

## UNEP Food Waste Index Report

By IASToppers | 2024-03-30 15:40:00



## UNEP Food Waste Index Report

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme), a U.K.-based non-profit, have released the Food Waste Index Report 2024 ahead of the International Day of Zero Waste (March 30).



[ref-IndiaExpress]

### **About Food Waste Index (FWI):**

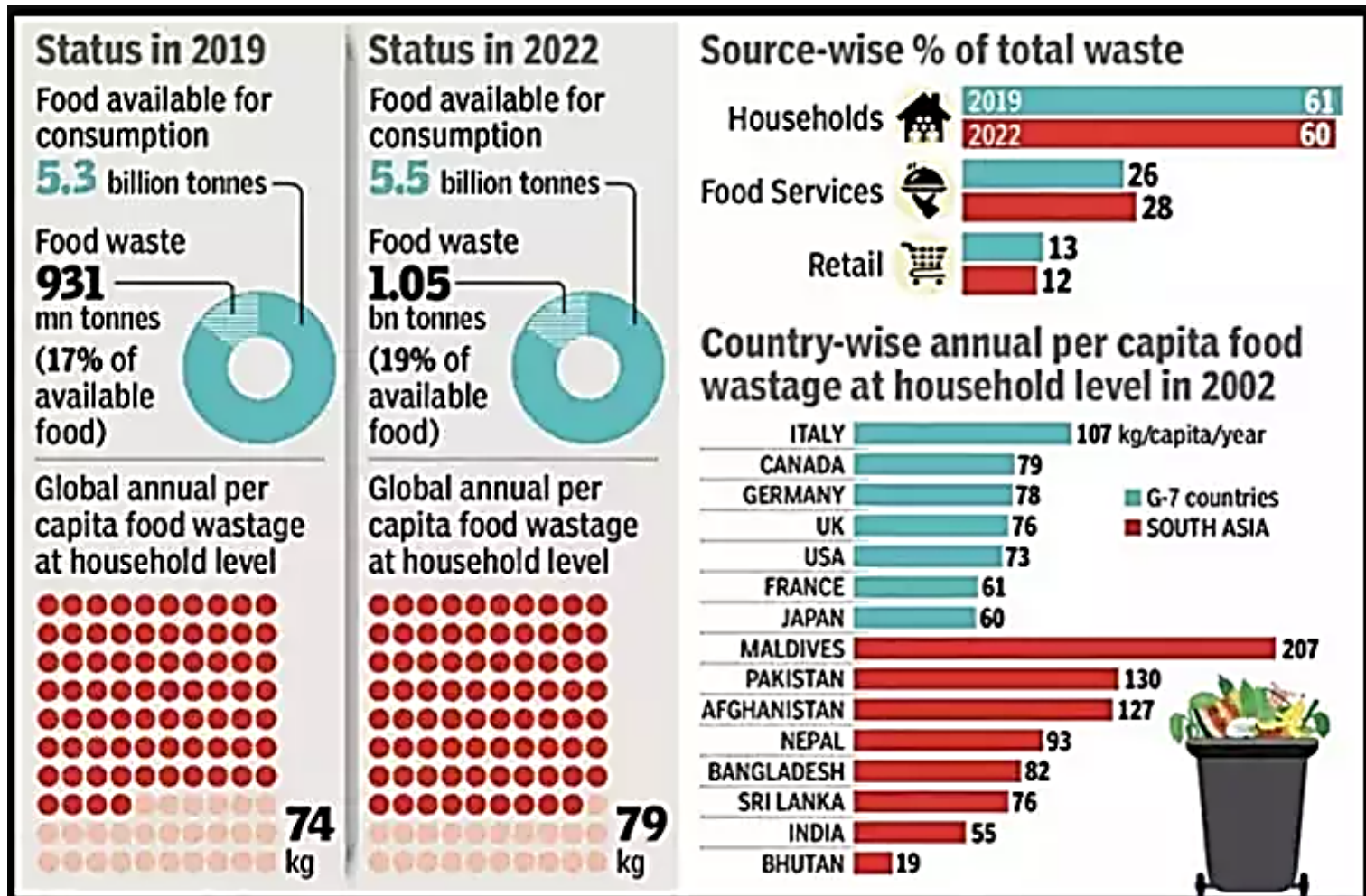
- The Food Waste Index tracks the **global and national generation of food and inedible parts wasted** at the retail and consumer (household and food service) levels.
- UNEP is its custodian.
- The Food Waste Index **allows countries to measure and report on food loss generated** in manufacturing processes, which would not be captured under key commodity losses by the **Food Loss Index**.

### **Achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.3:**

- FWI assesses progress towards **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.3**, which is to be achieved by 2030.
- This goal targets the **halving of per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels**, along with **reducing food losses throughout production and supply chains**, including **post-harvest losses**.
  - **Indicator 12.3.1A:** The Food Loss Index (FLI) measures losses along the food supply chain starting from post-harvest losses on the farm up to but not including retail stage.
  - **Indicator 12.3.1B:** In contrast to the Food Loss Index, the Food Waste Index measures total food waste (rather than loss or waste associated with specific commodities).

### **Key Findings:**





[ref-ET]

- Globally, 1.05 billion tonnes of food waste were generated in 2022, equivalent to nearly one-fifth of all food available to consumers.
- On average, each person wasted 79 kg of food annually in households worldwide, with India's per capita waste at 55 kg per year.
- The economic toll of food loss and waste on the global economy is estimated at approximately \$1 trillion.
- Despite such massive waste, 783 million people suffer from hunger, and a third of humanity faces food insecurity.

## Distribution of Food Waste:

- 60% of food waste occurred at the household level, 28% at food services, and 12% at retail.
  - Additionally, 13% of the world's food is lost in the supply chain, exacerbating the problem.
- Notably, food waste is not solely a problem of affluent nations, as levels of household food waste vary minimally across income groups.
- Hotter countries tend to generate more food waste per capita, potentially due to higher consumption of fresh foods with significant inedible parts and inadequate cold chain infrastructure.
- Urban-rural disparities exist, with rural areas generally wasting less due to practices such as

diversion of food scraps to pets and home composting.

#### Trends Over Time:

- The 2024 report compared data with the previous report from 2019, revealing an **increase in per capita household food waste globally** (from 74 kg to 79 kg) and in India (from 50 kg to 55 kg).
- **Maldives had the highest per capita household food waste** at 207 kg in 2022.

#### Environmental Impact:

- Food loss and waste **contribute 8-10% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions**, surpassing emissions from the aviation sector.
- It also leads to **significant biodiversity loss**, occupying nearly a third of the world's agricultural land.

#### Policy and Action:

- **Only 21 countries** have incorporated food loss and waste reduction in their national climate plans under the Paris Agreement.
- **Four G20 countries** and the European Union have **suitable food waste estimates** for tracking progress towards 2030 goals.
- The **Food Waste Index report** urges countries to **integrate food waste reduction measures** into their **climate plans by 2025** to enhance their climate ambition.
- Many low- and middle-income countries **lack adequate systems for tracking progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)** of halving food waste by 2030, especially in retail and food services.

#### Recommendations:

- **Collaborative efforts through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)** are crucial for driving innovation and overcome challenges in the fragmented food system, fostering long-term, holistic change.
- **Governments, cities, municipalities, and food businesses** must **work together** to reduce food waste and raise awareness among households.
- **Utilizing the Food Waste Index** to measure and track progress is essential for **developing effective strategies and targeting interventions**.

#### About WRAP:

- The WRAP is a **British charity** that works to **promote a sustainable economy** and **protect natural resources**.
- It was established in 2000 and is a **climate action NGO** that works to **address the causes of climate change** and **create a more sustainable future** for the planet.
- Suggestions for reducing food waste through a collaborative approach:
  - Implement systemic action through **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)** models, such as the **Courtauld Commitment 2030 in the UK or the Australian Food Pact**.
  - Develop a roadmap or delivery plan that targets priority areas or "**hotspots**" of waste,

---

focusing efforts on areas with the most significant potential for reduction.