



GOAL'S CAPACITY IN FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

GOAL improves Food & Nutrition Security through building the resilience of sustainable crop, fisheries, forestry and other livestock food systems, enabling financial inclusion for smallholder farmers and fishers, transforming gender and social norms that improve food and nutrition security and protecting and restoring the natural resources critical to food systems. GOAL always seeks to facilitate change working with local permanent actors - government, civil society, community and the private sector - knowing that they will remain long after GOAL has departed.

OUR APPROACH

GOAL's strategy **Crisis to Resilience** centres around building vulnerable communities' capacities, particularly focused on small scale farmers and fishers, to respond to food and nutrition security emergencies during the acute phase, while simultaneously investing in longer term programming to build sustainable and resilient food systems. GOAL uses an integrated framework of approaches called **Systems for Resilient Food & Nutrition Security (S4Nut)** which 1) increases production of environmentally and ecologically sustainable, nutritionally rich food using Market systems development, 2) stimulates income generation and financial inclusion that supports access to adequate food, and 3) positively changes behaviours to support the consumption of adequate diets. GOAL uses **systems diagnostic tools** including **Resilience for Socio-economic Systems (R4S)** and **Analysis of Community Resilience to Disasters (ARC-D)** to analyse how the system is functioning, the key actors, the social and gender norms, the behaviours and barriers underlying poor food security and nutrition outcomes, and shocks and stresses, to identify areas for prioritisation to achieve resilient, inclusive systems. GOAL **adaptively manages** programmes, making decisions and adjustments in response to changes in context and new information regarding what is working and what is not.

ABOUT GOAL

Established in 1977, GOAL is an international humanitarian and development agency, committed to working with communities to achieve sustainable and innovative early response in crises, and lasting solutions to poverty and vulnerability. GOAL has worked in over 60 countries and has responded to almost every major humanitarian disaster. We are currently operational in 14 countries globally.

OUR FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY EXPERTISE



GOAL's Food and Nutrition Security programming is designed according to the level of fragility in the context, and the needs/ gaps identified and prioritised during systems analysis, in order to build more inclusive and resilient local systems. In all contexts GOAL will prioritise lifesaving assistance when people are facing crises.

PREPAREDNESS AND ANTICIPATORY ACTION

GOAL believes that systems analysis enables better preparedness and more localised and effective anticipatory action and emergency response, including through a market-facing approach. With funding from USAID, GOAL is co-implementing Resilience in Pastoral Areas-South (RIPA), a five-year programme to increase resilience through improved food security and inclusive economic growth in Ethiopia. GOAL uses a market systems development approach in livestock, crop, and financial systems to intensify and sustain pastoral and agro-pastoral production and marketing. In times of crisis, the **commercial destocking** of livestock allows assets to be converted to cash before they deteriorate and die. Destocking also relieves pressure on scarce feed, grazing and water to the benefit of remaining livestock. Between 2020 and 2023, **54,330 livestock** were destocked by commercial buyers as a result of GOAL's intervention. Communities earned US\$8.5m from the sale of their livestock, using the money to buy feed for remaining livestock, food, health services and other critical costs. This was achieved at a cost of US\$300k of donor resources, a highly cost-effective intervention. At the same time, in order to protect remaining livestock / assets for 16,040 vulnerable households 204,680 livestock were vaccinated twice by the animal health market actors who provide these services on a sustainable / commercial basis.

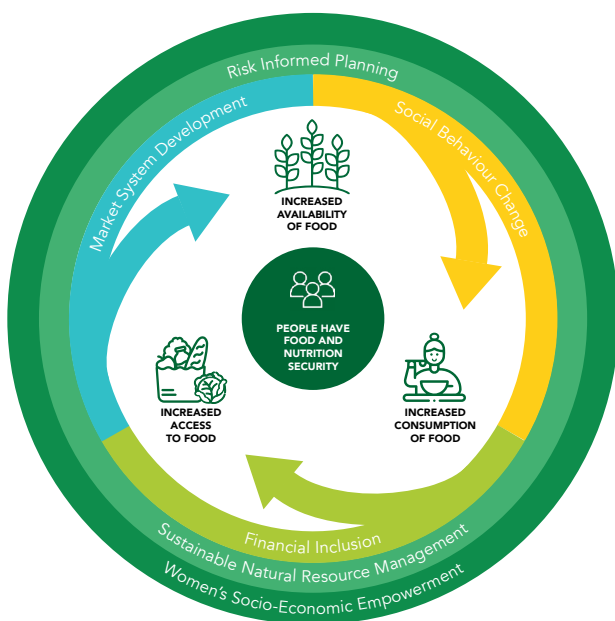


Figure 1: Systems for Resilient Food & Nutrition Security (S4Nut)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND CHRONIC CRISES

GOAL always prioritises lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance when people are facing crises, championing a 'cash first' approach to enable people to meet their own evolving needs, and to support markets to respond and recover from shocks and stresses. Each year GOAL reaches over **1 million vulnerable people** in North-West Syria with an integrated package of emergency food and nutrition security support, targeting households headed by women, people with disabilities, older adults and children, and those living in informal shelters such as tents and collective centres. GOAL provides monthly cash and e-vouchers, alongside a bakery support programme where flour and yeast inputs are provided to bakeries and subsidised bread is sold in the local markets, increasing access to more affordable daily bread, the staple of the Syrian diet. GOAL provides support to food-related small businesses in the form of grants, business training and mentorship services. This has enabled food vendors to, for example, install solar panels and refrigeration, to mitigate fluctuations in power, improve food safety and quality, reduce food loss and diversify food product availability, ultimately stabilising this critical market infrastructure and capacity to maintain a supply of nutritious and diversified food and other essential non-food items for the wider community. GOAL also provides cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to enable people to purchase diversified nutritious foods, targeting children and pregnant and lactating women along with Social Behaviour Change (SBC) to improve feeding practises in the household.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

GOAL works with communities to increase access to informal savings & loan groups in Ethiopia, Haiti, Niger, South Sudan, Syria, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe for financially excluded people to build financial literacy and confidence, a pre-requisite to accessing formal financial services / financial inclusion. GOAL also seeks to strengthen access to financial services for small-scale farmers, fishers and other local stakeholders within food systems, through partnerships with financial service providers. In **Ethiopia**, GOAL works with Oromia Insurance Company to increase access to Index Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI), for agro-pastoralists affected by multiple and recurring shocks (drought and insecurity), and who rely on their livestock for both social and economic wellbeing. GOAL stimulates demand and supply of appropriate insurance products by providing a smart subsidy for agro-pastoralists. The subsidy will decrease annually until 2025. Since 2023, 1,768 agro-pastoralists have insured 11,822 livestock of which 75% are small ruminants (e.g. goats, sheep) more often owned by women. This assists marginalised communities to be more resilient to weather-related shocks, while working with the local system stakeholders to create sustainable and scalable change.

STRENGTHENING FOOD SYSTEMS

GOAL partners with a range of local stakeholders to strengthen food systems to enable people to access sufficient, sustainable and nutritious food. GOAL's S4Nut framework is used in **Niger**, where GOAL works with the private sector to increase access to nutritionally improved and climate adapted millet, groundnut and cowpea for smallscale farmers. Between 2021-2023, 68.9 tonnes (68,906kg) of nutritionally improved and climate adapted seed were purchased by farmers using a decreasing smart subsidy. This enabled increased production of between 221 - 278% when compared to local varieties. Short maturing seed mitigates climate related risks and 76% of farmers reported keeping at least 75% of their production for household consumption. Using a similar approach, 1,082Kgs of vegetable seed were bought by communities, of this, women bought 81%. GOAL also partnered with a local supplier to increase access to low-cost post-harvest storage technology (<\$1 per bag) for grains and legumes. GOAL used a small amount of donor funding (\$7,800) to trigger demand through a private sector partner and their network of retailers. To date (Feb. 2024), 108,421 storage bags were sold to small scale farmers to reduce food loss and contribute to food security.



RESILIENCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

The blue economy is key to global food and nutrition security, climate change adaptation and poverty reduction. By building sustainable linkages and strengthening local relationships the fishing industry can move from being destructive to being a force in building community resilience and sustainably managing resources. GOAL aims to make fisheries market systems more inclusive and resilient to shocks and stresses in **Honduras, Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, South Sudan and Sierra Leone**. GOAL supports livelihoods opportunities and improves governance of marine coastal resources for **indigenous and afro-descendent communities** across almost 1,500km of coastline in Latin America, supporting more than 7,000 fishers and their families. Programming addresses key market constraints including inadequate infrastructure for cold chain management, lack of access to capital and financial services, poor and non-existent extension and business development services, poor governance of natural resources leading to overfishing and habitat loss, limited adherence to market demand (food hygiene standards, stability of supply chains, traceability, etc.) and poor market coordination and linkages. Women make up a core part of the fisheries workforce, mainly in processing, sales and marketing. However, they often earn less than their male counterparts, have less decision-making power and have more unstable work conditions. GOAL first analyses these dynamics, then uses SBC approaches and supports women to gain access to profitable opportunities within the fisheries system.



GOAL'S IMPACT ON FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

GOAL reached over **2.6 million people, 55% of whom were women, 45% men**, with food and nutrition security programming in 2023.

76% of target farmers adopted **natural resource management** practices in 2023 in Colombia, Honduras, Niger, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

53% of targeted participants **increased their income** as a result of GOAL programming.

75% of target children 6-23 months old achieved the minimum dietary diversity in 2023.

Average Dietary Diversity Score (DDS) in target population is **5.60** in 2022, which is above the globally recognised minimum of 5 for women and children 6-23 months.

GOAL's Nutrition Impact & Positive Practise (NIPP) approach demonstrated a **rise in DDS scores** (3.8 to 4.7), with micro-gardens and knowledge of food preservation/storage maintained 6 months later.

66% of target women, men and youth accessed informal financial services and **79% accessed formal financial services** in 2023.

77% of fishing communities in Honduras reported an increase in their capacity to be **food and nutrition secure**; **79%** reported an increase in their preparedness and response **capacity to shocks**.



GOAL'S INNOVATIVE TOOLS & FRAMEWORKS

R4S (Resilience for Social Systems): Analyses the current resilience of critical socio-economic systems and how to build the resilience of these systems. GOAL uses the R4S to design comprehensive food and nutrition security programmes that aim to transform local food systems, supporting local food sovereignty and access to healthy diets for all.

Systems for Resilient Food & Nutrition Security (S4Nut) increases access, availability and consumption of nutritious food using market systems development for increased food production and availability; SBC to improve consumption of nutritious food, identify and prevent malnutrition and to influence social and gender norms; and financial inclusion to increase people's access to food, their investment in their livelihoods and resilience to shocks. Initiatives are risk-informed and centred on women's socio-economic empowerment.

Social Behaviour Change: GOAL ensures that SBC increases the skills and confidence of individuals, families and communities to facilitate change of entrenched social and gender norms making it socially acceptable for people to adopt new behaviours that impact on food and nutrition security outcomes.

Nutrition Impact & Positive Practice (NIPP) is a gender-sensitive, grass-roots approach, directly tackling a package of the underlying behavioural causes of malnutrition. The approach has been endorsed and used by numerous health ministries, civil society and international partners to create sustainable positive behaviour change. Other SBC approaches include [Community Dialogues](#) and the Family Health approach.

In Uganda, with support from Mastercard Foundation, GOAL partners with Centenary Bank, Equity Bank and Cycle Connect where 11,800 bank accounts have been opened and 3,676 loans have been approved to assist young people working in the agricultural sector. In Ethiopia, in partnership with the Cooperative Bank of Oromia, 2,244 individual bank accounts have been opened and 88 group accounts by agro-pastoralists since 2023.

FUTURE DIRECTION

- Scale up CVA for emergency response globally
- Expand use of the S4Nut Framework to new contexts
- Expand resilience of the blue economy programming with a focus on Africa
- Expand work to increase food production, protect natural resources critical to food production and reduce food waste

GLOBAL NETWORKS

GOAL is an active member of the Global Nutrition and Food Security Clusters including working groups on agriculture, cash and markets. GOAL is a member of the CALP, Cash Learning Partnership and its communities of practice. In Ireland, GOAL contributes to Dóchas, The Irish Network for International Development and Humanitarian Organisations and IFIAD, The Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development.

FUNDING PARTNERS

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