

DANCHURCHAID  
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR

# **Enhancing the Resilience of Food Systems in Sub- Saharan Africa through Responsible Business Conduct**

Photo: Rasmus Emil Gravesen

DanChurchAid (DCA) works with communities, local and international partners to ensure food security and support the transition to more sustainable, resilient, and just food systems. DCA has experienced how multistakeholder dialogue can strengthen collaboration and showcase best practices among civil society and public and private duty-bearers, while supporting smallholder farmers and farmers organisations to position themselves for more influence.

Enhancing responsible business conduct (RBC) across food systems presents a significant opportunity not only for people and the planet but also for businesses themselves. Creating a positive impact for rights-holders and avoiding negative impacts strengthens the resilience of food value chains, which is illustrated through the highlighted recommendations.

The recommendations are derived from cases presented by DCAs partners and other actors promoting food systems change, thus allowing for diverse, multistakeholder experiences and perspectives. The cases are submitted by Danfoss, Shona, Centre for Education Policy and Climate Justice (CEPCJ), African Women Agribusiness Network Uganda Ltd (AWAN), Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA), Pamoja Trust, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), Transformational Investing in Food Systems (TIFS), and DCA.

The cases and elaborated recommendations are available in the report: "The Business Case of Food Systems Change: Enhancing the Resilience of Food Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa through Responsible Business Conduct and Multistakeholder Approaches" available at DCA's website or through the below QR-code.

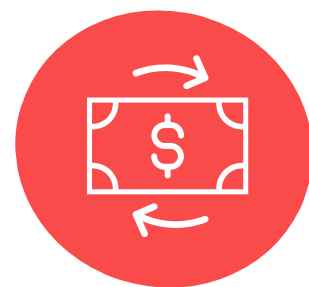


# RECOMMENDATIONS



## Showcase the Value Addition of RBC

- Agri- and food businesses that adhere to Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) standards strengthen their value chain resilience while ensuring positive social and environmental impact.
- Documenting good examples of positive impact provides inspiration for companies, investors, and policy makers to adopt more responsible and sustainable business models, driving change at large scale.



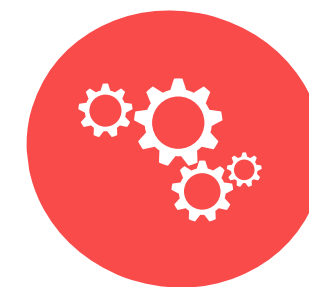
## Support Investment Flows into Agroecology

- Agroecological food systems include circular and regenerative principles and provide positive social and environmental impacts. Donors should allocate funding to mitigate risks and incentivize investments into agroecological food enterprises and development programmes.
- Systemic investment assessments and multistakeholder initiatives can unlock large-scale investments through innovative finance models. Simultaneously, credit facilities should tailor structures to support small-scale producers.



## Engage Civil Society in Food Systems Policy Processes

- Including local civil society through meaningful consultations and leveraging locally and farmer-led research and innovations promotes inclusive, systemic and cross-sectoral policy processes.
- Policy processes should prioritize local livelihoods, food security and access to clean, healthy and sustainable environments.



## Ensure that UNGPs Reach Farm Levels

- National policies should be coherent not only horizontally, but also vertically. Governments need to equip relevant local authorities and agencies to ensure uptake at all levels.
- Furthermore, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) outlines that businesses' human rights policies should be accessible to potentially affected stakeholders, including farm- and other operational levels.



### **Benchmark National Policies and Law against the CSDDD**

- National regulation should impose concrete due diligence provisions for prevention, mitigation and remedy mechanisms, aligning with the CSDDD risk-based due diligence requirements.
- Aligning national policies to the CSDDD is essential for exports to the EU markets, but it can also drive market uptake beyond EU markets.



### **Ensure Access to Food Markets for Marginalised Groups**

- Donors and private investors should support innovations and innovative business models that enhance marginalized groups' access to food markets. This strengthens local food systems, value chains and reduces inequalities and food insecurity.
- Businesses should leverage on the inclusion of women to promote gender equality in business models and in governance structures.



### **Establish Safeguards for Groups at Risk of Rights Abuses**

- Businesses, investors and policy makers should establish safeguards such as complaints and grievance mechanisms to protect marginalised and at-risk groups, e.g. safeguarding women by preventing GBV and make sure that fair maternity schemes are in place.
- Additionally, groups representing marginalised groups should be included in risk assessment processes.



### **Integrate Interventions of Short- and Long-term Food Security**

- Donors should address food insecurity by integrating short- and long-term food security interventions, such as supporting the transition to climate resilient, sustainable agroecology-based food production.
- This enhances self-reliance in fragile contexts, nature restoration for ecosystem-based adaptation, reduces dependency on global value chains that can be disrupted, and creates local green jobs and income opportunities.