

Annex:

Technical brief on FAO's work in Support of Achieving Zero Hunger

Background

Hunger and poverty are the biggest obstacles to human development and economic growth. Although progress has been made in reducing the number of hungry and poor people in the past decades, nearly **800 million people** still suffer from chronic hunger, about **767 million** people continue to live in extreme poverty and inequalities are still pervasive, between economic classes, rural and urban areas, regions, ethnic groups and between men and women.

Most poor and hungry people live in rural areas, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia and South Asia. While there is more than enough food for everyone on the planet today, many people do not have the resources to purchase food in good quantity and quality, nor do they have the means to produce it. Wars and economic crises are also preventing people from accessing food, while climate change is significantly and increasingly affecting food security and nutrition in many regions of the world.

Hunger and extreme poverty can be eliminated in our lifetime

By 2050 food production will need to double to feed an additional 2 billion people. Agriculture will need to become more sustainable and inclusive to enable long-term development and contribute to productive livelihoods. That is why a pro-poor approach is needed - where investment in agriculture and rural development is increased substantially targeting the poor to close the gap between low- and middle-income countries and also within countries.

With the adoption of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries have renewed their commitment to eradicate hunger and poverty, recognizing that inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth is key for achieving sustainable development.

As part of its mandate, FAO is working with governments, civil society, the private sector and other development partners to foster political commitment and concrete actions to end hunger and poverty, to make sure that no one is left behind.

What is the Zero Hunger Challenge?

The Zero Hunger Challenge is an inter-agency initiative which aims to:

- Achieve access to enough food and a healthy diet for all people, all year round
- End malnutrition in all its forms
- Ensure sustainable food systems - from production to consumption
- End rural poverty - doubling smallholder productivity and incomes
- Adapt all food systems to eliminate loss or waste of food

FAO's work to achieve Zero Hunger

FAO is contributing to achieve the Zero Hunger Challenge through its strategic work on hunger and poverty eradication.

FAO supports countries in turning political will into concrete action, by:

- ➔ Assessing and addressing current and evolving problems related to food security and nutrition;
- ➔ Identifying options for overcoming obstacles to the achievement of food security and nutrition for all;
- ➔ Formulating and implementing effective and efficient policy and programming response to address the immediate and underlying causes that trap the hungry, food insecure and malnourished in a vicious circle of chronic deprivation;
- ➔ Designing pro-poor policies, strategies and programmes that promote inclusive and sustainable agriculture, increased productivity, income diversification, decent employment and access to social protection in rural areas.

Using data and evidence to inform policies and programs, FAO works to:

- ➔ Develop the capacity of countries to uptake relevant information and analysis for decision related to food security, nutrition and rural development;
- ➔ Collect and analyze rural poverty and development trends to contribute to monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals related to rural poverty, as well as knowledge generation on approaches with a proven poverty reduction impact;
- ➔ Establish and maintain well-functioning government structures to monitor, map and assess policies, strategies and national programmes on food security, nutrition and poverty reduction on a regular basis;
- ➔ Develop standards and harmonizing methods and tools to evaluate policies, programmes, legislations and investments in their impact on hunger and poverty reduction, and allow dissemination of results to governments and development partners.

FAO promotes the enhancement of governance and coordination, by:

- ➔ Inter-sectoral dialogue to develop a common understanding of FSN and rural poverty problems and solutions and reach consensus over FSN and rural poverty issues;
- ➔ The establishment of inclusive FSN and poverty reducing coordination mechanisms to ensure policy coherence;
- ➔ Inclusive platforms and new spaces allowing a broad range of committed actors and stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner for food security, nutrition and rural development;
- ➔ Empowering the rural poor and strengthening rural institutions, including producer organizations, to enhance access to, and control over, productive resources, services and markets, as well as to enable them to influence the formulation of rural development policies that affect their livelihoods.

Linking SDG1 and SDG2

FAO helps countries achieve SDG1 (poverty elimination) and SDG2 (zero hunger) by supporting the improvement of the livelihoods of poor and the extreme rural poor, including smallholders and family farmers.

Both goals are connected since meeting the basic needs of the poor means ensuring their food security. By also improving their nutrition, the poor's capacity to increase their productivity and incomes is also enhanced, and the intergenerational transmission of poverty is reduced. This means moving away from the vicious circle of poverty, hunger and low productivity to enter a virtuous circle of better nutrition, higher productivity and greater income generation.

FAO's regional initiatives on ending hunger and poverty

Asia and the Pacific's Zero Hunger Challenge

In 2013, countries in the Asia and Pacific region reaffirmed their strong commitment to end hunger and malnutrition by taking up the UN Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge. Despite strong economic growth over the past two decades, the Asia and Pacific region still represents 62 percent of the world's undernourished people and over 100 million stunted children. Income growth alone will not solve the problem of food insecurity and Member Governments increasingly recognize the need to adopt an integrated approach that focuses on the root causes of hunger and involves all stakeholders. As a result of the Zero Hunger Challenge, a "Regional Guiding Framework for Achieving Zero Hunger in Asia and the Pacific" was developed which calls for concrete action at the country level. Given the complexity and ambition of the call, many countries require support and FAO is committed to providing assistance through this Regional Initiative.

In Bangladesh, since 2006, FAO has been conducting major capacity development efforts that enable the Government to develop, implement and monitor a comprehensive National Food Policy (NFP), its plan of action and a Country Investment Plan (CIP) to mobilize resources for agriculture, food security and nutrition. In addition, FAO supports a number of food-based nutrition programmes and capacity development efforts to mainstream nutrition into development activities.

Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025

Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025 supports and capacitates governments in focus countries to engage in multi-sectoral planning, coordinated implementation, monitoring and evaluation with financial commitments to food security and nutrition policies and programmes under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) initiative.

Through the Malabo Declaration, adopted by African Heads of States in June 2014, with its implementation strategy and roadmap on "Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods" seeks to achieve the 2025 vision of ending hunger in Africa.

The main expected result is to accelerate and add value to ongoing regional and country efforts through capacity strengthening and inter-sectoral coordination for accountability on investments, with coherent and harmonized programme delivery at all levels.

FAO has helped countries improve access to data and information by reinforcing food security and nutrition information systems to inform policy making, mapping of hunger related programmes (Angola and Ethiopia), mainstreaming of key nutrition indicators into the CAADP results and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, capacity development on the minimum dietary diversity score for women (in particular Angola and Niger) and in the development of an agricultural statistics action plan (Malawi).

FAO is supporting countries to implement and scale up nutritional sensitive social protection systems, and build the link with agriculture interventions, supporting the targeting of the most vulnerable.

Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative

Latin America and the Caribbean was the first region worldwide to commit to completely eradicating hunger by 2025. This commitment is based on the unique progress achieved by the region, which is the only one who reached both international targets in hunger reduction - the World Food Summit's and the Millennium Development Goals' - of halving both the number and percentage of undernourished people.

One of the crucial aspects behind this achievement has been a high-level political commitment, translated into regional, subregional and national hunger eradication plans and strategies.

Through this initiative FAO is supporting major food security arrangements in the region including the Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication Plan 2025 launched by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC in 2015 with the support of FAO and the Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger. This Front brings together legislators throughout the region, both at national and regional level, to strengthen food security through laws granting funds to achieve food security and poverty eradication.