OVERALL GOAL

Promoting better knowledge of policies, programmes, legislation and investments at country level, and their impact on food security and nutrition.

Accurate and comprehensive knowledge of policies, institutional frameworks and investments is critical for governments, FAO and its development partners. It provides a common understanding across relevant sectors and actors of what is being done (and by whom, where, when) and what is needed to better address hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition at country level (lessons from results and impact).

FAO has an obvious comparative advantage in helping stakeholders at country, regional and global levels systematically understand and analyse how the food and agriculture sectors contribute to food security and nutrition through:

- ensuring that policies, programmes, legislation and investments from the food and nutrition security sector are systematically mapped, monitored and evaluated for better measuring performance, learning, and taking corrective actions as appropriate;
- developing standards and harmonizing methods and tools to map, monitor and evaluate policies, programmes, legislation and investments, and allow dissemination of results to governments and development partners;
- strengthening human and institutional capacities to set up and manage national mapping systems and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for food security and nutrition while improving access by decision-makers to information generated by the systems.
IN A NUTSHELL

There is a need for decision-makers to better comprehend the complex and often fragmented setting of policies, institutional frameworks and investments and to systematically know what is being done by each actor and sector and how this is contributing in addressing food and nutrition insecurity. It is therefore critical to support governments and their development partners at global, regional and national levels in developing well-functioning food and nutrition security actions mapping system and strong government monitoring and evaluation mechanism that enhance effectiveness, accountability and coordination of responses.

By promoting and strengthening the mapping, monitoring and evaluation functions and capacities of governments and development partners, FAO aims to contribute to the creation of a more enabling policy, investment and institutional environment for food security and nutrition. This implies putting emphasis on awareness-raising and advocacy at all levels to increase high-level political commitment in this area of work as well as developing human and institutional capacities to ensure better access to information on ongoing food security and nutrition actions and results.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

At global, regional and national levels, FAO works directly with decision-makers to raise awareness about food security and nutrition issues, create greater understanding of causes and options for action, develop skills, competencies and know-how, and foster inclusive and evidence-based dialogue and collaborative action.

Through its mandate and strong comparative advantage, FAO’s core activities are dedicated to facilitating high-level policy dialogue, facilitating access to data and information on policies, programmes, legislation and investments relevant to food security and nutrition and supporting capacity development.

The focus of FAO’s action is on developing:

- harmonized methods and tools to map elements of the enabling environment for food security and nutrition and disseminate mapping results to governments and development partners;
- human and institutional capacities to map elements of the enabling environment for food security and nutrition for improved decision-making at all levels;
- methodological approaches and capacities to monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes on food security and nutrition.
Examples of FAO’s work at global, regional and country levels demonstrate how mapping, monitoring and evaluation functions and capacities are critical in strengthening the four dimensions that constitute the enabling environment required for a more rapid reduction of hunger.

1. **Better policies, programmes and legal frameworks**

In policy work, increased capacities for improved knowledge of policy, institutional and investment environment contribute to well-informed decisions on the design and implementation of future policies, programmes and legal frameworks, and their readjustment as appropriate.

**Results on the ground:** At country level, work on supporting capacities for mapping actions and capacities related to food security and nutrition took place in several countries (e.g. Kenya, Niger) while a series of impact assessments were also conducted (e.g. Cambodia, Malawi). The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) constitutes a strong anchorage for FAO’s policy work in providing guidance and building capacities for improving monitoring and evaluation in the Africa region.

2. **Increased political commitment**

Promoting policy dialogue and consultation process ensures better transparency and accountability and participates in the measuring of the political commitment.

**Results on the ground:** Building on its experience with key regional policy processes, including the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and its Regional Platform for Food Security and Nutrition Information, FAO is engaging with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and other stakeholders to support efforts to share experience and knowledge on food security and nutrition in Africa.

3. **More effective coordination**

Enhanced stakeholder dialogue and coordination mechanisms are ways to capture the overall food and nutrition security area’s performance and better coordinate their actions and results.

**Results on the ground:** FAO is working through the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition (REACH) partnership to raise awareness and inform in a coordinated manner nutrition stakeholders about the importance of tracking elements for food security and nutrition policy coming from the various sectors – in particular by ensuring the food and agriculture perspective is well taken into account towards multi-sectoral approach.

4. **Evidence-based decision-making**

Information on the actions in place and their impact on food security and nutrition paves the way to formulate adequate policy options and to feed decision making processes for serving food insecure and malnourished people by addressing the underlying causes of hunger.

**Results on the ground:** FAO seeks to develop and promote expertise on mapping and analysis, where there is a clear comparative advantage - including in the field of nutrition. A set of FAO’s systems and tools is available to response to mapping needs such as FAOLEX, the Right-to-food database and the Food and Agricultural Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA) initiatives. To analyze the impacts of actions, further initiatives such as the Monitoring and Analysis of Food and Agriculture Policies (MAFAP) and the Protection to Production programme are also implemented.
SCOPE FOR DOING MORE AND BETTER

Echoing to the growing attention to food security and nutrition governance, FAO is committed to put the mapping and monitoring of enabling environment for food security and nutrition in the political agenda, using key global, regional and national policy processes as entry points and support from partners such as the REACH partnership and the SUN movement.

Help us making mapping, monitoring and analysis functions effective by developing country-owned mapping and analysing processes to share multi-sectoral information and knowledge on food security and nutrition.

Supported with coherent technical support and tailored products and services for policy mapping and analysis of the enabling environment for food security and nutrition, governments and development partners are better equipped for policy design and implementation, efficient allocation of resources, coordination of the different sectors for improved food security and nutrition, and accountability.

Enable us to harmonize our efforts and foster partnerships to bring further coherence in FAO, governments and development partners policy work.

Through joint efforts with partners, FAO is enabling more governments and development partners to map, monitor and evaluate policies, programmes, legislations and investments at country level, and their impact on food security and nutrition, and to expand good practices to more countries and regions.

Invest in a hunger-free world by promoting mapping, monitoring and evaluation processes for food security and nutrition!

Join us in increasing political commitment and stakeholder buy-in for sharing experiences and knowledge across countries, promoting south-south cooperation and strengthening the evidence-based decision-making by high-level policy makers.