Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Strategic work of FAO to

HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME TO HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE STRATEGIC WORK OF FAO TO HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION.

www.fao.org/about/what-we-do/so1/en/
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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

A man watering a vegetable crop.
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KEY MESSAGES

FAO supports countries in:

- Developing and implementing tailored cross-sectoral policy and programming responses to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms
- Establishing and strengthening inclusive food security and nutrition coordination and governance mechanisms to ensure coherence across policies and programmes
- Improving information and building capacities for better decision-making on food security and nutrition
- Enhancing governments' capacities to finance and implement policies and programmes for eradicating food insecurity and malnutrition.

"OUR GOAL IS TO END HUNGER IN THE WORLD. THIS IS NECESSARY TO MEET ALL THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS. WE SIMPLY CANNOT CALL DEVELOPMENT SUSTAINABLE WHILE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE LEFT BEHIND."

José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General

ERADICATING HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION IN OUR LIFETIMES

The world has seen dramatic improvements in the fight against hunger and malnutrition over the past two decades.

Despite this progress, however, chronic hunger, undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies remain widespread. Around 793 million people today still suffer from chronic hunger and a staggering one in four are affected by micronutrient deficiencies. At the same time, it is estimated that almost 1.9 billion people are overweight and 600 million are obese and therefore at a heightened risk of diet-related non-communicable diseases.

The coexistence of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity represents the triple burden of malnutrition that brings with it a range of major health, social and economic challenges.

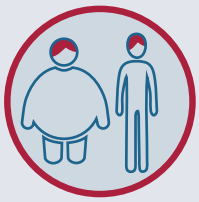
Demographic changes, such as population growth, migration to cities, changes in consumption patterns, more sedentary lifestyles, low-quality employment, conflicts, climate change, natural disasters, competition for natural resources, the obstacles women face in rural areas to access resources and services, are just some of the global challenges that add layers of complexity to the problem.

UNLESS WE CHANGE HOW WE GROW OUR FOOD AND MANAGE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION WILL CONTINUE TO BE AT RISK.

The human, social and economic costs of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition to society are enormous and far reaching: lost productivity, health-related problems, reduced well-being, decreased learning ability, reduced fulfilment of human potential, and social and political unrest that undermine development efforts.

Under a 'business as usual' scenario, the Sustainable Development Goal to end hunger by 2030 (SDG2) will not be achieved. In fact, unless we improve and make our food systems more nutrition-sensitive, large segments of the world's population, particularly

HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION



793 million
people are chronically undernourished today

98%
of undernourished people live in developing countries

One third
of all child deaths can be attributed to undernutrition

Over **2 billion** people suffer from 'hidden hunger' while **600 million** people are suffering from obesity

Demand for food is projected to expand by **60%** as the global population increases to **9.7 billion** by **2050**

The eradication of hunger by **2030** requires an additional world investment of **US$267 billion** per year

in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, will remain malnourished in 2030 and even in 2050.

Eradicating hunger requires policy action that is multi-dimensional in approach. Depending on the specific context of a country, the requirements can range from increasing agricultural productivity and accessing markets, to investing in family farming, small-scale fisheries and forestry, to fostering governance of land tenure and natural resources, to strengthening nutrition-sensitive social protection mechanisms, addressing gender inequalities, to improving monitoring and coordination mechanisms for food security and nutrition, to investing in education, health, water and sanitation, or a combination of the above.

Unless we change how we grow our food, manage our natural resources and promote sustainable livelihoods, food security and nutrition –especially for the world's poorest– will continue to be at risk.

For countries to succeed, they must turn political commitment into concrete action. When food systems are more efficient, sustainable and nutrition-sensitive countries will have delivered on their promise to eradicate hunger in our lifetime.

SETTING EVERYTHING IN MOTION: POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Countries are increasingly recognizing how sustainable agricultural and food systems can address the vicious cycle of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

In the past two decades, the voices of countries pledging their commitment to do so and leave no one behind, have grown louder and bolder on international stages.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development proposes a global rethink of how we produce food and manage our dwindling natural resources. It recognizes that the world can no longer manage food production and natural resources separately and that everyone must work together, especially if we are to attain a world without hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 (SDG 2). Many countries are now including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), companies and academia in the conversation, and their combined efforts are paving the way for more effective regional and national action.

As a specialized UN agency with a mandate to help countries eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, FAO is uniquely placed to guide countries to strengthen their policy and institutional environments so that their political commitment can be translated into concrete action.

FAO IS UNIQUELY PLACED TO GUIDE COUNTRIES TO TURN THEIR POLITICAL COMMITMENT INTO CONCRETE ACTION.

The focus of the Organization's work in supporting these actions is structured along four main dimensions:

1. **POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS:** support enabling environments that actually contribute to better food security and nutrition
2. **GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION:** encourage stronger and more inclusive coordination across sectors and stakeholders
3. **EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING:** ensure that the formulation of policies, investment and action plans is based on sound evidence and analysis
4. **TURNING COMMITMENT INTO CONCRETE ACTION:** promote greater political commitment and allocation of adequate resources in order to translate policies, programmes and legislation into concrete action.

HAITI

Rice being sold at the Pontsonde market on the banks of the Artibonite River.
©FAO/Walter Astrada

POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

SHARPENING THE FOCUS OF POLICIES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Commitment by governments to combat hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition is reflected in the policies, investments and legislations they create.

FAO supports countries in adopting or redesigning policies, strategies, laws and investment plans, within and across sectors, to sharpen their effectiveness in addressing food insecurity and malnutrition.

In the last two years FAO, in collaboration with different partners, has guided countries in outlining the need for greater policy focus and coherence across relevant sectors to achieve better food security and nutrition.

FAO policy advice to the governments of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho and Zambia, in 2014-2015, for example, has improved the impact of agricultural and social protection policies on food security and nutrition.

FAO is also an active partner at regional levels. In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO is supporting the Hunger-Free initiative, along with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), to reinforce and support the region's commitment in its fight against hunger.

Following the Malabo Declaration that was adopted in Africa in 2014, FAO has been supporting African countries through the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development in producing and implementing a roadmap to end hunger for the whole region. In Asia, the support by FAO has been instrumental in including nutrition issues into the integrated food security strategy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

QUICK FACTS

> Global policy processes are putting the 2030 Agenda into practice, through the Committee for Food Security (CFS), the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), and through various committees on agriculture, fisheries and forestry (COAG, COFI and COFO), that focus on ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

> Over 70 countries are mainstreaming food security and nutrition in policy frameworks and investment programmes across the globe.

> Sixteen countries have developed and are implementing legal frameworks that are conducive to the right to food for everyone and ensure more secure and equitable access to resources and assets to produce food.

> Regional organizations, such as the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Indian Ocean Commission, are supporting the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, and their application within national policy and legal frameworks.

Results of FAO support since 2014.

MALAWI

Enhancing food security in cassava-based farming systems.
©FAO/Giulio Napolitano

THE WAY WE DELIVER: FIRST, THE NEW POLICY ASSISTANCE FACILITY

In 2015, a policy assistance facility was created to generate a more explicit political commitment for improved food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in 34 countries. The policy assistance facility, called FIRST (Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation) was established in collaboration with the European Union, a long-term partner in development that shares the vision of FAO for a world without hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The programme provides policy assistance and capacity development support to national government institutions and sub-regional organizations involved in food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture policy and governance.

GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

IMPROVING PARTICIPATION ACROSS SECTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Ridding the world of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition requires action at every level of society, from consumers to producers, governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and international organizations.

Engaging multiple stakeholders throughout the process is essential to leverage their strengths, align their competitive advantages to national priorities and maximize food security and nutrition impact across the overall portfolio of policies, programmes and investment plans.

With this in mind, FAO works with stakeholders at national, regional and international levels to enhance their governance and coordination mechanisms. The challenge is to improve coordination for any real progress to happen. And there cannot be progress without an environment that creates incentives for all stakeholders, allowing them to sit at the decision-making table and play their part in the policy formulation and implementation of these decisions.

FAO is currently working with partners through dialogues or extended coordination mechanisms. For example, in Guatemala and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA), FAO facilitated the setup of a participatory process to formulate the MAGA's institutional policy for gender equality and its

QUICK FACTS

> Coordination within and among global platforms such as CFS, SUN, ICN2 and the 2030 Agenda and various global and regional initiatives has been strengthened.

> 5 regional and sub-regional Parliamentary Fronts and 17 national Parliamentary Fronts have been established in Latin America and the Caribbean. They work as fora for dialogue and discussion to make headway on hunger eradication in their countries and regions.

> Through the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, 130 cities have prioritized food policies in their political agenda, while engaging with different urban stakeholders such as universities, civil society organizations, and business sectors to curb food waste, increase access to healthy food, and support local production.

> Several countries such as Guatemala, Liberia, Malawi, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda, have established multi-stakeholder platforms to mainstream the principles promoted by the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security in their policies.

> 13 countries have inserted the recognition of the right to food in their constitutions following the adoption of the Right to Food Guidelines in 2004.

Results of FAO support since 2014.

ITALY

FAO Conference 39th Session, FAO headquarters Plenary Hall (2015). ©FAO/Giulio Napolitano

strategic implementation framework towards 2023. This represents a remarkable achievement for the country where the formulation of the policy took into account the voices of key civil society groups, including those of rural indigenous Guatemalan women.

The Organization also works with various global initiatives, such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, the Renewed Effort Against Child Hunger (REACH) initiative, the Global Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance, follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), the Commission on Genetic Resources, and the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) to improve coordination and strengthen the coherence between policy initiatives ongoing at global level and local policies, programmes and investment plans related to food security and nutrition.

THE WAY WE DELIVER: THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

The CFS is an inclusive and intergovernmental global platform for stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way on ending hunger. The annual CFS plenary session provides a forum for inclusive dialogue on key issues relevant to food security and nutrition. The outcome of these discussions lead to consensus-based policy recommendations, sometimes in the form of voluntary guidelines or guiding principles that assist stakeholders in achieving their food security and nutrition objectives. The inclusive and evidence-based process through which CFS policy products are developed, combined with their formal endorsement by a legitimate UN body, provide the basic framework for effective implementation by a variety of actors at global, regional and national levels.

One example of a CFS outcome is the **Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT)**, which were endorsed by CFS in 2012. The purpose of these guidelines is to serve as a reference and guidance to improve the governance of land tenure, fisheries and forests with the overarching aim of achieving national food security.

Another example of a global policy process is the **Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security,** which was adopted by FAO Council in November 2004. Since then, many governments and civil society organizations use the Right to Food Guidelines to build "an enabling environment for people to feed themselves in dignity and to establish appropriate safety nets for those who are unable to do so",* prioritizing the most vulnerable in policy design and implementation, and by adopting principles such as participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment and rule of law.

** Right to Food Guidelines, page iii.*

EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING

BETTER INFORMATION FOR BETTER FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION DECISIONS

Targeted action to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition requires a common understanding of the root causes of such deprivation.

Arriving to a common understanding is often hindered by unreliable, fragmented or non-existent information, or the lack of information regarding the contributions and actions by different sectors and stakeholders to food security and nutrition.

Good decision-making stems from solid evidence, based on reliable data, statistics and information - and sound analysis. Sound analysis, on the other hand, requires not only the capacity to analyse the available information, but also good communication skills to inform decision-makers. At the same time, an understanding of the current policies, programmes, legislation and investments in place is crucial to monitor and assess their real impact on lowering the rates of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in the country.

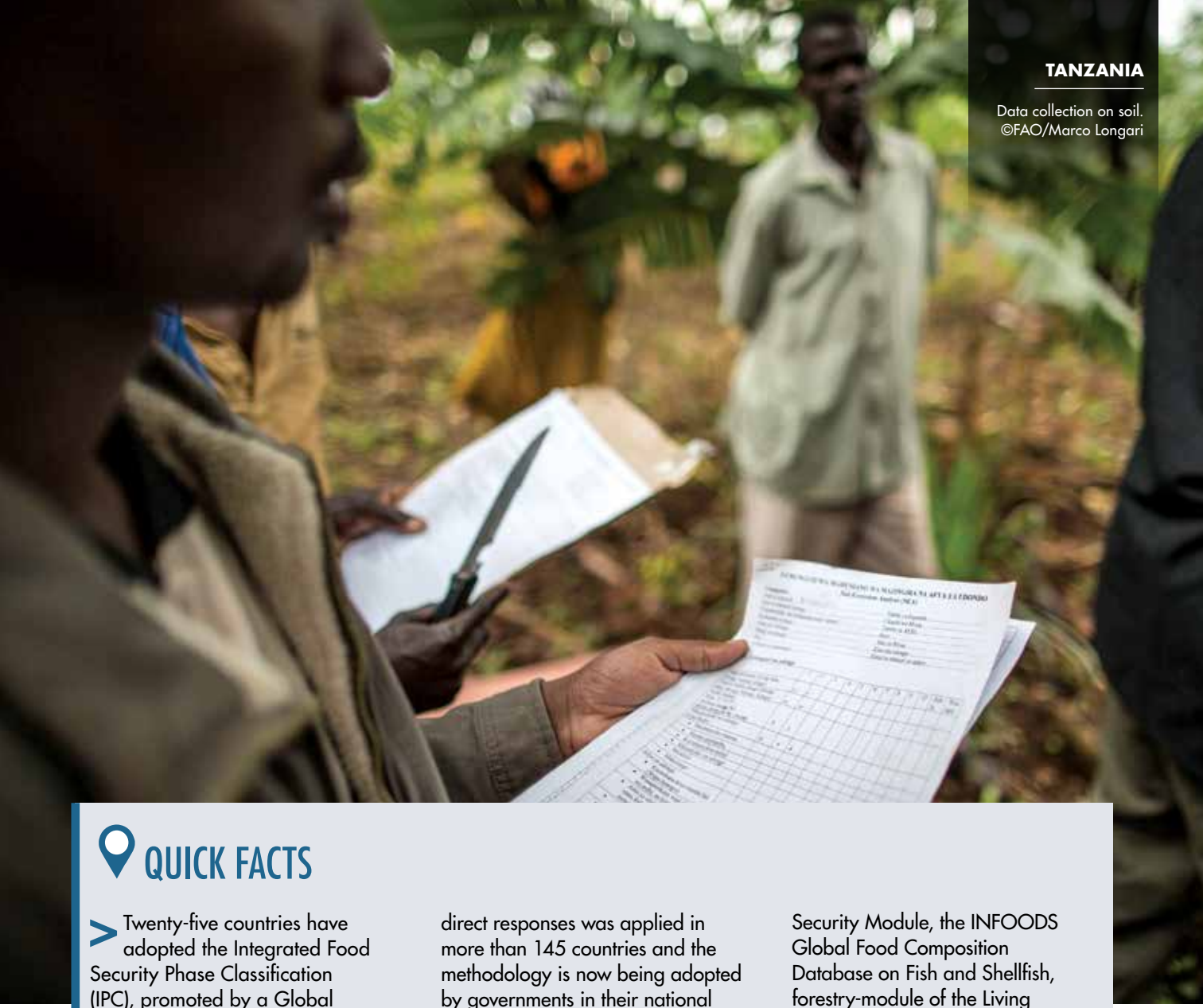
Defining the scope of the food and nutrition situation in a country is no easy task. Accurate data and information related to the contribution of relevant sectors on nutrition, food consumption and production, trade and distribution systems, household incomes, among others are crucial elements to understanding the multiple dimensions of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

FAO helps governments to generate credible data and statistics and strengthen the analytical capacities of relevant institutions. Much of this work aims at ensuring that the formulation of policies, investments and action plans are based on the analysis and evidence generated.

GOOD DECISION-MAKING STEMS FROM SOLID EVIDENCE, BASED ON RELIABLE DATA, STATISTICS AND SOUND ANALYSIS.

The Organization also helps to enhance countries' capacities to monitor progress, assess impacts and learn lessons, while making sure that actions by countries bring them closer to eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition for their citizens. As an example, Ethiopia has recently published its first stock taking exercise on progress made on food security and nutrition, reviewing policies, investments and coordination mechanisms.

The work of FAO in this area will become increasingly important in the context of supporting countries to monitor their progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda. FAO will continue promoting a common understanding of food security and nutrition solutions to enable transparent decision-making by countries, resulting in improved policies and actions that build food security for all of their citizens.



TANZANIA

Data collection on soil.
©FAO/Marco Longari

QUICK FACTS

> Twenty-five countries have adopted the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), promoted by a Global Partnership of 12 food security agencies, which also support the development of IPC protocols for the classification of the severity and magnitude of food insecurity, including the Chronic Food Insecurity Classification.

> The Food Insecurity Experience Scale, an experience-based metric of severity of food insecurity that relies on people's direct responses was applied in more than 145 countries and the methodology is now being adopted by governments in their national household surveys.

> A set of global indicators, tools and methodologies are produced to support the use of evidence for informed decision making at country, regional and global levels, including the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food data Tool, the Global Information and Early Warning System Food Price Data and Analysis, the ADePT Food Security Module, the INFOODS Global Food Composition Database on Fish and Shellfish, forestry-module of the Living Standards Measurement Study, among others.

> FAO supported more than 50 countries in the development of national capacities to monitor, analyse, communicate and make better use of relevant food security and nutrition data and information for improved decision-making.

Results of FAO support since 2014.

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO CONCRETE ACTION

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO CONCRETE ACTION

For countries to translate their policies and investment plans into action they need to mobilize increased financial resources effectively for food security and nutrition.

The role of FAO lies in providing support to governments to assess what financing requirements they may have to implement policies and plans. Once clarified, FAO helps governments map existing resources and increase resource mobilization. Ongoing assistance is provided to governments in the form of tracking resource flows towards food security and nutrition.

Effective implementation requires strengthened human and organizational capacities of institutions that work on food security and nutrition issues. FAO supports countries in undertaking capacity needs assessment and developing institutional capacities for turning policies and plans into effective action. FAO does this also through the development of learning tools to create a critical mass of professionals and organizations at country level.

QUICK FACTS

> Universities, including 6 universities in Africa, have integrated the ENACT (Education for Effective Nutrition in Action) nutrition education and communication face-to-face course into their university programmes.

> Over 20 countries were supported in nutrition-sensitive agriculture investment planning (see text box).

> More than 16 countries received support through the programme on Monitoring and Analyzing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP).

Results of FAO support since 2014.

VIET NAM

A fish farmer working the fish cages.
©FAO/Pham Cu

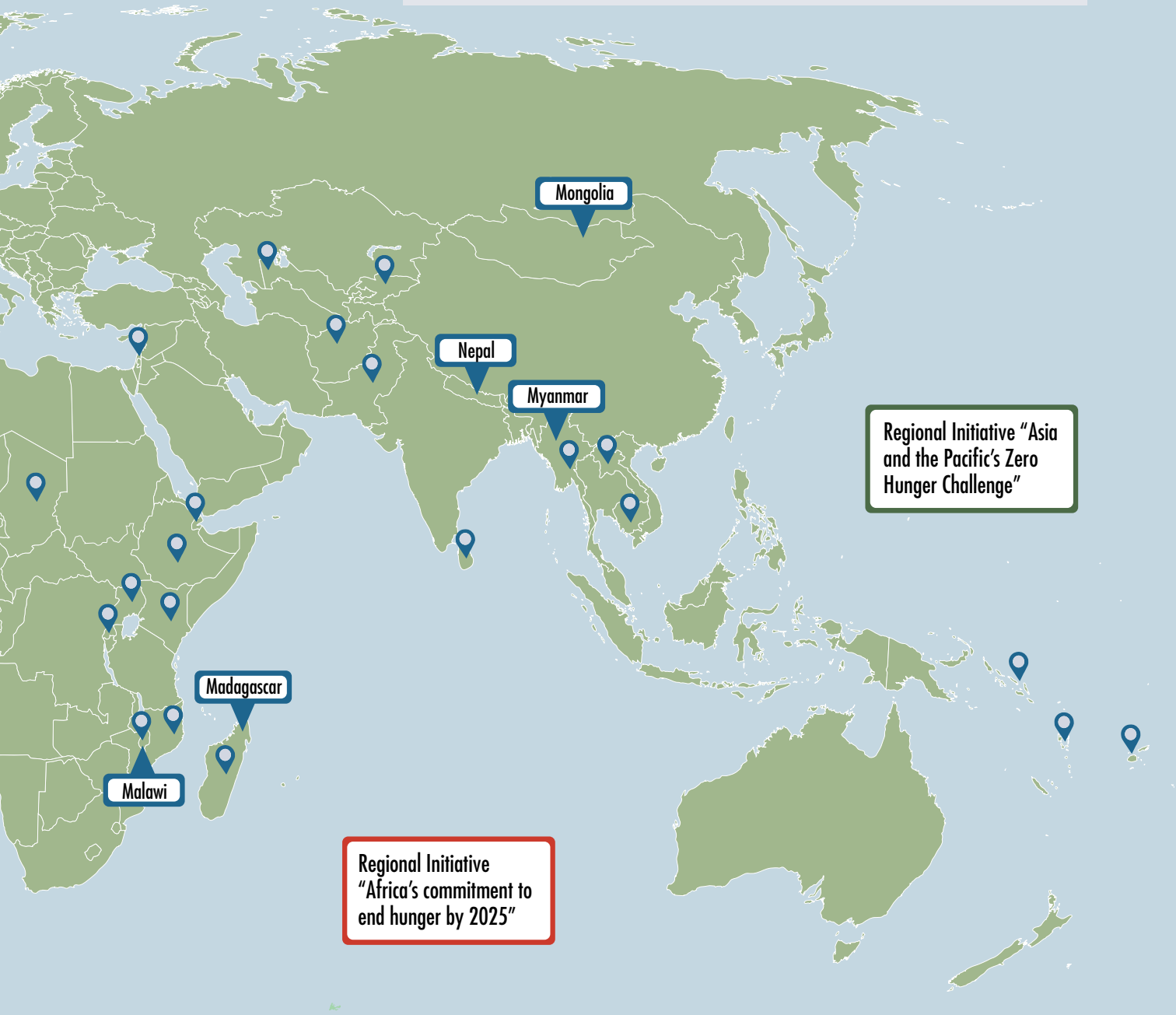
NUTRITION-SENSITIVE INVESTMENT

FAO supports countries in investing in a plethora of sectors: agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry, value chain development, rural infrastructure and services, poverty reduction and social protection schemes. Incorporating food security and nutrition considerations in the design and implementation of these investment programmes makes them more effective in reducing hunger and various forms of malnutrition. This means placing the nutritional needs of consumers at the core of investments and working out the various entry points through which these sector investments can produce nutritional benefits.

FAO works with its International Financing Institutions partners who share the same purpose of making their investments more nutrition-sensitive. The Organization has developed tools to strengthen the capacities of countries. These include a guidance checklist for enhancing the Nutritional Impact of Agriculture Investment Programmes, a compendium of nutrition-sensitive agriculture indicators and e-learning materials.

ACHIEVING RESULTS AND SHOWING IMPACT

In close collaboration with its partners, FAO works to help eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in countries and regions around the world, as illustrated in the **following examples.**



REGIONAL INITIATIVES

The role of FAO on the ground is primarily as a catalyst for turning theory into practice, where it seeks to strengthen the programming, mechanisms, capacity and delivery of regions needed to end hunger by 2030.

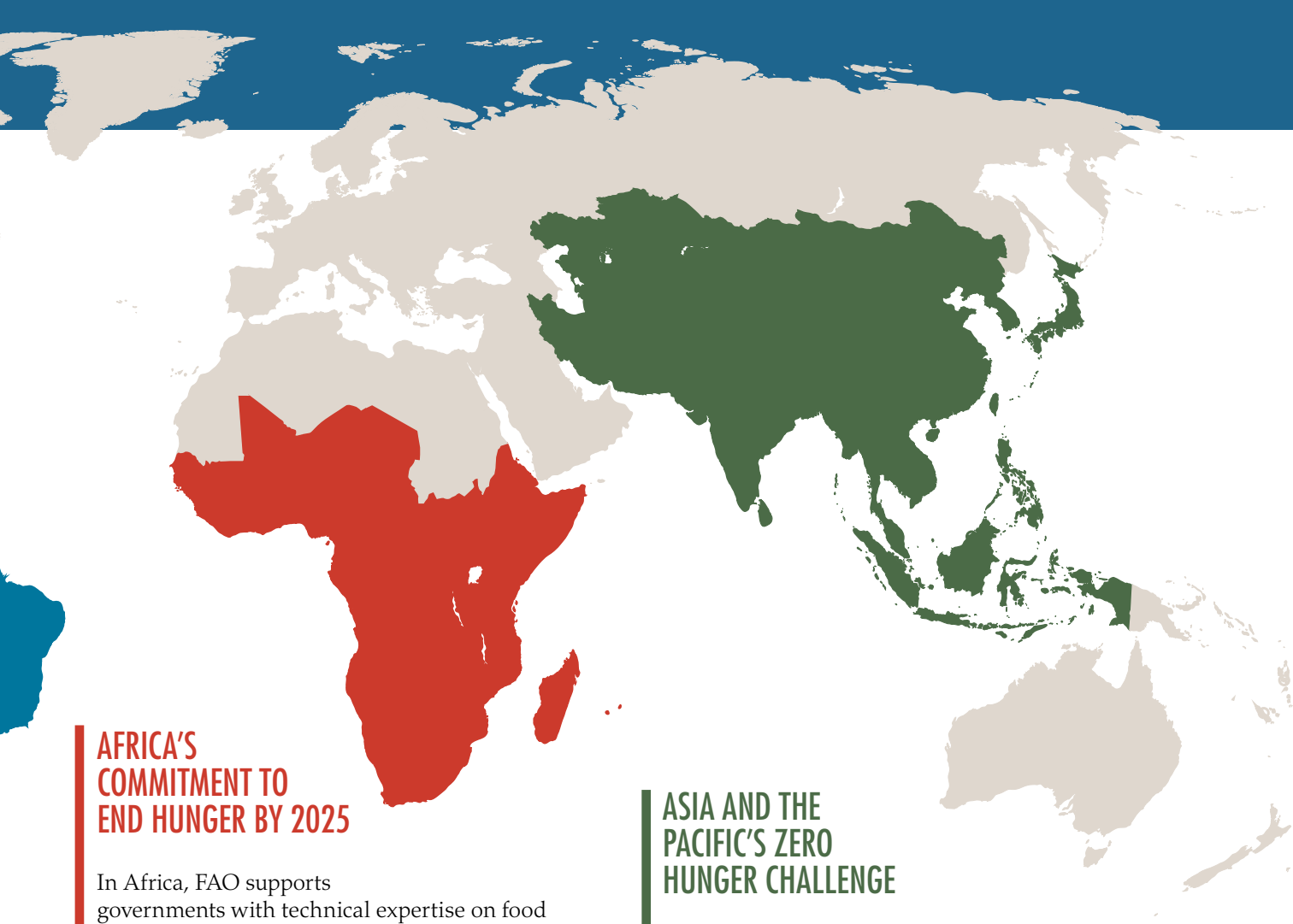
Three FAO regional initiatives in Africa, Asia and Latin America seek to strengthen actions made by countries in those regions to achieve Zero Hunger within the next two decades. In each region, FAO is working closely with a diverse range of stakeholders, including inter-regional organizations, NGOs, associations and grass root organizations among others that are already engaged in the fight against hunger.

THREE FAO REGIONAL INITIATIVES SEEK TO STRENGTHEN ACTIONS MADE BY COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER.

HUNGER-FREE LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE

Latin America and the Caribbean vowed that the present generation of children, women and men would be the first to see hunger eradicated. In 2005, the region committed to end hunger by 2025 and became the first and only region to achieve both the Millennium Development Goal of halping hunger rates, and the more ambitious goal of the World Food Summit (WFS) of 1996 to reduce by half the absolute number of undernourished people.

High-level plans, such as the CELAC's Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025, have been successful and provide encouragement to other regions that ending hunger can be achieved.



AFRICA'S COMMITMENT TO END HUNGER BY 2025

In Africa, FAO supports governments with technical expertise on food security and nutrition policies and programmes through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) initiative.

Countries are being supported in capacity strengthening and inter-sectoral coordination for accountability on investments and more harmonized programme delivery. The aim is to accelerate and add value to ongoing regional and country efforts. The Malabo Declaration on "Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods" and its vision of ending hunger in Africa by 2025, is implemented by scores of African countries today.

More efforts are now being channeled on establishing an African Center that will facilitate learning and innovation across African policy makers and practitioners in their work on food security issues.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC'S ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE

Launched in 2013, the Zero Hunger Challenge saw FAO and UN partners prepare a "Regional Guiding Framework for Achieving Zero Hunger in Asia and the Pacific", calling on everyone to continue the momentum. To support countries, FAO is spearheading the Regional Initiative on Support to the Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific.

For example, in Bangladesh, the Initiative outlines a country plan for food security and nutrition, drawing on the success of the strengthening food policy capacity programme.

Equally important for FAO is to improve the capacity for measurement and calculation of undernourishment in the region, to improve nutrition for children so stunting becomes a thing of the past.

FROM THE FIELD

BOLIVIA: SECURING THE RIGHT TO FOOD FOR CHILDREN AND FARMERS

In many countries, stunting and malnutrition prevent children from going to school, depriving them of a better future. The level of undernourishment in Bolivia is the highest in South America at 15.9 percent, with one in three children suffering from stunting – a figure that has only slightly improved in the past ten years. FAO recently supported the Bolivian government in developing a new school food law. The law secures school meals for children, providing a clear definition of responsibilities and establishing a framework for a sustainable nutrition programme in schools. The law also contributes to addressing the root causes of poverty and malnutrition by creating opportunities for farmers. Through its support to Bolivia's Parliamentary Front against Hunger and the University of San Andrés, FAO facilitated the participation of national and regional actors in this legislative process and provided targeted technical support and capacity development on food security and nutrition. At the same time, national fora created a space for dialogue to ensure that the new law was understood and accepted. The law was formally adopted in 2014 and is now considered one of the pillars of Bolivia's commitment to the fight against hunger.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: A STEP FORWARD IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

The Dominican Republic is one of the countries that achieved the target of reducing by half or less the number suffering with hunger. However, 1.3 million Dominicans still suffer from chronic hunger. To improve the national response, a law on Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutrition Security has been developed with the support of FAO. The legislation was approved in June 2016 by the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic and is a fundamental step towards the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in the country. This new law is the collective result of five years of work by legislators, technicians, government officials, social and community organizations, farmers and other members of the food management, production and control sectors. The law resulted in the founding of the National System for Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutritional Security, which facilitates the design and implementation of all policies, programmes and projects on the sovereignty of food and nutrition security in the country, following a rights approach. With this new legislation, the Dominican Republic is joining the group of countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean that have implemented national food security laws, including: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Mexico.

GUATEMALA

Family garden in San Martin Jilotepeque. ©FAO/Marvin Urizar

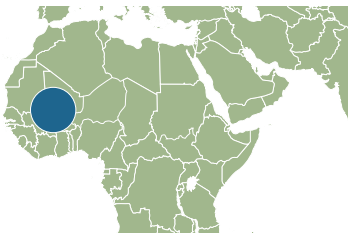
GUATEMALA: PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

In June 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food became the first ministry in the country to have a dedicated policy on gender equality. It ratified its ten-year institutional policy for gender equality and its strategic framework for national food security, nutrition and rural development. Focusing on gender equality, a multi-stakeholder working group, facilitated by FAO and other UN agencies, saw partnerships between the government and civil society in rural development that shone a spotlight on ways to alleviate the plight of rural women and indigenous peoples. The new policy guarantees that the voices of women and men in rural development processes are heard, and that programmes ensure they have access to agricultural technical assistance and other productive resources. It represents a key milestone in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), of which Guatemala is one of the 189 states parties. With the technical support of FAO, Guatemalan policy makers created an enabling environment for all its citizens to guarantee the equitable participation of women and men in resolving food security and nutrition issues in the country.

MALI

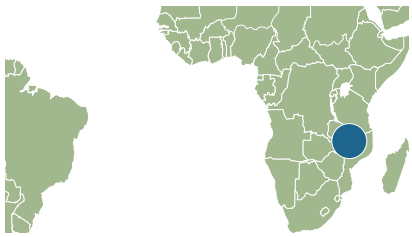
Field class with the Benkadi Women's Cooperative. ©FAO/Swiatoslaw Wojtkowiak

MALI: NEW NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION POLICY



Through the FIRST policy assistance facility, FAO has been supporting the Government of Mali, and particularly the Commissariat in charge of food security, in formulating the new National Food Security and Nutrition Policy. This effort reflects the government's will to ensure food and nutrition security for all Malians while promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and finding synergies with the other countries of the sub-region and beyond. The work began in 2016 with an inclusive consultation process involving the main stakeholders and technical partners, such as the thematic group on "Economie Agricole et Rurale", in addition to the relevant ministries working under the umbrella of the Commissariat responsible for food security and nutrition. As a result of this consultation and the contribution of the main stakeholders, both at the national and subnational levels, the draft policy on food security and nutrition including an action plan are prepared and will be presented for validation by the government and the main national stakeholders.

MALAWI: USING EVIDENCE TO BUILD THE CASE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



Climate change manifests in various ways: changing rainfall patterns, floods, droughts and prolonged dry spells – all of which negatively affect the food security situation in Malawi. Resilience for sustainable development has long been one of the main development priorities of the country, as a fifth of the population of Malawi was food insecure in 2015.

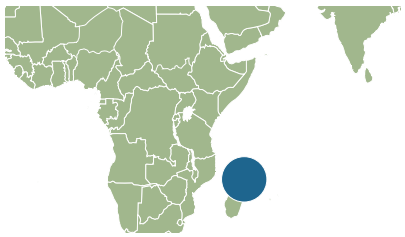
FAO has been supporting Malawi in measuring the impact of two national programmes in the country, namely, the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) and the Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP). The SCTP assessment generated evidence on the great impact that social protection produces on household livelihoods, especially in terms of agricultural activities. It also analysed how household decision-making has an influence over agricultural production, labour supply, risk-coping behaviours, accumulation of private assets and other income generating activities. Results of the FISP's assessment led the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development to improve the programme's impact by focusing on farmers needs to enhance efficiency and maximize productivity.

CABO VERDE: IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

During the last decade, food security and nutrition (FSN) has been at the forefront of the government's agenda. FAO's assistance has facilitated coordination across sectors and strengthened policy frameworks that relate to food security and nutrition. The whole process included reviewing existing policies to identify any gaps, collaborating with multiple stakeholders and initiating national awareness campaigns on the importance of FSN and the right to food. As a result, the National FSN strategy and action plan as well as a national law on School Feeding and Health were approved in 2015. The groundwork for the National School Feeding Programme was also laid out. In that same year, the newly established National FSN Council adopted a work plan that includes the drafting of a Right to Food law.

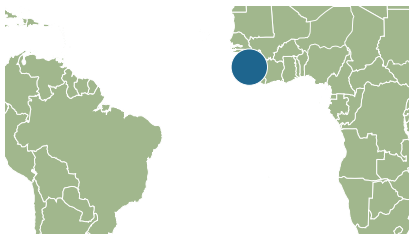
COUNTRIES NEED TO FIND THEIR OWN WAYS TO ERADICATE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION. WE NEED TO SUPPORT THEM TRANSLATE THEIR POLITICAL COMMITMENT INTO ACTION.

MADAGASCAR: FISH FARMING IN RICE FIELDS – A DEVELOPMENT LEVER



In Madagascar, rice-fish farming plays a critical role in the food and nutrition security of rural populations in the highlands since it requires little investment, restores soil fertility and access to animal protein. The development of rice-fish farming is part of both the Madagascar Sectoral Programme for Agriculture, Farming and Fishing / National Investment Plan for Agriculture, Farming and Fishing (PSAEP/PNIAEP). With its many benefits and low entry costs, there is great potential to involve hundreds of thousands of families in rice-fish farming. As such, FAO is supporting local NGOs in raising the awareness of rural youth in colleges to this type of farming. Despite limited resources and the many challenges that are intrinsic to schooling in rural areas, institutions have been very responsive and shown professionalism and support. The training modules have been integrated into extracurricular activities and an effective transfer of knowledge in rice-fish practices has ensued. Building on this success, FAO has begun a second phase of the project through the Smart Fish Programme, covering 88 rural schools that are located close to fingerling producers. Around 280 teachers are supporting 12 000 students that train in rice-fish farming and continue to support those that go on to become rice-fish farmers.

SIERRA LEONE: FROM POLICY TO RESULTS



After the Committee on World Food Security endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the context of Food Security *(VGGT),* FAO began to support countries in its implementation. FAO assisted the government to conduct an assessment of national policies, strategies and laws related to tenure of land, fisheries and forests against the VGGT principles and provisions with a special focus on gender equity. In 2015, the National Land Policy and the Fisheries Strategies of the country were adopted, incorporating VGGT principles. All relevant stakeholders from different sectors took part in the process. FAO's technical support was key to establishing an institutional framework promoting dialogue between all involved actors. The framework is now providing a platform through which FAO and development partners are pooling their technical support into the development of policies, strategies and laws related to governance of tenure in a context of food security. Through the regular promotion of dialogue between involved stakeholders, the mechanism of the institutional framework is resulting in improved policy coherence for better food security and nutrition results.

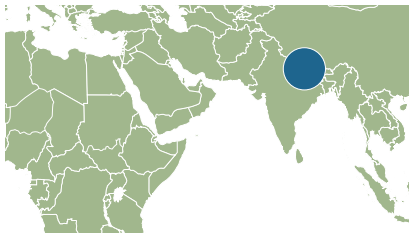
MYANMAR

A farmer harvesting rice in Warcha. ©FAO/Hkun Lat

MYANMAR: REFORMING THE LAND TENURE SYSTEM

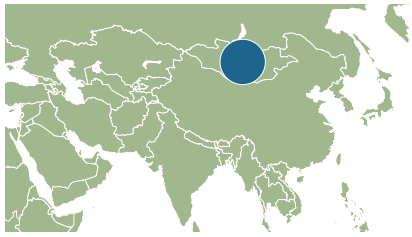
In Myanmar, the FIRST policy assistance facility has been working to assess the linkages between agricultural and land policies and their impact on food and nutrition security. This action comes at an opportune time for the newly elected government for whom land access and security of tenure are key priorities. At the inception of the FIRST programme in 2015, officials were in the midst of developing a new policy and legal framework on land. Through FIRST, FAO has been providing technical assistance and guidance in implementing the newly adopted National Land Use Policy (NLUP) and on the content of the new legal provisions and programmes. A number of recommendations have been given to policy and decision makers to address the country's customary tenure and women's tenure rights, in line with the principles outlined in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security (VGGT).

NEPAL: BETTER LAWS FOR FOOD SECURITY



In recent decades, FAO has assisted Nepal in creating food security and nutrition policies and programmes. Nepal continues to reform following years of conflict and the earthquake which struck in April 2015. FAO has been actively sensitizing key stakeholders on understanding, promoting and monitoring the right to food in legislative and policy instruments. Current cooperation efforts are focused on innovative approaches to agricultural development along with rehabilitation of agricultural activities that were cut short by the earthquake. The inclusion of the right to food as a fundamental human right in the newly adopted Constitution (2015), the recent commitment of the government to undertake the Zero Hunger Challenge 2025 and the drafting of the first ever Food Security Policy of Nepal, the adoption, in 2014, of a 20-year Agricultural Development Strategy promoting a focus on the right to food and food sovereignty in legislative instruments as well as the formulation of the Food and Nutrition Security Plan of Action of Nepal (FNSP), are just a few of the results generated by this joint effort.

MONGOLIA: LAND TENURE RIGHTS AND FOOD SECURITY



FAO assisted the Mongolian government in creating a multi-stakeholder, institutional framework which established a national platform for relevant stakeholder groups to participate in country policy and legal processes. As a result, the national platform was able to leverage the existing coordination between the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and People Centered Conservation in Mongolia (PCC), a local NGO. Participants discussed topics relevant to natural resource governance in Mongolia, such as pastoralism, markets and conflict resolution. They are now championing the application of Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) in Mongolia. Major results of the coordination work led to the formulation of a new draft law on pasture land and the review of forest tenure policies, laws, institutions and administration against the VGGT principles.

A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF ALL PEOPLE, IN ANY CORNER OF THIS PLANET, ARE ABLE TO REALIZE THEIR RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD. BUT THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE WITH A BROAD COMMITMENT.

NEPAL

Mother and son with the family's goats.
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The five key priorities or Strategic Objectives of FAO represent the main areas of our work to support member states in sustainably achieving a world without hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

Reduce rural poverty

Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems

Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

To accomplish these objectives, FAO works through five Strategic Programmes, leveraging our technical leadership, while fully integrating gender, governance, nutrition and climate change impacts in all aspects of our work.

We are committed to supporting countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

FOOD and AGRICULTURE in the 2030 AGENDA

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are a set of global priorities adopted by countries in September 2015 to end poverty and hunger, sustain the planet's natural resources and ensure prosperity for all.

Food and agriculture cut across all the SDGs and lie at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda.

With an integrated approach aimed at tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, sustainable management of natural resources and leaving no one behind, **the strategic work of FAO is broadly aligned with the SDGs.**

Our wide-range of technical expertise, length of experience working with development partners and unique skills in the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) qualify FAO as a valuable ally for countries in implementing and monitoring the SDGs.

To learn more, consult our webpage on the work of FAO in the SDGs. This page is continuously updated with all the latest developments in relation to food and agriculture in the 2030 Agenda.

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