WHAT?

Hunger is on the rise and threatens the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Message: *We must reverse the trend of the rise in hunger to achieve the SDGs by 2030.*

Actions

- We need to reduce inequality, invest and empower rural people in the transformation to more inclusive and equal societies.
- We need to strengthen the resilience of rural livelihoods to shocks and stresses, while addressing conflicts and climate variability. We need to accelerate actions that strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of small-scale and family farmers.
- We need to establish and scale-up social protection programs to empower rural populations to become agents of change, as to achieve a world without hunger and poverty.

Evidence

- After more than a decade of decline, global hunger is increasing for the third year in a row. Latest data (2017) show that 821 million people, or 1 in 9 people worldwide, were undernourished; 1 in 3 were malnourished; 1 in 8 adults are obese and obesity is in the rise in almost every country in the world; and more than 1 in 5 children under five were stunted.

HOW?

Transforming our food and agricultural systems can transform the world

Message: *We must transform food and agriculture systems to simultaneously nourish people, nurture the planet and build resilient livelihoods.*

Actions

- To nourish 10 billion people in 2050 and meet significant increases in water, energy and food needs of the future, it is critical to promote nutrition-sensitive sustainable agriculture approaches and shift to more sustainable consumption and production practices, giving special consideration to the role of family farmers in ensuring sustainable food systems for healthy diets.
- We need targeted investments in pro-poor growth and social protection measures to stimulate entrepreneurship in rural areas and create jobs beyond agriculture.
- We need to promote rural-urban food supply chains and take advantage of the opportunities created by growing urban demand for a more diversified and healthy diet.
- We need integrated and cross-sectoral policies and an enabling environment that unites ministries, sectors and partners, including the private sector, around the transformation to sustainability.
This transformation requires legal frameworks that recognize and secure rights of access to productive resources and services for smallholders, family farmers and local communities. We need policies to incentivize private sector engagement in sustainable market activity.

Evidence

According to the latest data (2017), 1 in 9 people in the world still go hungry; 1 in 3 are malnourished; 1 in 8 adults are obese and obesity is in the rise in almost every country in the world, while more than 1 in 5 children under five are stunted. At the same time, a third of food produced is lost or wasted and the intensive use of chemical inputs and natural resources are contributing to environmental degradation of natural resources and biodiversity loss. This reality reflects a broken food system.

WHO?

Rural people are the stewards of our natural resources and critical agents of change, and yet they are being left behind

Message: Committing to rural transformation and investing in the great potential of rural populations – especially family farmers, rural women, youth and indigenous people – is a necessary path to a Zero Hunger and sustainable planet by 2030, leaving no one behind.

Actions

Investing in rural life everywhere by 2030 will slow distress migration and sow the seeds for the sustainable societies of the future.

Providing rural populations, particularly women and youth, with better access to land and natural resources, services, markets, networks, innovation and new technologies, in addition to infrastructure, assets, health, education, social protection and finance, will not only build a more equal and just society but is likely to make or break achievement across the 2030 Agenda.

We need to empower the family farmers, foresters, fishers, pastoralists and indigenous peoples with access to innovative and integrated approaches, such as organic farming, agroecology, agroforestry, crop-aquaculture and crop-livestock, to grow more and healthier food in a sustainable way with fewer resources.

Addressing the needs of rural and urban populations together through territorial development approaches as outlined in the New Urban Agenda answer the SDGs’ call for transformation. Societies networked from field to town to city can stimulate entrepreneurship and empower women, create decent and diverse jobs for rural youth, and provide fresh and nutritious food to cities.

Evidence

Nine out of ten of the world’s 570 million farms are managed by families, making the family farm the predominant form of agriculture, and consequently a crucial agent of change in achieving sustainable food security and in eradicating hunger in the future. (SOFA 2014).

Yet, these same people are being left behind. They make up 80% of the global poor and are the ones most affected by climate change, conflict, disease and market shocks.

Globally, the poverty rate in rural areas is more than three times higher than in urban areas. Rural areas account for about half of the world’s population and concentrate 79 percent of the total poor. Seventy percent of the 2 billion people without basic sanitation services live in rural areas. Wages of agricultural workers are generally low, paid late and not periodically adjusted; and only 20 percent of agricultural workers have access to basic social protection.

Poverty is rural but rural is not poverty. Since the 1990s, rural transformation has lifted nearly as many people out of poverty as urban development. Some 750 million rural people have escaped moderate poverty, thanks to both agricultural development and non-farm, rural employment generation.
MAIN MESSAGES FOR SDGS UNDER REVIEW AT HLPF IN JULY 2019

SDG 8 | Decent work and Economic growth

Short: Decent rural jobs are the foundation for inclusive growth.

Main: Investing in rural areas and promoting decent rural employment strengthens national economies, addressing the root causes of migration and advancing inclusive growth.

Evidence: Tackling hunger and poverty means creating more and better employment opportunities for rural people, while addressing critical issues such as working conditions, labor standards, social protection and woman’s empowerment.

SDG 10 | Reduced inequalities

Short: To overcome the greatest inequalities, we must invest in rural areas and those people furthest behind.

Main: Rural people are often overlooked when it comes to access to resources, investments and networks. To leave no one behind, we must address this oversight and invest equally across the urban-rural landscape.

Evidence: Family farmers, fishers and foresters, pastoralists and indigenous peoples produce 3/4 of the food we eat. They are the stewards of our natural resources and manage 85% of the planet’s food biodiversity. Yet, these same people make up 80% of the global poor and are the ones most affected by climate change, conflict, disease and market shocks.

SDG 13 | Climate action

Short: Ending poverty and achieving zero hunger by 2030 depends on scaling up climate action in agriculture.

Main: Climate change can devastate the food security of the world’s most vulnerable populations. We must strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of small-scale farmers, while promoting sustainable food and agriculture systems.

Evidence: Agriculture is both a culprit and a victim of climate change. It is responsible for 24% of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet it also has the solution to some of the biggest climate challenges. Sustainable agricultural practices and better management of forests, soils and livestock could make a significant impact.

SDG 16 | Peace, justice and strong institutions

Short: Sow food security today, harvest peace tomorrow.

Main: Peace and food security are mutually reinforcing. Conflict damages agricultural production, devastates livelihoods and disrupts market access, but ensuring food security and creating a healthy agricultural sector can be central to efforts to prevent conflict, reduce forced migration and sustain peace.

Evidence: About 1 in 5 of the world’s hungry today live in protracted crises, where conflict is widespread and often exacerbated by competition over land, water and ever-scarcer natural resources.