OVERALL GOAL

While many countries are making good progress towards global hunger–related targets, much remains to be done: 805 million people still suffer from chronic hunger, 161 million children under the age of five years are stunted, over two billion people are affected by micronutrient deficiencies and an estimated 500 million people are obese.

And as countries progress, new challenges are emerging: over the coming 35 years, the food and agriculture system will have to cope with the pressures exerted by a 30 percent increase in the global population, rapid urbanization, changing diets, intense competition for scarce land, water and energy resources, and the threat of climate change.

FAO's goal is to help countries eradicate hunger and malnutrition and make the transition to more sustainable food and agriculture systems that are fit to provide food security and good nutrition for all in the future. This requires that:

1. Food security and nutrition objectives and considerations are fully factored into countries’ sectoral and cross-sectoral development policies, programmes and investment plans;
2. Government and development partners, including civil society, private sector and international organizations, are actively engaged in dialogue and concerted action around a common and forward-looking food security and nutrition agenda.

Mainstreaming food security and nutrition requires that decision-makers fully understand how their decisions will affect food security and nutrition and take measures that will generate positive impacts. It also requires that decision-makers have a good understanding of how the food security and nutrition outcomes of decisions regarding key sectors are related in order to exploit synergies and maximize food security and nutrition impact across the overall portfolio of policies, programmes and investment plans. To that end, FAO supports governments and development partners to:

- develop a common understanding of the nature and extent to which the existing portfolio of sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and programmes is adequate to address current and evolving food security and nutrition problems;
- identify options for overcoming inconsistencies and bottlenecks and for creating synergies across the portfolio of policies and programmes that are relevant to food security and nutrition;
- develop a common results and accountability framework for food security and nutrition to inform the policies and guide the actions of the concerned sectors and
development partners in an effort to align their actions and monitor progress towards a common set of food security and nutrition goals;

- improve governance and promote partnerships and coordinated action across the broad range of actors and sectors involved in food security and nutrition at national and local levels, creating adequate space for active civil society participation.

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

FAO, through SO1, provides direct policy support to help “change agents” in government and development partners translate hunger eradication pledges into action and create more enabling policy and institutional environments that provide the right conditions for intensified, more focused and collaborative action on food security and nutrition by state and non-state actors from different sectors.

At regional level, FAO works in partnership with intergovernmental organizations, including the African Union (AU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC), to promote cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnership and action at country level for food security and nutrition.

FAO facilitates and technically supports stakeholder dialogue at the global level on food security and nutrition policy issues. Such dialogue takes place in the context of FAO Governing Bodies that deal with sectoral issues, like the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the Committee on Forestry (COFO), or it takes place in the context of Governing Bodies that deal with cross-sectoral policy issues like the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, the Renewed Effort Against Child Hunger (REACH) initiative, the post-2015 development agenda, and follow-up to the Rio+20 UN Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC).

**IN PRACTICE**

In partnership with global and regional partners and capitalizing on its global normative and standard-setting work, FAO is assisting over 80 countries with mainstreaming food security and nutrition in sectoral policies and programmes and over 35 countries in the development of cross-sectoral policy frameworks.

At regional level, FAO has played a key role in the formulation and endorsement of the African Union (AU) Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, which was adopted in June 2014 by AU Heads of State and which includes the “Commitment to Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025”. FAO has also played a key role in the integration of nutrition into the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Strategy, its Plan of Action for Food Security (2015-2020) and the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Vision (2016-2025).

A notable example at global level is the organization, in close partnership with WHO, of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), which brought together stakeholders from governments, civil society and the private sector and adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action, which aim to ensure food systems contribute to reducing all forms of malnutrition.

**SCOPE FOR DOING MORE AND BETTER**

While FAO is strong in providing support to consultations and negotiation of various global guidelines and instruments, there is much scope for intensifying efforts to translate these instruments into national policies and programmes through more inclusive and evidence-based policy dialogue. In particular, there is scope for intensifying in-country policy assistance and capacity development support to relevant national government institutions and (sub)regional organizations that are involved in supporting food security and nutrition policy and governance work. Strengthening food security and nutrition policy and governance will add value to investments made by governments and development partners in the context of sector development programmes by increasing their focus on producing positive food security and nutrition outcomes and creating synergies between different sector measures such as for example smallholder agriculture and social protection interventions.

**Invest in a hunger-free world by supporting FAO’s food security and nutrition efforts!**

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