



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS



After declining steadily for over a decade, global hunger is again on the rise, driven by conflict, climate-related shocks, natural disasters, and economic downturns. Disruptions to the agricultural livelihoods on which 2.5 billion people depend not only cause widespread human suffering, they contribute to instability and vulnerability and impede sustainable development. Boosting the resilience of agricultural livelihoods is key to achieving Zero Hunger – it also represents an effective pathway for advancing peace, ensuring security, and spreading prosperity.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Helping lead global responses to food crises

Produced each year as a joint effort with a wide group of partners, *The Global Report on Food Crises* provides a comprehensive picture of the planet's most urgent food crises and puts humanitarian and development actors on the same page when responding to crises and building resilience.

In 2017, the report helped catalyse the international community's successful pushback against famine in South Sudan and efforts to prevent it from breaking out in north-eastern Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen. In 2018, it kept global attention focused on the dire situation facing millions of Yemenis and informed a large-scale United Nations response to help pastoralists in Africa's Sahel region cope with drought. This effort evolved further in 2018 and 2019, via the Global Network against Food Crises, with working to improve the coordination and efficiency of international responses

to the planet's most pressing food insecurity situations.

### A new way of working

Leveraging partnerships means maximizing impact while addressing root causes of crisis at the agriculture and food system level. In addition to the Global Network, FAO is teaming with UN partners to explore new approaches to responding to protracted crises and breaking the cycle of vulnerability. In the past, humanitarian efforts focused mainly on disaster relief. Now a new paradigm has emerged, one that emphasizes reducing risks ahead of time and supporting risk-informed development that enhances resilience to shocks and enables swifter, more sustainable recoveries. A key innovative area of work for FAO includes risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection to reduce vulnerability and effectively respond to crises.

### Sustaining peace

FAO's surveillance and analytical capacities feed into regular updates to the UN Security Council on

prevailing food security conditions in countries that are on the council's agenda, and flag the important role that investments in food security and agricultural development have to play in promoting and sustaining peace. This has helped build the evidence base on the link between conflict and hunger and lent momentum to the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 2417.

In 2018, we released a Corporate Framework to Support Sustainable Peace in the Context of Agenda 2030 to ensure a more systematic approach to contributing to conflict prevention and sustaining peace efforts through its work on supporting livelihoods, improving natural resource management and unlocking economic opportunities.

### Early Warning – Early Action (EWEA)

This forecast-based financing initiative translates warnings into anticipatory actions to reduce the impact of disasters and food chain crises. In 2018, FAO launched 11 new EWEA projects in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, tackling a range of risks ranging from drought to forced migration. Post-intervention studies show that households involved in the EWEA efforts gain from 2.5 to over 7 dollars for every dollar invested in early action.

### Enhancing pastoral livelihoods

In 2018, FAO produced a major study on the challenges facing pastoralists in Africa's drylands, the outcomes of which are guiding our efforts to reduce communities' vulnerability to



## ETHIOPIA

Pastoralist hit by drought in Somali region.  
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external stocks and resolve tensions related to competition over natural resources. In eastern Africa, FAO is pioneering the use of an innovative animal feed inventory system that generates accurate information on animal feed demand and availability. This, together with FAO's Predictive Livestock Early Warning System – which forecasts possible forage declines following extreme climate conditions – triggers strategic interventions to boost resilience for livestock-based livelihoods.

### Risk informed and shock responsive social protection

FAO is working in strengthening the role of social protection in protracted crises and in fragile and humanitarian contexts. Working with partners, we have been able to define a common vision and enhance operational knowledge

### Making the case for disaster risk reduction

FAO's ground-breaking reports on disaster-related damage and loss in agriculture have assembled compelling new evidence regarding the importance of incorporating disaster

risk reduction into agricultural and development planning.

And a recently concluded globe-spanning FAO study used actual field trials on over 900 farms in 10 different countries to measure the economic benefits that farmers can achieve when incorporating into their daily practices new strategies and techniques for reducing their exposure to natural disasters. The results hold important implications for farmers and policymakers alike and are helping implement interventions designed to empower farmers to take action, on their own, to build their resilience.

### Saving livelihoods saves lives

With conflict, extreme weather events, natural disasters, and other threats continuing to impact rural livelihoods and push people into severe food insecurity, FAO is on the ground in more than 60 countries, providing critical productive inputs, like seeds or fishing nets, to reboot agricultural activity; vaccinating pastoralists' animals on a massive scale; or teaching farmers new ways of doing things to boost their resilience and enable food production – even in crisis situations.

In 2018, FAO reached about 3 million people in Yemen with crop and vegetable seeds, fishing gear, poultry production kits, cash support and animal healthcare campaigns. In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, we were one of the first actors to focus on supporting host communities as well as refugees. In Somalia, we delivered large-scale support to over 7 million people through technical assistance, cash+, input distributions and animal health support. Our emergency interventions in South Sudan, reached around 3.1 million people.

### Climate resilience for sustainable development

Thanks to FAO's engagement, with a range of partners, climate resilience is now prominently positioned as a cross-cutting and sectoral theme in climate global and regional fora.

By advocating leading edge solutions aimed at building the resilience of agriculture and food systems we are helping deliver on the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Working for  #ZeroHunger

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#### More information

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