

---

**Food Waste Index**  
Update

---

Clementine O'Connor  
Programme Officer, Sustainable Food Systems  
UN Environment

# Tracking Progress on SDG 12.3

Custodians of 12.3 indicators:  
FAO & UNEP



Food Loss Index- focus on supply

“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.”



# Operational Definition of Food Losses

---

*Food losses are all the crop and livestock human-edible commodity quantities that, directly or indirectly, completely exit the post-harvest/slaughter production/supply chain by being discarded, incinerated or otherwise, and do not re-enter in any other utilization (such as animal feed, industrial use, etc.), up to, and excluding, the retail level.*

*Losses that occur during storage, transportation and processing, also of imported quantities, are therefore all included. Losses include the commodity as a whole with its non-edible parts.*

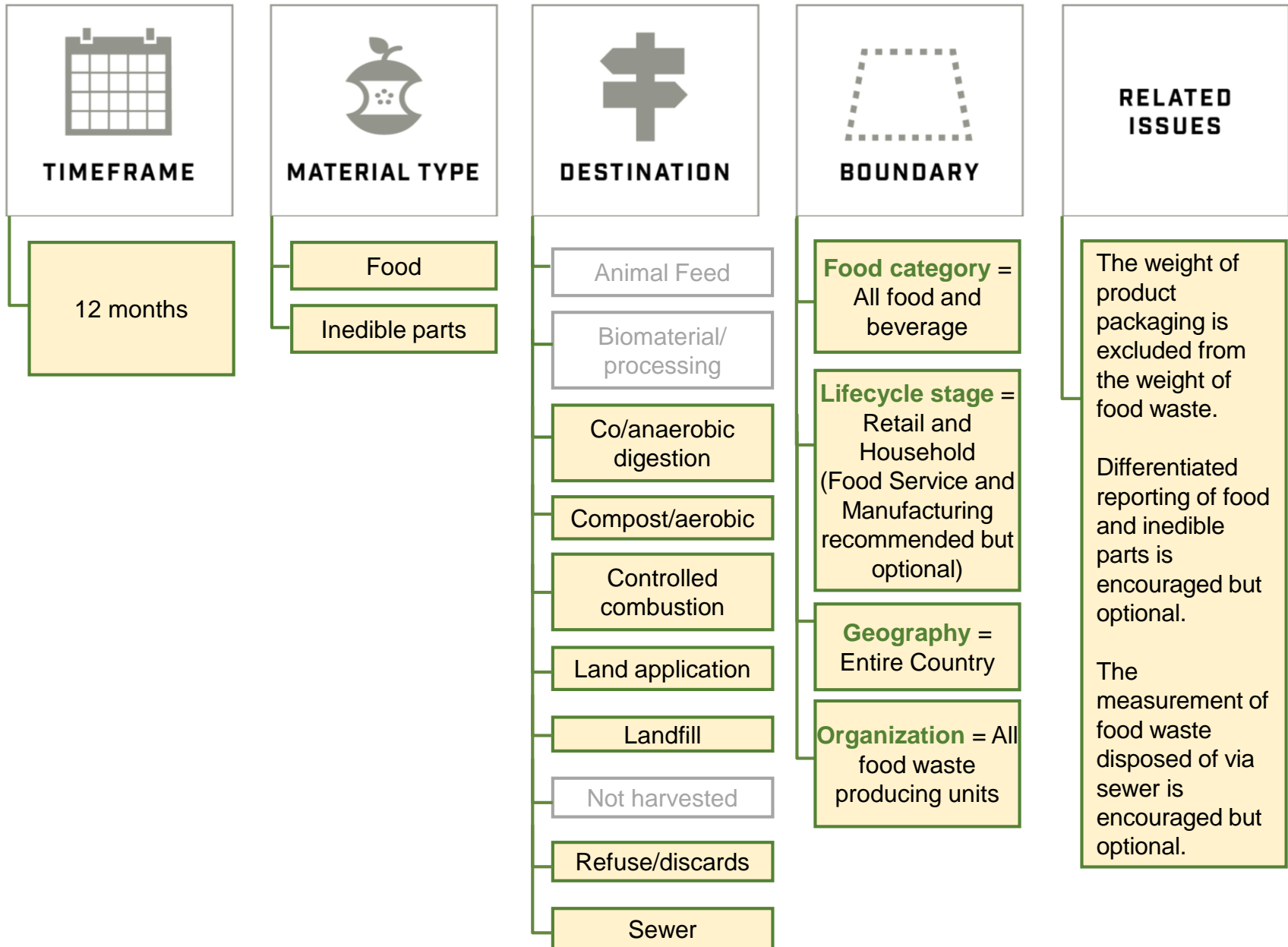
# Operational definition of food waste

---

The food and associated inedible parts removed from the human food supply chain at the following stages of the food chain:

- manufacturing of food products,
- food retail and wholesale,
- out-of-home consumption and
- in-home consumption.

# Scope of the Food Waste Index



# Recommended methodologies

---

Recommended methodologies for household food waste measurement:

- Waste compositional analysis
- Direct measurement
- Diaries (for sewer and home composting)
- Mass balance (where purchase and consumption data are updated regularly and uncertainty estimated)

Retail

- Waste compositional analysis
- Direct measurement
- Counting / scanning
- Mass balance (under certain conditions)
- Interviews and surveys to collate data

# Food Waste Index

---

The methodology of reporting endeavours to balance **quality of output** with **feasibility of implementation** in as many UN member states as possible, while improving data comparability across countries.

A three level approach has thus been adopted.

## **Level 1: Modelled data for countries who do not yet have baselines**

Using the food waste fraction of Municipal Solid Waste and other data according to availability. **Countries will be encouraged to separate ‘food’ and ‘green’ waste rather than organic (food + green waste) when conducting regular waste composition analyses of MSW**, and report the food waste fraction of MSW as a first step in tracking progress on SDG 12.3.

**Level 2: Household and retail sector studies** using accepted methodologies. Provides comparable national data at individual supply chain stage.

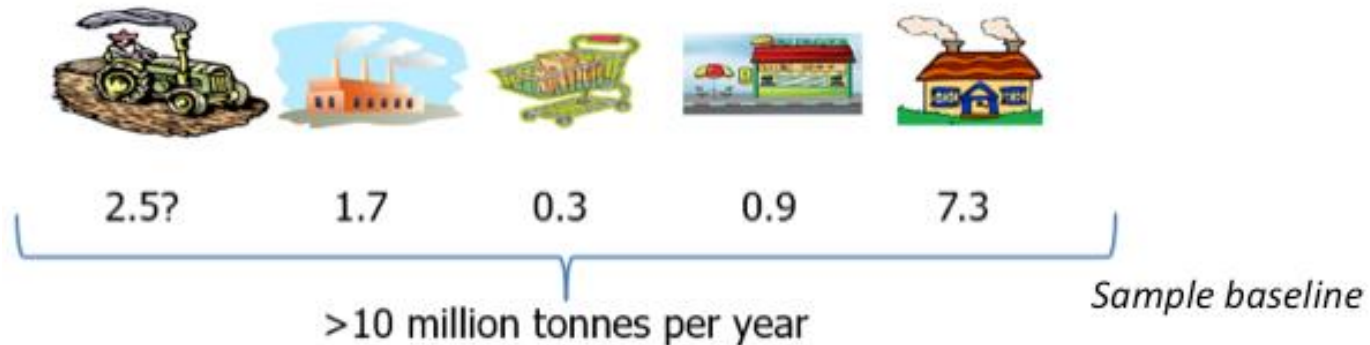
**Level 3: Full national baseline study** at all relevant supply chain stages, using accepted methodologies. Provides comprehensive picture of food waste at national level.

---

# Only 15 countries worldwide so far have Food Loss and Waste baseline data

---

UNEP has identified food waste baselines at least one supply chain stage in the following countries: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.



If your country already has baseline data and is not listed here, please let us know.



# Thank you

---

Clementine O'Connor  
clementine.oconnor@un.org  
[www.unenvironment.org/thinkeatsave](http://www.unenvironment.org/thinkeatsave)