

AFRICA REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM

OPPORTUNITY/ISSUE-BASED COALITIONS AND TASK FORCES

2023 ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

OIBC 4 – Fostering Climate Action, Resilience and Food Systems

Reporting guidelines:

- *Results should focus on collective achievements and joint system-wide efforts at the regional level that contributed to the advancement of the UN 2030 Agenda and the AU 2063 Agenda;*
- *Results should not duplicate annual UNCT reported results, nor should it include individual agency results;*
- *Results should track performance against annual OIBCs/TFs work plans;*
- *Results should be framed around one or several key transitions to accelerate delivery of the SDGs: (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution;*
- *For capacity building initiatives/trainings, please include number of persons trained, names of respective countries, what are participants able to do differently as a result of the training;*
- *Please include web links, data points, and sources for figures and data.*

OIBC 4 – FOSTERING CLIMATE ACTION, RESILIENCE AND FOOD SYSTEMS¹

A. PROGRESS ON FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

Flagship1 – Climate Change

Below is the progress on the Flagship1 on Climate Change.

Support to COP28 and the AGN

- Built capacities of young African women as African Group of Negotiators (AGN) including facilitation of their participation at the UNFCCC Bonn June 2023 Intersessional meetings. The trained young women will contribute to the inclusiveness of women's views and unique technical capacities in the AGN engagements at international negotiations.
- Supported the AGN (Chair) with its engagement with RCs and UNCTs on COP 28 preparations and follow-ups.
- OIBC-4 co-conveners held a briefing for Africa RCs/UNCTs on preparations for the COP 28 in the UAE and UN support to Member States, with the participation of the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN).
- OIBC4 members in collaboration with IGAD launched the IGAD Regional Roadmap for Anticipatory Action (AA) at COP 28. A Regional Technical Working Group on AA was created, and a Secretariat was established comprised of WFP, FAO, OCHA, UNDRR. The objective of the working group is to create a platform for knowledge sharing and promotion of AA agenda across the region through an established framework for anticipatory actions.

Carbon Markets

- Supported countries on steps towards preparedness on the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on Cooperative Arrangements for Carbon markets e.g., Mozambique.
- Assisted countries to integrate their NDCs into national and sub-national development planning and budgeting thereby enhancing climate action for low carbon and resilience building.
- **Policy brief on carbon markets:** OIBC-4 produced an information note on Carbon Markets (the Primer) to improve the understanding of RCs/UNCTs on Carbon Markets and explore potential opportunities.

Climate Finance

- Two strategic publications on planning Africa's adaptation finance and gender and climate action were produced. The "Planning Africa's Adaptation Finance: Estimating and reducing country level adaptation gaps" report is particularly strategic in that it proposes a methodology for countries to determine adaptation-relevant expenditures from their national budgets thus enabling the estimation of costs of adaptation actions in their NDCs. This comes handy as countries begin the 3rd NDC updates this year for 2025 submission. It is also timely for use by Africa in global climate negotiation streams on Global

¹ **CO-CONVENERS:** FAO, UNDP, UNEP and ECA; **MEMBERS:** ECA, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDRR, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNIADS, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNV, WFP and WHO, WMO, IMO

Goal on Adaptation (GGA), New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Finance and a useful resource for the UNFCCC’s Standing Committee on Finance (SCF).

- **Sustainable Debt Coalition (SDC):** In advancement of climate financing, carbon markets, debt swaps and blue bonds, OIBC-4 facilitated the formal endorsement of the Sustainable Debt Coalition (SDC) by African Ministers of Finance at ECA’s 55th Session of Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (CoM2023).
- **Great Blue Wall Initiative:** To support knowledge products on green and blue bonds and blended finance, OIBC4 - fostered regional cooperation and harmonized regional policy framework for implementation of the Great Blue Wall (GBW) Initiative in Africa. The Regional Blue Bond and debt-for-nature swap program of the GBW initiative is an innovative financing mechanism in which the debt of GBW countries is refinanced in exchange for commitments to preserve blue natural environments through a regional special purpose vehicle.
- Led by UNDRR, OIBC-4 support there has been Africa’s active engagement in the process leading up to the operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including for responding to loss and damage. The selection of UNDRR and UNOPS to jointly host the Santiago Network, one of the important elements of the loss and damage mechanism, and the launch of the 2023 Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems are another milestone achievements which OIBC-4 contributed to.

Disaster risk reduction and Early Warning Systems

- OIBC-4 facilitated the “Sendai Framework Monitor Support Days” to highlight good regional practices as well as gaps and issues related to reporting against Sendai Framework targets as they relate to SDGs.
- Agencies from the OIBC-4 and others (WMO, UNDRR, ITU, IFRC) launched the implementation of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative in 7 African countries of the 13 initially selected for the implementation of the initiative by 2027. Two African Working Groups on Disaster Risk Reduction’s (AWGDRR – Includes UN agencies, AUC, RECs and CSOs). The sessions focused on reviewing progress and identifying strategic priorities to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Flagship 2: Food Systems & Food Security

During the reporting period, the flagship implemented the following activities:

1.1. Global Stocktaking meeting on Food System Transformation (July 2023, Rome)

Participation in the regional preparatory meeting for the African region (37 countries in Africa submitted progress on status of national pathways). The synthesis report can be found at:

<https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/docs/unfoodsystemslibraries/stocktaking-moment/regional-preparatory-meetings/synthesis-report-regional-preparatory-meetings-of-the-unfss-2.pdf>

1.2 Organized *side event* during the stocktaking meeting

The formal program of the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment was complemented by a range of side events on thematic issues related to food systems transformation. Support was provided to the various side events organized by partners. Information on side event related issues can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/fs-stocktaking-moment/programme/side-events/en>

1.3. Supported National Dialogue (the food systems country support program initiation phase)

The program aims to:

- Support effective and innovative *governance mechanisms* that can catalyze food system transformation.
- Provide *technical advisory* to develop coherent frameworks and policies that will deepen and accelerate sustainable agricultural production and food systems transformation.
- Contribute to a stronger *knowledge* on agricultural and food systems transformations through co-learning, documenting, analyzing, disseminating, and up taking of evidence and experiences.
- South Sudan, Ivory Coast, Kenya, and Chad were identified as the 4 potential candidate countries in Africa for the food systems country support program.

1.4. Postharvest Loss Management

WFP in collaboration with FAO and IFAD jointly supported projects/activities, including:

- Development of a national postharvest management strategy for **Liberia** (ongoing work). Stakeholder consultations and 3 regional workshops were completed towards end of December 2023. WFP and FAO technical leads are drafting the strategy document which is expected to be validated by the new-government in March-April 2024 (led by WFP).
- Participated and supported the 4th All Africa Post-Harvest Congress and Exhibition (19-22 Sep 2023) organised by the AUC jointly with partners:
- FAO provided financial and technical support to the event.
- Side event (WFP/IFC/AfCFTA) emphasizing on the need to consider post-production systems, rather than just focusing on near farm post-harvest management practices.

B. ADDITIONAL AREAS OF WORK OUTSIDE THE ANNUAL WORK PLAN

In support of **food systems and food security**, OIBC 4 supported IGAD's Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) on food security analysis and early warning information work (with FAO co-chairing and other UN agencies including WFP, UNICEF, UNDP among other actively participating); Support for the review of PSTA 4 [2018-2024] and the design of PSTA 5 [2024-2029] in Rwanda - (FAO).

C. SPECIFIC COUNTRY LEVEL SUPPORT TO RCs/UNCTs

- **Senegal:** OIBC-4 supported Senegal UNCT on policy discussions on food systems transformative pathways (WFP).
- **Mozambique:** OIBC-4 drafted two policy briefs on the ongoing reflections in Mozambique to address debt-for-climate swaps and their role in financing loss and damages efforts, considering global challenges. The briefs address potential UN coordinated support through the RC and with the support of ECA as the lead agency.
- **São Tomé and Príncipe:** OIBC-4 responded positively to the request of the RC in São Tomé and Príncipe to mobilize appropriate instruments for green financing.
- OIBC-4 ensured engagement of RCs/UNCTs in different countries in the ongoing efforts to accelerate the implementation of the EW4All initiative at national level by 2027. More specifically, out of the 13 African countries initially selected for the implementation of the initiative, OIBC-4 supported Ethiopia, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Uganda are rolling the initiative in their respective countries.
- At the national level, UNDP and UNDRR led OIBC4 members in supporting the DRM efforts of the governments of Kenya and Cameroon. In Cameroon, this entailed a learning event on climate change and disaster statistics. Learning was tailored towards national agencies responsible for the collection and dissemination of statistics and data on climate change and disasters. Participants were drawn from the National Institute of Statistics, the Directorate of Civil Protection of Cameroon, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Environment, non-governmental organizations, and universities.
- In response to an official request received from the Bureau of Statistics of Lesotho, UNEP, UNDRR, and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with the Bureau of Statistics and Disaster Management Authority of Lesotho organized a National Workshop on Climate Change and Disaster-related Statistics was held in Maseru, Lesotho 31 October to 2 November 2023. The workshop in Lesotho led to the identification and establishment of collaboration structures, self-assessment tools approaches that can be taken forward in Lesotho's progress towards climate change and disaster-related statistics.
- OIBC-4 facilitated the regional preparatory meeting on Food systems and food security for the African region and supported 37 countries in Africa submitting their national pathways. At subregional level, OIBC-4 supported IGAD's Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) on food security analysis and early warning information work.
- **Rwanda:** In support of food systems transformation efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) of the Government of Rwanda, OIBC 4 (Flagship 2) participated in reviewing Rwanda's 5th Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation (PSTA5), from 27 November to 1 October 2023.
- **OIBC-4 supported national food systems transformation in the DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.** The pilot support started in RDC will be scaled out to the other countries in 2024.

D. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FACED BY OIBCS/TFs

Opportunities

- High convening power of UN agencies.
- Skilled experts from various agencies

Challenges

- OIBC activities are not budgeted for.
- Different level of commitment among staff members due to conflicting priorities in the mainstream responsibilities and the OIBC commitments.
- Considerable staff turn-over (co-leads, co-convenors, etc) which leaves a vacuum in the leadership and implementation role.
- Lack of commitment from UN agencies on the OIBC work
- The need to enhance the integration of lessons of the OIBC-4 into national-level development strategies to enhance investments that expand the successes. An opportunity to address this is the UNRCs. These have been engaged to take up lessons from OIBC-4 work for national-level uptake.

Areas for improvement

- The need to base the OIBC planning process of January and February on RC/UNCT's requirements. This need can be identified in October and November of the previous year.
- The need for agencies clear definition of joint programmes with other agencies in reporting
- The need for cooperation between members of the Flagships under implementation.
