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Programme Committee

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Joint Thematic Evaluation of FAO and WFP Support to Information Systems for Food Security - draft strategies and implementation plans

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Executive Summary

- The 103rd session of the Programme Committee reviewed the Summary Report of the Joint Thematic Evaluation of FAO and WFP Support to Information Systems for Food Security (ISFS)[1] and endorsed the need for continued joint work between FAO and WFP on food security information. The Committee appreciated that Management also agreed to finalize a corporate strategy on ISFS in addition to a joint strategy with WFP[2].
- Through in-depth collaboration among the two agencies throughout 2010 and 2011, and in recognition of the importance of improved data, information and analysis on food security and nutrition, FAO and WFP have produced a *'Joint FAO-WFP Strategy on Information Systems for Food and Nutrition Security'* (ISFNS) to be implemented over a six-year period (2012-17). In addition to the Joint Strategy, both agencies are producing separate corporate strategies in support of strengthening ISFNS at all levels.
- As recommended by the Committee, the Joint FAO-WFP ISFNS Strategy underlines the importance of assessing food security not just in emergency situations, but also in development contexts. The Strategy responds to the demand for in-depth analysis of underlying and emerging factors affecting vulnerable livelihood systems that result in acute and chronic food insecurity and malnutrition, while also addressing gender disparities in food security status.
- The Joint Strategy is built on four complementary pillars: (i) capacity development to support information systems on food and nutrition security of member countries; (ii) standards, methods, and tools for information systems on food and nutrition security; (iii) monitoring and in-country food security and nutrition assessments; and (iv) statistics, information and analysis on food and nutrition security (global public goods).
- The Strategy furthermore places special emphasis on a user-driven approach to providing information services and capacity development support at country and regional levels. It also elaborates comparative advantages and synergies between FAO and WFP for achieving food and nutrition security. The guiding principles of the Strategy highlight the need to systematically place governments at the centre of planning and decision-making processes, and places importance on collaboration with regional institutions and other development partners.

Suggested action by the Programme Committee

- The Programme Committee may wish to provide advice on the nature and scope of the Joint FAO-WFP Strategy on ISFNS, including the four "Pillars" of the strategy, as well as the suggested mechanisms for collaboration. With specific reference to the Joint FAO-WFP Implementation Plan of the ISFNS Strategy, the Programme Committee may wish to highlight priority areas of work.
- FAO and WFP have invested heavily in strengthening ISFNS capacity among Member States, regional organizations and internally. However, additional resources will be needed for a successful implementation of the Joint Strategy. A funding strategy will be prepared to mobilize the additional resources required.

[1] PC 103/8; PC 103/8 Sup.1
[2] CL 139/4

FAO–WFP Joint Strategy on
Information Systems for Food and Nutrition Security

Strategy Timeframe: 2012–2017

Executive Summary

i. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) have collaboratively developed this Joint Strategy on Information Systems for Food and Nutrition Security. The Joint Strategy represents a commitment to support Member States in strengthening – in both the development and emergency contexts – the collection, management, analysis, dissemination, and use of data and information relevant to the design and implementation of policies and programmes to achieve food and nutrition security, while also addressing gender concerns and social inequities.

ii. The FAO–WFP Joint Strategy on Information Systems for Food and Nutrition Security:

- reflects a commitment to the "twin-track" approach to hunger reduction;
- responds to growing demand for in-depth analysis of underlying and emerging factors affecting vulnerable livelihood systems that result in acute and chronic food insecurity and malnutrition, including gender disparities in food security status;
- represents a user-driven approach to providing information services and capacity development support at country and regional levels; and
- identifies comparative advantages and synergies between FAO and WFP for achieving food and nutrition security.

iii. The Joint Strategy is guided by the following vision statement:

"*FAO and WFP will work together to promote evidence-based food and nutrition security decisions by strengthening national and regional capacity to undertake credible, relevant and timely assessments and analysis, and to become the global reference for food and nutrition security standards, statistics and information.*"

iv. The vision will be achieved through the implementation of activities that fall under four complementary pillars:

1. capacity development to support information systems on food and nutrition security of member countries;
2. standards, methods, and tools for information systems on food and nutrition security;
3. monitoring and in-country food security and nutrition assessments; and
4. statistics, information and analysis on food and nutrition security (global public goods).

v. The implementation of the Joint Strategy will emphasize national ownership and leadership. Mechanisms for collaboration, improved communication and partnership-building have also been identified. The guiding principles of the strategy highlight, among other things, the need to systematically place governments at the centre of planning and decision-making processes. High priority is placed on ensuring complementarity with the policies and practices of partners, including national governments, regional institutions, non-governmental organizations and academia.

Rationale and Purpose of the Joint FAO–WFP Strategy

1. This document presents the strategic framework in which FAO and WFP seek to coordinate and reorient their work at the global level and reorient investment toward long-term sustainable

Information Systems for Food and Nutrition Security (ISFNS) led by national and regional institutions.

2. The ISFNS Joint Strategy was developed partly in response to the joint thematic evaluation of information systems for food security conducted by FAO and WFP in 2009.[3] They address issues raised in the evaluation, which recommended: i) providing effective support to Member States and the global community in ISFNS development; ii) sharpening organizational response to known and emerging threats to food security; iii) renewing commitments to timely and reliable demand-driven products and services; and iv) improving internal and external communication channels.

3. The Joint Strategy supports the strategic plans and organizational mandates of WFP and FAO, which recognize that effective ISFNS are essential to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), specifically MDG 1. It reflects a commitment to the twin-track approach to hunger reduction, which seeks to address both acute hunger resulting from rapid-onset shocks, along with chronic hunger.[4]

Current and Emerging Food and Nutrition Security Issues

4. The Joint Strategy represents a collaborative effort by FAO and WFP to design and enhance timely and effective information systems that are able to address both current and emerging issues expected to exacerbate food and nutrition insecurity. These include – but are not limited – to:

- **Climate change.** Climate change is expected to increase variability in food production, and increase risks to lives and livelihoods from extreme weather events, often resulting in disruptions to local and global food markets; poorer countries and populations at risk of food insecurity will be among those least able to cope with these trends.
- **Volatility in markets.** Food prices in most low-income, food-deficit countries remain above the pre-crisis level of 2008.[5] Many countries face large food import bills and uncertainty about future prices in both input and commodity markets.
- **Urban malnutrition.** The majority of the world's population live in urban areas. The 1 billion people who live in informal settlements and slums face particular food security and nutrition challenges such as high transaction and transport costs and greater reliance on prepared foods and cash purchases.
- **Sustainability of diets**. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, changing consumer preferences and population increases compromise the availability of – and access to – nutritious foods and the resilience of the food system, and threaten livelihoods.
- **Transboundary threats.** Food chain emergencies, in particular those that are of a transboundary nature, threaten human health, food security, livelihoods and economic activity.[6]
- **Biofuel–food trade-off.** The increased demand for biofuels has raised concern that a reallocation of resources will increase the price volatility of food commodities, increase competition for arable land and compromise the global stockpile of food.[7]

[3] WFP/FAO. 2009. "Summary Report of the Joint Thematic Evaluation of FAO and WFP Support to Information Systems for Food Security" (WFP/EB.1/2010/7-B)

[4] FAO. 2003. Anti-Hunger Programme: A twin-track approach to hunger reduction: priorities for national and international action. Available at http://www.fao.org/docrep/006/j0563e/j0563e00.htm

[5] FAO/WFP. 2010. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises*. Rome.

[6] FAO Director-General's Bulletin. Food Chain Crisis Management Framework (FCC). July 2010.

[7] FAO. 2008. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2008. High food prices and food insecurity – threats and opportunities*.

- **Gender concerns.** In many contexts, women have less access to assets, resources and services, than men, which negatively impacts on agricultural productivity, food security and economic development.[8] Programmes and policies must address women's multiple roles to ensure gender equity in food and nutrition security.

Roles of FAO and WFP in Supporting ISFNS Work Globally

5. This Joint Strategy aims to formalize and strengthen the collaborative roles of WFP and FAO in supporting worldwide ISFNS work and related initiatives and facilitate partnership with food security stakeholders. This includes: FAO and WFP membership in the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the global food security cluster and the nutrition cluster, and, along with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), joint support to the Secretariat of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Furthermore, the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN) and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative are essential international nutrition platforms to work with. FAO and WFP are both prepared to assume leadership roles, together with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in the proposed Food Security Information Network (FSIN), and to provide resources for its establishment and operation. Both agencies are actively engaged in the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) endorsed by the G-20 in June 2011 to increase information and transparency among key players in agricultural and food markets.

6. ***Outreach and institutional linkages.*** FAO has wide national representation based on organizational membership of 192 countries[9] and a multi-disciplinary workforce which draws on its specialized expertise located at Headquarters and a network of decentralized offices, which also includes 70 emergency rehabilitation and coordination units (ERCUs) comprising 130 food and nutrition security analysts that support national and regional ISFNS, conduct early warning, and analyse and disseminate food security and nutrition information. WFP's field presence in more than 70 food-insecure and disaster-prone countries and its network of 150 vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) staff dedicated to conducting food security and nutrition assessments allow the agency to directly implement ISFNS activities at national and sub-national levels. The combined capacities of the two agencies support national food security programmes.

7. ***Technical expertise***. FAO has strong expertise in managing and analysing data and statistics on food, agriculture and nutrition to inform policy and programme development, including through studies with long-term perspectives. This is further supported by specialized capacity in trade and market analysis, gender analysis and rural employment, agro-meteorology, remote sensing, geo-spatial analysis, monitoring of crops and livestock conditions, and disaster risk management. WFP has extensive expertise in designing and managing food security and nutrition assessments and surveys at household and community levels using advanced technology and quantitative and qualitative approaches. This places WFP in a distinctive position for real-time, efficient data collection and analysis with local partners. In response to recent global price volatility, FAO has strengthened its global price monitoring capacity, while WFP focuses on market and price analysis at sub-national level and linkages with household food security.

8. ***Emergency and development contexts.*** WFP and FAO have developed complementary expertise in short- to medium-term emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, rehabilitation and development contexts. FAO has developed expertise in disaster risk management and in responding to emergencies affecting various livelihood systems in the food and agriculture sectors, including specifically in the crop, livestock, fisheries, forestry and natural resources sub-sectors, commodity markets and trade, urban agriculture, rural employment, nutrition and food safety. Its development work is focused on medium- to long-term capacity development efforts and investment in these sectors, and on the analysis of underlying causes of poverty and food

[8] FAO. 2011. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–2011: Women in Agriculture*.

[9] FAO also has one member organization, the European Community, and one associate member, the Faroe Islands.

insecurity in global, regional and national policies, programmes and strategies. WFP has a long history of providing food assistance effectively in both emergency and development contexts, including by providing expertise in social protection and safety net programmes, food or cash transfer activities, nutrition programmes and school feeding. It has operational capacity – especially in terms of logistics capabilities, telecommunications, targeting and rapid response. Extensive field-based assessment staff enable WFP to rapidly conduct livelihood, market, nutrition and spatial analyses, especially in sudden-onset situations, and to support national food security, nutrition and disaster risk reduction strategies and policies.

9. ***Institutional and capacity development.*** FAO and WFP both play important roles in strengthening the ISFNS capacity of institutional partners, including through the implementation of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). FAO develops long-term government capacity in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and statistics on food and nutrition security, working through regional organizations and with governments to provide appropriate methods and tools for capacity development. WFP directly supports the data collection, processing and analysis capacities of national counterparts by providing both on- and off-the-job skills development needed for implementing emergency assessments, vulnerability analyses, food security monitoring, market analyses and early warning products.

10. ***Assessments.*** WFP and FAO each have specialized skills for conducting food security, nutrition and livelihoods assessments. They jointly lead crop and food security assessment missions (CFSAMs), and participate in inter-agency assessment processes such as those led by the IASC Needs Assessment Task Force (NATF) and post-disaster needs assessments led by the United Nations/World Bank/European Community and governments. WFP is a recognized leader in supporting countries to conduct household- and community-level food security assessments and baseline surveys – over 100 per year – including joint assessment missions (JAMs) with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and nutrition surveys in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other partners. FAO has developed the Assessment and Programme Formulation in Agriculture Emergencies, the Livelihood Assessments Tool and the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS). WFP has produced guidelines for conducting emergency assessments, establishing livelihood baselines and monitoring.

11. ***Monitoring and early warning.*** FAO has well-established capacity to support national and regional monitoring and early warning systems through: the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS), the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES), the Rapid Agricultural Disaster Assessment Routine (RADAR) and the AgrometShell. WFP has a wide network of staff to support national and sub-national food security monitoring systems. It integrates market and price impact analysis, climate and hazard analysis, remote sensing data and risk profiling of vulnerable groups and forecasts of shock-affected populations to support early warning and emergency preparedness. Both agencies are members of the Global Partnership for the IPC, and are supporting joint forecasting tools such as the Shock Impact Modelling Project.

12. ***Data and statistics.*** FAO and WFP jointly generate a wide range of data, statistics and analysis related to food and nutrition security at global, regional and country levels. FAO maintains FAOSTAT, the world's most comprehensive database on food and agricultural statistics, and plays a leadership role in the implementation of the inter-agency Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. WFP collaborates with the World Bank and national statistics offices to collect and analyse food security information on national household income and expenditure surveys, through Living Standards Measurement Studies. WFP is collaborating with FAO in incorporating household food security indicators produced by the comprehensive food security and vulnerability analyses (CFSVAs) into FAOSTAT. FAO has analysed a large number of household surveys and other data to update the FAO indicator on undernourishment.

13. ***Food security and nutrition analysis.*** Joint analytical work carried out by FAO and WFP includes the annual report *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* (SOFI) as well as country publications such as CFSAMs, CFSVA studies and food security monitoring system reports. Both

agencies have expertise in the analysis of food-related causes of malnutrition and on methods to assess dietary diversity at household levels.

Vision and Guiding Principles

Vision Statement

FAO and WFP will work together to promote evidence-based food and nutrition security decisions by strengthening national and regional capacity to undertake credible, relevant and timely assessments and analysis, and to become the global reference for food and nutrition security standards, statistics and information.

14. The Joint Strategy aims to strengthen statistics, information and knowledge with the objective to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition in the framework of FAO's and WFP's institutional goals. These goals include:

- reduction of the absolute number of people suffering from hunger, progressively ensuring a world in which all people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods;
- sustainable management and utilization of natural resources [...], for the benefit of present and future generations;[10] and
- responding to and preventing acute hunger and malnutrition in emergencies and post-disaster, post-conflict or transition situations by saving lives, protecting and rebuilding livelihoods, and investing in disaster preparedness and mitigation measures.[11, 12]

Guiding Principles

The Joint ISFNS Strategy:

1) is aligned with the MDGs, the Paris Declaration and the work of the reformed Committee on World Food Security;
2) incorporates all relevant dimensions of food and nutrition security;
3) covers the spectrum of development, emergency and recovery, acknowledging their linkages;
4) addresses underlying and emerging issues that threaten food and nutrition security;
5) ensures systematic consideration of gender dimensions and other social inequities;
6) ensures that products and services are responsive to demand in an adequate and timely manner;
7) promotes sustainability through national ownership;
8) applies and develops innovative methods and tools, drawing on modern information technology; and
9) fosters inter-agency collaboration and partnerships at global, regional, national and local levels.

15. Additionally, the Joint Strategy is guided by principles of cooperation:

- WFP and FAO agree on their roles and responsibilities with respect to each pillar, and commit to expand their collaboration on joint products.

[10] FAO. 2008. Report of the Conference Committee for the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CoC-IEE) Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal. Thirty-fifth (Special) Session. 18–22 November 2008.
[11] WFP. 2008. "WFP Strategic Plan 2008–2013" (WFP/EB.A/2008/5-A/1/Rev.1).
[12] FAO. 2009. FAO Strategic Framework 2010–2019, C2009/3, Strategic Objective I.

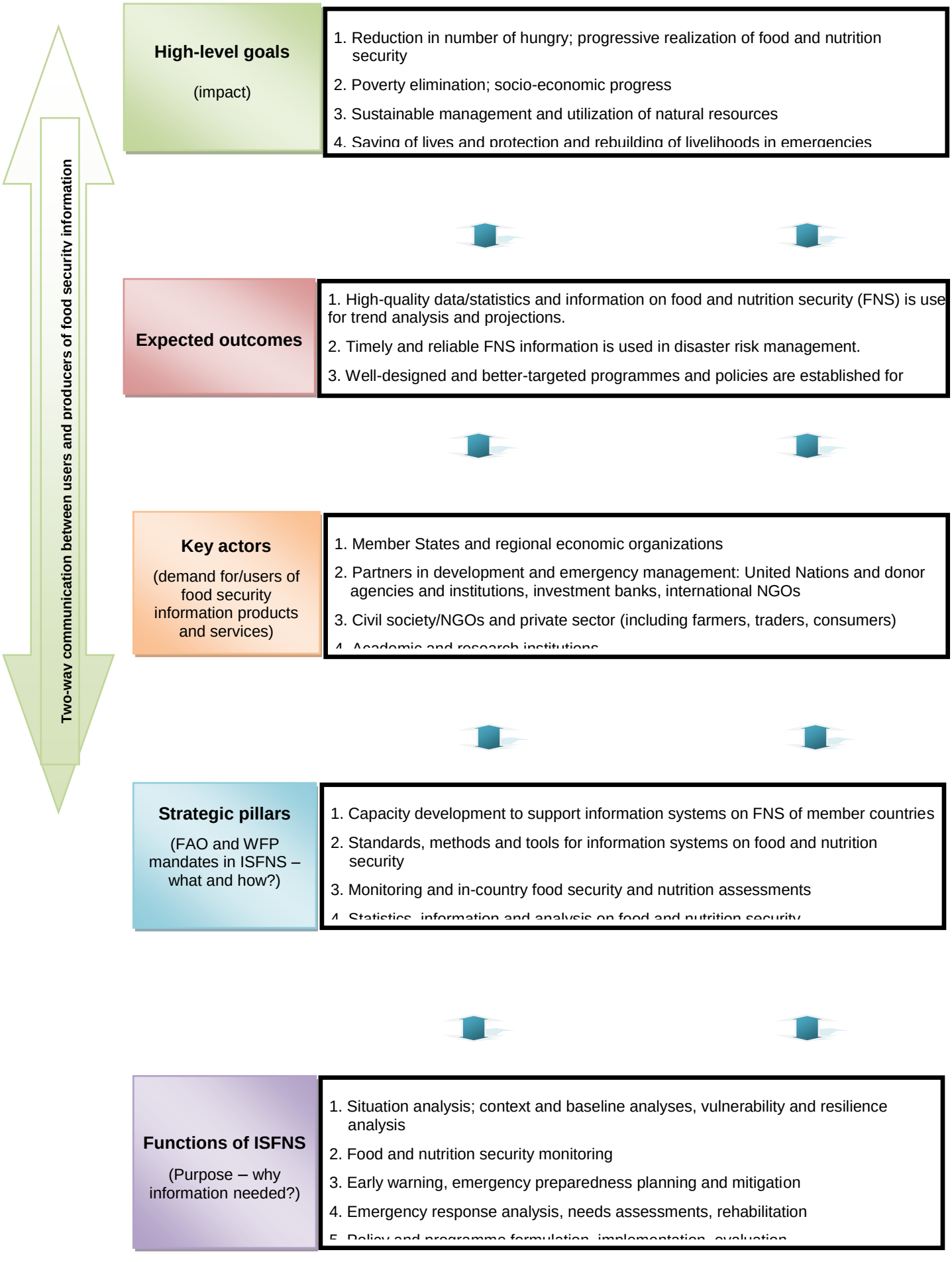
- WFP and FAO will expand their relationship with other food security actors to support national and regional institutions through the FSIN.
- Information products, tools and assessments will have a 'public good' orientation to the extent practical.
- WFP and FAO will improve internal and external users' access to information.

Joint Strategy Framework for Information Systems for Food and Nutrition Security

16. FAO and WFP have adopted the ISFNS framework (Figure 1) which captures the expected outcomes of the ISFNS strategy and the ways to achieve them:

- High-quality food security and nutrition data, information, and analysis are used for monitoring progress toward international and national development goals, policies, and decisions related to the full range of food and nutrition security programming.
- Timely and reliable food and nutrition security information is used in disaster risk reduction and management, programming and planning.
- Well-designed and better-targeted programmes and policies are established to improve food and nutrition security.

Figure 1: FAO–WFP ISFNS Framework

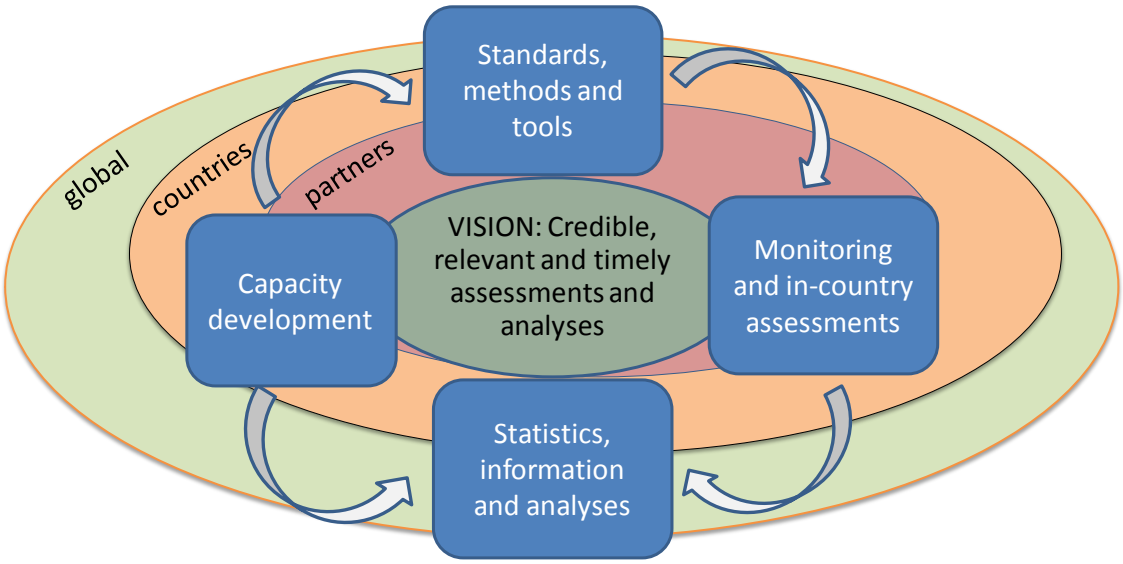


Underlying food and nutrition security concerns	1. Persistent high levels of chronic hunger and malnutrition 2. Lack of investment to address chronic and acute food insecurity and malnutrition in a sustainable manner 3. Increasing occurrence of natural and man-made disasters

Description of ISFNS Pillars

17. The Joint Strategy is built on four inter-related pillars (Figure 2). It will be achieved through the development of sustainable capacities to implement agreed standards, methods and tools, thereby enabling countries and partners to conduct monitoring and assessments and to produce credible statistics and analyses. The pillars are described in more detail below.

Figure 2: Joint FAO–WFP ISFNS Strategic Pillars and Operating Environment



Capacity Development to Support ISFNS in Member Countries

Vision: Countries have the capacity to collect, manage, analyse and communicate food security and nutrition information for improved decision-making.

18. Member countries frequently request support to build effective ISFNS institutions by linking food security and nutrition information and analysis more strongly with local decision-making and policy development.[13] A spectrum of capacity development activities is necessary to create a sustainable body of expertise within local institutions and institutional networks, based on identified needs and capacity gaps.[14] WFP and FAO will jointly assess stakeholder capacities in order to prioritize future capacity development efforts. Capacity development needs will be assessed and strengthened along three dimensions: the enabling environment, institutions and individuals.

19. Implementation of country-level capacity development activities will be based on demand and adapted to different contexts, including both development and emergency contexts (in particular of fragile states). Activities will involve government statistics bodies, and will seek to increase information compatibility and comparability by linking WFP and FAO surveys, monitoring and assessments to national systems.

20. Capacity development programmes will be managed with other partners through the FSIN, which will help clarify which entity (FAO, WFP, IFPRI or other actors) can best meet the identified needs. Partnerships with local academic and research institutions will be promoted, including through

[13] Stacy, Roy A. 2010. Issues and Options Associated with a Coordinated International Approach to ISFNS Institution Building. DRAFT.

[14] EC/FAO. 2009. EC/FAO Joint Evaluation of Food Security Information for Action Programme. Volume I. Final Independent Evaluation Report. Prepared for the European Commission, EuropeAid Co-operation Office and FAO. April 2009.

the creation of regional "Centres of Excellence" in selected academic or research institutes to train future food security experts.

Standards, Methods and Tools for Information Systems on Food and Nutrition Security

Vision:	Common standards and indicators are in place for measuring the scale and severity of food insecurity and malnutrition.

21. FAO and WFP are committed to providing demand-driven normative guidance for data collection, analysis and use at global, regional and national levels, and to disseminate proven assessment and analytical products that address food and nutrition security.

22. The activities under this pillar include:

- providing a forum for discussion of technical and policy issues;
- setting standards for food security and nutrition statistics, indicators and methods;[15]
- providing normative guidance on data collection and analysis; and
- establishing mechanisms for sharing better practices.

23. Priority areas include standards, tools and methods for in-country analysis of hunger statistics by governments, guidance on nutrition and urban FSN approaches, and refinement of the Impacts of Shocks on Household Income and Food Consumption Simulation Model. In addressing these priorities, FAO will collaborate with WFP to further consolidate and improve methods and tools for hunger statistics. Normative work on nutrition analysis will focus on food-related issues (such as utilization and food consumption indicators) to better inform response. Partnerships will be sought with UNICEF and other relevant agencies.

24. WFP will refine guidance for household-level emergency assessments and analyses, while collaborating with FAO on analysis related to disaster risk reduction. FAO and WFP will develop standard methods and tools for data collection and analysis relevant to food security monitoring.

Monitoring and In-Country Food Security and Nutrition Assessments

Vision:	Monitoring and assessments to inform food and nutrition security policies, programmes and investment are credible, relevant and timely.

25. WFP and FAO are respected for reliable and neutral assessments of food security.[16] Unbiased contributions to ISFNS rely on continued and coordinated engagement in joint assessments and analysis with Member States, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations.

26. This pillar commits WFP and FAO to joint assessment and monitoring activities, where feasible. This involves streamlining FAO emergency operations assessments and the WFP vulnerability analysis and mapping network to ensure cost effectiveness and be responsive to stakeholder needs for relevant and timely decision-making. This will require both agencies to consolidate and avoid duplication in their food security and nutrition monitoring and assessment work. WFP and FAO also commit to sharing information on plans and interactions with government partners regarding assessments.

[15] With regard to nutrition indicators in the public health domain, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF are recognized leaders in the United Nations community, with FAO delivering estimates of food available for consumption and undernourishment levels, as well as information on food composition. FAO and WFP have both conducted work on methods for measuring dietary diversity.

[16] Examples include UNHCR/WFP joint assessment missions, UNICEF/WFP nutrition surveys, FAO/WFP crop and food security assessment missions and the IPC.

27. Moreover, the two agencies commit to early consultation on – and, whenever possible, joint analysis of – emerging food and nutrition security issues.

28. The enhancement of national capacity and ownership requires coordination with the Capacity Development pillar. Given the value of external assessments by WFP and FAO, the roles of governments in assessments will vary. Development of national ownership where governance is weak will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

29. The two agencies will seek to improve complementarity through better linkages between emergency and development assessments, and by linking emergency assessments to baselines and monitoring.

30. Clear and timely dissemination of assessment products and recommendations to decision-makers, and their presentation as public goods, are essential and will require rigorous integration of work under the Assessment and the Statistics and Analysis pillars.

31. Work under the Assessment pillar will be harmonized with Standards, Methods and Tools to promote the incorporation into assessments of standardized indicators of household food consumption, dietary diversity and nutritional status. The two pillars will also support consultative processes on response options.

Statistics, Information and Analysis on Food Security and Nutrition

Vision:	FAO and WFP are the global reference for relevant, comparable, timely and reliable statistics, analysis and information on food security and nutrition.

32. The agencies jointly commit to providing global public goods: regional, national and sub-national gender-sensitive statistics and analysis on food and nutrition security for use in country-led ISFNS.

33. FAO and WFP play complementary and interdependent roles in providing global public goods, and will seek to increase the added value of food and nutrition information products. This involves several activities:

- harmonizing global public goods in order to achieve consistency, coherence and integration, and minimize duplication. The agencies will define a minimum set of analytical products to be produced in coordination with specific partners, agree on common database indicators, and standardize the definitions of indicators and data collection methods. This links closely with the Standards, Methods and Tools pillar;
- increasing the synthesis of data collection and analyses conducted separately to create a "seamless data stream";
- holding regular dialogue with – and seeking feedback from – users on information needs, to ensure awareness of available products and to understand their in-country use. Government and partner agencies will have improved access to global public goods, which implies that national data must exist and be shared; and
- increasing the timely dissemination of information products.

34. This pillar advances the vision of a global clearinghouse for food and nutrition security statistics, information and analytical products through establishment of a common food and nutrition security website portal.

35. The joint nature of this effort would also serve as a check on the accuracy and transparency of the products presented. FAO will play a significant role in this pillar given that it houses a large body of historical statistical datasets on agriculture, food security and nutrition.

Considerations for Implementation

National Ownership

36. The operational linkages of the Joint Strategy need to work at the country and regional levels of FAO, WFP and regional and national partners. The priorities, needs and capacities of national governments and regional inter-governmental institutions define the areas for FAO–WFP collaboration. The collaboration mechanism will include governments and local development partners in planning and decision-making, and in developing country and regional capacity to implement ISFNS.

Mechanisms for Collaboration

37. A steering committee will guide and monitor the implementation of the Joint Strategy, identify which activities will be prioritized and liaise with global bodies, particularly the CFS and SCN. It is proposed that this committee be co-chaired by the WFP Director of the Programme Division and the FAO Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department. The steering committee shall meet quarterly; chairs may call additional meetings and create working groups.

38. In the context of the FSIN, an inter-agency secretariat supported by FAO, WFP, IFPRI and other partners will be established; joint work by FAO and WFP under the ISFNS Strategy will also be facilitated through the same inter-agency secretariat, while linkages with other key initiatives, such as the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and the CFS will be ensured.

39. In addition to the secretariat, implementation of each pillar will be supported by:

- *WFP/FAO pillar representatives*: to ensure that implementation is consistent with each pillar's vision and expected results; and
- *FSIN:* to assist in identifying and prioritizing demand for FAO/WFP support to ISFNS, as it represents the community of practice with which FAO and WFP will work.

40. Terms of reference will be developed for the various support functions of the ISFNS structures.

Partnerships

41. The FSIN shall be the primary vehicle through which the Joint Strategy is implemented and partnerships built. Other partners include governments, regional institutions, national and international NGOs, IFAD, IFPRI, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNHCR, UNICEF, the United States Agency for International Development/Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the United States Department of Agriculture, the World Bank, the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission. The Joint Strategy will follow the United Nations "Delivering as One" approach.

42. The two agencies will contribute to ongoing inter-agency work on humanitarian needs assessments,[17] through their work in the food security clusters and in relevant activities of other United Nations clusters such as the water, sanitation and hygiene cluster and the nutrition cluster.

Funding

43. FAO and WFP have invested heavily in strengthening ISFNS capacity among Member States, regional organizations and internally. To effectively guide global food security and nutrition decision-making, investment of at least 1 percent of total programme budgets in the development and implementation of information systems has been recommended.[18] A funding strategy will be prepared to mobilize the additional resources required to implement joint IFSNS activities by WFP and FAO.

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[17] For example, OCHA's work on multi-sectoral needs assessments.

[18] WFP. "Evaluation of WFP's Strengthening Emergency Needs Assessment Implementation Plan" (WFP/EB.2/2007/6-A).

44. The steering committee will seek joint funding for selected components of the strategy.

Communication and Advocacy

45. Communication activities within the Joint Strategy are based on WFP's[19] and FAO's[20] corporate communication strategies and in accordance with humanitarian principles.[21] WFP and FAO commit to developing timely communication approaches that meet the information needs of local and international stakeholders based on their interests, priorities and capacity to use FNS information products. This may include collaboration on a shared Internet-based food security portal.

46. An inter-agency communication plan will support the Joint Strategy, establishing systems and protocols for horizontal and vertical information sharing. The Joint Strategy will also be underpinned by an internal communication plan aimed at gaining the commitment of staff and senior management.

47. The crucial functions of awareness raising and advocacy are also linked to communication, as they are to partnership and funding. Timely, reliable, evidence-based FNS information will underpin advocacy, with defined objectives and approaches with United Nations agencies and country teams. Through their membership in the United Nations clusters, WFP and FAO will streamline the use of FNS information to advocate for Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to holistically address food insecurity and malnutrition.

[19] WFP. "WFP Communications Strategy" (WFP/EB.A/2008/5-B).

[20] FAO. Corporate Communication Policy and Strategy (2000); FAO Knowledge Strategy (March 2011).

[21] WFP. "Humanitarian Principles" (WFP/EB.A/2004/5-C); "Note on Humanitarian Access and its Implications for WFP" (WFP/EB.1/2006/5-B/Rev.1).

JOINT FAO–WFP ISFNS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN			
Capacity Development to Support ISFNS of Member Countries (50% of funding requirements)			
GOODS AND SERVICES	**TIMEFRAME**	**LOCATION**	**KEY PARTNERS**
Result 1: ISFNS capacity development needs, gaps and key partners identified in target countries			
1) ISFNS capacity needs assessments (CNA): (a) Pilot CNAs to identify capacity development opportunities and needs (b) Roll out to additional countries	 2012–2013 2014–2017	 4–7 countries ~20 countries	Institutions carrying out relevant capacity development
2) Develop standardized ISFNS CNA methods guidance and tools	End 2013	N/A	IFPRI (within FSIN)
3) FAO and WFP support to development of the FSIN	2012–2013	Rome (Secretariat), regions and countries	IFPRI, regional organizations, member countries; NGOs, development partners
Result 2: Strengthened capacities of national partners' staff to support ISFNS data collection, processing and analysis in target countries			
4) Implement selected capacity development activities based on agreed FAO/WFP comparative advantages	2013–2016	To be confirmed, based on CNA results	IFPRI, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)
Result 3: Improved access to data on FAO and WFP capacity development expertise, tools and methods in various domains of ISFNS			
5) Common repository of existing learning materials, tools, methods, expertise and guidance	End 2012	Headquarters	Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS), Africa Lead, FEWS NET, IFPRI, regional academic institutions, UNICEF
6) Develop a joint ISFNS expertise database	2012–2013	Headquarters	ACAPS, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Standards, Methods and Tools for Information Systems on Food and Nutrition Security (10% of funding requirements)			
GOODS AND SERVICES	**TIMEFRAME**	**LOCATION**	**KEY PARTNERS**
Result 1: Methods and tools for hunger statistics are further consolidated and improved			
1) Methods and tools for deriving sex-disaggregated data from country data	2012–2017	Headquarters	IFAD, UNICEF, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
Result 2: Methods and tools for food and nutrition security monitoring and assessment at household level are consolidated and improved			
2) Standardize methods for measurement of food and nutrition insecurity	2012–2017	Global	UNICEF; IFPRI; JRC; possible

			collaboration with IFAD
3) Improve model to measure the impacts of shocks on FNS	2012–2013	Headquarters and selected countries	World Bank, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), IFPRI, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Result 3: Methods and tools needed to improve the analysis of food and nutrition security related emerging issues			
4) Guidance and best practice on use of assessment data for response analysis	2012–2013	Headquarters	ACAPS, Africa Lead, FEWS NET, IFPRI, regional academic institutions, UNICEF
5) Analytical framework to link climate change/variability to household security status	2012–2016	Headquarters	ACAPS, NRC
6) Refine and pilot approaches for urban FSN assessments	2012–2013	Headquarters and selected countries	Urban FSN Working Group; IASC Reference Group; Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (MHCUA); UNHCR
Monitoring and In-Country Assessments (30% of funding requirements)			
GOODS AND SERVICES	**TIMEFRAME**	**LOCATION**	**KEY PARTNERS**
Result 1: Improved monitoring of traditional and emerging threats to food and nutrition security			
1) Provide enhanced national and sub-national price monitoring	2012–2016	Global	FEWS NET; IFPRI
2) Develop a classification of countries and people in crisis requiring external assistance for food	2012–2013	Headquarters	OCHA, IASC
Result 2: Greater integration and harmonization of monitoring, analysis and early warning			
3) Develop a common platform to streamline in-country monitoring and early warning activities	2012–2016	2 countries/year	FEWS NET, JRC, Global Monitoring for Food Security (GMFS), International Research Institute (IRI)
4) Roll out the IPC	2012–2017	20 countries	FEWS NET, Oxfam, CARE, Save the Children, JRC
Result 3: Improving the quality and credibility of assessments			
5) Develop: i) a joint assessment framework incorporating food security, nutrition and livelihoods; and ii) integrated assessment through joint support to inter-agency processes. Consolidate food security and nutrition	2012–2013	Headquarters	NGOs, academic institutions, IASC NATF, UNDP/World Bank

monitoring and assessment work to avoid duplication			
6) Conduct coordinated and joint assessments (food security, agriculture, nutrition)	2012–2016	Countries	Global food security cluster; national governments and cluster member
Statistics, Information and Analysis on Food and Nutrition Security (10% of funding requirements)			
GOODS AND SERVICES	**TIMEFRAME**	**LOCATION**	**KEY PARTNERS**
Result 1: Statistics, information and analyses on FNS respond to user requirements and emerging issues and are easily accessible			
1) Implement joint FAO/WFP communication strategy based on: (a) stakeholder information needs analysis (every 2 years); and (b) standardized indicators to assess FNS product access and use	2012, 2014, 2016 2013 onwards	Global, regional and country levels	ISFNS community
2) Produce harmonized time-series data sets for: (a) food security indicators; (b) market and price data; and (c) countries and people in crisis	2012–2017	Global level	
Result 2: FAO and WFP ensure their ISFNS products and services are coherent with each other and keep food and nutrition security high on the policy agenda			
3) Joint publication of *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* (SOFI) report	2012–2017	Headquarters	IFAD
4) National publications on *The State of Food Security* (linked to global SOFI)	2012–2014	6 countries	National governments
5) Common web-site portal for access to FAO and WFP food security and nutrition information and data	2012–2017	Headquarters	

Acronyms used in the Document

ACAPS	Assessment Capacities Project
AMIS	Agricultural Market Information System
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CFSAM	crop and food security assessment mission
CFSVA	comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis
CNA	capacity needs assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FNS	food and nutrition security
FSIN	Food Security Information Network
IASC	United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
ISFNS	Information Systems for Food and Nutrition Security
JRC	Joint Research Centre [of the European Commission]
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NATF	Needs Assessment Task Force
NGO	non-governmental organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SCN	Standing Committee on Nutrition
SOFI	*The State of Food Insecurity in the World*
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WHO	World Health Organization