



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Resources Partnerships Impact 2020



Resources Partnerships Impact 2020

Required citation:

FAO. 2020. *Resources, Partnerships – Impact 2020*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9351en>

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

ISBN 978-92-5-132776-0

© FAO, 2020



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: "This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original [Language] edition shall be the authoritative edition."

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org. Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request. Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org.

Maps

Source: Adapted from United Nations World map, 2020.

Cover photographs: ©FAO

This publication has been printed using selected products and processes so as to ensure minimal environmental impact and to promote sustainable forest management.

Contents

Foreword	v
Acknowledgments	vi
Abbreviations and acronyms	vii
Introduction	1
1. FAO tackling global challenges	2
2. Contributions to FAO	6
FAO's budget	7
Resource mobilization	10
From resource mobilization to project implementation	13
Human resources	23
3. Partnerships and alliances	24
United Nations	25
International financial institutions	28
Non-state actors	31
South-South and triangular cooperation	33
4. FAO results in 2019	34
● Africa	36
● Asia and the Pacific	44
● Europe and Central Asia	52
● Near East and North Africa	60
● Latin America and the Caribbean	68
● Global	76
5. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation	82
6. Charting new paths	86

Foreword

As 2019 came to a close and 2020 began, the world was faced with new challenges that continue to test how we can all work together to address uncertainty and insecurity at home and across borders. The rapid escalation of the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility but also the strengths of the international community, and necessitates speedy, decisive, coordinated and innovative action from all, and for all.

Tackling the current global crisis, which impacts not only people's lives and livelihoods, but also food trade, food supply chains, markets and nutrition; calls for an unprecedented level of international cooperation and financing, driven by a growing sense of shared responsibility and international solidarity.

In 2019, before COVID-19 hit, the world was already facing immense challenges. Around 821 million people across the globe were suffering from hunger, while 2 billion people were overweight and obese. Malnutrition was also rearing its ugly head, threatening the health of billions worldwide. Climate change continued to threaten food safety and food security, with food systems highly compromised by increasing climate risks, strong population growth, rapid urbanization, rural-urban migration and conflict.

The *Resources, Partnerships - Impact 2020* report shows how the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) worked in 2019 to address these challenges, maximising partnerships for greater results on the ground. FAO's strong track record of delivering high-impact solutions for the rural poor has been the foundation on which I have based the vision and plan for building a new and dynamic FAO for a better world.

Our efforts to create and elevate success stories for the most vulnerable, as highlighted in this report, would not be possible without the trust and generous contributions of our resource partners. For the past three consecutive years, FAO has mobilized more than USD 1 billion, which attest its relevance and added value to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Deepening our collaboration with governments, United Nations entities and other partners to address the complex challenges that lie ahead is an urgent priority. Through our new Hand-in-Hand initiative, FAO aims to harness innovation and investment to fast-track transformative change in rural areas and across all regions, especially where extreme poverty and hunger remain concentrated. Digital technologies are providing new opportunities for agriculture and rural development, enabling us to build on and accelerate work towards changing the Organization's business model, while ensuring that FAO plays a strong leadership role within the United Nations System and beyond.

FAO is prepared to adapt to and embrace new realities. We are committed to mobilizing all key players to jointly advance innovative and sustainable solutions for achieving a world free from hunger. Our ability to act, in our shared best interest and for greater collective impact, has never been more important. I am therefore calling for and counting on the support and proactive engagement of member nations, the private sector, civil society, academia, smallholder farmers, women and youth.



QU Dongyu
FAO Director-General

Acknowledgements

This report is a FAO corporate effort that builds on contributions from all parts of the Organization. It was produced under the overall patronage of the Deputy Director-General, Elizabeth Bechdol, and the strategic guidance and leadership of Kazuki Kitaoka, Head of the Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Unit.

The production of the report was coordinated by Irene Pirca Garcia, Resource Mobilization Specialist, and written by Mauricio Torres Velásquez, Results Reporting Specialist. Design and layout was provided by Massimiliano Martino, and editorial support by Fatma Rekik.

The report would not have been possible without the valuable contributions and review provided by FAO Regional, Country and Liaison Offices, the Office for Corporate Communication, the Office of the Director General, the Office of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management; and the FAO Technical Departments and Divisions. Particular appreciation goes to Edward Bogart, Vanja Bozic, Jeremy Braude, Maria Paula Carretero, Oumou Doumbouya, Catherine Foulkrod, Lorenzo Gentile, Cary Hendrickson and Giorgi Kharshiladze, for their invaluable guidance, support and inputs.



Abbreviations and acronyms

AA	Anticipatory action	IVF	Global Internship, Volunteers and Fellows Programme
ABNJ	Areas beyond national jurisdiction	KJWA	Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture
AfDB	African Development Bank	MRV	Measuring, reporting and verification
AMR	Antimicrobial resistance	NDC	Nationally determined contributions
AMU	Antimicrobial use	NGO	Non-governmental organization
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	OH	One Health
ASF	African swine fever	OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
ASTF	African Solidarity Trust Fund	PBF	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
ATS	Agriculture technical schools	PFH	Parliamentary Front against Hunger
AU	African Union	PNSN	National nutrition security policy
BFSA	Bangladesh Food Safety Authority	RAFP	Rural and Agricultural Finance Programme
BT	Baccalaureat technique	RAI	Responsible investment in agriculture and food systems
CARD	Coalition for African Rice Development	RBA	Rome-based agencies
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	RBP	Results-based payments
CFS	Committee on World Food Security	REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	RS	Remote sensing
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
EMC	Emergency Management Centre	SFERA	Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities
EWEA	Early Warning Early Action	SCG	Senior Consultative Group
ET	Evapotranspiration	SLM	Sustainable land management
EU	European Union	SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SRB	Senegal River Basin
FFS	Farmer field school	SSTC	South-South and triangular cooperation
FIES	Food insecurity experience scale	SuTP	Syrians under Temporary Protection
FIRST	Food and nutrition security impact, resilience, sustainability and transformation programme	TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
FMM	Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism	UN	United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund	UNDF	United Nations Decade of Family Farming
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GHP	Good hygiene practices	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GKC	Greater Karamoja Cluster	UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
HPAI	High pathogenic avian influenza	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
ICT	Information and communications technology	UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UTF	Unilateral trust fund
IFI	International financial institution	VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	WA	Water accounting
ILO	International Labour Organization	WFD	World Food Day
IOM	International Organization for Migration	WFP	World Food Programme
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	WHO	World Health Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	WP	Water productivity
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	WUA	Water User Associations

Much progress has been made in reducing hunger and poverty, and in improving food security and nutrition worldwide. Still, more than 821 million people go hungry today, and achieving the Zero Hunger target by 2030 remains a challenging task.

FAO's programme of work can only be implemented thanks to its generous resource partners who finance and support the Organization in leading global efforts to improve and transform our food systems and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). FAO's total budget for 2019 was the highest in the last 10 years, representing partners' increasing trust in the Organization. Following a significant corporate effort to deliver results while ensuring value for money, last year FAO mobilized USD 1.3 billion in voluntary contributions for current and future work. This is the highest amount of voluntary contributions ever mobilized and shows an increase of 28 percent compared to the average for the 2015–2018 period. These contributions allowed FAO to reach and work with its 194 Member Nations, its institutional members, and its growing number of partners around the world.

The **Resources, Partnerships – Impact 2020** report elucidates what FAO is, what it has done, and how it has worked in collaboration with multiple stakeholders in 2019. Also, it highlights the way FAO has been adapting to changes in the development aid landscape, specifically by leveraging different kinds of funds and seeking innovative partnerships, in order to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs. The report takes a closer look at the challenges and strategies that guided FAO's activities at the regional and global levels in 2019, while showcasing selected interventions that delivered critical results on the ground.

FAO's approach in 2019 aimed to trigger the United Nations' (UN) reform by achieving greater cooperation, encouraging flexible funding, and deepening partnerships among the Rome-based agencies (RBAs), as well as with actors across the UN system. In addition, FAO engaged in 29 partnerships, represented by common platforms, programmes, alliances and agendas that enabled joint action in accelerating the fight against global hunger. FAO is firmly established as a universal partner to all who are committed to ending hunger by 2030, and will continue to forge reliable partnerships with different sectors and stakeholder groups – including the most marginalized – to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development globally.

1. FAO TACKLING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

FAO delivers support, monitors impact and assesses results against its Strategic Framework. The alignment of its programme of work with the SDGs reinforces FAO's efforts to achieve its vision of a world free of hunger.





The developmental potential of agriculture is an important pathway to enhancing rural economies and reducing extreme poverty and hunger. However, additional investments from the international community in this major economic sector are needed. There is also a need for a better understanding of appropriate policy measures to achieve the full potential of agricultural development.

As the year 2030 is fast approaching, FAO is taking bold steps towards achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG1 (No Poverty) and SDG2 (Zero Hunger).



FAO leverages its convening power to lead international efforts through a comprehensive and multilateral approach, which enhances matchmaking between donors and countries who are most in need of assistance, to support tailor-made, targeted efforts. This reduces fragmentation and small-scale solutions, catalyzing and expediting transformative change on the ground.

To accelerate agri-food systems transformation and sustainable rural development, FAO is taking a holistic approach – aligned with its Strategic Framework – that recognizes the diverse economic, social and environmental webs in which rural people earn their living and strive to improve opportunities for themselves. The approach speeds up the response to the needs of highly vulnerable countries while taking measures to mitigate and overcome the effects of crises and shocks.

In order to empower poor and vulnerable rural populations, there is a need for equitable growth and inclusive structural transformation. As such, FAO is working on the principle that positive impact should be available to as many stakeholders as possible through improved agricultural practices, the upgrading and diversification of post-production value chains that generate employment – especially for women and youth, and strengthened models for alternative agri-food profits.

Building on its country presence and expertise, FAO is convening partnerships to harness innovation and financing for development to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This means bringing in international financial institutions to put technical knowledge and policy into action. It also means attracting private sector investment by gathering, analyzing and disseminating information on areas of investment for development. When all public and private actors join forces, it is possible to achieve results that transform lives.

FAO's work aligned with the SDGs

Global developments, trends and emerging challenges determine the context in which FAO operates and assists countries.

The Strategic Framework of FAO ensures the alignment of hunger-related global challenges with the SDGs. It is geared towards supporting countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda, specifically in their efforts to fight hunger and malnutrition, achieve broad-based food security, improve rural livelihoods, and make agriculture, fisheries and forestry and their natural-resource base more resilient, productive and sustainable, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Each of FAO's Strategic Objectives not only contributes to achieving the targets of SDG 2, but also those of the other SDGs, highlighting that hunger and malnutrition are persistent challenges that demand multidimensional solutions.



2. CONTRIBUTIONS TO FAO

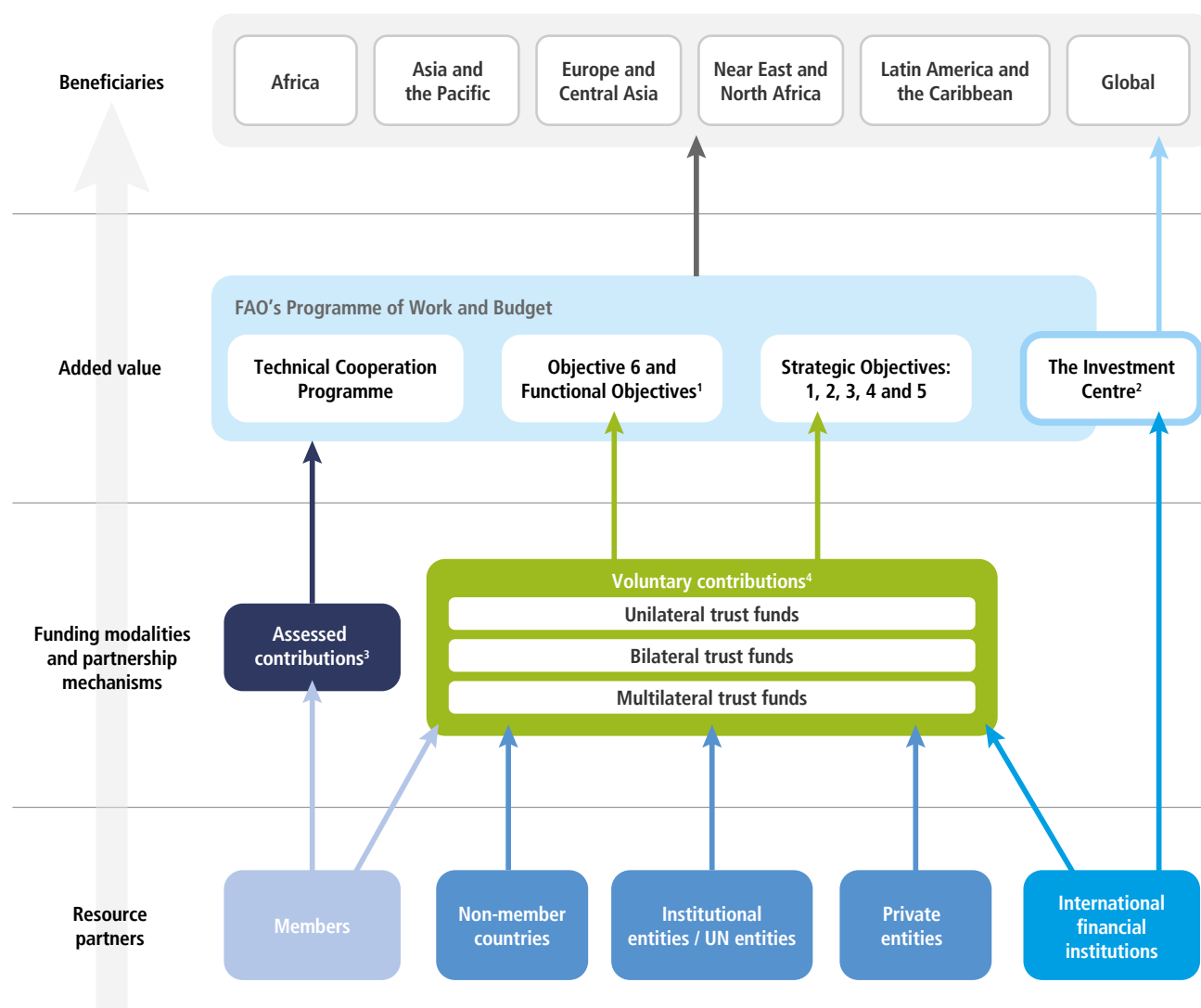
In order for FAO to deliver its work programme and tackle global challenges as it strives towards the achievement of the SDGs, it requires support from members and growing contributions from partners.



FAO's budget in 2019

Strategic planning allows FAO to develop programming priorities for the biennium and establish the necessary funding from its Members and partners, which are mobilized through multiple established mechanisms.

The Strategic Framework for FAO, which is effectively implemented through the Programme of Work and Budget, allows FAO to utilize its infrastructure, networks, partnerships, convening power and expertise to deliver technical assistance and policy support to countries across different regions.



This diagram is an approximated visualization of FAO's financial resource flows, based on FAO's Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19.

¹ Functional Objectives provide the enabling environment for FAO's work, including outreach, information technology, efficient and effective administration, and FAO governance, oversight and direction.

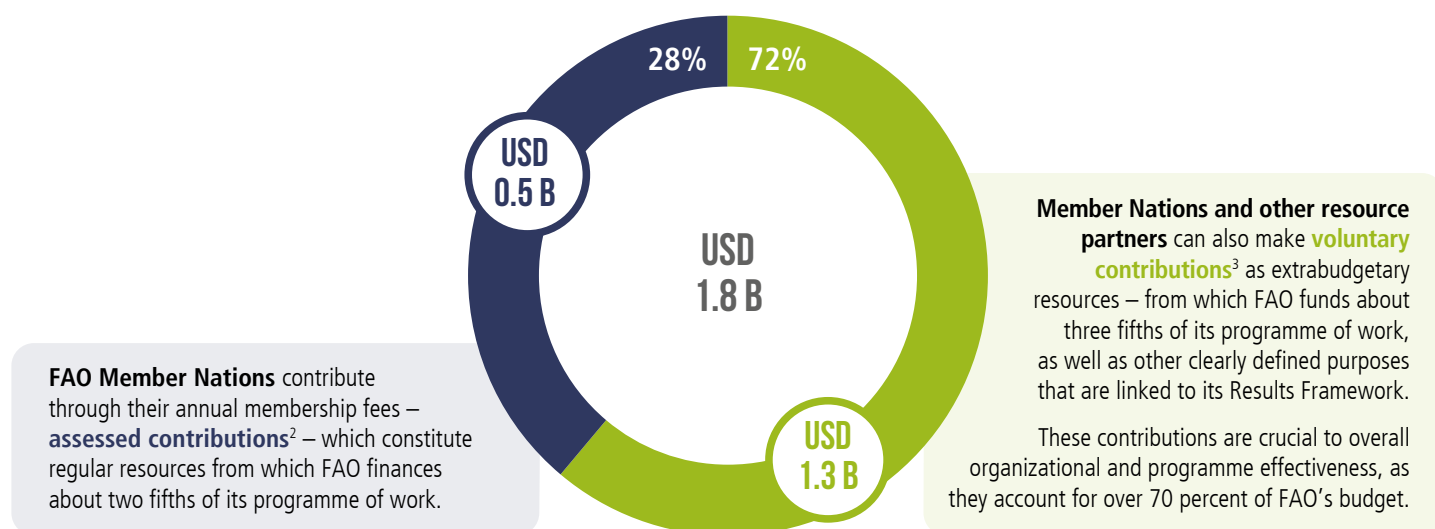
² FAO Investment Centre mobilizes additional resources to those of FAO's Programme of Work and Budget through partnership agreements with international financial institutions.

³ Member Nations' assessed contributions comprise the regular budget set at the biennial FAO Conference.

⁴ Voluntary contributions are provided by Members and other partners to support governments for clearly defined purposes linked to the results framework, as well as direct support to FAO's core work.

FAO's overall programme of work is funded through regular and extrabudgetary resources.

In 2019, a total of USD 1.8 billion¹ provided by Member Nations and resource partners enabled FAO to deliver results as planned, contributing to national, regional and global efforts to the benefit of the world's vulnerable populations.



Contributions assessed to Member Nations in 2019 amounted to **USD 500 million**

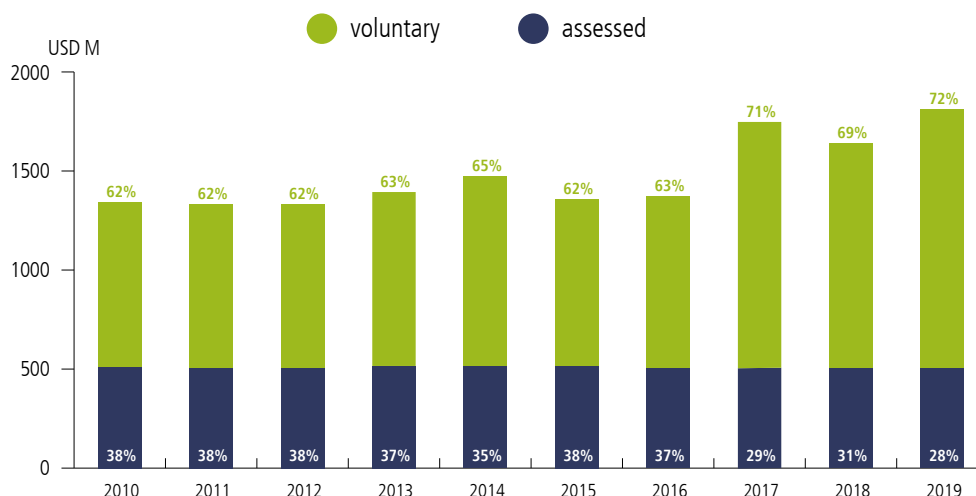


Additionally, FAO mobilized **USD 1.3 bn** in voluntary contributions



+9% increase compared to 2018

Trend of total contributions to FAO



¹ This refers to the total contributions received by FAO in 2019, including both assessed and voluntary. The amounts and percentages used throughout the report to represent these contributions have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

² Member nations' assessed contributions comprise the regular budget, set at the biennial FAO Conference. These amounts are expressed at the approved budget rate and include any adjustments for miscellaneous income, amounts to fund the After-service Medical Coverage past service liability and charges through the tax equalization fund, as set out in the relevant Conference Resolution for each biennium.

³ Voluntary contributions are provided by Members and other partners on a voluntary basis to support governments for clearly defined purposes linked to the results framework, as well as direct support to FAO's core work.

Top 50 contributing members in 2019

	Ranking change*	Member	Contributions (USD M)	Assessed Voluntary
1	▲ 1	European Union	330	100%
2	▼ 1	United States of America	245	46% 54%
3	▲ 23	Saudi Arabia	99	6% 94%
4	▼ 1	Japan	82	59% 41%
5	▲ 2	Germany	77	42% 58%
6	▼ 2	United Kingdom	50	44% 56%
7	▲ 4	Netherlands	44	17% 83%
8	▬ 0	China	42	93% 7%
9	▲ 1	Italy	36	52% 48%
10	▼ 5	Sweden	34	14% 86%
11	▲ 4	Republic of Korea	31	33% 67%
12	▲ 1	France	28	86% 14%
13	▲ 4	Colombia	26	6% 94%
14	▼ 5	Brazil	20	94% 6%
15	▲ 4	Switzerland	17	34% 66%
16	▼ 4	Canada	16	89% 11%
17	▼ 11	Norway	16	26% 74%
18	▼ 4	Russian Federation	16	98% 2%
19	▼ 1	Spain	14	87% 13%
20	▲ 1	Belgium	12	38% 62%
21	▼ 1	Australia	12	100% 0%
22	▲ 1	Pakistan	12	4% 96%
23	▲ 83	Mozambique	10	0% 100%
24	▲ 70	Tunisia	10	1% 99%
25	▼ 9	Mexico	10	73% 27%
26	▼ 4	Turkey	8	62% 38%
27	▬ 0	Kuwait	6	22% 78%
28	▲ 89	Angola	6	1% 99%
29	▲ 7	United Arab Emirates	6	55% 45%
30	▼ 6	Denmark	5	56% 44%
31	▲ 2	India	5	79% 21%
32	▲ 44	Nepal	5	1% 99%
33	▼ 3	Argentina	4	100% 0%
34	▲ 17	Ireland	4	38% 62%
35	▼ 7	Austria	4	83% 17%
36	▼ 4	Poland	4	100% 0%
37	▲ 54	Congo	3	1% 99%
38	▼ 4	Azerbaijan	3	9% 91%
39	▲ 79	Bangladesh	3	2% 98%
40	▲ 13	Democratic Rep. of the Congo	3	1% 99%
41	▼ 4	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	3	98% 2%
42	▼ 3	Indonesia	3	100% 0%
43	▲ 45	Bahrain	3	9% 91%
44	▼ 4	Greece	2	100% 0%
45	▼ 4	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2	100% 0%
46	▼ 11	Finland	2	100% 0%
47	▼ 3	Singapore	2	100% 0%
48	▲ 57	Gabon	2	4% 96%
49	▼ 4	Israel	2	100% 0%
50	▼ 3	Chile	2	100% 0%

*Ranking change between 2018 and 2019

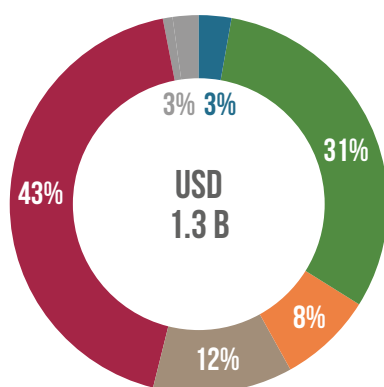
Resource mobilization

Members have endorsed FAO beyond their biennial commitment through increasing voluntary contributions. Each year, voluntary contributions change, reflecting renewed and emerging needs and objectives.

For the past three consecutive years, FAO has surpassed the USD 1 billion bar in resource mobilization, which reflects an unprecedented corporate effort.

In 2019, USD 1.3 billion in voluntary contributions¹ was mobilized for current and future work, an increase of 28 percent compared to the average for 2015-2018.

Voluntary contributions
by Strategic Objectives

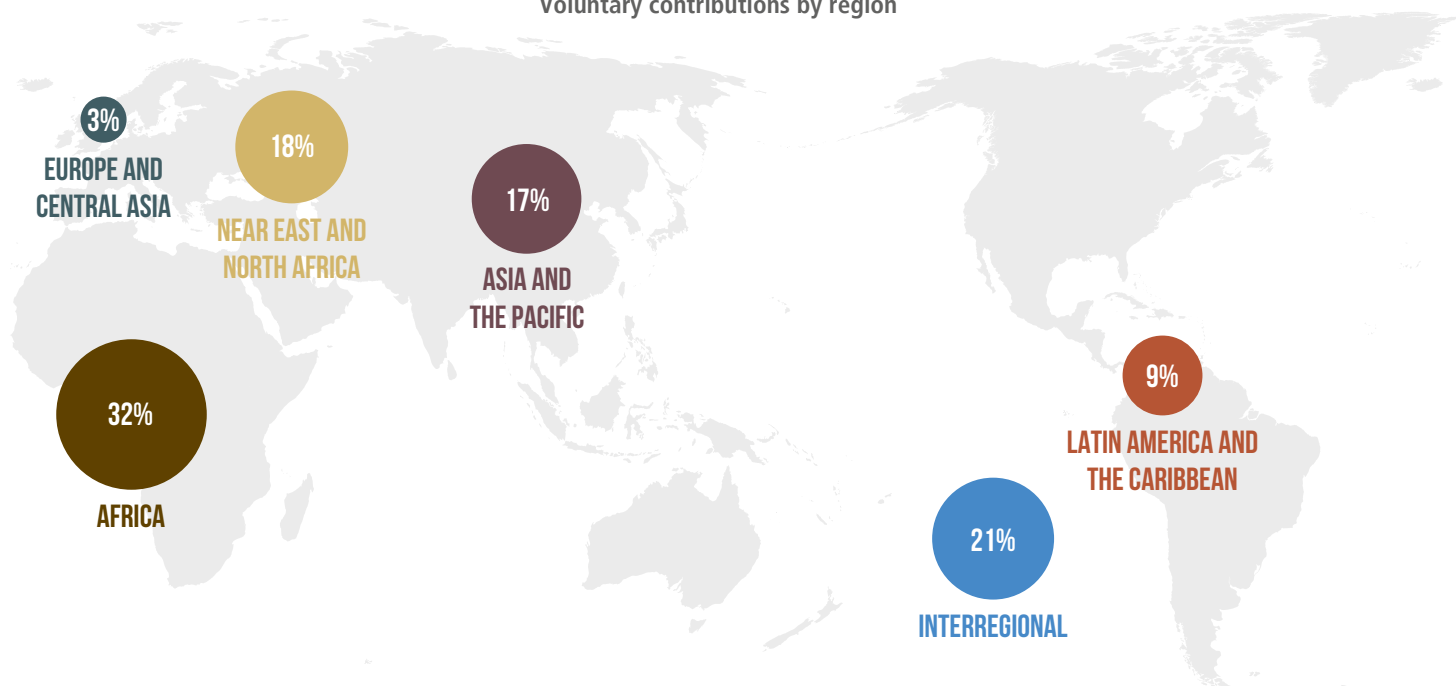


- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises
- Other

Voluntary contributions
by category



Voluntary contributions by region



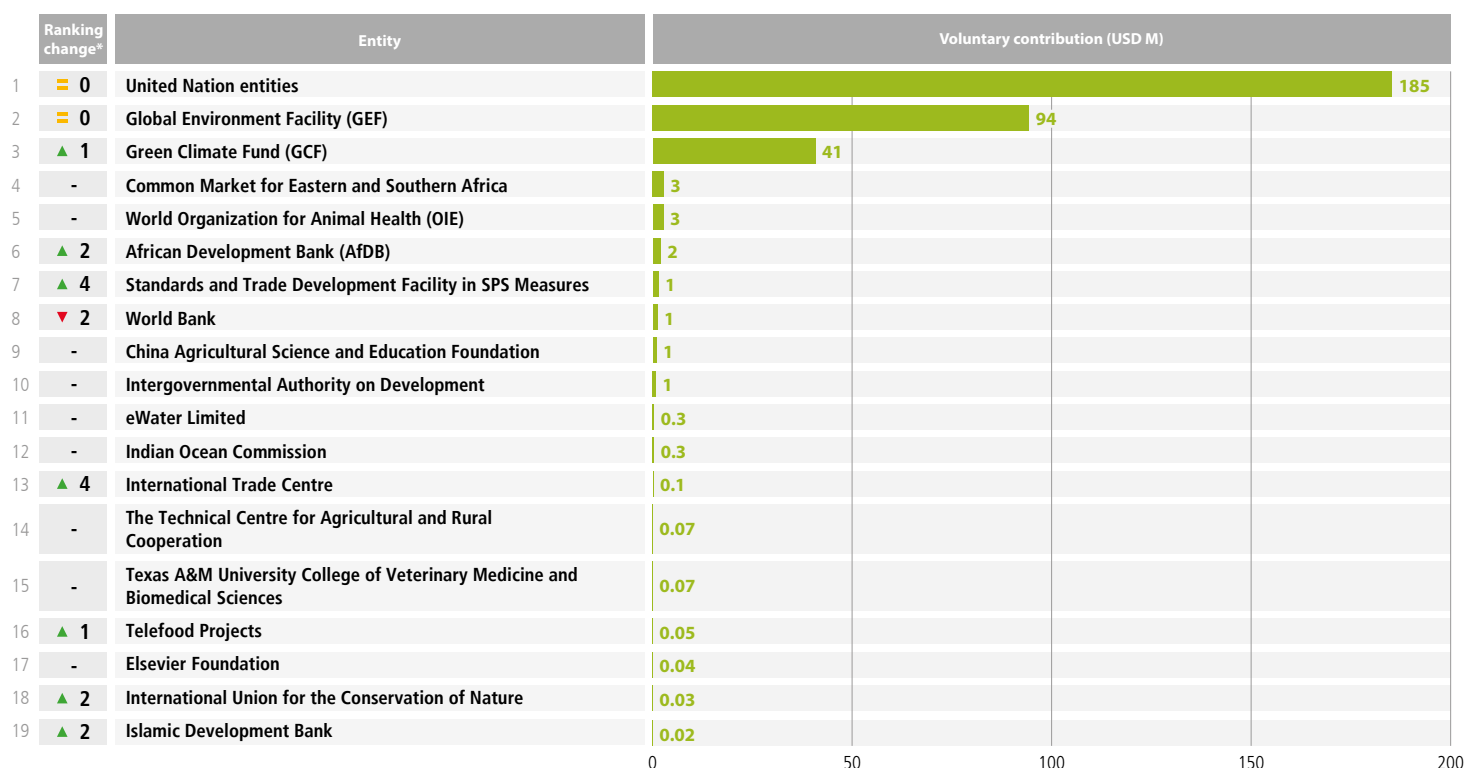
¹ Voluntary contributions are provided by Members and other partners to support governments for clearly defined purposes linked to the results framework, as well as direct support to FAO's core work.

Top 50 voluntary contributing members in 2019

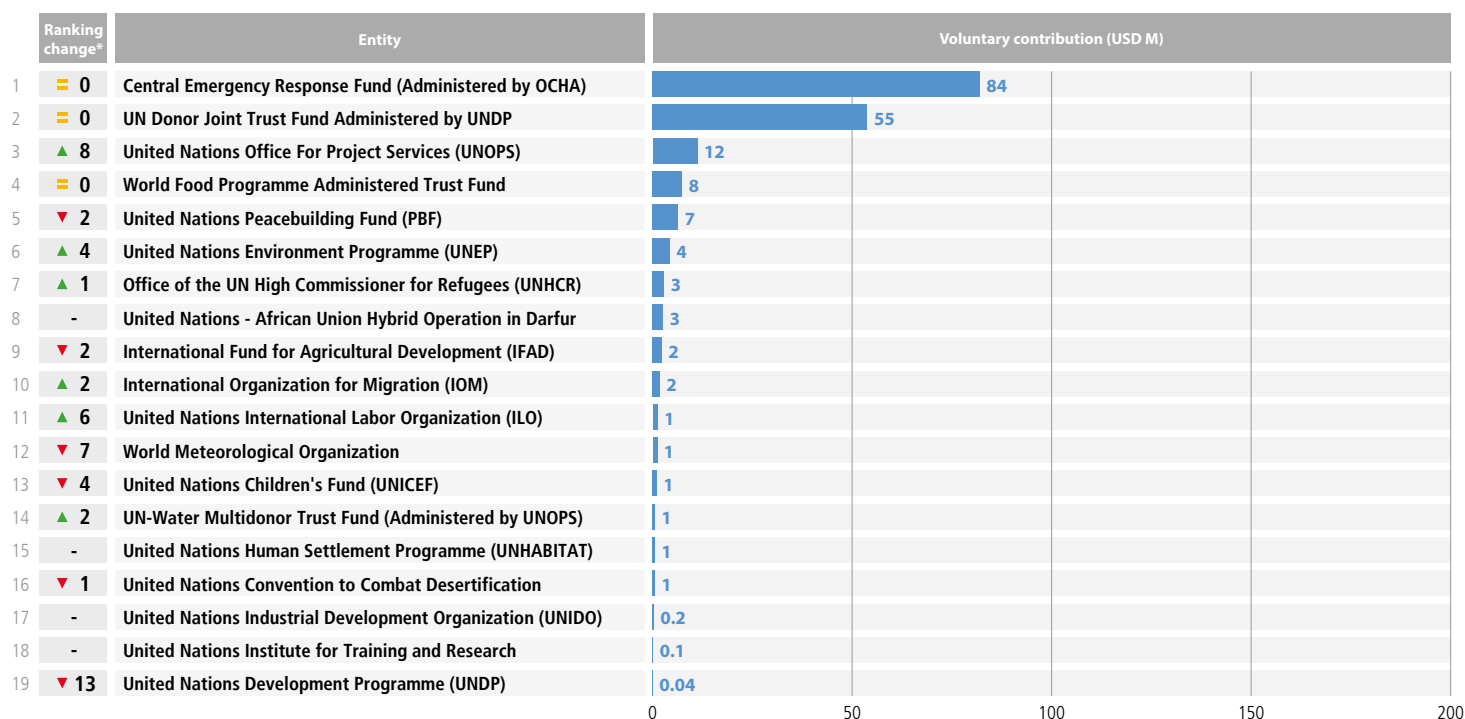
	Ranking change*	Member	Contributions (USD M)	Voluntary contribution
1	0	European Union	330	
2	0	United States of America	131	
3	▲ 34	Saudi Arabia	93	
4	▲ 7	Germany	45	
5	▲ 2	Netherlands	37	
6	0	Japan	33	
7	▼ 4	Sweden	29	
8	▼ 4	United Kingdom	28	
9	▲ 3	Colombia	25	
10	▲ 3	Republic of Korea	21	
11	▼ 1	Italy	18	
12	▼ 7	Norway	12	
13	▲ 5	Pakistan	11	
14	▲ 3	Switzerland	11	
15	▲ 34	Mozambique	10	
16	▲ 34	Tunisia	10	
17	▲ 3	Belgium	7	
18	-	Angola	6	
19	▲ 3	Kuwait	5	
20	▲ 23	Nepal	5	
21	▼ 2	France	4	
22	▲ 25	Congo	3	
23	▲ 3	Turkey	3	
24	▲ 1	Azerbaijan	3	
25	-	Bangladesh	3	
26	▲ 7	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	3	
27	▼ 12	China	3	
28	-	Ireland	3	
29	▼ 15	Mexico	3	
30	-	United Arab Emirates	3	
31	▼ 7	Denmark	2	
32	-	Bahrain	2	
33	-	Gabon	2	
34	▼ 7	Spain	2	
35	▼ 26	Canada	2	
36	-	Zambia	2	
37	-	Rwanda	2	
38	-	Panama	1	
39	▼ 31	Brazil	1	
40	-	Côte d'Ivoire	1	
41	▲ 11	India	1	
42	-	Uruguay	1	
43	-	Iceland	1	
44	-	Libya	1	
45	▼ 14	Austria	1	
46	-	Grenada	1	
47	-	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	
48	-	Monaco	1	
49	▼ 19	Niger	1	
50	-	Cameroon	0.4	

*Ranking change between 2018 and 2019

Top voluntary contributions from institutional entities in 2019



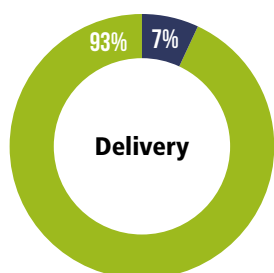
Top voluntary contributions from United Nations entities in 2019



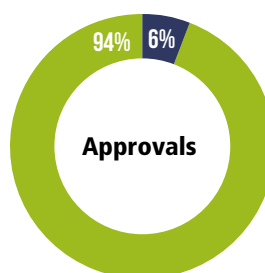
* Ranking change between 2018 and 2019

From resource mobilization to project implementation

FAO utilized the assessed and voluntary contributions to finance, approve and deliver projects that work toward the SDGs

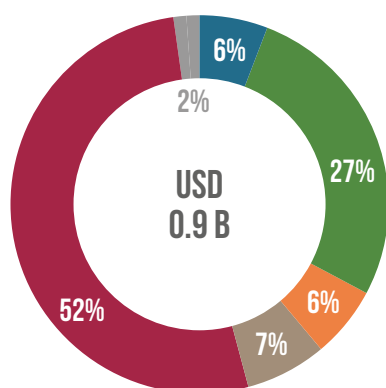


In 2019, FAO's project delivery¹ amounted to **USD 971 million**, thanks to the total contributions provided by its Members and partners, of which **93 percent** was funded through **voluntary contributions**.

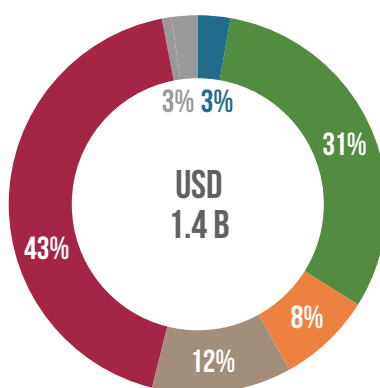


FAO ensured the continuity of its activities by facilitating the approval of necessary resources, for both ongoing projects that required additional funds for 2019 or subsequent project phases, and new projects to be implemented in the coming years. In 2019, FAO's project approvals² amounted to **USD 1.4 billion**, of which 94 percent was channeled through **voluntary contributions**.

Delivery by Strategic Objectives

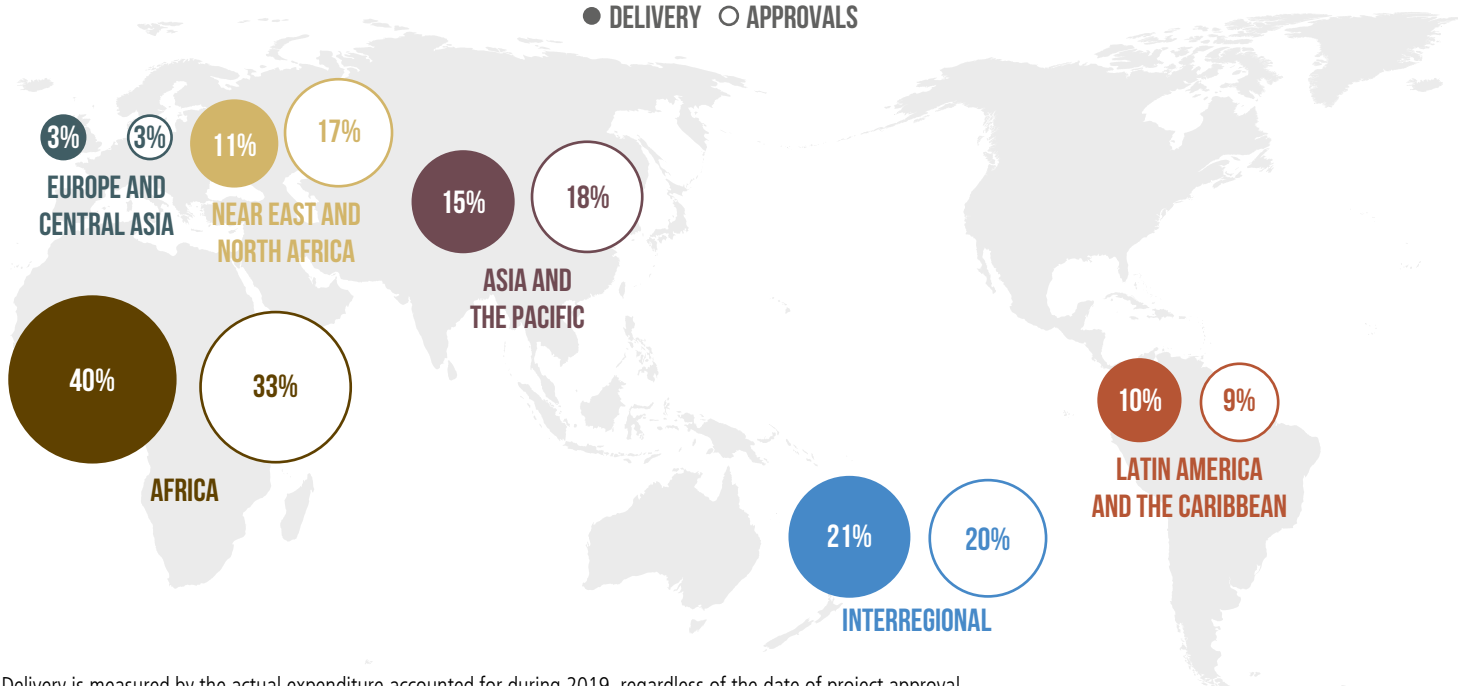


Approvals by Strategic Objectives



- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises
- Other

Share by region
● DELIVERY ○ APPROVALS



¹ Delivery is measured by the actual expenditure accounted for during 2019, regardless of the date of project approval.

² According to the FAO official methodology determined by the Governing Bodies, voluntary contributions (approvals), which can include new project funding or project revisions, are counted at the time the programmes/projects are declared operationally active.

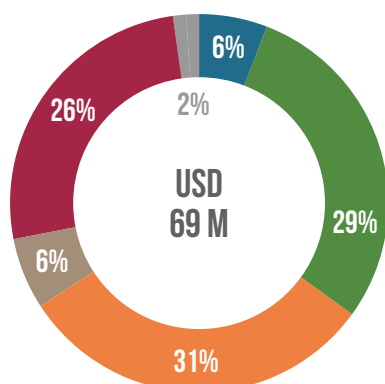
Unilateral trust funds

Voluntary contributions and more flexible resources allow FAO to increase and leverage its work.

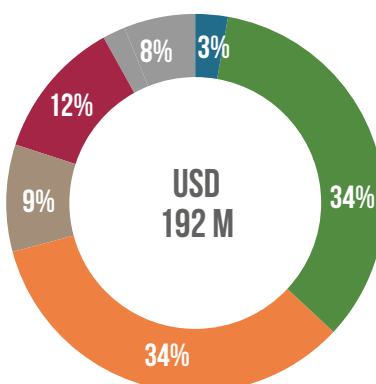
A unilateral trust fund (UTF) is a government-financed funding modality for programmes or projects implemented in the same country. Unilateral resource partners fund projects through their own national resources or from loans, credits and grants through international financial institutions (IFIs). FAO adds value by providing technical expertise and supporting national implementation and ownership.

In 2019, the UTF-financed project approvals amounted to USD 192 million across 58 projects, while USD 69 million was delivered across 138 projects.

Delivery¹ by Strategic Objectives



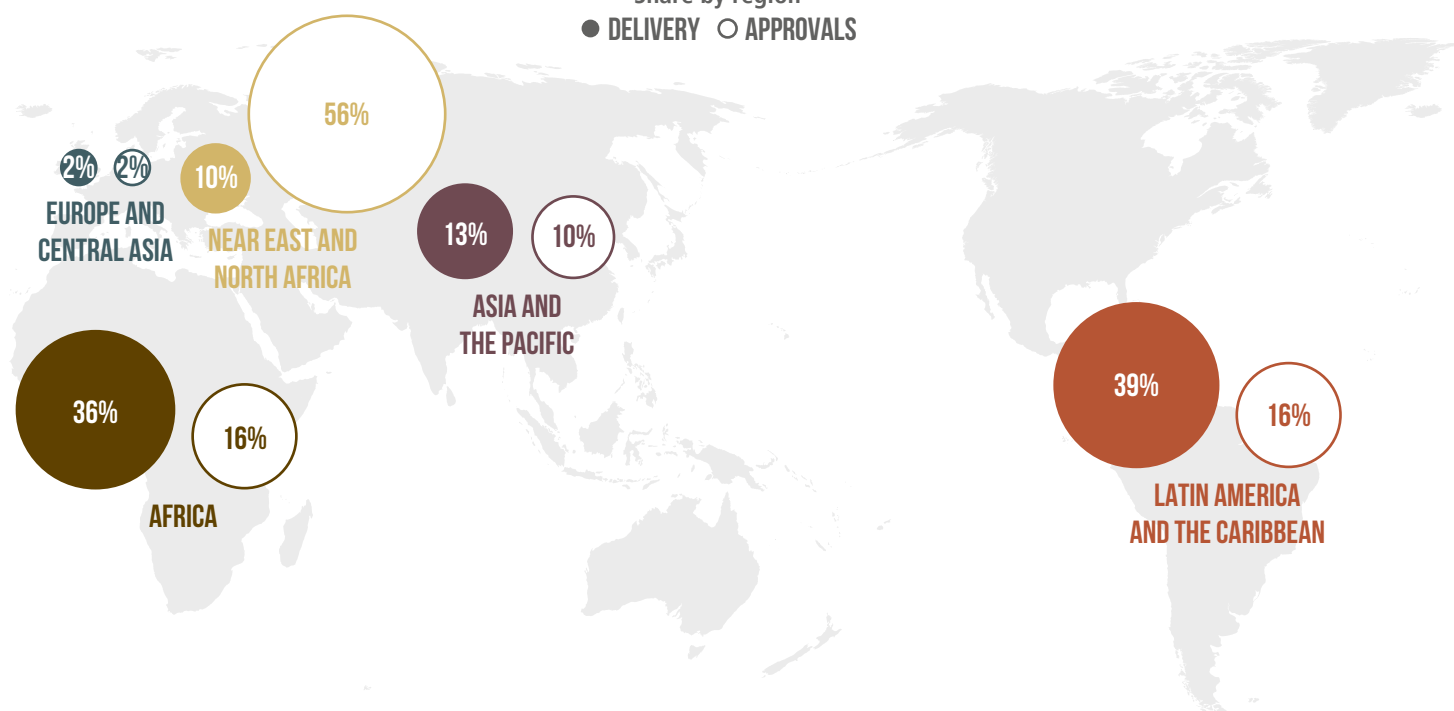
Approvals² by Strategic Objectives



- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises
- Other

Share by region

● DELIVERY ○ APPROVALS



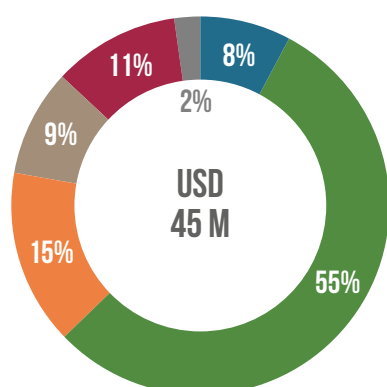
Multilateral trust funds

These funds are key to balance FAO's support and deliver programmes and projects with a global and interregional scope.

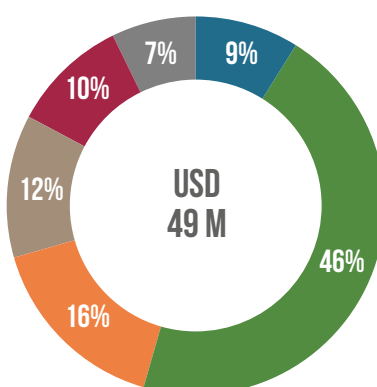
Multilateral trust fund projects or programmes are funded by more than one resource partner that pool their funds to achieve a common set of agreed upon results. Resource partners channel voluntary contributions through multilateral trust funds for specific development projects or programmes.

In 2019, the multilaterally financed project approvals amounted to USD 49 million across 55 projects, while USD 45 million was delivered across 110 projects.

Delivery¹ by Strategic Objectives



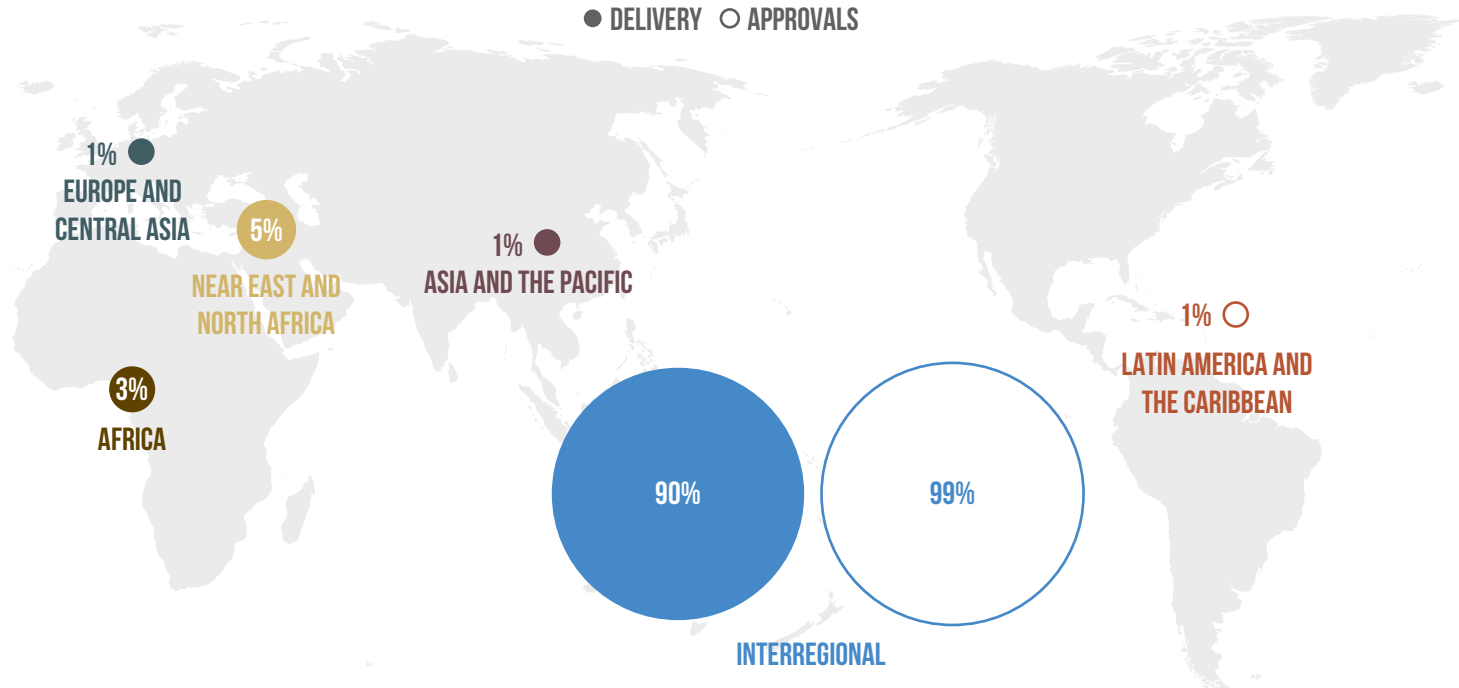
Approvals² by Strategic Objectives



- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises
- Other

Share by region

● DELIVERY ○ APPROVALS



¹ Refers to the total expenditure of programmes/projects implemented during 2019, and channeled through voluntary contributions.

² According to the FAO official methodology determined by the Governing Bodies, voluntary contributions (approvals), which can include new project funding or project revisions, are counted at the time the programmes/projects are declared operationally active.

Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism

The Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM) is FAO's global instrument for receiving, managing and delivering pooled flexible funds.

Since it was established a decade ago, the FMM has proven to be a valuable mechanism in the fight against the world's complex and major challenges – ranging from hunger and poverty to climate change. Throughout its first two phases (2010–13 and 2014–17), the flexibility of pooled and less-earmarked funding that the FMM has afforded FAO has made it possible to deliver substantial results at the country level, while also making the Organization better equipped to support the SDGs.

The FMM has evolved in tandem with broader FAO reforms over the years. As part of this evolution, it witnessed a tremendous transformation in 2018–19. Through its current phase (2018–21), the FMM has seen important progress in the streamlining of its governance arrangement, characterized by a more structured decision-making process, a developed and robust theory of change and results framework, a dedicated project cycle and improved reporting procedures, a defined clear prioritization criteria, and an applied programmatic framework for allocating resources. As such, its resource mobilization and operational modalities have been redesigned and transformed into a successful funding model to mobilize a greater volume of flexible resources.

In 2019, new financial contributions for the current phase totaled USD 41 million from both new and longstanding resource partners.



+3 new resource partners
joined the FMM membership in 2019:
France, Italy and Norway

FMM resource partners

- **Belgium**
(multi-year contribution from 2013 to 2020)
- **Flanders Cooperation**
(multi-year contribution from 2011 to 2013 and from 2019 to 2021)
- **France**
(joined in 2019)
- **Italy**
(joined in 2019)
- **Netherlands**
(multi-year contribution from 2010 through 2014-17)
- **Norway**
(joined in 2019, with multiyear contribution from 2019 to 2021)
- **Sweden**
(multi-year contribution from 2010 to 2021)
- **Switzerland**
(annual contributions in 2016, 2019 and 2020)

FMM priority programmes

1. Evidence-based policy, global instruments and knowledge products
2. Resilience and sustainable food systems
3. Migration and fragility
4. Generational gaps, women empowerment and decent rural employment
5. Climate action in agriculture
6. Oceans and Blue Growth

Highlights in 2019

- With the FMM's strategic shifts together with its concrete results on the ground, the mechanism has continued to attract increased support. Top multi-year contributors for the current phase (2018-21) include Belgium, Flanders, Norway and Sweden.
- Two resource partner consultations held at FAO headquarters provided a platform for showcasing the FMM's results and garnering feedback from resource partners on strategic and operational topics of interest. Attended by FAO Director-General and both existing and potential resource partners, the consultations exemplified FAO's renewed efforts to make the FMM more visible and responsive to the needs and challenges of the 2030 Agenda.
- The FMM intensified efforts towards enhanced marketing and more proactive communication disseminated through diversified platforms such as the new FMM website and FAO social media channels.

Africa Solidarity Trust Fund

The Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) is one of the most successful stories of Africa-led initiatives and partnerships in FAO. It demonstrates what strong African leadership, political will, commitment and solidarity can achieve.

Launched in 2012, the ASTF provides catalytic and flexible funding to Africa-to-Africa initiatives on sustainable agriculture and food systems at regional and country level. Thanks to significant contributions from Angola and Equatorial Guinea, the ASTF proved its success rating as an innovative African-led instrument for sustainable development during its first phase (2013-18), with the implementation of 18 projects in 41 African countries.



+4 new resource partners

joined the second phase of the ASTF:
China, Eswatini, France and Zimbabwe

Harnessing home-grown knowledge, technology and good practices for food and nutrition security is at the core of this initiative. Through its new phase, the ASTF seeks to expand its reach through three key components: i) accelerated and targeted action to support SDG implementation at country level, ii) strengthened cooperation to harness intra-Africa development solutions and foster knowledge generation among Africa's centres of excellence, and iii) innovative financial modalities for African countries from partners of Africa.

ASTF resource partners

- **Angola**
(joined in 2012)
- **China**
(new member)
- **Equatorial Guinea**
(joined in 2012)
- **Eswatini**
(new member)
- **France**
(new member)
- **Zimbabwe**
(new member)

ASTF thematic focus

- Gender and women empowerment
- Youth employment
- Climate change
- Value chains and markets
- Food safety, security and nutrition
- Sustainable food productivity
- Resilience of livelihoods

Highlights in 2019

- The ASTF Round Table of Contributors took place on 11 June 2019 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, bringing together heads of states and government, ministers and other representatives of the development community to recapitalize the Fund and launch a more ambitious second phase. At the Round Table, pledges amounting to USD 25 million were received, including from Angola (USD 10 million), China (USD 2.6 million), Equatorial Guinea (USD 10 million), Eswatini (USD 100 000), France (EUR 2 million) and Zimbabwe (USD 100 000).
- During the ASTF Steering Committee, Angola offered to host the second ASTF Round Table of Contributors in Luanda in 2020.
- In order to increase the overall visibility of ASTF impact, outreach and marketing campaigns – indispensable for attracting new resource partners and central to the Fund's comprehensive resource mobilization roadmap – were established.

Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities

During a humanitarian crisis, many productive assets such as seeds, livestock and fishing gear are lost. FAO's top priority is to help affected farming families produce their own food and to rebuild their lives and livelihoods as quickly as possible while strengthening their resilience.

The Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) was established in 2004 to enable FAO to take rapid and effective action in response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies.

SFERA has three components:

1

A working capital component to advance funds once a resource partner's commitment is secured toward the immediate procurement of inputs to protect livelihoods, restart agricultural activities or contribute to an immediate response to a crisis.

2

A revolving fund component to support FAO's involvement in needs assessment and programme development, early establishment and reinforcement of emergency country team capacities and large-scale (level 3) emergency preparedness and response activities.

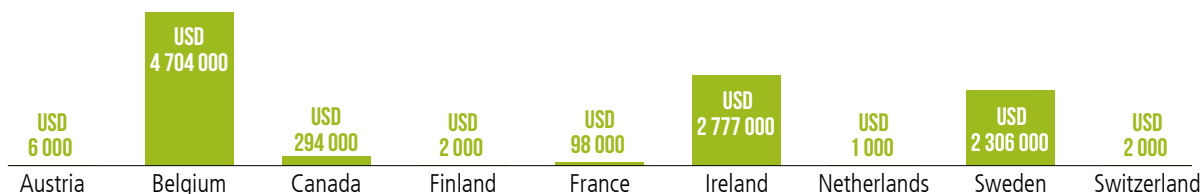
3

A programme component to support a programme framework for large-scale emergencies or to strategically complement ongoing programmes through the Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity window, as well as early actions triggered by corporate early warnings.

Contributing to SFERA renders FAO the means to provide rapid, high-impact emergency assistance to the most vulnerable populations affected by crisis and disaster. It enables FAO to be quicker and more flexible in its response and puts the Organization in a position to quickly upscale its operational capacities at times when needs increase rapidly and exponentially after a disaster.

**From its inception in 2004, SFERA received a total of USD 249 million.
In 2019, the total contributions to SFERA amounted to USD 18.7 million.**

SFERA resource partners in 2019:



Highlights in 2019:

- In **South Sudan**, protracted crisis continued to drive humanitarian needs, with levels of severe food insecurity reaching alarming levels. SFERA enabled FAO to rapidly improve food production by providing livelihood inputs; increase consumption of nutritious, vitamin-rich vegetables; safeguard livestock assets through large-scale vaccination and treatment campaigns, and capacity building; and support timely access to food security information to inform decision-making through data collection, monitoring and analysis.
- In **Afghanistan**, SFERA funding facilitated FAO's robust response to the immense humanitarian need driven by drought and conflict. FAO rapidly distributed emergency wheat production kits to vulnerable seed-insecure people, and trained farmers on good wheat cultivation practices to increase their production. The humanitarian response was also strengthened at national and subnational levels through needs analyses and improved efficiency of the information management system.
- In **Mozambique**, two large-scale tropical storms exacerbated the humanitarian situation in 2019. SFERA funding enabled FAO to quickly procure and distribute maize and bean seeds and agricultural hand tools, empowering 17 690 households to restore their livelihoods. FAO's intervention contributed to the enhancement of the food security and nutrition of cyclone-affected populations.
- Three projects funded through SFERA in **Malawi**, **Madagascar** and **Zimbabwe** helped to anticipate and mitigate the impact of El Niño-driven drought on the agricultural livelihoods and assets of the most vulnerable households. FAO targeted over 12 000 households in the three countries through a series of carefully tailored early actions that included the diversification of crop production; the distribution of agricultural tools and products, including poultry, as well as cash to support the vaccination of livestock; and capacity building on climate smart agriculture, water conservation and harvest/post-harvest techniques.
- The spread of the fall armyworm posed a serious threat to agricultural livelihoods and food security in East Africa in 2019. SFERA funding enabled FAO to rapidly respond to the spread of the pest in **Ethiopia** and **Kenya** by training farmers on biological and mechanical controls through farmer field schools.

Global Environment Facility

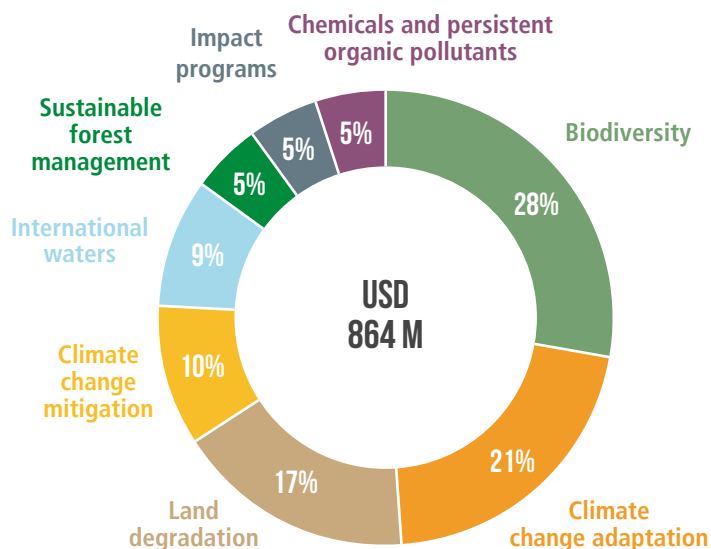
To meet the challenges of changing climatic conditions, FAO aligns its efforts with the dynamics of the international climate finance and partners with the major global funds.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 in order to tackle the most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided over USD 19 billion in grants and has mobilized an additional USD 100 billion for the co-financing of more than 4 700 projects in 170 countries.

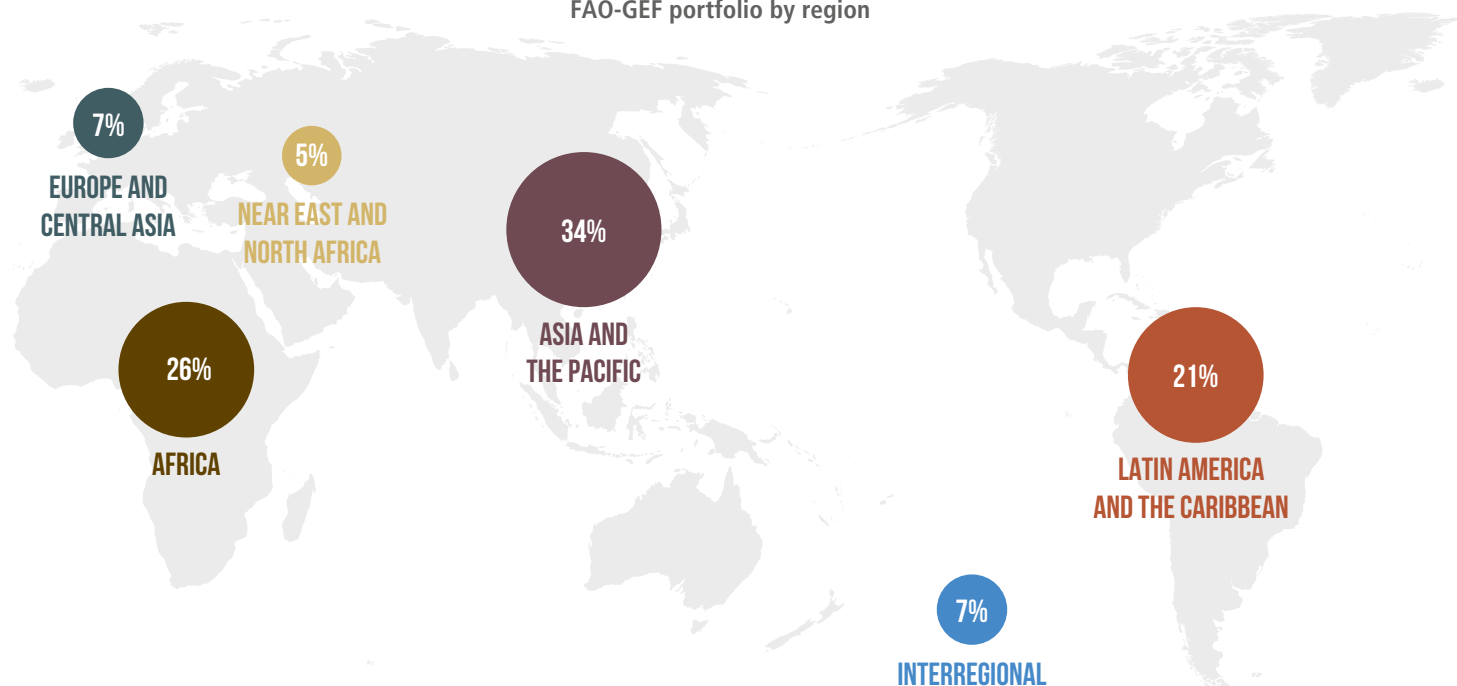
FAO and the GEF have strengthened their partnership over the last two decades, addressing the critical nexus between agriculture and the environment. Today, the GEF is FAO's third largest donor in voluntary contributions, working together to reduce the negative impacts of producing food and fibre and their value chains on natural resources and the environment.

To date, FAO has mobilized almost USD 940 million (including USD 76 million in closed projects) of grant funding from the GEF, with currently USD 864 million dedicated to approved concepts and operationally active projects (191 in total) across more than 130 countries.

FAO-GEF portfolio by focal area



FAO-GEF portfolio by region



The seventh replenishment phase of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-7) officially started in June 2018 and has since seen the approval of three work programmes through three semi-annual GEF Council meetings. Today, less than half way through GEF-7, FAO has already mobilized USD 253 million, which exceeds the total value of mobilized resources under GEF-6 (USD 246 million).

Green Climate Fund

FAO and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) partnership gains momentum with results achieved in 2019.

The GCF, the main global fund to finance actions to fight climate change, provides support to developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The GCF aims to promote the paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways, in the context of sustainable development.

The partnership between the FAO and the GCF has been gaining momentum over the last two years, with FAO's GCF project portfolio achieving accelerated growth. Recipient countries are increasingly seeking out climate finance to develop their capacity for long-term strategic development, and FAO is playing an increasingly larger role in helping countries to mobilize and utilize large flows of climate finance.

To date, the total value of FAO's GCF portfolio – considering both FAO-led funding proposals and Readiness and Preparatory Programmes – amounts to USD 442 million – of which USD 229 million is GCF grant financed.



The number of FAO-led funding proposals approved by GCF rose from **two in 2018** to **six in 2019**

The FAO-led projects work to:

- improve the resilience of vulnerable family farmers to climate change through an integrated landscape approach in El Salvador (RECLIMA);
- combat deforestation and boost farmers' resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change in Paraguay (PROEZA);
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Chile through results-based payments;
- promote carbon sequestration through climate investment in forests and rangelands in Kyrgyzstan;
- mainstream climate resilience into vulnerable ecosystems in Nepal; and
- enhance the climate resilience of farmers in Pakistan's Indus Basin.

Highlights in 2019:

- In 2019, FAO was the first ever GCF accredited entity who signed the Funded Activity Agreement with GCF for the Pakistan Funding Proposal within 24 hours after Board approval.
- FAO's role as a GCF Readiness delivery partner has grown considerably, with Member States increasingly requesting the Organization's support to access funding for adaptation planning through the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. Fifteen FAO-led Readiness proposals were approved in 2019, compared to eight in 2018, and three in 2017.

Coverage of the Readiness proposals approved



Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

FAO supports countries in their efforts to stop deforestation and forest degradation, while fostering collaborative approaches to address the challenge of climate change.

The Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) initiative incentivizes developing countries to reduce carbon emissions linked to deforestation and forest degradation, and to promote forest conservation and the sustainable management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, while strengthening local livelihoods and ecosystem services. Countries that demonstrate REDD+ results may access results-based payments (RBPs) and utilize the funds to contribute further to the mitigation of climate change within the context of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

FAO's technical assistance in the forestry and land use sectors is key to building national institutional capacity for forest monitoring, the measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) of REDD+ results, and assisting developing countries in designing and implementing REDD+ strategies, actions and investment plans.



By 2019, FAO had supported over **75 percent** of the 39 countries that submitted forest reference emission levels to the UNFCCC



Of the 50 REDD+ MRV submissions to UNFCCC, **70 percent** have received direct support from FAO, while many have also used FAO's Open Foris platform autonomously

FAO provides solid technical support to countries aiming to achieve their nationally determined contributions (NDC) commitments in the agriculture, forest and other land use sectors. REDD+ requires a global approach that spans across borders and countries. FAO supports countries in their efforts to achieve REDD+ results, and works on a wide range of global, regional and country initiatives and with multiple resource partners, including the UN-REDD Programme, the Central African Forest Initiative, the World Bank, GCF and the GEF, as well as Denmark, the European Union (EU), Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain and Sweden.

The **UN-REDD Programme**, an inter-agency UN flagship partnership, launched in 2008, builds on the comparative advantages of FAO, UNDP and UNEP in order to operate as a global knowledge and support hub for solutions to deforestation and forest degradation. For FAO, the Programme has been catalytic in utilizing an annual delivery budget of USD 3 million to mobilize a current portfolio of over USD 140 million.

In 2019, FAO supported four countries through REDD+ in RBPs, while 40 countries were further supported to develop national forest monitoring systems for REDD+. FAO is also assisting 30 countries in the planning and implementation of the REDD+ mitigation actions, which are reflected in their REDD+ strategies and NDCs.

In 2019, the resources delivered reached USD 26.9 million, while new approvals reached USD 34 million, or USD 140 million, including the recently approved GCF projects in Chile and Nepal.

Highlights in 2019

- In **Chile**, the GCF approved an FAO-supported **USD 63 million** REDD+ RBP funding proposal for **18.4 million tonnes (CO₂eq) in emission reductions** achieved during 2014–16. The proceeds will be invested in the restoration and conservation of native forests and to enhance livelihoods in some of the country's most vulnerable communities and areas.
- In **West Africa**, FAO works with Sweden and the Economic Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS) to mobilize political, institutional, financial and technical support in order to address transboundary forest issues across **15 West African countries**.
- In **Honduras**, FAO continues to work with **women, as well as rural and indigenous youth**, to promote the conservation and responsible use of forests by enhancing productive, entrepreneurial and technical capacities. The project aims to reduce poverty in **2 000 families**.
- In the **Lao People's Democratic Republic** and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo's** Equateur province, FAO strengthens links between forestry and agriculture to support **participatory and inclusive integrated landscape planning**.

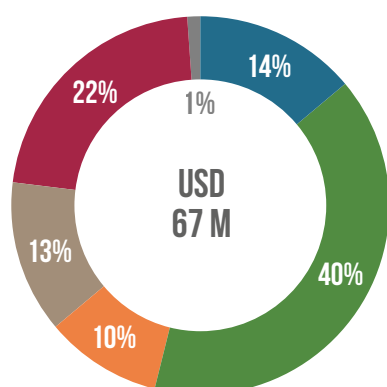
Technical Cooperation Programme

The Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) facilitates the delivery of FAO expertise, as well as specifically needed technical expertise to Members through targeted and catalytic short-term projects.

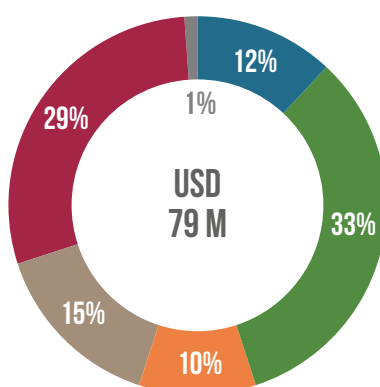
The TCP is part of FAO's Regular Programme. Its purpose is to help countries make lasting impacts in improving national food security and alleviating poverty. TCP projects assist in solving technical problems relating to crop production, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, nutrition, food safety, rural development and other areas identified in national Country Programming Frameworks.

In 2019, the TCP delivered USD 67 million across 998 projects, while USD 79 million was approved for a total of 458 projects.

Delivery¹ by Strategic Objectives



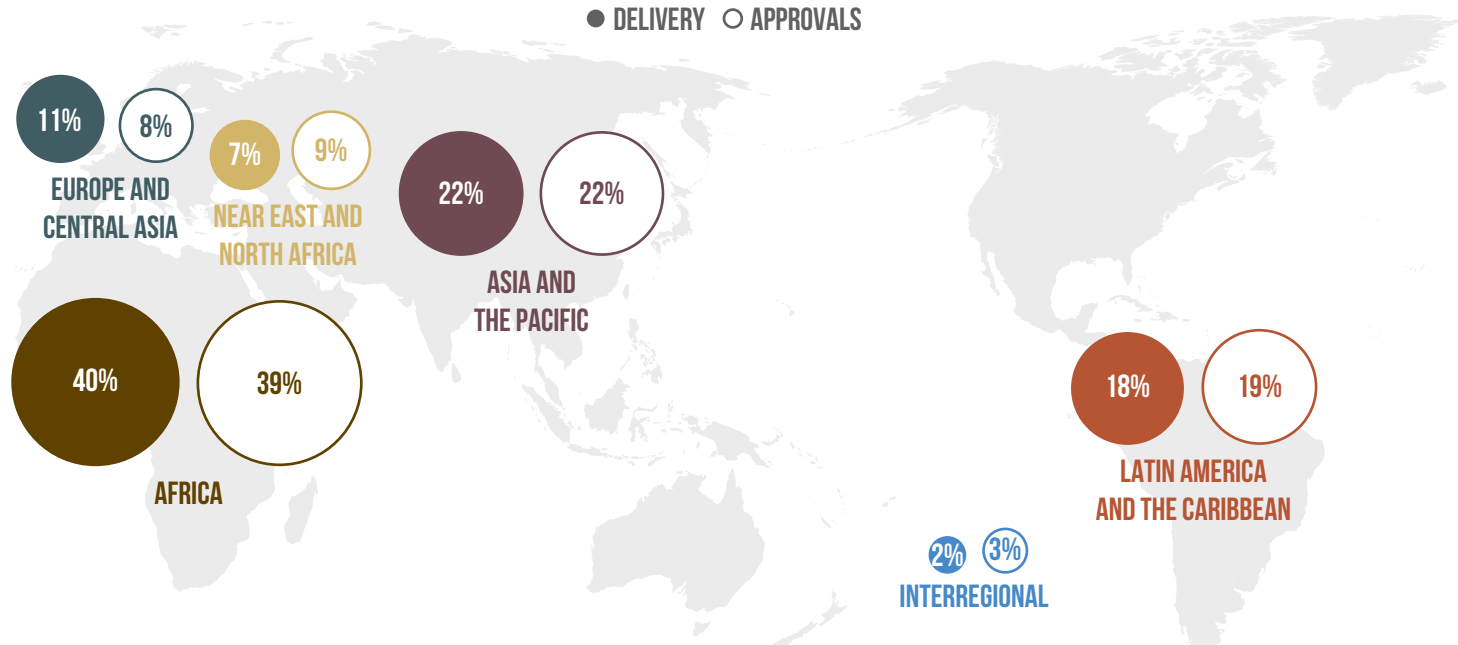
Approvals² by Strategic Objectives



- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises
- Other

Share by region

● DELIVERY ○ APPROVALS



¹ Refers to the total expenditure of programmes/projects implemented during 2019 and channeled through assessed contributions.

² According to the FAO official methodology determined by the Governing Bodies, voluntary contributions (approvals), which can include new project funding or project revisions, are counted at the time the programmes/projects are declared operationally active.

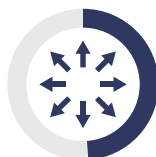
Human resources

An important part of the value added by FAO is its human resources, which bring experience, technical expertise and a dedication for development.

FAO has a wide range of technical expertise and skills to help countries and communities deal with the challenges of development. Using and sharing expertise through practical projects is essential for combating hunger worldwide.



FAO's global workforce is comprised of over **12 500 people** across **640 locations***



About **49 %** of staff are in the **field**

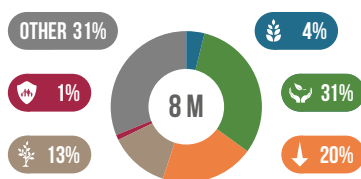


53% of staff are **women** and 47% are men

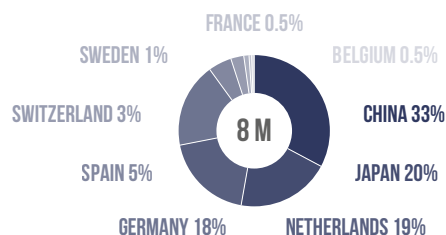
The FAO Associate Professional Officer (APO) Programme is a unique mechanism for resource partners to sponsor learning opportunities for young talent by exposing them to an international environment and cooperation towards Zero Hunger. Since its launch in 1954, the FAO APO Programme has provided nationals of many different countries with hands-on professional experience in various duty stations, allowing them to apply their academic and professional specialization under the supervision of experienced FAO staff. Resource partners provide funding for their own nationals, while some others also fund participants from a third country.



In 2019, **43 APOs** from **10 countries** worked at **9 duty stations**



2019 approvals by Strategic Objectives



2019 approvals by resource partner

The FAO Global Internship, Volunteers and Fellows (IVF) Programme offers learning and professional growth opportunities for students, recent graduates, experts and researchers, while equipping the Organization with valuable capabilities. In 2019, FAO continued to broaden its partnerships with new institutional sponsors to promote the professional involvement of youth with FAO to work towards achieving a Zero Hunger world. The Organization continues to conduct outreach activities and strategic partnership building to reinforce a more cohesive and global IVF Programme.



In 2019, the IVF counted with **397 participants** from **84 member states** in **72 duty stations**



21 new agreements signed with sponsoring partners in 2019



33% of participants were **externally funded** in 2019

* Work locations include all where staff and non-staff human resources are located, comprising those locations where employees are working from home.

3. PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIANCES

Achieving the SDGs and a Zero Hunger world requires a concerted global effort which is beyond the scope of any individual region, country or organization on its own. It demands synergistic action through both established and developing partnerships, which underlines a willingness to come together across borders and across sectors.



United Nations Rome-based agencies

The mandates of FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) complement one another in their contribution towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



Investing in rural people



**World Food
Programme**

FAO, IFAD and WFP responded to the call for partnerships for the realization of SDG2 and the broader 2030 Agenda. In 2018, the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which committed each agency to utilizing their unique competencies and strengths towards collective outcomes and a common goal. In this way, the comparative advantages of each agency could be capitalized on over multi-year timeframes.

At the May 2019 Senior Consultative Group (SCG) meeting, the SCG collectively endorsed the joint RBA Action Plan, which operationalizes the main provisions of the MoU for 2019-2020. The RBAs Action Plan is a management working document to guide, monitor and further strengthen collaboration among the agencies towards greater effectiveness and impact.

In 2019, the RBAs continued to engage in coordinated actions at country, regional and global levels to advance new strategies, programmes and activities that build on good practices, lessons learned, innovative solutions and efficiency, as a means for enhanced support to member nations and better results on the ground.



The RBAs, together with the International Poverty Reduction Centre of China and the China Internet Information Centre, co-organized the third annual **International**

Seminars on Global Poverty Reduction Partnerships. The Rome edition (15 May 2019) highlighted the role of technological innovations in promoting inclusive development, food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, gender equality and rural poverty reduction, while the Beijing edition (16 October 2019) emphasized the importance of knowledge sharing through South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) around social protection for smallholder farmers' inclusion. In addition, a first Africa edition took place on 29 November 2019 in Kampala, Uganda, where the three RBAs organized and hosted a parallel session under the annual Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)–Poverty Reduction and Development Conference.



As part of the global effort to achieve the SDGs, FAO and IFAD launched the **UN Decade of Family Farming (UNOFF)**

2019–2028 to bolster support for family farmers. The Decade, and its accompanying Global Action Plan, aim to create an enabling environment that strengthens the position of family farmers and maximizes their contribution to food security and nutrition, as well as to a healthy, resilient and sustainable future. The global launch of the UNOFF in May was attended by 448 participants, including 216 family farmers, representatives from civil society, academia and the private sector, and 232 delegates from 113 countries. A regional launch of the initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean was organized on 25–27 October in the Dominican Republic, where stakeholders identified opportunities to formulate and promote collective and coherent actions at the regional level. FAO seeks to improve the sector's access to resources, strengthen producer organizations, promote the participation of rural communities in development strategies and create synergies that improve the socio-economic conditions of family farmers and their communities worldwide.



The **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. In 2019, the RBAs continued to provide technical expertise, as well as financial and strategic support, to the CFS Secretariat and its various workstreams, and for the promotion of CFS policy products, which serve as instruments for accelerating progress towards the SDGs. The 6th Plenary Session of the CFS, "Accelerating progress on SDG2 to achieve all the SDGs," took place on 14–18 October 2019 in Rome, reaching a record of 51 670 attendees. The CFS approved its strategic programme of work for 2020–23, including thematic workstreams on food systems and nutrition; agroecological and other innovative approaches; gender equality and women's empowerment; youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems; data collection and analysis tools; and reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition.




In 2019, over 400 events and activities in around 150 countries across the world – representing a 25 percent increase compared to 2018 – were organized to reinforce the **World Food Day (WFD)** brand and promote both awareness of and action for those who suffer from hunger, and the need to ensure healthy diets for all. As part of the 2019 WFD celebrations on 16 October, the event "For a world free from hunger – our actions are our future" took place at the UN University in Tokyo. The event was co-organized by FAO, IFAD, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, with the official patronage of the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It attracted more than 130 people, including representatives from the Government, the private sector, research organizations and universities, civil society and youth, and contributed to the discussions over food security and nutrition issues around the world, including food loss and waste, while strengthening RBA collaboration.


Other United Nations agencies





FAO partners with other agencies of the UN system to deliver results as one.


In 2018, following the pledge to leave no one behind and recognizing that the 2030 Agenda is a key driver for change, the UN Secretary-General put forward an ambitious reform agenda. The agenda encompasses reform of the UN peace and security architecture, its management and budgetary set-up, as well as its sustainable development operations. The main product of the reform is the design of a more effective, cohesive and accountable UN development system that is both results-oriented and succeeds in helping countries around the world attain the SDGs. Key to this effort is the strengthening of partnerships to enhance UN system-wide joint work that is in line with governments' development priorities and strategies.

 FAO and the **World Health Organization (WHO)** co-lead the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016–25. The initiative supports countries to strengthen collaboration on nutrition by establishing Action Networks, which are informal coalitions of countries with global or regional scope, aimed at accelerating and aligning efforts around action areas of the Nutrition Decade Work Programme. In 2019, the Networks allowed countries to exchange knowledge and good practices, illustrate successes and challenges, and provide mutual support to accelerate progress in specific areas within the greater context of improving food systems, diets and nutrition for all through policies and legislation. FAO and WHO convened in July 2019 a technical consultation on sustainable healthy diets that support reaching goals of health and well-being while also considering the evidence about economic, social, and environmental sustainability. The consultation resulted in guiding principles of sustainable healthy diets that will guide action under the Nutrition Decade and for achieving the SDGs.

 In 2015, the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** initiated a coordinated research project entitled “Efficient Screening Techniques to Identify Mutants with Disease Resistance for Coffee and Banana.” In the case of banana, the initiative addresses the imminent threat of the banana-killing fungus *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense*, known as Tropical Race 4 (TR4). With support from previous FAO work, effective methods are being applied to the production TR4-resistant bananas. New mutation induction and screening techniques for TR4 resistance are being developed, while China has produced candidate TR4-resistant, and Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia and the Philippines have developed candidate TR4-tolerant mutant lines. In 2020, 12 protocols and methods will be published in an open-access book for wider dissemination to the FAO and IAEA Member States. Other initiatives between these organizations enhanced local capacities for the detection, surveillance and suppression of fruit fly species – an important pest threat to the horticultural industry in Africa and elsewhere. In 2019, FAO and the IAEA provided advice to Mauritius in the design and establishment of a fruit fly mass rearing facility and helped the country procure and install a Cobalt-60 irradiator to sterilize flies. A pest risk analysis of fruit flies was also developed for the Niger.

 As global trade and travel expands, zoonotic diseases, some of which have pandemic threat potential, are of worldwide importance to human and animal health. The emergence of pandemics such as COVID19 was foreseen by work in FAO, but to address these threats, collaboration, coordination, communication and concerted action between different sectors are required, following the multisectoral One Health approach. FAO works closely with **WHO** and the **World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)** to promote cross-sectoral collaboration in order to confront zoonoses and other public health threats (including antimicrobial resistance), both emerging and existing, at the human–animal–ecosystem interface, as well as to provide guidance on how to limit risks. In March 2019, the tripartite organizations launched a guide, entitled “Taking a Multisectoral, One Health Approach: a Tripartite Guide to Addressing Zoonotic Diseases in Countries”, to strengthen national capacities in the fight against global health threats, complementing the global Tripartite early warning system and Emergency Management Centre (EMC) for coordinated response to major zoonotic and animal health events threatening food security, animal and human health.

 In 2018, the EU and FAO signed a Partnership Programme to operationalize the Global Network Against Food Crises. The network seeks to address food crises in a sustainable manner and is expected to have a catalytic effect on the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. Thanks to the strengthened engagement between FAO, **WFP**, the **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** and the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** in terms of anticipatory action, the African Union and other stakeholders in resilience measurement, the programme has delivered technical assistance on food security, resilience and risk analysis to those most in need. As of 2019, the programme has supported 19 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analyses and 18 trainings covering 17 countries, in addition to Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis capacity building activities in six countries. The programme also developed a data facility in Ethiopia to carry out the first IPC analysis.

 The Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) programme, also known as anticipatory action (AA) has similarly grown in 2019. At global level, the initiative has advocated strongly for collaboration between partners in this area and instrumental to establish the Early Action Focus Task Force, alongside **WFP**, the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**, the **Start Network** and **OCHA**. In addition, the programme has supported CERF to pilot EWEA/AA and launched the first pilot in Somalia. At the country level, an EWEA/AA system was established in Pakistan in early 2019.



On 26 November 2019 in Cairo, Egypt, FAO, in collaboration with the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** and **UN-Habitat**, organized a Regional Workshop on Strengthening Migration Governance across the Rural–Urban Continuum. The three-day workshop fostered policy dialogue across countries in the Middle East and North Africa region in order to develop policies that address the adverse drivers of migration through sustainable and inclusive agricultural transformation. It further provided a platform for countries to highlight their best practices and the efforts deployed to enhance migration management to and from rural areas at the local level.

The complexity of the Syrian crisis is placing unprecedented pressure on food systems and socio-economic development in Turkey, with Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTPs) remaining dependent on international humanitarian assistance despite investments by the Government of Turkey. FAO and the **UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)** implemented three projects since 2017 to improve the skills of SuTPs and the host communities through a vocational training programme. The programme built the resilience of the target groups by diversifying livelihoods and enhancing job opportunities in the food, agriculture and livestock sectors. It also fostered good relations and reinforced social cohesion between the two communities, contributing to social stability in the region.

In August 2019 at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, FAO, the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** and the African Union, together with other partners, launched the Flagship Initiative "Opportunities for Youth in Africa: Accelerating Jobs Creation in Agriculture and Agribusiness". The initiative aims to enhance the business ecosystem by creating more jobs and opportunities for African youth. Responsible agricultural investment through public–private partnerships in the development of rural areas in order to reduce urban–rural disparity is fundamental to the initiative.

Borno State, in the northeast of Nigeria, has been transformed into a zone of displacement, hazards and food insecurity because of escalating levels of violence. Limited access to water and poor hygiene have further threatened food and nutrition, evidenced by the prevalence of diseases such as malaria, cholera and diarrhoea; in addition to limited access to land for agricultural production. FAO, **UN Women** and **WFP** are implementing a Joint Action Programme to reduce malnutrition and build the resilience of both conflict-affected populations and public sector institutions in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way. Increasing access to basic services, productive assets, emergency food assistance and livelihood opportunities is central to the ongoing partnership.

In September 2019, FAO and the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** renewed a formal collaboration, which began in 1977, through the signature of an MoU by the FAO Director-General and the UNEP Executive Director. A key aspect of the joint work is the One Planet Network – a multi-stakeholder partnership with more than 650 members worldwide. The network works to achieve a 200 percent increase in funding for SDG 12, a 20 percent reduction in waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse, and a 25 percent reduction in food waste and loss.

From 2015–2020, the Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAP-Ag) Programme, jointly implemented by FAO and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, has been supporting 11 countries to identify and integrate agriculture-related climate adaptation measures into national adaptation plans and budgeting processes. Building on this strong partnership the two agencies are now starting up the new EUR 20 million programme "Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA)" launched at the UN Climate Change Conference (CoP 25), with the aim to support at least 12 countries to build adaptive capacity and to implement low emission priorities between 2020 and 2025.

In July 2019, FAO and five other UN agencies – the **International Telecommunications Union (ITU)**, **WHO**, **UNESCO**, **UNICEF** and **UNDP** – collectively signed a Letter of Intent with the Government of the Niger to support the 'Smart Villages' project, a gateway to rural development that seeks to improve people's lives through the use of ICT solutions and ICT applications in the areas of health, education, agriculture and commerce, among others. The initiative is a good example of how different UN agencies can work together, as "one UN", to deliver on the promises and potential of ICT in moving towards the SDGs. FAO and the ITU further strengthened their strategic partnership on digital agriculture at global level through a renewed MoU signed in October 2019.

The **Business Innovations Group**, chaired by UNHCR and WFP and with its secretariat hosted by FAO, is supporting, monitoring and reporting on the reform of the UN Development System towards maximizing programmatic gains through efficient and high-quality back office operations at global and national levels. The Mutual Recognition Statement, signed by FAO in August 2019, and agreed principles regarding client satisfaction, costing and pricing, aim to enable UN entities to progressively make use of or rely on other entities' policies, procedures, systems, contracts and operational mechanisms, thus encouraging greater collaboration and operational agility through shared services.

International financial institutions

The **FAO Investment Centre** partners with IFIs and other public and private actors to help countries improve and scale up their investment operations in areas, such as food security, food systems, climate-smart agriculture, digital agriculture and blended finance.

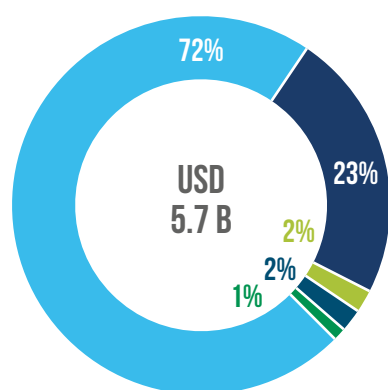
Longstanding IFI partners include the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), IFAD, the World Bank and regional development banks. New partnerships with the GCF and the European Union, for example, are helping boost green finance and blended-finance solutions respectively. The FAO Investment Centre's multidisciplinary team offers a broad range of investment support services— from investment design, implementation and evaluation support, to policy advice and the development of agricultural strategies, investment methodologies and analytical tools. It also assists countries in fostering a conducive environment for private investment through public–private dialogue.

“The Investment Centre’s work cuts across all strategic objectives, and its global footprint, specialist expert resources and large portfolio of investment operations for international institutions provide important entry points for demonstrating FAO’s expertise and strategic approaches”.

Synthesis of findings and lessons learnt from the Strategic Objectives Evaluations, 2019.

In 2019, the Centre helped design 32 public investment projects in 26 countries, financed by IFIs and governments for a total value of USD 5.7 billion.

Value of investment by partner IFI

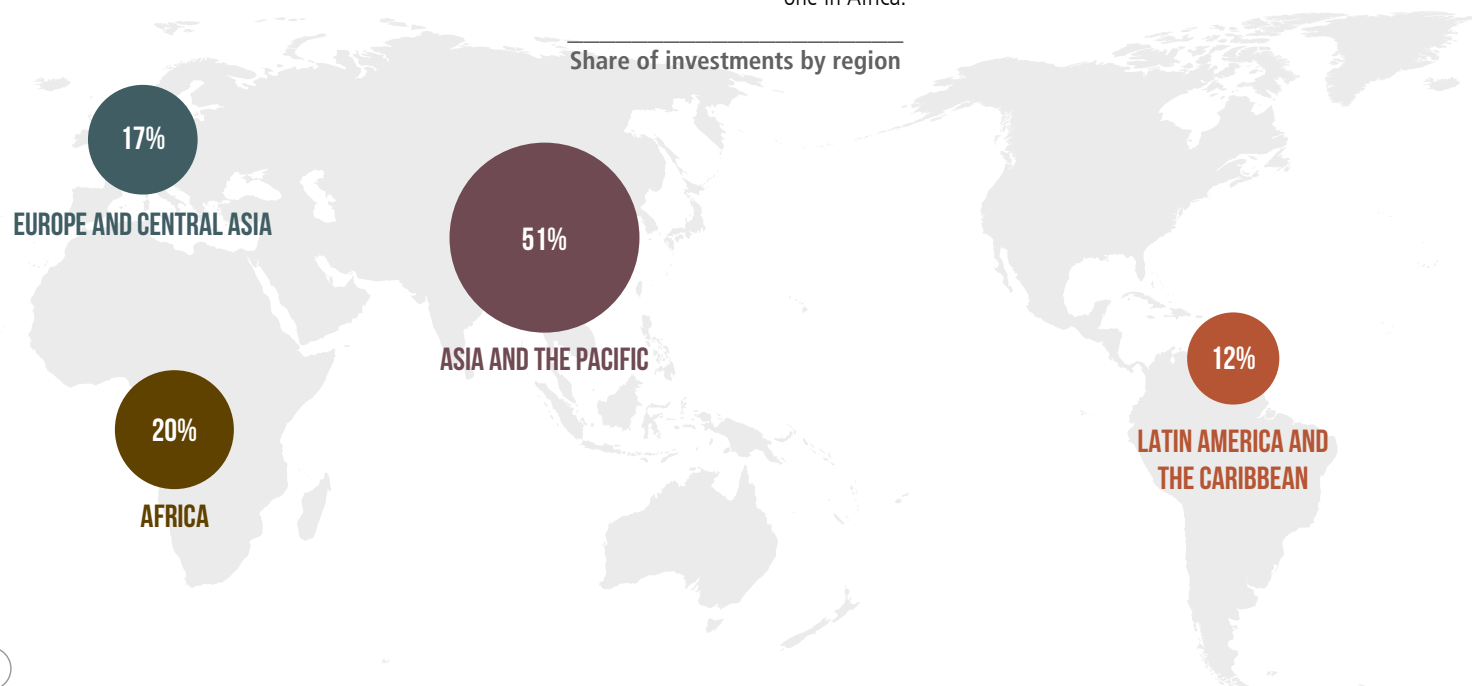


- **World Bank**
USD 4 145 M (20 projects)
- **IFAD**
USD 1 305 M (7 projects)
- **GCF**
USD 97 M (2 projects)
- **Inter-American Development Bank**
USD 90 M (1 project)
- **AFDB**
USD 73 M (1 project)
- **Caribbean Development Bank**
USD 20 M (1 project)

Highlights in 2019:

- Delivered support services in around 130 countries. Investment design accounted for 30 percent of its work, project implementation accounted for 58 percent and policy support accounted for 12 percent.
- Policy support provided included 13 agricultural strategies, ten policy studies, 29 sector studies, and 15 public–private sector policy dialogues.
- Assisted seven countries in designing GCF funding proposal. In addition, two proposals designed in 2018 were approved by GCF – one in Pakistan (USD 47 million) and one in Kyrgyzstan (USD 50 million).
- Resource mobilization efforts supported, including three UTFs in Asia (all three in Bangladesh) and three in Africa (Burkina Faso, the Niger and Zimbabwe).
- With the EBRD, 12 technical assistance assignments were developed to support private sector investments in its member nations.
- Supported 15 fragile and conflict-affected countries with project proposals for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program.
- Provided technical advisory services to blended finance interventions and assessed 74 investment operations from three impact funds under the AgrIntel initiative.
- Worked with partners to support the uptake of digital technologies in agriculture, including the design of three initiatives in Latin America and one in Africa.

Share of investments by region



Blending public and private resources for financial inclusion with IFAD.

Four of five Malians living in rural communities do not have access to the financial capital required to develop economic activities.

An FAO-supported rural microfinancing programme is working to change this reality by improving the access of around 500 000 low-income rural Malians to financial services.

The second financial inclusion project, Financement inclusif des filières agricoles (INCLUSIF), developed with FAO assistance and financed by IFAD with USD 95 million, aims for expanded financial inclusion in 2018–2024 for Malian family farmers. The project goals are to increase family income, support youth employment and improve the standard of living and food security of the families of farmers and herders in the Lacustre area.

The Investment Centre led the original design of the programme in 2009 and continued to support its implementation in 2017. Not only did it help develop an effective approach to financial inclusion, it assisted the government in creating a viable refinancing mechanism to strengthen the sustainability of the participating microfinance institutions.

The refinancing mechanism is a major innovation for Mali's financial sector, as it facilitates microfinance institutions' access to concessional loans. It also provides a long-term response to the inadequacy and volatility of rural savings, as well as a sustainable alternative to the challenges faced by rural microfinance institutions in accessing the financial market. Lessons from the programme highlight that there is a clear future for the financial inclusion of the rural poor using a sustainable refinancing mechanism dedicated to rural financial systems. Such examples, where the public sector can help take the risk out of rural financing, bodes well for the millions of rural people that still face a lack access to finance.

Results

- Thanks to the programme's participatory approach, 105 000 rural women, from roughly 4 000 groups, are among those supported by microfinance institutions. These groups have received training on financial literacy, business plan preparation, networking with financial institutions and management support.
- The programme has also strengthened and professionalized 15 microfinance institutions through the implementation of adapted management information systems, training on agricultural and rural finance methodologies, tools and tailored financial products, and incorporating education on essential topics, such as nutrition, good hygiene, sanitation and functional literacy.

Sustainability

- An important component of the programme was the restructuring and consolidation of the microfinance sector to ensure that microfinance institutions were compliant with the new regulations. This has helped improve the quality of institutional governance, reporting and internal controls.
- The project has transformed Mali's agricultural development environment, and now, new projects generally aim to use this financial instrument when carrying out activities.





Further implementation support to IFIs includes:



FAO has partnered with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and WorldFish to support the Zambian Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock to implement the Zambian Aquaculture Enterprise Development Project. The AfDB support comes as a loan to Zambia to increase aquaculture production and to generate employment opportunities for youth and women along the aquaculture value chain. More concretely, the project (i) provides support for and promotion of reliable access to quality input and output markets; (ii) provides competitively priced risk sharing access to finance; and (iii) supports the development of an enabling infrastructure. FAO supports the project through the provision of technical assistance with respect to aquaculture technology, processing technology, and fish health issues, while research and knowledge development are supported through collaboration with WorldFish and national universities.



In Ecuador, the partnership between FAO and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) aims at reinforcing the implementation of projects that are focused on strengthening the adaptive capacity of vulnerable populations and ecosystems, while improving agricultural production. This collaboration, under which FAO has mobilized USD 2.3 million, provides expertise in the design and implementation of innovative financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector. FAO, as the executing entity, provides technical expertise and operational capacity during the four-year execution period (2020–2023).



FAO has been supporting the Rural and Agricultural Finance Programme (RAFP), a highly specialized training programme for rural and agricultural finance practitioners, in the framework of the “Improving Capacity Building in Rural Finance (CABFIN)” – a partnership that groups FAO, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), IFAD, the International Finance Corporation, WFP and the UN Capital Development Fund in collaboration with the Boulder Institute of Microfinance. The Programme brings together rural and agricultural finance specialists from around the world, representing microfinance institutions, rural banks, central banks, line ministries, donor agencies, investors and development agencies, among others. Through its English, French and Spanish programmes, the RAFP has a focus that is not just global, as it also specifically targets regional professionals in Francophone Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The aim is to improve access to financial services for rural small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), smallholder farmers and other agriculture food value chain actors through strengthening the capacities of all stakeholders.

Non-state actors

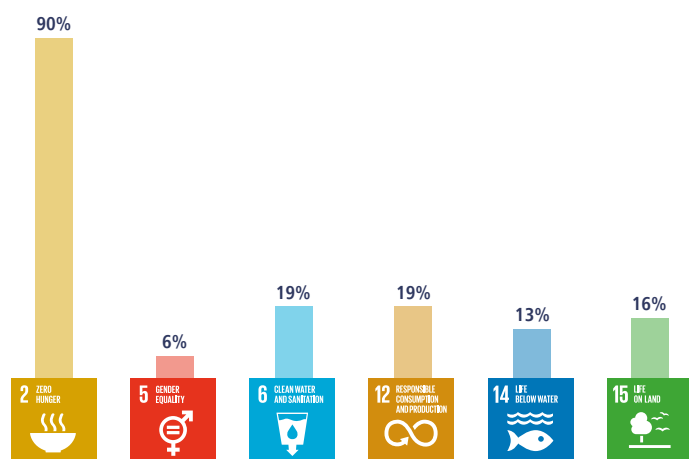
FAO is firmly established as a universal partner to all who are committed to ending hunger, including civil society, parliamentarians, the private sector, cooperatives, and academic and research centres.

In 2019, FAO engaged in 29 partnerships, of which nine were renewed partnerships and 20 were newly established. These partnerships, which are represented by common platforms, programmes, alliances and agendas, are the channels that enable joint action in accelerating the fight against global hunger. The participation and engagement of multiple stakeholders, including the voices of marginalized people, in planning and policymaking facilitate greater ownership of interventions and support their long-term success, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Private sector and producer organizations

FAO considers the private sector and producer organizations to be key allies in the fight against hunger. Eradicating hunger is about joining forces to scale up successful programmes and linking actions for better results through inclusive and sustainable business models.

SDG focus of existing agreements with the private sector:



FAO established new agreements with ENEL, DANONE, the Global Pulse Confederation (GPC), the Al-Sulaiteen Agricultural Research, Studies and Training Centre (SARSTC), Korea Telecom, Seeds and Chips, the World Obesity Federation and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).

FAO developed a network that creates synergy for dialogue and pastoralist development, known as the **Pastoralist Knowledge Hub**. Initially financed by Germany, and later by other stakeholders such as Spain and IFAD, the initiative provided a platform for international, regional, national and intergovernmental organizations, public institutions, multi-stakeholder partnerships and research centres to share key results on pastoralism, and to contribute to the establishment of future joint activities. The initiative supported eight regional pastoralist organizations through community dialogues and regional meetings, including the Eastern and Southern African Pastoralist Network. It also put forward eight policy proposals, and represented the pastoralists' voices in more than 25 decision-making processes.

The **Digital Innovation Dialogue**, launched in early 2019, serves as a forum to enhance knowledge sharing and mutual learning between multidisciplinary innovation practitioners and FAO colleagues through open and informal discussions. Eight sessions have been hosted with more than 600 participants on-site and online, covering topics such as Digital Intelligence Platform, AI Products, Blockchain and Geospatial Technology, Gender Equality in Digital Transformation, Farmer Digital Identity and Data Ownership, and China's Experiences in Digital Agriculture and Digital Village, and at times, it involved partners like Alibaba Cloud, IBM's The Weather Company, ESRI, National Telecommunication Agency in Brazil, Gartner, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China, and disruptive technology companies. **Digital Agriculture and Innovation Hubs** are also initiated by FAO to empower rural innovators and agripreneurs in harnessing digital technologies and tools for tackling development challenges. In Asia, FAO is partnering with Zhejiang University of China and Korea Telecom, while in Africa, FAO is joining efforts with Wageningen University and other prestigious partners to formulate a proposal of SmartAgriHubs for Africa, and accelerate and scale up digital innovation in agri-food systems.

Parliamentarians

Improvements in food security and nutrition are the result of numerous policies and the contribution of multiple actors operating on a long-term basis. FAO supports parliamentarians in developing specific national laws, provides them with technical information and statistics, and creates fora for dialogue and exchange.


FAO, together with the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World, organized the **International Seminar on Parliamentary Networks and Food Security Challenges** and the first **Meeting of Parliamentary Networks on Food Security in Africa and the Arab World** (7-9 November 2019, Rabat, Morocco). The three-day high-level policy dialogue and the technical workshops for parliamentary alliances provided an overview of key topics and instruments that legislators could use in working towards the achievement of the SDGs. The event concluded with the Rabat Declaration on Food Security, in which participants acknowledged their responsibility in combating hunger and all forms of malnutrition in their respective sectors.


The **Italian Parliamentary Intergroup of the Alliance for the Fight Against Hunger and Malnutrition** held its first meeting in October 2019. The group aims to create synergies with the parliament in order to achieve the SDGs, especially through proposed laws on organic farming, biodiversity, peasant/family agriculture, innovation in farming, and food waste, with particular emphasis on the Mediterranean diet.


The **African-Latin American Parliamentary Forum** and the **Network of Central African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition** were created in November 2019 to provide an institutional space for constructive interactive dialogue and a platform for parliamentary work aimed at facilitating regional integration and promoting South-South cooperation.


Academia and research


FAO actively collaborates with higher education institutions to mobilize knowledge and innovations, strengthen capacities, provide evidence-based solutions to policy processes and share its own experience from the ground with the academic community.

 FAO and Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, worked together with public health agencies and the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases to implement the **"In-Service Applied Epidemiology Training (ISAVET)."** The partnership successfully piloted a regionally adapted bilingual training, using the One Health approach, to build the capacity of the animal health workforce in Africa. In 2019, the ISAVET, financially supported by the United States of America, trained 45 candidates and 120 future national-level trainers and mentors in 14 African countries. The collaboration increased preparedness, awareness, advocacy and interest to host ISAVET events at both national and regional levels.

 In May 2019, The University of Washington, the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, the Marine Stewardship Council and FORTH participated in the 11th session of the **Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) Steering Committee (FSC11)** in Rome, Italy to present their collaborative arrangement. The FIRMS, whose Secretariat is hosted by FAO, provides access to a wide range of high-quality information on the global status of and trends in fisheries and resources. The FSC11 endorsed a governance model, enabling the FIRMS Partnership to lead the advanced development of (i) the Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF) and (ii) the Global Atlas of Tuna and Tuna-like Species (Tuna Atlas), in collaboration with the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement.

 A mobile compatible revision of the **e-learning course on pre-breeding by the Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB)** was launched in 2019. The training strengthens the capacities of gene bank managers and plant breeders in working collaboratively to generate intermediate breeding materials with novel traits introduced from non-adapted parents. The course was funded by the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and was jointly sponsored by FAO, Bioversity International and the GIPB.

 In 2019, FAO, IFAD and the Centro de Estudios en Desarrollo Económico of the Universidad de los Andes, Colombia partnered to study the benefits of articulating **social protection and rural development** interventions, using various entry points of analysis (i.e. individual, household, village and institutional levels). The project sought to provide evidence to policy makers and donors for better programme design, sequencing and institutional design in supporting the alleviation of the rural poor by helping smallholders to become more productive, better linked to value chains and markets, and ultimately, effective agents in the process of rural transformation.

 Committed to supporting the impact of its understanding of food and agriculture, FAO partners with other organizations using open data solutions. Currently, the **Agricultural Science and Technology Information System (AGRIS)**, a multilingual bibliographic database, has more than 450 data providers from up to 145 countries, with more than 10 million visits per year. In 2019, 110 data providers supplied over 1.3 million records, increasing the total number of records in the repository to 11 million. Together with the new Open Data Set Initiative, the new AGRIS Interface provides information for agricultural investment, innovation and policy, driving the shift toward increased sustainability in the agricultural sector. Continued efforts are being undertaken to develop the capacities of institutions in Member States through the **Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) programme**, which makes 105 000 resources available online. Over 4 000 participants attended face-to-face and online training activities, which resulted in 300 new organizations being registered to Research4Life in 2019. FAO has supported interoperability among resources and repositories through **AGROVOC**, which is considered a controlled vocabulary platform with more than 28 million logins per year. Currently, AGROVOC has 36 700 concepts with 740 000 terms in up to 35 languages. In 2019, the user traffic of AGORA, AGROVOC and AGRIS reached 35 million.



©FAO/IFAD/WFP/Petterik Wiggers

South-South and triangular cooperation

Although developing countries face an array of development challenges, they also possess innovative, home-grown solutions to effectively address them, accelerating agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development.

South-South cooperation is the mutual sharing and exchange of key development solutions – knowledge, experiences, good practices, policies, technologies, tools and resources – between and among countries of the global South. Triangular cooperation, on the other hand, refers to partnerships between two or more developing countries in collaboration with a third partner. The latter is typically a developed country/traditional resource partner, a country with an emerging economy or a multilateral organization. In response to an increasing demand for SSTC solutions, in 2019 both cooperation mechanisms continued to expand cross-learning ventures and assistance between and among FAO Members.



On 6 September in Rome, Italy, the RBAs jointly celebrated the **2019 United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation**

“Leaving no one behind in achieving SDG2 – Opportunities for the RBAs to broker South-South and triangular cooperation after the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40)”. This evidence-based event, hosted at WFP headquarters, demonstrated some of the ways in which the three agencies concretely deliver benefits to rural populations and, in particular, to the most vulnerable communities and smallholder families through SSTC initiatives. The event also focused on the contribution of the RBAs to SDG2 through SSTC and how they plan to implement the Outcome Document of the BAPA+40 High-Level Conference (2019).

“South-South and triangular cooperation can be a game changer as it offers innovative models to promote change and reform”

FAO Director-General, QU Dongyu



From 25 to 27 November in Kampala, Uganda, FAO organized the **“Tenth Anniversary of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme and Future Perspectives for South-South and Triangular Cooperation”**. Over 100 international participants from 28 countries – representing governments, academia, international and regional organizations, UN agencies, private sector, civil society, farmer organizations and programme beneficiaries – attended the event, which served to strengthen the global visibility of SSC in the agricultural sector promoted by FAO, and the impact of the FAO-China SSC Programme in particular. Highlights included a keynote speech by the President of Uganda and the launch of the report *“Inspiration, Inclusion and Innovation: FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme (2009–19)”*, showcasing the achievements and innovations harnessed by the programme, which have directly benefited more than 70 000 people in 12 developing countries across sub-Saharan Africa and Asia over the last decade.



FAO strengthens country capacities for the achievement of the SDGs by sharing existing solutions that are home grown, sustainable, replicable and scalable. The Organization is implementing the German-funded project **“Towards Sustainable Bioeconomy Guidelines”**, through which it has provided support to countries in the development of sustainable and circular bioeconomy strategies and programmes, while scaling up nature-based solutions and good practices in bioeconomy. Since 2015, FAO has coordinated international work on sustainable and circular bioeconomy, including the facilitation of knowledge- and experience-sharing through the multistakeholder International Sustainable Bioeconomy Working Group that serves as an excellent example of SSTC; and the development and sharing of knowledge products for policy makers and people working directly in bioeconomy activities. At the UN Climate Change Conference in December 2019, the UN Office for South-South Cooperation launched the publication *“South-South and triangular cooperation on bioeconomy in light of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*, illustrating FAO’s bioeconomy project as a selected case study for addressing climate change and fostering sustainable development.



©FAO/Gustave Ntaraka

4. FAO RESULTS IN 2019

FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide, with the aim of bringing the Organization as close as possible to its Members. By turning knowledge into action, FAO links the field to national, regional and global initiatives in a mutually reinforcing cycle.





A specialized UN agency, FAO draws on its unique expertise and experience working alongside partners around the world to assist countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda. With a strategic framework aligned with the SDGs, FAO works in major projects and initiatives at global, regional and national levels, built on the three dimensions of sustainable development, and targeting everyone left behind.

The following stories and highlights showcase the impact that FAO's work has on the ground, and represent the thematic and geographic reach of its ongoing activities in 2019.

Africa

Despite ongoing FAO support and multilateral efforts to combat hunger in Africa, the continent is not on track to meet SDG 2. The prevalence of undernourishment continues to rise and now affects 20 percent of the African population. Additionally, in sub-Saharan Africa, there are significant food losses for fruits, vegetables, cereals and pulses. The majority of youth work in the informal economy and 67 percent of young workers live in poverty. Complicating matters further, changing climatic conditions in Africa are a growing threat to food security and nutrition, particularly in countries that rely heavily on agriculture, and often with worse implications for women. Gender gaps remain a major challenge for the empowerment of women, which limits their development.

In order to achieve an Africa without hunger, governments and partners must work together to address the root causes of hunger and poverty.

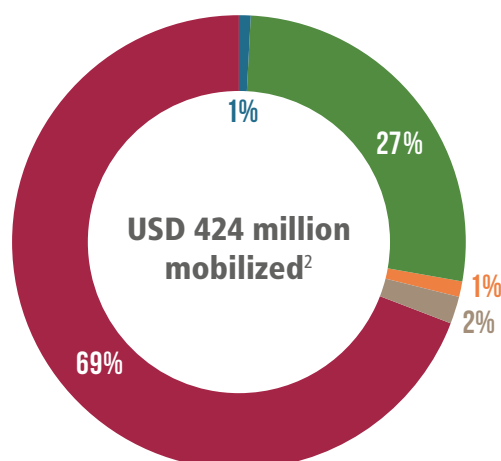
The development of agriculture and rural economies will play a key role in confronting undernourishment in the region, and investment is necessary to create jobs that can support the millions of youth joining the labour force each year. Moreover, a gender-sensitive approach needs to be implemented in climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience building, while the empowerment of women in agriculture, value chains and trade will accelerate the achievement of the Malabo Commitments and the SDGs.

FAO's strategy

Bringing together partnerships and investments, FAO's programme of work in Africa focuses on achieving food security for all and ensuring that people have regular and adequate access to high-quality, nutritious and safe food, which allows them to lead active and healthy lives. Based on an in-depth cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary review of regional issues and trends, and in line with development commitments in the continent, FAO works through three regional initiatives:

- Africa's commitment to end hunger by 2025 – reinforces policies, partnerships and resources/investment for coordinated and harmonized interventions in support of regional and countries' efforts to advance food security and nutrition
- Sustainable production intensification and value chain development – promotes an inclusive and sustainable food system transformation agenda
- Building resilience in Africa's drylands – strengthens resilience of food systems and among vulnerable rural communities.

To sustain efforts in the coming years, FAO mobilized USD 424 million across 196 projects in 2019¹



- **Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition**
- **Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable**
- **Reduce rural poverty**
- **Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems**
- **Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises**

Top resource partners

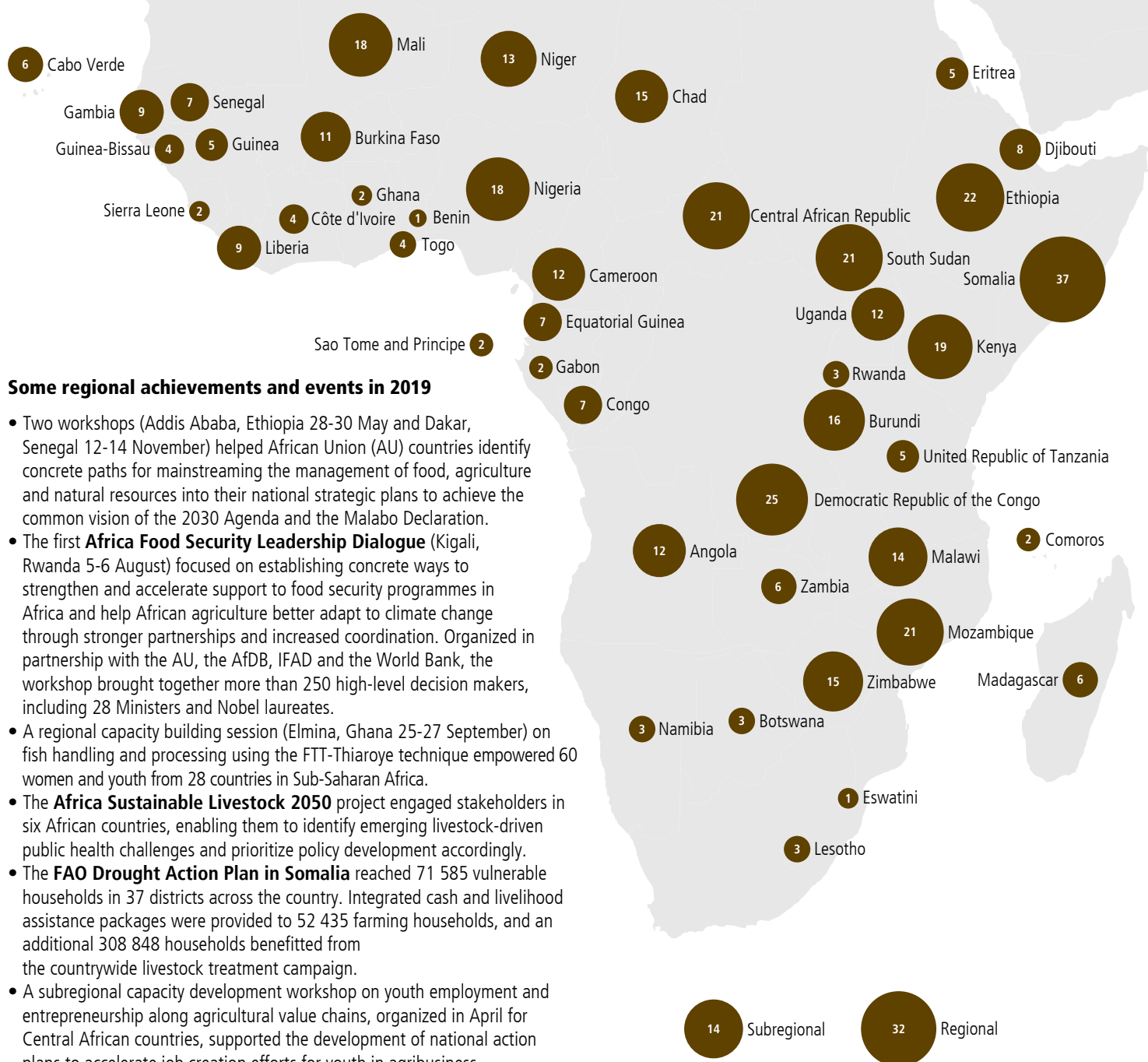
	USD million
United States of America	92
European Union	89
UNOCHA	36
UNDP Administered Donor Joint Trust Fund	29
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	28
Germany	19
Sweden	15
GEF	15
UNOPS	11
Mozambique	10
Japan	8
Switzerland	7
Belgium ³	7
World Food Programme Administered Trust Fund	7
PBF	7
Angola	6
Netherlands	5
Congo	3
France	3
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3

Top programme countries

	USD million
Somalia	97
Mozambique	49
South Sudan	44
Democratic Republic of the Congo	41
Zimbabwe	27
Zambia	18
Malawi	15
Central African Republic	15
Angola	14
Uganda	12
Burundi	11
Ethiopia	10
Burkina Faso	6
Liberia	6
Cameroon	5
Nigeria	4
Mali	4
Congo	4
Niger	2
Gabon	2

FAO in Africa

Ongoing projects in 2019⁴



Some regional achievements and events in 2019

- Two workshops (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 28-30 May and Dakar, Senegal 12-14 November) helped African Union (AU) countries identify concrete paths for mainstreaming the management of food, agriculture and natural resources into their national strategic plans to achieve the common vision of the 2030 Agenda and the Malabo Declaration.
- The first **Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue** (Kigali, Rwanda 5-6 August) focused on establishing concrete ways to strengthen and accelerate support to food security programmes in Africa and help African agriculture better adapt to climate change through stronger partnerships and increased coordination. Organized in partnership with the AU, the AfDB, IFAD and the World Bank, the workshop brought together more than 250 high-level decision makers, including 28 Ministers and Nobel laureates.
- A regional capacity building session (Elmina, Ghana 25-27 September) on fish handling and processing using the FTT-Thiaroye technique empowered 60 women and youth from 28 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- The **Africa Sustainable Livestock 2050** project engaged stakeholders in six African countries, enabling them to identify emerging livestock-driven public health challenges and prioritize policy development accordingly.
- The **FAO Drought Action Plan in Somalia** reached 71 585 vulnerable households in 37 districts across the country. Integrated cash and livelihood assistance packages were provided to 52 435 farming households, and an additional 308 848 households benefitted from the countrywide livestock treatment campaign.
- A subregional capacity development workshop on youth employment and entrepreneurship along agricultural value chains, organized in April for Central African countries, supported the development of national action plans to accelerate job creation efforts for youth in agribusiness.
- FAO participated in the **African Green Revolution Forum** held in Accra, Ghana on 3-6 September. The Forum was attended by more than 2 400 delegates from 89 countries, including Heads of State and senior Government officials and non-state actors.

Delivery in 2019: **USD 364 million**
to support **520 projects** in Africa⁵

¹ TCP projects, funded through FAO's Regular Programme budget, are not included in this section.

² According to the FAO official methodology determined by the Governing Bodies, voluntary contributions (approvals), which can include new project funding or project revisions, are counted at the time the programmes/projects are declared operationally active.

³ Including Flanders Cooperation.

⁴ Correspond to those projects that were operationally active at any given point between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019.

⁵ Refers to the total expenditure of programmes/projects implemented in the region during 2019.

Implementing the food and nutrition security impact, resilience, sustainability and transformation (FIRST) programme

A more enabling environment has been developed for food and nutrition security, as well as sustainable agriculture in target countries and regions.



©FAO/Giulio Napolitano

Over the last 70 years, food systems have transformed to reduce undernourishment and food insecurity. While these changes have contributed to a substantial decrease in global hunger, they have come at the cost of both the planet and human health. Creating an enabling environment for investment in the pursuit of SDG 2 in developing countries is essential to maximize impact. While seeds are essential, on their own they are not sufficient for plants to bear fruit. Likewise, financial resources are critical, but cannot on their own deliver a world free of hunger and malnutrition.

Approach

In a joint effort to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition through the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, the EU and FAO launched the FIRST Programme in order to provide policy assistance and capacity development for countries and regional organizations that seek to address context-specific bottlenecks in achieving SDG 2. Setting the right conditions for public and private investment will foster sustainable agriculture and support nutrition, health, welfare, economic growth and stability. The FIRST programme supports governments by:

- assessing the effectiveness of policies, plans and programmes;
- developing capacities through policy assistance;
- promoting inclusive policy dialogue; and
- sharing best practices to achieve impact.

In the Niger, FIRST has supported the High Commission of 3N Initiative in formulating the new national nutrition security policy (PNSN), which the government adopted in November 2018. This policy represents a major shift in the way of addressing nutrition-related issues by promoting a multi-sectoral approach. The PNSN is now “the framework” of reference for anyone aiming at combating food insecurity or malnutrition, encompassing and coordinating all efforts. With FIRST support, the action plan was budgeted through a participatory process in 2019. Interventions have been prioritized and the nutrition plan budget was aligned with the budgets of the contributing ministries. FIRST has also assisted in increasing the awareness of the different ministries’ staff on the importance of mainstreaming nutrition and establishing nutrition focal points in each relevant ministry.

Results

- FIRST worked on 59 policy processes in 27 countries. A total of eight policies, strategies and investment programmes were formulated and validated in seven countries with the support of FIRST in 2019. Since its inception, FIRST supported the formulation and validation of a total of 38 national sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, strategies, framework laws and investment programmes for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in 19 countries, of which 28 (74 percent) are now formally adopted by the governments.
- In 2019, FIRST enhanced strategic coordination and inclusive dialogue across sectors and stakeholders in 20 countries: a progress of 78 percent against targets set.
- In 2019, comprehensive diagnostics assessing the relevance and feasibility of the food security and nutrition policy framework, and identifying key actions for addressing key bottlenecks to accelerate progress towards SDG2 were completed for 19 countries. These are being used to inform decision-making on strategic investments by governments and EU delegations, and FAO programming.
- In December 2019, FIRST policy officers, FAO, the EU and government representatives from over twelve Sub-Saharan African countries met with producer organizations, lending institutions and consumer organizations. They identified country-level actions for better enabling the private sector to contribute to more sustainable agri-food systems and concrete opportunities for mutual learning and SSTC.

Sustainability

- Developing the capacities of key change agents at the country-level, as well as building stronger partnerships with key players at national and global levels, so that these are able to continue contributing to strengthening the enabling environment for food security and nutrition, beyond the duration of FIRST.
- Generating, capturing and sharing knowledge on how to strengthen the enabling environment for accelerating progress towards SDG. This includes, for instance, a series of Policy Guidance Notes to ensure that policy makers have access to information on how sectoral issues affect food security and nutrition, and to recognize how to incorporate these considerations into their policies.

Period: 2015-2022

Resource partner: European Union

Programme countries: Global

Strengthening food security with better agriculture statistics systems for rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa



Countries supported have developed their capacities and are expected to considerably improve their nation-wide rice production survey by adopting more reliable and efficient methods.



©FAO

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest proportion of undernourished people in the world (approximately 20 percent). Rice consumption in Africa is growing faster than any other staple food crop, and various initiatives are being undertaken to develop the rice sector by boosting production and improving productivity, market efficiency and partnerships along the value chain to ensure food security. Agricultural statistics, and in particular rice production data, have been recognized as an essential component for ensuring the effective planning, implementation and monitoring of national policies on food and nutritional security. Members States of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) require capacity development on the production of reliable and accurate agricultural statistics in order to establish national rice development strategies.

Approach

The project “Strengthening Agricultural Statistics and Food Security Information in CARD Countries through South-South Cooperation” improved the capacity of CARD countries to collect timely and reliable statistics on the rice area, yields and production using new statistical methods, and the expertise and experiences of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) through the FAO SSTC scheme. Thanks to the SSTC mechanism, the knowledge gained with a number of African countries was shared to develop their own expertise in agricultural statistics, encouraging strong local ownership. Appropriate survey methods were identified, and training and pilot surveys to improve survey skills and compare results collected using different methods were conducted in the nine target countries and supported by both Asian and African experts. Participants included public officials, statisticians and enumerators from ministries and local governments involved in official statistics. After participating together in pilots, both Asian experts and African participants continued to communicate effectively through chat groups for each pilot survey. Sharing messages, questions, photographs and videos made pilot surveys more efficient and effective through rapid expert support at no cost.

“These activities have helped CARD Member countries to develop agricultural statistics experts. Resources in ASEAN may be used in African countries for technology transfer, especially for rice production surveys, as ASEAN Member States are the major rice-producing countries in the world, and they are experienced in developing their own rice production survey methods”

Good practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development
—Volume 2; UN Office for South-South Cooperation

Results

- Ten training workshops, eight pilot surveys and one pre-test were carried out under the project, with nine countries benefiting from the activities. Experts from ASEAN and AfricaRice delivered lectures to participants from the target countries on the survey methods developed during past cooperative efforts with Japan and shared their own experiences.
- Pilot surveys allowed for estimations of area, production, yield and other relevant information (e.g. planting method, variety of rice and use of chemicals) in target countries.
- Five wrap-up seminars in target countries and three regional workshops were conducted, which allowed for results sharing, method comparisons and discussion surrounding appropriate survey methods and how to improve the rice production survey in the region.
- Over 800 officials and enumerators trained in target countries improved their capacity to plan and manage national rice production surveys. They are now expected to manage the pilot survey beyond the project and to instruct other staff by using the training results.

Sustainability

- Owing to the wide scope of the surveying methods adopted, the surveys can be used in African countries with different rice cultivation and agricultural statistics systems. The project delivered standard manuals for list frame and dot sampling methods tailored to the needs of each target country, and the Guidelines on Planning Rice Production Survey. These documents inform users on how to carry out rice production surveys in CARD member countries and recommend further action relating to agricultural statistics.

Period: 2013 - 2019

Resource partner: Japan

Programme countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda

Establishing South-South cooperation to support the National Agricultural Investment Programme (NAIP) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Agricultural knowledge and technologies were effectively transferred under the FAO–SSC Programme framework, supporting household and national food security and promoting positive changes at the community level.



©FAO

While the Democratic Republic of the Congo has immense agricultural potential, its population of 90 million faces one of the most serious food and nutrition crises in the world. Increased intercommunal conflict has triggered massive population displacement, the destruction of infrastructure, high food prices, the loss of livelihoods, undiversified diets, pest infestations and health epidemics, such as Ebola, cholera and measles. As over 75 percent of rural families rely on agriculture for their livelihoods, ensuring access to inputs and new technologies is key to enhancing agricultural production and food security.

Approach

The project aimed to enhance the country's agricultural production through the development of the plant, animal and fishery sectors by improving sectoral productivity and competitiveness, making appropriate production technologies available and reinforcing processing infrastructure, conservation and market access. This national project under the FAO–China SSC Programme facilitated the provision of Chinese technical assistance on crop production, horticulture, livestock, aquaculture, agricultural machinery and plant protection, by deploying experts and involving local communities. The project reached nearly 2 260 households.

Five Chinese experts and eight technicians were stationed in Lubumbashi for two years. They collaborated with local partners to understand the difficulties faced by farming communities and came up with solutions. The project helped households meet their cereal and vegetable needs, increased farmers' net incomes and taught local farmers new agricultural technologies.

"I followed the training on rice cultivation with Chinese and Congolese experts. (...) Having mastered the different techniques learned, we have successfully completed the demonstration field for the multiplication of rice which has produced approximately eight tonnes of rice/ha while with our old techniques, we produced 800 kg to 1.5 tonnes/ha"

Mrs. Omongo Kangidila Benedicte, beneficiary of the project

Results

- 21 associations were formed and others became cooperatives as a result of the project's activities, benefitting a total of 3 057 people.
- Forty training classes were held and 2 900 technical manuals were distributed. Demonstrations on various crop production techniques (including rice, soybean, millet, maize and vegetables) and practical technologies helped successfully introduce 67 new crop varieties and 45 new techniques, including the dry bed method. Local farmers also learned how to detect and prevent pests, such as the fall armyworm and aphids.
- Labor-saving production tools and equipment tailored to local conditions were also introduced to farmers. The workshop organized in Likasi made it possible to train 15 blacksmiths in the manufacture of improved agricultural tools.
- Local farmers received training on raising and managing techniques for rabbits, pigs, goats and broilers. The Veterinary Inspection and Quarantine Bureau of Haut Katanga presented veterinary medicine products to the poultry farms.
- Rabbit breeding pairs were used to increase the livestock numbers of the Association of Kasomeno (from four to 13), which allowed for the use of rabbits in sharecropping with the Association of Shibukeni in Sapwe.
- Hand-operated fish pellet feed machinery was introduced. Aquatic experts weaved five cages (24 cubic metres in volume), and 30 kg of fish fry was used in the cages for demonstration purposes, producing 1 kg tilapia after six months.
- The average yield increased by 133 to 466 percent for rice, by 25 to 40 percent for soybean and by 28 to 140 percent for maize. Millet production reached 6.3 tonnes per hectare.
- The harvest of cabbage, tomatoes, peppers and onions increased significantly (between 38 and 73 percent) after local farmers had received assistance on soil loosening, land preparation, seedbed construction and seeding techniques.

Sustainability

- Smallholder farmers also received training on post-harvest processing. By transforming maize into fodder and soybean into milk, families were able to introduce their products to the market and improve their monthly income.
- Scaling up this project to extend its positive impacts will require a renewal of relevant partnerships and increased investment in local agriculture. Given adequate resources, the technologies and varieties introduced through the FAO–China SSC Programme could be utilized on a much larger scale, reaching more beneficiaries throughout the country and promoting agricultural intensification and diversification.

Period: 2017-2019

Resource partner: China

Programme country: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Supporting sustainable food production, food security and climate resilience in the Burundi highlands

Burundi has improved its production systems for sustainable food security and nutrition through integrated landscape management and sustainable food value chains.



©FAO/Giulio Napolitano

Burundi, a landlocked country in the heart of the African Great Lakes Region, suffers from isolation due to its remoteness from supply areas and its geographical conditions. The topography of Burundi and the high national rainfall result in severe water erosion phenomena that lead to frequent slope slides, which have naturally altered the quality of lake water – the main source of drinking water. Water erosion phenomena have also reduced the availability of the already scarce agricultural land in Burundi as well as the fertility of soil, both of which are essential in a densely populated country. This concern is complicated by the associated loss of agro-biodiversity, which contributes to food shortages, food insecurity, chronic malnutrition, land and social conflicts, poverty, rural–urban migration and increased vulnerability to climate change.

Approach

The Food Security Integrated Approach Pilot is part of the Resilient Food Systems Programme in Africa and aims to increase the adoption of improved and resilient production systems through integrated landscape management and the promotion of sustainable food value chains. It addresses the main drivers of environmental degradation, while providing assistance to improve agricultural productivity in smallholder farming systems where food insecurity is directly linked to agriculture. The intervention organized and trained provincial platforms on sustainable land management (SLM) and the livelihoods of communities. It also created farmer field schools (FFS) to reinforce capacities in (i) the restoration of degraded land through integrated watershed management, (ii) the stabilization of water sources in order to improve water quality and (iii) the monitoring and assessment of ecological and socio-economic impacts. The project ensured that gender and nutrition were integrated into its design and treated these factors as crucial determinants of tackling food insecurity.

"Before joining the FFS, I did not have sufficient knowledge in agricultural techniques; but with the FFS, I had the opportunity to learn and internalize good agricultural practices that allow me to harvest much more than before. For example, I sowed 10 kg of beans and harvested 334 kg, whereas before I went to FFS, I sowed 10 kg of dwarf bean seed and harvested only 20-30 kg"

Marguérîte Maniragumije, member of the Kerebuka Duterimbere FFS of Muyebe collin, Kayokwe commune in Mwaro province

After the FFS training, Marguérîte was able to buy a 400 000 FBU (about USD 200) plot of land. Thanks to the market gardening seeds that FAO provided, she sold the cabbage production from which her family built a working capital that allowed them to buy goats and pigs.

Results

- 75 FFS were created so far, and the capacities of local communities were reinforced.
- 110 government staff were trained on various SLM tools, including EX-ACT (Ex-Ante Carbon Balance Tool), DATAR (Diversity Agrobiodiversity Tool Assessment) and Collect Earth, which improved the national capacity to monitor and assess the socioeconomic and ecological impacts of the project.
- 9 000 farmers were trained and their livelihoods improved through FFS. FFS training included integrated watershed management, agricultural resilient practices and nutrition.
- 30 079 ha of land was identified for restoration, with 30 000 ha of degraded land being restored through integrated watershed management.
- 300 km of riverbank was stabilized to improve water quality.
- Nine watershed committees were strengthened to serve as SLM/integrated national resources management knowledge sharing resources at the local level.
- Three provincial training sessions on data collection for local DATAR users were organized, with 90 participants attending.
- 4 500 ha of degraded land was restored using SLM good practices.
- 2 150 000 of agroforestry and forestry trees, expected to cover 4 300 ha of land, are being produced by 43 FFS groups.
- 150 km of river bank was protected using bamboo.

Sustainability

- Through the provincial platforms, local management and other decision makers learned new SLM practices and acknowledged the importance of their role in sensitizing and mobilizing local communities to protect natural resources.
- During project implementation, agreements were signed with: (i) Bioersity International – to build capacity on agro-biodiversity and resilience assessment; (ii) The Burundian office of Environment Protection – to produce 250 000 indigenous trees and 50 000 plants of bamboo; (iii) The Burundi Institute of Agronomic Sciences Research – for producing six tons of vegetables seeds; and (iv) The Adventist Development and Relief Agency, the Association pour le Développement Intégral des Collines and the Association pour la Promotion des Cultures Vivrières – for integrated watershed activities.
- The project's initial successes helped mobilize further resources from the GEF for the scaling-up of the FFS to other provinces through a new Least Developed Countries Fund project.

Period: 2017-2021

Resource partner: GEF

Programme country: Burundi

Stimulating responsible investment in agriculture and food systems (RAI) in Africa and beyond

Policy making is being upgraded to promote the responsible agricultural investment necessary to eradicate poverty, hunger and youth unemployment through innovative methodologies and tools.



©FAO

Increasing RAI is essential for achieving the SDGs. In order to reach SDG 1 and SDG 2, it is estimated that Africa requires an additional USD 168 billion annually, of which approximately 75 percent should be directed to agriculture. Particular attention must be paid to empower youth to engage in and benefit from responsible agricultural investment. On the one hand, today's investments of young entrepreneurs in agricultural value chains guarantee future generations' food security. On the other hand, empowering youth to invest in their own businesses through appropriate incentives and services is key to tackle the global challenge of high youth unemployment rates. Youth unemployment reaches up to 30 percent in Northern Africa, while in Southeast Asia youth are 5.4 times more likely to be unemployed than adults.

Approach

The project provided capacity development support to enhance responsible agricultural investment through innovative methodologies and tools. Additionally, it aimed to empower young agri-entrepreneurs to engage in responsible investments. The major achievements included:

- the introduction of a rapid capacity assessment tool and performance of a multi-stakeholder capacity assessment of RAI and youth in the Senegal River Basin (SRB) region and in Southeast Asia;
- the delivery of a blended learning programme for policy makers from the SRB region on the enabling environment for RAI, which was conducted in collaboration with Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR); and
- a comprehensive strategic planning and assessment in Tunisia to identify key areas for intervention to empower youth engagement in RAI, in collaboration with the National Agricultural Research Institute of Tunisia, the Bern University of Applied Sciences and the Tunisian Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency.

“the results will be taken home to look at ongoing programmes and see how to adapt them to the principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems”

Abdoulaye Diop, Mauritania's National Agency for Youth Employment regarding the useful nature of the programme in the SRB region

“the good examples of incubators discovered in the context of the youth assessment inspired me to work towards the establishment of incubators in the rural regions of Guinea”

Abdoulaye Balde, Guinea's Private Investment Promotion Agency about the replicability of good practices

Results

- In the SRB region, the project strengthened the capacities of 25 senior policy makers from more than 15 agencies and resulted in the drafting of national action plans. FAO continues to support the refinement of their action plans as part of Phase II of the learning programme. Young agri-entrepreneurs and engaged policy makers share information and good practices through a virtual platform.
- In Tunisia, the project led to the drafting of three reports that identified investment and employment trends by region, as well as priority value chains and target regions. It also enhanced multistakeholder policy dialogue through a workshop for the identification of a common vision for young agri-entrepreneurs. The workshop also gave young entrepreneurs the opportunity to present their products.
- In Southeast Asia, the first assessment tool is now being used in consultation and planning on RAI and youth in ASEAN countries at both the regional and national levels in collaboration with the Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas.

Sustainability

- The learning programme applied in the SRB region will be employed in at least three other countries (Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia and Sierra Leone) through German funding. The 'Creating an Enabling Environment for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems' course has been made available in FAO's e-learning centre.
- Based on the experience in Tunisia, FAO and the Bern University of Applied Sciences plan to develop a strategic planning tool to allow for replication in other countries.
- In Tunisia, the project contributed to the mobilization of additional resources under a Flexible Multidonor Mechanism to ensure initial support for the implementation of the roadmap, focusing both on policy makers and on young agri-entrepreneurs.

Period: 2017-2020

Resource partners: France and Switzerland

Programme countries: the Senegal River Basin region (Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal), Tunisia and Southeast Asia

Emphasizing cross-border coordination in the Greater Karamoja Cluster to enhance natural resource sharing and livestock movement



Communities across borders worked together to solve conflicts and to improve natural resource management, leading to enhanced resilience, strengthened livelihoods, more trade and peace.



© FAO/Agatha Ayebazibwe

The Greater Karamoja Cluster (GKC) encompasses the southwestern parts of Ethiopia, northwestern Kenya, the southeastern parts of South Sudan and northeastern Uganda. Located far away from their respective capitals, the GKC has the lowest social development indicators and the worst access to services in these countries. The region is poorly integrated into national livestock marketing systems and export infrastructure from the Horn of Africa. The resulting persistent food insecurity of pastoralist communities is worsened by transboundary animal diseases, frequent and persistent droughts and climate change events, recurrent intercommunal disputes over natural resources and conflicts on ethnic grounds within and across borders.

Approach

The cross-border coordination project aimed to facilitate efforts to promote intercommunity, coordination of livestock mobility, preservation of natural resources and sharing of natural resources in the cross-border areas, which fall under the scope of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). With the aim of achieving sustainable social transformation, innovation and conflict prevention, interventions were delivered at the community, national and GKC-regional level. Successful cross-border coordination required an accurate initial territorial diagnosis, the identification of traditional institutions and territorial stakeholders and an analysis of the roles and responsibilities of local authorities and power imbalances.

In 2019, the ensuing good practice was selected as one of 25 winning development projects at the Expo 2020 Dubai Global Best Practice Programme, highlighting the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in action, and showing how community-level initiatives can have wide-ranging regional effects.

Now, cross-border pastoralist groups collaborate to exchange vital information on drought, fodder prices or grazing ground, thus revitalizing knowledge networks that were shaken by years of violent conflict. "Before we had peace, nobody shared information. It was everyone by himself" said 25-year-old Samuel Loyopo, who now grows maize to sell in local cross-border markets, where his customers hail mainly from Turkana County or Uganda.

Results

- After the signing of the Kenya–Uganda Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2013, the IGAD set up its first coordination office for the GKC in Moroto, Uganda. Cross-border and regional meetings on animal health and resource sharing were held to discuss disease control, most notably between Ethiopia and Kenya and between Tanzania and Kenya. In 2015, the MoU became multilateral, while in 2019, the MoU was signed to address cross-border animal health and sanitary measures for the GKC.
- Reduced conflicts along the border have enabled traders to move between Kenya and Uganda more frequently and safely, increasing the trade of livestock, grains and other commodities.
- The governments of Turkana County in Kenya and those of the Moroto and Kotido districts in Uganda not only increased their engagement in trading, but also developed a joint drought response, including the vaccination of infants and veterinary treatment of livestock.
- The sharing of resources has fostered the creation of platforms where communities can mediate disputes, conclude peace agreements and formulate joint grazing policies to avoid future conflicts.

Sustainability

- The project promoted the sharing of natural resources, the creation of platforms for dispute settlement and the peaceful coexistence between the Turkana and Karamojong peoples. It reinforced traditional pastoralist institutions and boosted the resilience of pastoral communities to disasters and droughts.
- The cross-border collaboration has improved links between local governments and communities, which has facilitated the integration of community plans into local policy.
- FAO continues to anchor the practice of cross-border resource sharing into regional and national strategies, as well as policies. This is carried out in close collaboration with the IGAD and its specialized institutions.

Period: 2007 - ongoing

Resource partners: European Union and Switzerland

Programme countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda



©FAO/Ariel Sophia Bardi

Asia and the Pacific

Asia and the Pacific is a very dynamic region with inspiring development and success stories over the past decades. With booming economic development for years, 1.3 billion people have been lifted out of poverty, the number of hungry has halved, and education and healthcare have improved significantly.

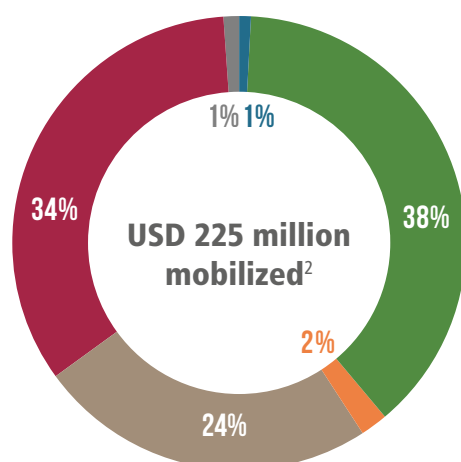
That is only half of the story. The singular focus on economic growth is also endangering long-term prosperity. Economic growth is increasingly overshadowed by rising inequality and exclusion, expansion of informal labour, lack of social protection, environmental degradation and increased vulnerability to climate induced disasters. Pressure is likely to increase on resources, with the region's population projected to grow by 12 percent by 2050. At the same time, the region is urbanizing rapidly, with the proportion of people living in cities growing from 31 percent in 1990 to 50 percent in 2020. However, the highest incidence of poverty and food insecurity is still found in rural and mountainous areas. Nearly half a billion (479 million) people are still undernourished in the region.

FAO's strategy

FAO is continually enhancing its response to country needs and emerging regional challenges by providing interdisciplinary and high-quality technical expertise as well as policy advice, in full alignment with the 2030 Agenda. FAO structures its efforts within five regional initiatives:

- Zero Hunger – enables environments to nurture ecologically viable, nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture and food systems.
- Blue Growth – supports sustainable growth in the marine, maritime and aquaculture sectors, and enhances productive and sustainable natural resource management.
- Climate Change – assists countries to scale up climate adaptation and mitigation actions for agriculture.
- The Interregional Initiative on Small Island Developing States – the efforts of Pacific governments and their partners to improve the sustainability and nutrition-sensitivity of food systems.
- One Health – addresses complex and interconnected health threats to achieve food and nutrition security, sustainable ecosystems, public health and fair trade facilitation.

To sustain efforts in the coming years, FAO mobilized USD 225 million across 92 projects in 2019¹



- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises
- Other

Top resource partners

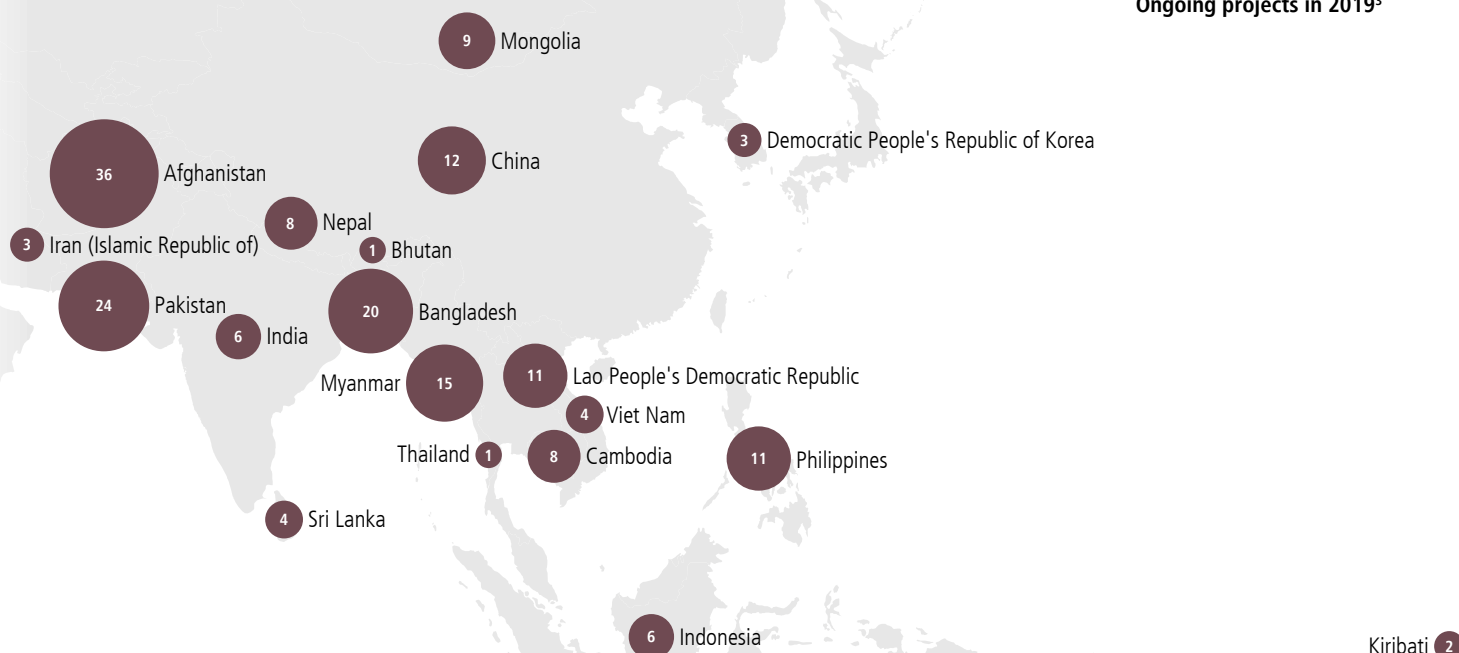
	USD million
European Union	77
GEF	50
United States of America	27
UNOCHA	19
Pakistan	11
Japan	9
Republic of Korea	6
Nepal	5
UNDP Administered Donor Joint Trust Fund	5
Bangladesh	3
Norway	2
IOM	2
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1
GCF	1
UNOPS	1
India	1
China Agricultural Science and Education Foundation	1
Standards and Trade Development Facility in SPS Measures	1
Germany	1
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	1

Top programme countries

	USD million
Papua New Guinea	55
India	35
Bangladesh	28
Cambodia	21
Afghanistan	20
Pakistan	18
Philippines	8
Indonesia	7
Nepal	5
Viet Nam	3
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2
Myanmar	2
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1
China	1
Mongolia	1

FAO in Asia and the Pacific

Ongoing projects in 2019³



Some regional achievements and events in 2019

- Several high-level events were organized by FAO, including the **"Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Asia and the Pacific"**, the **"Forest Futures: Sustainable Pathway for forests, landscape and people in the Asia-Pacific Region"**, the **"Regional Consultative Meeting on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors for Asia and the Pacific"**, the **"Asia-Pacific Forestry Week"**, and **"Pacific Week of Agriculture"**. Knowledge products and work streams developed during these events have provided the foundation for related work and activities at country level.
- The **International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing** (Bangkok, Thailand 5 June 2019) was attended by 250 participants, with commitments to combat IUU fishing reached by Australia, the European Union, Maldives, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the United States of America, Viet Nam and regional agencies. FAO, ILO and IOM called on Asia-Pacific countries to increase efforts by acceding to the international Port State Measures Agreement and ratifying related instruments to protect fisheries and the well-being of those who work in the industry.
- FAO played a key role in facilitating knowledge exchange and experience sharing across countries through the timely organization of the **Regional Consultation on the Fall Armyworm (FAW)**, held in Bangkok, Thailand in March 2019. Participating countries recognized the challenge of this transboundary invasive pest, which has spread rapidly across 12 countries in less than a year. The strengthening of capacities in surveillance, monitoring and integrated pest management measures were identified as the primary activities to better manage FAW in the region. To scale up the fight against FAW, FAO has implemented several TCP projects in nine countries across the region.

1 Subregional

26 Regional

Delivery in 2019: **USD 127 million** to support **219 projects** in Asia and the Pacific⁴

¹ TCP projects, funded through FAO's Regular Programme budget, are not included in this section.

² According to the FAO official methodology determined by the Governing Bodies, voluntary contributions (approvals), which can include new project funding or project revisions, are counted at the time the programmes/projects are declared operationally active.

³ Correspond to those projects that were operationally active at any given point between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019.

⁴ Refers to the total expenditure of programmes/projects implemented in the region during 2019.

Scaling up climate-smart crop production and mechanization systems in Sri Lanka and beyond



Climate-smart production practices helped resource-poor smallholder farmers to sustainably produce staple crops and become more resilient to climate change.



©FAO/Aruna Hewage

Resource-poor smallholder farmers are exceptionally vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Typically, their agricultural production is barely profitable and is environmentally unsustainable. In countries like Sri Lanka, the combination of heavy rains, soil tillage and poor nutrient cycling result in soil erosion and fertility loss, reducing the productivity of upland farms. The resulting siltation of water reservoirs pollutes irrigation systems and reduces water productivity in lowlands.

Approach

In Sri Lanka, the project supported the transition into using a more sustainable smallholder farm system through integrated landscape planning and management. This was achieved by optimizing the use of water, labour and machinery, and distributing production demands more efficiently between lowlands and uplands throughout the year. In Zambia, thanks to the collaboration established between this project and the Sustainable Intensification for Agriculture in Zambia project, which was funded by the EU and implemented by FAO and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, the national subsidy scheme now includes affected farmers. After identifying climatic and socio-economic constraints, agronomic solutions that smallholder producers can use in the short term without major investment were developed.

P. Sisilarathna, a 43-year old father of three, is the primary earner for a household of eight in the village of Meegassegama in the Anuradhapura district of Sri Lanka. He and his wife actively participated in all of the project activities, from the initial pre-project discussions to the residential and field-level farmer training. Among many of the innovative interventions implemented during the last three cropping seasons, application of the parachute method of paddy establishment in Mr. Sisilarathna's lowland paddy fields resulted in increased crop yields and higher profits due to a significant reduction of production costs.

Results

- Agri-business hubs were established for farmers so that they could access high-quality seeds of adapted varieties, inoculants and mechanization services. Here, they also received training on crop production and the operation of equipment, based on curricula and manuals that are harmonized across extension organizations at the country level. Hubs were provided with field equipment that was tested in local conditions and training videos/guides for climate-smart crop production. Over 1 130 farmers and service providers received training on climate-smart crop production practices, including alternate wetting and drying techniques.
- According to the Rice Research and Development Institute, through the adoption of new water management practices, farmers reduced the total irrigation requirements for rice cultivation by 20 percent per season. This allowed them to use conserved water in the next cropping season.
- Farmers were able to expand irrigation by 15 percent during the dry season, which is significantly higher than the average extent of land cultivated in regular dry seasons. The community experienced the highest water capacity ever recorded at the end of the dry season.
- Fertilizer use was optimized and reduced by 27 percent through the use of cover crops, leaf colour charts and parachute trays.

Sustainability

Rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all solution, a range of agronomic practices can be adapted to address the needs and resources of farmers in order to cope with climate change. Although the combination of practices proved to be effective, they still require local promotion and piloting. Farmers need to be trained on how and why to use these practices, and should be motivated to adopt them. Governments need to design policies that provide suitable incentives. Linking sustainable production practices to markets is a strategic way to create traction for agronomic practices that are conducive to a viable farm management system and climate-smart stewardship of the environment.

Period: 2019-2020

Resource partner: Germany

Programme region: South Asia



©FAO/Asanga Ranasinghe

Strengthening global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation through the areas beyond national jurisdiction

The Common Oceans ABNJ Program brought transformative change in fisheries management, new tools to tackle illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and a reduction in the environmental impacts of fishing in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).



©FAO/Luis Costa

The ABNJ are the areas of ocean for which no one nation has sole responsibility for management. These are our common oceans – also called international waters – that make up 40 percent of the planet's surface, comprising 62 percent of ocean surface area and nearly 95 percent of the ocean's volume.

Ecosystems within the ABNJ are subject to impacts from various sectors and human activities – from shipping, to marine pollution, fishing and mining. While progress have been made in overcoming these challenges, the current management of many ABNJ fisheries and the ineffective protection of related ecosystems will have devastating results on marine biodiversity, as well as the socio-economic well-being and food security of the millions of people directly dependent on these fisheries.

Approach

In 2014, the GEF-funded Common Oceans ABNJ Program, coordinated and executed by FAO and partners, was rolled out with the aim to:

- Improve the implementation of policy, legal frameworks and science-based harvest strategies for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ;
- Reduce IUU fishing through strengthened and harmonized monitoring, control and surveillance; and
- Reduce ecosystem impacts from tuna and deep-sea fishing, including the effects on bycatch and associated species in the ABNJ.

“The Programme catalyzed important transformational changes and practices in governance and operational aspects of fisheries and their impact on biodiversity. There is encouraging evidence that these are being mainstreamed by the key institutional actors, and early trends of positive impact of the programme point to improvement in fish stocks health and in bycatch mitigation, starting by the quality and quantity of the information available”

Results

- The Program supported the development of important knowledge products that reinforce the measures required to curb IUU fishing, such as the Port State Measures legal template and design options for Catch Documentation Schemes for both tuna and deep-sea fisheries. It also facilitated the improvement of the web-based Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels and contributed to the first-ever university-certified training course in fisheries compliance and enforcement for Pacific Small Island Developing States.
- The Program was instrumental in developing more sustainable and transparent harvest strategies for all major tuna stocks. Between 2013 and 2019, the number of major tuna stocks experiencing overfishing was reduced from 13 to five.
- The Program enabled the deep sea regional management organizations to carry out fishing impact assessments of potentially vulnerable marine ecosystems. By 2019, 18 new areas had been designated to protect important deep-sea species such as corals and sponges.
- The Program reduced bycatch and marine pollution through the testing and deployment of non-entangling and biodegradable fish aggregating devices. It also supported stock assessments of vulnerable shark species and analysis of marine turtles caught by tuna longline fisheries in the Pacific. Thanks to the mandatory use of circle hooks and other mitigation measures, turtle mortality is expected to go down.

Sustainability

- The Program has brought a diverse mix of partners and stakeholders together, including the UNEP, the World Bank, World Wide Fund, all tuna and deep-sea regional fisheries management organizations, the Regional Seas Programme, civil society, national governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations – all in all over 60 partners, to take action on issues relevant to the ABNJ.
- This opportunity for the exchange of views and experiences, as well as to promote understanding, is widely regarded as an important result of the Program.
- The preparation of a proposal for a second phase of the Program is in the pipeline and will potentially be submitted to the GEF Council in June 2020 for the seventh GEF replenishment cycle.

Period: 2014-2019

Resource partner: GEF

Programme countries: Global

Combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through the One Health approach

Aligned with global recommendations, multi-sectoral national action plans in 12 countries are now in place, and countries have developed laboratory capacities and infrastructure for AMR surveillance.



©FAO/Sergei Gapon

AMR threatens to render the treatment of major human, animal and plant diseases impossible. If current trends remain unchecked, an estimated 10 million human lives will be lost annually due to treatment-resistant infections by 2050. The greatest loss of human lives is projected to occur in low- and middle-income countries in Africa and Asia. Economic losses in food and agriculture sectors are also expected to be substantial. One of the key drivers of the development of AMR is the misuse and abuse of antimicrobials in human and animal health. Antimicrobials have become a fundamental element in some food production systems but only 48 nations routinely collect data on antimicrobial use (AMU) intended to be used in animals, according to the Tripartite Global Database for Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self-Assessment.

Approach

The project aimed to initiate and support country-level actions, as well as to generate relevant information, that inform policy makers and government authorities where capacities to contain AMR are limited. This approach aims to reduce the transmission of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms (and/or its determinants) along the food chain and in the food and agriculture environment. The project supported 12 countries in strengthening the engagement of their food and agriculture sectors to address AMR through the development and implementation of multisectoral national action plans, under the One Health (OH) strategy. The OH strategy aims to design and implement programmes, policies, legislation and research, whereby multiple sectors communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes.

“The project has increased our awareness of the effects of misuse of antimicrobials, particularly within the poultry industry, and has let us appreciate the role of development partners like FAO in helping Member States understand the gravity of AMR and the need to act now. Our farmers have been very grateful that FAO returned to them with feedback messages after conducting knowledge, attitudes and practices surveys, a thing they say has never happened to them in the past”

Dr. Boi Kikimoto, the project counterpart and director in the Veterinary Services Directorate in Ghana



Results

- The OH-based national action plans were supported together with legal assessments of AMR-sensitive and AMU-specific legislation in all 12 target countries.
- Integrated AMR surveillance plans were supported in five African and five Asian countries.
- Procurement of selected laboratory equipment and reagents in six countries benefited over 20 laboratories.
- Over 80 laboratory staff from animal, plant, environment and public health laboratories were trained in AMR detection and surveillance techniques.
- Eighty laboratories were assessed using the Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems (ATLASS). Priority areas for capacity building were identified for progressive improvement.
- Over 50 experts in Africa and Asia benefited from joining the community of ATLASS assessors and partaking in training.
- Awareness-raising campaigns were conducted and accompanied by training of media experts. Additionally, awareness-raising materials were developed and distributed.
- More than 4 000 farmers and stakeholders benefited from awareness-raising campaigns, behavior change surveys, training or input support.

Sustainability

- Support towards the creation of a regional framework for AMR surveillance in Asia, as well as good practices and prudent AMU, were successfully promoted through awareness-raising tools and pilot studies. Regional AMR meetings and experience-sharing events that were organized in Africa and Asia resulted in regional strategies, guidelines, communities of practice and OH regional initiatives.
- AMR surveillance data generation has begun and more outcomes that support evidence-based intervention are expected. Clear positive changes in target countries have been observed, with the OH approach to AMR enhanced at the country, regional and global levels.

Period: 2016-2019

Resource partner: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Programme countries: Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Viet Nam,



©FAO/Hkun Lat

Improving and institutionalizing food safety in Bangladesh

Thanks to the commitment demonstrated by the Government, the private sector, media and civil society, food safety became “everyone’s business” in Bangladesh, allowing the institutionalization and implementation of good practices throughout the supply chain.



©FAO/Karina Coates

Bangladesh is one of the world’s most densely populated countries with more than 1 000 people per square km. The population density places enormous pressure on Bangladesh’s limited natural resources and food system infrastructure. It is difficult for agricultural produce to reach markets because fit-for-purpose transport and storage is not readily available. These conditions fuel the unethical and dangerous practice of adulteration, which, together with the low awareness of good hygiene practices (GHP) of producers and supply chain actors, threatens food safety. Frequent illnesses, such as diarrhoea due to consumption of unsafe food, reduce productivity and negatively impact the economy. These negative outcomes are not adequately addressed due to the fragmentation of food control responsibilities among multiple government ministries and agencies.

Approach

Mainstreaming food safety is essential not only for health, but also for the development of domestic and international value chains. FAO, with the support of the Netherlands and the United States of America, instituted the two largest capacity building projects on food safety ever documented. The Improving Food Safety in Bangladesh project (2012–19) aimed to strengthen the building blocks of food safety and to potentiate the enforcement and implementation of food safety measures through a trained work force. The Institutionalizing Food Safety in Bangladesh for Safer Food project (2013–19) targeted the establishment, operationalization and development of the corporate governance structure of the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA).

Parvin, a woman vendor and mother of a two-year-boy, lost her husband to the cyclone Sidr in 2007. She and her father started a street food business using a dilapidated wooden cart with poor hygienic practices, which used to earn BDT 150-200 a day (around USD 2). After receiving a modern hygienic food cart and training on GHP from the Khulna City Corporation, her business attracts more customers. She now makes BDT 400-500 a day (almost USD 6), and her son goes to school.

“The projects addressed critical areas of an effective food control system; strengthened linkages between food safety measures, food and nutrition security and public health outcomes; and demonstrated FAO’s expertise, global knowledge and best practices. FAO’s support is making a difference, as evidenced by the results at technical and grassroots levels”

Bangladesh Food Safety Cluster Evaluation

Results

- The Food Safety Act was formulated in 2013. District-level food safety courts were set up, and 70 magistrates were trained on food safety.
- The Bangladesh Food Safety Network was founded with five NGOs and now has more than 20 associate members. It is an advisory partner for the BFSA and represents the voice of the people regarding food safety.
- The National Food Safety Laboratory was established and obtained international accreditation within five years. Equipment and training was provided for 10 laboratories and two mobile laboratories for field-testing.
- The national laboratory network, with more than 35 member institutions, conducted the first ever survey on key chemical and microbial contaminants in more than 3 000 samples of food commodities. It showed that the most important issue is the presence of microorganisms such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella*.
- Codes of Practices and Good Manufacturing Practice guidelines for horticulture, fisheries and poultry value chains were developed by national experts. A group of 1 500 trainers reached more than 200 000 farmers through FFSS. The export of fresh mangoes to Walmart in the United Kingdom was achieved for the first time, signifying a recovery from the formalin scare.
- Since street food is critical for low-income groups, vending and monitoring systems were established in six urban areas in collaboration with city authorities. A total of 1 200 hygienic street food carts were distributed and more than 4 000 food vendors and restaurant workers received training in GHP. Consumers in the cities of Khulna and Barisal now have access to hygienic street food.

Sustainability

- The projects’ achievements are embedded in the framework of the operational plan for the National Nutrition Services as a part of the existing five-year Sector Development Plan of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The BFSA has grown into an organization with 22 senior officials on deputation and 106 staff, all fully funded by the Government.
- Capacities were developed by providing continuous training and refresher courses for relevant stakeholders. New technologies were transferred to food inspectors and street-food-vendor-monitoring staff.

Period: 2012-2019/ 2013-2019

Resource partners: Netherlands and the United States of America

Programme country: Bangladesh

Strengthening emergency preparedness for highly pathogenic avian influenza and evidence-based risk management along the livestock value chain

Farmers and local authorities have improved farm biosecurity by strengthening the capacity to manage risks associated with movement of poultry and poultry products.



©FAO

Exponential global population growth has greatly increased the demand for protein over the last few decades. Unmet food demands in specific locations have motivated entrepreneurs to take action, resulting in an increased number of enterprises that raise poultry and trade in these locations. This scenario accurately describes the Luang Prabang, an area located in the north of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. However, with an increased number of poorly managed commercial farms, animal diseases that can potentially spill over to humans, such as the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), commonly known as bird flu, have spread throughout parts of Asia.

Approach

By aiming to increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises, the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (FAO-ECTAD) implemented an initial project to strengthen emergency preparedness for HPAI in Asia. Value chain studies tracked the movement of animals and animal products "from farm to fork," while technical assistance informed commercial farmers how to improve their farm biosecurity and management, as well as how to increase flock productivity. A second project used the previously generated value chain information to pilot risk management interventions along livestock value chains in selected locations in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

Luang Prabang in the north of the Lao People's Democratic Republic had repeatedly reported HPAI outbreaks in the past, and the risk of reintroduction is always present. Veterinarians, provincial staff, and local farmers were trained on good flock health management and farm biosecurity, poultry vaccination and product recording to reduce the risk of locally originated outbreaks. Local communities, gender groups, local authorities and academia have been engaged to reduce reliance on and exposure to imports of contaminated commodities.

Results

- Cross-border value chain studies were prepared in Takeo province, Cambodia (Cambodia–Viet Nam) and in Luang Prabang province, Lao People's Democratic Republic (China– Lao People's Democratic Republic). In Luang Prabang, the project supported a large influx of live poultry from neighboring countries. A carefully selected breed of chicken that is suitable for local production was introduced.
- The Poultry Health Center (PHC), which acts as a technical hub for training and providing practical, hands-on experience to farmers was established in collaboration with the local agriculture college. Low-cost egg hatching machines were introduced, and farmers have been trained to improve production.
- The project greatly strengthened the capacity to manage risks associated with the movement of poultry and poultry products into Luang Prabang. Local authorities were also trained on poultry husbandry and biosecurity practices in Bac Giang.
- The capacities of local authorities on poultry certification auditing were strengthened in Viet Nam, and in Myanmar. Training on the improvement of biosecurity and farm management practices was provided in the poultry production zone of Yangon. The assessment and grading of 15 farms that participated in the biosecurity assessment was completed, with all farms demonstrating improvement. Portable polymerase chain reaction technology was further introduced for fast and easy detection of the bird flu virus.

Sustainability

- Using an evidence-based approach, the interventions aim to reduce risks in the market chain as a whole. Piloting the development of a community-based enterprise by strengthening capacity for the implementation of good flock health and biosecurity practices will support long-term sustainability and ownership of risk mitigation.
- The farmer groups, with technical guidance from the PHC, are developing a community-based enterprise to improve the production of a niche breed of native chicken, which they have proudly called "Luangprabang Native Chicken".

Period: 2014–2019

Resource partner: United States of America

Programme region: Asia and the Pacific



©FAO

Restoring the agriculture-based livelihoods of drought-affected farmers in Badghis and Ghor

Drought-affected households have timely protected their core breeding animals to secure and optimise food production for consumption and trade, safeguarding their livelihoods and increasing their resilience.



©FAO

In Afghanistan, agriculture plays a central role in the livelihoods of the population as more than two-thirds of all households are engaged in agriculture, and the agricultural industry employs around 78 percent of the national workforce. Since most of the water needed for cultivation comes from rain and snowmelt during the winter season, the widespread drought that struck the country in 2018 particularly affected the western provinces, including Badghis and Ghor, where parched soil led to poor germination and growing conditions for wheat – the country's staple food crop, increasing vulnerability, particularly for smallholder farmers whose crops were damaged or lost.

Approach

FAO's response to the crisis consisted in the implementation of two projects, in coordination with multiple stakeholders, to protect and restore the livestock-based livelihoods of 5 200 vulnerable households affected by the drought. The project provided animal feed and fast-growing fodder crop seeds, deworming medicine for small and large ruminants, and training on livestock husbandry best practices.

"The wheat seed package not only increased my yields, but also provided me enough fodder (straw) for my livestock. I learned how to protect my crops from pests and diseases in the future (...) I am very happy and grateful for the support. This assistance has saved my land"

Mohammad Azim, farmer beneficiary from the programme

Mohammad Azim, like many others in the Sarpal-e-Kasi village located in the Ferozkoh district of Ghor province, was affected by the drought. With his afflicted land and livestock as the only source to feed his family of ten, Mohammad had to sell almost half of his livestock, leaving him with only three cows. Thanks to the fodder and wheat and vegetable seeds provided through the project, he has secured food for his family.

Results

- The agriculture-based livelihoods of 7 800 drought-affected households (68 656 people) in Badghis and Ghor provinces have been restored, and further deterioration of their food security and nutrition prevented from. In line with beneficiaries' preferences, each family received 50 kg of certified wheat seed, 100 kg of urea and DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) fertilizers, 200 g of vegetable seeds (onions, okra, eggplant and tomatoes), and one home gardening toolkit. In total, households received 390 tonnes of wheat seed, and 390 tonnes of DAP and 390 tonnes of urea fertilizers.
- Beneficiaries cultivated a total of 3 120 ha of land with wheat seed for an estimated harvest of 5 616 tonnes (0.9 tonnes per beneficiary household, which is sufficient for consumption for one year). Thanks to the home-gardening tools, 11.6 ha more of land have been cultivated with vegetable seeds, which contributed to food diversity, utilization and consumption at the household level.
- Through the second project, benefits were extended to 5 200 more herding households (about 40 040 people) across five districts of Badghis province that received in total 520 tonnes of animal feed, 15.6 tonnes of fodder crop seed and 500 litres of livestock deworming medicine, which was tested for quality and delivered through distribution points at district level. In total, 26 915 animals (2 043 calves and cattle, 14 036 sheep and 10 836 goats) belonging to 5 200 households affected by drought were protected.

Sustainability

- Training on good agricultural practices helped all 7 800 farmers – of whom 248 women – increase their knowledge on pest and disease control, i.e. improved weed management, surveillance of crop pests and timely control of diseases and pests. Farmers have applied their newfound ability to their fields, thereby increasing their harvest.
- The second project enabled the cultivation of 520 ha of land with fodder crops, which will contribute to boosting feed production and enhancing beneficiaries' resilience, ultimately contributing to improved food security and nutrition. Over 11 extension workers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and implementing partner staff were trained on good livestock practices and sustainable grazing management to further spread knowledge to other farmers.

Period: 2018–2019

Resource partners: Belgium and the Republic of Korea

Programme country: Afghanistan

Europe and Central Asia

In recent years, Europe and Central Asia has seen how structural changes in many lower-income countries of the region with accelerated economic growth have elevated the most vulnerable populations out of poverty and significantly reduced hunger. Nonetheless, challenges remain and new threats are emerging in the fight against poverty and malnutrition:

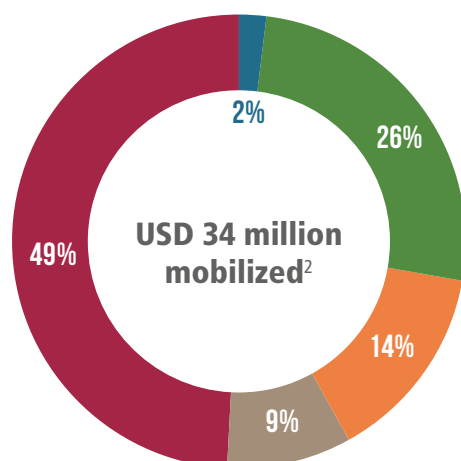
- Progress on hunger reduction is unequal, with several countries experiencing a comparatively high prevalence of hunger, or a new phase of slower progress.
- In low- and lower middle-income countries, the combination of poverty and inequality leads to an increased vulnerability of disadvantaged groups.
- Many countries continue to show a relatively high prevalence of various forms of malnutrition, which puts them at risk of not meeting the related SDG targets.
- The region is the second highest recipient of migrants in the world, with 78 million international migrants in 2017. Along with economic migration, the region has witnessed an increase in both internally displaced and refugee populations in recent years.
- In some countries, agriculture's employment share notably exceeds agriculture's share in the economy, indicating the low productivity of the sector against other areas.

FAO's strategy

FAO's programme of work in the region focuses on assisting countries in their transition towards stronger market economies, in revitalizing their rural sectors, and improving food and nutrition security through sustainable food systems. Regional initiatives provide an integrated and programmatic approach to addressing priority issues and guide the implementation of country programmes. The regional initiatives focus on:

- Empowering smallholders and family farms for improved rural livelihoods and poverty reduction – aims to develop sustainable agricultural production through inclusive growth and to strengthen the resilience of rural populations.
- Improving agrifood trade and market integration – supports countries in enhancing the agrifood trade policy environment for small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises and developing more inclusive and efficient agrifood systems.
- Managing natural resources, under a changing climate – assists countries to sustainably use their natural resources, while also coping with climate change and reducing the risk of disasters affecting agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

To sustain efforts in the coming years, FAO mobilized USD 34 million across 35 projects in 2019¹



- **Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition**
- **Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable**
- **Reduce rural poverty**
- **Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems**
- **Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises**

Top resource partners

	USD million
European Union	14
Turkey	3
Azerbaijan	3
UNDP Administered Trust Funds	3
GEF	3
Sweden	3
UNHCR	2
United States of America	1
Japan	1
Standards and Trade Development Facility in SPS Measures	1
UNOCHA	1
Republic of Korea	1

Top programme countries

	USD million
Turkey	16
Azerbaijan	7
Ukraine	3
Kosovo ³	3
Georgia	1
Kyrgyzstan	1

FAO in Europe and Central Asia

Ongoing projects in 2019⁴



Some regional achievements and events in 2019:

- During the **Regional Workshops on Migration** (October and November 2019, Budapest, Hungary), FAO engaged in policy dialogue with strategic partners to mobilize resources and support all stages of the migration cycle, and also developed a roadmap that underlines the way forward in the management of migration.
- The **International Conference on Food Safety Risk Analysis and AMR** (17-18 December 2019, Moscow, the Russian Federation) helped enhance multilateral international cooperation on food safety and nutrition. Organized under a Russian-financed project, the conference contributed to the development of the provisions of the 2030 Agenda, the recommendations of the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on AMR.
- The **Regional Dialogue on Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Climate Action and the SDGs** (24-25 October 2019, Budapest, Hungary) identified the key factors for success, new innovations, best practices and the challenges in building and sustaining effective multi-stakeholder partnerships and in further strengthening climate action in the region relating to the SDGs.
- FAO's **"Developing Capacity for Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Selected Countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia"** project has facilitated the improvement of children's access to healthy diversified diets in a sustainable manner, while, at the same time, supporting local agriculture. In 2019, the project delivered (i) greenhouses and orchards to three schools in the Ararat region of Armenia, benefiting more than 1 000 students; (ii) seedbed greenhouses and orchards to 20 schools in the Khatlon region of Tajikistan, providing food for 7 529 students; (iii) the Logistics Center in the Kemin District of Kyrgyzstan, which covers 29 schools and a total of 12 000 students; (iv) six learning hubs for modern agricultural education in schools of the Ararat region in Armenia; (v) support for the development of the new national curriculum that introduces nutrition subjects to schools in Tajikistan; and (vi) a legal study with recommendations for improving the current legislation on school gardens in Kyrgyzstan.

8 Subregional

8 Regional

Delivery in 2019: **USD 20 million** to support **73 projects** in Europe and Central Asia⁵

¹ TCP projects, funded through FAO's Regular Programme budget, are not included in this section.

² According to the FAO official methodology determined by the Governing Bodies, voluntary contributions (approvals), which can include new project funding or project revisions, are counted at the time the programmes/projects are declared operationally active.

³ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

⁴ Correspond to those projects that were operationally active at any given point between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019.

⁵ Refers to the total expenditure of programmes/projects implemented in the region during 2019.

Strengthening food security and improving nutrition in the Caucasus and Central Asia by connecting agriculture to school programmes



The project significantly improved children's access to healthy, diversified diets in sustainable ways, while supporting local agriculture.



©FAO/Karen Minasyan

Despite considerable economic growth and improvements in household welfare over recent years, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan remain highly vulnerable to global economic shocks, volatility in international food and commodity prices and extreme weather that affects food security. According to the 2016 European Regional Conference, the most common drivers of change and challenges in the region include (i) rural livelihoods, migration and rural poverty; (ii) farm structure; (iii) sustainability of food production and food systems; (iv) food insecurity and malnutrition; and (v) agricultural trade policy.

Approach

In order to address these challenges and create an enabling environment for tackling malnutrition, the project aimed to operationalize the linkages between social protection, nutrition and agriculture by carrying out six pilot projects. The School Food and Nutrition Programme Linked to the Agricultural Sector tested three different models. In Armenia, school gardens were established in three schools, while in Tajikistan, the aim was to establish 15 school gardens and 5 community gardens. In Kyrgyzstan, a logistics centre for the supply of agricultural products was established in order to meet the needs of schools and other social institutions at the district level.

“Every morning, I come to the greenhouse and see how the tomatoes are doing – if they are dirty and should be cleaned. I water them or fertilize them if necessary. Every day we give to the canteen of the school 15-18 kg of these products and bring the rest of them to the market for selling. We have learned a lot from the FAO training sessions... The impact is that we provide fresh products without any chemicals to the children”

Alvard Papoyan, School Principal, Tajikistan

Results

- The greenhouses and orchards established at the three schools in the Ararat region of Armenia benefited more than 1 000 students. The two apple orchards cover an area of approximately 1 000 square metres each. Three greenhouse models, covering a total of 1 103 square metres, produce vegetables for more than 1 000 students in elementary grades at the pilot schools. Six learning hubs for modern agricultural education in schools ensure optimal use of the investment.
- Seedbed greenhouses and orchards established for 22 schools in the Khatlon region of Tajikistan now provide food for 7 529 students.
- The logistics centre supports 29 schools with over 12 000 students in the Kemin district of Kyrgyzstan. The plantation of apple tree seedlings, accompanied by agronomic training and consultations in the field, benefited 15 schools across the country.

Sustainability

- A legal analysis of the regulations that govern school gardens in Kyrgyzstan identified suitable legislation and analyzed institutional mandates in order to provide national counterparts with recommendations to strengthen the national legal framework.
- More than 50 representatives from pilot schools and the three school district education departments participated in the training on land preparation, planting, seedling production, integrated pest management and fertilizer application. By mastering the new technologies and techniques, schools could become a practical base for the training of local farmers.

Period: 2016-2020

Resource partners: The Russian Federation

Programme countries: Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan



©SIFI/Rustem Ilyasov

Fostering mutual capacity development and regional collaboration in food security and agricultural development in Europe and Central Asia



The project improved countries' technical capacities in the areas of African swine fever, freshwater aquaculture, and biodiversity while providing access to cost-effective and viable local solutions.



©FAO/Torsten Möerner

The Czechia and FAO have set a regional capacity development programme, of which the first year covered the following themes:

- **African swine fever (ASF) wild boar management**

Since 2007, ASF has progressively spread throughout Eastern Europe, eventually entering the EU in 2014. Despite extensive efforts and investments, no territory has been able to effectively control and prevent the spread this disease. Recently, ASF has been responsible for the death of thousands of animals, spurring the implementation of trade restrictions that affect livelihoods and cause serious economic losses.

- **Untapped resources in freshwater aquaculture**

Eastern Europe and the Caucasus are rich in lakes and rivers that provide food, income, and leisure opportunities for centuries. However, human activities and environmental changes have degraded fish habitats and depleted fish stocks, leaving some traditional fish varieties on the verge of disappearance. Many farms in the region continue to use old technology and extensive farming systems inherited from the Soviet-era, lacking modern equipment as well as general knowledge in fish diseases, fish feeding, business management, marketing, and post-harvest handling of fish products.

- **Conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources**

Nature conservation, assessment, use and conservation of genetic resources, with special attention to genetic resources for food, agriculture and forestry, are closely related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological diversity, namely its three main goals: conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. The implementation of these goals is a basic obligation of all Parties to the Convention.

Approach

The project was designed under the framework of SSTC to provide countries with increasing opportunities to share policy-related lessons learned and best practices in food security and agricultural development through regional collaboration. The Czechia and its neighboring countries held three regional technical workshops and worked together in support of common development objectives. The workshops brought together over 90 government officials and technical experts from 22 countries (the

Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia and abroad) and provided unique opportunities for knowledge transfer, capacity building and future partnerships among participating countries in the areas of African swine fever, freshwater aquaculture, and biodiversity. Participating countries gained access to cost-effective and viable local solutions.

“The implication of all partners related to wild boar in the discussions and development of strategies – such as hunters, forestry services and veterinary services – is crucial to coordinate an optimum management of the disease in wild boar populations”

Daniel Beltran-Alcrudo, FAO Animal Health Officer

Results

- The regional ASF wild boar management workshop (Belgrade, Serbia 21-23 May 2019) allowed for the sharing of knowledge and experiences from ASF-affected countries. It also provided a special focus on ASF prevention for Balkan countries with a high risk of disease introduction that had not yet been affected. A field day at a hunting ground in Karakusa (Serbia) was used to demonstrate practices in hunting biosecurity, sampling and the storage of carcasses.
- During the regional workshop on pond aquaculture (České Budějovice, Czechia 30 September-4 October 2019), participants from Eastern Europe, West Balkans and the Caucasus were introduced to new research and learned about the latest farming methods and technologies in pond aquaculture. Participants shared policies and good practices regarding the conservation of aquatic genetic resources and performed field exercises on rearing ornamental fish and milking eggs from live African catfish. FAO and the Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters of the University of South Bohemia jointly organized the workshop.
- The regional workshop on the conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources for food, agriculture and forestry (Prague, Czechia 22-24 October 2019) allowed for experience sharing and provided examples of good practices. Special attention was paid to the safeguarding of ecosystems and genetic resources that are important for agriculture and forestry.

Sustainability

- The workshops facilitated discussion about regional cooperation and networking.
- Three more technical workshops will be organized in 2020 to address (i) cattle breeding management, (ii) aquatic ecosystem conservation and the ecosystem (sustainable development) approach to inland fisheries management, and (iii) remote sensing forest inventory for sustainable forest management.

Period: 2019-2020

Resource partner: Czechia

Programme region: Europe and Central Asia

Restoring landscape productivity through integrated natural resources management in the forest-steppe zones of Ukraine



The upscaling of integrated natural resources management practices promoted restoration of degraded landscapes in the forest-steppe zones of Ukraine.



©FAO/Viktoriia Mykhalchuk

Ukraine's famous and extensive fertile black soils are suffering from serious erosion and deterioration after many years of intensive production. They have become acidic, saline or alkaline due to unsustainable agricultural practices, such as the excessive use of mineral fertilizers, as well as the use of outdated technologies. Water erosion has damaged over 13 million ha of land, while wind erosion has affected another 6 million ha. The eroded area is estimated to have increased by 70 000-100 000 ha each year during the last decade, while irrigated land has decreased by about 15 percent over the past 15 years.

Approach

In collaboration with GEF, the project assists leading state authorities to develop environmental monitoring systems and achieve neutral soil degradation in the forest-steppe and steppe zones. The project raised awareness on sustainable natural resource management; strengthened the institutional, legal and policy environment; promoted the restoration of productivity and the resilience of production landscapes through capacity building; and demonstrated both conservation and climate-smart agriculture practices at pilot sites.

"Healthy food is conditioned by the soils' health. Through the FAO project, Ukrainian farmers will be able to improve integrated natural resources management as well as to ensure sustainable food production"

Leonid Tsentylo, focal point on climate-smart agriculture practices in Kyiv oblast

Results

- FFS trained around 160 participants, representing farms that cultivate around 220 000 ha, on the spring sowing campaign, biodiversity, irrigation, soil cultivation methods, the rehabilitation of shelterbelts, and economic aspects of conservation agriculture technologies through ten theoretical and practical sessions.
- Recommendations from the participating organizations provided information for the preparation of a matrix of national soil monitoring indicators. The agricultural producers survey collected information about 500 practicing farmers, covering more than 1 million ha of arable land in steppe and forest- steppe zones. A farming assessment was conducted to better understand the land degradation situation by surveying 305 practicing farmers in the steppe, the forest-steppe and the forest zones of Ukraine.
- Biofertilizers were used on degraded lands in the village of Velykiy Burluk, Kharkiv Oblast (an 89.5 ha treatment plot and a 25.5 ha control plot) to restore the productivity and resilience of landscapes. FAO is also developing an online course on conservation agriculture practices, based on the FFS programme.
- To raise awareness on the land degradation situation, the results of the assessment were disseminated through public events, radio, television and the press media. FAO also reported on the gender dimension of environmental risks in degraded land, the effect of climate change on agriculture and the challenges in accessing finance.

Sustainability

- Under the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, eight institutions established the National Soil Partnership in order to facilitate dialogue among relevant stakeholders and support the creation of a base for monitoring land quality, land productivity and carbon stocks.
- The methodological approach to shelterbelt establishment and restoration, developed in cooperation with the Institute of Forestry, provided the basis for an intervention to restore 8 km of shelterbelts and to plant 2 km of new shelterbelts in project areas.

Period: 2017-2020

Resource partner: GEF

Programme country: Ukraine



©FAO/Vasily Maksimov

Supporting the agricultural sector in Georgia under the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) III



Critical support and legislation helped farmers enhance agricultural techniques, promote premium Georgian products and gain means to achieve higher income.



©ENPARD

Georgia, a country located in the Caucasus region of Eurasia, signed an Association Agreement with the EU in 2014. The agreement, which has been effective since 2016, set forward significant reforms in the Georgian agricultural sector in order to harmonize practices with EU standards, altering the environment of rural communities. Since 2013, FAO has facilitated policy dialogue between the Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) and the EU, and has been promoting coordination among implementers and partners of the ENPARD.

Approach

The project to guide the development of the Georgian agricultural sector under ENPARD III is the third of its kind in Georgia. It aims to support the economic development of rural communities by increasing the productivity and income of Georgian farmers through modern methodologies and connecting producers with retailers. This intervention also supported both the implementation of the National Strategy for Agricultural Extension 2018-2019 and the provision of extension services, demonstration plots, field schools and access to finance for farmers, cooperatives and SMEs.

The Kapanadze family, like many other smallholder farmers, benefited from the project. They received assistance in producing sweet corn using modern European standards and practices, and in regularly supplying their produce to the large-scale retailer, Carrefour. These efforts were possible thanks to the expertise of FAO agronomists and other experts, as well as the EU-funded ENPARD.

"I would have never imagined that one day I could sell my yield in Carrefour. I am so happy that people are buying my sweet corn. This is the first case of my collaboration with Carrefour, which I hope will continue in future. I am so grateful to the EU and FAO for this opportunity"

David Kapanadze, a farmer from Lagodekhi municipality

Results

- The drafting of legislation and strategic documents was supported under the project, covering the following areas: aquaculture law, the law on geographical indications, the legislative package for seedling certification, the Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2021–2027 and the Strategy of Extension.
- The MEPA was supported in creating management tools such as the market monitoring system. The assistance and training provided under the project improved data collection, analysis and statistics, which contributed to the evaluation of national agriculture programmes.
- The establishment of demonstration plots (potatoes, wheat, maize, cucumber, eggplant and sweet corn) allowed smallholder farmers to learn about more advance, yet affordable, agricultural techniques in the municipalities of Akhalkalaki, Dedoplistskaro, Khazbegi and Lagodekhi.
- The demonstration plots, which were managed by farmers with FAO supervision, yielded up to four times more than neighbouring farms that relied on traditional practices. The open-field cucumber demonstration plot produced 120 tonnes/ha, about three times that of neighbouring plots, while the aubergine plot yielded 90 tonnes/ha, greatly exceeding the 35 tonnes/ha produced using traditional practices.
- Supporting farmers to meet market requirements, in terms of both crops and varieties, improved the situation for selling their products, allowing them to directly access large-scale retailers.

Sustainability

- Using the FAO Sustainable Value Chain Assessment methodology, a budget of USD 6 million was approved for matching grants to farmers, cooperatives and SMEs so that they can access the technologies demonstrated under the project at a reduced cost and for promoting sectoral investments that are in line with policy reforms. During the first application process in 2019, 140 investment proposals were received, amounting to over USD 4 million. Matching grants will be disbursed in 2020.

Period: 2018-2022

Resource partner: European Union

Programme country: Georgia



©FAO/Dorin Goian

Harmonizing food safety measures for fishery products in Ukraine with European Union standards

FAO helped Ukraine's food safety system for fishery products meet EU standards, improving fish safety and bolstering trade in Ukraine.



©FAO/Amico

Ukraine consumes considerable marine and inland fisheries resources, producing 226 585 and importing 629 315 tonnes per year. Under the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area agreement with the EU, Ukraine has committed to aligning its food safety and quality systems with EU standards. This process entails notable changes being enforced in terms of legal requirements in Ukraine's food safety control system, as well as changes in the fish production and processing practices, which will affect the fisheries industry on a national scale.

Approach

In 2018, FAO launched an initiative to help Ukraine modernize its national food safety system and establish highly qualified national institutions for food safety of fishery and aquaculture products. The initiative laid out a plan to transition from the existing system to one that complies with the EU legislative framework. Specific activities included: (i) assessing the level of harmonization of new Ukrainian regulations with the EU in terms of fish safety and quality, identifying gaps and making recommendations; and (ii) conducting awareness raising and capacity building workshops, and preparing manuals for official fish inspectors, as well as for fishers, traders and processors on changing requirements in the industry.

"Since Ukraine has many current and potential fisheries and aquaculture producers ready to export to the European Union, harmonizing Ukrainian and EU legislation should help both state authorities and businesses... I strongly believe in the success of current trainings, which will definitely help local entrepreneurs and big businesses adapt to the new food safety control system and to the new legal conditions, including traceability and labelling issues"

Esther Garrido Gamarro, FAO food safety and quality officer

Results

- New regulations were drafted to move towards harmonization with the EU standards and regulations.
- Technical assistance for the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine was provided for drafting the Strategy for the Development of the Fisheries Industry (for the next four years).
- An action plan was prepared for the implementation of the fisheries development strategy, which provided guidance for a related decree in the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.
- A manual was designed to introduce and demonstrate how protocols and a risk-based approach can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of state inspections. The manual was distributed to all 25 regional inspectors and was to be used and published beyond project closure.
- A Laboratory Safety Testing for Fishery Products workshop was held from 26 February to 1 March 2019. A total of 34 staff were trained, including officials from the State Service, analysts from central and regional laboratories, national fish inspectors and researchers/scientists from national university laboratories.

Sustainability

- The benefits and implications of the project have been communicated not only to officials from the State Agency of Fisheries and the State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumers Protection and their respective laboratories, but also to relevant stakeholders, including the Association of Ukrainian Importers of Fish and Seafood and the Association of Ukrainian Aquaculture Society. The knowledge and skills developed under the project are expected to remain in the corresponding institutions.
- Complementary interventions from the local government, and additional support from the EU, FAO and other partners will support the development of an efficient food safety inspection system.

Period: 2017-2019

Resource partner: Norway

Programme country: Ukraine



©FAO/Amico

Fostering social cohesion between Syrian refugees and host communities in Turkey through the formation of sustainable livelihoods

Vocational skills development and employment facilitation improved the livelihoods of the Syrian refugees registered under temporary protection (SuTP) in Turkey and their host communities.



©FAO

Turkey is home to the largest refugee population in the world. In 2018, the number of SuTPs remained very high, at over 3.65 million people, of which approximately half were children. Although SuTPs in Turkey are mainly engaged in the informal economy due to administrative and social barriers, under work permit exemptions they can also work in seasonal agriculture and animal husbandry. At the same time, increased investment in these sectors has triggered a demand for labour, creating an opportunity for vocational training to better meet the needs of both parts.

Approach

The FAO intervention focused on creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for host communities and Syrians and on building institutional capacities for increased job opportunities in local economies affected by the Syrian crisis. The project identified areas of labour deficit in targeted areas of the agriculture sector, as well as the potential private enterprises in need of skilled/semi-skilled workers. Demand-driven skills development programmes (with modules in Turkish and Arabic) and on-the-job training supported beneficiaries and their attendance at job fairs. Awareness-raising campaigns and training informed beneficiaries about healthy diets, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases.

Ahmed Mahmoud Awan, a refugee who fled the war in the Syrian Arab Republic to Turkey, successfully applied to the FAO training programme on livestock farming. After six weeks of comprehensive training, which also involved learning the Turkish language, he found a job on a farm that carries out livestock activities, which is run by a local farmer in Şanlıurfa.

"I participated in the training course and learned a lot of things such as animal diseases, first aid, and how to store hay. After finishing the on-the-job training, one of the local farmers that I met during the training called me and asked if I wanted to work on the farm. I accepted the offer and started working with them"

Results

- Five different vocational training programmes were organized on labour deficit areas of the food and agriculture sector. Development programmes and on-the-job training supported 150 people (in both Syrians and host communities), of which 30 percent were women, with demand-driven skills.
- A total of 120 beneficiaries participated in job fairs and 49 of them gained employment in 30 local private enterprises within the food and agricultural sector.
- Women's participation was encouraged and ensured through various provisions, including a minimum participation rate, the selection of training topics that are best fit for women, transportation services, and flexibility in beneficiary selection criteria.
- The events organized demonstrated simple and affordable nutritious recipes using locally available ingredients to promote healthy diets among project beneficiaries. Consequently, 250 participants improved the quality of their diet. According to pre- and post-tests, 86 percent of participants enhanced their understanding of healthy diets, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases.
- The project enhanced information sharing and developed the capacity of employers and employees. This supported work permit application processes, including work permit exemptions for seasonal agriculture workers.

Sustainability

- On-the-job training enhanced the technical capacity of implementing partners and relevant government institutions to organize similar vocational training programmes. Joint efforts by the established network of government institutions, implementing partners and companies in the food and agriculture sector may also facilitate additional initiatives.

Period: 2018 - 2019

Resource partner: Japan

Programme country: Turkey



©FAO/Ridvan Vahapo

Near East and North Africa

Eliminating food insecurity and malnutrition are persistent challenges in the Near East and North Africa. The structural dependence of its countries on food imports makes the region highly vulnerable to shocks, decreasing the ability of entire communities to feed themselves.

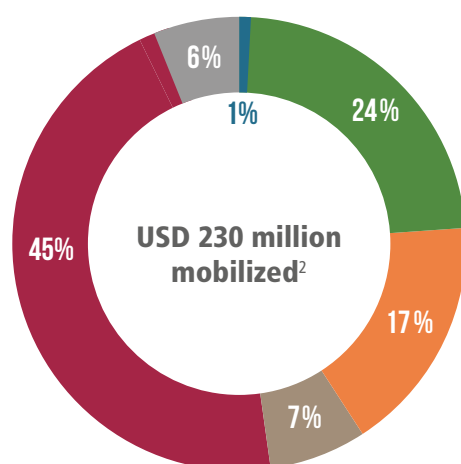
Countries in the region face common challenges in improving food security, nutrition and inclusive agricultural development. These include persistently high rates of population growth, averaging over 2.2 percent for the whole region, increasing urbanization rates, low growth in food production and declining productivity. Also, limitations in the supply of food make the region a large and growing importer of basic foodstuffs. This heightens its vulnerability to spikes and volatility in international food prices. Because the region is naturally exposed to chronic shortages of water, countries may soon be faced with the most severe intensification of water scarcity in the region's history.

FAO's strategy

The FAO work programme in the Near East and North Africa focuses on achieving food security for all and works to help member states reduce their vulnerability. It supports efforts that are aimed at reducing food insecurity, eradicating hunger, increasing productivity of agriculture, and improving the ability of vulnerable communities to cope and recover from shocks and crises. In light of this, FAO has developed three regional initiatives:

- **Water Scarcity Initiative** – supports governments and the private sector in the adoption of modern technologies and institutional solutions to increase the efficiency and productivity of water use in agriculture.
- **Small-scale family farming** – focuses on the promotion of decent rural employment and inclusive economic growth that benefits vulnerable groups, especially women and youth.
- **Building resilience for food security and nutrition** – assists countries in addressing the immediate causes of vulnerability, food insecurity and malnutrition by improving resilience-based policies and investments, prevention and risk reduction measures, and rapid response to emergencies.

To sustain efforts in the coming years, FAO mobilized USD 230 million across 68 projects in 2019¹



- **Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition**
- **Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable**
- **Reduce rural poverty**
- **Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems**
- **Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises**
- **Other**

Top resource partners

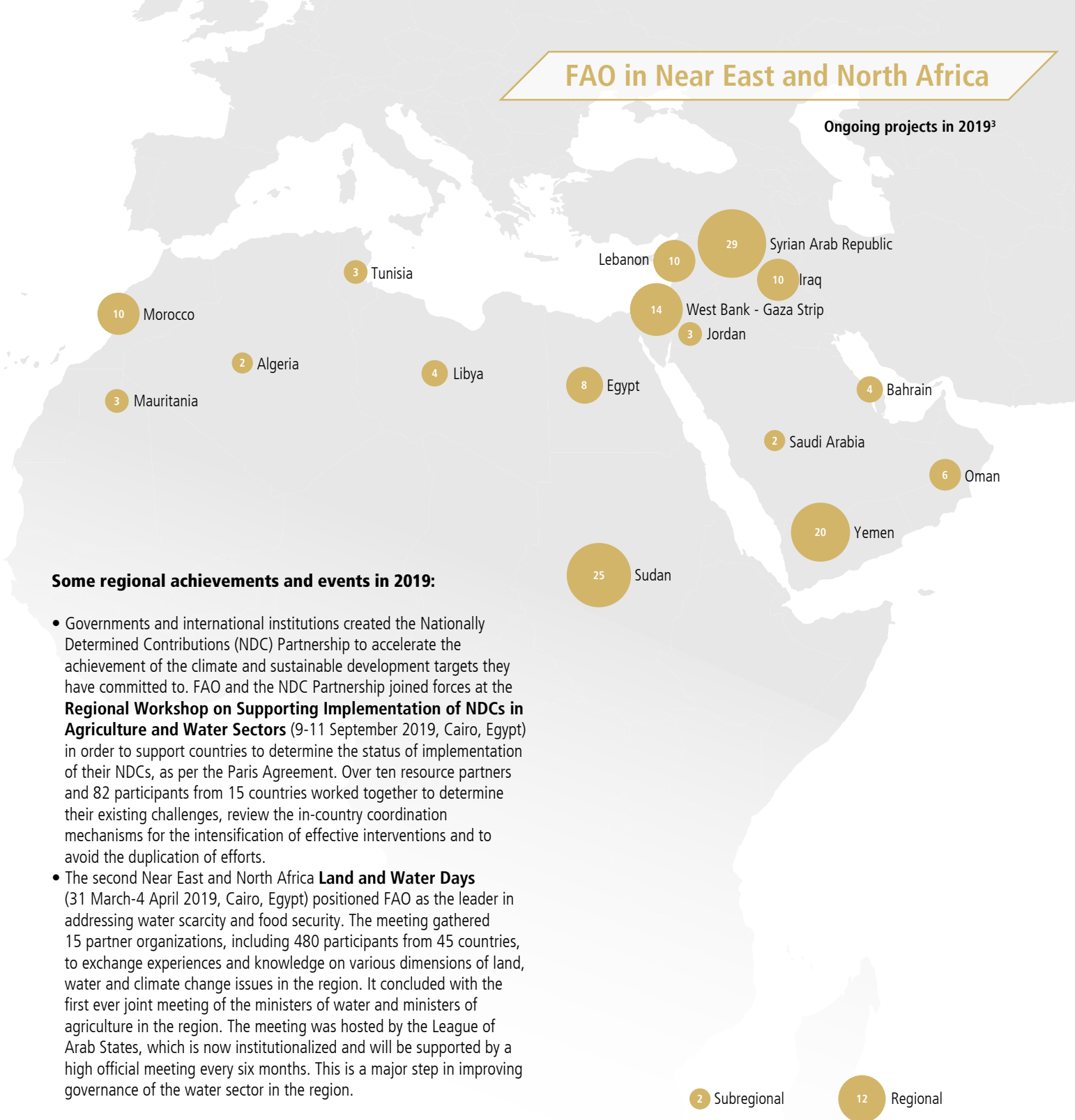
	USD million
Saudi Arabia	93
European Union	41
UNOCHA	25
UNDP Administered Donor Joint Trust Fund	13
GEF	13
Japan	12
Tunisia	10
Kuwait	5
United States of America	4
African-Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur	3
Bahrain	2
Denmark	2
Germany	1
Italy	1
Sweden	1
UNHCR	1
Switzerland	1
Libya	1
Norway	1
Monaco	1

Top programme countries

	USD million
Saudi Arabia	93
Yemen	38
Iraq	24
Tunisia	16
Syrian Arab Republic	15
Sudan	14
Mauritania	8
West Bank - Gaza Strip	7
Bahrain	2
Egypt	2
Lebanon	1
Libya	1
Morocco	1

FAO in Near East and North Africa

Ongoing projects in 2019³



Some regional achievements and events in 2019:

- Governments and international institutions created the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership to accelerate the achievement of the climate and sustainable development targets they have committed to. FAO and the NDC Partnership joined forces at the **Regional Workshop on Supporting Implementation of NDCs in Agriculture and Water Sectors** (9-11 September 2019, Cairo, Egypt) in order to support countries to determine the status of implementation of their NDCs, as per the Paris Agreement. Over ten resource partners and 82 participants from 15 countries worked together to determine their existing challenges, review the in-country coordination mechanisms for the intensification of effective interventions and to avoid the duplication of efforts.
- The second Near East and North Africa **Land and Water Days** (31 March-4 April 2019, Cairo, Egypt) positioned FAO as the leader in addressing water scarcity and food security. The meeting gathered 15 partner organizations, including 480 participants from 45 countries, to exchange experiences and knowledge on various dimensions of land, water and climate change issues in the region. It concluded with the first ever joint meeting of the ministers of water and ministers of agriculture in the region. The meeting was hosted by the League of Arab States, which is now institutionalized and will be supported by a high official meeting every six months. This is a major step in improving governance of the water sector in the region.

Delivery in 2019: USD 103 million to support 171 projects in the Near East and North Africa⁴

¹ TCP projects, funded through FAO's Regular Programme budget, are not included in this section.

² According to the FAO official methodology determined by the Governing Bodies, voluntary contributions (approvals), which can include new project funding or project revisions, are counted at the time the programmes/projects are declared operationally active. .

³ Correspond to those projects that were operationally active at any given point between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019.

⁴ Refers to the total expenditure of programmes/projects implemented in the region during 2019.

Protecting and restoring agricultural capacities and livelihoods in Gaza Strip using solar energy



Time-critical renewable energy solutions were essential for enhancing the resilience of rural communities.



©FAO

For a decade, Gaza Strip has experienced chronic electricity shortages that have led to devastating impacts on agriculture-based livelihoods and food production. In addition to the human toll, the damage inflicted on Gaza Strip's electricity and water infrastructure by three wars in a span of six years and a prolonged blockade, has intensified food insecurity. The 2018 Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey (SEFSec) estimate that 62 percent of households in the Gaza Strip are severely or moderately food insecure. Female-headed households typically face higher levels of food insecurity and lower resilience, often struggling to provide nutritious and diversified foods for household consumption and local markets.

Approach

FAO has provided timely support to save agricultural livelihoods in Gaza Strip by addressing critical electricity shortages through the introduction of renewable solar energy sources. The project aimed to sustainably protect and restore agricultural and livestock production capacities, and subsequently, household incomes at the most at-risk locations in the Gaza Strip. Solar energy facilities were set up to enable better crop production through efficient irrigation. The project contributed to the Palestinian Solar Initiative, which aims to meet 30 percent of energy demands using renewable sources by 2020, as well as to SDG 7, which is to ensure access to clean, affordable energy for all.

Suleiman Tabash and his family received solar panels to power their milking machine and the refrigerator that they use to ensure their dairy products remain fresh during blackouts. He also received training that enabled him and the other 200 farmers that benefited from the project, to operate the solar systems in their farms.

"Currently we are getting eight more hours of electricity per day as a result of the installed solar power system. This is particularly crucial in summer months where the processed cheese needs to be kept in the refrigerator to increase its shelf-life and to avoid losses"

Results

- A total of 2 861 people, 49 percent of which were women, benefitted from the project. This included 89 at-risk farming households who benefitted directly in the governorates of Khan Yunis, Rafah and North Gaza – areas where the impact of the electricity crisis are most severe. An additional 413 households, mostly in semi-urban and rural areas, benefitted indirectly from the project via access to irrigation water at a significantly reduced cost, thanks to the generation of solar-powered energy.
- Forty agricultural producers were supported with solar energy systems to ensure sufficient irrigation of crops, and farmers' irrigation wells and water harvesting ponds were optimized with solar-powered pumping systems to improve crop production through efficient irrigation of agricultural land.
- The project increased the quantity of water being extracted from wells up to their licensed capacity, reducing the operating costs of well owners and decreasing the water subscription fees of farming households, thus allowing farmers to increase their irrigated land area.
- Twenty-five poultry farms were supported with solar energy units to maintain essential lighting for egg production, and 24 dairy farms were equipped with solar energy systems for the operation of portable milking machines in order to maintain milk and meat production.
- The project beneficiaries, which included female farmers, also received technical training on both irrigation management and solar panel management.

Sustainability

- Training and awareness-raising campaigns improved the beneficiaries' ability to maintain solar panels, which will ensure both the immediate and long-term benefits of a constant supply of electricity. In turn, proper maintenance of the systems reduces the vulnerability of beneficiary groups in the long run by providing them with a sustainable solution for electricity scarcity.
- Raising awareness on the sustainable use of water further encouraged the implementation of better water management practices, which will help mitigate risks and reduce vulnerability in the long term.

Period: 2018-2019

Resource partner: Belgium

Programme region: West Bank and Gaza Strip



©FAO/Marco Longari

Implementing the 2030 Agenda for efficiency, productivity and sustainability in the Near East and North Africa



The project facilitates the establishment of a framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda for water efficiency, productivity and sustainability in eight countries.



©FAO/Cengiz Yar

The Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, naturally susceptible to a chronic shortage of water, faces an intensification of water scarcity for the coming decades due to a fast increase of demand with population growth, increased domestic irrigated agriculture production, and growing competition over the resources with increased urbanization, higher energy demands and general socio-economic development. The reduced availability of fresh water resources due to more frequent, intense and long droughts, and the increased demand for water resources, of which agriculture consumes more than 85 percent, call for enhanced resource efficiency and productivity (more output per drop) in order to support food security and fuel the rural economy.

Approach

The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs not only call for a transformational change in managing strategic resources such as water, land and energy, but also for structural changes in water use for agriculture to strengthen food security. The project implemented in eight NENA countries aims to set up the framework for achieving water efficiency, productivity and sustainability (SDG 6.4); specifically through (i) the establishment of a robust water accounting system, (ii) the implementation of actions to increase water efficiency and productivity in agriculture, and (iii) the definition of “water sustainability” that promotes sustainable, socially equitable and human rights-based development.

At field level, the project surveyed farmers to understand their water usage practices and to experiment in selected crops, as part of FFS. In Palestine, the Aba farmer field school includes 17 farmers and worked on cucumber under greenhouses. After one crop season experimenting good agriculture and water management practices, farmers doubled the production in the experimental field (24.07 kg per m³) in comparison to the conventionally managed greenhouse (12.50 kg/m³). FFSs have reached a total of 250 farmers in Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine; a number estimated to double in 2020 as local agriculture offices have requested to be part of the training.

Results

- The project facilitated six regional training sessions on water productivity (WP), crop mapping using remote sensing, water accounting (WA), evapotranspiration (ET) measurement, evapotranspiration agro-meteo instrument production, and nexus tools and approaches. It reached more than 150 participants that primarily came from target countries.
- 15 webinars were organized over the year reaching 700 people; while international conferences and technical sessions conducted reached over 4 000 people worldwide.
- Three virtual collaborative platforms have been established: water accounting and water for food, water productivity, and crop mapping using remote sensing. These platforms combined virtual and face-to-face meetings or trainings.
- Six methodologies (WP baseline, WP field assessment, problem solving water accounting, water audit/governance, ET monitoring and crop mapping using remote sensing (RS), as well as three curricula were developed for training on water accounting, crop mapping and water productivity using RS.
- Specific technical training sessions on WP, WA, ET, RS and geographical information systems for natural resource management were also conducted in target countries. Additionally, improved agro-meteo stations (CORDOVA ET) were designed and piloted in each country, while 14 FFSs were established along with training curricula on water accounting and the farming of okra, pepper, tomato, cucumber, olive and carrot in open fields or greenhouses.
- Morocco and Jordan engaged in a thorough dialogue process on the water-agriculture-energy nexus with the aim to inform strategic planning and difficult trade-offs decisions.
- The project is operating at 14 sites where field activities engage local communities, experiment with farmers and disseminate best practices. In Morocco, support is given to the establishment of a participatory groundwater contract with effective engagement of the farmer associations.

Sustainability

- Future efforts are expected to support the introduction of water accounting in Iraq and groundwater governance and management processes in Jordan, Morocco, Oman and Tunisia.
- The project disseminated its results and raised awareness on water management through participation in the World Irrigation Forum, the World Food Day, the Water Days, the International Arab Water Forum, the Cairo Water Week, the NENA Land and Water days, and the NENA regional conference on improving water productivity. In addition, numerous country-based events profiled project tools or results.

Period: 2016-2021

Resource partners: Sweden

Programme countries: Algeria, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia

Enhancing the employability of Lebanese youth and Syrian refugees in agriculture and agribusiness



The enrolment of Lebanese and displaced Syrian students in vocational schools is increasing, while technical agricultural education is more practice-oriented to better prepare students for labour market entry.



©FAO/ Fouad Choufany

The Syrian crisis, which began in 2011, has resulted in a massive influx of displaced Syrians into Lebanon. In 2016, the total reached approximately 1.5 million people, of which 16 percent were youth aged 15-24 years old. Displaced youth have faced separation from community and social networks, the discontinuation of education; the loss of livelihoods; the disruption of access to social security services and adaptation to a new environment. The Government of Lebanon has identified agriculture as a sector both in need of support and capable of providing jobs and income opportunities for displaced Syrians, as well as unskilled Lebanese youth/workers from host communities.

Approach

The project aims to enhance the employability of Lebanese youth, as well as displaced Syrians and other refugees in Lebanon, by providing them with the opportunity to acquire the necessary technical skills to access improved career opportunities in agriculture and agribusiness, either in Lebanon or upon their return to the Syrian Arab Republic, accordingly. The project supported the revision of the National Agriculture Technical Policy Strategy, including the educational institutional arrangement, program and curricula; the creation of linkages between agricultural schools and the private sector; and the upgrading, equipping and training of agriculture technical schools (ATSs).

Batoul is a displaced youth who flew from Aleppo to seek out an opportunity to enroll in the baccalaureat technique (BT) programme at an ATS. She first followed non-formal training courses on landscaping, beekeeping and flower arrangement.

“I advise youth to enroll in the technical agriculture schools as they will learn a lot and gain new experiences to become ready to join the labour market”

Batoul said. She now works at a local flower shop and aspires to open her own shop once she returns to her homeland

Results

- A consultation with the private sector and academics, together with a labour market assessment for ATS graduates holding a BT qualification, encouraged the Ministry of Agriculture to develop new curricula. Technical charts and Competency-based Occupational Standards guided curriculum development for five occupations: agriculture machinery repairer, irrigation system installer, poultry producer, hydroponic farmer and livestock and dairy producer.
- In partnership with ILO, a work-based learning toolkit was developed in line with the new BT programme. Competency-based training and gender mainstreaming across 90 curricula contributed to the updating of two ATS-run BT programmes so that they better respond to the labour market needs.
- Infrastructure assessments, an inventory methodology with an IT application elaboration, the equipping of technical facilities and rehabilitation work were carried out to support seven ATSs. A 75 percent increase in funding from resource partners allowed FAO to conclude a collaborative effort with UNICEF to rehabilitate the school infrastructure and the learning environment.
- In partnership with WARD and the AVSI Foundation, 17 short-term course modules were implemented under the non-formal agricultural training. The training reached 2 321 students, of which 60 percent were female and 40 percent were displaced non-Lebanese youth.

Sustainability

- Dialogue among partners and relevant stakeholders was institutionalized through advisory boards, as well as technical and financial operation regulations.
- A school promotion and youth engagement campaign conducted in 2019 highlighted the importance of technical education in agriculture and raised awareness on the youth employment horizons.
- Non-formal training delivered through the technical and vocational education and training schools/centres continue to use the approach developed under the project.

Period: 2016-2020

Resource partner: Netherlands

Programme country: Lebanon



©AVSI

Developing trade capacity in the Arab States through a harmonized regional conformity assessment and improved food safety

Countries in the Arab region have enhanced their dialogue on Codex work and have strengthened their regional coordination on the grounds of a common vision of food control.



©FAO

In the absence of strong national food control systems, many Arab states face challenges in best responding to both the demands of their citizens for safe and healthy food and to the World Trade Organization's (WTO) food control requirements for international trade. Stronger and harmonized food control systems in the region can not only provide consumer protection locally, but also improve trading relationships, facilitating the access to new markets and enhancing regional and international trade and economic growth. To promote better food control systems, the UNIDO implemented the Arab Initiative on Food Safety for Trade Facilitation (SAFE) project, funded by Sweden, with FAO as implementing partner for the food safety components.

Approach

In support of the UNIDO initiative, the FAO project strengthened national food control systems in the Arab region and helped facilitate regional harmonization of food safety and quality policies and protocols. To this end, FAO and UNIDO carried out analysis of food control systems, using the newly developed FAO/WHO assessment tool, and developed guidance to strengthen regional and national capacity for Codex work. Improved compliance with food safety standards in export markets will increase trade opportunities across and outside the region, positively affecting food producers and trade organizations. Stronger food control systems will also be beneficial for consumers, who will have access to safer food and will enjoy improved protection from foodborne diseases.

"It is impressive how much we have actually learnt during the process, especially on how the whole food control system works, the interconnection among the different agencies and our role in the system"

Batoul Mohammed Abdo, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Sudan

Results

- A regional workshop sensitized participants to the use of the FAO/WHO food control system assessment tool. FAO developed an Arabic version of the tool by incorporating comments and inputs from participating countries. Twenty-three experts from national food safety authorities received training as key national focal points for implementing the food control systems assessment.
- Two assessments of national food control system were conducted in Sudan and Tunisia, which involved the training of sixty-six food safety professionals. Through the development of a strategic framework, competent authorities identified priorities and developed an action plan for the improvement of their food control systems.
- Six regional Codex guides were developed in Arabic on specific issues that were identified as recurrent weaknesses in order to support effective participation in Codex work in the region. The guides supported country-level training workshops in Egypt, Tunisia and Kuwait.
- Three regional trainings were then carried out to share the lessons learned across the region and to validate the procedural guides. In total, the capacity of 175 professionals and decision makers from governments and food control authorities, academia and professional associations in the different countries to engage and participate in Codex work was developed or strengthened.
- High-level participation from project countries in the 10th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE10) on 11–15 November 2019, which facilitated additional training on the use of online Codex participation tools as well as the finalization of one regional standard.

Sustainability

- The strategic frameworks and action plans prepared in Sudan and Tunisia were presented to high-level national competent authorities and to donors during the final workshop of the assessment process. The outcomes and lessons learned were presented and discussed with the other countries from the region during the final workshop.
- Twenty-three experts from the Arab region were trained as key national focal points for implementing the assessment of national food control systems.
- Arab countries have agreed on procedures and processes to conduct their ongoing work on national Codex processes, which will support a more efficient participation into Codex Alimentarius international work.
- At CCNE10, countries agreed to the implementation of a series of activities over the next two years to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020–2025, for which the skills and processes developed over the course of this project will be essential.

Period: 2018-2019

Resource partner: UNIDO

Programme countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen

Too Good to Waste! Repurposing bio solids and organic waste through green job creation in Jordan

Increased green job opportunities improved the livelihoods of the most vulnerable within host communities and enhanced environmental conditions in the Mafraq Governorate.



©FAO

Jordan is one of most heavily affected countries by the Syrian crisis, hosting the second highest share of refugees per capita in the world. Not only the refugee population is in distress, but also the general population, particularly the poorest groups have witnessed their livelihoods, opportunities and rightful access to public services become detrimentally reduced. The situation is particularly severe in the Mafraq Governorate. At the same time, it is estimated that more than three million tons of waste, of which half is organic, are generated annually in Jordan. This has also increased proportionately with the inflow of refugees. Addressing the Syrian refugee crisis requires a comprehensive approach that not only focuses on humanitarian elements, but also the environmental dimensions.

Approach

The project aimed to enhance the economic growth of the local economy in the Mafraq Governorate through private sector enterprise development, improved livelihoods and promotion of environmental sustainability and green jobs opportunities. The optimization of residue use from treated wastewater and organic solids allows for the generation of renewable energy and compost and, simultaneously, provides opportunities for at least 70 vulnerable households that can secure a regular income from the biogas, solid waste separation and the compost plants.

Although beneficiaries perceived waste separation as neither safe nor acceptable, training helped communities to better understand the nature of this work.

“This project has provided me with a safe working environment and it’s close to my house, which gave me more time to take care of my children”

Ghoson, a project beneficiary and a single mother of four who fled the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic

Results

- The programme provided short-term employment opportunities for 65 households, of which 77 percent were host communities and 23 percent were Syrian refugees. Furthermore, 33 workers (95 percent Syrians and 5 percent Jordanians) now have green jobs in a safe environment that allows refugees to improve their economic situations without the hardship of working in unsafe conditions. The intervention reached 105 000 people, including the population of the Zaatari municipality and the Mafraq Governorate.
- A group of 89 Syrians, of which 43 were women, were trained on waste sorting for the extraction of organic matter, which accounts for 30 percent and 50 percent of camp waste in the winter and summer, respectively.
- Under the green jobs initiative, the training on best practices in composting and the subsequent employment of 33 of the initial trainees (18 women) has increased the value of the extracted organic waste.

Sustainability

- Manuals for composting and management of the material recovery facility, as well as the full-size biogas plant design, were shared with project partners to steer the implementation plan for similar plants that will serve neighbouring municipalities.
- FAO has signed agreements with multiple governmental entities and institutions to build the capacity of employees and to provide training sessions for engineers and other stakeholders
- Through the project, FAO has liaised with GIZ and the European Union for the development of a concept note for future joint work, which includes the provision of a biogas plant for the Zaatari camp – a design that emanates from the project, with funding from the GIZ-EU Waste Management.

Period: 2016–2020

Resource partner: European Union

Programme country: Jordan



©FAO

Strengthening the role of women in peace building processes through natural resources management in Sana'a and Lahaj

Water-based conflicts were mitigated and the participation of women in resolution mechanisms was strengthened while economic self-reliance, livelihood opportunities and social cohesion were increased.



©FAO/Soliman Ahmed

Yemen is one of the poorest Arab nations and one of the most water-stressed countries in the world. The conflict that started in 2015 has further damaged much of the country's critical water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, exacerbating the problem of water scarcity. In Sana'a and Lahj, poor water regulation, unfair distribution and overexploitation of shared resources, coupled with damaged and neglected infrastructure, has led to water conflicts because some community members have access to controlled water while others are excluded. Women are particularly affected as they have been excluded from resource management and decision-making processes due to the unequal power relations in Yemen shaped by diverse religious, cultural, social and political traditions.

Approach

The intervention aimed to support sustainable solutions to localized conflicts stemming from resource scarcity by strengthening the role of women in peace building through natural resources management at the community level in Sana'a and Lahj. To achieve this objective, the project supported the establishment of and capacity building for 14 Water User Associations (WUAs) and Women Water User Groups (WWUGs) within the WUAs. The project also set up and developed the capacity of 14 Conflict Resolution Committees (CRCs), one in each WUA, which had equal participation from men and women. Women were given opportunities to assume leading roles in conflict resolution processes and in mobilizing community members to support the resolutions developed for local water-based conflicts.

"I was privileged to attend FAO training on water conflict management and allocation. I have learned a lot about community water management. This knowledge will help me and the rest of the water users associations to resolve water conflicts in our community. Resolving conflict will create employment opportunities for our youth, who in the past, left their farms to join militia. Reviving agriculture will improve communities' socioeconomic fabric and their lives in general"

Wafa'a Nasser, Agronomist and member of Bayzak Agricultural Association

"Women have traditionally played a role in water conflict resolution in rural areas. The most transformative change the project has achieved is the institutionalization of this role through the Water User Associations so that women gain further acceptance within their communities"

PBF Project Evaluation

Results

- FAO and the International Organization for Migration re-established 14 WUAs through community contracts in Sana'a and Lahj and supported them in establishing and training 14 CRCs, which were led by women to collect data about the existing conflicts and manage their resolution.
- Fourteen WWUGs were established, while the participation of women on the boards of directors of WUAs reached 30 percent in both Sana'a and Lahj. All of the interventions were implemented with local labour, and 85 percent of the initiatives were led by women.
- By building capacity for conflict resolution and rehabilitating communal water sources, the project increased access to irrigation water for about 27 165 farmers and provided immediate access to income for 1 083 beneficiaries, of which 294 were women from low-income, vulnerable households through an FAO Cash for Work scheme.
- The net farm income level increased by 25 percent, while 1767 ha of agricultural land benefited from the project and 1859 ha of land now has improved access to water. Consequently, water conflicts reduced by 53 percent.

Sustainability

- Thanks to the project, women's voices were heard at the community and institutional levels for the first time. The project addressed water conflicts in a multifaceted manner, both by stimulating the traditional mechanisms of resolving conflicts through community dialogue and, more innovatively, by empowering women to take active roles in these processes.
- Based on the success of this intervention, FAO has received supplementary funding from Japan to expand project results. Future work will support conflict resolution around shared water sites and gender empowerment in the Wadi Bana valley region, spanning Ibb, Albayda, Aldal'a, Lahj, and Abyan.

Period: 2018–2019

Resource partner: United Nations Peacebuilding Fund

Programme country: Yemen

Latin America and the Caribbean

The Latin America and the Caribbean region has made great progress in reducing both the percentage and total number of people suffering from hunger in the past 20 years, with the number of undernourished people decreasing by 20 million since 2000. Additionally, the region has displayed significant progress reducing child malnutrition. Stunting in girls and boys under the age of five years old declined from 16.7 percent to nine percent between 2000 and 2018, and 1.3 percent of children were affected by wasting in 2018.

In spite of this progress, several challenges still need to be addressed:

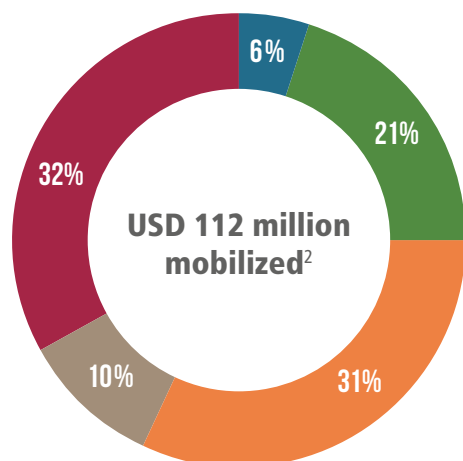
- 42.5 million or 6.5 percent of the regional population suffered from hunger in 2018.
- 188 million experience moderate or severe food insecurity in Latin America, which represents an increase from 26 percent to 31 percent of the population between the periods 2014–2016 and 2016–2018.
- The infrastructure and environmental hygiene required for access to drinking water and the surveillance and early warning systems for food and animal health require improvement.
- Multi-sectoral public policies, which require coordination and collaborative commitments from the political system and communities are needed to tackle malnutrition.

FAO's strategy

Through its work programme, FAO provides technical assistance and policy support to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in their fight against hunger through three regional initiatives:

- End hunger and all forms of malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean – supports major food security arrangements in the region through all sectors to ensure the right to food for all.
- Eradicate rural poverty and revitalize rural territories – promotes productive development and social wellbeing of farmers and their apt participation in food systems.
- Promote sustainable climate resilient agriculture – stimulates the transition towards the sustainable development of agriculture, fisheries and forests from a socioeconomic and environmental perspective.

To sustain efforts in the coming years, FAO mobilized USD 112 million across 77 projects in 2019¹



- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Top resource partners

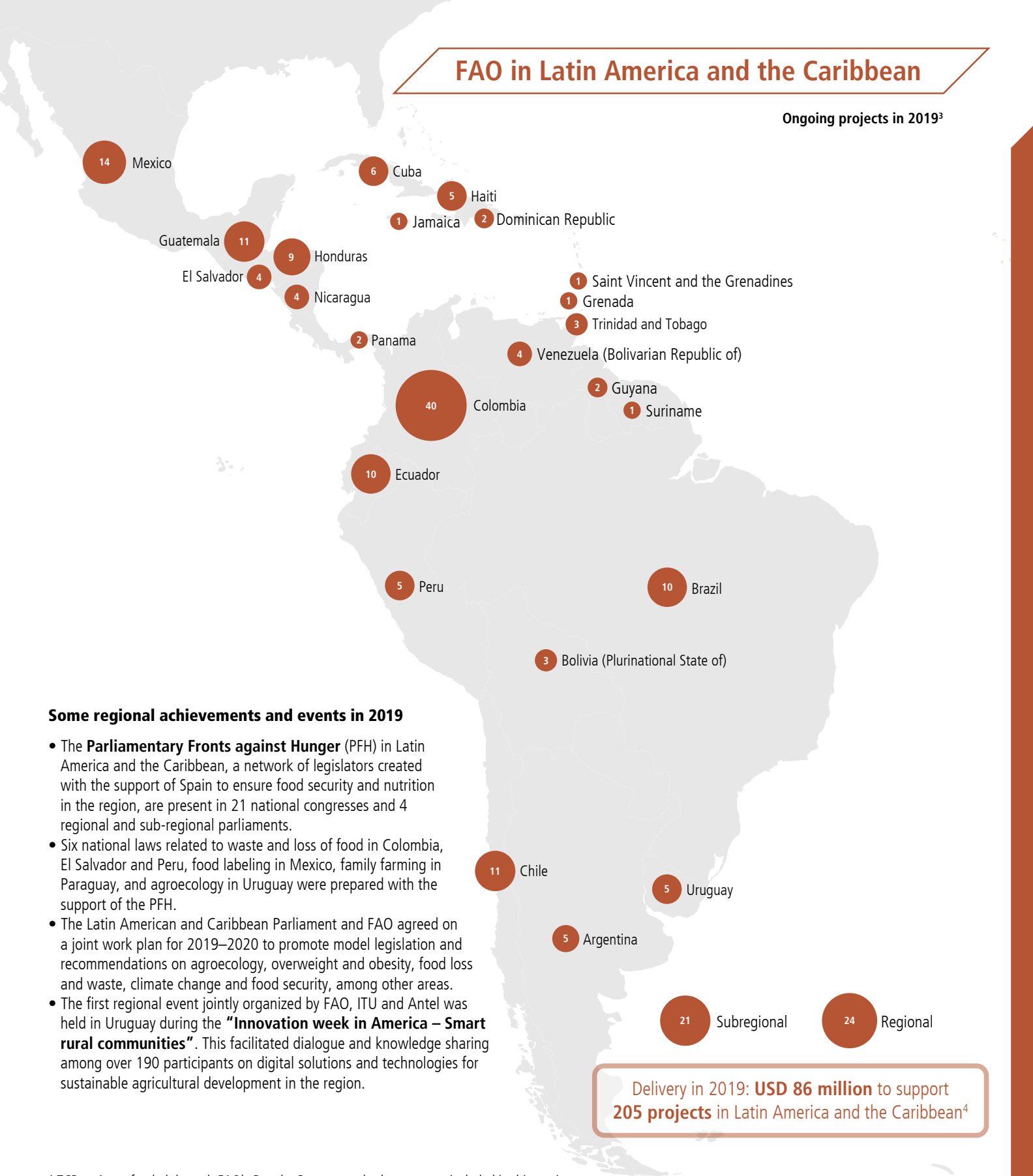
	USD million
GCF	38
Colombia	25
European Union	18
GEF	10
UNDP Administered Donor Joint Trust Fund	5
UNOCHA	4
Mexico	3
Switzerland	2
Panama	1
Brazil	1
Sweden	1
UNICEF	1
Uruguay	1
Grenada	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1
Spain	1
Multilateral	1

Top programme countries

	USD million
El Salvador	36
Colombia	34
Cuba	12
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	5
Guatemala	3
Mexico	3
Nicaragua	3
Honduras	2
Haiti	2
Panama	1
Uruguay	1
Grenada	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1
Chile	1

FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean

Ongoing projects in 2019³



Some regional achievements and events in 2019

- The **Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger (PFH)** in Latin America and the Caribbean, a network of legislators created with the support of Spain to ensure food security and nutrition in the region, are present in 21 national congresses and 4 regional and sub-regional parliaments.
- Six national laws related to waste and loss of food in Colombia, El Salvador and Peru, food labeling in Mexico, family farming in Paraguay, and agroecology in Uruguay were prepared with the support of the PFH.
- The Latin American and Caribbean Parliament and FAO agreed on a joint work plan for 2019–2020 to promote model legislation and recommendations on agroecology, overweight and obesity, food loss and waste, climate change and food security, among other areas.
- The first regional event jointly organized by FAO, ITU and Antel was held in Uruguay during the **"Innovation week in America – Smart rural communities"**. This facilitated dialogue and knowledge sharing among over 190 participants on digital solutions and technologies for sustainable agricultural development in the region.

Delivery in 2019: **USD 86 million** to support **205 projects** in Latin America and the Caribbean⁴

¹ TCP projects, funded through FAO's Regular Programme budget, are not included in this section.

² According to the FAO official methodology determined by the Governing Bodies, voluntary contributions (approvals), which can include new project funding or project revisions, are counted at the time the programmes/projects are declared operationally active.

³ Correspond to those projects that were operationally active at any given point between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019.

⁴ Refers to the total expenditure of programmes/projects implemented in the region during 2019.

Empowering rural women for climate action in the forestry sector of western Honduras



The living standards of rural and indigenous women have been improved through their development of forest resources management skills.



©FAO

Honduras is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of climate according to the Germanwatch long-term Climate Risk Index, and both deforestation and forest degradation are aggravating its vulnerability. Indigenous women in western Honduras are especially vulnerable to deforestation and the effects of climate change because their productive activities and access to water and wood for cooking largely depend on forests.

Approach

The ongoing project for the empowerment of rural women for climate action in Honduras (PROMUCLIMA) aims to reduce rural poverty and greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The intervention favours generating and enhancing the technical, productive and commercial capacities of rural and indigenous women and youth in 12 municipalities across the departments of Santa Barbara and Lempira. The project strengthens the capacities of local institutions and organizations linked to the management and use of forest resources by adopting good practices and innovating their production processes. Technical and policy advice takes place through multi-stakeholder workshops with municipalities and their associations, communities and national institutions in order to create synergies and design adequate plans of action.

“The project has supported us by providing workshops and training on development of markets and gender for us to understand our duties and rights as women. It has also organized seminars on governance for us to be active participants in the actions of our municipality. For the future, we hope that the project will continue to support us with training on new technologies to improve the manufacturing of roasted coffee, as well as access to markets and business plans”

Rosalina Romero, a woman entrepreneur from the municipality of El Nispero, Santa Bárbara

Results

- Interviewing forestry and agricultural producer organizations in 11 of the 12 pilot municipalities allowed for the self-assessment of forest and farm producer organizations.
- The Diagnosis, Strategic Planning and Municipal Dialogue with Participation of Community Organizations and Women's Networks workshop involved the main actors and beneficiaries of the project to ensure inclusive and meaningful participation during decision-making processes.
- The Guardian Women of the Common House, Dialogue against Climate Change forum promoted the recognition of the roles of men, women, youth and indigenous peoples in municipal planning processes, as well as participation in dialogue structures. This contributed to strengthening governance, natural resource management and economic empowerment at local and national levels. A total of 139 representatives from community organizations, of which 28 percent were women, participated in the event.

Sustainability

- The community authorities' proposal was presented in the forum using a document that was read, signed and delivered by community representatives to the competent authorities.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will support and promote the certification process and the strengthening of the Municipal Environmental Units (UMAs) in order to promote the decentralization of specific services.
- The Minister and head of the National Institute of Forest Conservation will instruct the regional and local offices to support making the most effective changes possible to the UMAs and community organizations, for example, through the involvement of water boards in the declaration processes for micro-basins.

Period: 2018–2022

Resource partner: Canada

Programme country: Honduras



©FAO/Jaime Peralta

Reshaping institutional frameworks for the eradication of hunger in Mesoamerica



The Programme has worked with national and local authorities and institutions in the region, offering innovative development solutions to guarantee decent living conditions for the most vulnerable populations.



©FAO/Carlos Zaparaolli

Food insecurity and poverty in Mesoamerica are mainly rural phenomena. Rural communities face a lack of economic growth and productive investments, as well as natural disasters and the deterioration of natural resources. Likewise, rural areas face institutional deficiencies, with limited coverage of public policies and programmes designed to meet their needs. Smallholder farmers, who are commonly indigenous and Afro-descendants, have no access to markets, technology, infrastructure, financing and technical assistance.

Approach

“Mesoamerica Hunger Free AMEXCID-FAO” (MHF) works to reach the most vulnerable communities, especially those living in rural areas and suffering poverty and malnutrition, and those compelled to migrate. The MHF programme promotes food and nutritional security, family farming, agricultural innovation, rural organizations and both communication and knowledge management. In addition to conducting field projects in rural areas, MHF worked at an institutional level to:

- ensure political commitment and raise public awareness;
- strengthen institutional capacities to formulate, implement and monitor public policies and legal frameworks;
- design and validate solutions that can be scaled up and integrated into public frameworks; and
- facilitate dialogue, technical assistance and peer learning among officials and farmers.



©FAO

“In this indigenous border territory there is emigration due to the lack of opportunities. I always motivate women to participate together in activities implemented with the support of MHF, so that they can also improve their income and avoid leaving”

Doris Cano, coffee producer and active member of the Lenca Family Farmers Association of San Marcos de la Sierra, Honduras

Results

- The MHF programme has contributed to 25 public policy processes and 21 normative processes.
- Common cultural roots and challenges provided an opportunity for the beneficiary countries and Mexico to exchange knowledge at the institutional level and among family farmers. For example, Mexican lobster harvesters shared their fishing techniques with their Nicaraguan colleagues, leading to a decrease in injuries and deaths.
- Twenty rainwater harvesting systems (RHSs) were constructed in schools and in community centres in six beneficiary countries. The RHSs allow remote communities to collect rainwater for human consumption and agricultural production, benefitting the health of children and adults. As a result, women, who are usually responsible for collecting water from wells and rivers, have more time to engage in income-generating activities. The RHS experience has been successful and is currently being replicated through SSTC with different actors in other communities.

Sustainability

- Collaboration with decision makers has been a key component of strengthening political commitment and designing more effective policies and frameworks that are focused on the needs of vulnerable populations. Successful examples include the public procurement from family farmers as per the School Feeding Law in Guatemala and the implementation of the food insecurity experience scale (FIES) during statistical data collection projects pertaining to food insecurity among indigenous communities in Panama.
- Increased awareness has encouraged higher investment in food security and family farming at the local level, as evidenced by the situations in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Period: 2015–2021

Resource partner: Mexico

Programme countries: Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

Prioritizing the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, soil and water in the Napo Province

Sustainable production practices in the Napo province decreased deforestation by 15 percent and increased the income of local producers by 10 percent.



©FAO

The province of Napo, located between the eastern Andes and the upper basin of the Amazonian plain of Ecuador, hosts not only a high biodiversity but also the cultural diversity of communities, such as the Amazon Kichwa, the Quijos and the Waoranis. A poverty level of 77 percent, however, is pushing communities to convert forests into agricultural areas. Although more than 70 percent of the territory is under conservation, the deforestation rate reached 2 932 ha/year and 40 to 60 percent of agricultural soils are undergoing degradation processes.

Approach

The project promotes improved forest management and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to stop and reverse land degradation and deforestation in the Napo Province. Supported by public, private and civil society organizations, the project aims to: (i) remove institutional weakness at the local level; (ii) eliminate poorly sustainable agricultural and forestry production systems; and (iii) expand the limited livelihood opportunities for the local population.

“Collaborative work with associative ventures had not only positive environmental effects but also increased the supply volumes of cocoa, vanilla and guayusa, allowed for the traceability and the management of quality standards, and expanded the base of partners of the organization”

Bladimir Dahua, Administrator of the Kallari Association

Results

- The development of the provincial information system of natural resources, the economic ecological zoning map of the province and capacity strengthening training facilitated the update of the Territorial Planning and Development Plan (PDyOT) of Napo 2019–2023. A strategy for the management of the Sumaco biosphere reserve was also proposed.
- The leverage of national incentives, such as the Socio Bosque programme, the Amazon Productive Transformation Agenda and other instruments of the Napo Provincial Government, allowed for duplication of the investment in forest conservation and sustainable production in the province.
- The Kallari, Wiñak and Tsatsayacu organizations, among others, have implemented good agricultural practices across 1 952.5 ha of land. They have obtained the organic certification to export fine national aroma cocoa beans to stores in Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Switzerland and the United States of America.
- Tourism and bio-commerce companies received environmental licenses and guides for their operation, as well as for the development of brands and quality standards of their products, which has facilitated their access to local, national and international markets.
- The provincial ordinance of the traditional Chakra system allowed the establishment of the Participatory Guarantee System for the Chakra indication and its recognition as an Ingenious System of World Agricultural Heritage.
- Technical and legal frameworks created for the establishment of the Fund for Sustainable Development and Water Conservation (FODESNA), a financial mechanism to guarantee the sustainability of the project's processes and results.

Sustainability

- Local actors articulated a Sustainable Forest Management Strategy to the PDyOT, as well as the RBS management proposal, which covers over 56 832 ha in the co-management plans of the Cerro Sumaco and Colonzo protective forests, reaching 4 955 inhabitants in 25 communities.
- The net deforestation rate in the province was reduced to an average of 2267 ha/year in 2016–2018. This represents an estimated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 817 095 mg CO₂eq, in addition to the emissions avoided through forest conservation agreements, the management of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, and the active and passive forest restoration of approximately 3 998 945 mg CO₂eq.
- Joint ventures reported an increase in income of 25 percent to more than 100 percent in certain cases, allowing to cover production costs and ensure better profitability indicators in the medium term.

Period: 2015–2020

Resource partner: GEF

Programme country: Ecuador

Increasing the food security of Colombian and Venezuelan families during the migration crisis in La Guajira

Early action has contributed to bringing Colombian and Venezuelan families together around a common goal.



©FAO

Colombia's northern neighbor, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), has slipped into a deep economic crisis that has sent more than four million people across borders in search of food and stability. Many have settled in bordering areas like La Guajira, where communities have opened their doors, sharing homes and meals. La Guajira is the driest province of Colombia, and many communities, such as the Wayúu indigenous people, have struggled with a history of chronic food insecurity and malnutrition. The migration crisis is not only putting a strain on individual families, but also on locally available resources, like land and water.

Approach

The FAO intervention aimed to rapidly boost local food production, help families protect their remaining assets and reduce the impact of the migration crisis. The project set up community production centres where families and agronomists exchanged knowledge and applied good practices for quickly producing a range of crops. Families received short-cycle crop seeds to produce nutritious food within three months of planting. Animal health brigades improved the condition of livestock in order to increase their numbers.

Alina Rieta, a beneficiary Venezuelan from the Montelara community, was not a farmer and had never learned to cultivate the land... being part of the early action project, she says, taught her everything she needed to know about production – from preparing the land to sowing, applying fertilizers, irrigation, and harvesting.

"We are learning to live together, cultivating together in the Community Production Centre. Agriculture helped me to have a roof, and in spite of everything, being here is a relief. The project has been a breath of fresh air"

Results

- The project benefited 7 021 people, including indigenous Wayúu, peasants and Afro descendants, from 1 003 households, of which 361 were host families, 345 were returned Colombian families and 297 were Venezuelan migrant households. Beneficiaries were from 19 different communities in the municipalities of Albania, Maicao, Manaure, Riohacha and Uribia. For every dollar spent, USD 2.6 were generated to support vulnerable families.
- FAO rehabilitated 18 local water supply systems with support from Action Against Hunger.
- More than 12 500 sheep, goats and cattle benefited from animal health brigades, access to drinking water and feed distribution, which reduced animal mortality and supported healthier herds.
- On average, saving animal lives provided families with an equivalent of USD 305 (approximately 11 goats or sheep, or 1 cow). Stronger and more productive livestock equated to adding USD 669 worth of value to each family's herd.
- More productive animals allowed children under five to drink about half a litre of milk more per day, providing roughly 21 percent of daily calorie requirements and 54 percent of their daily protein requirement.

Sustainability

- Families participating in the intervention scored better on both "adaptive capacity" and "assets" measures, the two main determinants of resilience in the region. Families benefitting from the project were significantly less likely to resort to negative coping strategies.
- Community production centres became hubs for learning and the exchange of ideas, and beneficiaries shared new skills with their neighbours outside of the project.

Period: 2018–2019

Resource partner: Sweden

Programme country: Colombia



©FAO

Supporting fair trade for locally sourced, organic mountain products through certification and labelling

The Mountain Partnership Products initiative strengthens the opportunities of mountain peoples and the resilience of their economies and ecosystems.



©FAO/Claudia Canedo Lou

Mountain agriculture is generally of high quality and is also small scale in nature, with diversified farming systems and a high participation rate among women. However, it is often at a disadvantage compared to lowland businesses due to harsh and inaccessible terrains, poor infrastructure and transportation, limited access to markets, and a lack of training opportunities and investments.

The Mountain Partnership Products (MPP) certification and labelling mechanism to enhance marketing opportunities for mountain producers leverages global trends towards healthy, organic and locally-sourced products, and ensures fair compensation while protecting agro-biodiversity.

Approach

The Mountain Partnership Products (MPP) initiative provided technical and financial support to smallholder mountain producers in 12 countries including Bolivia (Plurinational State of), India, Kyrgyzstan and Peru to improve and shorten the value chains of organic food, using textiles and tourism services to create enterprises, thus broadening access to markets and boosting livelihoods. The project supported:

- the development of marketing strategies and their implementation with all producers (in collaboration with EcorNaturaSi);
- the utilization of a MPP label, which tells the story of each product's origins, production methods, nutritional value and role in local cultures (in collaboration with Slow Food);
- the adoption of a participatory guarantee system (PGS) for domestic market certification (in collaboration with IFOAM Organics International); and
- accessibility to a network of third-party certification entities in developing countries (in collaboration with ICEA-Institute for ethical and environmental certifications).

“The MPP initiative shows how the global development community can seek to successfully leverage the sustainability of food systems and protect agricultural biodiversity while providing alternative but crucial livelihood strategies, such as sustainable tourism, to smallholder farmers and food value chain actors at the local, regional and global level”

Paolo di Croce, Slow Food Secretary General



Results

- The MPP initiative supported 16 producer organizations in 12 countries, impacting around 10 000 farmers, 60 percent of whom were women. As young men often move to cities in search of work, generating new employment possibilities in mountains can slow urban migration.
- Twenty products carry the MPP label, including stingless honey from the Bolivian Andes and pink and purple rice cultivated by farmers in the Indian Himalayas.
- Seven producer organizations, involving 200 producers and 700 people, participated in capacity development on production techniques and product development.
- Most producers reported significant increases in market demand and production, and sales increases as high as 49 percent.
- In April 2019, a workshop of 13 MPP representatives was held in Ranikhet, India. The workshop resulted in the Ranikhet Declaration for a Global Mountain PGS Network, which established the first-ever international network of PGSs designed for smallholder farmers in mountain regions.
- The first regional training of trainers for a certification scheme for small-scale mountain producers for domestic markets was held in Lima, Peru (18–22 November 2019), helping to equip key members from Peru, Panama, Mexico and Bolivia (Plurinational State of) to establish successful PGSs specific to mountains.
- The MPP initiative has been selected as one of the 25 Best Practices (from a pool of 1 175) from around the world to be spotlighted at the Expo 2020 Dubai Global Best Practice Programme. The platform showcases projects that have provided tangible solutions to the world's biggest challenges.

Sustainability

- The Ranikhet Declaration for a Global Mountain PGS Network is a commitment of MPP partners to safeguard mountain farming systems and ensure ethical, fair and organic production.
- The MPP initiative added value to traditional varieties, encouraging diversified traditional farming systems, which has increased resilience and reduced pressure on mountain ecosystems. Based on the outcomes of the workshop in Peru, regional trainings involving all MPP initiative partners committed to the Ranikhet Declaration are planned to take place in 2020.

Period: 2014–2019

Resource partner: Italy

Programme countries: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Guatemala, India, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines and Rwanda

Promoting healthy diets through nutrition education and inclusive value chains

By improving policies and practices of public food procurement from smallholder farmers, governments are fostering responsible production and consumption, while promoting food security and nutrition.



©FAO

Several governments implement initiatives or policy frameworks that aim to promote public food procurement from smallholder farmers, with the broader goal of strengthening rural livelihoods and achieving food security and nutrition goals. In the last decade, FAO has facilitated South–South technical exchanges among countries and has supported the development of national policies to strengthen educational processes that promote healthy diets and increase the inclusion of fresh and healthy foods in school meals. However, policy reform and implementation is a process that requires continuous assessment and revision.

Approach

Promoting sustainable school feeding programmes at the national level is essential for guaranteeing access to fresh and quality food on a regular basis, improving health conditions in the medium to long term, and contributing to students' school performance and nutritional status. School feeding actions can provide opportunities for inclusive procurement and value chains, which support the economic development of small-scale farmers and local communities and strengthen the connection between nutrition, agriculture and social protection. FAO, with the support of its partners, is implementing two projects to consolidate school feeding programmes in the region, which work within the frameworks of both the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016–2025 and the SDGs. The projects promote global and regional policy development and technical dialogue on food and nutrition education, while producing knowledge on best practices in public food procurement initiatives and fostering coordination with policies on food security and nutrition.

“The need to articulate the demand of institutional markets with the supply of family farming has been defined as a priority by the countries of the region. In response to it, especially in Colombia, FAO has strengthened support to public procurement systems as an instrument to promote inclusive food systems”

Alan Bojanic, FAO representative Colombia

Results

- More than 3 200 sustainable schools are being established across ten countries.
- In 2019, 200 professionals from 160 institutions across different sectors received capacity development training and certification in “Food and Nutrition Education” in Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, and Peru.
- Five countries passed school feeding laws, including Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay, meaning that school feeding programs are now legally institutionalized.
- Approximately 285 000 students from sustainable schools are already receiving high quality school meals, as well as food and nutrition education.
- An international “Benchmarking of Public Food Procurement from Smallholder Farmers” was developed by FAO with feedback from end users.
- Ten countries are implementing public procurement mechanisms from family farms for school food programmes.
- More than 1 250 families of local producers are providing fresh and healthy food for schools.
- The Sustainable School Food Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, a network of 21 countries created in 2018, signed a Letter of Commitment to favor the insertion of adequate menus and the promotion of healthy eating habits in 2019.

Sustainability

- The Governments of Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras were provided with specific recommendations to further develop initiatives that support procurement from smallholder farmers for school meals and food assistance programs.
- Both policy and technical guidance on public food procurement from smallholder farmers were prepared and disseminated, promoting the adoption of good practices and leveraging cross-country learning.

Period: 2017–2020/ 2018–2020

Resource partners: Italy and Brazil

Programme region: Latin America and the Caribbean



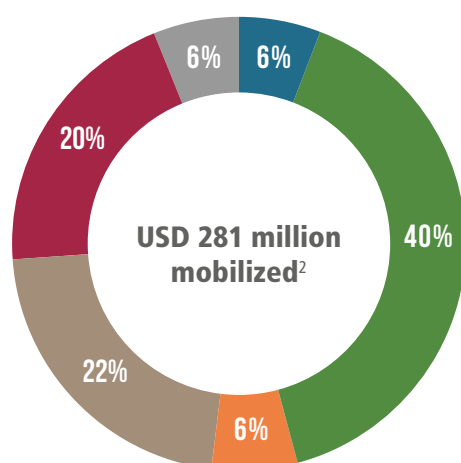
©Magnum/Alex Webb

Global challenges in achieving food security were exacerbated in 2019. The rising incidence of conflicts and protracted crises negatively impacted food security and caused human displacement. Transboundary plant pests and diseases had a growing impact on agriculture and human health. Increasing climate variability and extreme weather events continued to non-discriminately affect both countries and regions. Many challenges to achieving a zero-hunger world remain to be addressed, and the overall demand for food is expected to continue growing, placing stress on scarce natural resources and calling for global action.

FAO's strategy

FAO efforts at the global and interregional levels focus on bridging knowledge gaps, exchanging local experiences, piloting innovative tools, developing economies of scale and addressing global phenomena, such as climate change, migration, gender issues and transboundary diseases. FAO's global approach addresses cross-cutting issues and works to provide policy support, technically sound statistics and digital solutions that enable partner countries to produce and use more comprehensive data on SDG indicators, supporting the design of effective evidence-based national strategies to ensure that relevant SDG targets are met and that countries are on track to meet the 2030 Agenda.

To sustain efforts in the coming years, FAO mobilized USD 281 million across 214 projects in 2019¹



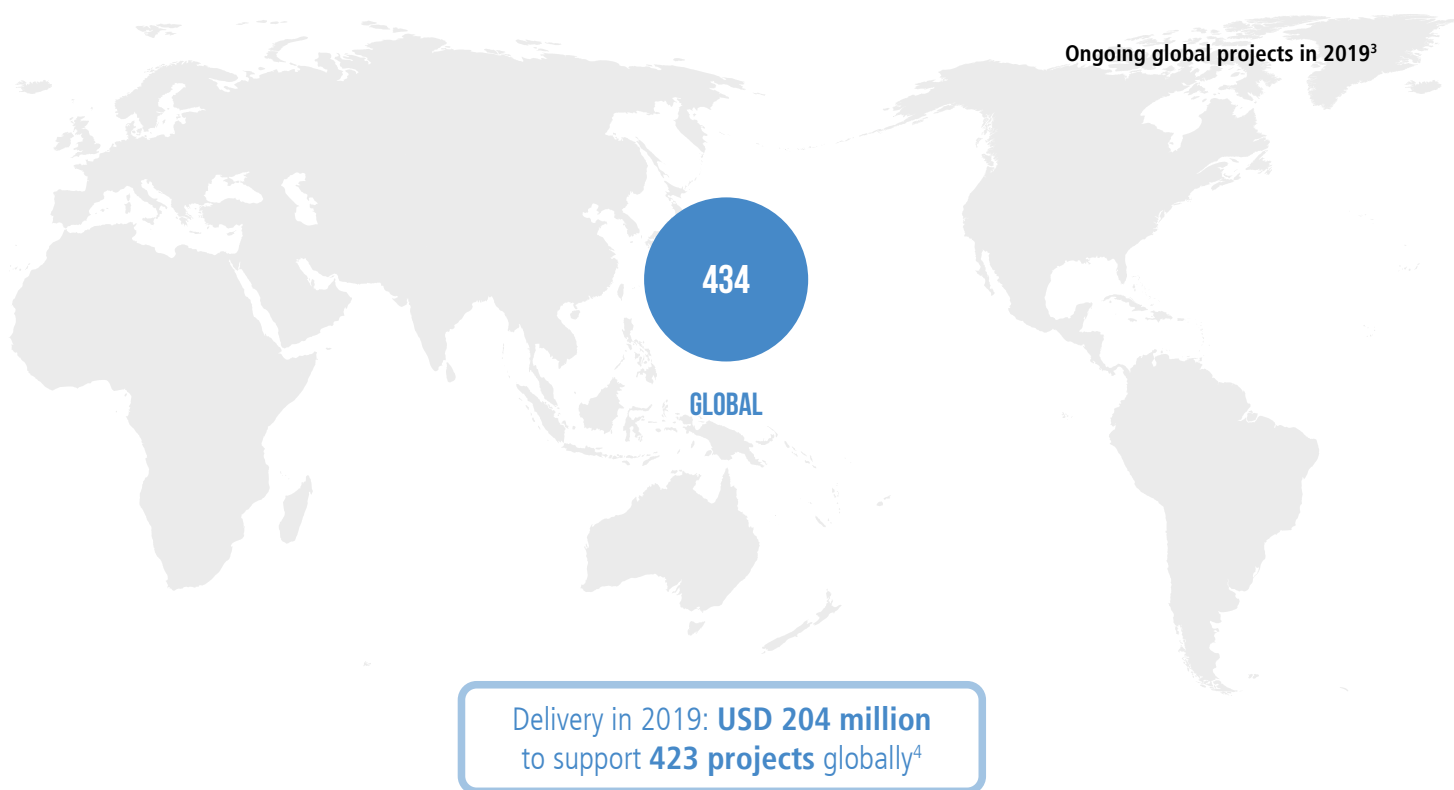
- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises
- Other

Top resource partners

	USD million
European Union	90
Multilateral	48
Netherlands	32
Germany	24
Italy	14
Republic of Korea	14
Norway	9
Sweden	9
United States of America	7
GEF	5
UNEP	4
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4
Japan	4
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	3
World Organization for Animal Health	3
China	3
IFAD	2
ILO	1
World Bank	1
Iceland	1

Some global achievements and events in 2019:

- Dramatic changes are expected in the agrifood system in coming years as a result of advanced digital technologies, changing consumer preferences and demands, and the influence of e-commerce on global agrifood trade and climate change. As such, FAO has reinforced its work on digital innovation. The **Digital Technologies in Agriculture and Rural Areas – Status Report** addresses the potential benefits of digitalizing the agrifood system using digital innovation and technologies, the potential risks faced by the global community without major transformations of farming systems, and offers examples and impact cases on the use of digital technologies in agrifood systems. FAO organized the first **International Seminar of Digital Agriculture Transformation** (12-13 June, Rome), which fostered exchange among more than 400 participants on the challenges and opportunities of digital technologies in agriculture.
- At the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in January 2019, 74 agriculture ministers and high-level representatives from international organizations called on FAO, in consultation with other stakeholders, to develop a concept note for the establishment of an **International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture (Digital Council)**. The consultation process involved 360 individuals from around 100 organizations through three design-thinking workshops (Rome, Accra and Budapest), 15 individual consultation meetings, two focused group interviews, one side event at the CF546 and one three-week online consultation.



The concept note was successfully launched at the 2020 GFFA and proposes the creation of a platform to enhance international cooperation on digitalization, and the exchange of ideas and experiences across borders.

- FAO is the leading UN agency for agricultural censuses. Every decade FAO prepares and advocates an updated programme to support countries in performing their national agricultural censuses using the latest standard international concepts, definitions and methodologies. The **World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020** (WCA 2020) is the latest decennial programme of agricultural censuses, which is being conducted in the 2016–2025 period. To disseminate the new Operational Guidelines of the new programme, FAO organized an initial series of regional workshops in 2019, including in: (i) the Near East and North Africa (April), co-funded by the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and FAO; (ii) Latin America (April), funded by the Inter-American Development Bank; and (iii) Francophone Africa (June), funded by FAO.
- Under the **Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World** (SW4SW) – an initiative jointly led by FAO, the World Wildlife Fund, the World Bank, the Center for International Forestry Research and the International Tropical Timber Organization, three regional dialogues (28–30 May 2019, Douala, Cameroon; 29–30 October 2019, Johannesburg, South Africa; 23–25 November 2019, Nanning, China) on sustainable wood

connected producers, consumers, forest communities and governments from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

The dialogues built the capacities of more than 200 participants from 50 countries on sustainable forestry for achieving the SDGs. Roadmaps for the actions towards SW4SW objectives were drafted for 25 countries.

- In May 2019, the “Follow-up to the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance” report by the UN Secretary General highlighted the progress made by Member States and tripartite organizations (FAO, WHO and OIE) in addressing AMR based on the **Global Action Plan on AMR**. Findings from the survey, which was conducted on 158 countries, indicated a substantial increase in countries developing national action plans (NAPs) on AMR. FAO has strengthened multistakeholder engagement in the fields of aquaculture, plants and animals, in the development of NAPs in more than 40 low- and middle- income countries, while supporting the expansion of technical capacities on awareness, surveillance, disease prevention and control, and regulatory frameworks.
- **World Food Day 2019** engaged audiences across borders, sectors and generations with the slogan “Our actions are our future. Healthy diets for a #ZeroHunger world”, highlighting the need to make healthy and sustainable diets available for everyone, while encouraging the public to think about their own food choices. The day’s theme and colourful visual promoted by FAO were used in over 40 languages for more than 400 events in up to 150 countries across the world.

¹ TCP projects, funded through FAO’s Regular Programme budget, are not included in this section.

² According to the FAO official methodology determined by the Governing Bodies, voluntary contributions (approvals), which can include new project funding or project revisions, are counted at the time the programmes/projects are declared operationally active.

³ Correspond to those projects that were operationally active at any given point between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019.

⁴ Refers to the total expenditure of programmes/projects implemented in the region during 2019.

Innovations in monitoring SDG progress

As a custodian UN agency for 21 indicators of the SDGs, FAO is committed to the effective monitoring of progress towards the 2030 Agenda. From capacity development programmes, to earth observation tools and new microdata dissemination platforms, in 2019, FAO continued to innovate with the objective to further develop country and regional experiences, and to help countries better track their contribution to the global development agenda.

New methods and tools to unleash the power of data and better monitor SDG progress

Deforestation activities not only emit anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHGs), but also reduce the capacity of forests to absorb them. The **System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL)**, a free cloud-based super computing platform for satellite land monitoring, provides information for the measurement of forest area (SDG indicator 15.1.1) and determination of GHG net emissions. Through a project financed by Norway and FAO together with its partners, including Google, NASA, the European Space Agency, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, Planet and the World Bank, support was provided to governments, organizations and communities to monitor the immediate environment by making access to and analysis of data easier, cheaper and faster, and by strengthening countries' forest monitoring capacities. In 2018–19, 34 workshops and meetings were held on how to use the tool. Today SEPAL has more than 4 000 active users from 750 organizations in 160 countries.

Thanks to a complementary project financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the United States of America, datasets collected through farm and household surveys populate the **Food and Agriculture Microdata Catalogue**, which provides an inventory of global information on agriculture, food security and nutrition. Following the dissemination of more than 350 datasets, the catalogue received more than 15 000 page visits and 2 500 users since its launch in July 2019 until the end of the year.

The **"Voices of the Hungry"** project, financed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Belgium through the FAO FMM, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, FAO, Japan and the EU allowed FAO to develop the FIES. Building on experiences with similar tools in countries across the Americas, Africa and Asia, the FIES was endorsed by the UN Statistics Commission and the UN General Assembly as an official SDG indicator for the monitoring of SDG Target 2.1. Stimulated by new investments, the FIES global reference scale provides prevalence rates of food security that are comparable across countries based on data collected in over 140 countries. The full potential of the FIES is realized when the tool is applied in large national population surveys that allow more detailed analyses of food security at different levels of severity. Today, 59 countries have included the FIES in their national surveys, with 32 more countries in the planning phase.

Agriculture statistics for evidence-based decision making

The lack of timely and high-quality agricultural data is handicapping efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. FAO joined forces with a wide group of partners to weave existing agricultural data collection efforts together into a more cohesive global programme. Through the **"Closing the Agricultural Data Gap 50 x 2030 Initiative"** project, financed by Australia, Germany, Italy, the United States of America and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, FAO is helping countries improve evidence for decision making on food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. The initiative brings together two existing and tested survey approaches that address SDG 2 data needs – FAO's Agricultural Integrated Surveys (AGRISurvey) and the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study's Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) – within a multi-institutional partnership that aims to make improved agricultural data available in 50 countries by 2030.

Knowledge-sharing to further advance research and development

The **"Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS)"** project, funded by the EU, was implemented by Agrinatura and FAO in eight pilot countries (Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Rwanda) from 2015 to 2019. It supported and facilitated a global forum on capacity development for agricultural innovation systems (AIS) through the Tropical Agriculture Platform, the validation of the Common Framework on Capacity Development for AIS and the development of an online platform (TAPipedia) with more than 2 000 resources available. The capacities of national organizations and platforms were strengthened, while 96 national innovation facilitators were trained and 34 innovation niche partnerships were supported. Thanks to the project, 5 000 rural farmers and development actors enhanced production and commercialization of farm products, improved their incomes, and produced more nutritious food.

On 18–21 November 2019, over 600 delegates from more than 100 countries participated in the eighth **International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS VIII)** in New Delhi, India. The conference provided a platform for professionals to interact with global experts and to be part of international scientific developments, thus bringing the most updated and current knowledge to the international scientific community in areas covering the integration, analysis and use of agricultural data for policy making and research. A specific plenary session was dedicated to SDG measurement. The conference was hosted by the Government of India with the close support of FAO and the collaboration and funding of other partners such as the United States of America, Eurostat, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Policy support and governance

In 2019, FAO and its partners continued to build global institutions, capacities and mechanisms that develop international standards and regulations, promote international cooperation and support an enabling environment for collective action to achieve food security and nutrition.



©FAO/Marco Longari

A collaborative approach for improving governance of pastoral lands in the Sahel

For millions of rural communities around the world that rely on access to, control over and use of natural resources, it is essential to safeguard their legitimate tenure rights in a world where such resources are diminishing fast in both quantity and quality. Through a project funded by Switzerland, Spain and ECOWAS, FAO supports around 200 key actors in the region – including pastoralist organizations, CSOs and government entities in implementing the **Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)** – an internationally negotiated and recognized soft law instrument. In 2019, FAO, ECOWAS and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel organized a consultative workshop on the responsible governance of pastoral land tenure in the ECOWAS region (Lomé, Togo 28–30 March), which marked the first time that the VGGT were considered as a tool for improving the governance of tenure in the regional pastoralist context. At the country level, FAO reinforced activities in the Niger to feed the regional dialogue and build experiences that can be replicated in other parts of the Sahel region. Thanks to an agreement with the NGO ROPEN, the project has contributed to improving the local management of pastoral lands and to build a more peaceful transboundary transhumance in the ECOWAS area.

Mainstreaming food loss reduction

Reducing food loss along the food supply chain is an effective solution to reducing the environmental impact of agriculture, improving productivity, incomes and livelihoods of chain actors as well as the food and nutrition security of low-income consumers. Tackling these challenges, FAO, WFP and IFAD have been working collaboratively to reduce post-harvest losses and improve food security and income-generating opportunities thanks to Switzerland's financial support. The initiative also facilitates knowledge-sharing on food loss reduction and good practices among a wide range of stakeholders in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda; as well as smallholders, traders, service providers, research organizations, NGOs, policy-makers, and national and international institutions – who benefit from improved access to information and other resources widely disseminated through a web-based **community of practice (CoP)**. The CoP currently counts with more than 1 200 members from 138 countries.

Boosting capacity to improve nutrition

Nutrition education is an essential component of any attempt to improve the nutritional status of a country. In response to the growing need for skilled professionals to carry out large scale and effective nutrition education programmes, FAO developed a university-level course that aims at developing the capacities of future health and nutrition professionals in planning, implementing and evaluating effective nutrition education, through the **ENACT (Education for effective Nutrition in Action)** and ENAF (ENACT for Francophone countries) courses. These courses provide hands-on learning experience on how to improve food practices and diets. Contributions from Germany and partnerships with multiple universities in sub-Saharan Africa have enabled FAO to strengthen the capacities of 116 tutors from 22 countries through the delivery of six workshops. These tutors have instructed about 2 000 students that have subsequently completed the ENACT/ENAF courses, strengthening their capacities as behavioural change agents to promote healthy diets and improved nutrition.

Building food safety systems across sectors and borders

New trends and challenges call for awareness raising actions. FAO, in collaboration with the WHO, the AU and the WTO, organized two events under the theme of **“The Future of Food Safety: Transforming Knowledge into Action for People, Economies and the Environment.”** The first FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (12–13 February 2019), followed by the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade, held in Geneva, Switzerland (23–24 April 2019). These events brought together more than 1 500 participants that represented over 120 governments, international and regional intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. Participants recognized that investment plays a crucial role in developing effective food safety systems and that the associated economic benefits and savings in public health expenditures outweigh the investment costs.

Climate change action

FAO recognizes that agriculture and food systems play a fundamental role in feeding a growing population and resolving climate concerns. These systems, however, must be transformed using inclusive, multisectoral approaches that reduce emissions, promote soil carbon sequestration and boost climate resilience and adaptation.



©FAO/Jake Salvador

Tackling climate change and food insecurity by supporting the implementation of the Koronivia Roadmap

At the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2017, the decision was made to adopt the “Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA),” a landmark agreement to advance discussions on agriculture in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Under the KJWA, countries agreed to work together around six thematic areas relating to modalities for implementation, adaptation, soil and water management, livestock, nutrient use, as well as the food security and socio-economic impacts of climate change. The goal was to support agricultural development to better address the vulnerabilities of the sector to climate change and the challenge of food security.

In 2019, building on the existing partnership with the UNFCCC and other communities of practice, FAO and its partners initiated a joint global effort to provide advice and technical assistance to agriculture negotiators, policy makers and national planners in an effort to strengthen their capacities to better adapt to and mitigate climate change. With financial support from Germany, a FAO project, not only provided updated tools and knowledge products for the implementation of climate actions that are in line with KJWA thematic areas in agricultural sectors, but also allowed agricultural experts, under the UNFCCC, to prepare their submissions and informally share their views on how to develop and implement interventions. In September 2019, during the third Koronivia Dialogue, 45 participants shaped the agenda of KJWA for the period of 2020 and beyond through discussions of the progress to be achieved and reported on at COP26.

Recently, Japan funded the KJWA-Plus project, which aims to further boost and facilitate knowledge exchange and countries’ access to knowledge products and the lessons that have been learned so far.

The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG)

In support of the commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement at COP21 and the 2030 Agenda, FAO has been hosting the WASAG since 2017, an initiative designed to bring together key stakeholders from around the world to address concerns over water use in agriculture and its impact on global food security. The WASAG is comprised of six working groups that address thematic priorities in (i) drought preparedness, (ii) water and migration, (iii) financing mechanisms, (iv) water and nutrition, (v) sustainable agriculture and (vi) saline agriculture. Today, the initiative engages 70 partners, consisting of UN agencies, governments and intergovernmental agencies, research and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, as well as private sector organizations and trade associations.

Notably, FAO played a major role in organizing the First International Forum on Water Scarcity in Agriculture in Praia, Cabo Verde (19–22 March 2019), which attracted more than 300 participants (30 percent women) from 48 countries. The highlight of the forum was the Praia Commitment, an agreement reached by WASAG partners to deliver concrete actions that address water scarcity in agriculture.

Climate Change Conference (COP25)

At COP25 (2–13 December 2019), FAO supported countries to ensure that agriculture and food systems remain central in negotiations through developments to secure climate finance, strengthen existing partnerships and create new ones. Key areas of engagement included the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and KJWA negotiations. FAO also:

- Contributed to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) 2019 State of Climate Services Report that was launched at COP and highlighted both challenges and opportunities for climate services aimed at promoting climate change adaptation.
- Led, under the FAO/UNDPs NAP-Ag (Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans) programme, two side events and negotiations regarding additional technical and financial support – increasing the understanding of the NAP process, and how the programme is helping a growing number of partner countries to identify and integrate adaptation measures into relevant national planning and budgeting.
- Launched a framework methodology to analyze the vulnerability of forests and forest-dependent people to climate change, as a tool to enable assessments that are indispensable for ground-level action to adapt to climate change.

Gender and youth

Inclusion of women and youth in food system labour markets is paramount to achieving food security and better nutrition for all, as well as to strengthen social cohesion and stability. However, due to limited structural transformations in rural areas, as well as poverty and skills gaps, rural women and youth continue to face significant constraints that limit their productive potential, self-confidence and decision-making power within the household and the community.

Boosting rural youth employment

The increasing trend of youth unemployment and underemployment in Western Africa, and the threat it poses to overall socio-economic growth, peace and stability, is prominent on Africa's development agenda. Through a project funded by the ASTF, FAO promoted decent employment for youth in aquaculture-related and cassava value chains in six West African countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Senegal), reaching a total of 900 people per country. In addition, close to 50 officers from relevant ministries as well as the private sector and CSOs benefitted from capacity building activities to formulate and implement decent youth employment policies and programme interventions.

When it was time to harvest the tilapia from the cages, "thank you FAO, thank you" could be heard from many mouths, particularly the village's elders. They were not only excited about the harvest, they also had not seen fresh fish for a long time. According to their testimonies, the project provided the village with fresh fish and income for its youth. But first and foremost, the youth also found reasons to stay in the village instead of crossing the Sahara desert to reach the Mediterranean coast.

FAO puts a premium on fostering an enabling environment in which young people can thrive and seize decent rural employment opportunities. On 29 August 2019, at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) in Yokohama, Japan, FAO and UNIDO co-organized the launch event for the Flagship Initiative "**Opportunities for Youth in Africa: Accelerating Jobs Creation in Agriculture and Agribusiness**", which attracted around 150 participants. The joint initiative aims to enhance the business ecosystem by creating more jobs and opportunities for African youth through the provision of technical assistance, capacity development and knowledge exchange to youth enterprises, while promoting responsible agricultural investment and public-private partnerships across selected value chains.



©FAO/Luis Tato



©FAO/Luis Tato

FAO also engages in major global initiatives, including the **World Day Against Child Labour**, to raise awareness and mobilize support to eradicate child labour in agriculture. On 12 June 2019, FAO, the EU and ILO organized the global conference "United to End Child Labour in Agriculture" to urge nations to pay greater attention and allocate more financial resources to the fight against child labour in all situations. Around 100 participants discussed strategies to reach the often neglected child labourers in regional and local supply chains and subsistence farming.

Investing in gender equality and women's economic empowerment

In August 2019, FAO and **Slow Food** organized a study tour in northwest Italy for a group of Syrian small-scale women farmers, offering them a unique opportunity to visit and partner with successful organic farms outside their own country. Almost a decade of war has damaged the Syrian Arab Republic's agriculture and created an unbalanced labour force. Enhancing the technical and entrepreneurial skills of small-scale women food producers is central to FAO's wider efforts to support crisis-affected communities to regain or boost their livelihoods and revive the country's agriculture sector. Thanks to this partnership, seven Syrian women improved their skills and knowledge on all aspects of production, marketing and value chains of a broad range of products, including dairy, honey, oil, cereals and vegetables, which will allow them to pass on this knowledge to other women farmers in their communities upon their return.

FAO has also increased its collaboration with RBAs through a global initiative to address the root causes of rural gender inequalities and discrimination. On 8 May 2019, 44 experts from UN agencies, NGOs, research institutions and the private sector gathered for the first time to discuss and share experiences on gender-transformative approaches in agriculture and the rural sector. The **RBA joint initiative on gender-transformative approaches**, funded by the EU, seeks to trigger transformative changes that empower men, women, boys and girls in households, communities and institutions in rural areas and beyond.

5. MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

FAO conducts regular monitoring, reporting and evaluation on its programmes and projects to facilitate early correction, systematic learning, improved decision-making and increased public accountability to stakeholders in countries that support and benefit from FAO activities.





FAO is committed to helping its Members achieve the SDGs and confront the challenge of hunger on a national, regional and global scale. To support these commitments, FAO continuously reflects on the way it works to ensure the relevance, efficiency, impact and sustainability of all its interventions, as well as the contribution of these interventions to the Organization's Strategic Framework and the 2030 Agenda. The integrated monitoring, reporting and evaluation function of FAO supports its continuous efforts to strengthen and improve its focus, responsiveness and credibility, instilling a culture of improvement and innovation.

Reporting and evaluation

The Organization's corporate reporting systems do not simply convey the performance and delivery of multi-level results, they also provide insight into the extent of FAO's impact on value creation and the lessons learned at the project level.

Through evidence-based delivery of FAO's impact and high transparency in the strategies developed to achieve project outcomes, reporting also serves as a comprehensive basis for dialogue between FAO and its resource partners.

In 2019, more than 400 reporting publications were produced and disseminated to resource partners and government partners.

Evaluation is an independent, as well as integral element of FAO's results-based management approach. Evaluations are carried out to assess activities, projects, programmes, strategies and policies, as well as to provide evidence-based analyses for timely incorporation into its own decision-making processes and those of its partners.

The FAO Office of Evaluation coordinates and conducts the evaluation of implemented programmes and projects at the global, regional and national levels to ensure that interventions align with the Strategic Framework and allow countries to meet the SDG targets. Evaluations are carried out with the involvement of relevant actors in order to ensure that they are both applicable and useful to local communities, as well as to strengthen the capacity of national stakeholders in conducting credible and results-oriented evaluations.

Eval Forward: Strengthening evaluation capacities for food security and agriculture globally

As part of the effort to enhance the awareness and evaluation capacity of countries, the FAO Office of Evaluation is actively supporting "Eval Forward", a community of practice that evaluates food security, agriculture and rural development.

Jointly established by FAO, WFP and IFAD, the Eval Forward initiative (i) facilitates knowledge sharing on key topics related to evaluation practices and approaches, (ii) provides access to updated information and resources and (iii) fosters networking within the evaluation community. As of 2019, more than 700 evaluators, civil servants, development professionals, policy makers and academics from 93 countries had joined the community.

FAO undertakes four types of evaluations:

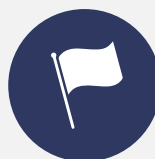
Corporate thematic evaluations cover FAO interventions on a specific topic, policy or area of work at the global, regional and country level. They are conducted to assess the Organization's contributions from a strategic perspective and to ensure that programmes are aligned with the achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives.

Project/Programme evaluations review individual projects/programmes that are funded using extra-budgetary resources, or clusters of projects with specific interests. They support decision making for future projects.

Resilience evaluations focus on FAO efforts in resilience and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This portfolio of evaluations centres on the humanitarian–development divide, working in partnership with and reaching out to other agencies in the humanitarian sector.

Country programme evaluations identify lessons learned and provide recommendations on how FAO programmes can be better oriented at the country level. The aim of this evaluation portfolio is to strengthen the impact of FAO efforts to assist Members in achieving global goals by aligning these efforts with country needs and their national policies.

In 2019, the FAO Office of Evaluation issued a total of 42 evaluations including:



6 country programme evaluations



28 project evaluations
(comprising programme and cluster evaluations)



3 resilience evaluations



5 thematic evaluations

Evaluations completed in 2019

Type	Donor	Country	Evaluation/Project title
Project / Programme Evaluations	GEF	Indonesia, Peru, Uganda	Final evaluation of the project "Securing tenure rights for forest landscape-dependent communities: linking science with policy to advance tenure security, sustainable forest management and people's livelihoods"
	GEF	Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Thailand	Terminal evaluation of the project "Decision support for mainstreaming and scaling up of sustainable land management"
	Germany	Global	Cluster evaluation of FAO's contribution to the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Global	Final Evaluation of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Global Strategic Programme (GSP) 2014–2018
	EU	Ethiopia	Final evaluation of Pursuing Pastoralist Resilience through Improved Animal Health Service Delivery in Pastoralist Areas of Ethiopia
	EU	Ethiopia	Final evaluation of "Strengthening Institutionalized Subnational Coordination Structures and Harmonization Mechanisms" in Ethiopia
	GEF	Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana	Final Evaluation of Development of the Trans-frontier Conservation Area Linking Forest Reserves and Protected Areas in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire
	GEF	Congo	Final evaluation of the project "Integrated management of mangrove and associated wetlands and coastal forest ecosystems in the Republic of the Congo"
	GEF	Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal	Final evaluation of the project "Protection of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME)"
	GEF	Botswana	Final evaluation of "Demonstration project for the decontamination of Persistent Organic Pesticides contaminated soils using non-thermal treatment methods"
	GEF	Mozambique	Final evaluation of "Disposal of persistent organic pollutants and obsolete pesticides in Mozambique"
	GEF	Eritrea	Terminal Evaluation of "Prevention and Disposal of Persistent Organic Pollutants and Obsolete Pesticides in Eritrea" Phase II
	GEF	Angola, Namibia, South Africa	Mid-term evaluation of project "Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in the Benguela Current Fisheries System"
	GEF	Cameroon	Évaluation à mi-parcours du projet «Gestion durable des forêts placées sous l'autorité des communes camerounaises»
	GEF	Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal	Évaluation à mi-parcours du projet «Élimination des pesticides obsolètes y compris les polluants organiques persistants et renforcement de la gestion des pesticides dans les pays membres du comité permanent inter-États de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel»
	GEF	Congo, Gabon	Évaluation finale du projet «Gestion durable de la faune et du secteur de la viande de brousse en Afrique centrale»
	GEF	China	Mid-term evaluation of "Securing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China's Dongting Lake Protected Areas"
	GEF	China	Mid-term evaluation of "Securing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Huangshan Municipality"
	GEF	Afghanistan	Terminal evaluation of "Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by promoting community forestry, removing barriers to sustainable biomass energy, and laying the groundwork for climate change mitigation in Afghanistan"
	GEF	Nepal	Terminal Evaluation of the project "Reducing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity to respond to impacts of climate change and variability for sustainable livelihoods in agriculture sector in Nepal"
	Japan	Afghanistan	Final evaluation of the project for Building Resilience and Self-reliance of Livestock Keepers by Improving Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other Transboundary Animal Diseases in Afghanistan
	Japan	Afghanistan	Final evaluation of "Enhancing Agriculture Production through Irrigation System Improvement and Strengthening Institutional Capacity"
	Sweden	Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam	Evaluation of FAO's Asia Regional Integrated Pest Management and Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme in the Greater Mekong Subregion
	EU	Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Evaluación final del "Apoyar la implementación de la visión de conservación basada en el ecosistema del Amazonas, en beneficio de las comunidades locales y la conservación de los servicios ambientales en la región amazónica"
	GEF	Brazil	Final evaluation of the project "Integrated Management of the Ilha Grande Bay Ecosystem (BIG Project)"
	GEF	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent & Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago	Mid-term evaluation of "Disposal of obsolete pesticides including persistent organic pollutants, promotion of alternatives and strengthening pesticides management in the Caribbean"
	GEF	Ecuador	Evaluación de medio término del "Manejo Integrado de Espacios Marinos y Costeros de Alto Valor para la Biodiversidad en el Ecuador Continental"
	GEF	Brazil	Final evaluation of "Strengthening National Policy and Knowledge Framework in Support of Sustainable Management of Brazil's Forest Resources"
Type	Country		Evaluation / Project title
Resilience Evaluations	Mali		Évaluation conjointe FAO/PAM du projet «Appui à la résilience des populations vulnérables au nord du Mali»
	Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe		Evaluation of FAO's contribution to building resilience to El Niño-induced drought in Southern Africa 2016–2017
	Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger		Évaluation finale de la Phase II (2014–2017) du Programme EMPRES/ Composante Crique pèlerin en région occidentale (EMPRES-RO)
Type	Evaluation / Project title		
Country Programme Evaluations	Evaluation of FAO's contribution to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste 2015–2018		
	Evaluación del posicionamiento y aportes del programa de la FAO en Cuba 2013–2018		
	Evaluación del Programa de FAO en México 2013–2018		
	Evaluación del trabajo de la Oficina Subregional de la FAO para Mesoamérica 2012–2017		
	Evaluation of FAO's contribution to Georgia 2016–2019		
	Évaluation du programme de pays de la FAO au Burundi 2012–2018		
Corporate Thematic Evaluations	Evaluation of FAO's Strategic Results Framework		
	Evaluation of FAO's Work on Gender		
	Evaluation of the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector		
	Evaluation of the Strategy and Vision for FAO's Work in Nutrition		
	Synthesis of findings and lessons learnt from the Strategic Objective Evaluations		

6. CHARTING NEW PATHS

©FAO



©NOOR/Pep Bonet



The path to prosperity is clearly marked by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Immediate action in food and agriculture is imperative for tackling the root causes of hunger and poverty, addressing climate change and achieving prosperity for all.

FAO has dedicated itself to some of the biggest, interlinked challenges of the SDGs: ending extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition; promoting sustainable agriculture, and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources for development; and combatting and fostering resilience to climate change. Investment in sustainable agriculture and food systems, and in rural people is a proven accelerator of sustainable development that will drive change across all of the SDGs.

FAO works together with its partners for better production, environment, nutrition and life, in order to build a dynamic Organization for a better world. This entails scaling up investments, programmes, policies and partnerships to foster national transformation while tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger to leave no one behind.

These actions embrace the 2030 Agenda's vision of sustainable development in which food and agriculture, people's livelihoods and the management of natural resources are addressed not separately, but as one. Through its newly launched **Hand-in-Hand initiative**, FAO reinforces its contribution to the integrated approaches of UN reform by achieving greater cooperation, increased access to flexible funding, and deepening partnership among Rome-based agencies and the broader UN system, as well as bringing in all partners towards accelerating agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development. This is reflected in the RBA's common vision and increased joint work towards the **UN Food Systems Summit** in 2021, which will be essential for accelerating multi-stakeholder actions around food systems and the 2030 Agenda.

In addition, advancing sustainable solutions to food crises calls for acting along the Humanitarian-Development nexus in a resilience perspective, as evidence has shown that humanitarian assistance alone is essential but not sufficient. FAO and its partners work to tackle protracted crises and recurrent disasters through the **Global Network Against Food Crises**, with an emphasis on bridging the divide between development and humanitarian actors, while optimizing the potential of agricultural areas to build resilient livelihoods and food systems.

But creating an energetic and dynamic FAO in line with its mandate also entails tapping into the potential of both young people and women – inside and outside of the Organization – to boost innovation and encourage leadership through increased opportunities, information and support, especially in rural areas. With this in mind, FAO launched its first-ever **Women's Committee** and **Youth Committee**, serving as bridges and new platforms to promote inclusiveness and broader engagement, so that FAO's work on women and youth is made more visible, helpful and tangible to individuals and Member Nations.

The SDGs are beyond any of us, but not all of us. They demand action by everyone and call for new ways of working together. Partnership, solidarity and a willingness to come together across geographies, sectors and disciplines are key enablers for achieving positive and impactful results. FAO will continue to be a partner for all who are committed to ending hunger by 2030.

Partnerships and Outreach

E-mail: PSR-Director@fao.org

Web address: <http://www.fao.org>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

00153 Rome, Italy

ISBN 978-92-5-132776-0



9 789251 327760

CA9351EN/1/06.20