Building food security in

Landlocked Developing Countries

FAO has a long history of partnership with Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), providing policy advice, analysis and technical assistance in agriculture, livestock, forestry, markets and trade, natural resources management and food security in its commitment to support resilient livelihoods and enhance food security.

In LLDCs, finding alternatives to high food import bills by investing in domestic agriculture and encouraging local food production and supply is vital to improving food security and supporting livelihoods. FAO’s priority areas focus on investing in policies and best practices that can ensure food and nutrition security at household and community levels, while promoting the sustainable use of natural resources.
AFGHANISTAN
The FAO programme in Afghanistan is our largest programme in the Asia Pacific region and one of the largest in the world. The total delivery for 2013 was US$32.3 million, of which US$28.5 million was for development projects and US$3.7 million was for emergency projects. FAO Afghanistan’s projects are aligned to the six priority areas of the Country Programming Framework: support for fostering agricultural production capacity; support for better water resource and irrigation development and management; support for the formulation and implementation of effective agricultural policies and institutional capacity building; support for better natural resource management; support for food and nutrition security; and support for capacity development in emergency management.

ARMENIA
FAO priority areas in Armenia are: (i) enhanced livelihoods and competitiveness of small-scale farmers; (ii) animal health and production; (iii) crop production and plant protection; (iv) forestry; (v) development of fisheries and aquaculture; and (vi) agricultural statistics. These activities are based upon the past successful support of FAO at national and regional level, including improvement of the institutional and capacity development of Government stakeholders in order to implement a well-structured policy in the agriculture and rural sectors; supporting access to available and affordable food by sustainably increasing agricultural productivity by a better management of land; assisting with the roll-out of a general agricultural census as well as support to better agriculture statistics. One of the main achievements of the year has been the inception of the technical and institutional support to veterinary services project. The overall goal of the project is to strengthen veterinary services, contributing to the improvement of the food safety system and sustainable agricultural development in Armenia.
AZERBAIJAN
At the beginning of 2014, the government requested FAO to assist the country with the development of meat sector strategy (focusing on abattoirs development), animal breeding strategy and a technical cooperation programme (TCP) on the development of cattle breeding and artificial insemination. FAO has developed TCP frameworks with two ongoing components: Development of Meat Sector and Animal Breeding Strategies; and Food Security Information System in Azerbaijan. IFAD has also approved the financing of the project proposal for “Rehabilitation and sustainable use of pastures”, submitted by FAO and now included in the 2014 workplan of its ongoing programme.

BHUTAN
Employing almost 70 percent of the population, performance of the Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) Sector profoundly influences the food security, employment, export earnings, poverty reduction and the welfare of rural people in Bhutan. As such, promoting sustainable agriculture and forestry is critical to improving livelihoods. FAO’s recent work in the country includes projects such as: strengthening of food safety and standards; supporting finalization of food and nutrition security policy; supporting agriculture policy development; supporting livestock policy development; support to comprehensive agriculture development programme (CADP) framework; UN-REDD+ programme (supporting establishment of an effective Measurement Reporting and Verification system, contributing to the formulation of national REDD+ strategy); support to finalization of the draft Forest and Nature Conservation Act (FNCA); and farmers groups taking lead role in nutrition improvement in schools: farm to school (F2S).

PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
The three main challenges guaranteeing the constitutional rights to healthy food and sustainable production are: (i) overcoming dependence on food exports for basic goods; (ii) advancing the institutionalization of public policies, particularly in delivering social and economic services to indigenous peasant family farmers and community organizations; and (iii) addressing the effects of climate change and promoting resilience of affected communities. FAO Representation in Bolivia activities and projects have included policy and program design to support domestic wheat, rice and corn production; a national policy to strengthen family farming; support to national and local food procurement from community family farming systems; implementing public agroecological production systems on a massive scale; and streamlining the national system of disaster early warning, response and rehabilitation. In 2013, FAO worked with the government to consolidate its supplementary school feeding policy, making it easier to purchase products from family farms.

BOTSWANA
FAO plays a major role in the development of the agricultural sector in Botswana through its country programme, which includes emergencies, training, project and programme formulation and development assistance. In the Botswana Agriculture Value Chain Project (BAVC), FAO aims to promote sustainable development and competitiveness of the country’s agro-food sub-sectors in national, regional and international markets by providing technical support to the design and execution of value chain studies for selected agricultural products (e.g. beef). FAO has also assisted the country in assessing non-tariff barriers to trade; assessing the needs of the fisheries sector; and developing a strategic plan for the newly established Department of Agricultural Business Promotion.
BURKINA FASO
Following the 2012 food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel, FAO helped vulnerable households in Burkina Faso improve resilience in vegetable production. FAO distributed vegetable seeds, fertilizer, phytosanitary equipment, sprinklers, moringa seedlings and papaya plants to 1,550 households. Approximately 1,325 farmers, nearly half of them women, were also trained on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), while an additional 155 farmers including 92 females were trained in nutrition education. The programme increased vegetable production and generated additional income through the sale of surplus crops. The training in nutrition education, in addition to increasing the availability of vegetables, also improved dietary diversity in beneficiary households.

BURUNDI
Agriculture is the cornerstone of the Burundi economy--practiced by more than 90 percent of the population, with nearly one million family farms. The Government and FAO are collaborating to improve the performance of the agricultural sector by increasing productivity and production in a sustainable way. FAO’s programming in Burundi focuses on four strategic priorities: (i) professionalization and intensification of agriculture, including supporting producers associations and cooperatives, strengthening value chains and high-value crops, improving access to fertilizers, rehabilitation and construction of irrigation dams, livestock and fisheries development, and farmer field schools; (ii) sustainable management of natural resources, including mapping land degradation promoting integrated watershed management activities, and supporting preparation of the national strategy for REDD+; (iii) information and agricultural statistics management for improved decision-making, including analysis and monitoring of the food security early warning and monitoring of food security (SAP-SSA) system; and (iv) support for strategic planning and coordination of the sector, by supporting the development and consolidation of a legal framework, strengthening the coordination capacity of the agricultural, environmental, and subregional policy harmonization.

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
As a result of the ongoing political crisis in Central African Republic, the rural population is now particularly vulnerable. FAO is focusing on building resilience to crises, giving special attention to women and gender in its programmes. The four priority areas identified are: (i) institutional, operational, organizational, and individual support for the coordination, planning, management and administration of rural development actors and food and nutrition security; (ii) the development, promotion, upgrading and servicing of rural development and food and nutrition security sector; (iii) the prevention and management of food crises, vulnerability to natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies (early warning, HIV-AIDS, DRR, etc.); and (iv) the development of sub-regional and regional cooperation to ensure continued recovery of agricultural development. Specific projects range from the implementation of income-generating activities and self-employment in the agricultural sector in conflict zones to sustainable management of non-timber forest products to developing food security monitoring systems.

CHAD
Many households in Chad are suffering from malnutrition, which is the combined result of food unavailability and inaccessibility due to chronic poverty and a limited understanding of nutrition. FAO is supporting the promotion of off-season garden agriculture to assist Sudanese refugees and other vulnerable populations in the country’s Sahel region by increasing nutritious food consumption and providing additional income. FAO also works on landscaping of home gardening perimeters to give women access to land. In addition to responding to immediate food and nutrition needs, FAO has mobilized resources to improve resilience, specifically through the implementation of a new food security and early warning system. Other activities in country include the formulation of a development plan for aquaculture and the direct intervention to locust infestations that helped the country avert a major locust crisis.
ETHIOPIA

FAO and other development partners have been supporting the Government’s efforts in the fight against poverty and in combating hunger and malnutrition. FAO’s work is aimed at creating an environment where agriculture significantly contributes to the improvement of the livelihood of all Ethiopians, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable groups. Three priority areas for intervention are (i) agricultural productivity and competitiveness; (ii) sustainable natural resources development and management; and (iii) improved food and nutrition security. Over the past 10 years, FAO has implemented more than 100 projects, focusing particularly on moisture deficit and pastoral areas at the request of the government. FAO has helped Ethiopia improve crop productivity and competitiveness by helping smallholders engage in improved seed production, supporting the government in securing improved seeds, and rehabilitating small scale irrigation. In the future, FAO will support the government in its initiatives to promote family farming in urban agriculture, especially in infrastructure development to support production and marketing of urban agriculture products.

KAZAKHSTAN

In the beginning of the 2000s, FAO and partners initiated large scale conservation agriculture activities in North Kazakhstan. Due to these efforts, the area of land now being farmed using conservation agriculture practices has been increasing. The total area grew from zero hectares in 2001 to 500 000 hectares in 2007, 1 200 000 hectares in 2008 and 1 600 000 hectares in 2011 with continued increases in the region. The utilization of conservation agriculture-based technologies has become an official state policy, and since 2008, the government of Kazakhstan has been subsidizing farmers who are adopting conservation agriculture-based technologies. With these policies in place, Kazakhstan is now included among the top 10 countries with the largest areas under no-tillage in the world.
KYRGYZSTAN
In 2012, FAO upgraded its Kyrgyz country office to a full-fledged Representation, and its programme shifted from previously dealing primarily with emergencies towards a developmental focus, with specific attention to the policy and institutional reform dialogue. FAO has increasingly responded to governmental requests for advice on conceptual (policy and strategy) support in a range of important agricultural subsectors and processes. FAO has also responded to Government requests for assistance in a wide range of developmental activities: projects on fisheries and aquaculture, on sustainable management of mountainous forest and land resources under climate change conditions, on improving access of small-scale farmers to high quality seeds, on dairy cattle improvement, on irrigation improvement, on the introduction of animal identification and recording, on agricultural value chains for selected fresh and processed foods, and on pistachio and walnut development. Examples of recent emergency projects include assistance in controlling trans-boundary animal diseases, and on capacity building in locust control. FAO has also assisted the government in strengthening the National Food Security Information System and designing an Animal Identification and Traceability System.

THE LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
The agriculture-forestry sector makes up 25.5 percent of the economy in Lao PDR, with unique development needs for the separate ecosystems in the lowland and the upland of the country. FAO is partnering with the government on several projects, including enhancing draft Agricultural Strategies with a clearer focus on food and nutrition security; developing strategies for capture fisheries and aquaculture management; and formulating a sectoral plan for Disaster Risk Reduction in agriculture by linking preventive action with emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Lao PDR was also one of three pilot countries for FAO’s Regional Rice Initiative project, which focuses on the importance of goods and services produced by and available from rice ecosystems and supports rice farmers in practicing sustainable intensification of rice-based farming systems.
LESOTHO

The performance and output of the agriculture sector in Lesotho continues to be a major concern. FAO centres its programming on four key priority areas: (i) enhancing sustainable food and nutrition security; (ii) enabling environment for sustainable agri-business development; (iii) strengthening management of natural resources; and (iv) strengthening capacity for better agricultural service delivery. With the broad menu of climate smart agriculture technologies, FAO has paid special attention to conservation agriculture in the country, providing technical leadership and mentorship to both government and NGO partners. FAO has also been very active in supporting vulnerable farming households under its emergency and resilience programme. Over 18,000 vulnerable farming households have benefited from agricultural input distribution programmes. Other projects include acconducting studies to determine the economic and financial viability of the poultry, piggery and horticulture agri-food value chains, as well as establishing building blocks for a comprehensive natural resources management programme.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The main focus of FAO support to FYR Macedonia is related to the capacity development of national institutions within the framework of EU integration. Specific focus is on the development of a national soil map and information system as well as capacity development in digital soil mapping. Further FAO is supporting the increase of competitiveness of the agriculture sector by facilitating the development of a land consolidation strategy and the implementation of pilots to test the strategy and approach. Overall support is also provided in the development of a National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development (NSARD) 2014-2020. Besides national activities FYROM also benefits from regional projects such as improving of improving Compliance with International Standards for Aquatic Animal Health, and Streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies of South East Europe countries for EU accession.

MALAWI

FAO supports the Government of Malawi in the design and implementation of policies and development of programmes and emergency projects to improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries and ensure food security and good nutrition for all. Its key priority areas are governance, coordination and implementation capacity for food security; strengthening data and information sharing for evidence-based decision making; sustainable resource management and climate change; land rights and land use planning; and disaster risk reduction and resilience. Over the last years, FAO has implemented a number of key programmes including an integrated food security and nutrition programme and a programme that provides policy support on rural employment and decent work for the promotion of equitable and sustainable livelihoods under conditions of climate change. FAO has also provided technical assistance and resources in a number of areas, including food security, post-harvest technology, small-scale irrigation schemes, conservation agriculture, agriculture diversification, education in nutrition, promotion of decent rural employment and improvement of rural livelihoods.

MALI

Agriculture and pasture are the most important sectors for Malian's livelihoods, representing 80 percent of the workforce. FAO is providing quality seeds, small ruminants and veterinary support to vulnerable families that have lost their assets in the Sahel crisis, in order to reinforce food and nutritional security and quickly increase the resilience of the vulnerable population. In response to both immediate needs of the population and structural vulnerabilities, FAO is setting up market gardens with fences, as well as rehabilitating water points and irrigation infrastructure. Increasing rehabilitation and resilience is of the utmost importance, and with this objective in mind, FAO is distributing seeds, restoring vegetable production, increasing access to credit and supporting livestock breeders. Additionally, FAO’s Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) is based in Mali and covers the 23 countries of West and Central Africa. Its main objective is to prevent and control transboundary animal diseases, as well as to assist governments in better responding to animal health emergencies.
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
FAO and the Government of the Republic of Moldova and FAO agreed on the following priorities for cooperation: (i) Alignment of agriculture and rural development policies with the EU standards; (ii) Conservation and Management of natural resources; (iii) Disaster Risk Management in Agriculture; and (iv) Sustainable Agriculture. Some of these priority interventions were designed to assist the Government of Moldova to increase competitiveness/productivity and improve rural infrastructure and access to markets. Additional support is envisaged to reduce vulnerability of the agricultural sector against disturbances in the sustainable development of the agri-food sector, by improving management of environment and natural resources, halting the deterioration of biodiversity and ecosystems, ensuring greater preparedness to meet the climate change challenges, and strengthening disaster risk reduction capacities.

MONGOLIA
Agriculture is the main driver of growth in Mongolia. Livestock husbandry and crop production are the main subsectors, and therefore priority areas for FAO assistance. In its Integrated Livestock-based Livelihoods Support project, FAO provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture on animal breeding and animal health laws, offered rural investment training, and developed a set of supporting guidelines on animal husbandry. In a separate project, FAO supported farmers groups and cooperatives by building technical and institutional capacity, promoting potato and vegetable production at soum level increased, improving seed supply and innovative technologies, and providing training and knowledge transfer on vegetable growing technologies.

NEPAL
FAO initiatives in Nepal fall under four priority areas of technical cooperation: (i) food and nutrition security and safety; (ii) institutional and policy support; (iii) market orientation and competitiveness; and (iv) natural resource conservation and utilization including adaptation to climate change. In the area of crop production and protection, FAO provided support to the implementation of National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program in 13 districts, and the government is currently scaling up the project in other districts. In the fishery sub-sector, FAO provided support to improving genetic quality of existing brood stock of major fish carp species through renewal of new seeds and introduction of a carp breeding program. FAO has also helped promote market-oriented production and value addition through several projects, including enhancing producer groups’ technical, institutional and networking capacity, as well as expanding the infrastructure for ginger production and export.

THE NIGER
Niger introduced its 3N (Les Nigeriens Nourissent les Nigeriens – Nigeriens Nourish Nigeriens) Initiative in 2011 to increase the country’s resilience to food crises and reduce poverty through agricultural reform. The programme centres on improving smallholders’ access to water, inputs, information and training. FAO has supported the initiative by providing quality high-yielding seeds and fertilizers to farmers through seed fairs and direct distribution. FAO has also trained farmers and agricultural extension workers on technical specifications for seed use, distribution, certification and quality control. The project contributed to significant production increases in both rain-fed and irrigation farms, increased household food availability and dietary diversity, and improved incomes for farmers who sold their products in markets.
PARAGUAY

FAO works in conjunction with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Paraguay to provide technical cooperation services in their respective areas of specialization. Increasing agricultural competitiveness has been identified as a priority by the government, particularly strengthening access to markets, with an emphasis on small and medium producers. FAO/IICA specific projects in the present and coming years include developing the management capacity of knowledge, research, innovation and technology transfer; strengthening agricultural health, food safety, and national biotechnology and biosafety programs; increasing access to land and inputs; strengthening sustainable agricultural and forestry production; improving the system of rural extension services; and incorporating new financial services, including crop insurance, for family farmers.

RWANDA

In Rwanda, challenges that need further attention in the agriculture sector and food security areas include (i) strengthening of production and productivity enhancing technologies, (ii) development of agricultural skills, (iii) development of processing capacity and value addition facilities, and (iv) development of post-harvest facilities. FAO is currently supporting the government in scaling up innovative approaches to agricultural productivity enhancement piloted in Rwanda. These approaches include Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to control pests and diseases, Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to disseminate recommended agricultural extension services, Farmer Field and Life Schools (FFLS) to extend productivity enhancing technologies to the most vulnerable community members as a recommended agricultural extension methodology. Other initiatives include providing technical expertise to develop and review policies/strategies on food security and nutrition, improved livelihood resilience of vulnerable groups, and develop regulatory framework for natural resources.

SOUTH SUDAN

FAO is committed to an integrated, multi-sectoral, recovery and development programme for food and nutrition security in South Sudan. Four priority areas are: (i) establishing an enabling environment for sustainable agricultural development; (ii) sustainable production and productivity for food security; (iii) enhancing market opportunities for rural communities; and (iv) building resilience for food security. Current and expected projects include training fish farmers on preservation, processing, and transportation handling; providing inclusive financial, agricultural and business development services including ICT services that support both men and women; supporting enhanced and diversified market opportunities for livestock and livestock products; and Institutional development and capacity building for effective food security governance.

SWAZILAND

Since FAO established its representation in Swaziland over a decade ago, it has provided technical assistance to improve food security, sustainable agricultural and rural development. Specific projects have included technical assistance for the formulation of sector and sub-sector policy and strategies; technical assistance for the improved sustainable management of forest and land resources, increasing smallholder access to improved technologies as well as improving their knowledge and skills for enhanced food security, and improved institutional capacities including for the safe handling of obsolete pesticides; improved food safety; and increased resilience of food security systems to climatic shock through strengthened early warning systems. In the future, FAO and the Government of Swaziland will focus on four key priority areas: (i) agricultural support systems and strengthening institutions; (ii) agricultural productivity, market access and competitiveness; (iii) sustainable management of natural resources; and (iv) mitigation of food insecurity by improving livelihoods, reducing vulnerability and the impact of HIV and AIDS.
TAJIKISTAN
In 2014 FAO established in Tajikistan its fully-fledged Representation with appointed FAO Representative to assist the national strategic priorities in agriculture with particular focus on policy and institutional reforms. FAO has been efficiently contributing into implementation of on-going Agrarian Reform. The technical assistance has been provided through strengthening of the National Food Security Information System, linked to National Food Security and Nutrition Program; development of sustainable farming system on crop production and diversification associated with implementation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines on responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest; capacity development of the ministries/committees and private organization for sustainable management of land and water resources and continued support to livestock production development and combating livestock diseases, privatization of animal health and veterinary services and support to sustainable forest land management, as well as implementation of efficient plant protection approaches. FAO Representative Office in Tajikistan is actively involved in the development of the new Food Security Program for 2016-2020 as a part of National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030.

TURKMENISTAN
FAO is strengthening its partnership with the Government of Turkmenistan at the global, regional and country levels. The recently developed Country Programming Framework (CPF) in Turkmenistan identifies the following priority areas for intervention and support: (i) agricultural production and food security; (ii) sustainable natural resource management, climate change mitigation and adaptation; and (iii) increasing the resilience of rural livelihoods to agriculture and food security threats and shocks.

UGANDA
Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for roughly 77 percent of Ugandans. Climate change and environmental challenges, such as erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells and flooding, pose a threat to crop and livestock productivity. To help farmers face these challenges, FAO is supporting the production of drought-tolerant crops, constructing infrastructure for water and soil conservation, training farmers on sustainable farming and animal husbandry practices and facilitating community planning. Specifically, the farmer field school approach, widely adopted by FAO Uganda, is very effective for farmers to improve production and learn about post-harvest handling and farming-as-a-business—from processing their goods to marketing them more effectively. FAO also recognizes the government’s goal to commercialize agriculture. The Organization will support continued research and investment in, extension services, seeds, fertilizers, water for crops and animals, mechanization, pest and disease control, animal husbandry and fisheries. These activities are projected to increase food and nutrition security; lead to higher employment, raise incomes of farmers and widen the export base.

UZBEKISTAN
Uzbekistan has had a growing collaboration with FAO since 2001. Recently, the country has made efforts to increase its presence in regional and international markets, demonstrating impressive growth in the agricultural sector. FAO and its partners are supporting the government by providing technical support in diversification and intensification of farming systems in conventionally irrigated areas; intensive gardening, fruits and vegetables production for domestic and export markets; integrated seed sector development; capacity building integrated pest management, conservation agriculture, and other crop protection techniques; development of livestock production and combating diseases; and sustainable development and management of natural resources such as forests, land and water. Among the plant protection problems that pose a challenge for agricultural production and food security, locusts are a significant threat, especially in the region of Central Asia and the Caucasus. FAO is also implementing a five-year programme to strengthen locust management capacities in ten countries in the region and to increase intraregional cooperation to combat it. The Organization’s presence in Uzbekistan will be reinforced with the opening of an FAO country office in Tashkent.
ZIMBABWE

Agriculture continues to be one of the key drivers of the Zimbabwean economy, contributing about 14-18 percent to GDP. To help improve agricultural development and food and nutrition security in the country, FAO has implemented several projects in conjunction with the government and other strategic partners. Recent achievements include: providing technical assistance for the preparation of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Investment Programme and supporting preparation of the Irrigation policy document and Contract Farming Framework; training on input handling and business management of 164 agro-dealers participating in the FAO inputs programme; supporting 47,800 farmers with crops and livestock input vouchers; supporting 2,400 farmers in contract farming; providing 260,000 Foot and Mouth (FMD) and 475,000 Anthrax doses to assist livestock farmers; and rehabilitated 365 boreholes for livestock water points in nine districts. The majority of farmers are dependent on dryland cropping for their livelihoods, making them vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In the years ahead, FAO will continue to pursue opportunities to provide support to the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors, especially in strengthening research and extension institutions and improved irrigation infrastructure, which will contribute positively to improved production and productivity in the face of climate change.

ZAMBIA

FAO works extensively with the Government of Zambia on several priority areas, including crop diversification, processing/value added, irrigation, livestock disease control, agricultural statistics, fisheries, forestry and natural resources management. FAO’s programmes in the country focus on creating more efficient and sustainable food systems. A recent project on the promotion of agro-food processing among small scale farmers focuses on the reduction of postharvest losses, assuring food security through increased shelf life of products, and value addition through processing. FAO is also helping the government promote climate smart agriculture by developing and implementing practices, policies and investments for climate smart agriculture, and subsequently formulating strategic frameworks and investment proposals. Zambia has an immense resource base for livestock production, so protecting animal health is a priority area. FAO successfully facilitated several livestock disease control training workshops for veterinarians, lab technicians and veterinary assistants, led by veterinary epidemiologists and other experts in the field. Given the rich natural resource endowment, Zambia has a potential to produce enough food for the country and surplus for export which can contribute significantly towards the feeding of the rest of the world. Harnessing the value of these natural resources in a sustainable way is a key priority for the government and FAO.
“Landlocked developing countries face an uphill battle in ensuring food security of its population and sustainable development. FAO is working with landlocked developing countries to overcome the challenges they face supporting nationally owned, government-led processes with the participation of relevant stakeholders. By joining forces, food security and sustainability are goals that we can reach.”

José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General