ZeroHunger

Stories from AFRICA
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The **Zero Hunger** goal—to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture—is at the heart of FAO’s mission.
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Without rapid progress in reducing and eliminating hunger and malnutrition by 2030, the full range of Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved. We can advance faster if we work together.

ONE OF THE WORLD’S BIGGEST CHALLENGES is how to ensure that the basic human right to food is enjoyed by each and every one of our planet’s 7.7 billion people.

In its quest to achieve a Zero Hunger world, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) works in partnership with communities, governments, and organizations across Africa to address
malnutrition, boost the productivity and resilience of small-scale farmers, share knowledge about innovative farming practices, and build sustainable food systems.

FAO’s bold approach focuses on empowering women and employing youth, providing them with the skills and resources (land, capital, emerging technology) they need to grow their own businesses and engaging them in the decisions that affect their lives.

This book celebrates some of the progress made in communities across Africa, showcasing real-life examples of the ways we can work together to achieve Zero Hunger. While there is no magic bullet, many workable and innovative solutions are already out there to help men and women overcome the challenges they face in trying to earn a living and feed their families.

Many of the innovative solutions originate from the community members themselves. Their stories illustrate that with opportunity, knowledge, innovation, resilience, and a supportive environment people can rally to create a better future for themselves and for the communities in which they live, all without harming the planet.

*Stories from Africa* provides visual and oral testimony from the very people most affected. You will discover what works and why in the struggle to ensure adequate and healthy food. And you will see that when provided with the tools they need, people, particularly rural women and youth, can be powerful drivers of change.

They can lift themselves and others out of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition: such as Alvina from Gabon who turned her passion for breeding into a profitable business employing other local farmers, James in Kenya who found a use for leftover fish skin in the international fashion industry, Valeria and the fisher women in Rwanda who created a co-op to pool resources and connect to markets, and the young microbiologist Barkissa from Burkina Faso whose research will make dry land green and productive again.

May their stories and the others you read in this book inspire you to ramp up your own efforts towards Zero Hunger. They are striking proof of just what’s needed to meet the #ZeroHunger challenge by 2030.
Giving women access to resources and a voice in decision-making has a powerful ripple effect on food security, nutrition, education, and the health of families and communities.
Empowering WOMEN
“New ways of working our land have improved our farming, and we now have a much better harvest.”
Lucy
Meru, Kenya

HELPING WOMEN FARMERS IMPROVE CROP PRODUCTION

SEVENTY PERCENT of Kenya’s population—most of them women—rely on agriculture. But as drought increases, crop production decreases.

With FAO training, Lucy, 48, and other small-scale women farmers learn sustainable farming techniques to grow more food and to earn more from their crops. They see the benefits of conservation agriculture, such as rotating crops to protect the soil, which lead to resilient crops and better harvests.

Lucy started planting sorghum, a grass species cultivated for its grain and used for consumption, animal feed and ethanol.

By working in a group, she and the other women farmers produce higher volume, sell their crops for better profit, and share overhead costs. With the money she saves, Lucy plans to buy a cow and keep her two children in school.

#ZeroHunger: When women have the same access to skills, resources and opportunities as men, they are POWERFUL DRIVERS in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty.
"I was told that women shouldn’t be in leading positions, but I continued to be focused, promoted my ideas and they realized that a woman could take the lead."

- Hon. Charity Kathambi Chepkwony

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Charity
Njoro, Kenya

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF FEMALE FARMERS

CHARITY IS A FOREST AND FARM PRODUCER. She is also the first woman elected to Kenya’s parliament for Njoro, an agricultural area 170 km northwest of the capital of Nairobi.

Charity works with FAO’s Forest and Farm Facility to encourage others in her community, particularly women, to take part in farming, forest conservation, and planting trees.

Charity leads Beyond One Billion, a community-based organization that addresses climate change and environmental degradation. Beyond One Billion helps women grow their own businesses, from seedlings and nurseries to tree planting, sustainable charcoal production, timber and other forest and farm products.

FAO support has indirectly benefited about 20,000 forest and farm producers, who are now able to professionally collect seeds, practice conservation techniques and bring their products to market.

#ZeroHunger: Women are the backbone of rural economies, and when THEY ARE EMPOWERED, farms are more productive, natural resources are better managed, and nutrition is improved.
Freetown, Sierra Leone

SECURING LAND RIGHTS

TWO-THIRDS OF AFRICA’S FARMERS ARE FEMALE, but they often have fewer and weaker tenure rights to land, fisheries, and forests due to biases in law, customs, and the division of labour in society. When women’s rights to land or natural resources aren’t recognized, livelihoods and food sources can disappear from one day to the next.

Sierra Leone used FAO’s Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests to draft new land policies that help women secure these rights and ensure they are able to provide for themselves and their communities in the long-term.

SECURING ACCESS TO WATER

AS MORE AND MORE REGIONS are becoming water scarce, having secure access to water is vital. When land rights are taken away or sold, people can also lose access to their water supply. This can impact the lives and livelihoods of the people not just on that land but in the whole region.

#ZeroHunger: Women represent 70% OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS in Sierra Leone, where new policies are giving women access to and control over land so they can better manage natural resources and food production.
“It is important that women participate as equal decision-making partners in the equity and distribution of land and that they are not subordinated to lesser roles.”

- Julia, Conservation Alliance Sierra Leone
FAO’s SAFE initiatives have reduced the risk of gender-based violence.

South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo

TRANSFORMING GENDER RELATIONS

COMPOSED OF rural women, men and young people, FAO Dimitra Clubs meet to discuss the challenges they face in their daily lives and to take collective action to resolve them. Collaborating with rural radio stations that broadcast their discussions, the clubs have become agents of change in agriculture but also in other aspects of society, taking on sensitive issues such as HIV/AIDS, early marriage and the rights of women to inherit land. In war-torn South Kivu, in the DRC, where an estimated 40 women are raped every day, a discussion about sexual violence and HIV/AIDS prompted an increase in voluntary screening and a change in attitudes.

Yei County, South Sudan

ENSURING SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL AND ENERGY (SAFE)

FAO TRAINED A GROUP OF 20 WOMEN to make fuel-efficient mud-stoves, using locally-available materials such as clay and anthill soils, bricks, sticks, scrap metal and water. Thanks to the training-of-trainers approach, the women passed their new skills on to others, delivering 1500 stoves to vulnerable households in displaced camps and host communities. SAFE initiatives not only reduce women’s exposure to violence but also have a positive impact on family nutrition and health.

#ZeroHunger: One in three women experience physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE can have a devastating impact on the agriculture sector and food security by reducing the capacity and productivity of survivors as a result of illness, injury, stigma and discrimination.
“This job taught me new skills. It’s a good thing, as I don’t think I could live in another place.”
Hawa
Bossaso, Somalia

TRAINING WOMEN TO SUN-DRY FISH FOR FOOD AND INCOME

HAWA LIVES IN A CAMP FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE in Bossaso, a coastal town in northern Somalia. The camp has been her home for over two decades.

Hawa joined a group of other women in the camp to learn how to sun-dry fish. The process involves cleaning and treating the fish, drying and packaging it using sustainable and environmentally friendly techniques. FAO provides the training, tools and equipment – from knives, protective clothing to drying tables and packaging materials.

Most of the sun-dried fish is eaten by the people in the camp, supplying them with a reliable, nutritional source of food for longer-term. Any surplus gets sold in the market or in shops to other communities in need that do not have access to cold chain facilities.

©FAO/ArTe/Will Baxter

Hawa guards the fish fillets, waving away flies and turning the fish over so that both sides dry properly and get sterilized by the sun. After a full day of drying, the women pack the fillets.

#ZeroHunger: Empowering Somalia’s vulnerable women improves access to adequate and nutritious food and helps avert food insecurity among the estimated 3 MILLION internally displaced.
“I think we understand now that we are strong. Together we can fight hunger.”
AKUILINA USED TO THINK SHE WAS TOO OLD to join a farmers’ group, but she knew she needed support to overcome years of hunger. The mother of seven children and grandmother of five, she has been widowed, attacked, and robbed. Today, she is producing food with seeds, agricultural tools and techniques she received through the FAO Farmer Field School. As the farming group’s elder, she has also become a counselor, the person other women turn to whenever disputes arise.

South Sudan has experienced ongoing conflict, an economic downturn and deepening food insecurity, but Akuilina is doing her part to realize her community’s potential. She is one of nearly 1 800 people learning farming skills at more than 60 new FAO agropastoral Farmer Field Schools in the state of Eastern Equatoria. Her group of 30 farmers includes 20 women, many of whom are single mothers with sole responsibility for their children. They support each other through a savings-and-loan club to make their community more resilient.

#ZeroHunger: In South Sudan, where nearly 7 MILLION face acute food insecurity due to conflict, FFS helps build smart farming skills to increase food production.
Valeria
Nkombo, Rwanda

SUPPORTING FISHER WOMEN IN RWANDA

A FEW BRAVE WOMEN FROM NKOMBO, an island on Lake Kivu in the Rusizi District, are determined to prove that fishing is not just for men. One of these women is Valeria, 38, a mother of four children who started fishing in 2010. Her husband, who works at the district pharmacy as a night watchman, is supportive of his wife’s interest in fishing.

Valeria admits that fishing can be risky – especially when faced with heavy rains and strong winds. She fishes with a team of ten women at two in the morning. Each member of the crew has a task: some hold the lights, some throw in the nets, and others pull the fish out of the water and onto the boat. They catch small-sized sardines, locally known as *Isambaza*, and other local fish such as, *Ndugu* and *Isamake*, which they collect in one of their boats until it can be sold.

Valeria and other local workers in the fishing industry received FAO training on hygiene and safety procedures, and handling, storing and processing the fish they catch and sell. They are scheduled to receive further training on fish seed production, handling and hatchery. FAO also provided life jackets and motorized boats to help the fishers safely and efficiently deliver fish to waiting customers on shore. Plans to build a processing centre for the fish cooperatives are also underway, another sign that fishing in Rwanda is a growing industry.

Valeria and her crew sort fresh fish to sell. They belong to a local cooperative known as “Dushakumurimo,” comprised of fish dealers and fisherwomen and men on Lake Kivu.

#ZeroHunger: At a time when fishing must sustainably scale up to meet growing demand, FAO IS BOOSTING the skills and opportunities for women and youth in the sector.
“I was motivated to fish because I saw fishermen making more money than I was. One day I decided to try out the net.”
Tanganyika, DRC
SUPPORTING DISPLACED WOMEN

In Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), over 4 million displaced women and children struggle to survive in camps. Supporting women in agriculture helps produce food, generate income, and restore women’s hope.

South Kivu, DRC
ENSURING FOOD SECURITY

In crises where people have been displaced for over two decades, FAO provides smallholder friendly technologies and processing machinery to develop women farmers’ capacity to produce more food and store it. They also link them to markets so they can sell their produce.

Kasaï, DRC
PROMOTING SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN REFUGEE CAMPS

In conflict-hit areas where hunger levels are the highest, FAO works with WFP, IFAD and the Ministry of Agriculture and other NGOs to provide the displaced and host communities with vegetable seeds and hand tools to boost food production.

●●● #ZeroHunger: More than 815 MILLION PEOPLE suffer from chronic undernourishment and over half of them live in countries affected by conflict.
EMPOWERING FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

WITH TRAINING, CAPITAL AND A LITTLE MORE CONFIDENCE, Alvina, 25, quickly turned her passion for breeding into a profitable business.

Most small-scale farmers and breeders in Oyem have little access to costly seeds or animal feed, which poses major obstacles to livestock development and income stability. Alvina, together with 250 other farmers, participated in a FAO training on modern livestock management and feed manufacturing, which has helped boost the livestock sector’s activity and increased production of quality meat products at competitive market prices. FAO also built a feed mill for the breeders. This was a turning point for Alvina, who decided to increase her production and raise 500 chickens.

The members of Alvina’s cooperative are active and have diversified their activities by producing vegetables and fruits to sell at the market. They use the organic material resulting from the breeding to fertilize their plants.

#ZeroHunger: When rural women have access to resources, services and economic opportunities, there is a SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT and social and economic gains, which reduces the number of hungry people.
“Gradually, my business is growing, and my products are more and more in demand. My ambition is to increase my production to 5 000 chickens within two years and to employ fellow young Gabonese!”
"With the improved farming techniques, I am able to do commercial farming. Next season, I plan to grow vegetables on a bigger piece of land."
THOUGH THE SOIL IS FERTILE IN THE RUBAVU DISTRICT, many farmers lack access to seeds, fertilizer and good farming practices. Consequently, the area has the highest malnutrition rates in the country.

Initially, Christine grew a few crops such as beans and maize, mostly for her family to eat, but it was not enough. She also supported her family through part-time work on other people’s farms, earning a meagre wage. Two of Christine’s children were forced to drop out of secondary school. Even though they attended public schools, she could not afford school materials.

As part of her FAO training, Christine received a starter-kit with avocado seedlings, vegetable seeds and two goats. Her harvest grew from 20 cabbages to more than 500 cabbages, all from her own garden.

Christine was one of 600 participants in FAO’s Farmer Field Schools. Each group learned good practices for farming as well as some other important skills, such as financial literacy.

Christine’s children are back in school now, and she is optimistic that her new knowledge and changed practices have improved her own life as well as her children’s.

#ZeroHunger: SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES allow poor, rural farmers to strengthen their ability to manage risks, engage in more economic and productive activities and reduce poverty and hunger.
“I dream of being able to plant my crops and to harvest so much that I can even sell my produce to towns nearby.”
SARAH, 37, IS A REFUGEE from the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a farming background. She lives with her husband Didier and their five children. Their monthly cash budget of USD14 does not go far in purchasing fresh, nutritious foods in the market.

Sarah participated in the FAO training sessions and set up her own kitchen garden. FAO provided her with seeds, tools and manure. During the rainy season, she harvests vegetables, cowpeas, okra and sweet potato. Though her priority is her family, she is able to sell some of her produce to other families.

There are now more than 7 000 kitchen gardens in the Kalobeyei refugee camp in northern Kenya, which houses nearly 40 000 people, and is an extension of Kakuma camp, which houses 145 000. FAO supports agricultural activities at Kalobeyei to improve the self-reliance of both the refugees and the host population who live around the camp.

Scokia is Sarah’s friend and a refugee from South Sudan with a background in farming. She lives in the camp with her two-year-old son Samuel. “The garden provides enough food for me not to have to buy vegetables at the market, so I’m very happy.”

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#ZeroHunger: Increasing self-sufficiency and income opportunities for vulnerable refugees STRENGTHENS FOOD SECURITY AND ENHANCES SOCIAL COHESION in host communities.
Building resilience is crucial to achieving zero hunger. The two concepts are closely intertwined. While less resilient communities are more likely to go hungry; food secure communities are healthier and stronger and able to withstand conflict, disease, and drought.
Building RESILIENCE
“We started farming during the dry season. Now we can also produce vegetables for sale, including salad, onion, chili pepper, eggplant, mint and okra.”
Guilé
Keur Bara Tambédou, Senegal

ACCESSING CLEAN WATER

GUÍLÉ, 39, HEADS A FARMERS’ ASSOCIATION OF 80 WOMEN called *Diapo Ande Liggeye* (United to Work). She and the other women participated in FAO’s water-gathering programme “One million cisterns for the Sahel,” which helps families build their resilience, increasing what they grow for nutrition and income and improving health.

The women, their families and local masons were trained to build cisterns for year-round water storage. The cisterns hold water harvested from a collection area such as the rooftop of a hangar or shed. The water cisterns are placed near garden plots so that farmers no longer have to carry heavy containers of water over long distances. The farmers also received training in climate-smart agriculture.

The farmers’ association pools the profits to extend their growing area, and has created a fund so they can meet any personal expenses, such as school fees, before paying it back at the end of the month.

Producing extra food to sell at the market is easier now that farmers have the means to irrigate crops and keep the soil and plants healthy all year round. “Now we can do everything by ourselves.”

#ZeroHunger: Providing access to CLEAN WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION during dry seasons helps build the resilience of vulnerable rural communities and achieve zero hunger.
BOOSTING FARMERS’ RESILIENCE IN CRISSES

WHEN CONFLICT, extreme weather events, natural disasters, plant pests, animal diseases or other threats devastate livelihoods and push people into hunger, FAO is on the ground to help vulnerable people prepare for the worst and bounce back after the crises. FAO provides seeds, fishing gear, animal vaccines and other assets to rebuild livelihoods and local food systems, supporting those affected and boosting their resilience against future threats.

In Somalia, an FAO veterinarian and a pastoralist discuss how vaccinations will help his weakened goats stay alive. FAO provided 3.1 million people in South Sudan with 4,800 tonnes of seeds during the main growing season. During the lean season, FAO provided seeds and cash transfers to women in northern Mali so they could plant their whole plot for the first time in 5 years. FAO treated more than 12 million animals in Somalia, protecting the livelihoods of families who rely on their livestock’s meat and milk for survival.

#ZeroHunger: FAO EMPOWERS RURAL PEOPLE IN AFRICA facing crises to remain self-reliant and keep themselves and their communities better fed, building a Zero Hunger future.
“We all have cattle here but there are no services. Last year, I lost 105 cattle. I knew what diseases they had but had no drugs.”
Lual is a community-based animal health worker trained by FAO to vaccinate animals. He has been working with FAO for seven years and has learned to recognize and treat diseases. On vaccination days, Lual and his colleagues start at 6 am before the cattle owners take their animals to graze and the heat sets in. They carry a cold box with the vaccines flown in from Juba.

About 65% of the population relies on livestock for survival. The milk, meat and blood are essential sources of protein and other nutrients. As South Sudanese farmers put it: here, cattle can chase away hunger.

FAO’s livestock vaccination campaign aims to protect over 9 million animals in South Sudan to combat the frequent disease outbreaks. FAO has trained over 1,000 community-based animal health workers to carry out routine check-ups and vaccinations. The cold chain stores vaccines for the most common diseases, which has improved animal health care.

#ZeroHunger: Animal Health is Crucial

in developing countries where animals provide transportation, draught power, fuel, clothing as well as proteins (meat, eggs and milk).
**Soalay**

*Ankily, Madagascar*

**ACTING EARLY TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY**

AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM SET UP BY FAO, the government and other partners helped to predict and mitigate a severe drought in southern Madagascar. FAO then distributed short-cycle vegetable seeds and irrigation equipment that allowed Soalay, 56, and his community to grow up to three times more than the usual crop cycle.

“**The community celebrated the arrival of the equipment.**”

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**Zarafonomeny**

*Ankily, Madagascar*

**BUILDING RESILIENCE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE**

FAO PROVIDED TRAINING IN SMART AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, including diversifying crops, using organic fertilizers, fighting plant diseases and improving crop storage. The project helped Zarafonomeny, a 23-year old mother of 4, to start the agricultural season on time and to get at least two good harvests in six months.

“The money I earned meant I could cover some daily needs, such as buying rice, oil and soap.”

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**#ZeroHunger**: Early action helps rural families in dry regions of Madagascar, where 70% OF THE PEOPLE ARE SMALLHOLDER FARMERS, to cope with drought and to be less reliant on rain for their food and income.
“Something has to be done to tackle the environmental problems caused by climate change, desertification and population growth.”
BARKISSA, 30, IS A MICROBIOLOGIST at Burkina Faso’s Institute for Environmental and Agricultural Research. She believes that microbiology is key to making degraded land green and productive again, and she is carrying out research to prove it.

The field of Acacia trees is Barkissa’s testing ground. She monitors the development of these gum-producing trees to find out how they become more resistant to drought, grow better and produce more gum. Barkissa’s research supports FAO’s restoration work in this area of the Sahel, where rainfall hardly exceeds 400 millimeters per year and land is severely degraded.

More than a year into the experiment Barkissa’s measurements are encouraging, and the FAO aims to make these useful micro-organisms available to the local population. Efforts are already underway to train them in how to inoculate their seeds and plants. FAO aims to reach about 500,000 people and restore 50,000 hectares of degraded land.

As part of FAO’s Action Against Desertification programme, Barkissa studies whether microbes can help plants to grow in some of Africa’s driest areas. She is confident that the results of her research can help the Sahel create productive landscapes.

#ZeroHunger: FAO’s large-scale restoration of degraded land creates productive landscapes across North Africa, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AND POVERTY IN THE AREA.
Investing in Africa’s 200 million youth and helping them grow their own businesses is key to reducing poverty and achieving #ZeroHunger.
Employing YOUTH
“The training got me really motivated and I asked my father if he would let me try to farm some of the family’s land.”
Purity
Tharaka-Nithi, Kenya

ATTRACTING YOUTH TO FARMING

PURITY KAREMI HADN’T PLANNED ON BECOMING A FARMER. The 25-year-old expected to stay on in Nairobi after she completed university. But an FAO training on agribusiness in her home town in Kenya changed everything.

Purity learned all about commercial agriculture, nutrition, water management, and other modern farming methods. She used the FAO allowance to buy sweet potato vines and within months harvested enough sweet potatoes to quadruple her initial investment. She added two new crops to her land: watermelon and capsicum. She then sold five tonnes of watermelon to Twiga Foods, a buyer introduced to her by FAO.

Now Purity puts her management degree to good use on her own farm. She keeps meticulous records of her expenses and income, and she hires local youth to help her. She also mentors others to take up farming as a profession.

Anthony Munene learned conservation agriculture from Purity and leased a plot of land to grow capsicums. “I am saving the money I am making, to start a farming business,” he says. “This is my future.”

#ZeroHunger: Most of the world’s food is produced by smallholder farmers in developing countries.
“I want to be a farmer. I would be the first one (in my family).”
Dimiana
Kalobeyei settlement, Kenya

INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION OF FARMERS

DIMIANA NANGE CLEMENT IS A YOUNG REFUGEE AND A BUDDING FARMER. The 11-year-old comes from South Sudan but lives with her family in an integrated settlement near the Kakuma refugee camp in northern Kenya.

Kalobeyei settlement, opened to ease the pressure on Kakuma, offers a model for self-reliance and the integration of refugees with local residents. The combined population of the two settlements is 185 000.

Families and schools here are increasingly turning to gardening as a source of better nutrition and a way to inspire young people like Dimiana to be farmers.

At FAO’s Junior Farmer Field and Life School, an optional class at her primary school, Dimiana has learned water-efficiency and other farming techniques, and as her school’s dusty backyard gives way to a lush vegetable garden, her enthusiasm grows.

#ZeroHunger: With agriculture as the leading job creator in Africa, attracting youth to farming and improving their smart farming skills will increase their EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.
“This bull is now my only hope of restarting my business.”
Kaka
Borno State, Nigeria

BOOSTING RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

IN NORTHEASTERN NIGERIA, conflict-affected youth with limited income options are often targeted for recruitment by extremists, who entice them with monetary gain.

FAO’s livestock restocking campaign is part of an expansive agricultural support programme, designed to assist 100,000 vulnerable farming households in the region.

Kaka Ali, 34, is a father of eight whose shops were burned down by insurgents. He was among 2000 youths to receive a bull for fattening. Bulls can be leased for farmland traction and transportation of goods, or sold, with the earnings reinvested into new productive assets or shops.

The bull distribution campaign will help restore agricultural livelihoods in the State, boost employment and income generation, and enhance household nutrition.

#ZeroHunger: Youth employment is an ANTIDOTE TO RADICALIZATION, sustaining peace in volatile regions and boosting income and food security.

Displaced people who lose their productive assets face limited income options. Benjamin Saleh, 30, was a bricklayer before the insurgency and also received a bull. “After I sell it, I will buy sheep and goats; my plan is to start a livestock business.”
#ZeroHunger: Agriculture is the largest employer in the world, with OVER ONE BILLION WORKERS.

APPs FOR AGRICULTURE

New farming apps with real-time information on weather, livestock care, markets, and nutrition help attract and empower youth.

SMART FARMING IN GUINEA BISSAU

In Pitche village in the far east of Guinea-Bissau, 15 unemployed youth learn how to farm fish in floating cages.

Less expensive than the fish brought in from the capital, their fresh and healthy tilapia harvest is now in high demand.

Those who once dreamt about “escaping” their village now see the advantage of staying. “We could make more money here, and live better than in the capital where life is expensive.”

MAKING AGRICULTURE COOL

FAO helps young people see a future in farming. In Kenya, students at Kata Primary School enjoy a hands-on experience with agricultural drones.
“My plan was to work for three more years to save money for my family, but I was forced to return.”
Amiat
South Wollo, Ethiopia

OFFERING YOUTH ALTERNATIVES TO MIGRATION

EACH YEAR, rural areas lose many young people to migration. Luckily, the growing agricultural industry can generate enough jobs to ensure rural youth earn a decent living locally.

Like many other young people in her region, Amiat, 27, used to feel that her options were limited when it came to earning income in her village. She migrated to Saudi Arabia in the hopes of providing for her family.

After five years in Saudi Arabia working in difficult conditions as a domestic helper, she had to leave because of her irregular immigrant status. When she returned home, Amiat had no income. But with some help from local administrators and the FAO Rural Youth Mobility (RYM) project, she joined a poultry farming cooperative in her home village. The cooperative buys day-old chickens and raises them in order to sell them to others in the community. Coop members share the profits and see a bright economic future for themselves locally.

Amiat chose to stay with her two-year old son instead of migrating. “I see my future in our poultry farming business. I have a son; I don’t want to leave him.”

#ZeroHunger: Africa’s 200 MILLION YOUTH, AGED 15-24, can be the drivers of change, lifting themselves and others out of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.
Mohamed
Kalu, Ethiopia

MAKING FARMING PROFITABLE

JOBS ARE INCREASINGLY HARD TO FIND for Ethiopia’s young people, many of whom are migrating to urban areas and other countries in search of a better life. Mohamed now grows cabbage, onions and mung beans thanks to FAO’s Rural Youth Mobility project, which gave him and his peers the seeds, tools and training they needed to stay and work locally. Mohamed has plans to sell his vegetables in nearby markets and elsewhere.

Zinetemam
Kalu, Ethiopia

HELPING YOUTH THRIVE LOCALLY

ZINETEMAM, 22, also joined FAO’s Rural Youth Mobility project and received training in cattle rearing to help her and 10 others start a business, the Selam Cattle Fattening Enterprise. Zinetemam is hoping to start her own poultry farm.

“We want to grow our business and be a model for other young people in our area.”

#ZeroHunger: FAO works to boost rural employment and income-generating opportunities for youth in Ethiopia, where 71% OF THE POPULATION is under the age of 30.
Innovation is the central driving force for achieving a Zero Hunger world. It increases sustainable agricultural production, brings information quickly and directly into farmers’ hands, and helps farmers use resources more efficiently.
Promoting INNOVATION
“I just follow the rules.”
Mama Katarina

Tanga, Tanzania

PROMOTING CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

IN TANZANIA, WHERE 90% OF RURAL HOMES DO NOT HAVE ELECTRICITY, FAO provides biogas digesters that help turn manure into a clean, continuous and effective source of renewable energy. The digesters provide Tanzanian farmers with cooking gas, fertilizer for the land, and extra income from milk sales.

Mama Katarina is now a local expert on biogas digesters, training other smallholder dairy farmers in her community. She claims her digester has never needed repairs, because she is very diligent about following the rules to keep it running properly.

FAO works closely with the Tanzanian Dairy Board to promote milk cooling systems powered by biogas digesters. With the increasing demand for milk, small dairy farmers can now keep their raw milk cool and sell it to local dairy cooperatives or in the local markets.

#ZeroHunger: Biogas digesters are a clean energy technology that can chill milk for farmers with up to 10 DAIRY COWS (more than 80% of all dairy farmers in East Africa), helping to increase food security and a more sustainable, Zero Hunger world.
#ZeroHunger: Mobile phone apps provide **IMMEDIATE FIELD DATA** from remote locations that can prevent crop disease outbreaks and animal deaths and, in turn, safeguard livelihoods and food security.

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**SHARING INFORMATION ON SMALL-SCALE FISHING**

Abalobi (Xhosa for “fisherfolk”) is a mobile app for small-scale fishers to record what they catch, when, where, how and the price they sold it for. The information is stored in the app and made available to other small-scale fishers. By producing their own knowledge on fishing, these small-scale fishers who walk a thin line between commercial and subsistence farming, are helping to build resilient communities, especially in the face of climate change.

**LINKING LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS WITH MARKETS AND LIVESTOCK TRADERS**

Mobile technologies are also used to better link livestock producers with markets and livestock traders. When sellers can relay information about the number and price of animals they have, traders are more willing to travel to them, ensuring a more efficient and transparent market.

**USING MOBILE PHONES AS EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR DISEASE AND DROUGHT**

Mobile phones and applications are now being used across Africa to issue alerts in a matter of seconds, rather than weeks, about possible animal disease outbreaks, drought, and crop pests. FAO’s EMPRES-I Event Mobile Application feeds reports on animal disease outbreaks into a database. Its EpiCollect App tracks animal vaccinations. The eLocust 3 app helps reduce the threat of the desert locust pest. FAO also works with Oxfam to monitor water points using Nokia Data Gathering for early drought response.
#ZeroHunger: Cutting-edge technology, such as drones, satellites, and artificial intelligence, is revolutionizing the way natural resources can be monitored and safeguarded.

**USING DRONES TO ASSESS RISK, DISEASE, AND DAMAGE**

Africa’s agricultural sector is embracing the use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) to get a bird’s eye view of farmland in order to detect infectious disease, assess damage after natural disasters, and combat climate change. Detailed and data rich maps generated by drone footage help countries decide where agricultural infrastructure projects and services like irrigation or storage facilities could best serve local farmers and improve food security.

**ACCESSING SATELLITE IMAGERY TO MONITOR LAND AND SEA**

FAO works with Google and the European Space Agency to map land cover, crop health, water, and climate change. Accessing Google’s geospatial data archives back to 1972, FAO trains national experts on FAO software tools such as Open Foris and Collect Earth so they can map and classify in just a few hours what used to take weeks or months. FAO’s Global Fishing Watch also combines satellite data with cloud computing technology to track illegal over-fishing and fishing in protected areas.

**DETECTING DISEASE AND WEATHER PATTERNS USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Combining machine learning and artificial intelligence, Nuru App immediately confirms whether Fall Armyworm has caused crop damage. Available in different languages, it will be linked to FAMEWS, a web-based platform where data on the Fall Armyworm is stored and validated. Another AI platform in Zambia, Agripredict, can forecast pest invasions and weather patterns using a simple photo from a phone.
DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS WITH TREE OIL

In Tanzania, farmers are finding new uses for the indigenous Allanblackia tree that are helping to alleviate poverty, conserve biodiversity, and increase local farmers’ incomes. Using the tree’s nutrient-rich seed oil, farmers have developed new products, such as skin creams and lotions, which are lucrative in the markets and have attracted international attention.

IMPROVING LIVES WITH FISH-SMOKING INNOVATION

These women in Côte d’Ivoire have adopted a new method of fish-smoking that has improved their health, increased their income, reduced their costs, cut down on losses, improved the quality and safety of their smoked fish, and improved their family’s food security and nutrition. The FAO technology first introduced in Africa is now being used in 12 countries.

IMPROVING FARMERS’ RESILIENCE TO DROUGHT

FAO promotes innovative tools and solutions, such as using cisterns to store rainfall water for drinking and for animals all year round. The cisterns can prevent a drought from turning into famine or forced displacement. Also in the Sahel region, FAO supports the African Union’s Great Green Wall initiative, which plans to surround the Sahara with a wide belt of vegetation, trees and bushes in order to green and protect the agricultural landscape and keep the desert from advancing.

#ZeroHunger: INNOVATION IS CRUCIAL for increasing the productivity and profitability of smallholders and family farmers in Africa
"Honestly, it sounded like a crazy idea to me at first... but my wife undertook some training in Singapore, learning how to perfect the fish leather production. And here we are."
POVERTY IS WIDESPREAD IN KENYA’S NORTHERNMOST REGION, where communities have turned to Lake Turkana to support them, fishing Nile perch that can grow up to six feet long.

Companies, such as James’ Victorian Foods in Kitale, are starting to purchase the leftover perch skin for use as an interesting source of leather and a sustainable alternative for the fashion industry. The fish skin has a unique natural pattern, absorbs colours extremely well, and is far lighter and more resilient than cow leather.

The new interest in fish skin has added value to local fishers’ catch, offering higher prices and creating alternative local employment, especially for the two demographics with the highest unemployment rates—women and youth.

Today, James’ factory produces fish leather that is shipped all over the world to be used in the design of shoes, purses, and clothes. There’s even interest from the automobile industry to begin producing luxury interiors in fish leather.

#ZeroHunger: Blue Fashion is an INNOVATIVE WAY to support fishing communities, reduce waste and offer sustainable alternatives to the fashion industry.
Co-creation and knowledge sharing play a central role in ending hunger, giving farmers, both men and women, insight into new ways of farming tailored to their local context and a voice in the decisions that shape their lives.
Sharing KNOWLEDGE
“I clearly saw that what I'm able to do by myself is not the same as what we can do in a group.”
AROUNA LIVES WITH HIS FAMILY in southeastern Senegal where two thirds of the population live under the poverty line.

Arouna and his wife joined FAO’s Farmer Field School (FFS), where they and other local farmers got to know each other, share knowledge and make practical decisions together for the benefit of their community. FFS not only helps farmers develop smart farming skills, but also builds their confidence and their capacity to analyze and solve their particular agricultural challenges.

Arouna and his wife are now food self-sufficient and work together to cultivate cotton, millet, sorghum, maize, groundnuts, okra, beans and some other vegetables.

“One of the basic FFS principles is that a decision has to be taken together.”

#ZeroHunger: FFS has improved the skills of over 4 MILLION FARMERS, pastoralists and fishers who produce our food.
Georgette Pelange, Democratic Republic of the Congo

DIVERSIFYING DIETS TO ADDRESS MALNUTRITION

AN INTERCOMMUNAL CONFLICT forced Georgette and her eight children to live in a forest camp for three months. Upon their return to Pelange, her children were severely malnourished. Poor sanitation and limited access to nutritious food had affected their health.

After conducting home-based screenings of children in the community, a local FAO nutritionist guided Georgette and her son, Bokila, to the Tshudi Health Centre for medical treatment. Georgette now participates in FAO cooking classes, where she learns new recipes made from local ingredients to create a healthy diet for her children.

She also received a vegetable kit (composed of a shovel, a rake, a watering can and seeds) to diversify the vegetables she grows and to improve the nutritional value of her meals.

#ZeroHunger: By supporting children’s health in THEIR FIRST 1 000 DAYS OF LIFE, FAO is sustainably strengthening the food security and nutrition of future generations.

FAO cooking demonstrations give mothers the knowledge and support they need to prevent malnutrition and ensure a well-balanced diet for their children.
“Now I can cook different meals every day, and I can see the improvement in my children’s health.”
Now we have some money saved; we bought a motorbike [to transport produce] and can even give loans to other farmers.

“Now we have some money saved; we bought a motorbike [to transport produce] and can even give loans to other farmers.”

“We have to share our knowledge and help each other so nobody is poor.”

LAND DEGRADATION, AND THE SUBSEQUENT LOSS OF VEGETATION, is a major issue for indigenous communities struggling to provide enough feed for their cattle. FAO supports a network of schools in Angola to mainstream local knowledge to help reverse land degradation. So far, 35 field schools have helped more than 2800 farmers, 35% of whom are women, improve land management.

#ZeroHunger: FAO helps rural farmers, who produce about 3/4 OF THE WORLD’S FOOD, to share knowledge and work together to improve their livelihoods.
“I used to make porridge for my children with only flour and sugar, but now I know we can make enriched porridge with other products or produce from our home gardens.”
Rosita Namite, Mozambique

COMBATTING CHRONIC MALNUTRITION

ROSITA IS A “CARE MOTHER.” She took part in a FAO training and was given the responsibility to share what she learned with her community. She belongs to a farmer’s group of 12 women, who meet twice a week to share knowledge about nutrition and home gardening.

They are working to fight against chronic malnutrition in a country where 35% of the population is food insecure and 43% of children under 5 are chronically malnourished.

As part of the FAO programme, Rosita and her group of women produced cabbage, butter beans, tomatoes, sweet potato, onion and garlic. They also learned how to use manure to fertilize plants.

Thanks to FAO, chronic malnutrition is decreasing as entire communities in Zambézia province are changing their eating habits.

#ZeroHunger: Women are key to fighting malnutrition in rural communities. Around 30 000 MOTHERS FROM 7 DISTRICTS IN MOZAMBIQUE have benefited from FAO’s food security and nutrition program.
Christine
Karamoja, Uganda

BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

CHRISTINE, A SINGLE MOTHER OF SIX, struggled to feed her family. After joining FAO’s Farmer Field School, she learned to understand the right time for sowing, how to use fewer seeds and how to set up a marketing strategy. She now harvests, stores, and sells a wide variety of crops and has become a local source of knowledge. She can also afford to send all her kids to school.

“...they come to ask for advice... They pay attention to what I say now.”

Eunice
Kitui, Kenya

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT BALANCED DIETS

AFTER PARTICIPATING IN A FAO TRAINING about indigenous, nutritious vegetables, Kitui not only improved her family’s diet but also the health of the entire community. As a pastor, she helped raise awareness about the importance of a balanced diet.

“The foods that we thought had no value, turned out to be the most valuable in terms of nutrition.”

#ZeroHunger: Sharing knowledge with women, who make up MORE THAN ½ THE FARMERS IN AFRICA, is critical for improving farming practices and nutrition.
"We want to bring about a situation where farmers and pastoralists produce not just enough food for their families, but also a surplus giving an economic return."
Francis
Turkana, Kenya

SHOWING HOW TO PRODUCE MORE WITH LESS

FRANCIS GREW UP IN TURKANA, an arid stretch of land in northern Kenya, which struggles with frequent drought and food insecurity. As an FAO field officer, he helps others from Turkana produce more food and other agricultural products with fewer resources.

Turkana, which borders on South Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia, also hosts one of the world’s largest refugee camps.

Francis helps farmers and pastoralists improve their farming and livestock-keeping techniques, and set up kitchen gardens with seeds, tools and training provided by FAO. He also shows them how to enhance their market potential by producing and processing a greater variety of food and non-edible agricultural products for sale.

#ZeroHunger: FAO helps refugees and host families to produce and sell more food by PROVIDING QUALITY SEEDS AND TOOLS AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE about new farming techniques.
YEARS OF CONFLICT MADE ADUT’S COMMUNITY in northwestern South Sudan a dangerous place to harvest the land; many people lost their lives, their homes and their livelihoods.

As part of a FAO project, Adut and other women in the community received vouchers for nutritious food items, such as milk, meat, fish and assorted vegetables that they and their children were missing in their diets. FAO also provided vegetable seeds, agricultural tools (like treadle pumps for irrigation), and training to grow different types of vegetables and crops.

Adut and 40 other women turned their community around within six months, not only producing their own food, but also buying their own seeds. They no longer rely on feeding centres and have income to supplement their diets and meet other basic needs.

#ZeroHunger: WHEN WOMEN’S SKILLS IN FARMING IMPROVE, so do food security and nutrition.
“Before I learnt how to farm, I used to cut grass and fetch firewood to sell. Now we grow all that we need, and don’t need to walk for one hour to the market anymore.”
Spreading the word about Zero Hunger is crucial. Only with everyone working together—nations, private companies, and citizens—can we ensure this global goal is achieved by 2030.
Spreading THE WORD
“As a child of migration and of interracial parents, I am very driven by the issues of colonial/post-colonial effects, racial, gender discrimination and identity research.”
ONE OF SIX ILLUSTRATORS chosen to share their vision of Zero Hunger, Diana Ejaita is helping FAO to spread the word through her art.

Six artists/illustrators representing six regions as well as a cross-cultural view conveyed six unique messages through a new line of FAO branded products. They created their work in spaces that defy simple definitions of place or identity but that are nevertheless deeply rooted in a culture of origin. Each has a strong and personal commitment to making our world a better place.

Diana, who is of Nigerian parentage, is a designer and artist living in Berlin. Her aesthetic pays homage to her lineage. She draws on the centuries-old Nsibidi system of symbols and ideograms, indigenous to Southeast Nigeria.

Diana’s striking illustration decorated awareness-raising t-shirts and mugs, which were unveiled on 15 October of World Food Week.

#ZeroHunger: Diana and other artists are helping FAO spread the word about the importance of working together to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.
Lambert
Paris, France

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER

BEST KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY for his role as Merovingian in *Matrix Reloaded* and *Matrix Revolutions*, Lambert Wilson is a French actor and environmental activist, who has used his fame to promote the Zero Hunger message. He launched a video with FAO on October 16, World Food Day, to encourage all of us, all over the world, to act to achieve zero hunger.

Like FAO, Lambert strongly believes that it is still possible to reach the Zero Hunger goal by 2030 if we all work together. Governments, farmers, civil society, representatives of private and public sectors, traders, teachers, individuals, artists, actors, and chefs: everyone has a role to play.

“When you are a public figure and you can be a messenger, it is good to inform yourself. You have to choose your battles, stick to them and go as far as you can.”

#ZeroHunger: The world produces enough food for all, yet **ONE IN NINE PEOPLE ON EARTH SUFFERS FROM CHRONIC MALNUTRITION**. Conflicts, poverty, depletion of natural resources and climate change partly explain this situation.
“Eradicating hunger means we must act now, and we must act together. Every action counts.”

©FAO/Alessandra Benedetti
SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

FAO’S FARMER FIELD SCHOOLS (FFS) have improved the skills of over 4 million farmers, pastoralists and fishers in 90 different countries around the world. The FFS are essentially schools without walls that introduce technological innovations, while building on indigenous knowledge. In FFS, farmers are the experts in creating a world free from hunger. FAO’s new Global Platform provides a space to share some of their innovative solutions in food and agriculture. The Global Farmer Field School Platform includes a library of more than 300 resources, online profiles of experts and a global email discussion group.

BUILDING THE ZERO HUNGER GENERATION

EDUCATION PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN OUR EFFORTS to end hunger. Building the Zero Hunger Generation is a resource portal for teachers, parents or anyone involved in educational activities who wants to introduce children to world issues. Learning guides help educators prepare classes on various topics and show children how they can be part of the generation that creates a sustainable world free of hunger.

#ZeroHunger is built on a RESPECT FOR FOOD, FOR THE PEOPLE WHO PRODUCE IT, for where it comes from and most importantly, for those who go without. Passing on this knowledge and mind-set is crucial in our quest to end hunger.
“Africa produces enough to feed its citizens and our responsibility is to ensure what we produce does not go to waste.”
Chef Addo
Accra, Ghana

REDUCING WASTE AND HUNGER

CHEF ELIJAH AMOO ADDO is Founder and Executive Director of the Food for All Africa Programme, a social enterprise that works to bridge the gap between plenty and scarce through food donations across the continent. It recovers surplus food from supermarkets, restaurants and other sources in Ghana and distributes it mostly to facilities for children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Addo says three out of five children on the streets of Ghana are out of school because they do not get enough to eat. The programme works with community-run, free schools to provide meals. The programme also runs “SDG 2” crop and livestock farms and stores to support agricultural work and distribute rural products in urban areas.

#ZeroHunger: Every year, 1.3 BILLION TONS OF FOOD are lost or wasted worldwide. That’s one-third of all food produced for human consumption.

Chefs around the world are important agents of change, inspiring others to champion food waste reduction efforts and adopt healthy diets.
BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR ZERO HUNGER: 
A #ZeroHunger WORLD BY 2030 
IS POSSIBLE.

*Stories from Africa* shows us just what works in our quest to end hunger and malnutrition, even amid extreme challenges. When countries, institutions, and people work together, food security and nutrition can make great strides.

As you witnessed in *Stories from Africa*, FAO is committed to build on the bold solutions that have been most effective in ensuring access to adequate food, such as empowering women, employing youth, building resilience, promoting innovation and sharing knowledge.

A recent global economic upturn has opened a new window of opportunity for nations, continents, and sectors to ramp up their Zero Hunger efforts. This requires a fundamental, ongoing transformation in the way in which we grow our food, manage natural resources and support vulnerable communities.

This is the moment to redouble efforts to achieve SDG 2, the Zero Hunger goal. Many of the other global goals, such as good health and quality education for all, will not be achieved without first addressing the basic right to food.

Governments, organizations, farmers and private-sector interests can have an enormous impact in the quest for Zero Hunger, but they cannot do it alone. Everyone must play a role, every day, by using the Earth’s resources more wisely, following nutritious diets, reducing waste, taking on more sustainable lifestyles, and sharing ideas and opinions on how to best achieve a Zero Hunger world.

To find the latest news on #ZeroHunger visit the FAO website, or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.