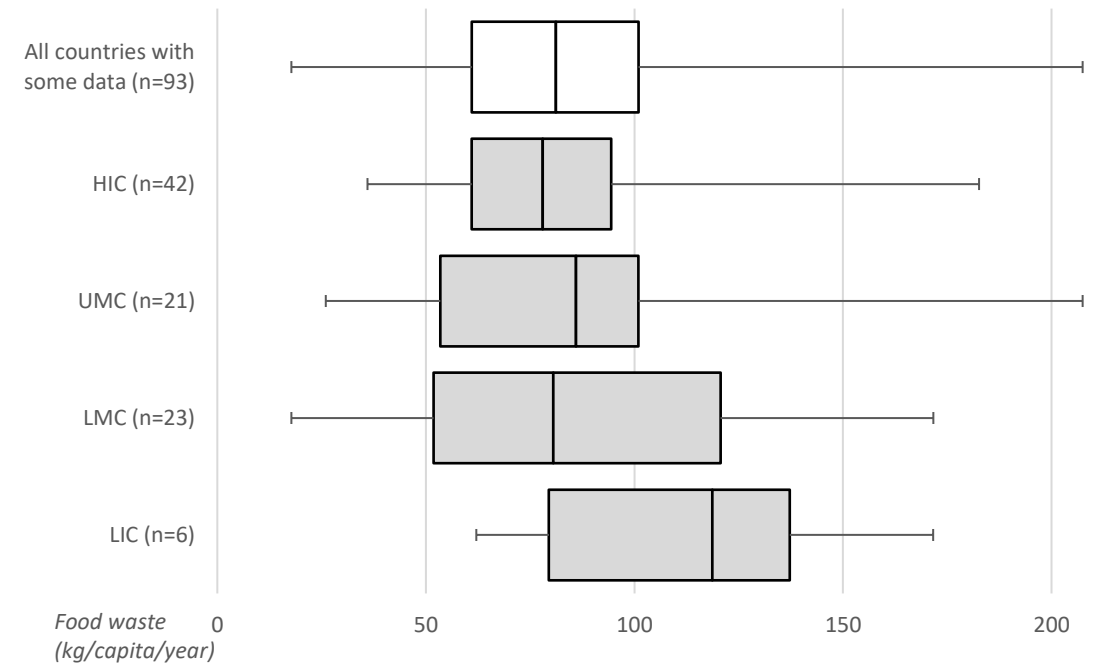
- We waste 631 million tonnes from households globally
- This is more than **one billion meals' worth of food thrown out by households each day**
- That is more than one meal per day for each person facing hunger around the world





# Global problem not limited to rich countries

- 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/frecycle.html>

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

## Netherlands: Reductions of 23% at consumer & 17% retail level

- A national consumer activation campaign with 150 partners (public and private). "Food waste free week" organized annually.
- Food Waste Free United Foundation - voluntary agreement initiated by the Dutch government, Wageningen University & Research (WUR), the Dutch Nutrition Centre and 25 private sector organisations in 2017.

## 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')



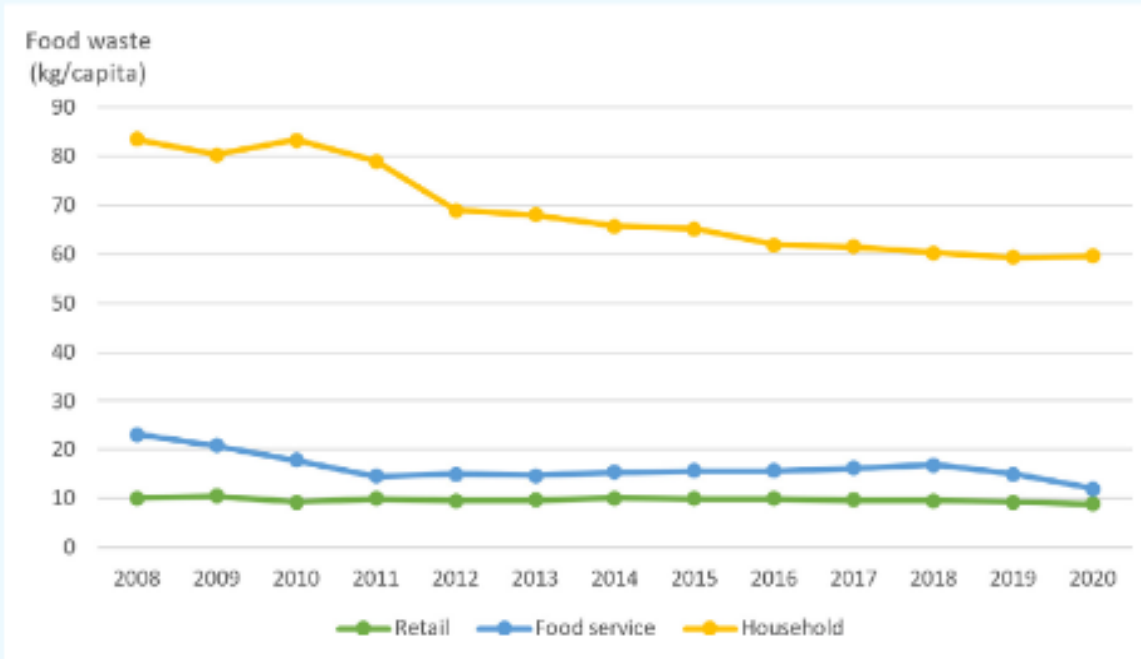
See:  
<https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/food-drink/actions/action-on-food-waste>

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



# Food Waste Reduction in Japan

Figure 13: Food waste per capita in Japan over time



Source: UNEP 2023.

**Total food waste reduced by 31 per cent from 2008**

- In Japan, consistent reporting of food waste has allowed for the development of time-series data from 2008 onwards.
- Ministry for Environment conducts annual surveys of households to collect waste generation and recycling data via municipalities that have conducted waste compositional analyses.
- Food-related businesses that generate more than 100 tonnes of food waste per year, including retailers and food service, are mandated to report this waste to the government.
- Japanese food waste was reduced by **28 per cent on a per capita basis**, going down as much as 35 per cent in food service and 29 per cent in households (Figure 13).

# Triple Opportunity with Proven Solutions



## *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.

**Thank you**

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