



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# Building GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY



*"Together, we can end hunger and malnutrition"*  
José Graziano da Silva,  
FAO Director-General



# A SHARED VISION

**The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** has a unique mandate covering all aspects of food and agriculture. Its mission is the attainment of global food security.

FAO's vision, shared with its Members and development stakeholders is that of a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where food security and agriculture contribute to improving living standards, especially for the rural poor, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way.

These are the overarching aims, which the Organization pursues from its headquarters in Rome, Italy, and in offices in more than 130 countries worldwide.

This clear vision is translated into the three global goals defined for FAO by its Members:

**The eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.**

**The elimination of poverty, and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods.**

**The sustainable management and use of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.**



# FIVE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

To ensure our shared vision and goals are translated into concrete actions and results, all FAO's work and efforts are focused on five strategic objectives:



## **Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition**

We contribute to the eradication of hunger by strengthening political commitment and capacities in support of policies, investments and governance systems for food security and nutrition and by ensuring up-to-date information about hunger and nutrition challenges and solutions is available and openly accessible.



## **Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable**

We promote evidence-based policies and practices that support highly productive agricultural sectors (crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries). At the same time we work to ensure that the natural resource base is conserved and improved.



## **Reduce rural poverty**

We help poor rural people to gain access to the resources and services they need – including social protection – so their productivity and employment opportunities are enhanced to secure a sustainable pathway out of poverty.



## **Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems**

We help to build safe and efficient food systems, particularly those inclusive of small producers, enterprises and economies.



## **Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises**

We help countries and communities to prevent and mitigate the effects of natural and human-induced shocks in a sustainable manner, building capacities for preparedness and response.

The focus of these five strategic objectives is supported by the Organization's broad technical knowledge and capacity, our pre-eminent normative functions, and our unique role as a trusted neutral broker. We help governments set global conventions, protocols and standards. We use this knowledge to support countries in setting policy, and concrete action at country level. We learn from what we do and we bring this back into the global discussion on norms and public goods. In this way, we continue to develop as a knowledge organization with its feet on the ground.



# SELECTED MILESTONES

**In 1963**, the Codex Alimentarius Commission was established by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) for the development of harmonized international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice to protect the health of the consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

**In 1992**, the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) was convened by FAO and WHO. A second follow up conference, ICN2, was convened in November 2014 to address today's major nutritional challenges.

**In 1995**, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries was adopted by the FAO Conference to promote long-term sustainable fisheries.

**In 2001**, the legally binding International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was adopted by the FAO Conference and entered into force, encouraging sustainable agriculture through equitable sharing of genetic material.

**In 2011**, in a historic victory of veterinary science, FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) announced the successful eradication of rinderpest.

**In 2012**, FAO ensured the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security by the Committee on World Food Security.

**In 2013**, FAO elevated its main goal from "reducing" to "eliminating" global hunger. This decision has been matched by unprecedented international political commitment by national governments and regional groupings, including the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the African Union, whose leaders in 2014 committed to eradicating hunger by 2025.

**In 2014**, during ICN2, FAO members, parliamentarians, members from civil society and private sector endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework of Action. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition enshrines the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, and commits governments to prevent malnutrition in all its forms. The Framework of Action recognizes that governments have the primary role and responsibility for addressing nutrition issues and challenges.

---

## International Years

To help raise food and agricultural issues on the global development agenda, FAO is frequently called on by the United Nations General Assembly to coordinate and contribute to the celebration of International Years, including the **International Year of Mountains** in 2002; **of Rice** in 2004; **Potatoes** in 2008; **Forests** in 2011; **Cooperatives** in 2012; **Quinoa** in 2013; **Family Farming** in 2014; **Soils** in 2015 and **Pulses** in 2016.

# WHO WE ARE

**Following a commitment by 44 governments** to form a permanent intergovernmental organization for food and agriculture, FAO was officially established in 1945 as the United Nations specialized agency for food and agriculture.

Currently, FAO has 194 Member Nations, two Associate Members and one Member Organization (the European Union).

FAO's highest governing body is the FAO Conference, which gathers representatives from all Member States and meets every two years. In between sessions, a 49-member Council exercises executive oversight on the Organization's activities.

---

## Director-General

FAO is led by Director-General José Graziano da Silva, who was the architect of Brazil's Zero Hunger programme and has worked on issues of food security, rural development and agriculture for over 30 years. Since taking office in January 2012, his efforts have revolved around transforming the zero hunger vision into a reality in the world by sharpening the focus of the Organization's efforts to end hunger, improving its efficiency to deliver best value for money, and strengthening partnerships with other governmental, international and non-state actors.



---

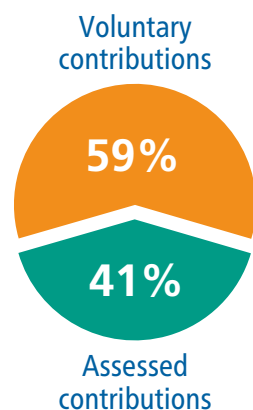
## FAO expertise

With half of its staff based at headquarters and half in the field, FAO is singularly well placed to fulfil its mandate of achieving global food security. Including specialists in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, food security, forestry, economic and social development, investment, natural resources, nutrition, policy assistance, development law, FAO's staff contribute to the full range of interdisciplinary food security and agricultural development programmes to deliver the Member-approved strategic objectives.

---

## How FAO is funded

FAO's total biannual budget for 2014-15 is USD 2.4 billion, of which 41 percent is received as assessed contributions paid by Members. The remaining 59 percent is mobilized through voluntary contributions from Members and funds provided by other resource partners, and these resources support the Organization's efforts in pursuing its strategic objectives.



# ONE ORGANIZATION

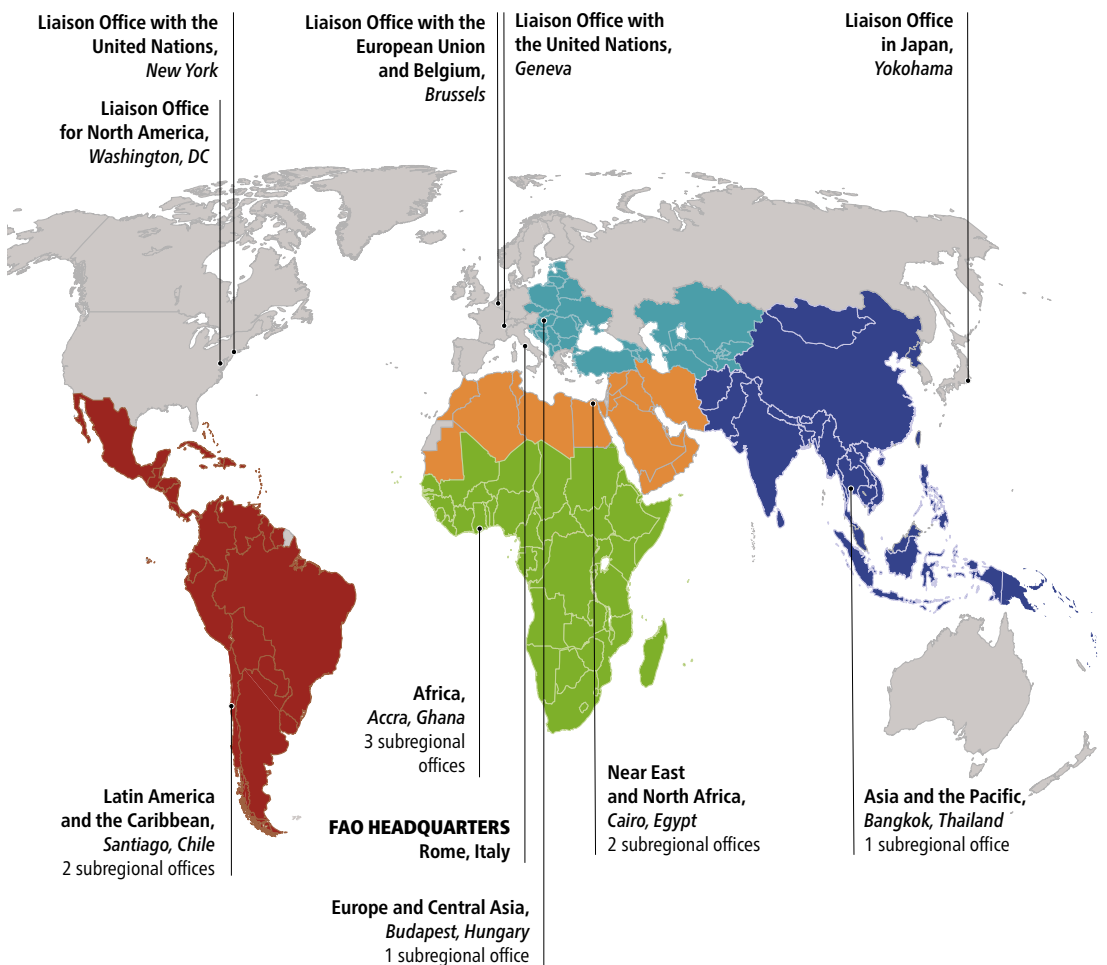
WITH ITS FEET ON THE GROUND

Since 2012, FAO has redoubled efforts to strengthen its worldwide presence with a view to heightening its impact on the ground. By significantly strengthening the technical capacity of its regional, subregional and country offices, FAO can now better harness its comparative advantages and address the development priorities of Member Nations more effectively and efficiently, within the overall framework of its strategic objectives.

The enhanced capacity and functioning of FAO's decentralized office network, consisting

of five regional offices, nine subregional offices, 80 fully fledged country offices (excluding those hosted in regional and subregional offices), three offices with technical officers/ FAO Representatives, and 38 countries covered through multiple accreditation, thus works in a holistic and mutually supportive way with a critical mass of technical and normative expertise located at FAO's headquarters to ensure optimal results and maximum impact in responding to the needs of Member Nations.

FAO is present in over 130 countries with regional, subregional, liaison and country offices



## FAO HEADQUARTERS

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, Italy  
Tel: (+39) 06 57051  
e-mail: [FAO-HQ@fao.org](mailto:FAO-HQ@fao.org)  
Fax: (+39) 06 570 53152  
Facebook: [facebook.com/UNFAO](https://www.facebook.com/UNFAO)  
Twitter: [@FAOnews](https://twitter.com/FAOnews) [@FAOknowledge](https://twitter.com/FAOknowledge)  
[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

## FAO WORLDWIDE OFFICES

For a complete list and contact information of FAO's network of regional, subregional, country and liaison offices, please scan here.

