Disrupting Food Systems to End Hunger

In October 2022, during the worst food security crisis in decades, we launched the Shamba Centre with the aim of ending hunger forever. Having now been in operation for six months, we are providing an update on our key achievements to date and our strategic plan for 2023 and 2024.

We endeavour to disrupt the status quo of food systems to make way for experimentation, innovation and bold policies that will reduce market concentration, diversify production, improve distribution, optimize yields, use less land and water, and significantly reduce environmental damage. We envision a future in which our food is more diverse, nutritious, and affordable, our planet is restored, and small enterprises have a fighting chance to thrive and survive.
Vision.

Transformed global food systems in which small producers and enterprises are empowered, food value chains and business models are more equitable and resilient, greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, and nature is restored.

Mission.

To end hunger by advocating for and working towards total disruption of the global food system.
Objectives.

1. To secure more and better public funding and incentives by governments and donors to end hunger and change the way we produce and consume. They must invest more money and commit to disrupting and redesigning our food systems to realize sustainable agriculture and food production, food security and healthier diets.

2. To increase private sector spending on sustainable agriculture and food systems in low- and middle-income countries through business innovation and partnerships between private and public entities and civil society.

3. To support governments in their efforts to better enforce and reform competition law and policy to make agricultural and food markets more flexible, less concentrated, and more diversified. This is necessary to achieve decent livelihoods for small producers and enterprises.
The 2022 G7 financial commitment and Global Alliance for Food Security

We moderated the G7 Berlin Ministerial Conference Uniting for Global Food Security, organized jointly by the German Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, and Ministry of Agriculture, in the run up to the 2022 G7 Summit. During the event, a bold commitment was tabled on curbing the global food crises and the continued transformation of agriculture and food systems towards sustainable development. It paved the way for the G7 to announce that they will spend an additional USD 4.5 billion in 2022 on global food security. As a result, the G7 committed a total of USD 14 billion in crisis response and longer-term agriculture and food sustainability.

The Shamba Centre was subsequently invited to design, moderate and advise the Global Alliance for Food Security. This is an international high-level multi-stakeholder process focusing on immediate crises response as well as on longer term food security. We developed a series of recommendations that now serve as the basis for the food crisis preparedness frameworks led by the World Bank.

Partners: GIZ, World Bank, Strategies SARL
Together with GAIN, FAO, WFP and IFAD, we set up the Zero Hunger Coalition to catalyse coordinated actions among countries, donors, companies, and civil society to advance the longer-term agenda to end world hunger. The Zero Hunger Coalition is evidence-based and supports action to implement the 10 high-impact investment areas identified in Ceres2030: Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger.

The coalition has received strong political support including in the G7 Leaders Declaration on Global Food Security, G7 Development Ministers Communiqué, and the G7 Chair’s Summary. A total of 32 country governments supports the coalition and nine country governments have directly requested support from the coalition.

In 2022, the Pledge reached the half a billion-dollar mark, mobilising USD 508 million from 44 companies and representing investments in 47 priority countries. The Pledge also secured an endorsement from the G7, with the following reference in the G7 Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué: We welcome the commitments already made within the Private Sector Pledge, and we remain committed to working with private sector actors, civil society and local actors for sustainable agriculture and food supply chains.

Partners: FAO, GAIN, AUDA-NEPAD/Grow Africa, Grow Asia, IFAD, IISD, WBA, WBCSD, WFP
We advised the government of Sri Lanka on opportunities for a debt-for-nature swap where proceeds will be targeted to regenerative agriculture.

To increase the case for a debt swap and facilitate the efficient use of the proceeds from a swap, we also developed several ideas to improve innovation, productivity and resilience across Sri Lanka’s agriculture and food systems. These ideas are aligned with the development priorities of the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and donors including USAID, GIZ, European Union, UK, France, Japan, China and India.

We wrote two articles on debt-swap that are available on the website.
Our strategic plan for 2023 and 2024 is centred on three core objectives that have the aim of achieving our vision and fulfilling our mission to bring about systemic change in global food systems.

OBJECTIVE 1

To secure more and better public funding and incentives by governments and donors to end hunger and change the way we produce and consume.
Hesat2030: A global roadmap to end hunger sustainably, nutritiously and equitably

Hesat2030 is a coalition of organizations with the goal of creating a global roadmap to end hunger sustainably, nutritiously and equitably.

The project is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nation, Shamba Centre for Food & Climate, and the University of Notre Dame. Project partners include CABI, Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Havos.ai, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the University of Chicago.

Leveraging the success of Ceres2030, we are united by a common goal to scale-up existing commitments and solidarity across food and agriculture sectors in response to a changing world. We are also undertaking new efforts to integrate outcomes focused on climate change, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, women’s empowerment and social inclusion into donor and international agency policies, programs, and strategic plans. This is achieved through costing, evidence, and advocacy to scale-up effective innovations. Project members engage with various stakeholders, including governments, civil society organizations, research institutions and the private sector, to build a more supportive and inclusive environment for transforming food systems.

Partners: FAO, University of Notre Dame, CABI, GCA, GDPRD, GAIN, Havos.ai, IFPRI, University of Chicago
Country deep dives on the nexus of food systems, climate change and nutrition

With the country deep dives, we will further increase the evidence base on how food systems can be transformed to provide affordable healthy diets to all in a sustainable way. The Ceres2030 reports provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing food systems worldwide. The deep dives into the nexus of food systems, nutrition, and climate change are the next crucial step.

By conducting a series of country-level deep dives, we will provide evidence-based and costed recommendations for policymakers, donors, and companies on the most effective interventions to address the complex interplay between food security, nutrition, poverty, agriculture, and climate change. These recommendations will be tailored to the specific needs and challenges facing individual countries to ensure that efforts are grounded in local realities and have a significant impact on food security, nutrition, and climate resilience at the national level.

Building on the models and data collected by the Hesat2030 project, as well as the approach and methods used in three previous country deep dives for Ethiopia, Malawi and Nigeria, this project will expand to eight new countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Indonesia, Madagascar, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. In addition, discussions are ongoing in Niger and Togo.

Partners: GAIN, IFPRI, GIZ, FAO
Tracking and monitoring ODA for agriculture and food security

Together with a group of donors from G7 countries, and as part of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development’s SDG 2 Roadmap Group, we are working to advance concrete commitments to double official development assistance (ODA) for agriculture and food security. In addition to tracking and monitoring donor commitments, we are also assessing areas for coordinated and collective action.

Helping donors track and monitor commitments aligned to the Ceres2030 recommendations using new tools is an essential component of this work. It includes updating the operational definitions and benchmarks of agriculture and food security ODA using a holistic approach that better reflects the contribution of ODA spending towards food security.

This work also encompasses further development of the ODA monitoring and tracking tool for current agriculture and food security spending aligned to Ceres2030 recommendations. This will enable donors and recipient countries to track their contributions based on the three Ceres2030 categories and across the 14 modellable interventions. A mock-up of the platform is available.

Partners: FAO, IFPRI
Promoting NbS in aquaculture to end hunger and improve diets

We have launched an inquiry into aquaculture and nature-based solutions. Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing sectors but carries significant environmental and health hazards due to intensive farming of fish and shellfish. The adoption of nature-based solutions (NbS), however, can enable aquaculture to become more sustainable.

We have been in contact with over 30 experts and organizations across the world to learn about hydrological and civil engineered designs that build on the principles of agroecology and how they can be applied to aquaculture. These designs are informed by nature; they mimic nature and build with nature, optimizing on the features of natural landscapes and the delivery of ecosystems services. In agriculture and aquaculture, NbS provides the fundamentals to optimize yields, improve the quality of farmed product, lower operation costs and diversify farmers revenues. Moreover, in the medium term, NbS can build the biological resilience of farms to continue to optimize yields, withstand the test of time and cope with other environmental and economic shocks.

Partners: Adelta, ECHT, European Centre for Animal Law, University of Technology Sydney, University of Diponegoro- Indonesia, WWF’s Aquaculture Stewardship Council, IUCN
To increase private sector spending on sustainable agriculture and food systems in low- and middle-income countries.
Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge

The Pledge’s strategy and workplan is based on two central goals. First, to reach over a hundred company pledges and the one-billion-dollar mark, and second, to hold companies to account by independently verifying that pledges have been converted to meaningful investments.

We will leverage several moments during the year to drive new pledges and showcase ongoing projects, namely: the UNFSS Stocktaking Moment in July, World Food Day and CFS 51 in October, and COP 28. We will work together with GAIN, the WBCSD and regional partners such as Grow Africa and Grow Asia to enhance outreach efforts with business associations and SMEs in priority countries. We will also coordinate the work of an independent M&E consultant, in collaboration with WBA, to deliver a first accountability report by the end of the year.

For 2023, we plan to focus on canvassing additional pledges as well as deepening the value proposition of the Pledge. To this end, we will expand synergies and areas of joint interest with relevant stakeholders, such as the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDRPD) and the Food Action Alliance (FAA). We will also explore Funder for Zero Hunger which is further described below.
We have been contracted by the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) to investigate the rationale for a new workstream on sustainable finance. Through this work, we will design this project as a formal stakeholder consultation and conduct interviews with donors and blended funds. We will explore innovation for donor funding strategies as well as the design of blended funds, focusing on the value proposition and ‘additionality’ of both. We will also look at how blended funds are designed to pool expertise, risk appetites and networks as well as how they target lending to beneficiaries working on sustainable farming and green technologies.

Partners: GDPRD, University of Technology Sydney
Funding platform for Zero Hunger

We are exploring the feasibility of designing and managing a digital funding platform to support matchmaking between private investors and agri-SMEs in developing countries. The platform is intended for use by financial intermediaries and investment advisors with the aim of reducing the transaction costs of sourcing projects and developing project pipelines.

Due diligence related to sourcing and preparing investment-ready projects, and aggregating them into investor-friendly vehicles, is very expensive, time-consuming and complex. Intermediaries spend significant resources during this phase which results in higher costs for SMEs in developing countries to access capital which, in turn, limits their ability to scale-up their innovations and enter new markets. Our goal is to simplify the process, reduce transaction costs and thereby facilitate access to finance for agri-SMEs.

We are in discussions with a start-up, pi2Life, that has designed the digital architecture of such a platform and which could be licensed to users, including the Shamba Centre.

Partners: pi2Life
To support governments to better enforce and reform competition law and policy to make agricultural and food markets more flexible, less concentrated, and more diversified.
Reducing market power concentration in agriculture and food markets

Increased concentration in agri-food markets in developing countries is a critically overlooked force driving up food insecurity and poverty, as well as causing harm to small producers, small businesses, and consumers. Competition law and policy is an underused tool which needs to be urgently reformed and enforced to empower micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and small producers in Africa.

Shamba Centre, together with the University of Johannesburg’s Centre on Competition, Regulation, and Economic Development (CCRED), will work with competition authorities in Africa to improve their ability and capacity to regulate excessive market concentration and abuse of market power along value chains in agriculture and food systems. This will result in the empowerment of small-scale producers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including those led by women and youth, through better access to markets, increased opportunities for innovation, and better resilience across food and agricultural value chains.

The project will be achieved by monitoring information on prices to track abuse of market dominance, including monopolistic and cartel-like behaviour, and building capacity for competition authorities in the COMESA region to better enforce existing laws and policies.

Partners: University of Johannesburg’s Centre on Competition, Regulation and Economic Development
TEAM MEMBERS

Carin Smaller
Co-Founder and Executive Director

Francine Picard
Co-Founder and Director of Partnerships

Oshani Perera
Co-Founder and Director of Programmes

Mali Eber Rose
Research and Policy Analyst

Kamal El Harty
Advisor, Sustainable Finance

Myriam Hammadi
Law and Policy Advisor, Agriculture and Food

Lysiane Lefebvre
Policy Advisor and Project Manager

Lié Maminaina
Policy Advisor

Natalie Mouyal
Communications Manager

Gordon Noble
Special Advisor, Finance

Debora Pereira dos Anjos Sousa
Operations Manager

Simon Roberts
Special Advisor, Competition Law and Policy

Louise Scholtz
Researcher

Thembalethu Buthelezi
Special Advisor, Competition Law and Policy
We are grateful for the support from BMZ, GIZ, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GAIN, IFPRI, and IFAD which enable us to undertake our work.

The below summary provides an overview of our revenue for the period 2022 – 2024.

**REVENUE SUMMARY 2022 – 2024 (CHF)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Received</td>
<td>CHF 1,639,293</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requested</td>
<td>CHF 1,856,582</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated</td>
<td>CHF 200,000</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHF 3,695,875</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>