**The issue**

“Never let a good crisis go to waste” is a quote frequently heard from politicians to emphasize that inside every emergency, there is opportunity for positive transformation. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is the one of the hardest hit regions of the world by COVID-19 (see Figure 1) and its impact has had adverse consequences across the agricultural supply chain. Labor supplies have been disrupted, credit access has tightened, and agricultural inputs have become scarce among other challenges. At the same time, massive amounts of resources are being mobilized to counter and minimize negative consequences. Food and Agriculture Organization’s position is that the pandemic has opened a window to transform the agricultural sector, and rebuild a more stable, resilient, and fair system. Indeed, FAO is working closely with partners across LAC to guide policies and investments which aim to mitigate the immediate negative impacts on food security, while making agriculture more sustainable.

But where is the data evidence to monitor this sustainable transformation and food security? How will we know if agriculture is becoming more sustainable, and eventually how will we know if this crisis has gone to waste?

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**Budget**

USD 450 000

**Timeframe**

2020–2022

**SDGs**

[SDG icon]

**Related FAO COVID-19 Policy notes**

- [Anticipating the impacts of COVID-19 in humanitarian and food crises contexts](#)
- [Using the FIES to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on food security](#)
The action

Monitor recovery with transformation using SDG indicator methodologies 2.1.2, and 2.4.1

This project proposes to build capacity in 8 countries to monitor recovery with transformation through the dimensions of food security using the 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale, and 2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture using existing and nationally funded survey operations. Both of these dimensions are measured using innovative methodologies, and this project will further serve to catalyze innovation through the promotion of remote interviewing techniques, and big data sources. Lastly, this project will generate new open data which will empower countries to report on Sustainable Development Goals indicators, and allow national, and international bodies to conduct research for designing evidence based policies.

Expected results

Impact
Food security is strengthened, and the agricultural sector in LAC becomes more sustainable, productive, and resilient through stronger evidence base during the recovery from the COVID19 pandemic.

Outcome
The capacity of 8 Latin America and Caribbean countries strengthen their evidence base for designing policies and guiding investments to rebuild a more sustainable food system and increase food security.

Outputs

1 Capacity Development: Beneficiary countries improve their capacity to monitor and measure sustainable agriculture and food security by implementing relevant modules into existing survey programs.

2 Implementation and data collection: Beneficiary countries use the 2.1.2 and/or 2.4.1 methodology to monitor the impact of at least 1 policy and/or investment in the context of COVID-19 recovery.

3 Analysis and reporting: At least 3 countries include 2.1.2, and/or 2.4.1 indicators in National Voluntary Reviews.

Partnerships

The National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Agriculture, and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Programme links

The programme will tie in with FAO Voices of the Hungry initiative, spanning more than 140 countries, with funding from the Department for International Development (DFID), the Government of Belgium and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It will support data-collection to inform FAO’s COVID-19 Response programmes, including Collective Action for Sustainable Food Systems and Zero Hunger. Its results will also ultimately feed into the analytics foreseen for the Hand in Hand Initiative, Measuring the SDGs and the Common Country Analyses performed by United Nations Country teams.

Country focus

Eight countries were selected which have existing nationally funded survey programs.

Mesoamerica: Mexico, Costa Rica (Alternatively: Nicaragua)
South America: Colombia, Peru, Uruguay, and Ecuador (Alternatively: Brazil, Bolivia)
The Caribbean: Barbados, Jamaica (Alternatively: Haiti, Guyana)

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