



The FAO's

Action for Nutrition *Trust Fund*

Transforming commitment into results

In the context of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) established the **Action for Nutrition Trust Fund** to help transform the commitments and strategies endorsed at the Conference into concrete actions to fight malnutrition. The Fund will enhance the capacity of governments to tackle major issues in nutrition by mobilizing resources for programmes and projects, particularly FAO's newly launched Action for Nutrition Programme, which aims to leverage agriculture and food systems to improve nutrition worldwide.

ICN2 was the first world forum dedicated solely to addressing the global nutrition challenges faced in the 21st century. The conference culminated in representatives from participating governments endorsing two outcome documents: the **Rome Declaration on Nutrition**, a political commitment document, and the **Framework for Action**, a technical guide for its implementation. The Declaration commits countries to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide, while the Framework outlines specific strategies for achieving these commitments.

By creating the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund and mobilizing much needed resources to finance nutrition initiatives, FAO is putting an essential piece in place to achieve the goals set forth by these two outcome documents.



Agriculture and food systems have a fundamental role to play in fighting all forms of malnutrition by addressing the immediate, underlying and basic elements of nutrition itself. Through the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund and corresponding Programme, FAO can support its partners in taking specific measures—including policy making and programming, capacity development, information systems and knowledge management—to ensure that investments within food systems are leveraged for better nutrition.



FAO's role in nutrition

As the UN's international organization for food and agriculture, FAO has a leading role to play in ensuring good nutrition for all.

Improving nutrition is an organizational priority, enshrined in FAO's Constitution and fundamental to achieving FAO's vision of a world without hunger, where food and agriculture contribute to improve the living standards of the entire population in an economically, socially and environmentally-sustainable manner.

Nutrition has been mainstreamed in FAO's Strategic Framework, embedded in each of its five Strategic Objectives to ensure that nutrition is prioritized in FAO's work.

FAO also supports member countries in their efforts to leverage food and agricultural systems to improve nutrition across the life cycle for their populations, working with partners from the UN system, civil society, the private sector and academia at global, regional and national levels. In focusing this vision on nutrition, FAO seeks to help improve diets and raise levels of nutrition in gender-sensitive, people-centered and sustainable ways.

FAO is committed to supporting its member countries in implementing the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action. The Action for Nutrition Programme focuses on several key areas of intervention outlined in the Framework for Action, which are directly relevant to FAO's work in leveraging food systems for improved nutrition. Its contribution to achieving the goals of the ICN2 Framework for Action will focus on the following areas:

- **Creating an enabling environment** by enhancing countries' capacities to collect, analyze and effectively use information on the food security and nutrition for surveillance, monitoring and evaluation. FAO also helps build political commitment and improve coordination for nutrition.
- **Promoting sustainable food systems for healthy diets** by increasing capacities to design, implement and scale-up nutrition-focused food and agriculture policies, strategies and investments, that also enhance resilience to shocks, crises and climate change. FAO provides countries with recommendations on human nutrient requirements and strategies for promoting healthy diets.

- **Facilitating international trade and investment** by assisting countries in assessing, formulating and implementing nutrition-enhancing trade and investment policies, regulations and agreements.
- **Increasing nutrition education and information** by supporting countries in the development and implementation of national dietary guidelines and national nutrition education and communication strategies. FAO also assists countries in establishing comprehensive school nutrition strategies and programmes.
- **Building resilience and promoting social protection for improved nutrition** by mainstreaming nutrition in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes, resilience-building programmes and humanitarian safety nets.
- **Improving food safety** by working in collaboration with WHO to help countries strengthen their national systems of food control and adopt measures to prevent antimicrobial resistance.
- **Ensuring accountability for ICN2 follow-up** by supporting countries in establishing and/or strengthening national monitoring frameworks and mechanisms for nutrition and regular reporting on the ICN2 outcome documents.

FAO will support countries in each of these technical areas through the implementation of its Strategic Framework, with a focus on increasing knowledge and evidence, improving governance and enhancing capacity for action at country level. Furthermore, all relevant FAO departments, divisions and decentralized offices will support activities under the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund and Programme, allowing FAO to draw upon a broad range of knowledge and expertise on nutrition and food systems.



Governance

FAO established the Action for Nutrition multidonor trust fund as the preferred means for strategically aligning unearmarked or lightly earmarked contributions. The Fund will be governed through a Steering Committee (SC) and a Fund Assembly (FA), which will establish priorities, review alignment of proposals and approve proposed activities.

The **Steering Committee** will provide strategic guidance and set priorities for activities financed by the Fund, and approve annual work plans proposed by the **Programme Coordinating Unit** (PCU). It will oversee and monitor the progress of activities, and make recommendations, as required.

The SC will be hosted by FAO, and will be composed of representatives from the major contributors to the Fund, one representative from civil society and one from the private sector, two eminent personalities in the domain of nutrition, the Assistant Director-General in charge of FAO's Economic and Social Development Department and the Chair of the FAO Council.

The SC Chair will be elected by the members and will serve for a one-year term. The first chairperson will be from the largest contributing country at the time of the launch.

The Secretary of the SC will be the Assistant Director-General in charge of FAO's Technical Cooperation Department.

The SC will consist of no less than six and not more than ten members. For the inception year, membership will be extended to the first four resource partners contributing to the Fund.

The **Fund Assembly** serves as a consultative forum which allows all contributors and beneficiaries of the Fund to engage in information sharing on achievements, lessons learned, emerging issues and the future development of the Fund.

FAO will establish a Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) in the FAO Nutrition Division under the oversight of the Assistant Director-General in charge of FAO's Economic and Social Development Department. The PCU, in close collaboration with the SC, will support the implementation of the resource mobilization, management and communication action plan of the Fund, with particular attention to ensuring the adequate planning and implementation of projects and programmes.

Twice per year the PCU will make a **Call for Proposals** based on the size of the Fund at the time. The SC will decide which proposals will be funded based on the recommendations from the PCU.

Funds will be administered in Rome or in the field, as appropriate, in accordance with FAO's Financial Rules and Regulations. The Fund will be subject to FAO auditing (internal and external) and evaluation procedures.

Projects will be implemented according to standard FAO policies and procedures, under the oversight of the PCU.

“FAO's Action for Nutrition Trust Fund provides the much needed resources to finance nutrition initiatives, putting an essential piece in place to help countries achieve the nutrition goals set forth by ICN2.”

José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General

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