

# FORMULATED COMPLEMENTARY FOODS (FCF)

## BOOSTING LOCAL MANUFACTURING OF NUTRITIOUS FOODS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN<sup>1</sup>

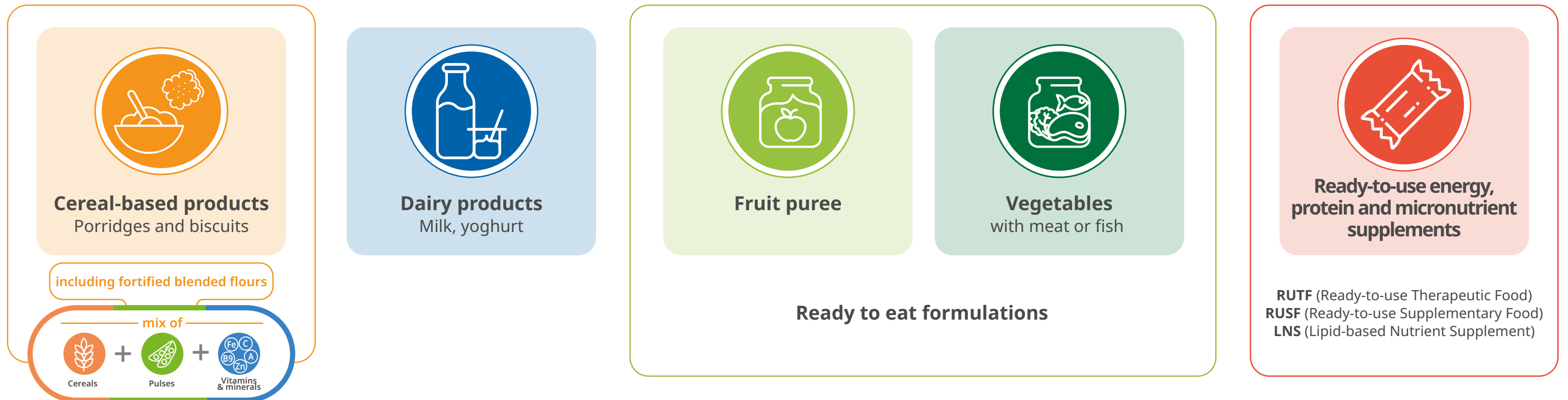
FCF are foods for children from 6 to 24 months old<sup>2</sup> that are specifically formulated to meet their nutritional needs

Developing value chains is a key element in the transition to a resilient, more competitive and economically integrated Africa.

This is contributing to the Global Gateway strategy aiming to tackling global challenges, from fighting climate change, to improving health systems, and boosting competitiveness and security of global supply chains. The integration of nutrition objectives in these investments can help ensuring that no one is left behind.

Making FCF available, affordable and accessible to the most vulnerable ones contributes to reducing young children's malnutrition, preventing them from having irreversible long-term consequences on cognition, health and educational performance.<sup>3</sup>

## KEY CATEGORIES OF FCF<sup>4</sup>



1. Up to 2 years of age.

2. The European Union (EU) promotes exclusive breastfeeding for babies from 0 to 6 months old in accordance with WHO guidance and will not promote any substitute to breastfeeding for babies under 6 months old. It is recommended to continue breastfeeding until 24 months.

3. WHO and UNICEF (2003). Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding.

4. Must be aligned with the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines on formulated complementary foods for older infants and young children.

## WHY SUPPORTING FCF VALUE CHAIN PLAYERS?



At the 2021 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in Tokyo, the EU pledged to commit € 2.5 billion for 2021-2024 to reduce all forms of malnutrition.<sup>1</sup> This pledge was exceeded with total commitments with a nutrition objective amounting to € 4.5 billion in the first three years alone.



The Council Conclusions on the Team Europe response to global food insecurity call to:  
**‘Further engage with African partners in a deepened dialogue on food security and nutrition (...) including on sustainable agricultural value chains and resilient food systems.’<sup>2</sup>**



African Union

At the AU Summit in November 2022, the EU and the African Union (AU) officially endorsed the report "Made by Africa" suggesting real potential for developing and scaling up infant food value chains in Africa, calling for action to strengthen the local capacity of nutritious and high-quality food production and the facilitation of sourcing and selling across borders to reduce dependency on food imports.<sup>3</sup>

1. The EU supports a multisectoral approach towards improved nutrition outcomes. Dietary diversification, food fortification and supplementation form part of a broader package to improve diets and tackle micronutrient deficiencies.  
2. Council of the European Union (20 June 2022). Team Europe response to global food insecurity. Council Conclusions approved by the Council at its 3884th meeting.  
3. International Trade Centre (2022). Made by Africa: Creating Value through Integration.

## LONG TERM POSITIVE IMPACTS



Reduction of malnutrition and prevention of child deaths.



Job creation, empowerment of women and parents, capacity building in food safety.



Transformation of production, reduction of import dependency, and paving the way towards higher value-added products.



Investments in processing equipment for FCF can be used for food production targeting other population groups and thereby ensure their food security and improved nutrition.



School aged children<sup>1</sup> (including school meals)<sup>2</sup>



Women of reproductive age and lactating women



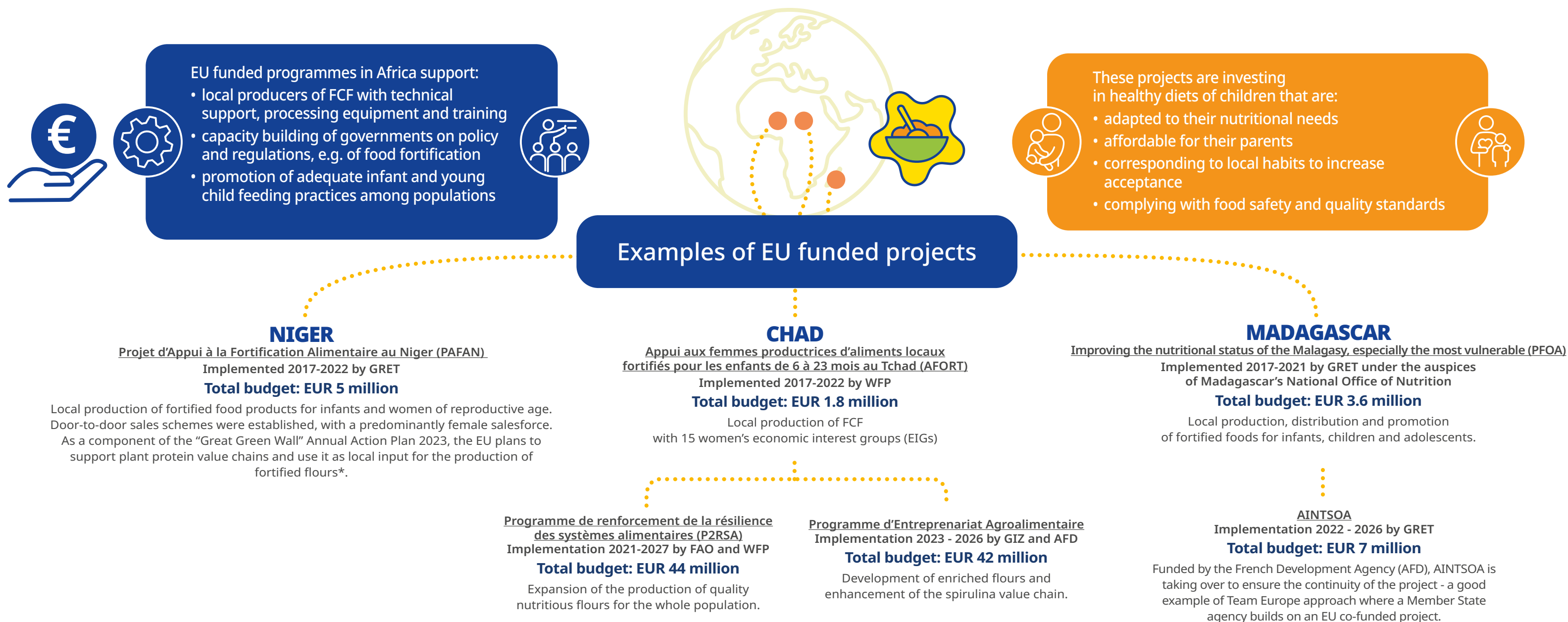
Adults including some elderly, chronically or disabled persons



Vulnerable people such as refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs)

1. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defines school aged children in three age groups, ages 6-11, ages 12-17 and ages 18-23. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-des-policy-brief-no-152-population-education-and-sustainable-development-interlinkages-and-select-policy-implications/>  
 2. The European Commission is a member of the School Meals Coalition. <https://schoolmealscoalition.org/>

# WHAT IS THE EU DOING TO SUPPORT LOCAL MANUFACTURERS OF FCF?

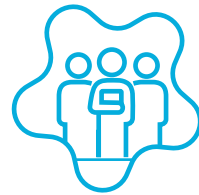


\* Since the coup d'état in July 2023, the project is on hold.

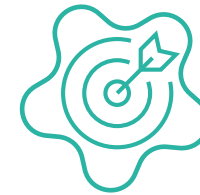
## WHAT CAN BE DONE TO SUPPORT LOCAL MANUFACTURERS OF FCF?



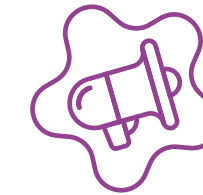
**1 FINANCIAL SUPPORT**  
focusing on **female entrepreneurs**, who make up the majority of infant food producers and face challenges accessing funding.



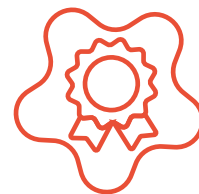
**2 POLICY DIALOGUE ON FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS**  
with governments of partner countries to **create a better business climate** for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).



**3 TARGETED SUPPORT**  
for **SMEs** who manufacture FCF e.g., start-up grants, tax breaks and reduced import-tax on processing equipment and vitamins and minerals.



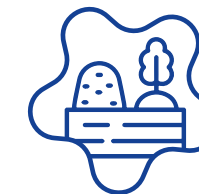
**4 SUPPORTING COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS**  
in partner countries to raise awareness on the benefits of locally produced FCF and build trust in local brands.



**5 STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL QUALITY CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURES**  
and supporting producers to get access to accredited laboratories and testing facilities to ensure **food safety**.



**6 IMPROVING LOCAL AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY**  
of good quality and sustainable **packaging** for FCF.



**7 BOOSTING THE DEMAND FOR LOCALLY PRODUCED FCF**  
by ensuring that when local manufacturers deliver adequate quality, they are systematically included in procurement processes.

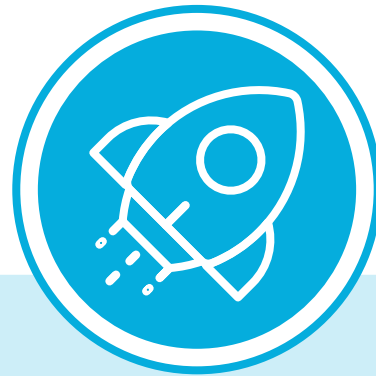
The 360° approach to the Global Gateway includes improving policy, regulatory and fiscal frameworks, while fostering better social inclusion and development outcomes. Investments in local food production that ensure social, environmental, and labour standards can lead to greater resilience and self-reliance of countries and communities.

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS



### TO DESIGN PROGRAMMES

Consult maternal and child health groups, parents, academic groups, guidance bodies (including UNICEF, WHO and others) to ensure that programmes deliver products that meet needs, are affordable, accessible and safe.



### TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMMES

Consider working with EU Member States agencies, NGOs and UN agencies, having experience working with local manufacturers of FCF.



### TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

Enhance Business to Business Partnerships and Public Private Partnerships by promoting collaboration between European and African FCF companies for transfer of expertise and technologies, pushing for more investment from the private sector.