Indicator 12.3.1b Food Waste Index

Eighth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics

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17% of all food available at consumer levels is wasted

- 931 million tonnes of food sold to households, retailers, restaurants and other food services wasted in 2019
- Study finds food waste is a global, not just developed world, problem
- 811 million people affected by hunger in 2020 – rising sharply with COVID-19 - and three billion people unable to afford a healthy diet: Consumers need help to reduce food waste at home.
- Food Waste Index report helps countries track progress on UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 to halve food waste by 2030

Food Waste Index approach

Level 1 Data coverage

Income group	Number of countries with measured data		
	Household	Food service	Retail
High-income	28	18	20
Upper middle-income	12	3	2
Lower middle-income	10	2	1
Low-income	2	0	0
Total	**52**	**23**	**23**

152 food waste data points were identified in 54 countries.

Level 1 Modelling & extrapolation

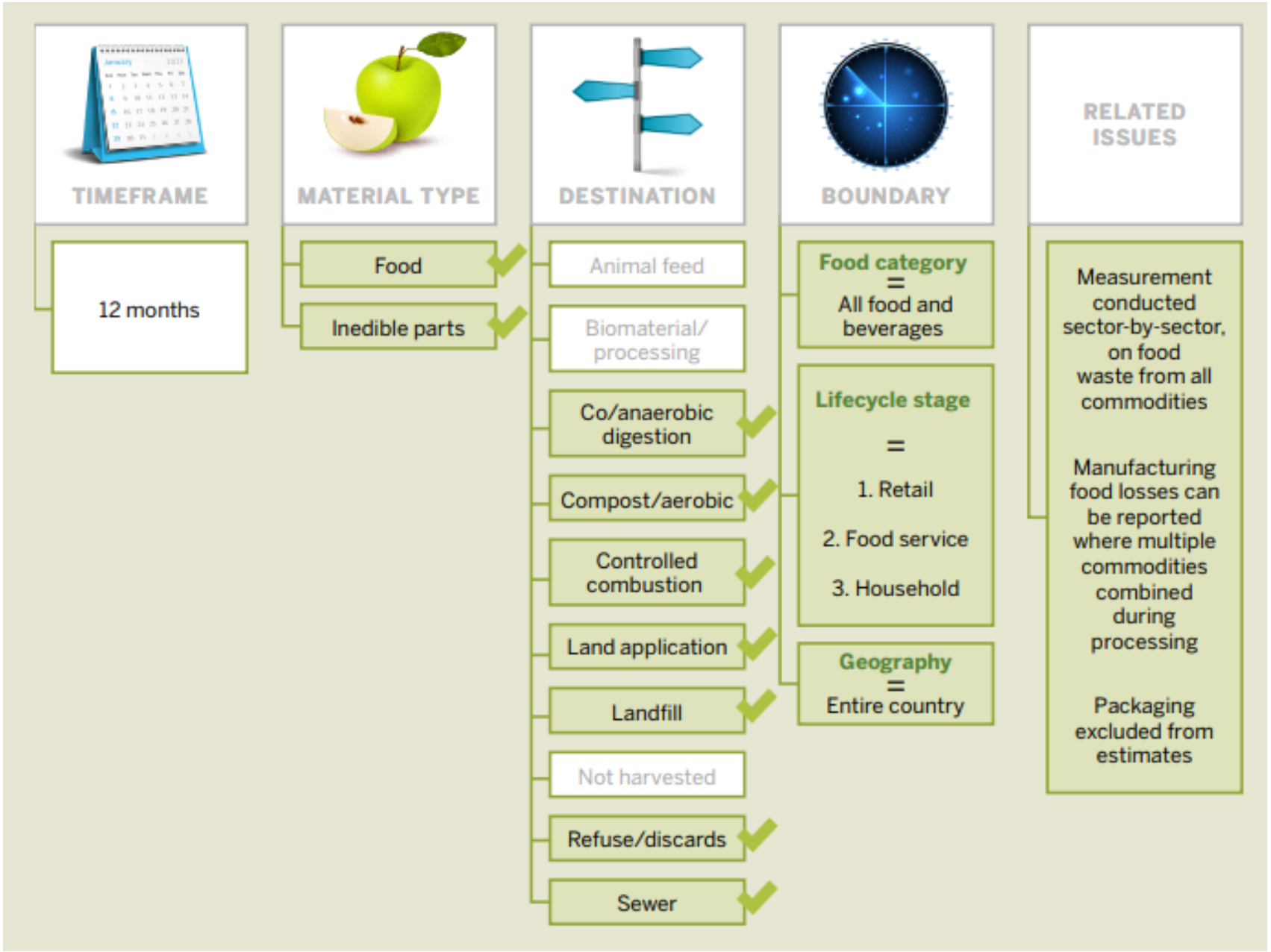
Sector	Global food waste, 2019	
	Average (kg / capita / year)	Total (million tons)
Household	74	569
Food service	32	244
Retail	15	118
Total	**121**	**931**

Household food waste, 2019, by World Bank country income group

Income group	Average, kg / capita / year
High-income	79
Upper middle-income	76
Lower middle-income	91
Low-income	Insufficient data

Household food waste = 74 kg / person / year

Level 2 Scope



Levels 2 & 3 - Appropriate methods of measurement by sector

Sector	Methods of measurement					
Manufacturing (if included)	Direct measurement (for food-only waste streams)	Waste composition analysis (for waste streams in which food is mixed with non-food)	Volumetric assessment	Mass balance		
Retail					Counting/ scanning	Diaries (for material going down sewer, home composted or fed to animals)
Food service						
Household						

How to Report on SDG 12.3

SDG 12.3 food waste data is planned to be collected using the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) / UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics (Waste Section).

- Questionnaire sent out every two years to National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Environment, which will nominate a single food waste focal point in the country to coordinate data collection and reporting.
- Data will be made publicly available in SDG Global Database and in UNEP's Food Waste Index Report, which will be published at regular intervals up to 2030.
- The next questionnaire will be sent to Member States in **2022**, and results will be reported to the SDG Global Database by February 2023.
- Countries do not need to conduct new measurements every two years, or to measure every sector simultaneously. Measuring each sector at least once every four years is recommended.

United Nations | Food Systems Summit 2021

Food is Never Waste

A Global Coalition to halve food loss and waste by 2030

12 countries and the C40 Cities Group have prioritized food loss and waste reduction from farm to table, setting targets aligned with SDG 12.3, working to measure and report progress, develop national strategies and act via policies and practices to halve food loss and waste by 2030.

The Coalition will work with participants to identify appropriate approaches to fit national circumstances.

How to get involved:

Contact UNEP, FAO, WRI, World Bank, WRAP Rabobank, WWF or other organizing institutions.

UNEP Regional Food Waste Working Groups

In support of the UN Food Systems Summit and Food is Never Waste Coalition, UNEP has launched **Regional Working Groups on Food Waste:**
25 countries and 68 national partners
Key partners: One Planet Network, WRAP, FAO, WWF, IDB.

First step: Food Waste Index Report 2021
First of eight workshops scheduled third week of October 2021
Recent webinar on Climate finance for food waste prevention

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Expected outcomes

- ✓25 countries equipped to measure and report using Food Waste Index in SDG reporting end of 2022
- ✓Peer-to-peer learning and best practice sharing
- ✓Support for development of National Food Waste Prevention Strategies
- ✓Guidance on integrating food waste in NDCs and financing food waste prevention programmes

UNEP Regional Food Waste Working Groups

Confirmed Participants by Region

Africa	Asia Pacific	Latin America & the Caribbean	West Asia
Mauritius (2)	China (4)	Argentina (4)	Bahrain (2)
Nigeria (3)	Philippines (3)	Brazil (5)	Jordan (7)
South Africa (4)	Japan (2)	Chile (8)	Palestine (3)
Uganda (2)	Malaysia (1)	Colombia (2)	Qatar (1)
Ghana (1)	Thailand TBC	Costa Rica (2)	Saudi Arabia (2)
	South Korea TBC	Mexico (3)	UAE (1)
		Uruguay (1), Ecuador (1)	Lebanon (5)
		Dominican Republic (1)	

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Reflections

- Are food waste data readily available in your country? From where?
- Can you share an anecdote from your country of known or documented ways by which food is wasted or lost?
- How can we encourage countries to invest in data collection? What kinds of funding are available to help countries collect SDG data?
- There is a persistent assumption that consumer food waste is a high-income country problem – but the Food Waste Index data shows that per capita levels are comparable across country income groups. How can we dispel this assumption and encourage middle- and lower-income countries to tackle this issue?
- Municipal Solid Waste analyses typically identify a ‘bio’ or ‘organic waste’ fraction. But given the environmental and economic impacts of food waste, it would be much more useful for composition analyses to separate the ‘food’ waste fraction from ‘green’ waste. How could we encourage this shift?

Thank you

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