



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# FAO

# +

# United Kingdom

Joint efforts  
for sustainable  
livelihoods  
and global  
food security





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Kingdom**

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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## Cover photographs

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# Acronyms

<b>AGRIS</b>	Agricultural Integrated Survey
<b>AMR</b>	Antimicrobial resistance
<b>CFW</b>	Cash-for-work
<b>CSA</b>	Climate-smart agriculture
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FAW</b>	Fall armyworm
<b>FIES</b>	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
<b>GAFSP</b>	Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme
<b>GBP</b>	British Pound
<b>IATI</b>	International Aid Transparency Initiative
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
<b>IPPC</b>	International Plant Protection Convention
<b>ITPGRFA</b>	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
<b>LFSP</b>	Livelihoods and Food Security Programme
<b>MAR</b>	Multilateral Aid Review
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OIE</b>	World Organisation for Animal Health
<b>RBA</b>	Rome-based agency
<b>RRM</b>	Rapid Response Mechanism
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SIAP</b>	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
<b>SOFI</b>	State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World
<b>SPARS</b>	Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics
<b>TAG</b>	Technical Advisory Group
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNECA</b>	UN Economic Commission for Africa
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>VFM</b>	Value for money
<b>VGGT</b>	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
<b>VoH</b>	Voices of the Hungry
<b>WASH</b>	Water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# Partnership at a glance

The United Kingdom (UK) became a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1945, marking the beginning of more than 70 years of strategic work. This strong collaboration covers a myriad of areas, including agricultural statistics, livestock management, nutrition and food security analysis, development cooperation, resilience and peacebuilding, climate change, emergencies and protracted crises.

The UK is a vital partner of FAO's resilience programme, supporting projects that have assisted vulnerable communities and built their ability to withstand crises. This partnership has enhanced the capacity to undertake food security analyses at national and regional levels, improving strategic planning and response to climate risks — by mainstreaming disaster-risk reduction and management in the agriculture sector institutions' planning — and restoring and protecting the livelihoods of communities affected by protracted crises in the Central African Republic, Somalia, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Engagement with the UK has yielded substantial outcomes for people in need and the country was the first and largest contributor to El Niño Preparedness and Early Response efforts during the period 2015–2016. An example of success is the Somalia response, which demonstrates value for money (VFM) associated with converting early warning into smart early action. This resulted in averting disasters in many areas, while reducing response costs. It enabled farmers to produce food, provided necessary medicines to save and improve the health of livestock, and distributed cash relief to vulnerable families.

The UK has also been a fundamental partner in areas such as food safety and the alarming increasing trend of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). It has made significant contributions to combat AMR by supporting the One Health approach in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

FAO's partnership with the UK, through its Department for International Development (DFID), has been a success story that has made a real difference to the world's most vulnerable people. A success made

possible thanks to its unwavering commitment to development and its guiding lines of strengthening global security, resilience and response to crises, while promoting global prosperity and tackling extreme poverty. This is mirrored in the UK's total contribution of over GBP 316 million (USD 411 million)<sup>1</sup> in the 2014–2018 period to FAO's projects and programmes.

FAO continues to strengthen the foundations that support this longstanding partnership with the UK. The partnership aims to save costs and time, simplify the collaboration between the partners and enhance its effectiveness, while delivering on their strategic frameworks and increasing VFM. Within this context, FAO has worked closely with DFID to strengthen its partnership in building resilience, to outline how the two agencies can better collaborate in line with the UK's 2017 Humanitarian Reform Policy, and to strengthen the capacity for conflict sensitivity analysis and improving accountability to affected populations. Equally important has been working together with international partners that DFID also supports, including the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) and the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.

Recently, FAO's Director-General addressed an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development in London, where he emphasized the longstanding partnership between the Government of the UK and FAO. The Organization is actively supporting the creation of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger and Malnutrition and working with governments, including the UK, to ensure that improving malnutrition is anchored in public policies and programmes.

What is more, like FAO, DFID recognizes the changing aid environment — as developing countries usher in their domestic resources and draw on diverse forms of development finance — and calls for harnessing the role of trade, growth and investments to enhance prosperity and end poverty. With an increase in food crises, conflicts and climate shocks, the UK's continued support will remain as essential as ever in bringing us closer to realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a world free from hunger.

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<sup>1</sup> Values in British Pound (GBP) in this report are based on the exchange rate as of 4 October 2018 (USD 1 = GBP 0.77)

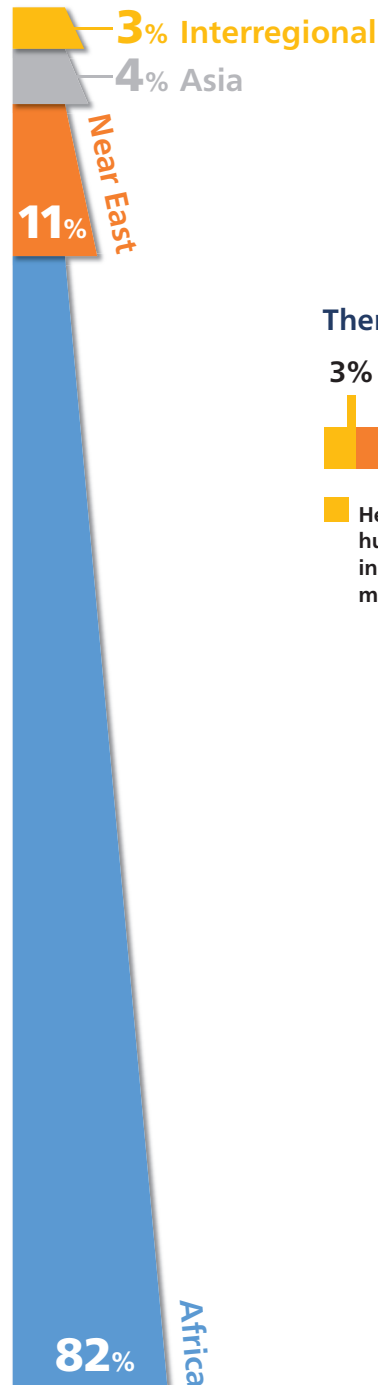
## In figures

Total contributions of the United Kingdom to FAO (assessed and voluntary) 2017–2018

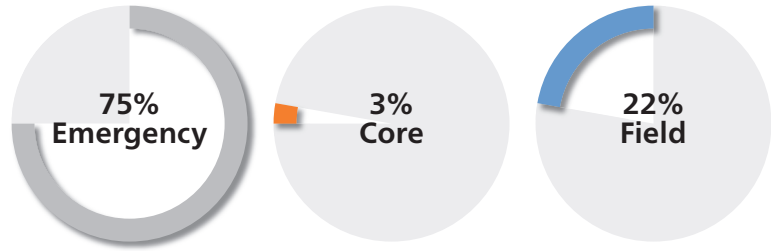
**GBP 117 569 059**

(USD) 152 687 090

Regional distribution 2017–2018\*



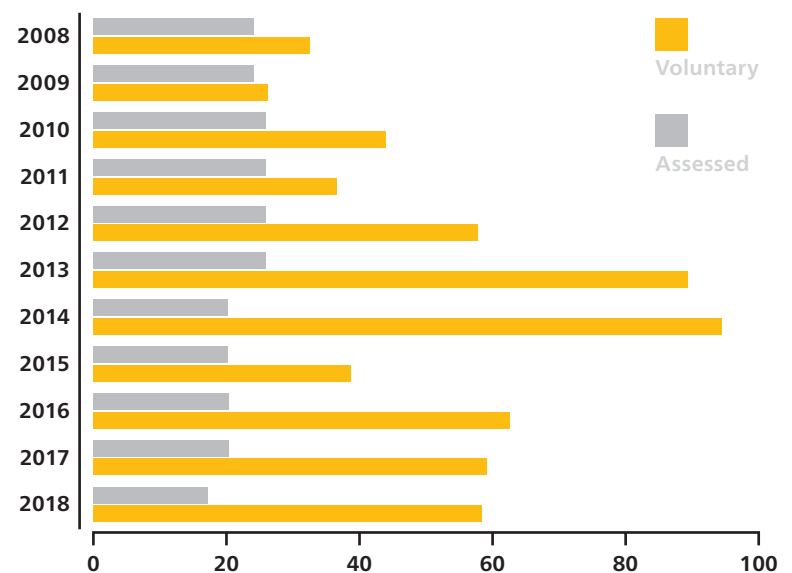
Category distribution 2017–2018\*



Thematic distribution 2017–2018\*



Trend of assessed and voluntary contributions (GBP million) 2008–2018



\* This only refers to voluntary contributions, based on approvals.



Laborers downloading and washing tomatoes after collecting them  
©FAO/Heba Khamis





# Keeping our food safe and our planet healthy

The world's food and agricultural systems are essential to the health and well-being of every woman, man and child on Earth. Ensuring that everyone has access to the nutrients they need is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of human societies, but ensuring that food systems grow and develop in ways that can meet the needs of all people is a task that is best accomplished through well-developed cooperation that includes trade, innovation and investment, as well as shared rules for safety and fairness in all aspects of production, distribution and consumption.

Safeguarding the world's food and agriculture also means paying attention to the sustainability and climate footprint of all activities related to food and agriculture. FAO enables all forms of cooperation by providing data and analyses of emerging trends, facilitating the development of norms and standards to guide action by governments and their partners, and supporting and sustaining

technically sophisticated platforms at global, regional and national level for policy dialogue among governments, farmers, civil society, businesses and consumers.

One of the most tangible ways FAO, with the support of partners such as the UK, contributes to the daily lives of people around the world is in developing and promoting international standards around the production and trade of food. From food labelling to the management of fish stocks and the preservation of the valuable genetic heritage of plants and livestock, FAO brokers international guidelines and hosts a myriad of commissions and governing bodies that keep our food safe and our food production sustainable into the future. Facilitating trade, keeping plants and animals healthy and ensuring that benefits are shared by all are essential parts of FAO's and the UK's mission to strengthen national institutions and global food governance.

## Codex Alimentarius

Established by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), the Codex is the single most important international reference point for food standards. The UK is a strong proponent of the Codex, which contributes to the safety, quality and fairness of international food trade, and actively participates in the Codex Commission that sets international standards, guidelines and codes of practice. The broad scope of the Codex, covering areas such as contaminants, nutrition, food hygiene, additives, antimicrobial resistance and biotechnology, makes it an essential factor in achieving food security and zero hunger. Meanwhile, public concern about food safety often places Codex at the centre of global debates. The UK has been at the forefront of introducing innovative webinar technology into Codex to enhance participation in technical working groups.

### Fighting antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

FAO plays a leading role — along with WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) — in preserving the effectiveness of antibiotics and other antimicrobials that are important for human and animal health, in line with the Global Action Plan on AMR. AMR not only threatens human, animal and plant health, but also poses a risk to food safety and food security. Beyond that, it threatens the economic well-being of millions of farming families.

Recognizing this triple threat, the UK has made significant contributions to holistically combating AMR worldwide. This is most visible in its contribution to FAO through the Fleming Fund of the UK's Department of Health, as part of a tripartite umbrella project with WHO, FAO and OIE in support of the One Health approach addressing AMR in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

## International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The IPPC aims to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests affecting plants and plant products. The convention, which is governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, covers cultivated plants and natural flora alike. The UK has made significant contributions to FAO in support of the commission



The UK contributes to FAO's normative work and that of the Codex to limit AMR  
©FAO/Asim Hafeez

and its efforts to improve food security, by preventing the loss of ecosystems and species diversity and by facilitating the safe trade of plant products.

## International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

The ITPGRFA, also known as the International Plant Treaty, facilitates the conservation, sustainable use and continued open exchange of food crops and their genetic materials between countries. This helps to ensure that farmers and researchers across the globe continue to have access to the world's most important food crops and can utilize the valuable genetic traits found therein to transform the livelihoods of farming families and contribute to more climate-resilient food production systems.

The UK Government contributes financial resources to the treaty and is an active participant in policy discussions. The UK's Darwin Initiative finances projects that support the implementation of the International Plant Treaty and has been helping countries, especially developing ones, to conserve biodiversity and reduce poverty.



## Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)

The VGGT represent a historic breakthrough in the global effort to safeguard the legitimate rights of people to own, use and access land, forests and fisheries. Since 2012, many resource partners, including the UK, have recognized these first-ever global tenure guidelines — which were endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security — to protect the rights of millions of vulnerable people worldwide, achieve food security for all and ensure that development is sustainable.

The UK's support to the implementation of the VGGT has included increased awareness within the context of a policy reform in Myanmar, Nepal and South Africa; a suite of capacity-development tools and approaches with a wide geographic reach, thematic focus and covering several local languages; targeted support concerning the identification and recording of tenure rights in Nigeria and Uganda; studies on the VGGT and extraterritorial investments in agricultural land by China, India and South Africa; extensive learning programmes specific to gender and the VGGT; and agricultural investments with respect to tenure in



multiple countries. As a result, international, national and local actors learned to integrate and actively apply the VGGT principles and best practices. The UK's contribution also supported the monitoring of global progress towards implementing the VGGT. By October 2016, 47 countries and regions, plus 15 global entities, had submitted reports to the Committee on World Food Security on their implementation of the guidelines. The UK is providing additional support to developing countries in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines in a second phase of the project.

### Gender equality and the VGGT

One of the stand-out areas in which UK funding for VGGT implementation has made a major difference is gender equality — encouraging states to recognize women's land rights and actively promote them. Across all regions, women, who on average represent 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, have less access than men to productive resources and opportunities. The VGGT provide an opportunity to reverse gender inequalities in agriculture and promote a more gender-equitable governance of land tenure. Making gender equality one of the ten implementing principles of the VGGT highlights the central role the guidelines give to elevating the position of women — be it in formulating policy, providing services or ensuring access to justice and information.



UK's ongoing support allows  
FAO to promote a paradigm  
that involves transition,  
recovery and development  
©FAO/S. Gajurel



# Providing support across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

The world's 2.5 billion people who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods often bear the worst impact of conflicts, natural disasters, food chain crises and other emergencies. By supporting both humanitarian interventions and resilience-building activities as priority areas in its contributions to FAO, the UK has not only shown its commitment to helping those immediately affected by crises but also to harnessing the complex relationship between agriculture-based livelihoods, long-term development and peace.

Maintaining food production and rebuilding the agriculture sector are fundamental to preventing loss of life from severe hunger and providing a pathway towards resilience, not just in the midst of humanitarian crises but also beyond. The UK's support to bolstering the nexus of humanitarian intervention, development and peace building is directly contributing to breaking the cycle of vulnerability in rural areas that is a key obstacle on the road to Zero Hunger.

## Turning a new approach into action

FAO recognizes that advancing new and differentiated approaches to protracted crises, including promoting resilience of vulnerable communities and livelihoods, is the most effective way to break the cycle of vulnerability and achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger by 2030.

At the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, FAO committed to a new way of working, in line with the Grand Bargain, which called for integrated, context-specific, multi-year, multi-partner actions led by national governments and local communities, and supported by multi-year financing.

With an unprecedented level of humanitarian needs driven largely by protracted crises, FAO is actively applying a complementary approach that bridges humanitarian and development objectives, essentially operationalizing the new way of working by framing its interventions within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This entails significantly strengthened efforts in sharing data relating to vulnerability; undertaking joint assessments and analysis of needs, responses and future risks; and collaborating on planning and programming, backed up by appropriate financing modalities and stronger leadership in support of collective outcomes.

Whilst previous international models for responding to humanitarian emergencies addressed the immediate needs of communities, DFID's ongoing support has allowed FAO to promote a paradigm that involves the transition, recovery and development phases, with a special emphasis on the role agriculture can play in facilitating the transition from conflict and crisis to sustainable peace.



## Building resilience in protracted crises

For decades, FAO has worked in and across both the humanitarian and development spheres in order to protect and restore livelihoods and agricultural production. The UK is a vital partner in FAO's resilience programme, and over the 2016–2018 period it assisted vulnerable communities in strengthening their livelihoods so that they could withstand crises. This timely investment reduced humanitarian needs (and costs) and allowed for a more targeted allocation of limited humanitarian resources, further increasing resilience and ultimately reducing vulnerability and needs.

Through its resilience programme, FAO has a unique contribution to make to DFID's 2017 Humanitarian Reform Policy, which is built on three major desirable

outcomes: fewer conflicts, fewer forced migrations and fewer crises. On average, between 60 and 80 percent of those hit by crises are rural families who rely on agriculture-based livelihoods. Likewise, crises not only undermine rural livelihoods, but can also leave families with no alternative but to move in search of safety or income opportunities.

With extensive inputs from DFID, in 2018 FAO issued a paper entitled "Building stronger partnerships for resilience: Opportunities for greater FAO engagement in realizing the goals of the DFID Humanitarian Policy" to outline and strengthen the partnership between the two agencies in addressing severe hunger and building the resilience of agriculture-based livelihoods in the face of crises. The document will be updated in mid-2019, reflecting the outcomes of the annual FAO-DFID Strategic Dialogue Meetings.



Farmers' school with engineers informing farmers about planting and preparing protected farms in the targeted area supported by FAO

© FAO/Soliman Ahmed

## Cost-effective response to save livelihoods and lives in Somalia

In Somalia most people depend on farming, pastoralism or a mixture of both. This makes their livelihoods vulnerable to extreme weather events, like the 2016 and 2017 drought that destroyed harvests, killed livestock and ultimately placed Somalia on famine alert. At the peak of the crisis in mid-2017, an estimated 6.7 million people (half of the population) were acutely food insecure and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance — mostly in remote rural areas.

FAO is one of the few agencies with the technical skills and experience to target some of the most vulnerable and neglected populations, like pastoralists. With contributions from the UK through DFID, FAO was able to support 688 185 drought-affected households from January 2017 to February 2018.

Through cash-for-work (CFW) activities, 19 150 beneficiary households rehabilitated 105 water catchments to increase water storage capacity as well as 12 canals to improve the irrigation of 5 112 hectares of farmland, benefiting 3 408 farmers. An additional 3 637 households that were unable to participate in CFW projects received unconditional cash transfers over a period of three months to cover their food needs.

Complementing the work of other agencies, FAO helped stave off famine by securing the productive assets of vulnerable families through an emergency livestock campaign along with the provision of fodder and agricultural inputs. Under the campaign, 18 million sheep and goats were treated and 6 million vaccinated.

The simple and cost-effective care provided by the FAO veterinary teams reinforced animals' coping capacity and kept them alive and productive. Moreover, 40 community-based animal health workers, including 13 women, were trained in basic animal health services and received start-up veterinary kits. This in turn protected the livelihoods of more than 600 000 households across Somalia and provided families with much-needed food and income to sustain them through the crisis period and beyond.

The effect of the animal treatment campaign was both far-reaching and cost-effective. Far-reaching because it prevented the spread of diseases to other herds, while securing sources of nutrition for families and communities and preventing them from falling into destitution. Cost-effective because investing in protecting livelihoods is considerably cheaper than restoring them: a herd of 40 animals could cost as much as GBP 1 200 (USD 1 560), while GBP 12 (USD 16) will provide a herd of that size with veterinary care. The UK's contribution was vital in bringing families through the worst part of the crisis with continued access to milk, meat and livestock-generated income.

To complement this work and support the effective management of transboundary pests and diseases, FAO, thanks to UK funding, trained 13 government staff to become master trainers on fall armyworm (FAW) surveillance and monitoring. A total of 45 government extension officers, trained by the master trainers, were later mobilized across Somalia, providing training directly to 3 150 farmers on FAW identification and management options. FAO further installed 210 FAW monitoring systems in 210 villages to help farmers monitor possible armyworm infestation. Such efforts enabled FAO to set up a FAW early warning system.



## Protecting livestock assets and building resilience

Mahal Abdillahi Mohamed is from Dasaan village in Somalia's semi-autonomous region of Puntland. He was married with five healthy children who enjoyed milk and meat every day. The family also sold goat's milk.

But then drought struck, and after four consecutive seasons of poor rainfall, his livestock started dying. Desperate to save what he could, Mahal decided to herd the remaining goats and sheep to Bandar Beyla on the coast. He became one of 916 000 people who were forced from their homes because of drought or conflict. Against all hope, he soon discovered that the situation

on the coast was no different — and by the time he arrived, the remaining animals were in such a weak condition he could no longer sell them.

The UK's contribution to the livestock campaign was life-changing for pastoralists like Mahal and his family. In Mahal's case, it meant he was able to save the remainder of his herd and return home with healthy animals.

"Now my animals are being treated, I am relieved. I can now continue to take care of them," he said. "Once the animals are strong, I can go back home and be close to my family."

Mahal herds his goats near the village of Bandar Beyla, Somalia  
©FAO/Karel Prinsloo



## Working towards stability and peace in South Sudan

Years of civil war and persistent insecurity have eroded the livelihoods and coping skills of millions in South Sudan and more than once driven the country towards the precipice of famine. In 2017 concerted efforts by the international community, while relieving the suffering of many, were finally unable to stave off a famine disaster.

Working in a complex context of massive displacement, disrupted markets and ongoing violence that makes producing or even accessing food impossible in parts of the country, FAO, together with the World Food Programme (WFP), has been supporting crisis-hit families in two main ways: by helping them provide for their immediate food needs and by preventing the collapse of veterinary health care. Along the way, where possible, FAO has used its access to communities as a way to broker dialogue among different groups in an effort to ease tensions over scarce natural resources and prevent new conflicts from emerging.

Since 2016, DFID has been supporting FAO's joint emergency livelihood response work in South Sudan, through two projects that aided early recovery and the long-term resilience of the most vulnerable households in Bahr El Ghazal, Warrap, Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile states. This has included supporting families in hard-to-access areas using helicopter distributions under FAO's Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM),

together with food aid from WFP and nutrition, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and health supplies from Unicef (United Nations Children's Fund). FAO's fishing kits have provided families with an average catch of 429 kg per month, which they can use as nutritious food and sell for additional income. Crop and vegetable kits, in turn, have provided fast-growing seeds that families can plant in their backyards, enough to support a household for six months. The RRM reached almost 300 000 people in 2018.

The support provided by the UK has also protected valuable livestock assets through vaccination and treatment campaigns, and by securing the cold chain with the introduction of solar refrigerators. In addition, the projects have contributed towards easing the pressure on natural resources and enhanced protection of women and girls against the risk of gender-based violence.

Moreover, in 2017 FAO created a new mechanism to better support these rapid response missions. Going forward, the Organization will set up a stock of 30 000 Emergency Livelihood Kits per year that can be dispatched at a moment's notice, as soon as active fighting has ceased, to address the needs of communities caught in a crisis, helping them recover from looting, or survive in the areas where they have sought refuge. During these missions, the communities receive not only livelihood inputs, but also contributions from other humanitarian partners such as non-food items for shelter or safe access to drinking water and food.

### The impact of Emergency Livelihood Kits

- Each **fishing kit** provides enough capacity to feed 25 families for one day.
- Each **animal health kit** provides services for 80 families for 4–6 months.
- Each **vegetable kit** provides 6 months of nutritious vegetables for one family.
- Each **crop kit** provides one year of staple crops for a whole family.



## Building assets and knowledge through the Emergency Livelihood Programme

"Before, I used to just put the seed in the ground, but now I've learned how to make a raised bed, which protects the seeds from the rain. I got a lot of knowledge from my facilitator," says Abung Koch, a determined, active woman from the northwestern town of Aweil. Once she received new tools and seeds, she planted tomato in the same way. "I now have three places, and this will be my fourth," she boasts. What's more, thanks to a new well nearby, she no longer has to rely on rainwater alone. Her family eats most of her harvest, she says, "But I also sell my tomatoes in the market."

FAO's Emergency Livelihood Programme puts a premium on harnessing the synergy between creating high-quality, relevant assets, on one hand, and learning through farmer field schools, on the other. The latter engage farmers, like Abung, who have received seeds and tools, in a series of hands-on training sessions that encourage the use of modern farming techniques. They learn through demonstration plots that show the benefits of these new techniques, while technical experts supervise their weekly progress and make themselves available to answer questions and provide guidance.

"This year we are learning and we want to keep learning so that we can produce more, because it is good for us and our families," Abung concludes. "We are working here together, and by helping each other we get stronger and better."

A beneficiary of the seeds distributed at the seed fair  
©FAO/Stefanie Glinski







A beneficiary of seedlings  
removing weeds at her  
Food Security Convergence  
Nursery at Barangay Guimba  
©FAO/Noel Celis

# Investing in climate-smart solutions

Achieving Zero Hunger is impossible without tackling the climatic changes that threaten our food production. The Paris Agreement on climate change aims to limit the global increase in temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to hit an even stronger limit of 1.5°C. To achieve this goal, all sectors, including agriculture, must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Beyond Paris, the SDGs require agricultural production systems to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes, build resilience to the impacts of climate change, and contribute to climate change mitigation where possible.

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) was developed as a framework to address these challenges. FAO promotes CSA as an approach that can transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate. CSA can facilitate a transition to agriculture and food systems that are more productive, more sustainable and more climate-friendly.

In its work on climate change, FAO relies heavily on tools and methods it has developed to track the environmental impact and mitigation potential of all sectors of agriculture, along with the risks each face due to climate change. Tools like the Agricultural Stress Index System help early warning and action by tracking data on vegetation and land surface temperature. Others, like the Ex-Ante Carbon-balance Tool, provide estimates of the impact of various land uses and their changes, while the Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model provides similar information on the impacts of different models of livestock keeping. These and a myriad of other data tools FAO applies and makes available to countries and farmers help to reduce the impacts of extreme weather events and can ensure that agricultural investments are climate-proofed.

## Boosting nutrition and food security through climate-smart agriculture in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has some of the highest levels of food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa regardless of the outcome of the agricultural season. Approximately 70 percent of the population relies on subsistence and rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods, and food and nutrition security, and the country is made up of mainly smallholder farmers, tilling an average of one hectare or less per household. When FAO began implementing the Agriculture Productivity and Nutrition component of the Zimbabwe Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP) in 2014, farmers struggled with low productivity at the tail end of a decade-long recession. They also faced ever more frequent dry spells and droughts. The four-year programme supported over 200 000 smallholder households.

As a result, smallholder farmers were able to increase their agricultural productivity thanks to climate-smart methods, boost their income through linkages to commercial markets and rural finance, and produce and eat more diverse, nutritious foods. In doing so, the project also helped reduce poverty in rural areas. By 2018, through the integration of the LFSP components, the programme had recorded an estimated 40 percent increase in annual average household income from agriculture; 47 percent increase in household dietary diversity; and 43 percent increase in children's dietary diversity between 2016 and 2018.

Among the obstacles Zimbabwean smallholders face are a heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture, limited access to markets and a lack of credit support. The LFSP improved farmers' ability to buy farming inputs and sell their goods by supporting farmers' groups, improving their access to financial services and connecting them to national and regional markets. Through workshops, smallholders also learned how to better manage their farms, harvest water, choose the right crops to grow and sell, and run their farming operation like a business.

As macroeconomic challenges throughout Zimbabwe have weakened the delivery of extension services for many farmers, FAO's intervention rebuilt and improved access to comprehensive information and skill training through ICT, farmer-to-farmer learning, and various service providers from the public and private sectors. Boosting their access to extension and advisory services

beyond just agronomic and animal husbandry to also include nutrition, business and financial literacy has been vital in helping smallholders unlock their full agricultural potential in ways that increase their yields and income.

This, along with better access to finance and market linkages — farmers were linked to more than 118 market players and 8 financial institutions — has also allowed many participants to break through the poverty trap that previously prevented them from investing in big-ticket items, such as agricultural equipment and proper storage facilities. Gaining access to these tools through savings and finance will further secure and expand their livelihoods.

The LFSP partnered with international and local organizations to implement a variety of projects under the programme. These included nutrition education projects to address Zimbabwe's high stunting rates. As maize, the main staple crop, is not sufficiently nutritious, these projects set out to promote a more diverse diet using available local crops, with a focus on mothers. They also introduced production and consumption of biofortified maize and bean varieties.

A number of evaluative studies were conducted over the years with key findings confirming that agricultural production and crop diversity have increased substantially since the beginning of the initiative, particularly biofortified and drought tolerant crops. In addition, there is evidence that households have improved their food security, while increasing their consumption of a variety of different foods.



## From the field: Learning the business of farming

Henry Garapo from Mutasa District grew maize, sugar beans and leaf vegetables on 0.25 hectares of land. He barely managed to feed his family and the little surplus he could produce from the land was insufficient to meet other family needs.

"I couldn't even manage to pay the primary school fees for my children," he said. The turning point came in 2015 when he received training in CSA, including farming as a business, through the LFSP. Part of the training specifically targeted horticulture value chains, motivating Henry to grow onions as a livelihood.

Henry gradually increased his production at each cycle and learned to select varieties with a prolonged shelf life. "I realized that the market for onions is plentiful, ranging from roadsides, supermarkets and other open markets like Sakubva in the city (Mutare)."

After linking up with Viril Microfinance Institution through the LFSP, Henry secured a loan of GBP 365 (USD 474) to purchase more inputs, which resulted in a yield of 3 tonnes and a net income of GBP 2 043 (USD 2 653) from that harvest. Once the loan was repaid, he could afford to buy a cart and two cows. He now rents out land in order to expand his business.

Given the scale of production, he is also planning to construct an additional shed for drying and grading onions. "Truly, I have never dreamed of living like a king through growing an ordinary crop such as onion," he said.

FAO's work aims to achieve sustainable and profitable agriculture, improving farmers' livelihoods

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FAO and the UK join forces  
to ensure that food, nutrition  
and livelihood security are  
strengthened at the household  
and community level  
©FAO/Nancy McNally



# Providing evidence-based food security and nutrition analysis

Effective action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition is only possible if development actors understand why people are deprived. Such understanding requires the availability of reliable data, statistics and information, adequate capacity to analyse data and good communication systems to inform decision makers. Next to a solid grasp of the root causes of vulnerability, targeted interventions require constant monitoring of the progress made under new policies, delivery methods, programmes and investment plans. This is just as important in staving off impending crises as it is in measuring long-term progress towards the SDGs.

As many different actors hold information about the food and nutrition security situation of a country, coordination is key to ensuring coherence. FAO, with the support of partners like the UK, has long played a central role in generating and disseminating essential evidence about a wide range of factors that affect the lives of farming families — from market prices to crop productivity and from extreme weather events to the availability of nutritious foods. FAO has developed methods, tools and training programmes to assist countries in collecting and analysing data and, as far as possible, is involving communities directly in these endeavours, to ensure interventions are designed based on their experiences on the ground and better able to respond to their needs.



## Anticipating, preventing and preparing for crises

Timely agriculture and food security information and analysis is the foundation of preparedness and faster response. With considerable support from the UK, FAO, together with 12 major development actors, steers efforts to develop and strengthen the **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)**. The IPC is a set of standardized tools that seeks to provide a joint assessment for classifying the severity and magnitude of food insecurity and malnutrition, including chronic food insecurity. The provision of such joint needs assessments is a key component of the Grand Bargain that FAO committed to at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. It is now used in more than 25 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to enable decision makers to address food security challenges. FAO, in its position as IPC global partner, hosts the IPC Global Support Unit, which is responsible for spreading and strengthening the use of the IPC analysis worldwide, especially in at-risk countries.

The IPC has been crucial in raising global awareness of the risk of famine and mobilizing the international response to major food crises in northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen in 2017. Specifically,

the IPC acute food insecurity analysis provides a technical (rather than political) basis for the declaration of a famine, as was done in localized areas of South Sudan in February 2017 and Somalia in 2011. The IPC analyses also form the basis of the **Global Report on Food Crises**, which is prepared under the umbrella of the Food Security Information Network and provides a neutral, transparent and consensus-based food security analysis to inform annual planning and resource allocation. FAO and WFP, in addition, use the IPC in their joint regular reporting to the United Nations Security Council, supporting awareness raising among world leaders of the threat of food insecurity and its links with conflict.

FAO also houses other crucial early warning systems, such as the Global Information and Early Warning System, and the Global Early Warning System for health threats and emerging risks at the human-animal-ecosystems interface. The Organization is working with partners to identify areas in which existing tools and approaches complement one another. This includes integrating and simplifying existing analytical tools (like FAO's Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis, WFP's Three-Pronged Approach, IPC's Chronic and Acute Food Insecurity Analyses, and FAO's Early Warning - Early Action Analyses) to provide a longer-term perspective of food crises and their main drivers.



Beneficiaries receive cash vouchers that they use in exchange for seeds





The VoH project promotes the adoption of the FIES survey module by national and international institutions  
©FAO/AU/Yohannes Zirotti

## The Voices of the Hungry — measuring food insecurity through people’s experiences

The Voices of the Hungry (VoH) project was launched in late 2013 in an effort to provide all countries with up-to-date food security information that is policy-relevant and actionable. With UK backing, the project developed the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), a survey module that provides timely information about the adequacy of people’s access to food by asking them directly about their experiences through eight simple questions. The project has also received support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the FAO Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism.

By measuring people’s food insecurity directly — rather than through such determinants as poverty and social exclusion, or through consequences like poor diets and nutritional status — FIES represents a key innovation compared to existing food security metrics and indicators. When used together with other measures of food insecurity, FIES provides the necessary link to better understand the many causes and potential effects of food insecurity and to find solutions.

With ambitious goals and targets for 2030, access to timely, accurate and meaningful information is critical

for monitoring global progress towards securing adequate food for all. The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the FIES, has been adopted as an indicator for target 2.1 of the 2030 Agenda. This means FIES-based indicators will serve to track global, regional and national changes in food insecurity, providing information for international and national-level policymaking. In the 2017 and 2018 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) reports, jointly prepared with IFAD, Unicef, WFP and WHO, the prevalence of severe food insecurity based on the FIES was published for regions and subregions of the world, and for 75 countries that approved dissemination of results for their countries. In 2019 FAO will also report on the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity combined, and expects to increase the number of countries that provide their approval.

The VoH project is now in phase two of its implementation, which focuses on capacity development and advocacy, with a rapidly growing demand from country governments. Substantial efforts have already been made by reaching more than 60 countries and six regional institutions participating in capacity-development activities. At country level, 47 countries had included the FIES survey module in national surveys by March 2019. In addition, plans are already in place to collect FIES data in national surveys in at least 22 countries.





Water level is used to measure ground's gradient during construction of earth fences protecting soil from erosion

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# Improving global agricultural and rural statistics

FAO develops methods and standards for food and agricultural statistics, provides technical assistance services and disseminates data for global monitoring. The statistical activities carried out at FAO include the development and implementation of methodologies and standards for data collection, validation, processing and analysis. The Organization also plays a vital part in the global compilation, processing and dissemination of food and agricultural statistics, and provides essential statistical capacity development to Member Nations.

Statistical activities at FAO cover the areas of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, land and water resources and use, climate, the environment, population, gender, nutrition, poverty, rural development, education and health, as well as many others. FAO's global statistics database, FAOSTAT, is the world's largest database of food and agricultural statistics, providing free access to data for 245 countries and territories from 1961 to the most recent year available.

## Monitoring the SDGs

FAO is the custodian UN agency for 21 indicators, which monitor 16 targets under six of the SDGs. Likewise, it also contributes to monitoring four additional SDG indicators. As a custodian agency, FAO is responsible for collecting data from national sources, validating and harmonizing them, estimating regional and global aggregates and making them available for international reporting. FAO is also responsible for leading the methodological development of the 21 indicators and for providing coordinated technical assistance to countries with the objective of enabling them to produce their own data in the long run.



## A global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics

Many countries, especially those in the developing world, still lack the capacity to produce and report even the minimum set of agricultural statistics required to monitor national trends. Recognizing the need to address these limitations, the UK became one of the pioneering donors of the global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics (Global Strategy).

The Global Strategy is a comprehensive framework for meeting the current and emerging data needs of policymakers and other data users in developing countries. These includes new data requirements posed by the SDGs on biofuels, global warming, the environment and food security. It targets action in three areas: **establishing a minimum set of core data; integrating agriculture into national statistical systems; and ensuring the sustainability of statistical systems.**

The Global Strategy's coordinating body — the Global Office — is hosted within the FAO Statistics Division. The office currently oversees around 30 different lines of research to produce cost-effective methodologies that help countries improve their agricultural statistical systems. This includes preparing and field-testing a series of guidelines and handbooks to support developing countries in conducting surveys in key areas of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Cost-effective methodologies have been tested in 33 countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia to date.

Work at regional level is led by the regional implementing partners that provide technical assistance to countries and liaise with regional and national stakeholders. They include the African Development Bank, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. In Africa, direct technical assistance was provided to 15 countries, while approximately 50 countries built Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) in 2018.

DFID's funding also supported the development and testing of the Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRIS) methodology, one of various guidelines recently launched as a handbook.



Improved information and statistics enables governments to develop better agricultural policies for eradicating hunger and poverty  
©FAO/Choptiany John

## Producing cost-efficient data on farms for policymaking with AGRIS

The recently published handbook on the AGRIS methodology was pilot tested in Ghana. AGRIS is a ten-year farm-based sample survey programme built to address the challenges that most developing countries face in generating quality-disaggregated data on agricultural production and other dimensions of farming. The surveys, which are adaptable to national contexts, provide users with core data, such as volume of production and average income of small-scale producers, which help monitor progress towards SDG 2. AGRIS also has the capacity to monitor factors such as the extent to which land is used productively and the proportion of women who have ownership over land.





FAO has embarked in a process to better manage its resources, more aptly apply its technical expertise, and improve its impact on the ground

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# Demonstrating progress through results

FAO is transforming. This includes putting a premium on transparency, measuring impact, achieving value for money (VFM), and partnering with other development actors to achieve common goals.

Following DFID's 2011 multilateral aid review, FAO embarked on reforms within the Organization to improve its impact, and better manage resources and technical expertise. It has also made considerable efforts to improve and streamline costly and unnecessary programmatic frameworks.

DFID's 2016 Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) shows that these reforms have delivered results. The MAR highlighted FAO as an exemplary organization that has "stepped up to the challenge and turned their performance around." According to the report, "FAO now has a clearer strategic vision and reports on results, it has modernized its management structure, and delivered significant efficiency savings."

FAO has taken the UK's analysis and support as an opportunity to continue to look more closely and holistically at the ways it works to ensure that its efforts are not only cost-effective and timely, but that they also translate into sustainable impacts for its beneficiaries.

From advocating the sharing of knowledge and best practices with like-minded partners, and scaling up initiatives alongside carefully designed accountability mechanisms, to working for the continuous improvement of development and humanitarian interventions through value-added expertise and mindfulness of wasteful spending, FAO's mandate is strengthened alongside and thanks to our resource partners.

## Strengthening the United Nations

FAO's various transparency, efficiency and collaboration efforts complement the larger UN reform agenda that seeks to reposition the UN system in ways that ensure more effective and coherent support to countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The fact that the SDGs recognize the vital contribution that agriculture and sustainable resource use make to sustainable development highlights the key role FAO plays in the achievement of the goals — and the Organization is positioning itself to rise to that task.

In this context, FAO has actively participated in the governance of the UN repositioning process at the global level, as well as for overall guidance on UN Development System reform. FAO considers the UN General Assembly Resolution 72/279 a powerful tool for better aligning UN-wide efforts with the priorities of the SDGs, and for supporting UN Member States as they set national goals and targets to implement the 2030 Agenda. FAO is stepping up efforts to embrace new ways of working together with relevant stakeholders, including a shift from projects to policy and programmes, from do-it-ourselves to enabling others, from funding to financing, and from data ownership to trusted custodianship.

The SDGs are already embedded in FAO's Strategic Programmes. In addition, VFM, effectiveness and efficiency will be the guiding principles in defining FAO's engagement in any common operational, financial and administrative framework at the country level. More concretely, putting a premium on VFM means an integrated focus on cutting waste (such as using resources which are not necessary for the achievement of the desired results), overpaying (obtaining resources that could have been obtained at a lower cost) and gold plating (paying for a higher quality of input than is required to achieve the desired results).

FAO is already applying the VFM principle in key areas of the Organization, most visibly in its procurement. FAO procurement guidelines, for example, establish that "the core governing principle of FAO is to obtain the best VFM, i.e. fitness for purpose to meet the user's requirements, as well as the optimum combination of expected whole life benefits versus cost to procure."

But making VFM a guiding principle means applying those concerns throughout the Organization and the rest of FAO activities as well. While there is still ample room for improvement, FAO will continue its efforts to mainstream the VFM principle throughout the Organization. This includes increasing efforts to obtain better knowledge of the relation between the cost and impact of activities. This, in turn, will support better-informed strategic decisions about the allocations of resources in ways that could cut costs and increase outcomes.

FAO's engagement in the UN reform process will continue to focus on promoting joint programming and leading efforts in the area of its established capacities and mandates, where the Organization has recognized global leadership.

## Rome-based agencies working together

FAO, IFAD and WFP have made strides in building and institutionalizing ways to achieve collective outcomes and increase the effectiveness of food security and resilience interventions.

The year 2018 marked a new era in that collaboration at all levels, with a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by all three Rome-based agencies (RBAs). The MoU responds to the call by the Secretary-General, in the context of the UN reform, and the repositioning of the UN Development System. The RBAs commit to working in the new paradigm by making fundamental shifts, including transcending the humanitarian development divide by working towards collective outcomes, based on comparative advantages and over multi-year periods. Sustainable development will not happen by working in silos and the RBAs are committed to playing a pivotal role in supporting Member States' implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

A particular emphasis has been put on collaboration at the country level. As the RBAs are developing new country plans, they are joining efforts in project programming and formulation, and sharing information. They are inviting the other agencies to consultations to seek technical advice and, where feasible, identify possible joint and complementary projects, and utilize each agency's resources. The idea is to further strengthen the evolving new UN Development Assistance Framework that could already highlight specific sets of interventions to be carried out jointly.



Examples at the field level where joint programming is already underway can be seen in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Niger and Somalia.

## Making transparency a top priority

In an effort to further improve its performance in the realm of transparency and accountability, in April 2016 FAO became a member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and since April 2017 has been publishing quarterly data on its projects and programmes. FAO's work with IATI complements the ongoing efforts of FAO's Statistics Division to help FAO Member Nations reduce hunger and poverty through informed decisions that require access to the best possible data.

Further showing its commitment to the initiative, in October 2017 FAO hosted TAG Piccolo in Rome, a special meeting for the members of IATI's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) community on ways to publish better data on agriculture and food security interventions. Organized by FAO's Statistics Division and InterAction, the meeting was an opportunity to address specific challenges and showcase new tools. A case in point is FAO's work to refine the code classifications of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which are also used for IATI reporting. Since 2015, FAO has been working on a proposal for new codes that would address the challenges that agencies are facing when reporting and using OECD data relating to food and agriculture interventions. Inputs from experts at TAG Piccolo — the meeting counted some 50 attendees — helped improve the proposal, which FAO submitted to OECD in January 2018.

FAO staff visit a field of rice together with counterparts from WFP and IFAD

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A mother and her daughter wait with their goats during the FAO destocking programme  
©FAO





# The way forward

Going forward, the UK and FAO stand to benefit from continuing their joint work around common priorities, while at the same time strengthening global food governance and building more resilient rural households. Year 2030 is fast approaching and now is the time to be innovative. As noted in the Building Stronger Partnerships for Resilience document, FAO is exploring and implementing bold ideas with real-world impact that bridge the divide and ensure that humanitarian, development and peace actions are mutually reinforcing, with the ultimate goal of reducing human suffering and building more resilient communities and prosperous futures for the world's most vulnerable people.

Greater emphasis needs to be placed on supporting innovation in the international humanitarian system, and specifically on finding more diverse, effective and efficient ways to deliver relevant support to people in need. This includes working with the private sector on insurance and

risk management, for example. Likewise, there is a role for the private sector in expanding the use of cash support to populations caught up in crises, which FAO and the UK have committed to as part of the Grand Bargain at the World Humanitarian Summit. Harnessing the private sector's creativity, clout and capacity to drive innovation will aid the UK and FAO in introducing and adapting new technologies to help governments and communities address development challenges, from climate shocks to malnutrition.

Both FAO and the UK set high standards for their partners, including the way they use valuable resources in pursuit of ambitious outcomes. The partnership between FAO and the UK is a firm foundation for continuing to develop new and improved interventions that rise to the biggest challenges of our time — including those outlined in the SDGs — and do so in ways that serve both people and the planet.

## List of projects funded by the United Kingdom (ongoing over the 2017–2018 period)\*

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget**	Start date	End date	Status***
GCP /GLO/450/UK	VoH-Voices of the Hungry – 2 (203728-101)	4 994 017	09/12/13	31/03/18	Closed
OSRO/BDI/702/UK	Restoring and strengthening resilience of vulnerable households affected by acute food and nutrition	4 026 845	01/09/17	01/09/20	Ongoing
OSRO/CAF/605/UK	Support to agricultural recovery of the most vulnerable households and revival of the local economy	7 821 961	01/12/16	31/03/19	Ongoing
OSRO/DMI/702/UK	Emergency Support Proposal for the Immediate Restoration of Food Production in Dominica after Hurricane Maria	100 000	13/10/17	31/01/18	Closed
OSRO/PAK/601/UK	Technical Support to Stakeholder Capacity Development for Effective Implementation of Pakistan`s National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy	6 547 654	01/09/16	31/08/20	Ongoing
OSRO/SFS/603/UK	Emergency support to smallholder farmers affected by El Niño in Southern Africa	5 950 800	01/10/16	30/09/17	Closed
OSRO/SOM/309/UK	FAO Resilience Programme	11 787 349	01/10/13	31/12/17	Closed
OSRO/SOM/419/UK	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) – Phase VII DFID 2 Contribution	2 483 211	15/12/14	30/11/17	Closed
OSRO/SOM/701/UK	Integrated food security, nutrition, health, WASH and livelihoods response to the drought in Somalia	24 409 409	17/01/17	28/02/18	Closed

\*Contributions provided to the Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds are not included in the list

\*\*In USD, subject to change for ongoing projects

\*\*\*As of 1 January 2019



Project symbol	Project title	Total budget**	Start date	End date	Status***
OSRO/SOM/710/UK	Support to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) for Somalia – Integrated food security, nutrition, health, WASH and livelihoods response to the drought in Somalia	622 665	15/03/17	28/02/18	Closed
OSRO/SOM/715/UK	Integrated food security, nutrition, health, WASH and livelihoods response to the drought in Somalia	7 800 149	13/12/17	30/06/18	Closed
OSRO/SOM/811/UK	Emergency Post Flood Food Production and Drought Mitigation	15 813 738	25/06/18	31/05/19	Ongoing
OSRO/SOM/812/UK	Emergency Post Flood Food production and drought mitigation – FSNAU	1 574 398	25/06/18	31/05/19	Ongoing
OSRO/SSD/509/UK	Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Enhancement – Phase Two (BRACE II)	7 852 218	01/01/16	31/07/20	Ongoing
OSRO/SSD/604/UK	Emergency livelihood support to the most vulnerable households in Greater Upper Nile – HARISS	25 069 101	14/07/16	31/03/20	Ongoing
OSRO/SYR/508/UK	Emergency provision of livelihood support to vulnerable households affected by the conflict in Syria	5 428 320	27/07/15	31/03/17	Closed
OSRO/SYR/708/UK	Supporting emergency needs, early recovery and longer-term resilience in Syria agriculture sector	7 042 522	19/09/17	31/03/20	Ongoing
GCP /GLO/347/UK	Supporting Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests	7 640 987	20/12/13	30/09/17	Closed

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget**	Start date	End date	Status***
GCP /GLO/416/UK	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Project	9 881 915	26/03/12	30/06/18	Closed
GCP /GLO/710/UK	Engaging the food and agriculture sectors in sub-Saharan Africa and South and South-east Asia in the global efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance using a One Health approach	7 556 091	01/09/16	31/03/20	Ongoing
GCP /INT/328/UK	Supporting the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests – phase II	3 364 737	15/03/18	14/03/20	Ongoing
GCP /UGA/042/UK	Strengthening Resilience and Adaptive Capacity of Agro-Pastoral communities and the Local Government to Reduce Impacts of Climate Risk on Livelihoods in Karamoja, Uganda	14 192 433	01/11/13	31/03/17	Closed
GCP /ZIM/025/UK	Zimbabwe Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP): Climate Smart Agriculture for Improved Productivity, Nutrition, and Income Security for Smallholder Farmers in Food and Nutrition Insecure Districts	65 202 642	13/12/13	31/12/20	Ongoing





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