

Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY



Unique Challenges to Food Security and Nutrition

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) share unique and particular vulnerabilities, resulting in a complex set of food security and nutrition challenges.

Effects of climate change

SIDS suffer from the effects of climate change such as more extreme weather patterns including cyclones and hurricanes and more erratic rainfall resulting in drought, flooding, rising sea levels and eroding coastlines. These changes exacerbate their already fragile natural environments making it more difficult to produce sufficient food to meet their needs.

Economic vulnerability

Given their geographic and economic isolation, many SIDS rely heavily on remote markets for their food supplies. They also bear heavy costs for energy, infrastructure, transportation, communication and servicing. These high costs curb opportunities for private sector development needed to stimulate domestic food production, exacerbating SIDS' reliance on imported processed food.

Looming health crisis

Many SIDS suffer from the 'triple burden' of malnutrition, where undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and obesity co-exist in the population. Diabetes and other non-communicable diseases are at dangerously high levels for a growing number of SIDS. This alarming legacy stems largely from consuming a diet of processed imported foods that are high in sugar, salt and fats. In addition to the personal cost to individuals, health care costs are creating increasing stress on government budgets.

The complexity and magnitude of these challenges are daunting and far too great for any one agency, organization or country to solve on their own. Closer international cooperation and a more integrated approach are needed so that all stakeholders can play their part in supporting SIDS in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Food Security and Nutrition: Key Facts and Figures

UNDERNOURISHMENT

Levels of undernutrition in SIDS have fallen in recent years, but not as rapidly as in developing countries as a whole



STUNTING exceeds 20% in children in 5 of the poorest SIDS

Wasting is still at serious levels in a few countries >10%

OBESITY

Caribbean countries average

33% obesity in their populations

At least twice the number of obese women as men

75% of all adult deaths in the Pacific are due to non-communicable diseases

25% of AIMS countries have rates of female obesity at around 40%

IMPORTS

FOOD IMPORTS TODAY >5 billion \$/year ↑ +50% SINCE 2000

Will increase to \$8-10 billion by 2020 if nothing changes

All Caribbean and Pacific SIDS import over

60% of food

50% of islands import over 80%

Top 5 food imports

- processed foods
- wheat
- corn
- meat
- dairy



DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

52% of the agricultural workforce are women who do not have the same access to land, resources or credit, as men

FISH PROVIDES 50-90% of animal protein in diets

In many Pacific SIDS, people consume 3 to 4 times the global average of fish per capita

Food production ranges from 28% to 71% of domestic requirements in the Caribbean

How does the GAP contribute to the achievement of the SAMOA Pathway?

The *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway* underscores the need for a more integrated approach to sustainable development as emphasized in the 2030 Agenda. It calls for **strengthened international cooperation and partnerships**, with adequate investment and coordinated implementation, to address and halt the persistent development challenges of SIDS.

As a key follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway, the *Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (GAP)* aims to accelerate action on food security and nutrition in SIDS. It is intended as a **tangible contribution to the integrated implementation** of the 2030 Agenda.

The GAP recommends action at global, regional, national and local level. The overarching outcomes of the GAP are to create enabling environments for food security and nutrition; to transform food systems to improve their nutrition-sensitivity, resilience and sustainability; and to empower people and communities to lead healthy and productive lives.

THE GAP IS COMPRISED OF THREE MUTUALLY REINFORCING OBJECTIVES:



Strengthen the enabling environments for food security and nutrition

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS towards improved food security and nutrition requires a greater recognition of the urgency of the inter-related challenges faced by countries in addressing the epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases, and in reducing undernutrition.

Political Commitment and Governance that is more coherent will contribute to improvements in the regulatory environment that governs both consumer choice and the investments made by the private sector, enhancing progress in food security and nutrition.

Capacity and resources need to be improved. This includes greater efficiencies in the use of available resources to help bridge the funding gap.

Knowledge and evidence generation, dissemination and use is critical. SIDS need to harness their reservoir of rich cultural heritage to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

WAY FORWARD

- **ENSURE greater alignment of action between government agencies.**
- **FOSTER closer international partnerships** between UN agencies, academia, donors working in tandem with the private sector.
- **STRENGTHEN the knowledge and evidence base** on food security and nutrition and enhance inter-sectoral as well as intra- and inter-regional sharing of this knowledge.

Improve the sustainability, resilience and nutrition-sensitivity of food systems

FROM FARM TO FORK AND BEYOND, food systems comprise the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of goods that come from agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. The challenge facing food systems in SIDS lies in enhancing their ability to deliver safe, high-quality food at reasonable prices to consumers while providing viable livelihoods to those involved in production and transformative activities.

Sustainable management and use of:

- **oceans and seas and their resources** by leveraging international and regional cooperation is key to improved food security and nutrition
- **freshwater resources** by harnessing inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture can contribute to livelihood opportunities
- **terrestrial resources** including the transition to improved production practices underpins efforts to enhance food security and nutrition

Inclusive and efficient nutrition-sensitive value chains developed through increased private sector investment, and inclusive of small-scale actors is key to the delivery of improved nutritional outcomes and livelihoods.

Climate adaptation and resilience for food security and nutrition is urgently needed to enhance resilience of food systems to withstand the effects of climate change and economic shocks.

WAY FORWARD

- **TAILOR food systems to be more inclusive of vulnerable fishers and family farmers**, including addressing gender discrimination in access to productive resources, technology and credit.
- **HARNESS value chain actors in reshaping food systems** and in promoting intra-regional trade.
- **SUPPORT** community-based mechanisms for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management while **mainstreaming food security and nutrition** considerations.

Empower people and communities for food security and nutrition

FOOD INSECURITY, HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION go hand-in-hand with poverty and inequality. Creating employment opportunities is vital to lift people out of poverty. Particular attention needs to be given to support the rights of vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, women and youth, to improve access to land, services, innovative technologies and market opportunities.

Social and economic empowerment that reduces inequality in access can have transformative and multiplier effects on sustainable growth in SIDS.

Nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes provide critical buffers in times of crisis and contribute to investments in sustained productivity increase.

Tailored actions to prevent and treat malnutrition in all its forms that are well-suited to the community will lead to lasting change.

WAY FORWARD

- **TARGET** the most **vulnerable groups** to provide opportunities to overcome hunger and malnutrition and improve their resources and capabilities.
- **LINK local farmers** to **supply fresh fruits and vegetables to school canteens**: children enjoy healthier meals while family farmers earn a steady income.
- **FOCUS ON** specific community organizations such as **producer associations** especially groups of **women and youths**. Protect, promote and support optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices.

Small Island Developing States and SDGs

The 2030 Agenda is driven by a set of 17 mutually-reinforcing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that includes a bold plan of action for a world without poverty or hunger. Addressing the GAP objectives will go a long way to assisting countries in meeting a wide range of SDGs.

OBJECTIVE 1



OBJECTIVE 2



OBJECTIVE 3



FAO, UN DESA and UN OHRLLS remain committed to helping SIDS end poverty and hunger and to adapt to the complex challenges they face in achieving the SDGs.



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