



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## How-to Guide

### RFS Food Systems Conceptual Framework Interactive Tool

The U.S. Global Food Security Strategy defines food systems as “the intact or whole unit made up of interrelated components of people, behaviors, relationships, and material goods that interact in the production, processing, packaging, transporting, trade, marketing, consumption, and use of food, feed, and fiber through aquaculture, farming, wild fisheries, forestry, and pastoralism. The food and agriculture system operates within and is influenced by social, political, economic, and environmental contexts” (USAID 2022, 84).<sup>1</sup> The [Bureau for Resilience and Food Security \(RFS\) Food Systems Conceptual Framework](#)<sup>2</sup> articulates the contribution of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID 2021) to strengthening food systems and provides high-level operational guidance to RFS staff globally, in line with the overall strategy to build more resilient communities and sustainably reduce hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. RFS designed this food systems conceptual framework specifically to inform USAID programming. This framework also illustrates the range of ways RFS might take action through food systems to achieve these outcomes, with improved diets as the most immediate outcome.

There are many ways to use the RFS Food Systems Conceptual Framework in thinking through actions toward improved diets.

USAID Advancing Nutrition developed the *RFS Food Systems Conceptual Framework Interactive Tool* (Prezi) to guide USAID Missions’ review and application of the framework by unpacking its components for more detail. Use the Prezi to stimulate thinking and conversations around the RFS Conceptual Framework, encourage independent and group exploration, and support “systems thinking.” Review of the Prezi can encourage understanding of the complete RFS Conceptual Framework or facilitate more in-depth analysis of a specific part of the food system. Identifying the component of the food system that is most relevant to your work can enable you to focus on specific food systems actions, and the Prezi provides the reference of how that work links back to the broader food system.

### Using the Prezi for Strategic Planning and Programming

The Prezi can be useful during strategic planning sessions, technical proposal reviews, annual work planning, and stakeholder meetings. The Prezi can serve as a visual reminder of how an activity, strategy, or plan fits within the food system. The Prezi can point to thought provoking questions about the entire food system that help ensure consideration of all actors involved, critical interactions, and positive externalities to leverage—and negative externalities to mitigate. Practitioners should focus their activities with clear theories of change; the planning stage is a time to step back and reflect on how an activity fits into a broader context—in this case the food system. While the Prezi cannot point to specific actions or interventions, it may assist teams to make connections or adaptations to consider the broader system they may not have otherwise identified.

<sup>1</sup> USAID. 2022. *Global Food Security Strategy 2022–2026*. Washington, D.C.: USAID. <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/agriculture-and-food-security/us-government-global-food-security-strategy>

<sup>2</sup> USAID. 2021. “RFS Food Systems Conceptual Framework.” Accessed July 7, 2022. <https://www.usaid.gov/feed-the-future/documents/rfs-food-systems-conceptual-framework>



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The Agency’s Flagship Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Project

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We often have discussions on whether diets are the appropriate outcome for food security activities and this framework helps show the causal logic. — USAID Mission staff member

I look forward to using this tool to build shared understanding and vocabulary with our implementing partners and other stakeholders. — USAID Mission staff member

## To Get Started

1. **Open the interactive tool (Prezi<sup>3</sup>) in your web browser.** USAID Advancing Nutrition houses the interactive tool within Prezi. Prezi is an online software program that moves through a nonlinear presentation on a path, as opposed to using numerical slides.
2. **Click Present.** Your window will now be in presentation mode. You do not need to log in.
3. **Navigate as you prefer.** There are many ways to navigate a Prezi's content. One method is to use the left and right arrows located at the bottom of the screen. You can also use the left and right arrow keys on your keyboard. To begin, click on the right arrow (the "Next" button) at the bottom of the screen (shown below). You will proceed forward in the intended sequence of the presentation. You can also use the left and right arrows on your keyboard (for the previous and next pages, respectively) to advance. The Prezi acknowledges that food systems do not move along linear pathways so it does not have a perfect left-to-right flow. As you move through the framework, a right arrow will lead you to further detail about a given component and the left arrow will take you back to the previous page.



<sup>3</sup> USAID Advancing Nutrition. 2022. "How to Use the Resilience and Food Security (RFS) Food Systems Conceptual Framework." Accessed July 7, 2022. <https://prezi.com/view/2LXqnVbjNB4nZftkuk33/>

## Explore the Tool

The left/right arrow navigation may feel similar to clicking through a long PowerPoint presentation. The arrows are not your only navigation option; you are free to explore the food systems components in any order that serves you. You can explore different parts of the food system in any order by clicking on one of the colored circles (in the previous image “Drivers” on the far left and “For More Information” bottom right). For example, the image below shows the content you will see by clicking the “Development Outcomes” circle on the home screen. Return to the home screen by clicking the house icon on the right (circled in red below) or click the left arrow to see the slide right before “Development Outcomes” or click the right arrow to see the next slide. Each major section of the Prezi has a different color so you can easily navigate to and explore the content by section.



For a more static experience or a complete sense of the content of the Prezi, download the [PDF \(8.7 MB\) version of How to Use the RFS Food Systems Conceptual Framework](#). The PDF pages flow in the order the Prezi presents them as if you were navigating the Prezi using the arrow.



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