




# CGIAR Nutrition Impact Platform

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**Disclaimers**

This publication has been prepared as an output of the CGIAR Nutrition Impact Platform. Any views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily representative of or endorsed by the CGIAR System Organization.

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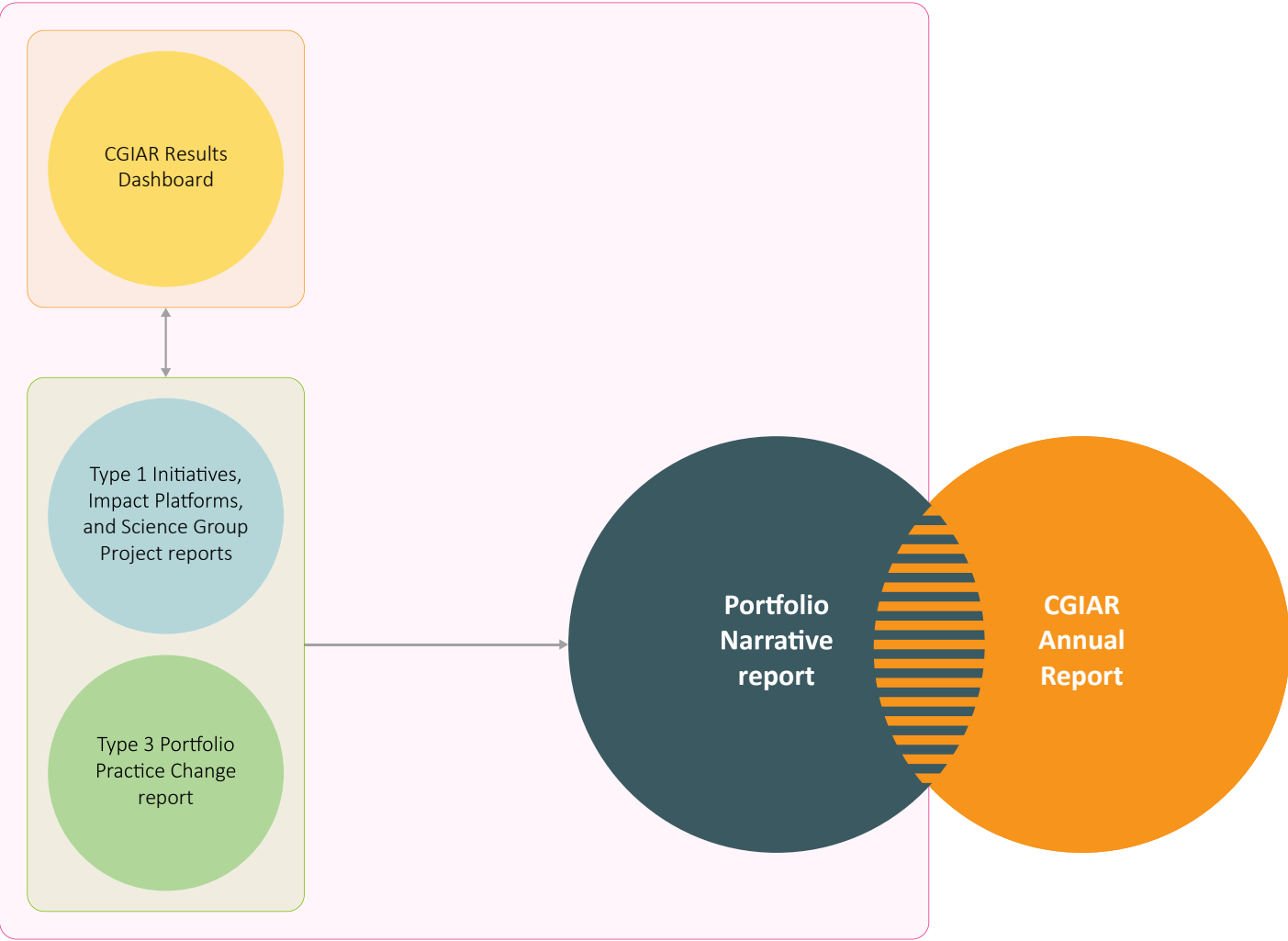
CGIAR Technical Reporting 2023

CGIAR Technical Reporting has been developed in alignment with the [CGIAR Technical Reporting Arrangement](#). This Impact Platform report is a Type 1 report and constitutes part of the broader [CGIAR Technical Report](#). Each CGIAR Impact Platform submits an annual Type 1 report, which provides assurance on Impact Platform progress.

The [CGIAR Technical Report](#) comprises:

- Type 1 Initiative, Impact Platform, and Science Group Project (SGP) reports, with quality assured results reported by Initiatives, Platforms and SGPs available on the CGIAR Results Dashboard.
- The Type 3 Portfolio Performance and Project Coordination Practice Change report, which focuses on internal practice change.
- The Portfolio Narrative, which draws on the Type 1 and Type 3 reports, and the CGIAR Results Dashboard, to provide a broader view on Portfolio coherence, including results, partnerships, country and regional engagement, and synergies among the Portfolio’s constituent parts.

The CGIAR Annual Report is a comprehensive overview of CGIAR’s collective achievements, impact and strategic outlook, which draws significantly from the Technical Report products above. For 2023, the Annual Report and Technical Report will be presented online as an integrated product.





Section 1: Fact sheet and budget

Impact Platform name	Nutrition Impact Platform
Director	Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted
Start – end date	January 2023 – 31 December 2024
Links to source documents / website	<a href="#">System Council Document</a> <a href="#">CGIAR Nutrition Impact Platform</a>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nutrition, Health and Food Security Impact Area Platform (Nutrition Impact Platform) was inceptioned in January 2023, with the appointment of Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted as director; and was in operation from May 2023. The Nutrition Impact Platform plays an important role in delivering on the CGIAR mission of transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis, while strengthening impact orientation in, and coherence across all CGIAR research and innovation groups, initiatives, and divisions.

Four functions have been identified to guide the work on the Nutrition Impact Platform: Convene communities of practice; Deepen capacity of CGIAR and partners; Amplify CGIAR’s external profile and pathways to impacts; and Advise portfolio-level management and strategy. These functions will enable the Nutrition Impact Platform to achieve the CGIAR collective global targets of i) End hunger and enable affordable healthy diets for the 3 billion people who do not currently have access to safe and nutritious food, and ii) Reduce cases of foodborne illness and zoonotic diseases by one third, by 2030.

In 2023, the Nutrition Impact Platform amplified CGIAR’s research and solutions through its engagement in several key global events, including the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH) Academy Week, Africa Food Systems Summit 2023 (AGRF), 6th Micronutrient Forum (MNF) Global Conference, Borlaug Dialogue and the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28).

Our first regional Community of Practice (CoP) – for Southeast Asia and the Pacific region – was convened in October 2023, whereby 14 nutrition and food systems practitioners from across four CGIAR centers met for two days in Penang, Malaysia. In the two-day workshop, the CoP discussed research pathways, synergies, and opportunities for collaboration in the Southeast Asia and Pacific region, with the shared vision of building better food and nutrition security for a climate-resilient future. Similar CoPs engagements are planned for other CGIAR regions in 2024.

The Nutrition Impact Platform strengthened CGIAR’s partnership with various food systems organizations, including Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP), Micronutrient Forum (MNF), ANH Academy, Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), culminating with the Nutrition Impact Platform hosting the Nutrition and Health Day, at the Food Systems Pavilion, during COP 28.

The Nutrition Impact Platform believes in the importance of deepening capacity of CGIAR and partners and was involved in providing opportunities for CGIAR research community to showcase their work in the global arena. The Platform co-sponsored ANH Academy Week in Malawi, 6th Micronutrient Forum Global Conference in The Netherlands, Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia 2023 in Nepal, and COP 28 in United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Platform also provided travel bursaries to the CGIAR community and external partners, and 19 persons benefitted from this scheme.

Lastly, as CGIAR moves towards a new portfolio for 2025, the Nutrition Impact Platform provided thought leadership and influenced the agenda through the publication of an opinion piece in The Telegraph, emphasizing the need to diversify food production and consumption towards healthy and sustainable food systems.

	2022	2023	2024
	▼	▼	▼
APPROVED BUDGET <sup>1</sup> ▸	\$1.02M	\$0.78M <sup>2</sup>	\$0.74M <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The approved budget amounts correspond to the figures available for public access through the [Financing dashboard](#).  
<sup>2</sup> This amount includes carry-over and commitments.  
<sup>3</sup> This amount is an estimation of the 2024 annual budget allocation, as of the end of March 2024.

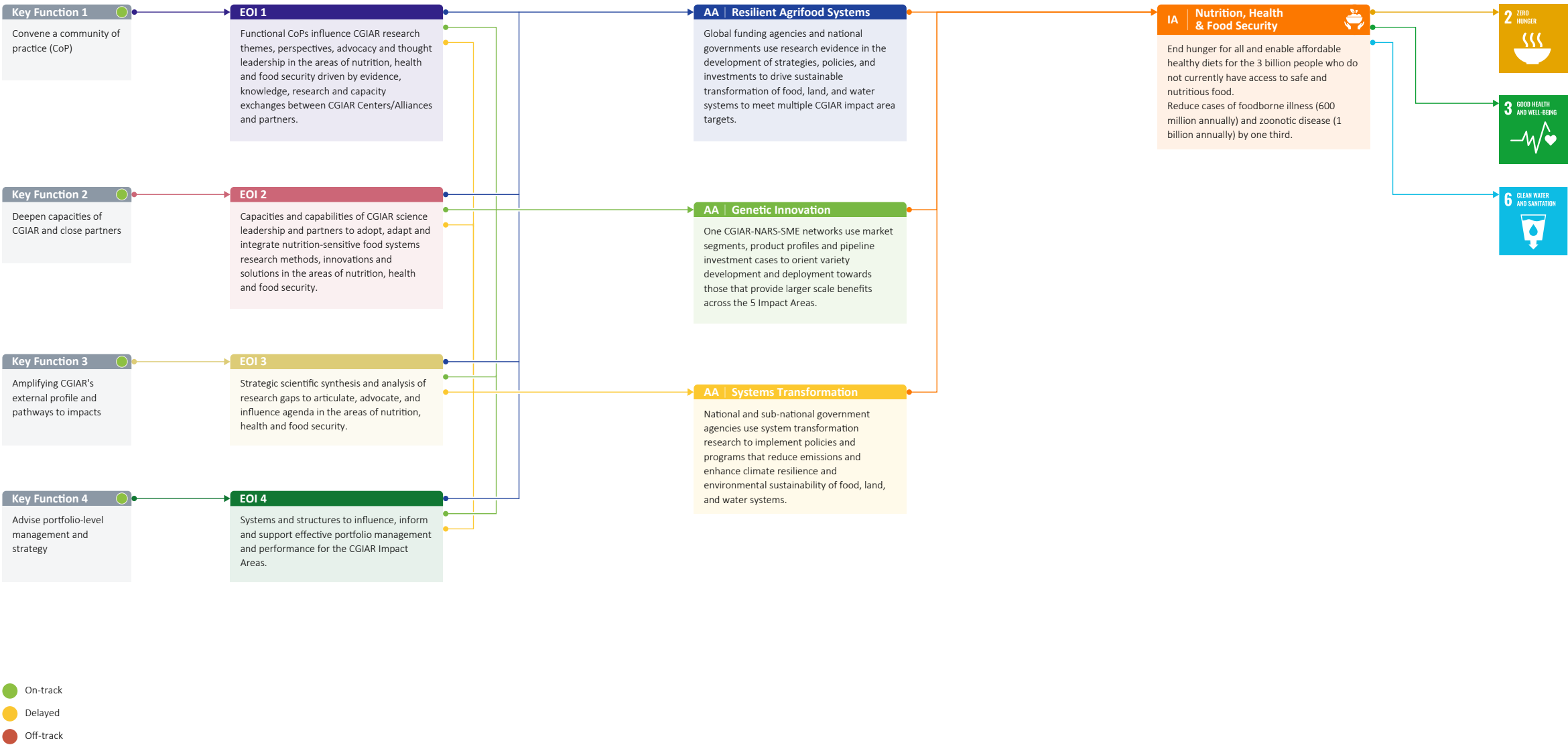


Woman tending to her vegetable garden in an integrated aquaculture-agriculture system in Bangladesh. Credit: Finn Thilsted, WorldFish

Section 2: Progress against the theory of change

Impact Platform-level theory of change diagram

This is a simple, linear, and static representation of a complex, non-linear, and dynamic reality. Feedback loops and connections between this Platform and other Initiatives' theories of change are excluded for clarity.



- PO Primary Outcome
- AA Action Area
- IA Impact Area
- SDG Sustainable Development Goal

**Note:** A summary of Key Functions progress ratings is provided in Section 3.





Woman harvesting small fish with Mola gill net, Dhaka, Bangladesh.  
Credit: WorldFish

## Summary of progress against the theory of change

2023 was a year of new beginnings for the Nutrition Impact Platform, following the appointment of Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, formerly Global Lead of Nutrition and Health Area of WorldFish and 2021 World Food Prize Laureate, to the position of Director of the Platform. The Platform became fully operational as of May 2023, with a wide range of activities implemented to achieve the goals and objectives of the Nutrition Impact Platform, as described [here](#).

As the Platform was newly conceptualized, the activities undertaken were guided by the four key functions described in the Systems Council document, while a functional theory of change (TOC) was developed. These four functions also guide the Nutrition Impact

### Function 1: Convene Community of Practice (CoP)

The Nutrition Impact Platform took the decision to convene a CoP for nutrition, food systems and health practitioners across the CGIAR, at a regional level. We believe that smaller, targeted, functional CoP

Platform's delivery in four interlinked functions, outlined in CGIAR's 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy, namely: i) foster global critical thinking, use of evidence, and appropriate metrics around the Impact Area; ii) raise internal capacity across the Action Areas through strengthening and sharing common tools, standards, data sets, cutting-edge science and knowledge management; iii) advise management on the identification and performance management of CGIAR Initiatives; and iv) amplify CGIAR's external profile and voice, by engaging in and shaping global policy discourse, and by leading external communications plans to influence well beyond agriculture and food sectors.

will be better positioned to streamline research priorities, methods, and impacts, while creating shared opportunities and partnerships, for creating impact at regional and national levels. The first CoP

was convened in October 2023, at WorldFish Penang, Malaysia, and saw the participation of 14 CGIAR researchers from Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. The convening brought forth positive results as researchers have better understanding of the food and nutrition security issues in the region; the importance of adopting

### Function 2: Deepen capacities of CGIAR and partners

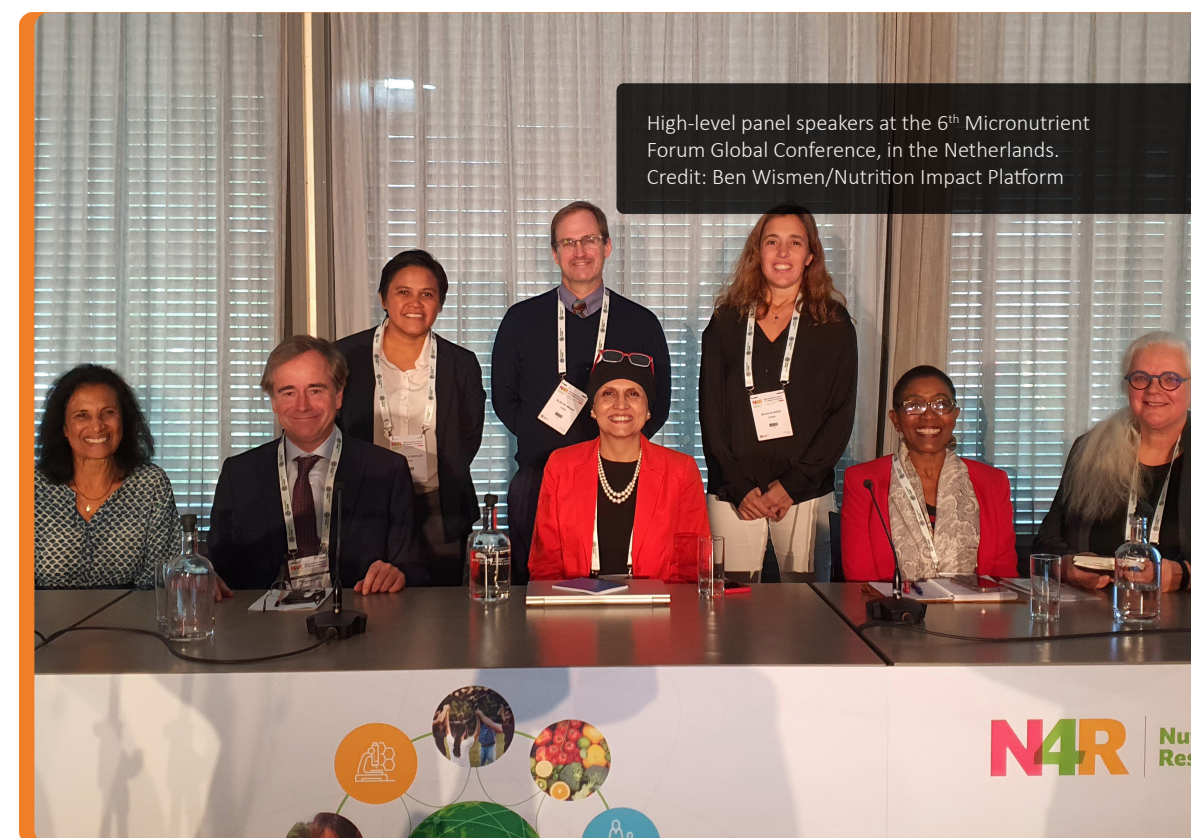
Significant investments were made by the Nutrition Impact Platform to develop capacities of CGIAR researchers and partners, especially in the areas of food and nutrition security, food systems transformation, nutrition-sensitive food systems approaches and health. In 2023, the Nutrition Impact Platform sponsored nineteen individuals, both within and outside of CGIAR, to participate in high-level global events such as the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28), the 6th Micronutrient Forum Global Conference, and

multi-stakeholder nutrition-sensitive food systems approaches in developing interventions; and the formation of a cross-center communication platform to share information, knowledge resources and investment opportunities for creating impact at the region.

the Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia 2023 Conference. Of these, thirteen are youth, and eight of them are women. As the Nutrition Impact Platform continues to grow, more investments will be directed to develop more impactful, sustainable, and long-term capacity development programs, from 2024 onwards. The Nutrition Impact Platform will also benefit from the Netherlands-CGIAR Partnership (NL-CGIAR) Phase II, with potential researchers joining the Platform via the Senior Experts Programme (SEP), in 2024.

### Function 3: Amplifying CGIAR's external profile and pathways to impact

The Nutrition Impact Platform's efforts to deliver on this function was centered on a series of food systems transformation events, beginning with the [UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment](#) in Rome, Italy, and culminating with COP 28 in Dubai, UAE. Collaboration opportunities were undertaken by the Nutrition Impact Platform to key agenda shaping events including the [ANH Academy Week](#), the [6th Micronutrient Forum Global Conference](#), [Delivering for Nutrition for South Asia 2023](#), and co-hosting the Nutrition and Health Day at the Food Systems Pavilion during COP 28. The Nutrition Impact Platform was also represented in [UN Water Conference 2023](#) in New York, [MARE People and Sea Conference 2023](#) in Amsterdam, [Africa Food Systems Summit 2023](#) in Dar es Salaam, [Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue](#) in Iowa, and the [World Agri-Food Innovation Conference \(WAFI\) 2023](#) in Beijing. While the participants to these various high-level events, conferences,



High-level panel speakers at the 6<sup>th</sup> Micronutrient Forum Global Conference, in the Netherlands.  
Credit: Ben Wismen/Nutrition Impact Platform

### Function 4: Advise portfolio-level management and strategy

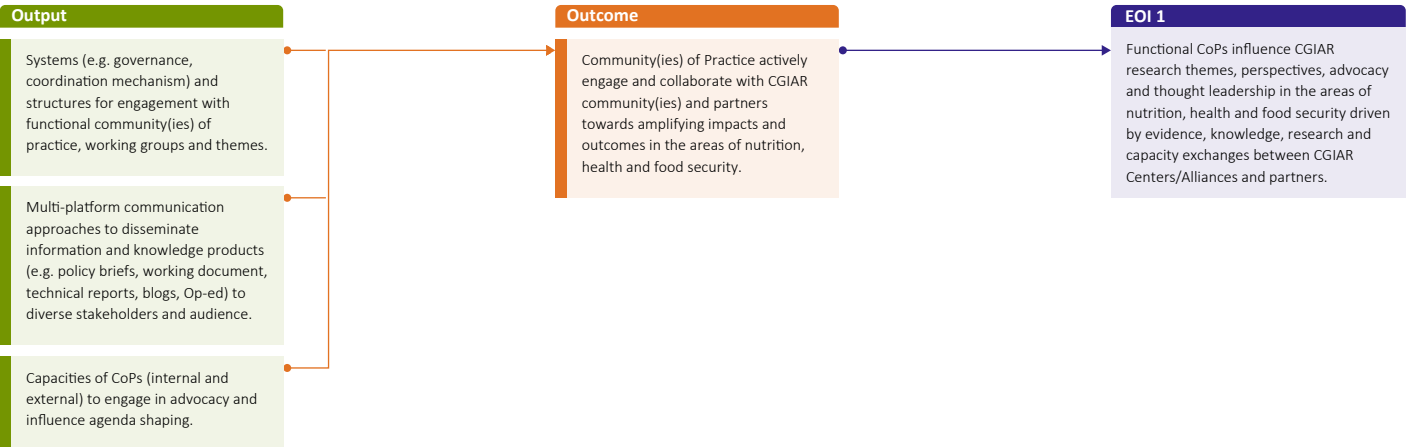
in 2023, the Nutrition Impact Platform was deeply engaged with several CGIAR Initiatives, namely Asian Mega-Deltas (AMD), Sustainable Healthy Diets (SHIFT), Fruits and Vegetables (FRESH) and Resilient Cities, to better integrate nutrition-sensitive food systems approaches into the solutions and innovations. Two key evidence pieces, one on global food and nutrition security indicators, and another on CGIAR portfolio contribution to food and nutrition

security, were commissioned during 2023, and the results are expected to be presented in 2024. Lastly, an [opinion piece](#), co-authored by Shakuntala and the then Chief Scientist of FAO, Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, emphasizing the need to diversify our investments aside from major staple foods for better food and nutrition security, was published in The Telegraph UK, in conjunction with World Food Day 2023.



Section 3: Key function progress

Key Function 1: Convene Community of Practice (CoP) On track



Progress rating

The Nutrition Impact Platform seeks to deliver on this key function by bringing together CGIAR community across its divisions, centers, and initiatives, and close partners relevant to the areas of nutrition, health, and food security, to facilitate information exchange, enhance coordination, and foster collaboration towards outcomes and impacts.

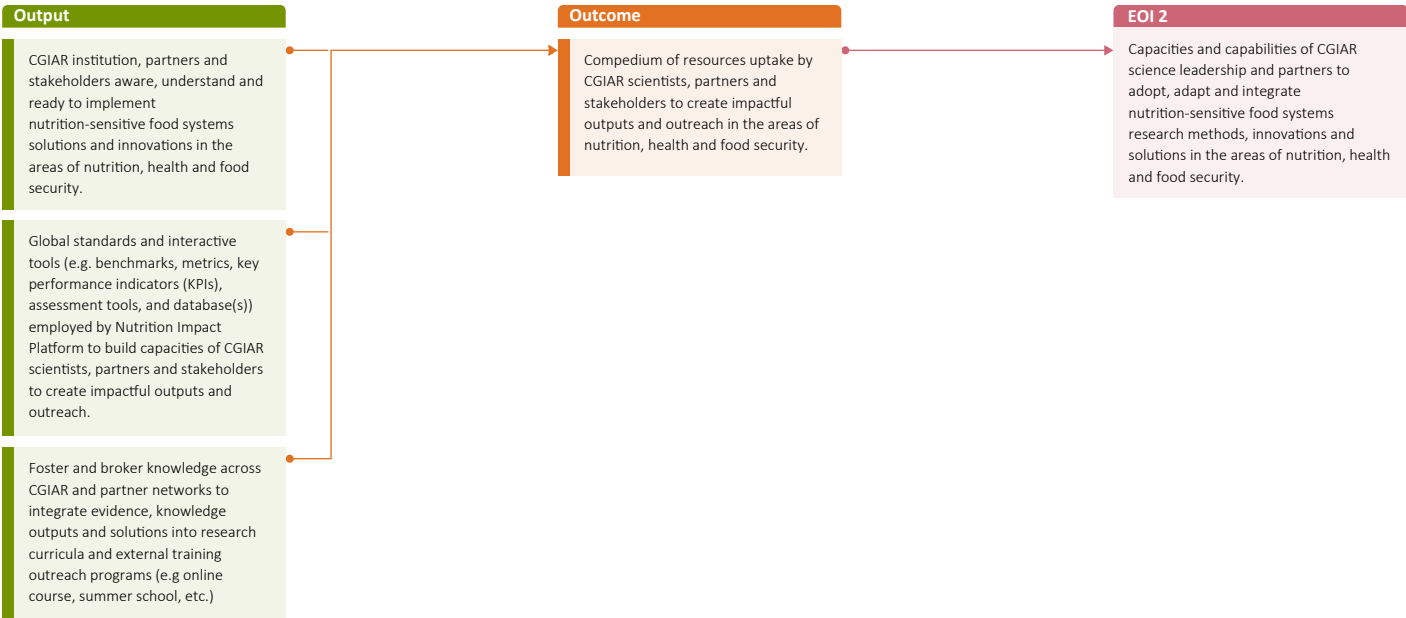
In 2023, the Nutrition Impact Platform convened its first CoP for CGIAR researchers in Southeast Asia and Pacific region in WorldFish, Penang. The two-day interactive convening brought together 14 different researchers from five CGIAR entities (ABC, CIP, HarvestPlus, IFPRI, and WorldFish), out of which eight are women, to WorldFish headquarters. The CoP were provided opportunities to present on the various research priorities, agendas, and pathways for the region. Through the convening, the CoP were able to foster better synergy and alignment towards a common agenda for the region: to enable holistic food systems transformation through nutrition-sensitive approaches for the people of Southeast Asia and Pacific. The CoP also recognized the interlinkages between nutrition and gender, and

the importance of delivering CGIAR impacts that cut across the two areas. The convening also successfully established a framework of interaction and communication, understanding the need for open, inclusive, and evidence-based information exchanges.

The success of organizing small, targeted CoP from the Southeast Asia and Pacific region will inform the convening of similar CoPs across other regions in 2024. The Nutrition Impact Platform will also seek to convene a global interaction, involving all regional CoPs, to better align the food and nutrition security and health research targets, priorities, and metrics for CGIAR.

Aside from establishing new CoPs, the Nutrition Impact Platform will also draw upon previous CoPs established by CGIAR and partners prior to the new research portfolio. Discussions were held to invite and include the CoPs of ANH Academy and POSHAN (CoP for South Asia, established previously by CGIAR Research Program (CRP) on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH)) into the Nutrition Impact Platform.

Key Function 2: Deepen capacities of CGIAR and partners On track



Progress rating

The Nutrition Impact Platform will deliver on key function 2 by supporting the science leadership by providing guidance to staff and projects, helping to identify and fill key skills gaps internally or through partnerships, advancing the use of good research methods, and informing resource mobilization efforts.

The Nutrition Impact Platform invested significantly in developing better capacities for CGIAR staff as well as external partners in 2023. Although newly incepted, the Nutrition Impact Platform managed to provide travel bursaries for 19 individuals from CGIAR and partners, of which 13 are youth and 8 are women. The travel bursaries supported their presence, learning and strategic engagement in global conferences and events and leveraged opportunities to strengthen understanding and influence change toward adopting nutrition-sensitive food system approaches in holistic transformations for diverse, equitable and sustainable diets.

Of the 19 individuals, 4 participated in the 6th Micronutrient Forum Global Conference in The Hague, 5 participated in the Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia 2023 Conference in Kathmandu, and 10

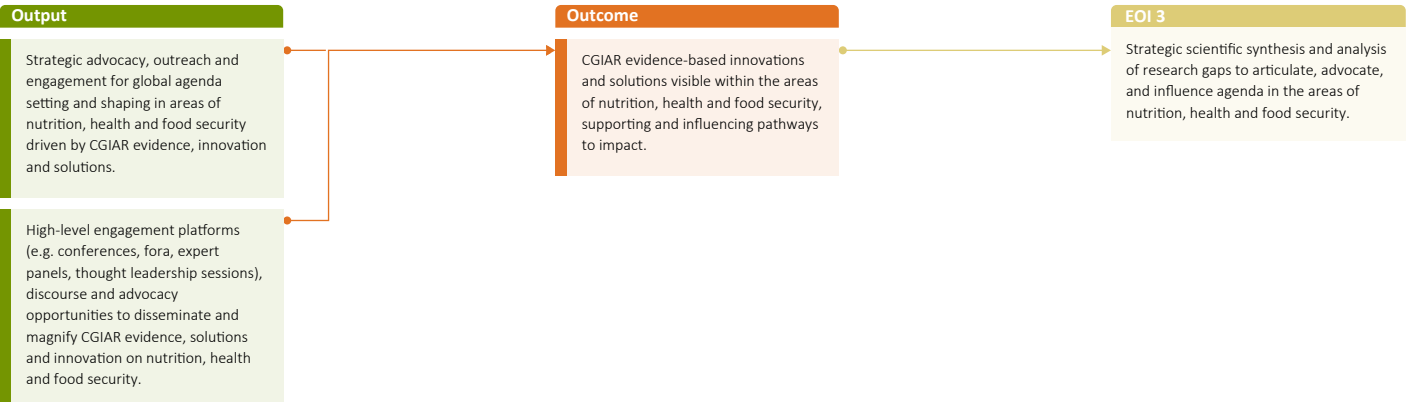
engaged in various activities during COP 28 in Dubai. Two external partners, the African Union Development Agency–New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD) and the International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA), benefited from the travel bursaries.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> Micronutrient Forum Global Conference, the Nutrition Impact Platform hosted a session and featured presentations by three CGIAR researchers on their work in improving food and nutrition security. The presenters were selected from an open call across CGIAR that generated 13 abstracts submitted to the Nutrition Impact Platform for consideration.

In 2023, the Nutrition Impact Platform was involved in negotiations for a NL-CGIAR partnership and will benefit from the SEP program. Calls for the SEP program will be made in early 2024 and opportunities will be created by the Nutrition Impact Platform to collaborate with and host Dutch researchers interested in areas of food and nutrition security, food systems transformation, and health.

Key Function 3: Amplifying CGIAR’s external profile and pathways to impact

On track



Progress rating

The Nutrition Impact Platform has been mandated to support partnerships and advocacy leadership through coordinating CGIAR’s voice and influence on specific topics related to the areas of nutrition, health, and food security, through scientific synthesis, strategic analysis of windows for advocacy and influence, and active outreach with partners, especially in the policy arena.

In 2023, the Nutrition Impact Platform managed to grow its advocacy and influence footprint in several global events and engagements, beginning with the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment in Rome, and culminating with COP 28 in Dubai. In all these events, the Nutrition Impact Platform articulated the need for holistic food systems transformation towards diverse, equitable and sustainable diets for the 3 billion people suffering from hunger and malnutrition, by 2030.

The Nutrition Impact Platform started with a splash, whereby the Platform Director, Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted moderated a FAO-CGIAR [high-level panel on aquatic foods](#), and featured speakers such as H.E. Stefan Jon Hafstein, Special Envoy on Ocean Affairs; H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission; H.E. Anne Beathe Tvinneim, Minister for International Development, Norway; and many others. The Nutrition Impact Platform also partnered with the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub to convene the [Science, Technology and Innovation Leadership Dialogue](#) which featured speakers including Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of FAO; H.E. Anna Maria Bernini, Minister of University and Research, Italy; and H.E. Marian Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates. The participation of the Nutrition Impact Platform, alongside other CGIAR entities, demonstrated the commitment of CGIAR in achieving holistic global food systems transformation. The Stocktaking Moment allowed for CGIAR to further identify pathways, interventions and partners that can be strategically engaged, invested in and built upon to strengthen the delivery of science for food systems transformation.

The Nutrition Impact Platform continued to position CGIAR’s profile in important events such as the Africa Food Systems Summit 2023 in Dar es Salaam, the 6th Micronutrient Forum Global Conference in The Hague, Borlaug Dialogue in Iowa, and Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia (D4N2023) in Kathmandu. The Nutrition Impact Platform was a bronze sponsor to the MNF conference, and convened a high-level panel discussion that featured Ambassador René van Hell, Director of Inclusive Green Growth, Ambassador for Sustainable Development and Artic, The Netherlands; Dr. Jyotsana Puri, Associate Vice President, IFAD; Ms. Boitshepo Giyose, Senior Advisor for Food and Nutrition Security, AUDA-NEPAD; and Dr. Inge Brouwer, senior research fellow of IFPRI and professor, Division of Human Health and Nutrition, Wageningen University & Research. The Nutrition Impact Platform also sponsored the [D4N2023 conference](#), and Platform Manager, Ben Wismen chaired the session on ‘Where we live and what we eat’, which featured studies from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. Through these various engagements, the Nutrition Impact Platform further emphasized the importance of holistic food systems transformation in facing the challenges of global hunger and malnutrition. These conferences provided opportunities to address global hunger at a global and regional level, as well as examine the various context-specific pathways and methodologies to deliver impact at scale.

The Nutrition Impact Platform’s biggest undertaking in 2023 was to host the Nutrition and Health Day at the Food Systems Pavilion at COP 28. The Platform partnered with institutions such as EIT Food, FOLU and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), and delivered a day of engaging conversations and presentations on topics including nutrition-gender nexus, water in food systems, diversity and food systems, and evolving landscapes. Speakers for these sessions included CGIAR EMD, Dr. Ismahane Elouafi; EDF President, Mr. Fred Krupp; and others. Recordings of the session are available for the public and can be viewed [here](#).

Key Function 4: Advise portfolio-level management and strategy

On track



Progress rating

The Nutrition Impact Platform must deliver on this key function by informing managerial decisions on prioritization, design, and implementation of the portfolio to maximize impact, supporting performance measurement and management, and participating in the portfolio performance management team.

In 2023, the Nutrition Impact Platform engaged with the CGIAR Research Initiatives on Sustainable Healthy Diets (SHIFT) and Fruits and Vegetables (FRESH) to further strengthen the research impact in the areas of nutrition, health, and food security. The Nutrition Impact Platform also worked with the Asian Mega-Deltas (AMD) Initiative, and in particular, Work Package 2, to better amplify its impact and reach for food and nutrition security in the mega-deltas. Platform Director, Shakuntala Thilsted was invited to the AMD Work Package 2 planning workshop, at WorldFish, Penang, and presented a case for better integrating nutrition-sensitive food systems approaches for impact at scale. AMD and Resilient Cities Initiative were also invited to present their findings at the Nutrition Impact Platform-hosted Nutrition and Health Day at COP 28.

The Nutrition Impact Platform had commissioned two key evidence pieces, one on global food and nutrition security indicators, and another on CGIAR portfolio contribution to food and nutrition security, as evidence to further inform development of the next business cycle and portfolio. These studies are expected to be published in mid-2024.

Lastly, an [opinion piece](#), co-authored by Platform Director and Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, was published in The Telegraph UK in conjunction with World Food Day 2023. In the opinion piece, the authors called for better investments in diverse foods and systems, as opposed to the major staple crops, for improving global food and nutrition security. Opportunity crops such as millet, quinoa, biofortified crops such as orange sweet potato and beans, and diverse aquatic foods, must be given due recognition and better investments in the upcoming CGIAR portfolio, to end hunger and malnutrition for all.



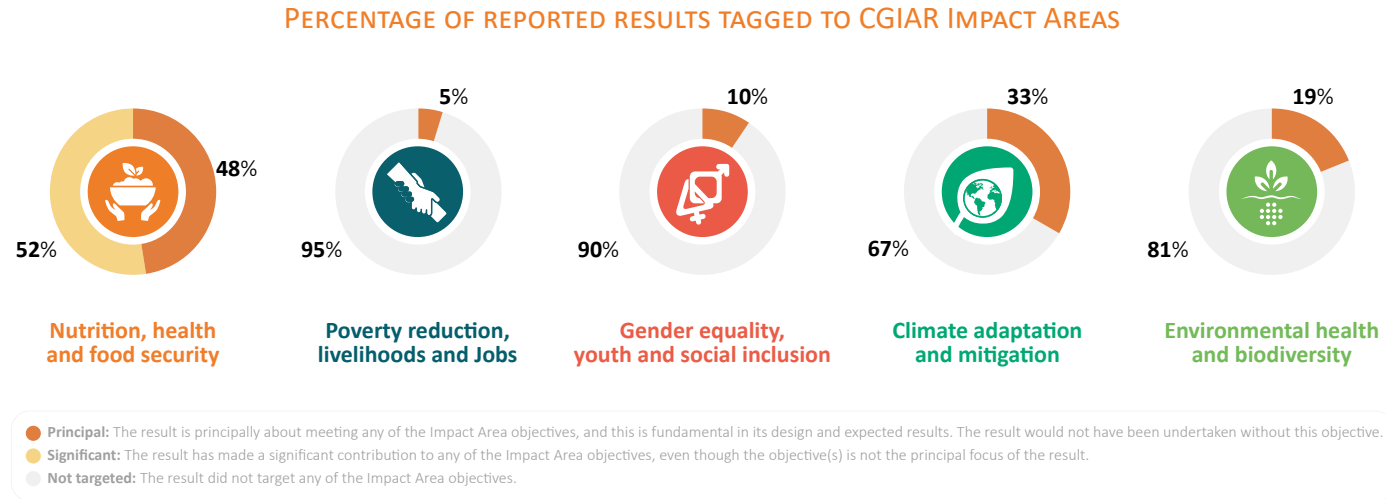
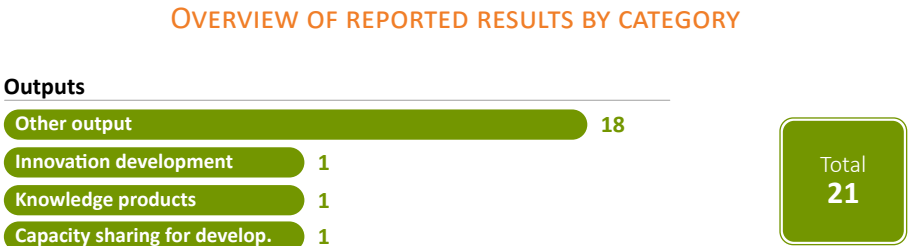
Key function progress rating summary

KEY FUNCTION		PROGRESS RATING & RATIONALE
1	Convene Community of Practice (CoP)	<div><div></div><div>Progress rating</div><div>Annual progress largely aligns with Plan of Results and Budget. We are on track to achieve delivery as one functional regional CoP has been established, with other regional CoPs targeted for 2024.</div></div>
2	Deepen capacities of CGIAR and partners	<div><div></div><div>Progress rating</div><div>Annual progress largely aligns with Plan of Results and Budget. Actions were put in place to deepen capacity of CGIAR staff and partners, and will be scaled up from 2024 onwards.</div></div>
3	Amplifying CGIAR's external profile and pathways to impact	<div><div></div><div>Progress rating</div><div>Annual progress largely aligns with Plan of Results and Budget. We are on track to achieve delivery as investments were made to ensure that CGIAR was represented and influencing agenda in key global events.</div></div>
4	Advise portfolio-level management and strategy	<div><div></div><div>Progress rating</div><div>Annual progress largely aligns with Plan of Results and Budget. The Nutrition Impact Platform has invested in key synthesis pieces that will inform the development and management of the CGIAR portfolio.</div></div>

Definitions		
<div><div></div><div>On track</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Delayed</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Off track</div></div>
<div><div></div><div>Annual progress largely aligns with Plan of Results and Budget.</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Annual progress slightly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget in key areas.</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Annual progress clearly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget in most/all areas.</div></div>
<div><div></div><div>Can include small deviations/issues/delays/risks that do not jeopardize the success of the key function.</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Deviations/issues/delays/risks could jeopardize the success of the key function if not managed appropriately.</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Deviations/issues/delays/risks do jeopardize the success of the key function.</div></div>

Section 4: Key results

This section provides an overview of results reported by the CGIAR Nutrition Impact Platform in 2023. These results align with the CGIAR Results Framework and Nutrition Impact Platform’s theory of change. Source: *Data extracted from the [CGIAR Results Dashboard](#) on 29 March 2024.*







Woman fish vendor in Russian Market, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
Credit: Ben Wismen, Nutrition Impact Platform

Section 5: Adaptive management

RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING RATIONALE
Build Platform capacity by investing into CGIAR community	The work of the Nutrition Impact Platform was undertaken by the Platform Director and Platform Manager, with some support from the CoP. This severely limits the reach and delivery impact on the Platform, especially in areas of generating evidence, advocacy, and capacity building. It is recommended that more investments be made to grow CGIAR resources and capacity that can contribute significantly to the Platform, including co-funding staff, hiring consultants, and sharing services with other Impact Platforms.
Strengthen knowledge product development and management for the Platform	The Nutrition Impact Platform is committed to developing knowledge products to contribute to outcomes outlined in the TOC. Investments must be made to facilitate tracking outputs, outcomes, indicators, and methodologies across the CGIAR portfolio to better generate evidence of impact, and interpret it into knowledge products for diverse audience and stakeholders.
Review the Platform’s TOC, strategy, and results framework	The Nutrition Impact Platform’s TOC, strategy, and results framework were developed to facilitate effective reporting, based on the existing CGIAR research portfolio. With the impending change of business cycle and portfolio development for 2025 and beyond, a review is necessary to align the TOC, strategy, and results framework to the new portfolio, making it fit-for-purpose.





**Front cover photo**

Angela Muyangana feeding the child of Namakando Mubiana, local farmer, Barotse Floodplain, Zambia.  
Credit: Clayton Smith; WorldFish

**Back cover photo**

Seaweed farmer showing off his seaweed line at Atauro Island, Timor Leste.  
Credit: Jharendu Pant, WorldFish

