European Union
Statement of Commitments for the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. The European Union ("EU") represented by the European Commission hereby voluntarily *joins the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty* and states its dedication to pursue the Alliance's mission, objectives and principles, as *expressed* in the Global Alliance's Terms of Reference and Governance Framework, and to collaborate with other members to achieve lasting solutions to poverty and hunger worldwide, as expressed below.

   The European Union:

2. *Recognizes* that hunger and malnutrition are the perverse manifestations of persistent, structural poverty and inequality, and recognizes the need to end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions and to fully and effectively implement the 2030 Agenda.

3. *Acknowledges* the alarming growth in the number of people facing food insecurity and poverty in recent years, noting that, despite all significant past and current efforts, the world is not on track to meet SDG 1 and 2 targets, inequality is also on the rise (SDG 10), and a significant increase in collective ambition, as well as improvement in collective alignment and coordination for the fight against hunger and poverty, is urgently needed.

4. To that effect, *endorses* the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and its mission to *support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) while reducing inequalities (SDG 10), contributing to revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17) and to the achievement of other interlinked SDGs, and championing sustainable, inclusive and just transitions*.

5. *Notes* that it is crucial for the world to unite behind large-scale, integrated approaches combining international, regional, national, and local levels, that recognize the interconnected nature of challenges and solutions to hunger and poverty and pair social protection with access to goods and services that can help the poor and vulnerable populations to overcome structural barriers and drive responsible investment in their productive capacity. These complementary services include but are not limited to interventions for poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, early childhood support, education and skills development, employment services, health and care services, as well as family farmers and smallholders' access to finance, extension services, research and/or agricultural inputs, in line with international commitments and obligations.

6. *Particularly recognizes* the high value and positive impact of quality implementation of national and local country-owned, inclusive policy

instruments and programmes, focused on the poorest and most vulnerable, in the fields of poverty reduction, social protection, food security and nutrition, gender equality, decent work in the agri-food sector, skills development, family farming and smallholder agriculture, food systems transformation, health and care services and resilience building.

7. Also *acknowledges* the Global Alliance's reference basket of such policies as a collectively built, ongoing collection of examples with robust evidence to reduce hunger and poverty, and as a useful basis to guide joint action and increase alignment of the international community at country level. This acknowledgement is applicable to the policy basket approach as a general guide to action and does not imply endorsement of any specific policy instrument or programme contained in the basket.

8. Therefore, by joining the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, *commits* to do its best efforts, in its own field of action, and according to its own mandate, capacities, priorities, preferences, procedures, and legal arrangements and framework, to support the implementation of policy instruments and programmes at country level as appropriate, including by the promotion of shared learning and the mobilization of resources, public and private, at scale.

IN PARTICULAR:

Internal policy implementation commitments[1]

The European Union

Acknowledges its role in the implementation of policies and programmes against hunger and poverty, as well as for providing guidance and support to policies and programmes.

Commits to make its best efforts to implement, improve, and/or scale-up the implementation of policy instruments and programmes from among those contained in the Global Alliance's policy basket in our context. These policy instruments and programme suggestions would be adapted to the specific conditions, realities and opportunities presented in our Member States.

In particular, the EU is engaged in the implementation, improvement, or scaling-up the implementation of the following policy instruments or programmes, having regard to the Global Alliance's reference basket.

In the case of the European Union, this section relates to its internal actions implemented within the EU. On **SDG 1**, addressing multidimensional poverty and basic needs is among the main priorities of the **European Pillar of Social Rights**, which relates to several policy instruments referenced in the policy basket. Its action plan of implementation proposes headline targets on employment, skills and poverty reduction for the EU to reach by 2030.

[1] *The commitments under this subsection are applicable only to UN Member and Observer States and G20 Members which could be responsible for policy and programme implementation and/or direction, and which wish to make commitments regarding domestic policy implementation under the Global Alliance. Otherwise, those governments should subscribe to the "Policy Support Commitments" subsection.*

It includes **the EU Child Guarantee**, which has been created to break the intergenerational cycles of disadvantage and to ensure that, in the EU, every child in need has equal access to early childhood education and care, housing and nutrition to prevent and fight social exclusion (relating to the policy basket instrument of **child and family support/benefits).**

As part of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the **Directive on adequate minimum wages** adopted in 2022 aims at tackling in-work poverty, ensuring fair competition, stimulating productivity improvements, and promoting economic and social progress. To also address poverty risks for people outside the labour market or in transition, the **Council recommendation on adequate minimum income** aims to gradually bring income support to the level of national poverty thresholds (relating to the policy instruments on **unemployment benefits, unconditional cash transfers** and **training)**.

The 2019 **Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed** stresses the right to adequate social protection for workers and, under comparable conditions, the self-employed. Further support will be given to EU Member States to modernise their social protection systems, taking inspiration from the report of the high-level group on the **future of social protection** and welfare state in the EU, which develops a vision over the years to 2030 on how to improve social protection systems and the welfare state in the midst of ongoing changes (relating to policy instruments: (i) **subsidized/tailored access to social insurance;** (ii) **Disability benefits;** (iii) **Public works, employment guarantee schemes, and direct job creation).**

The **Fund for European Aid to the most deprived** supports actions by EU Member States in providing food, clothing and other essential goods to the poorest in society (relating to the policy instrument of **Food transfer or subsidized food).**

On **SDG 2**, the EU published a **contingency plan for food security in times of crisis** in 2021. It aims to ensure a sufficient and varied supply of safe, nutritious, affordable and sustainable food to citizens at all times (relating to the policy basket instrument of **Emergency food transfer/supply).**

Commits to observe good practices throughout the implementation of such policy instruments and programmes, including maintaining effective governance, seeking avenues for domestic resource mobilization for funding such programs and providing for appropriate monitoring and evaluation, with adaptation and learning based on social involvement and consultation, local stakeholder engagement, minimizing negative impacts and seeking to adequately manage policy trade-offs.

Policy cooperation and support commitments[2]

Commits to, within its capacities, share its own learnings and otherwise provide appropriate help and support, within its means, to other Global Alliance member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of policies and

[2] *The commitments under this subsection are Applicable only to UN Member and Observer States and G20 Members which wish to engage in direct lesson sharing, learning and support to program implementation in third countries.*

programmes referenced in the Alliance's basket.

Specifically, informs and is engaged in the implementation of the following actions, programmes and other activities related to lessons-learned and international cooperation in support of the Global Alliance's objectives.

Through its international partnerships and based on policy dialogue with partner countries, the EU engages in projects and programmes with partner countries that encompass, at the same time, financial support and policy cooperation and support. Therefore, the actions mentioned in the next section on financial support have to be understood to contain elements of policy support, which are not repeated in this section.

In the face of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU has established and will continue to invest in **EU-Ukraine Solidarity lanes to ensure critical logistics routes** for all types of goods, so **that Ukraine** can export grain and other goods to the global markets, but also import the goods it needs, from humanitarian aid to fuel and fertilisers.

Financial support commitments[3]

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the destination, allocation and alignment of the use of its resources, including through coordination and cooperation facilitated by the Global Alliance, to support member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of select programmes or policy instruments in the Alliance's reference basket to drive the fight against hunger and poverty, in line with sustainable country-led financing and implementation strategies.

Informs that, between 2021-2023, an estimated amount of EUR 14.4 billion have been committed by the European Union to be allocated in providing international development support applicable to the fight against hunger and poverty and advancing SDGs 1 and 2. The amount informed is the best possible estimation considering different applicable modalities[4], allocations and budget cycles, and is subject to changing circumstances and budgets. It is not to be considered a pledge of new and additional resources.

An illustrative graph of EU contribution to SDG 1 and SDG2 is placed in the Annex.

In addition, informs and is engaged in implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of SDGs 1 and 2 and the Global Alliance´s objectives:

---

[3] Applicable to financial partnership institutions including those that manage, guide, or allocate funds for development (or to a national government disposing of or in control of such institutions or funds), such as ODF providers, donor governments, development agencies, development banks and funds and philanthropic institutions. This section is not meant to include funding for domestic policy implementation, as funding one's own policies and programs is an integral part of the national pillar commitments related to policy implementation.

[4] Notes on scope:

- *The estimation does not include EU actions under its humanitarian aid.*
- *As complementary information, the Total Official Support to Sustainable Development (TOSSD) of the EU in support of SDG 1 and SDG2 in this period amounted to EUR 38.3 billion. This includes also other official flows, private funds that are mobilized through public intervention and support to international public goods.*

The EU together with its Member States, acting together as Team Europe[5], is the **largest provider of ODA with 42% of global ODA in 2023**, contributing in various ways to reducing poverty and combatting hunger. In 2023, they collectively reported disbursement figure of €95.9 billion, representing the equivalent to 0.57% of collective GNI. The reduction of poverty is the main priority for EU development cooperation policy based on the EU Treaties.

More specifically, the EU takes actions that contribute primarily to combatting hunger (SDG2) and reducing poverty (SDG1), while keeping in mind interlinkages with other SDGs[6].

Global Gateway, the EU's innovative strategy for sustainable infrastructure investments, aims at mobilising investments of up to €300 billion until 2027 to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs, taking a Team Europe approach[7]. The EU works in **partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB)**[8]. Global Gateway seeks to mobilise significant additional public and private resources, beyond ODA. Global Gateway contributes to the fight against poverty and hunger and combatting inequalities, most notably in the following areas:

(i) The EU actively contributes to the pursuit of the **right to adequate food** in partner countries. In 2018-2021, EU assistance to food insecure people reached more than 28 million people. The EU directly supports an inclusive transition to sustainable food systems in many partner countries, promoting access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food. The EU's Global Gateway investments target among other areas key agri-value chain activities, including through various blended investment vehicles specialized in the financing of sustainable agrifood SMEs, with a focus on:

- **Nutrition**. The EU takes action to reach those vulnerable to malnutrition and facilitate access to healthy diets and nutrition outcomes, including by strengthening national health systems and ensuring equitable access to essential services for preventing and tackling malnutrition. This includes integrated maternal and early childhood interventions, particularly in countries severely affected by malnutrition, with more than 18 million women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children were reached in 2018-2021 by EU funded nutrition related interventions. The total EU financial commitments with a nutrition objective between 2021-2023 amounted to EUR 4.4 billion, thereby exceeding the 2021 pledge at N4G in Tokyo by EUR 1.9 billion. As highlighted in the recent 2024 EU nutrition report, the EU is on

[5] The Team Europe approach brings together the EU, its Member States, and national development banks, as well as the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
[6] Given its purpose and scope, this document does not mention the wide range of actions by the EU in support of international organizations on matters related to the objectives of the Alliance (including among others FAO, WFP, IFAD, CFS, UNICEF, ILO, UNDP, SPIAC-B, WBG, etc.).
[7] JOIN (2021) 30 final.
[8] Pursuant to 308 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the EIB contributes towards the attainment of the EU's objectives and thus by virtue of the Treaties forms part of the institutional framework of the European Union. See also the EIB's separate Statement of Commitments.

track to meet its pledge to avert 7 million children from stunting by 2025, and is contributing to reducing significantly the prevalence of stunting in targeted counties.

- **School Meals** – The EU is harnessing schools as a crucial entry point to advance healthy diets and nutrition for children and youth – in areas such as offering training in nutrition, technical assistance to supply chain actors and support to local farmers in the production and distribution of diversified ingredients to increase the school feeding basket, as well as supporting monitoring and evaluation. Between 2021-2023, the EU's support to school meals programmes has reached 4 million children in 9 partner countries with high levels of food insecurity.

- **Smallholder farmers**. The EU supports capacity building programmes for smallholders worldwide. Between 2018-2022, EU supported interventions reached more than 21 million smallholder farmers, mostly at partner-country level. They saw increases in sustainable production, access to markets and/or security on land. Additionally, through EU-funded global capacity-building programmes for Farmers Organisations (FOs) implemented by IFAD, around 70 million smallholders farmers have been reached through FOs services to members and through influence on policies. The EU has provided the core funding for these FO-led programmes with EUR 75 million invested between 2020-2024. EU is already engaged to keep this core funding with at least EUR 38 million to be engaged in the period 2025-2026. By means of illustration, in the **southern neighbourhood region**, the EU is actively supporting farmers to increase systemic resilience to food crises for vulnerable households, including child nurturing, as well as health and social protection through the Food and Resilience Facility for this region.

(ii) **Social protection:** The EU's approach to social protection is to support long-term sustainable, adequate, and shock-responsive **national social protection system building** with the main goal to achieve Universal Social Protection (USP) coverage in partner countries, through a combination of contributory and non-contributory schemes addressing the needs throughout the entire life cycle and offering support in times of crises. The EU is supporting an increasing number of partner countries that have integrated social protection in their priority areas, on matters such as digital management information systems, inclusion of the informal sector in social protection schemes, access to affordable health services, and nutrition and food-security linked interventions, as well as promoting access to finance.

The EU also implements several **bilateral budget support programmes** in partner countries that focus on strengthening the social protection sector while incorporating poverty eradication and food security components. This includes actions such as improving mother and child grants to reduce food insecurity at a critical stage in life; support to the national social registry and digital inclusion; support schemes relating to social inclusion income, social pension, labour injury and unemployment schemes, involving also the private sector; or innovative financing mechanisms. By means of illustration, the EU has already undertaken to roll out a **Team Europe Initiative on social protection in Sub-Saharan Africa** (est. 2025 - 2029) to focus on a better

social protection cover for informal workers, migrants and people affected by climate change, promoting sustainable social protection financing and enabling just transitions in the green and digital sectors.

(iii) ***Combatting inequalities is at the heart of the EU's Global Gateway*** strategy. The EU has established several Equality Flagships with transformative potential to reduce inequalities, across all regions and sectors, strengthening existing EU development cooperation policies relevant to addressing inequality drivers in partner countries. To measure its progress, the EU introduced the first Inequality Marker (see more detail under the knowledge pillar).

(iv) The EU supports access to **basic services** (education, health, water and sanitation, etc.), in particular with respect to water, **to deliver on water as a human right**. By 2030, the EU aims to support the access of 70 million individuals to an improved drinking water source and/or sanitation facility and to develop its work to mobilise the private sector with innovative financing under the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+), to further increase its reach. In the current programming period (2021-2027) the EU promotes significant activities in the water sector with 71 partner countries, with EUR 1.4 billion having been already committed in the period 2021-2023. Especially the EU Water Operators Partnership (WOP) Programme strengthens water and sanitation operators' capacity, performance and finance for equitable and sustainable WASH services.

(v) Ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is critical to ending poverty, hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all, and is therefore a cross-cutting priority of all EU external action.
The EU together with the EIB are developing new financial guarantees of up to EUR 170 million to promote gender equality and human development to accelerate investments to improve health and nutrition in low- and middle income countries, including through the Human Development Accelerator (HDX), a Global Gateway flagship.

(vi) The EU takes further in its actions the Humanitarian, Development and Peace nexus to break the cycle of food and nutrition crises, in particular in fragile contexts. This integrated approach focuses on maintaining food systems functionality and enabling local populations to secure their livelihoods as well as **increasing the resilience of communities,** notably for persons living in poverty and in vulnerable situations.

(vii) The EU offers continued opportunities on research and innovation for partner countries to address major global challenges, including hunger, poverty and inequalities, and to tackle asymmetries in the access and production of science, technology, and innovation, in support of the SDGs.

Knowledge support commitments[9]

Commits to make its best efforts to co-create and provide technical assistance, capacity building and strengthening, training and/or knowledge-sharing on voluntary and mutually agreed terms in response to requests by Global Alliance member countries that choose to implement policy instruments and programmes in the Alliance's policy basket that are compatible with its areas of expertise.

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the alignment of its actions, including through the Global Alliance's coordination mechanisms, leveraging and partnering with other actors to better support large scale, country-owned implementation of policies and programmes in the reference basket by Global Alliance member countries, aiming at enhancing country-level outcomes.

Commits to collaborate with other Alliance members to develop innovative solutions and share good practices in learning and knowledge exchange and dissemination on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, data collection and analysis, including by leveraging existing local, national, and international knowledge networks, coalitions, communities and other fora related to aspects relevant to the fight against hunger and poverty.

Informs and is engaged in implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of the Global Alliance´s objectives

The European Union's development cooperation programs almost **systematically include technical assistance, capacity building and strengthening, training and/or knowledge-sharing** on voluntary and mutually agreed terms in response to requests from partner countries. Therefore, in the areas described above under in relation to financial support, the EU actions most often encompass also knowledge support (as well as policy cooperation).

On top of that, the EU has developed **several specific technical assistance programmes in relevant fields of the Global Alliance**. Various examples are provided below:

Copernicus is the Earth Observation component of the European Union's Space Programme, which monitors our planet and its environment at the benefit of society. It delivers data, information and services based on satellite Earth observation data and in-situ (non-space) data. As an example, the European Commission has launched several cooperation initiatives around Copernicus with third parties, which support SDGs and development priorities of partner countries, including through regional centres.

The European Union's **Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX)** and the **Twinning program** are initiatives that support institutional capacity building and reforms in selected partner countries. TAIEX offers short-term expertise and training, while Twinning fosters long-term cooperation by partnering

[9] *Applicable to knowledge, research and capacity building institutions which act as a holder, manager and/or broker of knowledge and/or technology relevant to the Global Alliance, including for the implementation, maintenance, management, monitoring, and/or evaluation of policy instruments and included in the Alliance's reference basket.*

with EU Member States institutions to transfer knowledge, skills and best practices.

The **Inequality Marker** ("I-Marker") represents a significant step forward in the European Union's efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable development. The I-Marker helps better understand, track and benchmark the impact of its work on inequalities across all sectors by assessing whether and to what extent inequality reduction is an objective of a donor's intervention and, therefore, how likely it is to have an impact on reducing inequalities. This is customarily the case of those interventions designed to benefit, to a larger extent, the bottom (poorest) 40% or other socio-economically disadvantaged individuals, households or groups, such as women, young people or people with disabilities, but many other actions contribute actively to fighting inequalities. In 2023, 59% of all new actions funded by DG INTPA's budget had a substantial focus on reducing inequality.

The EU is investing in **agricultural research** to support partner countries to foster a productive, green, climate-relevant and inclusive transformation of agriculture and food systems through engagement and support with international agricultural research networks (in particular CGIAR) and a follow-up intervention to the DeSIRA initiative, with a specific attention to promoting innovations at scale for agroecology and developing Regional Multi-actor Research Networks in Agroecology in Sub-Saharan Africa. One example is the EU-African Union research and innovation partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (FNSSA), which focuses among others on sustainable intensification, agriculture and food systems for nutrition and improvement of agricultural trade. The European partnership for research and innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) contributes to progress towards the SDG 2 to support the development of sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

General acknowledgments[10]

Recognizes the possibility to, including through the mechanisms available to Global Alliance members, coordinate, partner with and/or seek support from the Global Alliance's other members, within their respective capacities, availability, and fields of activity, to carry out the present commitments with greater effectiveness.

While recognizing that the above commitments are voluntary and non-legally binding, being subject to and carried out under its own capacities, regulations, priorities, and modalities, as well as to the availability of appropriate resourcing, *strives* to seriously consider, as appropriate, and according to its own legal frameworks and governance process, to review its procedures and priorities as found necessary to better deliver on the present commitments, enhance synergies and joint efforts with other entities and initiatives, and improve outcomes on the collective fight against hunger and poverty.

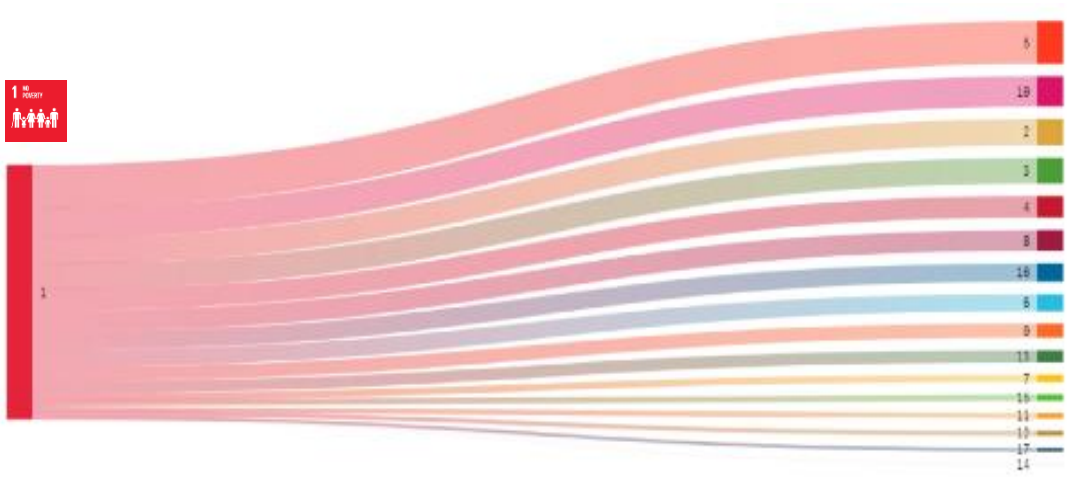
[10] *This language is intended to apply to all previous sections and commitments that have been chosen by the entity joining the Alliance, as a common undertaking.*

Annex to EU's commitments under the financial support section: illustrative graphs of EU contribution to SDG1 and SDG 2

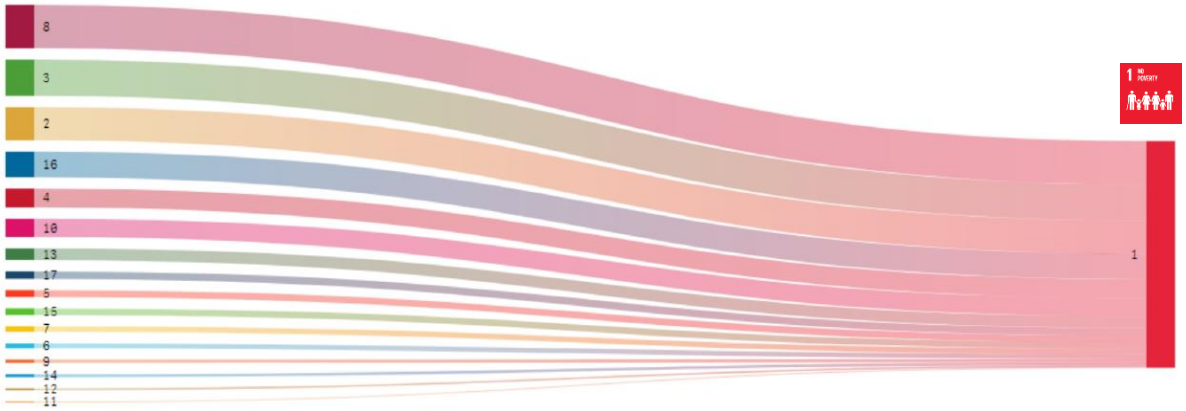
Through the **reporting** of its international partnerships, the **EU identifies the SDGs** to which each action contributes. This includes for each action the identification of **one main SDG** and **other significant SDGs**. On this basis, having regard to the objectives of the Global Alliance, the EU can complement the figures mentioned above with the following complementary information on how the actions in its international partnerships contribute to SDG 1 and SDG 2, while having regard to interlinkages between all relevant SDGs.

EU actions contributing to SDG1 (no poverty) and interlinkages with other SDGs

*The main share of the EU contribution to SDG 1 is accounted for by actions that target **SDG 1 as the main SDG**, with more than 80 actions in the period 2021-2023. These actions also contributed to other interlinked SDGs, notably gender equality (SDG 5), the fight against inequalities (SDG 10), food security (SDG 2), health (SDG 3), education (SDG4) and decent work and economic growth (SDG8).*

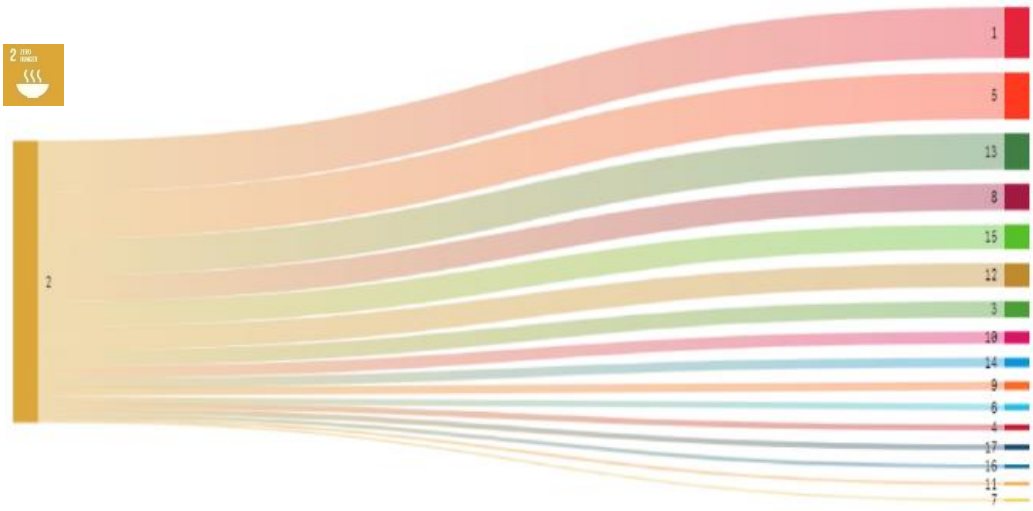
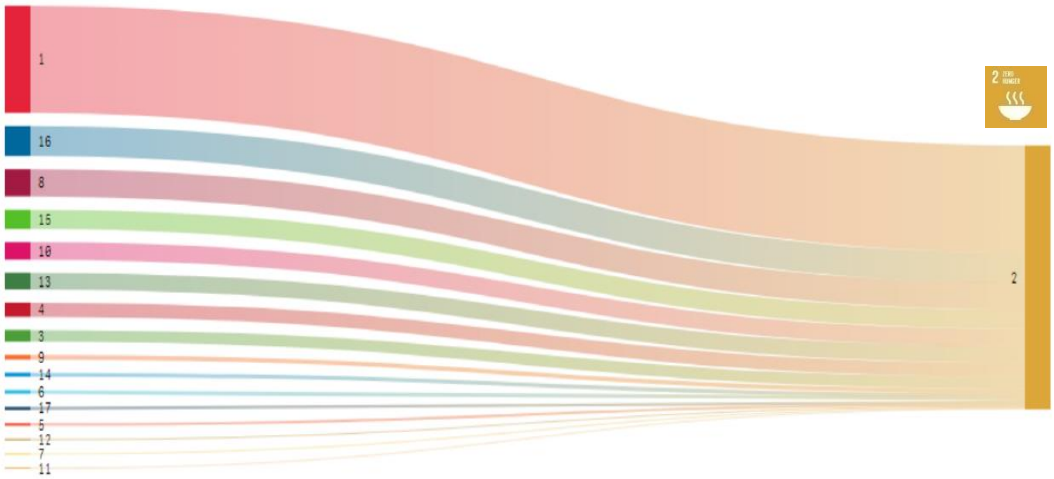


*In addition, **SDG1 was also reported as significant SDG** in the period 2021-2023 in more than 140 actions where other SDGs were marked as main SDG. Among such other actions, the main contribution to SDG1 came from actions targeting as the main SDG: decent work and economic growth (SDG8), health (SDG 3), food (SDG 2) and governance and human rights (SDG16).*



EU actions contributing to SDG2 (zero hunger) and interlinkages with other SDGs

*The main share of the EU contribution to SDG 2 is accounted for by actions that target **SDG 2 as the main SDG**, with more than 50 projects in the period 2021-2023. These actions also contributed to other interlinked SDGs, notably poverty (SDG 1), gender equality (SDG 5), climate change (SDG 13), decent work and economic growth (SDG8) and terrestrial biodiversity (SDG 15).*



*In addition, **SDG2 was also reported as significant SDG** in the period 2021-2023 in more than 140 actions where other SDGs were marked as main SDG. Among such other actions, the main contribution to SDG2 came from actions targeting as the main SDG: poverty (1), governance and human rights (SDG16), decent work and economic growth (SDG8), biodiversity (SDG 15), inequalities (SDG 10) and climate change (SDG13).*