OVERALL GOAL

The FAO Regional Initiative, “Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa by 2025”, seeks to assist countries in strengthening their efforts and capacity to deliver programmes that contribute to eradicating hunger. It aims to add value to ongoing work at country level by sharpening the programmatic focus on food security and nutrition and by identifying concrete windows of opportunity for promoting an integrated approach to improving nutritional outcomes. Toward these aims, the initiative works to strengthen partnership and coordination as well as fill gaps in the implementation of country strategies and plans.

About the Regional Initiative

The Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 was established in 2012 between the African Union Commission, its NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), the Lula Institute and FAO. In July 2013, the four partners organized a high-level meeting (HLM) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, leading to a Declaration to End Hunger and a Road Map for implementation. This Declaration was subsequently endorsed at the 2014 African Union summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, and incorporated as the “Commitment to Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025” in the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.

The Regional Initiative currently responds to requests for support from the Governments of Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and the Niger to enhance national capacities to plan, coordinate and finance food security and nutrition interventions. It contributes to the larger African Union implementation strategy for the Malabo commitment. Finally, it provides an operational instrument to help translate the vision and goals of the African Union Agenda 2063 as well as the United Nation’s Zero Hunger Challenge into concrete actions on the continent. In this context, the Regional Initiative serves as a key pillar of FAO’s work in the Africa region.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In 2014, this Regional Initiative led to several notable outcomes in addition to laying the foundation for accelerated implementation and achievement in 2015. By contributing to the formulation and rollout of the Malabo Declaration Implementation Strategy and Roadmap, FAO is helping to catalyse high-level political support and leadership for concerted actions to eradicate hunger on the continent.
In the second decade of CAADP implementation, the Roadmap will help to drive programme implementation, building on the achievements and lessons learned from first ten years to achieve tangible results and impact.

Moving forward, FAO seeks to use the Malabo framework and political momentum to strengthen human and institutional capacities to improve inter-sectoral coordination, inclusive governance mechanisms and evidence-based decision-making and accountability. Three priority actions are envisaged in 2015:

- enhanced support to the initial focus countries;
- the establishment of an African Centre for Best Practice, Capacity Development and South-South Cooperation;
- the launching of think-tank events for strategic implementation to provide a space for high-level analysis, discussion and recommendations for actions in support of hunger eradication.

**IN PRACTICE**

At country level, the Regional Initiative is anchored in Presidential Initiatives, resilience and social protection programmes, and national policy and programme processes, including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) investment plans.

Expected results to be achieved under this Regional Initiative are:

- a common vision and political commitment among country and subregional stakeholders for unified action to urgently and meaningfully reduce the prevalence of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;
- a shared analysis, understanding and commitment to implementing a coherent set of strategies, policies, legislation, programmes and investments, as well as strengthening the institutional, organizational and human capacities needed. Improved governance for food security and nutrition at the highest possible political level, and its translation into engagement and participation of civil society and private sector for improved accountability in implementation and delivery;
- a common results and accountability framework owned by all stakeholders for aligning actions to country priorities and goals, monitoring progress and assessing the progressive realization of impact. Shared lessons learned from innovative and promising practices within and across countries which help actors make improvements when and where needed;
- intensified support to government, non-state actors and development partners in the implementation of an improved results framework for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. Action focused on strategic partnerships with respect to investment, nutrition and social protection at country level, through South-South Cooperation and other forms of collaboration among countries, UN agencies and other development partners;
- workable models, cost-effective mechanisms and improved capacities for delivering services adopted by smallholder producers, vulnerable households and diverse civil society and domestic private-sector actors.

**SCOPE FOR DOING MORE AND BETTER**

There is consensus amongst African leaders and development partners that the transformation of the agriculture sector is of critical importance for stimulating broad-based socio-economic growth and development. Investment in this Regional Initiative will enhance the impact of various national and regional programmes that promote agricultural development and food security, thereby contributing to the key outcomes of the CAADP Results Framework and Malabo Declaration Commitments. In particular, the Regional Initiative will strengthen the capacity of member countries to implement national hunger eradication and investment plans, for which there is high-level political commitment. By integrating the technical, financial and governance aspects of nutrition, social protection and sustainable agricultural development programmes, the Regional Initiative will contribute to Africa’s socio-economic development through wealth creation, improved food and nutrition security and resilience of the most vulnerable populations.