



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report 2018

OVERVIEW



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Foreword

Since 2012, FAO has been forging ahead with a results-based, more efficient and ambitious response to the evolving global development agenda. Over the past six years, the Organization has sharpened its focus and adopted a holistic approach to address complex and interconnected challenges. It has simultaneously strengthened its presence in the field and its global technical capacity.

The Medium Term Plan 2018–21 and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2018–19, which are aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, build on the ongoing efforts to translate the vision of a food-secure and sustainable world into action.

In 2018, FAO kept driving its agenda of improved effectiveness, with 74 percent of the 2018 Output targets fully met and 81 percent of the indicators progressing as planned towards the biennial targets. Thus, the Organization is well positioned to fulfil its commitments towards Members and to fully deliver its PWB 2018–19.

The new ways of working put in place since 2012, such as the steering of the work of the Organization by the Strategic Programmes, have continued to evolve. They

provide the flexibility for focused interventions on specific needs and help extend our reach.

FAO continues in the 2018–19 biennium to apply a more rigorous approach to measuring results and, compared with criteria for measurement of performance established concomitant with the existing programme delivery arrangements, the Organization would have met 88 percent of the Output indicator targets in 2018.

Only joint efforts can meet the challenges we face – in this regard, FAO has strengthened partnerships with the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, rural communities, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders. At the same time, measures have been scaled up to improve organizational effectiveness and to provide an appropriate response to global, regional and national stakeholders.

The MTR 2018 shows that FAO efforts are bearing fruit, translating our global technical, normative, and public goods work into results on the ground.

José Graziano da Silva
Director-General

Introduction

As a specialized United Nations agency, FAO assists countries implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through five Strategic Objectives:

Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

Reduce rural poverty

Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems

Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

The Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report 2018 (MTR-2018) informs FAO Members and stakeholders about the results achieved by the Organization in the first year of the 2018–2019 biennium.

The full report is available in the languages of the Organization at www.fao.org/MTR.

This overview describes the main achievements reported in the MTR-2018 and:

- ▶ Reports on the contributions to the corporate Outputs delivered in 2018;
- ▶ Provides an overview of technical leadership, statistics, gender, governance, nutrition and climate change as cross-cutting themes; and
- ▶ Illustrates how FAO benefitted from improved means of delivery. ■

1. Results overview

The FAO results framework for 2018–21 guides the planning and monitoring of the Organization’s work. At the core of the framework are the indicators and targets that measure progress at each level of the results chain: Outputs, Outcomes and Strategic Objectives (SOs). This provides the basis for assessing and reporting how FAO’s actions contribute to changes at national, regional and global level.

Monitoring and reporting at the Strategic Objective and Outcome level takes place at the end of the biennium and is reported in the Programme Implementation Report (PIR). Progress on Outputs is monitored on an annual basis and reported in the Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report as well as the PIR.

MONITORING PROCESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Outputs are FAO’s direct contribution to the Outcomes in the results chain. They represent the results for which FAO is directly accountable at national, regional and global level through the tangible delivery of FAO’s interventions funded through assessed and voluntary contributions.

Each of the 43 Output indicators is underpinned by a measurement methodology. Data collection and reporting on the strategic Outputs delivered in 2018 were undertaken during the last quarter of 2018.

Progress against 2018 targets was rated as on track if 100 percent of the 2018 target was met or exceeded, the same test as was used in 2016–17.

Progress against the 2019 cumulative targets was reviewed according to the distribution of the planned results over the biennium. Accordingly, cases under 30 percent of progress compared to the 2019 targets were highlighted for attention.

Thirty-two (74 percent) of the 43 Output indicator targets for the year were fully achieved while 81 percent of the indicators are progressing as planned towards the biennial targets.



Strategic Objective 1

CONTRIBUTE TO THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

FAO works in partnership with governments and other development actors at global, regional and national levels, including Rome-based and other UN agencies in order to develop the policy and institutional environment and the capacities needed to eradicate in a sustainable manner hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition.

The 2018 targets for policies and programmes are mostly on track, while Outputs on legal frameworks exceed the target. This is mainly due to the increasing commitment of parliamentarians to take up issues of healthy diets, right to food and social protection.

At a global level, 2018 highlights included the formulation of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition under the auspices of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Over 35 countries mainstreamed Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) in sectoral policies and programmes and/or developed cross-sectoral policy frameworks for food security and nutrition. In countries such as Botswana, Rwanda, Senegal, Pakistan and Sudan, the capacity of government and stakeholders was

strengthened for operationalizing the linkages between land tenure, fisheries, gender, food systems, and food security and nutrition in policies and programmes.

Through the European Union-FAO partnership, the FIRST policy assistance facility has better integrated FSN, nutrition-sensitive and gender considerations in sectoral and cross-sectoral projects across Niger, Ethiopia, Chad, Pakistan, Myanmar, Honduras, Guatemala, Fiji, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands. The facility has strengthened coordination mechanisms in ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), Niger, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Guatemala, and Timor-Leste.

More than ten countries are developing and implementing legal frameworks supportive of the Right to Food and more secure and equitable access to resources and assets. Over 15 countries have been supported in developing investment plans to integrate issues of extreme poverty, social protection and nutrition, in addition to supporting public expenditure reviews to analyse budgets allocated to cross-sectoral food security and nutrition. In the Asia-Pacific

region, as a complement to developing Zero Hunger Action Plans, focus in 2018 has been on mainstreaming diversification in the implementation of FSN-related policies through future smart foods in partnership with the CGIAR system and academia.

FAO played a lead role in developing strategic inputs for promoting the inclusion of food security and nutrition goals – comprising overweight, obesity and non-communicable disease (NCD) considerations – in major global processes such as the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) and the UN Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC).

In terms of evidence-based decision-making, FAO has continued developing capacities to apply some key normative products like the chronic scale of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) at country level, as well as continuing to engage in interagency efforts to monitor regional policies and trends to produce and disseminate *Regional Overviews of Food Security and Nutrition*.



▲ ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA – Children eat a meal at their school, which is taking part in a school feeding programme in Latin America and the Caribbean. ©FAO/Ubirajara Machado

At regional and country level, FAO is scaling up capacity development of national institutions to promote country ownership of the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) and Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) methodologies. In 2018, 16 regional, subregional and national workshops were held, covering Southern Africa and Southern African Development Community countries, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Sahel and Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.

National capacities were developed to monitor, analyse, communicate and make better use of relevant FSN data and information for improved decision-making in more than 40 countries.

Results in the domain of financial resource allocation and use exceeded targets, particularly relating to FAO assistance to countries for formulating agriculture and rural development investment plans. Work also focused on assisting countries to track public expenditure for food security and nutrition and to analyse

the effectiveness of resource allocation options.

With regard to gender mainstreaming, the Policy Guidance Note on Gender Equality has been used to promote the integration of gender equality issues in national FSN policies and strategies. FAO also engaged in facilitating multi-stakeholder consultations and generating data and knowledge for the formulation of national policy frameworks that integrate the perspectives of women's empowerment and gender equality in Botswana and Sri Lanka. ■

BUILDING ALLIANCES FOR FOOD SECURITY

In 2018, FAO moved towards greater engagement with parliamentary alliances, fronts, and other UN agencies to incorporate legislative powers in the fight against hunger and all forms of malnutrition. Consolidated inter-regional collaboration between regional Parliamentary Fronts working on food security issues led to the commitment by the Spanish Senate to host a

Global Parliamentary Summit Against Hunger and Malnutrition in October 2018. The success of the summit has been underpinned by the establishment of national parliamentary alliances in countries across regions – 20 countries have Parliamentary Fronts working Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain, Senegal, Uganda, Sierra Leone and the Republic of the Congo.

S01: CONTRIBUTE TO THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

**Targets**

- By 2030 access by all to safe nutritious food **(2.1)**
- By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition **(2.2)**

**Targets**

- By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality through prevention and treatment **(3.4)**

OUTCOME	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	END 2018 TARGET	ACTUAL 2018	PROGRESS AGAINST BIENNIAL TARGET
1.1 Countries made explicit political commitment to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition by 2030.	1.1.1 Capacities of governments and stakeholders are improved to develop sectoral and cross-sectoral policy frameworks and investment plans and programmes to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of policy processes with enhanced human and institutional capacities for the incorporation of food security and nutrition objectives and gender considerations in sectoral policies, investment plans and programmes as a result of FAO support. 	83	80	●
	1.1.2 Capacities of governments and stakeholders are improved to develop and implement legal and accountability frameworks to realize the right to adequate food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of policy processes with enhanced human and institutional capacities for the incorporation of food security and nutrition objectives and gender considerations in legal and accountability frameworks as a result of FAO support. 	11	14	●
1.2 Countries implemented inclusive governance and coordination mechanisms for eradicating hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.	1.2.1 Capacities of governments and stakeholders are improved for food security and nutrition governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of policy processes with enhanced human and institutional capacities for food security and nutrition governance as a result of FAO support. 	26	26	●
1.3 Countries made decisions based on evidence for the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.	1.3.1 Capacities of governments and stakeholders are improved to analyse food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition and the contribution of sectors and stakeholders to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of policy processes with enhanced human and institutional capacities for the analysis of food security and nutrition situation, including the contributions of different sectors, for informed decision-making as a result of FAO support. 	9	12	●
	1.3.2 Capacities of governments and stakeholders are improved to monitor and evaluate policies, programmes and legislation relevant to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of policy processes with improved human and institutional capacities for monitoring and evaluating the impact of food security and nutrition policies and programmes for decision-making as a result of FAO support. 	22	15	●

S01: CONTRIBUTE TO THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

OUTCOME	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	END 2018 TARGET	ACTUAL 2018	PROGRESS AGAINST BIENNIAL TARGET
1.4 Countries implemented effective policies, strategies and investment programmes to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.	1.4.1 Capacities of governments and stakeholders are improved for the allocation and use of financial resources to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of policy processes with enhanced human and institutional capacities for allocating and using financial resources for food security and nutrition as a result of FAO support. 	10	16	●
	1.4.2 Capacities of governments and stakeholders are improved for human resource and organizational development in the food security and nutrition domain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of organizations that have strengthened capacities for human resource and organizational development in the food security and nutrition domain as a result of FAO support. 	38	38	●

● On track; ▲ Needs attention



Strategic Objective 2

MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

The transition to more productive and sustainable production systems and practices in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, is essential to feed a world impacted by climate change. During 2018, FAO supported over 75 countries in this transition, by providing technical advice to improve knowledge management and decision support. The Organization also formulated and reviewed strategies, policies and investment programmes through inclusive governance mechanisms.

FAO helped institutions and networks in more than 30 countries to promote and adopt more integrated and cross-sectoral practices and to foster innovation, including for climate change adaptation and mitigation, animal and plant genetic resources, agroecology, agroforestry, sustainable rice production, aquaculture, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Support was also provided to global and regional networks on ecosystem services, climate-smart agriculture (CSA), protected areas and wildlife, antimicrobial resistance and urban and peri-urban forestry.

Focused assistance was provided to 16 countries in developing

policies, investment programmes and governance mechanisms on sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries; and to an additional 16 countries in developing more integrated strategies and programmes related to the 2030 Agenda and Nationally Determined Contributions implementation plans. For example, FAO worked closely with the Ugandan Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to formulate Uganda's NAP-Ag (Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans).

FAO provided important inputs to international governance mechanisms focusing on sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries, including key submissions to the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). FAO supported 16 countries in implementing policies and international instruments that foster sustainable production and address climate change and environmental degradation. The Organization also published important global knowledge products on key topics such as agroecology, biodiversity,

soil pollution, ecosystem-based adaptation, greenhouse gas accounting and water management – for example, the publication *World Livestock: Transforming the livestock sector through the Sustainable Development Goals*.

At a global level, FAO's effort towards leading a global approach on the sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries was spearheaded through the publication *Transforming Food and Agriculture to Achieve the SDGs*, which serves as a guide for countries to work towards mainstreaming sustainable food and agriculture in the 2030 Agenda. FAO also organized a series of major events in 2018 attended by governments, non-state actors, research institutions and UN agencies. These included: the "International symposium on agricultural innovation for family farmers"; the "International symposium on scaling up agroecology to achieve the SDGs"; the "Multi-stakeholder dialogue on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors"; and the "International Conference on working across sectors to halt deforestation and increase forest area". FAO oversaw the methodological development



▲ *TAJIKISTAN – Ladies selling fruit and vegetables as part of a project supporting rural communities.*
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of **SDG indicator 2.4.1**. The result is an internationally recognized indicator that operationalizes, measures and monitors progress towards sustainable agriculture in three dimensions: social, economic and environmental. The agreement was reflected in the formal reclassification of the **SDG 2.4.1** indicator from Tier III to Tier II, confirming that an international methodology was established.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Alliance Rural Climate Resilience was launched in early 2018, aiming to promote the adoption of policies, strategies, mechanisms, as well as social,

environmental, economic and technological solutions to promote greater climate change adaptation and resilience. Moreover, FAO provided organizational and technical support to European countries, resulting in the recognition of the first two European **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)** sites in Portugal and Italy. In addition, new sites were designated in China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Japan; while Brazil, Mexico and Morocco prepared proposals and submitted them to the GIAHS Scientific

Advisory Group. Both the new and existing designated sites benefit from the establishment of the GIAHS regional networks, which now operate in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

On governance, FAO continued to strengthen its work to mainstream food and agriculture in SDG implementation. Support at national and subnational levels was provided to a large number of countries, and FAO has strongly engaged at both regional and global levels to promote these governance changes, which are necessary to make progress on the SDGs. ■

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF INNOVATION

FAO supported 32 countries in the piloting and scaling up of a broad range of agricultural practices and innovations that are more productive and sustainable. These ranged from farmer-led agroecological innovations, to the application of solar technologies for irrigation, from the expansion of rice–fish farming to the adoption of forage-forecasting technologies. For instance, the **Blue Growth Initiative**

promoted innovation in coastal communities and island nations around the world, implementing novel practices such as using the remains of fish filleted for food to make clothes. Kenya's Sustainable Blue Economy Conference and the Large Ocean Nations Forum on Blue Growth showcased some of these examples and promoted partnerships with the private sector for further scaling up.

SO2: MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

**Targets**

- By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers through secure access to land **(2.3)**
- By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production **(2.4)**
- By 2030, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals **(2.5)**

**Targets**

- By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency and reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity **(6.4)**

**Targets**

- By 2030, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems **(15.1)**
- By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world **(15.3)**
- By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems **(15.4)**

**Targets**

- By 2030, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing to restore fish stocks **(14.4)**
- By 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas **(14.5)**

OUTCOME	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	END 2018 TARGET	ACTUAL 2018	PROGRESS AGAINST BIENNIAL TARGET
2.1 Countries adopted practices to increase productivity sustainably while addressing climate change and environmental degradation in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.	2.1.1 Innovative practices and technologies piloted, tested or scaled up by producers, to sustainably increase productivity, address climate change and environmental degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A) Number of initiatives where innovative practices and technologies are piloted, validated and adapted to sustainably increase productivity and production, while addressing climate change and/or environmental degradation. 	30	28	●
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B) Number of initiatives where innovative practices or the use of technologies are scaled up to sustainably increase productivity and production, while addressing climate change and/or environmental degradation. 	11	11	▲
	2.1.2 Capacities of institutions are strengthened to promote the adoption of more integrated and cross-sectoral practices that sustainably increase productivity and production, address climate change and environmental degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of institutions (extension services, producer organizations, government institutions, relevant civil society organizations, research and education institutions) that received organizational or technical capacity development support to promote the adoption of integrated and cross-sectoral practices. 	42	69	●
2.2 Countries developed or improved policies and governance mechanisms to address sustainable production, climate change and environmental degradation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.	2.2.1 Policies, strategies and investment programmes formulated to support sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and to address climate change and environmental degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of policies, strategies or investment programmes formulated with substantial support from FAO aiming at making agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and more sustainable, and addressing climate change and environmental degradation. 	22	28	●

SO2: MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

OUTCOME	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	END 2018 TARGET	ACTUAL 2018	PROGRESS AGAINST BIENNIAL TARGET
	2.2.2 Government and stakeholders' capacities improved to facilitate cross-sectoral policy dialogue to develop more integrated strategies and programmes for sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and address climate change and environmental degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of strategy documents on sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries developed through cross-sectoral policy dialogue, related to 2030 Agenda and NDC implementation plans. 	18	18	●
2.3 Countries improved implementation of policies and international instruments for sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry.	2.3.1 Support provided to ensure effective integration of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in international governance mechanisms, in particular in relation to 2030 Agenda, climate change, biodiversity and desertification as well as environmental agendas and instruments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of formal session documents with input by FAO submitted to international governance mechanisms, and focusing on sustainable agriculture, forestry and/or fisheries considerations. 	24	31	●
	2.3.2 Capacities of institutions strengthened to implement policies and international instruments that foster sustainable production and address climate change and environmental degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries where the capacities of governmental and other relevant institutions were strengthened to implement policies, strategies or governance mechanisms that foster sustainable production and/or address climate change and environmental degradation. 	15	16	●
2.4 Countries made decisions based on evidence for sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry while addressing climate change and environmental degradation.	2.4.1 Strategic knowledge products developed addressing regional or global issues that integrate information on sustainable production, climate change and environmental degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new or substantially updated strategic knowledge products related to sustainable production, climate change and environmental degradation that were developed in an inclusive manner and are published to make them available to countries. 	27	29	△
	2.4.2 Capacities of institutions are strengthened to collect, analyse and report data for decision-making on sustainable production, climate change and environmental degradation, including relevant SDGs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of institutions that received capacity development support from FAO to collect, analyse and report data for decision-making that foster sustainable production, address climate change and environmental degradation, including relevant SDGs. 	30	32	●

● On track; △ Needs attention



Strategic Objective 3

REDUCE RURAL POVERTY

Although progress has been made in reducing poverty, about ten percent of the global population continues to live in extreme poverty and inequality is still pervasive. Most of the poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. While pro-poor growth starts in agriculture, reducing rural poverty requires a broad, multi-dimensional approach for increasing agricultural productivity, creating jobs, diversifying economies and investing in people.

FAO's work to reduce rural poverty in 2018 showed strong progress under all Outputs, meeting or exceeding progress for five out of the nine Output indicator targets set for 2018. FAO supported seven countries in strengthening rural organizations and institutions and facilitating collective action of the rural poor. For example, FAO worked with the Governments of the Congo, Oman and Sudan to review and improve legislative frameworks of farmers' organizations, reinforcing more established initiatives, such as Dimitra Clubs and Farmer Field Schools.

FAO supported 14 countries and two regions to develop and implement pro-poor policies and strategies to improve access to

technologies, knowledge, inputs, and markets for the rural poor. Highlights of this work include support for water investment plans with a focus on poverty-reduction in Madagascar, Mali, Niger and Rwanda; strengthening agribusiness in China, Ethiopia, Guinea and Kenya; and supporting community-based forestry and small-scale forest enterprises in Cameroon, Zambia and the Central Africa subregion. In Sri Lanka, the "Poverty Reduction through Agricultural Development" initiative reached over 50 000 vulnerable producers, of whom 30 percent were women.

FAO provided policy advice and capacity development for gender-equitable and sustainable rural development and poverty reduction strategies to three countries and two regions. In Nepal, FAO worked to increase income and food security for rural Nepalese women and their families, improve women's empowerment in agriculture in the context of male migration, and better mainstream gender in the country's forestry sector.

FAO supported three countries and one region to enhance decent rural employment opportunities, entrepreneurship and skills development and to advance the

application of International Labour Standards, with a major focus on Africa. In Uganda, FAO raised the awareness and developed the capacity of key stakeholders on occupational safety and health in agriculture, in particular regarding protecting children and young workers from pesticide exposure.

In 2018, FAO provided policy support, knowledge generation, capacity development, and advocacy to expand coverage of social protection to the rural poor, including in fragile and humanitarian contexts, to four countries and two institutions. Additionally, FAO supported four countries and one regional institution to enhance synergies in social protection, nutrition, agriculture and natural resource management, including on issues such as climate change. FAO provided in-depth analysis of the socio-economic conditions of poor smallholder family farmers to improve understanding of social protection and why it must be tailored to the livelihoods and characteristics of vulnerable rural populations. For example, in Colombia, FAO continued work with rural communities to improve their access to land, markets and social protection measures and to facilitate dialogue between civil society organizations and rural people.

FAO supported nine countries and one regional office to increase national capacities to design and implement comprehensive, gender-equitable, multi-sectoral rural poverty reduction policies, strategies and programmes, including in the contexts of migration and climate change. FAO continues to be a leader in global migration issues, co-chairing the Global Migration Group (GMG) alongside the International Organization for Migration. As GMG co-chair, FAO coordinated efforts of the 22 Members, and highlighted and advocated for the importance of the agriculture and rural development dimension. It also provided communication support to GMG member agencies on the positive messaging of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), and contributed technical inputs to GMG advocacy briefs on: migration, food security, agriculture and rural development; remittances; and migrants in vulnerable situations.

On cross-cutting themes, FAO supported the Ethiopian

Government with analytical work on nutrition-related impact analysis and nutrition-sensitive social protection policies. The Organization supported ECOWAS in developing a subregional *Outlook on Gender and Agrifood Systems* report. Further, in Viet Nam and Bangladesh, FAO generated

new evidence on the disaster–climate change–poverty nexus and provided policy support to government institutions in policy coherence and programmatic approaches between the sectors of poverty reduction, agriculture, the environment and risk management and disaster response. ■



▲ RWANDA – Participants in the 'Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to Ending Hunger and Poverty in Africa' conference in Kigali, August 2018.
©FAO/Luis Tato

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SUPPORTING POVERTY REDUCTION IN LATIN AMERICA

In Latin America, FAO contributed to the development of a Regional Inter-sectoral Agenda for Social Protection and Productive Inclusion of the Central American System Integration (SICA), and is working with governments to develop national implementation plans based on this agenda. Throughout this process, FAO and SICA implemented joint knowledge creation and dissemination campaigns, led political

and technical dialogue and implemented a semi-blended course on "rural poverty, food security and nutrition and inclusive social protection systems in Central America" for 60 public servants. They also engaged with other UN agencies and international cooperation funds to promote assistance and dialogue processes on specific issues included in the regional agenda.

SO3: REDUCE RURAL POVERTY

**Targets**

- By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people **(1.1)**
- By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children in poverty **(1.2)**
- By 2030, ensure equal rights for all **(1.4)**

**Targets**

- By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training **(8.6)**
- Take immediate measures to eradicate forced labour and eliminate child labour **(8.7)**

**Targets**

- Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and Small Island Developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities **(13.b)**

**Targets**

- By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers **(2.3)**

**Targets**

- By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average **(10.1)**

OUTCOME	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	END 2018 TARGET	ACTUAL 2018	PROGRESS AGAINST BIENNIAL TARGET
3.1 Rural poor and rural poor organizations empowered to access productive resources, services and markets.	3.1.1 Rural organizations and institutions strengthened and collective action of the rural poor facilitated.	• Number of countries (or regional and global institutions) in which support was provided to strengthen rural organizations and institutions and facilitate collective action of the rural poor.	10	7	△
	3.1.2 Strategies, policies, guidelines and programmes to improve the rural poor's access to, and control over, a set of services, finance, knowledge, technologies, markets and natural resources, including in the context of climate change.	• Number of countries (or regional and global institutions) in which support was provided to improve the rural poor's access to, and control over, a set of services, finance, knowledge, technologies, rural infrastructure, markets and natural resources, including in the context of climate change.	13	17	●
	3.1.3 Policy support, capacity development and knowledge generation to accelerate gender equality and rural women's economic empowerment.	• Number of countries (or regional and global institutions) in which support was provided to accelerate gender equality and rural women's economic empowerment as a pathway out of poverty.	5	5	●
3.2 Countries enhanced access of the rural poor to productive employment and decent work opportunities, particularly among youth and women.	3.2.1 Policy support and capacity development in the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies, guidelines, and programmes to enhance decent rural employment opportunities, entrepreneurship and skills development, especially for youth and women.	• Number of countries (or regional and global institutions) in which support was provided to generate decent rural employment opportunities, entrepreneurship and skills development, especially for youth and women.	6	3	△

SO3: REDUCE RURAL POVERTY

OUTCOME	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	END 2018 TARGET	ACTUAL 2018	PROGRESS AGAINST BIENNIAL TARGET
	3.2.2 Policy support and capacity development to strengthen the application of International Labour Standards in rural areas in order to enhance the quality and safety of jobs, especially as regards child labour and forced labour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries (or regional and global institutions) in which support was provided to strengthen the application of International Labour Standards in rural areas in order to enhance the quality and safety of jobs, especially as regards child labour and forced labour. 	3	1	△
3.3 Countries enhanced access of the rural poor to social protection systems.	3.3.1 Policy support, knowledge generation and capacity development, and advocacy provided to expand coverage of social protection to the rural poor, including in fragile and humanitarian contexts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries (or regional and global institutions) in which support was provided to expand the coverage of social protection to the rural poor, including in fragile and humanitarian contexts. 	5	6	●
	3.3.2 Policy support, knowledge generation capacity development, and advocacy provided to enhance synergies in social protection, nutrition, agriculture and natural resource management, including climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries (or regional and global institutions) in which support was provided to enhance synergies in social protection, nutrition, agriculture and natural resource management, including climate change. 	6	5	△
3.4 Countries strengthened capacities to design, implement and evaluate gender-equitable, multi-sectoral policies, strategies and programmes to contribute to the achievement of SDG1.	3.4.1 Strengthened national capacities to design and implement comprehensive, gender-equitable, multi-sectoral rural poverty reduction policies, strategies and programmes, including in the context of migration and climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries (or regional and global institutions) in which support was provided to design and implement comprehensive, gender-equitable, multi-sectoral rural poverty reduction policies, strategies and programmes, including in the context of migration and climate change. 	6	10	●
	3.4.2 Data, knowledge and tools provided to promote and evaluate comprehensive, gender-equitable, multi-sectoral rural poverty reduction policies and strategies, including in the context of migration and climate change, and monitor progress in rural poverty reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries (or regional and global institutions) in which support was provided to evaluate comprehensive, multi-sectoral, gender-equitable rural poverty reduction policies and strategies, including in the context of migration and climate change, and monitor progress in rural poverty reduction. 	3	5	●

● On track; △ Needs attention



Strategic Objective 4

ENABLE MORE INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Achieving the objective of more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems requires integrated and coherent policy and institutional solutions based on holistic analyses that identify, prioritize and address critical constraints, and that are implemented through the coordinated efforts of the private sector, the public sector, civil society organizations, regional economic community organizations and platforms, and international organizations.

SO4 fully met the 2018 targets for five out of the nine indicators, with the majority of results on track for the biennium 2018–19.

Progress on the development and adoption of standards in food safety and quality and in plant health was better than expected, with 103 new or revised relevant international standards that were considered, had progressed, or were adopted. FAO's work to reinforce the capacities of countries and their regional economic communities in the formulation of international trade agreements and voluntary guidelines is progressing well, with seven countries and regional bodies supported.

In response to emerging factors such as rapid population growth, urbanization, migration and youth unemployment, FAO assisted more countries and regional bodies than targeted in designing and implementing policies, strategies, regulatory frameworks and investment plans supportive of inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems development. Public sector organizations in 25 countries were supported to design and implement national policies, strategies, regulatory frameworks and investment plans. This covered improvement of cross-sectoral coordination in Costa Rica, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia; development of strategies to address food loss and waste in Ethiopia, Tunisia and the Solomon Islands; and support for food safety regulations and quality control measures in Bangladesh. At regional level, FAO supported the Black Sea Economic Cooperation in the promotion of agrifood trade; the Latin American Integration Association in improving access of family farmers and small-scale enterprises to markets and helping them to internationalize their business offerings; and the Arab Organization for Agricultural

Development in developing a strategic framework for the date palm value chain.

FAO supported 18 countries to equip value chain actors with technical and managerial capacities to develop inclusive, efficient and sustainable agricultural and food value chains. It supported sustainable value chains in countries across all regions: for example, the Mountain Partnership Products participatory labelling scheme in Cuba, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal; and the roots and tubers value chain initiative in Malawi, Uganda and in Caribbean countries. In India, FAO provided formulation support for a new World Bank project that focuses on strengthening producer groups and promoting entrepreneurship. In Tajikistan, together with IFAD and the World Bank, FAO provided implementation support to several investment operations in the livestock subsectors. In cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, FAO provided investment and policy support for the development of value chains for olives in Morocco and grains in Egypt.

FAO's efforts to mainstream gender in agricultural and food

systems development at country and regional levels have resulted in specific actions targeting and promoting the inclusion of women in different areas of work. For instance, over one-third of the results under policy support to ensure sustainable food systems and value chain development had a concrete gender focus. At the global level, an e-learning course was developed and rolled out to support public and private practitioners and decision-makers in planning and implementing

gender-sensitive value chain interventions so that both women and men benefit equally.

The Organization's work on generating and disseminating evidence on agricultural and food systems development is well on track, with more FAO market information, analytical and knowledge products published than targeted, reflecting the high-level demand for such products. Support to countries in establishing systems to monitor

and analyse the impacts of trade, food and agriculture policies on national agriculture and food systems is also on track. With six countries supported, FAO provided up-to-date, easily accessible global trade and market data and information, with a view to promoting transparent markets and enhanced global, regional and domestic trade and market opportunities, e.g. through the fourteenth joint edition of the *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2018-2027*. ■



▲ EGYPT – Crops growing on the outskirts of Fayoume.
©FAO/Ami Vitale

SETTING THE STANDARDS FOR INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

The Organization provided scientific advice on setting food standards and enhanced the capacities of developing countries to participate effectively in International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Codex standard-setting processes. Thirty internationally agreed standards for animal

health, plant health, and food safety and quality were adopted, including: a standard for quinoa; maximum residue limits for various combinations of pesticides and commodities; diagnostic protocols for various plant pests; and standards for the labelling of pre-packaged foods through date-marking.

SO4: ENABLE MORE INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

**Targets**

- By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers **(2.3)**
- Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets to help limit extreme food price volatility **(2.c)**

**Targets**

- Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020 **(17.11)**

**Targets**

- By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses **(12.3)**

OUTCOME	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	END 2018 TARGET	ACTUAL 2018	PROGRESS AGAINST BIENNIAL TARGET
4.1 International standards, agreements and voluntary guidelines formulated to improve countries' access to, and functioning of, international markets.	4.1.1 New and revised international standards for food safety and quality and plant health formulated and agreed by countries to serve as references for international harmonization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new or revised international standards in food safety and quality and plant health based on new issues considered, draft standards progressed or new standards adopted. 	93	103	●
	4.1.2 Countries and their regional economic communities' capacities reinforced to engage effectively in the formulation of international agreements and voluntary guidelines that promote transparent market actions, enhanced market opportunities and more efficient agricultural and food systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of countries or (regional bodies) for which evidence, capacity development or fora for dialogue in relation to international trade agreements and voluntary guidelines have been provided by FAO. 	8	7	△
4.2 Countries designed and implemented policies, regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements supportive of inclusive and efficient agrifood systems development.	4.2.1 Public sector organizations' capacities strengthened to design and implement national policies, strategies, regulatory frameworks and investment plans supportive of inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A) Number of countries in which public sector organizations benefitted from FAO support to strengthen their capacities to design and implement national policies, strategies, regulatory frameworks and investment plans supportive of inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems development. 	19	25	●
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B) Number of regional bodies that benefitted from FAO support to strengthen their capacities to design and implement national policies, strategies, regulatory frameworks and investment plans supportive of inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems development. 	5	8	●

SO4: ENABLE MORE INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

OUTCOME	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	END 2018 TARGET	ACTUAL 2018	PROGRESS AGAINST BIENNIAL TARGET
	4.2.2 Public and private sector organizations' capacities strengthened to design and implement institutional arrangements supportive of inclusiveness and efficiency in agricultural and food systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries in which public and private sector organizations benefitted from FAO support to strengthen their capacities to design and implement institutional arrangements that are supportive of inclusiveness and efficiency in agricultural and food systems. 	9	6	●
4.3 Countries enhanced public and private sector capacities and increased investments to promote inclusive agro-enterprises and value chain development.	4.3.1 Value chain actors equipped with technical and managerial capacities to develop inclusive, efficient and sustainable agricultural and food value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries provided with FAO support to strengthen technical and managerial capacities of value chain actors. 	18	18	●
	4.3.2 Public and private sector organizations' capacities strengthened to increase investments in, and design and implement financial instruments and services and risk management mechanism for, efficient and inclusive agricultural and food systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries receiving FAO support to increase responsible investments in, or to design and implement financial instruments and services and risk management mechanisms for, efficient and inclusive agricultural and food systems. 	18	16	●
4.4 Countries made decisions based on evidence to support agrifood systems development.	4.4.1 Up-to-date global market information and analysis provided to promote transparent markets and enhanced global and regional domestic trade and market opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of FAO market information, analytical and knowledge products published. 	25	27	●
	4.4.2 Public sector organizations equipped to establish systems to monitor and analyse the impacts of trade, food, and agriculture policies on national agricultural and food systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries benefitting from FAO support to establish systems to monitor and analyse the impacts of trade, food, and agriculture policies on national agriculture and food systems. 	7	6	●

● On track; ▲ Needs attention



Strategic Objective 5

INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS TO THREATS AND CRISES

Building on lessons and experiences learned in sudden and slow-onset natural disasters, in transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, and in conflict and protracted crises, FAO provides multidisciplinary technical and operational expertise, helping countries to reduce multi-hazard risks and crises.

Results for 2018 on sectoral or hazard-specific policies, strategies and plans met the target, with 14 countries and regional institutions that formulated strategies and plans for risk reduction and crisis management. Coordination mechanisms and resource mobilization strategies for risk reduction and crisis management were developed and implemented in 22 countries and regions. In 2018 critical steps were undertaken towards the operationalization of the Global Network Against Food Crises, a multi-partnership initiative launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 by the FAO Director-General, the WFP Executive Director and European Union Commissioners to promote sustainable solutions to food crises across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. Results on early warning

and the monitoring of threats show that 15 countries and regions have improved risk monitoring systems to enhance delivery of early warning, with the Organization supporting 19 countries and regions to improve their capacities to undertake resilience and vulnerability analysis.

FAO has issued early warning and risk assessment reports on high-impact animal and plant diseases such as avian influenza, the Ebola virus, Rift Valley Fever, and Fall Armyworm. FAO's Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health adopted its 2018–2022 strategy to offer a holistic and sustainable international platform to reduce the impact of animal health emergencies in close collaboration with partners. Within the framework of the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases, implementation of the Emerging Pandemic Threats and the Global Health Security Agenda, programmes continued in more than 20 countries in Africa and Asia to strengthen the capacity of veterinary services to prevent and detect priority zoonosis and emerging infectious diseases. At the global level, FAO co-organized the Global Conference on *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) with the World

Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the European Union to reaffirm international political commitment to eradicate PPR, to fight rural poverty, ensure food and nutrition security, and strengthen the resilience of communities.

FAO's support for improving prevention and impact mitigation capacities and measures has exceeded the target, with technical measures for risk prevention and reduction implemented in 14 countries, and 18 countries applying socio-economic measures to reduce the vulnerability of communities at risk of threats and crises. The Knowledge Sharing Platform on Resilience (KORE) supported the capitalization and dissemination of good practices. In 2018, FAO assisted relevant government authorities in Ethiopia and Kenya to start the institutionalization of animal feed inventory systems to be able to estimate more accurately periodic feed demand and supply balance sheets together with the operationalizing of the Predictive Livestock Early Warning System (PLEWS). In addition, support was provided to pastoral field schools in several countries of the Horn of Africa (South Sudan, Kenya) and the Sahel (Mali, Niger) to enhance

livestock production, trade and peace initiatives especially in cross-border areas.

At the global level, FAO worked with partners – including ILO, UNICEF, WFP, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) – to develop a common vision around social protection and resilience, while contributing to global processes, including the Grand Bargain and the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. FAO contributed to strengthening the livelihoods lens of social protection and resilience programming in the context of climate-related risks, extreme fragility and forced displacement. Further, *The Corporate Framework to Support Sustainable Peace in the Context of Agenda 2030*, released in March 2018, offers a more deliberate and transformative impact on sustaining peace and improving conflict-sensitive programming.

Strategic Programme 5 (SP5) provided strategic and technical guidance on mainstreaming disaster

risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience in the agricultural sectors. Key interventions at country level included the development and implementation of national, subnational and regional DRR and/or natural hazard-specific risk management plans for agriculture, such as the Agriculture Action Plan for DRR in Myanmar. The global Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) indicator on “Loss caused by disasters in agriculture” was institutionalized in 15 countries.

In 2018, SP5 invested in rural infrastructure, analysis of gender issues in prevention and mitigation practices, and promotion of social protection to reduce risks on women and girls. The Dimitra Clubs, Caisses de résilience, Cash for Work, and the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy initiative strengthened the technical, social and financial capacities of vulnerable people to manage risks and sustain peace, rebuilding infrastructure and resilient rural livelihoods. ■



▲ BANGLADESH – Food storage drums being prepared for distribution to people affected by the refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar, 2018. ©FAO/GMB Akash

REACHING OUT WHERE MOST NEEDED

Results in terms of emergency preparedness met expectations with eight countries benefitting from FAO's support to uptake standards, guidelines and practices for emergency preparedness. FAO provided timely and gender-responsive crisis assistance in 17 countries and regions where disasters affected agriculture. In Yemen, FAO reached over 5 million people with crop and vegetable seeds, fishing gear, poultry production kits and cash support and through animal vaccination and treatment campaigns. In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, FAO was one of the first actors to focus on supporting

host communities, as well as refugees. In Somalia, FAO is delivering large-scale assistance to 2 million herders and 200 000 rural people through technical assistance, Cash+, input distributions and animal health support. In South Sudan, emergency interventions closely linked to resilience activities, have reached around 3.1 million people. In North-East Nigeria, 790 000 people received FAO's support for the rainy season campaign. In response to a drought-induced pastoral crisis in the Sahel, FAO targeted more than 680 000 people with cash, agricultural inputs, animal health and feed support.

SO5: INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS TO THREATS AND CRISES



Targets

- By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters **(1.5)**



Targets

- By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters **(11.5)**



Targets

- By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world **(15.3)**



Targets

- By 2030, access by all to safe nutritious food **(2.1)**
 - By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition **(2.2)**
 - By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production **(2.4)**
 - Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets to help limit extreme food price volatility **(2.c)**



Targets

- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries **(13.1)**



Targets

- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates **(16.1)**

OUTCOME	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	END 2018 TARGET	ACTUAL 2018	PROGRESS AGAINST BIENNIAL TARGET
5.1 Countries adopted or implemented legal, policy and institutional systems and frameworks for risk reduction and crisis management.	5.1.1 National capacities of government and public organizations strengthened to formulate and promote risk reduction and crisis management policies, strategies, plans and investment programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Number of countries or regions that formulated and institutionalized a strategy/plan for risk reduction and crisis management as a result of FAO support. B) Number of normative global and regional products that support countries in formulating and promoting risk reduction and crisis management policies, strategies, plans and investment programme. 	12	14	●
	5.1.2 Coordination mechanisms are improved and resources mobilized for risk reduction and crisis management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries or regions that improved resource mobilization and coordination mechanisms for risk reduction and crisis management as a result of FAO support. 	15	22	●
	5.2 Countries made use of regular information and early warning against potential, known and emerging threats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries or regions that have improved threat monitoring mechanisms/systems to enhance delivery of early warnings as a result of FAO support. 	15	15	△
	5.2.2 National capacities improved to assess vulnerability and measure resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries or regions that improved resilience/vulnerability mapping and analysis as a result of FAO support. 	12	19	●

S05: INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS TO THREATS AND CRISES

OUTCOME	OUTPUT	INDICATOR	END 2018 TARGET	ACTUAL 2018	PROGRESS AGAINST BIENNIAL TARGET
5.3 Countries reduced risks and vulnerability at household and community level.	5.3.1 Capacities of government, communities and other key stakeholder strengthened to implement prevention and mitigation good practices to reduce the impacts of threats and crises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries with improved application of integrated and/or sector-specific standards, technologies and practices for risk prevention and mitigation as a result of FAO support. 	8	14	●
	5.3.2 Communities equipped with vulnerability reduction practices and measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries with improved application of measures that reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience of communities at risk of threats and crisis as a result of FAO support. 	6	18	●
5.4 Countries prepared for and managed effective responses to disasters and crises.	5.4.1 Capacities of national authorities and stakeholders reinforced for emergency preparedness to reduce the impact of crises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries benefitting from FAO support to uptake standards, guidelines and practices for hazard and sector-specific emergency preparedness. 	8	8	●
	5.4.2 Humanitarian assistance for livelihood saving delivered in a timely manner to crisis-affected communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries or regions affected by a crisis impacting agriculture in which FAO provided timely nutrition- and gender-sensitive crisis response. 	15	17	●

● On track; ▲ Needs attention

2. In focus

UPSCALING AGROECOLOGY

In 2018, FAO, jointly with other United Nations partners, launched the Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative to be implemented over the next ten years, in collaboration with multi-stakeholder partners.

At regional level, agroecology platforms were launched to promote farmer-led, bottom-up and local innovation systems, in close conjunction with regional and government partners such as the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA); Agroecology Learning Alliance in South-East Asia; Terre et Humanisme (Pourtour Méditerranéen) in the Near East and North Africa region; or the Sociedad Científica Latinoamericana de Agroecología (SOCLA).

At country level, agroecology is being scaled up in countries all around the world, including: Angola, Bahamas, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Guinea, India, Jamaica, Lebanon, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tunisia.

In Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago, FAO and the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) supported innovations for integrated agroecological production systems, youth employment creation, and youth engagement in productive processes. National consultations were held in each of these three countries to validate baseline studies conducted on major crop, livestock, forestry and aquaculture production systems and their potential for integrated agroecological production. These studies were supplemented by sector-specific reports and reports on agroforestry, gender and agribusiness.

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, FAO partnered with the Asociación de Organizaciones de Productores Ecológicos de Bolivia (AOPEB) and the Fundación AGRECOL Andes to strengthen agroecological production systems and capacities of public actors and extension agents. Building on a baseline study that assessed the current status of agroecological production, local organizations of small family farmers and indigenous people benefitted from strengthened capacities in the production and certification of agroecological products. This included technical assistance to producers, capacity building on participatory guarantee systems (PGS), creating an agroecological label, facilitating market access, and ensuring access to local genetic resources by creating seed banks. Support was also provided to implement a favourable regulatory framework, through several multi-stakeholder fora on the country's legal framework related to agroecology and the role of extension agents.

BIOTECHNOLOGIES

The year 2018 marked the ninetieth anniversary of mutation induction in plants. For the occasion, FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency organized the “International Symposium on Plant Mutation Breeding and Biotechnology”. The symposium reviewed the successes achieved in the field of plant mutation breeding and presented innovations in mutation induction, including genome editing, as well as the latest advances in combining field-based selection with genomics-based, plant-breeding technologies. The symposium,

attended by over 500 participants from 82 countries, promoted information exchange among the scientific community and the private sector.

A mutation breeding approach was identified as a way to help enhance the adaptability of crops and to promote crop production diversification, in line with Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) principles. Cotton and quinoa production are examples of this approach.

Cotton is a leading commercial fibre crop in many countries, such as Bangladesh, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Myanmar and Pakistan. Crop yields are susceptible to decreases even with small climatic changes, due to the predominance of dry lands and cotton's high temperature sensitivity. Advanced mutant lines from their respective geographic origins were evaluated in different climatic areas in several of these countries to better understand how the newly developed cotton mutant lines performed under diverse environmental conditions.

Quinoa is an important crop due to its nutritional characteristics and for its ability to grow in a wide range of altitudes and with annual rainfalls ranging from 200 mm to 1 000 mm even with prolonged periods of drought. However, its development has been limited by a number of factors, such as its high susceptibility to downy mildew caused by the fungus *Peronospora variabilis*. In Peru, seeds of the quinoa cultivar Amarilla Maranganí were irradiated with gamma ray, and a group of mutant plants were identified that were resistant to downy mildew. This important development – the genetic control of downy mildew – can eliminate the use of fungicides and therefore maintain the organic quality of the production, which is of great importance to the national and international market.

GIAHS

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) are outstanding landscapes that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.

The GIAHS programme has formally recognized 57 sites across 21 countries. In 2018, GIAHS

designated new sites in China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Portugal. This important threshold was achieved as a result of awareness-raising and dissemination campaigns and events. These included the GIAHS International Forum in Rome; a side event at the Food and Nutrition Security Council in Cabo Verde; a High-level training in China; and a Regional Dialogue on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agriculture Sectors for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in Mexico. New and existing designated sites benefit from the establishment of the GIAHS regional networks which are fully operational in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2018, GIAHS also established partnerships and strategic alliances with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the University of Florence, Slow Food, and the International Council on Monuments and Sites.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

FAO has advanced global communications on AMR, expanding from awareness-raising activities such as World Antibiotic Awareness Week and World Veterinary Day campaigns, to innovative highly targeted communications for behaviour change for 12 countries – Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania (United Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe in Africa; and Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines and Viet Nam in Asia – all of which supported by the United Kingdom's Fleming Fund. FAO is leveraging social science expertise and participatory approaches to develop tailored interventions for the responsible use of antimicrobials in food and agriculture.

FAO has also developed country tools to promote and gather data (surveillance across food producing sectors and the environment, and improved laboratory capabilities) and assist in judicious antimicrobial use, legislation, private sector outreach, and awareness of the AMR threat, supported by France, the United Kingdom, and the United States Agency for International Development.

At the international level, FAO is an integral member of the Interagency Coordinating Group on AMR that includes 12 other intergovernmental agencies and

15 specialists, and works closely with WHO, OIE, UN Environment and other partners. Continued efforts in resource mobilization are ongoing to support the FAO Action Plan and the Global Action Plan with OIE, WHO and UN Environment.

BIODIVERSITY

The Fortieth Session of the FAO Conference welcomed FAO's initiative to act as the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform. The first major event organized by the Platform, jointly with the Convention on Biological Diversity, was the “Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors”, which took place in Rome on 29–31 May 2018. Biodiversity mainstreaming and the Dialogue's outcomes were considered by the Committees on

Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Commodity Problems. Most Committees requested FAO to develop a biodiversity strategy.

FAO developed important global knowledge products which address key topics such as agroecology, biodiversity, soil pollution, ecosystem-based adaptation, greenhouse gas accounting and water management. For example, *World Livestock: Transforming the livestock sector through the Sustainable Development Goals*, a major report addressing livestock's contributions to and interactions with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was launched at a CFS event. In addition, FAO supported institutions in 22 countries to collect, analyse and report data for decision-making on sustainable production, climate change and environmental degradation, including relevant SDGs. ■



▲ THE PHILIPPINES – The GIAHS-designated Ifugao rice terraces.
©FAO/Lena Gubler

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3. Mainstreaming gender, governance, nutrition and climate change

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Eliminating gender inequalities in agriculture and empowering rural women is crucial to achieving FAO's mandate of food security and nutrition, in line with the pledge in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to 'leave no one behind'.

Progress on gender issues is measured through two institutional Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Both performed well in 2018, with 14 out of 15 Minimum Standards of the FAO Policy on Gender being systematically implemented; by the end of 2018, FAO also met or exceeded 13 out of the 16 UN-SWAP (UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) performance indicators applicable to the Organization. FAO's Gender Focal Point (GFP) network, which represents a key institutional mechanism for the delivery of gender-related work, included approximately 140 staff in headquarters and decentralized offices. This institutional set-up was reinforced throughout the year through 38 face-to-face workshops, seminars and webinars that were organized to enhance staff awareness and understanding of gender in different technical areas, including: climate change, value chain development, social protection, natural resource management, women's land rights, technology innovation, disaster risk management, and protection from gender-based violence.

In 2018, FAO supported the generation and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data to document

the situation of rural women around the world. Sixteen new Country Gender Assessments (CGAs) were finalized, providing an updated gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods. Also, a review of sex disaggregated data in agriculture and rural development was conducted in eight countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia) outlining recommendations for strengthening the use and production of sex disaggregated data and gender indicators.

As the designated custodian for SDG Target 5.a.2 on women's equal rights to land, FAO helped enhance national capacities to apply the methodology to collect data and report on the indicator in 19 countries. In Asia and the Pacific, FAO, in partnership with the Asia office of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, strengthened the capacities of national experts from 13 countries to disaggregate and compile sex disaggregated data in order to report on the indicators for SDG5.

In partnership with other UN agencies, international and national development partners and research institutions, FAO developed several knowledge products and capacity development materials pertaining to the technical areas addressed by the Strategic Programmes (SPs), such as: the corporate brochure, *Empowering rural women, powering agriculture – FAO's work on gender*; and the Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool (GRAST), designed to support providers of rural advisory services in their efforts to develop gender-sensitive programmes.



▲ SENEGAL – Working on a tree nursery in the village of Kholy-Alpha as part of the Great Green Wall Initiative, summer 2018.
©Benedicte Kurzen/NOOR for FAO
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FAO continued to be recognized as the UN leading agency on rural women's issues, acting as a convener to promote the integration of these dimensions in national and international policy processes related to food security and nutrition. At regional level, FAO provided technical support to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the preparation of a Report on Subregional Outlook on Gender and Agrifood systems and of a Gender Action Plan (GAP) for Agriculture, to systematically integrate gender in the National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs). Together with the International Institute for Sustainable Development and OXFAM, FAO also supported the launch of the Network of ECOWAS Parliamentarians on gender and investments in agriculture and food security. In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO continued to provide technical support to the implementation of the Gender Strategy of the CELAC Plan 2025 for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication. The region also supported a global Campaign for the Empowerment of Indigenous Women for Zero Hunger and organized a High Level Regional Dialogue of Indigenous Women in Mexico City to promote an intercultural vision for peace and prosperity.

GOVERNANCE

Through the programmatic work undertaken for the cross-cutting theme on governance, FAO aims to enhance the effectiveness of its policy and governance work at global, regional and national levels.

FAO exercised a leadership role in three targeted global governance mechanisms with the specific objectives of supporting Members' implementation of the SDGs. This included contribution to the regional and global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda with the positioning of food, agriculture and rural transformation as key drivers for achieving SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Some ten interventions spanning all five Strategic Programmes (SPs) benefitted from approaches focused on governance aspects, including: policy coherence and impact of sectoral policies on sustainable water management in Morocco (SP2); strengthening cross-sectoral coordination for food security and nutrition in Chad (SP1); learning from agricultural transformation in Malaysia (SP4); looking at country experiences in using the 2030 Agenda

to address food and agriculture issues, especially improvements in family farmers' incomes and productivity in Colombia, Mali, and Sudan (SP2, SP3); and providing guidance for governance analysis of opportunities and constraints for convergence and integrated action between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in agriculture (SP5).

In 2018, FAO continued to provide technical assistance, strengthen capacities, support collection and analysis of data, as well as developing policies and programmes calibrated to the transformational aspirations of the 2030 Agenda. In response to a request from the World Bank, FAO prepared several evidence-based studies on the contribution of smallholders in Malaysia to the country's rapid, sustained and inclusive growth, focusing on the policy choices enabling inclusive smallholder-led transformation, poverty reduction, and the governance arrangements for effective coordination and service delivery. Further, the Political Economy Coaching Facility helped country-assigned policy officers apply governance and political economy analysis in the policy effectiveness assessments initiated by the Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) Programme in the participating countries.

QUALITY AND COHERENCE OF FAO'S WORK ON NUTRITION

The establishment of nutrition as a cross-cutting theme has enabled FAO to mainstream nutrition in the SPs and to confirm FAO's strategic position as a leader in global initiatives and governance mechanisms for improved nutrition.

In 2018, FAO contributed in a major way to developing the international nutrition architecture and to advancing the global nutrition agenda, in particular by: acting as the Secretariat of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition; contributing to the policy convergence processes of the work stream on nutrition of the CFS; and hosting the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN). FAO, jointly with WHO, was also instrumental in preparing the first report on the *Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)*, released in April 2018 and presented by

the Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly. In July 2018, FAO facilitated the first meeting of the “Global action network on sustainable food from the oceans and inland waters for food security and nutrition”, organized by Norway. Brazil, with input from FAO, is moving to set up two out of the five regional action networks, under the responsibility of the Brazilian Ministry of Health: one on food-based dietary guidelines (co-chair – Uruguay); and the other on the reduction of salt intake (co-chairs – Costa Rica and Colombia).

FAO, with WHO, elaborated the document, *Strengthening nutrition action: A resource guide for countries based on the policy recommendations of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)*, to assist countries in reviewing the appropriateness of each of the 60 voluntary ICN2 recommendations made through the ICN2 Framework for Action against their national needs, conditions, and existing policies, programmes and investments. FAO also continued to develop a corporate approach to nutrition mainstreaming, enabling it to enhance the strategic focus of its products and services in the delivery mechanisms towards a more nutrition-sensitive food systems approach. This includes incorporating nutrition concerns into FAO’s key flagship publications and Technical Committees.

QUALITY AND COHERENCE OF FAO’S WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Agriculture’s role in climate change adaptation and mitigation has gained prominence in recent years, particularly with the decision on the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) reached at the Twenty-third Conference of the Parties (COP23) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). FAO continues to provide technical leadership in enhancing national capacity to address both climate change and agriculture, while deepening the integration of food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries into international governance.

The FAO Strategy on Climate Change is the key guiding framework for the Organization’s work on climate change, connecting actions across FAO that contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The FAO 2018–19 biennial theme, “Climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO”, featured prominently in all flagship publications, with SOFI, SOFO and SOCO analysing the current and potential impacts of climate change on food insecurity, agriculture and trade respectively.

In 2018, through its Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAP-Ag) programme, FAO supported 11 countries in developing their NAPs and linking them to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Through the Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture programme and under the umbrella of the NDC-Partnership, FAO supported 29 countries on NDC-related analysis, planning, monitoring and reporting, including on the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the UNFCCC. The Organization also provided climate change adaptation and disaster risk-reduction support to 12 countries (Grenada, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Serbia, Suriname, Ukraine, and Zambia).

FAO supported the development of several Green Climate Fund (GCF) readiness proposals. Implementation has now started on ten of these in nine different countries – for instance, in El Salvador and Paraguay, where full-scale funding proposals were approved for a total of USD 220 million.

FAO convened two Koronivia Dialogues, in support of developing and implementing the KJWA decision of the UNFCCC COP23; two NAP-Global Support Programme dialogues in the Philippines and Panama; the International Climate Initiative (IKI) NDC Cluster on Adaptation in Thailand; and an NDC Regional Dialogue for Asia and Arab States.

Regional analyses of NDCs were undertaken in Eastern Africa, South-eastern Europe and Central Asia, to facilitate gap analysis and support NDC implementation and the leveraging of climate finance in the respective countries. Finally, FAO is developing the Climate-Land Hub, an online knowledge and information-sharing platform to support NDC implementation – 31 countries contributed to an external stakeholder consultation on design and functionalities for the platform in March 2018. ■

4. Technical leadership and statistics



To ensure a robust and practical results-based approach to all work of the Organization, FAO needs to ensure that it has the internal technical capacity and high-quality statistics to achieve the expected results.

QUALITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE TECHNICAL AND NORMATIVE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

Technical excellence and integrity form the bedrock of FAO technical and normative work. In 2018, 68.6 percent of surveyed stakeholders (comprising representatives of countries, FAO partners and staff) recognized FAO's quality of technical leadership.

The year saw the Technical Committees (COFI, COFO, COAG, CCP) hold their biennial sessions, where they considered cross-cutting issues such as the 2030 Agenda, climate change and biodiversity. FAO produced five flagship publications (SOFA, SOFI, SOFIA, SOFO, SOCO), each one based on an SDG underlying analysis and a wide range of SDG indicators for which FAO is custodian. FAO was actively engaged in major global policy fora related to its mandate – most notably, the Twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties (COP24) of the UNFCCC, COP14 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and its associated processes, the World Water Forum, the Sixth Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly, and the UN General Assembly. Moreover, the 17 Technical Networks continued to provide a platform for sharing technical information and standards across all levels of the Organization, ensuring identification of good practices and consistency in policies and approaches.

QUALITY AND USE OF FAO STATISTICS TO SUPPORT EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING IS IMPROVED

High-quality statistics are essential for designing and targeting policies to reduce hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty and to promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

Improving national capacity in monitoring SDGs remained a priority for FAO. In 2018, 32 percent of the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship were reported at national level and the figure will increase as the internationally agreed methodologies for FAO-relevant SDG indicators are finalized. FAO's significant methodological work in 2018 led to the approval of new methodologies for the IAEG-SDG

indicators and the reclassification of six Tier III indicators to the Tier II category (SDGs 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 12.3.1, 14.6.1, 14.b.1), which means that they can now begin to be used for data collection.

Substantial methodological support was provided to countries through the publication of 13 new statistical guidelines and technical standards relating to the SDGs. In support of national statistical institutions, FAO provided 28 in-depth training workshops at global and regional levels and 30 direct country technical assistance missions.

In terms of producing high-quality and internationally comparable data – and making it accessible to all countries – there were 1 672 840 page visits to FAOSTAT, which represents a 6.6 percent increase compared to 2017. ■



▲ ITALY – Committee on Fisheries (COFI) side event discussing “Impacts of Climate Change in Fisheries and Aquaculture”, FAO headquarters, July 2018. ©FAO/Giulio Napolitano

5. Highlights of improved delivery

► Focused strategic vision and strengthened programme delivery

- FAO's Strategic Objectives enable the alignment of FAO's work with countries' implementation of the SDGs. FAO's Medium Term Plan 2018–21 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2018–19 put in place measures to strengthen programme delivery.
- The five Strategic Programmes are designed, planned, and monitored by the Strategic Programme Leaders and their management teams to achieve the Outputs in the results framework.
- The position of Regional Programme Leader was established in each Regional Office to help focus and ensure delivery of programmes and achievement of results at country level.
- The Strategic Programmes are delivered by teams comprising staff from technical divisions and decentralized offices operating through Service Level Agreements, which define the contributions to the Outputs.

► Strong commitment to work in partnership

- In 2018, the Organization brokered and sustained 36 strategic partnerships by engaging with parliamentarians, civil society, private sector, academia, family farmers' and indigenous peoples' organizations, and other non-state actors.

- Private sector partnerships were built on data, tools and technologies to support the Strategic Objectives at regional and country levels. The farmer-to-farmer initiative also benefitted 1 150 family farmers from 67 countries on issues such as family farming, agroecology, land tenure, and pastoralism.

- Nineteen countries were involved in the South–South and Triangular Cooperation partnership model.

► Improved organizational effectiveness

- The consolidation of the Shared Services Centre (SSC) into a global team in Budapest increased consistency, transparency and quality of the services provided to staff, irrespective of location.
- As part of the 2017 financial statements, FAO delivered its first statement of internal control.

► Active participation in the UN Development System Reform

- The UNGA resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the UN Development System is an important step towards making the UN a more effective and responsive partner to support UN Member States as they set national goals and targets to implement the 2030 Agenda. FAO is participating in the governance of the repositioning process at the global level. ■

Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report 2018

OVERVIEW