

Transformation Story:

Initiative in Zambia

The momentum for the initiative in Zambia departs from the UNFSS Zambia Food Systems Transformation Pathways as the overarching political framework guiding our work. Our initiative circles around and supports the **National Food and Nutrition Commissions (NFNC)** in coordinating and enhancing **multi-stakeholder collaboration**.

NFNC as a major public driver is complemented by an **advisory group**, currently consisting of the core members of the initiative: CSO Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), SUN Business Network (SBN), and cooperating partners FAO and GIZ. This inner circle of actors collaborates closely on a strategic level, to percolate Zambia's transformative approach in their respective societal areas.

As a key governance mechanism to **implement** the Zambia Food Systems Transformation Pathways, to **achieve government buy-in**, and to **provide guidance** to stakeholders, the NFNC launched the **Food Systems Technical Working Group (FSTWG)**. This high level working group includes a range of ministries from diverse sectors (agriculture, health, fisheries and livestock, education, community development and social services, and green economy and environment) as well as representatives from CSO-SUN, SBN, academia, and cooperating partners including FAO, WFP, UNICEF, Irish Aid, and GIZ. To review and monitor the National Pathways, the FSTWG has developed a **Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy and Framework for Food Systems** in Zambia.

We see ourselves as **pioneers**, aiming to promote and facilitate **systemic change**. Building on the work of the **frontrunners from civil society and business** in promoting food systems transformation, we aim to achieve a **consensus** within the Zambian food system to promote



and implement **sustainable and healthy production and consumption patterns**. It is therefore crucial to further mainstream the new food system paradigm across sectors. To this end, we have been bringing more partners on board, focusing on **youth engagement** and **academia**. We aim to build a stronger **understanding and identity of food systems stakeholders** in Zambia and proactively engage them in delivering their expertise. Like a stone thrown into quiet waters, we want to amplify our efforts within **the nationwide food sector**, enabling both exchange with different actors and support from like-minded groups, thereby further developing our support system.





We envision a new paradigm under which **well-informed consumers** can afford and choose from a diversified range of **locally available, safe, healthy, and nutritious foods**. In particular, we want to see **traditional foods** and **neglected crops** set to value and consumers refraining from regular consumption of processed foods high in sugar, salt and fats. To enable **inclusivity of all people**, policies support the most vulnerable groups to gain access to affordable nutritious food and equitable livelihoods. **Market incentives** favor diverse production and consumption of healthy food, making business models centered

around locally sourced inputs and ingredients as well as nutritious, healthy, and sustainable diets the new viable mainstream. Production aligns with **agroecological principles** to enable a self-reliant sector that covers the needs of consumers and delivers a fair share to producers who are resilient to stresses and shocks. Production relies on natural ecosystem processes, independent from expensive and harmful substances. The food system is **governed and defined by its people** who prefer localised value chains, with **small communities** building the capacities for **local value addition** and living a **prosperous life**.



Moving forward, we aim to explore **regulatory measures** addressing both large corporations (e.g. increase of the low-level sugar tax) and small-scale producers. We further want to set value to **local businesses** in the food sector by promoting the procurement and distribution of their produce and by providing grants for them to pioneer healthy diets in their surroundings.

‘Youths participation in food systems can help create a more just and sustainable food system.’

– participant at a story workshop, Zambia, February 2025

Imprint:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32, 53113 Bonn, Germany

Global programme Transformation of food
systems G530 – Global agendas for food security
Photo credits: © GIZ ZAMBIA