**WORKSTREAM 1 CHARTER:** Food Environments.

**Summary**

A shift towards healthy and sustainable food consumption habits depends on increased consumer demand for foods that are most compatible with healthy and sustainable dietary patterns, while reducing those which are not. This charter outlines the scope of workstream 1 in driving the shift towards healthy and sustainable consumption patterns. There will inevitably be areas where the ATII Work Streams overlap, it is important to articulate which sets of recommended solutions fit well (inter-digitate and amplify, rather than conflict with) others among the WSs and how they will ultimately contribute to combined sets of actions for ATII.

Create food environments that enable people to adopt and maintain healthy and sustainable dietary practices. Challenges might vary among income contexts, but Low-Income Countries are already rapidly following the paths of Middle-Income Countries with a rapid escalation of spending on highly processed and packaged foods and drinks among the remotest of rural poor, and obesity in the remote rural areas is climbing sharply. Therefore, whilst solutions need to respect complexity shaped by nuances, it is important that we find agreed problems and agreed actions.

Food environments solutions serve as “enablers” - making it easier for consumers to access foods that contribute to healthy, safe and sustainable diets, by ensuring that such foods are available and affordable. They should also create environments where consumers are less incentivized to and will have the real opportunity to choose not to overconsume food and drink products that are high in unhealthy fats, sugars or salt or for which overconsumption is unhealthy and/or unsustainable.

Workstream 1 will further document good practice and impact and develop tools, resources and roadmaps for effective actions by policy-makers to catalyze the needed shift in food environments. Identify best practices that have a direct relationship to food environment transformation, and carefully examine how they could be used in combinations to effect desired change. Collect voices from consumers, regulators, tell stories of good practices and make a case for those stories. Emotions play a major role in creating desires for nutritious and sustainable diets, in addition to education and information. Therefore, it is important for Food Environments to build values and emotional connections for those changes to happen.

Governments need to own the food environment. Governments have a critical role to play in setting the appropriate economic and political incentives for food industry to do the right thing, while also regulating and disincentivizing harm seeking profit.  Carefully designed taxes and subsidies, regulatory frameworks, marketing restrictions, and rewards for positive change can all play a role going forward.

Workstream 1 will develop scoping reviews, analyses of potential impact, case studies, costing exercises, model policies and policy briefs on public policies and roadmaps for their implementation to create environments that support healthy, safe and sustainable consumption. This work will be supported by, and complementary to, the development of guidance from UN agencies (e.g. WHO guidelines on food environment policy actions currently under development).

**Scope of Workstream 1:**

We have identified include two major areas of efforts to improve food environments: 1) Public and media environments; and 2) Market and dining environments.

*1. Public and media environments*

Workstream 1 supports implementation of policy measures in the following areas by (a) developing new or existing databases to document best practice and impact, (b) developing tools or promoting use of existing tools, (c) providing resources and training to build legal capacity (d) supporting pilot projects and innovation and (e) facilitating peer-to-peer learning and support through existing or new action networks that foster skills and collaboration. Examples include:

* fiscal policies (taxes and subsidies) to promote healthier and more sustainable consumption;
* limiting the impact of food marketing (including digital marketing and sponsorship) as a driver of unhealthy and unsustainable overconsumption;
* labelling policies to enable healthier, sustainable dietary choices (including front-of-pack nutrition, sustainability and fair price labelling and increasing uptake of Codex Alimentarius guidelines); and
* sustainable public food procurement for healthy diet in schools and other public institutions.
* supporting healthy, sustainable food value chains for nutrition — to increase consumption, for example, of fruits, vegetables, fish and pulses — by supporting policies for smallholder farmers and research and incentives for neglected and underutilized species.
* addressing breast-milk substitute promotion through health care workers and in health systems by initiating dialogue with professional bodies and exploring options for ensuring better health care worker education on their responsibilities under the International Code of Breastmilk Substitutes.
* conducting a scoping exercise on how to reduce overconsumption of meat and other animal-source foods in some contexts and increase consumption of plant-rich diets, including boosting fruit and vegetable consumption and considering the role for new and emerging products (such as plant-based proteins, algae and insects) and indigenous or traditional foods in healthy, sustainable and safe diets.

*2. Market and dining environments*

Workstream 1 expands the adoption of policies to create food environments in retail outlets and the eating out of the home sector, including street foods, that promote healthy and sustainable consumption. Examples include:

* creating a repository of best practice zoning or planning policies in urban areas for healthier and more sustainable consumption.
* compiling case studies of best practices to promote healthier and more sustainable food options (e.g. codes of conduct, labelling or award schemes) and scoping the trade-offs and financial implications for retailers and food service providers.
* scoping innovative and existing options to harness the potential of food markets as sources of healthy, safe and diversified foods for sustainable diets in low-, middle- and high-income countries (e.g. strengthening transport and storage infrastructure, shifting demand through local public procurement, markets as settings for women’s empowerment activities); and documenting good practice and impact of healthy food retail environments and their impact on improved diets through support to farmers and open-air markets, short circuits and other innovative approaches.
* scoping innovative and existing interventions to improve provision, and increase uptake of, healthy and sustainable foods in all types of workplace.
* promote prioritization of support, protection and promotion of breastfeeding and the elimination of inappropriate marketing practices.