

Quickscan desk research: how is Informality considered in FST national pathways

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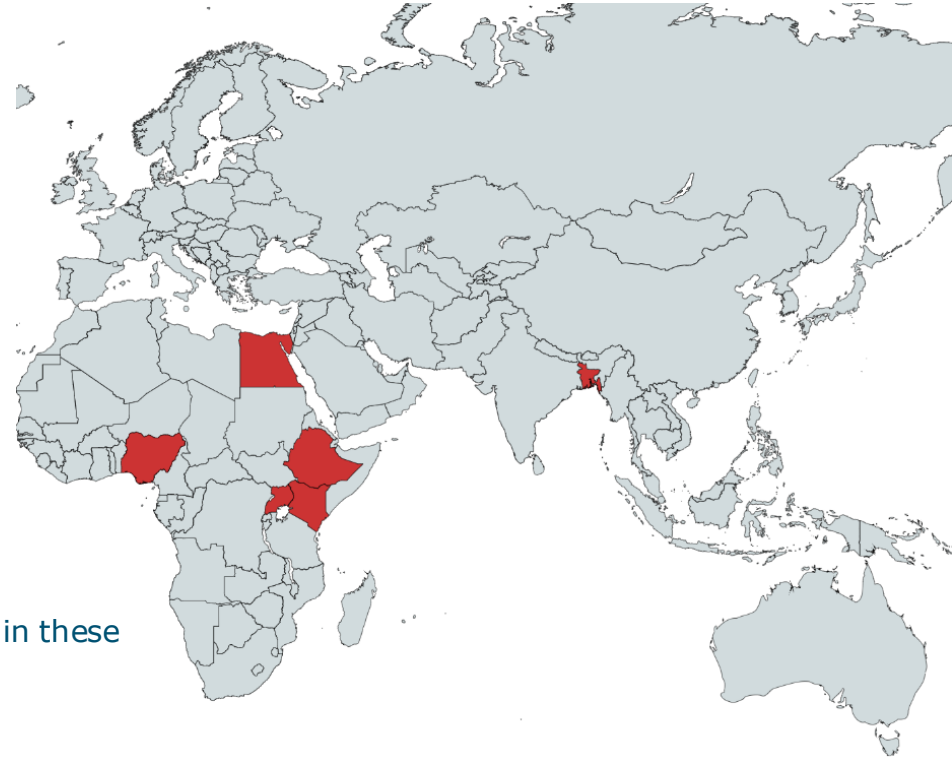
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Overview of reviewed countries

- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Bangladesh
- Nigeria
- Uganda*



*NFP list of prioritized countries to connect to FS actors in these LMICs.

Background of the assignment

- The purpose of this assignment was to collect information through desk study around the question:
 - How is the informal economy addressed (or overlooked) in the national pathways (action plans, budgets) on FST in: Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, Bangladesh, Nigeria & Uganda.
- Brief methodological notes
 - The desk research followed the official National Pathway documents presented by each country for the [UNFSS 2021](#).

The Document Review entailed:

- **Word count analysis** of informal economy concepts, associated concepts and proxies.
- **Qualitative assessment** of in country and cross-country approach to Informal Economy within their Food System Transformation strategies.

Indicators included in this assessment

- **Engagement with Informal Economy (IE)**
 - Direct (or not) National Pathway engagement with Informal Economy.
 - Identified informal actor or sector.
 - Way of engagement.
- **Entry points**
 - Following UNFSS Action tracks and levers of change
 - Looking beyond Action tracks and lever: country specific paths to IE.
 - Existing or potential Policy areas of intervention
- **General country approach in National Pathways + Additional Policy sources.**

Some of the emerging results



Informal Economy Engagement in UNFSS National Pathways

	Level of engagement with IE	Explicit reference to Informal Economy	Specifies informality actors-sector to address
Egypt	Low	No. Addresses only 'Informal FS' from a food safety perspective.	No.
Ethiopia	Medium-High	Yes. Call to address Informal Markets.	Yes. Game-Changing solutions & policies but kept on general level.
Kenya	High	Yes. Sector and geographically highlighted actors.	Yes. FCDC, ASALs addressing pastoralists + Farming pilots in informal settlements.
Bangladesh	Medium-High	Yes. Informality as one of the urbanization (Dev) associated challenges.	Yes. Some specific policies but mainly at a general level.
Nigeria	Medium	No. Addresses unemployment in FS and street vendors from food safety perspective.	Some specific policies targeting local groups/cooperatives and pastoralists.
Uganda	Low	Reference to 'farmers not accessing market economy'.	General focus on shifting from subsistence to money/market economy.

Entry Points following UNFSS Action tracks and levers of change

	Women Empowerment	Youth Empowerment	Finance	Innovation & Training	Social Protection Networks
Egypt	Small scale women-led enterprises development.	Brief reference.	Expand financial circuits (micro-finances) for small farmers and handicrafts.	Access to technology and training for small farmers.	Improve data and coverage of SP networks.
Ethiopia	Strategic target of the Pathway and majority of small-scale horticulture population.	Refers to.	Financial literacy & Inclusion (GC 10) + Microcredits Development.	Emphasis on farmers training on mechanization among others.	Aim to cover people beyond the formalized sector.
Kenya	Increase women-led/owned Agri-enterprises + Women Enterprise Development Fund	Strong emphasis on Youth Enterprise Development Fund	Financial training to women-owned Agri enterprises.	Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)	integrated approach towards social protection among key sectors like agriculture (Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion project)
Bangladesh	Improving human and social capital, with particular emphasis on women, adolescents, and youth		Gender-sensitive financing arrangements	Training and finance to development of commercially viable agri-food value chains	Extending social protection for the poor and vulnerable
Nigeria	Strengthening technical and vocational training programs for youth and women for food systems related		emphasis on: Financial inclusion for smallholder farmers and SMEs.	See first two cells of this row.	Expand and improve social protection programs including creation of food banks
Uganda	Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP)	Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP)	Increased coverage of financial system specially in youth and women.	Innovative agricultural technologies transfer to farmers.	Improve social protection capabilities.

Entry Points beyond UNFSS Action tracks and levers of change

	Land regulation	Community development	Farmer clustering	Risk-management Insurance	Pastoralists	Specific policies
Egypt		Leadership programs at the community level.				
Ethiopia	GC11&12: Land tenure regulation & planning.		Strategic crop farmer clustering to improve productivity and market access + Agri-Commodity Procurement Zones (ACPZ)	Call to integrate disaster-risk management for smallholder farmers.		
Kenya					Irrigation infrastructure for pastoralists in ASALs.	Urban farming pilots in informal settlements.
Bangladesh		'My Village My Town' (MVMT) initiative to improve rural growth centres/markets .	Strengthen producer groups to reach sector economies of scale.			Workers' training in line with international market trends + Promotion of ISO (17020 & 1702) certification in food quality and testing
Nigeria	Reform land tenure system for easy access for youth and women.	Local Government Administration level organization of farmers into commodity groups/cooperatives		Traditional and innovative sources of finance and tailored-risk management products are developed and are accessible to smallholder farmers	Establish safe grazing reserves.	
Uganda		Parish Development Model (PDM) to enhance service delivery in key areas of the food system especially for grassroots level.	Development of economies of scale.			Ensure participation of informal sector on multi-stakeholder working Group

General country approach and complementary Policy

	General policy ethos of pathway	Additional Policy framework to look at
Egypt		
Ethiopia	Transform Ethiopia from largely agrarian low-income country to an industrialized lower-middle-income country by 2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethiopia's Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda
Kenya	Kenya is committed to fostering an entrepreneurial culture to shift from subsistence farming to profitable agriculture, emphasizing commercialization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenyan Development strategy Vision 2030: Economic and Micro pillar
Bangladesh	Focuses on sustainable food production through modernization, diversification and the incorporation of agroecological practices. Embedded in country's general Development Plans 2041.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perspective Plan: 2021-2041 (PP2041) Eighth Five Year Plan (8th FYP) National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) 2020-2026
Nigeria	Complement existing efforts to improve development outcomes (See side cell). Strong focus on improving food security, agricultural productivity and reduce post harvest losses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, Agricultural Policy, National Policy on Food Safety National Policy on Food and Nutrition, National Health Policy
Uganda	Overall emphasis on transiting from subsistence to money/market economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2020/21-2024/25 Uganda Nutrition Action Plan II (UNAP II) 2020/21-2024/25 National Social Protection Policy (2015)

Conclusions

- In summary, as depicted in Slide 6, the approach to addressing the Informal Economy in the National Pathways of the assessed countries varies significantly:
- Kenya, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh demonstrate a higher level of inclusion of informality in their Pathways, along with potential avenues to address these sectors within their Food Systems.
- Nigeria, while not explicitly addressing the topic, focuses on policies (existing or potential) aimed at tackling informality in some sectors within their Pathways.
- Egypt and Uganda either do not mention informality or lack policies addressing informality.
- **Limitation:** These conclusions are based solely on the available Pathways from the UNFSS website. The matrices supporting these conclusions are not necessarily comparable due to differences in formatting and length, which may bias or influence the findings

Annex: Review per country



Egypt

Engagement with informal economy	Entry points	Informal actors involved in Pathways
<p>Explicit address of informality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">No. <p>Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Informal Food systems.“1.Develop and enforce food safety measures for informal food systems at local and national levels”. <p>Informality references</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Street foods, Smallholder farming, value chains & associations, Low-income, Financial Inclusion, Micro-finance, (most) vulnerable. <p>Summary: low engagement</p>	<p>Smallholder policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Access to technology, information, and training.Expanded access to financial circuits (micro-finances).Leadership programs at the community level. <p>Summary: low engagement potential</p>	<p>Governance</p> <p>3 Small/medium enterprise/artisan stakeholders took part of dialogue sin preparation for UNFSS</p> <p>Summary: medium engagement</p>

Ethiopia

Engagement with informal economy	Entry points	Informal actors involved in Pathways
<p>Explicit address of informality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes. General call to address Informal markets. <p>Informality references</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smallholder farming, Formal agribusiness, formalization of risk management, vulnerable groups, landless. <p>Summary: medium-high engagement</p>	<p>Game-changing solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GC4: Extension of public services to irregularly provided areas.• GC11: Land tenure regulation.• GC12: Land use planning.• GC10: Financial literacy & inclusion. <p>Existing policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic crop farmer clustering.• Dev banks targeted credits for smallholders.• African Union Risk Capacity → formalize disaster-risk management insurance. <p>Summary: medium-high engagement pot</p>	<p>120 stakeholders were involved. Internal disclosure of participants per group is not there but there seems to be a bias toward formalized associations in the list of participants.</p> <p>Summary: medium engagement</p>

Kenya

Engagement with informal economy	Entry points	Informal actors involved in Pathways
<p>Explicit address of informality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes. Sector and geographic specific call to combat informality. <p>Informality references</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informal Economy, Smallholder farming, Open Market, Marginalized, Vulnerable, Subsistence farmer <p>Summary: high engagement</p>	<p>10-year Agricultural Sector Growth and Transformation Strategy</p> <p>Emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• small-scale farmers,• pastoralists,• and fisherfolk. <p>Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program and Infrastructure development (Irrigation) in ASALs regions→• Shift Pastoralism to SFS practices. <p>Urban farming pilots in informal settlements in Nairobi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop culture of small-scale urban farming <p>Summary: high engagement pot</p>	<p>Independent dialogues hold between IOs, Government, and associations of informal sectors (FCDC).</p> <p>Summary: high engagement</p>

Bangladesh

Engagement with informal economy	Entry points	Informal actors involved in Pathways
<p>Explicit address of informality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, but general. Call for R&D on FS addressing informal sector. • Informality as associated challenge of urbanization trends. <p>Informality references</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal sector & workers, Smallholder farmers, Small producers, Vulnerable, Formalization, Urbanization. <p>Summary: medium-high engagement.</p>	<p>Overarching Dev strategy (Perspective Plan 2041) & 8th FYP.</p> <p>General emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure, technology, extension & Cap building on SFS. • Human Capital improvement with focus on youth and women in rural environments. <p>Specific policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of ISO (17020 & 1702) certification in food quality and testing through the value chain. • Scaling-up local Agri-value chains. • Producer groups → Economies of scale. • Workers' training and formalization in line with international market trends. <p>Summary: high engagement potential but still at very general level.</p>	<p>National dialogue with 71% of small-scale farmers + MS dialogue with NGOs, workers, and academics. No further disclosure of participants' organizational affiliations.</p> <p>Summary: medium engagement.</p>

Nigeria

Engagement with informal economy	Entry points	Informal actors involved in Pathways
<p>Explicit address of informality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">No. General reference to combating unemployment and poverty within FS.Street food vendors reference restricted to food safety measures. <p>Informality references</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Street Food vendor, Smallholder Farmers/Producers, Vulnerable. <p>Summary: low engagement.</p>	<p>General</p> <p>General emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial inclusion for smallholders farmers and SMEs.Strengthening technical and vocational training programs for youth and women for food systems related. <p>Specific policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Government Administration level organization of farmers into commodity groups/cooperatives.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved access to services.Pastoralists specific policies: Establish safe grazing reserves. <p>Summary: Medium potential to develop entry points.</p>	<p>Inclusion of small-scale farmers (7) and local NGOs (16), not clear if members from informal groups were present. Almost half of female participants, marginal youth representation.</p> <p>Summary: medium engagement.</p>

Uganda

Engagement with informal economy	Entry points	Informal actors involved in Pathways
<p>Explicit address of informality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reference to “farmers not accessing the market economy”. <p>Informality references</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Smallholder Farmers, Farmers not accessing market economy, Subsistence farming. <p>Summary: low</p>	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Overall emphasis on transiting from subsistence to money/market economy. <p>Specific policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Food systems multi-stakeholder working Group:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure participation of informal sector on those groups (10 SH groups).Parish Development Model (PDM) to enhance service delivery in key areas of the food system especially for grassroot level. <p>Summary: Medium-low</p>	<p>Inclusion of farmer organizations, local NGOs, extensionists, not clear how represented informal groups are among those.</p> <p>Summary: medium (unclear)</p>