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FAO in Africa: Highlights in 2022



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ESWATINI. 26-year-old Nkosephayo Manyatsi is the Quality Lead at Rural-Grown Farms, a women-led agribusiness enterprise established by the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) in Eswatini. She is also the founder of Smiling Through Farming, a marketing platform for youth-owned agribusinesses.

FOREWORD

In 2022, Africa faced extraordinary challenges: the worst drought in four decades in the Horn of Africa, and the war in Ukraine triggering African food price hikes and increased import bills for food and agricultural inputs, making nutritious food further out of reach for many people. Sixteen of the top twenty-four countries most affected by hunger globally were in Africa. On top of this, the impacts of climate change continued to hit food production, and economies still grappled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this context, FAO in Africa has strived to achieve extraordinary results. We initiated 302 new projects in the region, and mobilized a record USD 764 million, which is more than 170 percent of the total resources mobilized in 2021.

In 2022, FAO in Africa focused on advancing implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031 for delivering concrete, impactful and visible results on the four betters - better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.

The 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC32), held in April 2022 in Equatorial Guinea, was the first in-person major regional event since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and was an important milestone in engaging Member Nations and other partners on the four betters. The ARC32 recommendations emphasized the need to accelerate inclusive agrifood systems transformation in Africa, and to promote intra-regional trade through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

ARC32 also endorsed the shift from three Regional Initiatives to four new Regional Priorities: Sustainable agrifood production systems; Efficient and equitable food and nutrition systems; Climate action and sustainable natural resource management; and Building resilience, ending poverty. These priorities are supported by 15 Programme Areas of Work that are implemented by multi-disciplinary teams of technical officers across the region to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of technical support to country offices and enhance coordination and cooperation with governments, development partners and regional and national stakeholders.

FAO in Africa continued to lead corporate initiatives. Thirty-two African countries are now members of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and 27 African countries have joined One Country, One Priority Product (OCOP).

Partnerships continued to be an important part of our work in 2022. We collaborated with the African Union on the Year of Nutrition, including publishing a guide to Africa's 'forgotten foods' – those crops that are underutilized but that could unlock incomes, nutrition and other benefits for African communities and beyond. We look forward to continuing this work as part of the 2023 International Year of Millets.

We developed new partnerships and organized or participated in major events that brought our partners around the table to discuss solutions for African agrifood systems transformation, including the 2nd African Agribusiness Leadership Dialogue, the AGRF Summit, YouthConnekt and the FAO-International Agrifood Network (IAFN) accelerator mentorship program for women agripreneurs.

FAO in Africa was proud to be recognized by the FAO Director-General as a winner of the One FAO Team Award in 2022, recognizing our extraordinary achievements and teamwork.

Building on the achievements we made in the FAO Year of the Extraordinary in 2022, we at FAO in Africa will strive to achieve even more in 2023's Year of Excellence. To do that, we will work in even more collaborative ways with partners, leverage more from science, technology and innovation, and continue to deliver as a cohesive team.

Abebe Haile-Gabriel

Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



BETTER PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, through efficient and inclusive food and agriculture supply chains at local, regional and global level, ensuring resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in a changing climate and environment.



BETTER PRODUCTION

The results achieved at regional, subregional and country level in 2022 under better production span across four out of five Programme Priority Areas (PPAs): Innovation for sustainable agriculture production, One Health, Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources, and Digital agriculture. These results focus on strengthening capacities, systems, infrastructure and productive assets in FAO Member Nations as well as on generating evidence for targeted action on the ground, policy reform and investment.

In 2022, capacity development under better production spanned across crop pest and disease integrated management, prudent use of antimicrobials, integrated watershed management, ecosystems approach to fisheries, seed production and management, agribusiness and entrepreneurship, transboundary animal diseases surveillance and reporting of good agriculture practices.

Under evidence-based policy support in 2022, FAO played a major role in the region in the areas of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), horticulture, seeds, agricultural statistics and agricultural sector development. This has been compounded by FAO support to generating sustainable investment, mainly in the form of sectoral or national investment plans.

Accelerators such as technology and data, and the cross-cutting themes gender, youth and South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) have played catalytic roles in 2022 in achieving results in the region.

As well, a vast body of data and information has been generated and disseminated in the areas of AMR (e.g. mapping of laboratory analytical capabilities and networks, census of importers and sellers of drugs for veterinary use including antimicrobials), food security and nutrition analysis, mapping of agricultural areas, analysis of the effects in Africa of the war in Ukraine, and more.

One Country, One Priority Product (OCOP) in Africa

The One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative was formally launched in Africa in March 2022 at a high-level event with over 700 attendees. OCOP aims to build more sustainable food value chain systems, support family and smallholder farmers to be profitable and improve their livelihoods, minimize the use of chemical inputs and natural resources, reduce food loss and waste, and limit the negative impacts on the environment. It does this through green value chain development for Special Agriculture Products (SAPs), from green production to storage, processing and marketing.



BURUNDI. A farmer inspects her tomato crop during training activities at a farmer field school.

By the end of 2022, 27 African countries¹ had signed up to participate in OCOP, with a diverse array of products. So far, 17 Special Agriculture Products have been identified in the Africa region.

In 2022, the [OCOP in Africa](#) webpage was launched, as part of FAO's efforts to provide platforms for countries to exchange knowledge.

Innovation for sustainable agriculture Digital Villages Initiative (DVI)

Nine countries in Africa are taking part in the pilot phase of the Digital Villages Initiative (DVI): Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia and Zimbabwe. The Initiative aims to bring digital solutions to support socioeconomic activities by farmers and other rural stakeholders to empower them and strengthen their livelihoods.

A detailed study carried out in seven of the pilot countries was synthesized in 2022 into recommendations for effective implementation of the initiative.

In Senegal, more than 300 000 farmers are now registered in the local digital platform SAIDA. DVI activities have been piloted in FAO farmer field schools, in partnership with the National Agricultural and Rural Advisory Agency of Senegal (ANCAR), and the company E-Tolbi's technology which allowed farmers to receive personalized satellite-based extension messaging in their local language.

Three digital villages will be supported in Liberia, after an implementation assessment in 2022 under a joint new UN project which in part aims to support the development of agribusiness activities in the country's north-central region.

New DVI activities have started in Zimbabwe where the development of a scoping assessment study is launched.

The [1 000 Digital Villages Initiative in Africa](#) booklet provides a detailed overview of DVI in Africa.

In 2022, FAO also launched the [Digital Innovation Strategy for Agrifood Systems in Africa](#) which is built on three pillars: improving the use of quality data for country planning, developing internal digital agriculture capacity to effectively support food systems transformation, and supporting inclusive national and regional digital agriculture ecosystems.

Making agricultural data accessible

The SADC Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) was launched in September 2022, as part of the European Union-funded FAO project Support towards Operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR). AIMS is an integrated multi-lingual system, generating real-time agricultural data from across 16 SADC Member States for strategic evidence-based planning and decision-making. Thirteen SADC Members now have up-to-date agricultural data on the AIMS platform. Capacity building and training on the use of the AIMS platform, QGIS software and KoBoCollect were carried out at national level to strengthen Members' capacity to optimize the use of the AIMS. A pilot is currently underway in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, where the local information systems are being directly integrated into the regional AIMS platform. To complement the development of this platform and to enhance efficient data collection, the SADC Regional AIMS Technical committee was revived in 2022.

Lesotho has developed a new digital National Farmer Registry under a project technically and financially supported by FAO and implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. The system creates a database of farmers in the country, identifying demographic data, main farming practices, and livestock ownership. It will help the government to channel support to intended farmers and inform future policies.



FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu meets President of Senegal Macky Sall in Dakar in April 2022. The two discussed mutual ambitions to leverage innovation, science, and technology to transform agrifood systems for better nutrition and livelihoods.

¹ Benin (honey), Cameroon (banana), Chad (meat), Republic of the Congo (cassava), Democratic Republic of the Congo (cassava), Djibouti (dates), Equatorial Guinea (cacao), Eritrea (potato), Eswatini (baby vegetables), Ethiopia (teff), Gabon (maize), the Gambia (groundnut), Ghana (soybean), Guinea (maize), Guinea-Bissau (cashew), Lesotho (potato), Malawi (banana), Mali (meat), the Niger (meat), Rwanda (honey), Sierra Leone (rice), Somalia (sorghum), South Sudan (sorghum), the United Republic of Tanzania (avocado), Togo (rice), Zambia (onion), Zimbabwe (soybean).



One Health

The threat posed by antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is being addressed in Africa using a One Health approach as it occurs at the human-animal-plant-environment interface along agrifood systems.

In 2021–2022, FAO in Africa supported 232 initiatives aimed at strengthening national and regional capacity in promoting good practices, and addressing inappropriate use of antimicrobial drugs which is the root cause of antimicrobial resistance.

Specific support was provided by FAO and partners to 26 countries in Africa: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Lesotho, Mali, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Activities included surveys of farmers, feed vendors, veterinarians and pharmacists, development of training materials, training sessions including at farmer field schools to empower farmers

in correct antimicrobial use, review and development of national action plans, policies and legislation, assessments and strengthening of laboratory capacities to detect AMR, establishment of AMR surveillance systems and multisectoral coordination platforms to strengthen AMR mitigation governance, and technical publications.

Regional activities covering the continent were conducted in collaboration with the African Union (AU), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) as well as regional economic communities (RECs), donors and various partners.

Advocacy activities culminated in the regional celebration of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week with the five African AMR partners (AU, FAO, WHO, WOAH, UNEP) which included participating in a regional dialogue on AMR, engaging with media, and leading the publication of a joint communications strategy aimed at stakeholders to adopt the One Health approach in dealing with AMR.



Blue transformation

In 2022, the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) was celebrated across Africa, resulting in increased dialogue and visibility of small-scale artisanal fishers, fish farmers and fish workers.

Regional highlights included:

- an IYAFA 2022 presentation at the 7th Meeting of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Ministers in Charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture which contributed to agreements from regional representatives to incorporate small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in the meeting declaration;
- the International Conference on Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (ICAFA) co-organized with the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) and the Sustainable Fisheries Initiative (SFI). Around 300 participants, representing 16 countries, attended. ICAFA enhanced awareness and actions to support the sustainable contribution and development of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to food security, nutrition, incomes and the environment. ICAFA also facilitated sharing of blue economy innovations, research findings, and collaboration among stakeholders;
- implementation of a programme in seven African countries (Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda) to implement the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines (SSF) for gender-equitable and climate-resilient food systems and livelihoods;
- supported the African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA) to develop an SSF national action plan in Ghana, and build the advocacy skills of women's groups in the sector;
- a national multi-stakeholder workshop in Nigeria on SSF Guidelines to kick start progress towards developing a national implementation plan, co-organized with WorldFish, the International Collective in Support of Fish Workers (ICSW) and Lagos State University;
- a live discussion on TwitterSpaces about young people in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, which amplified the direct voices of artisanal fishers, fish farmers and fish workers; and
- a regional IYAFA closing event with the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Madagascar and other guests from across Africa.



SENEGAL. A fish seller with the morning's catch.

Supporting small-scale producers

Mentoring women agripreneurs

FAO and the International Agrifood Network (IAFN) launched a 6-month accelerator mentorship programme in October 2022 for African women entrepreneurs of small-to-medium enterprises operating in the agrifood sector.

Around 50 women are taking part in the programme which aims to equip participants with the tools and expertise to boost their businesses. Each participant is paired with an experienced woman leader from the same sector and receives one-on-one mentoring. They also complete self-paced online coursework and take part in a series of expert-led workshops designed to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and networking.





DJIBOUTI. A drop irrigation system in a demonstration plot of the REPROVA project implemented by FAO and funded by the European Union.

YenKasa

Within the context of the Participatory Communication Plan of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF 2019-28) and in collaboration between the FAO Regional Office for Africa and the FAO Communications for Development team at headquarters, the [YenKasa](#) Africa initiative has carried out activities in 2022 under three main lines of work: awareness raising on family farming; enhancing farmer organizations' and rural institutions' communication capacities; and advancing rural communication services to support family farming and sustainable food systems.

Major achievements include:

- organized a regional forum on rural communication services in Africa, and supported the Regional Dialogue on Family Farming in Africa;
- shared information about family farming through

the bilingual [YenKasa](#) online platform and Facebook group;

- worked with radio stations in Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo and Zambia to raise awareness about the UNDF and the contribution of family farmers to sustainable agrifood systems. The national and regional awareness radio campaigns initiated in 2022 will continue in 2023;
- supported FAO projects with the design and implementation of Communication for Development strategies, such as the Forest and Farm Facility programme (FFF) in Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, and Zambia; and
- piloted a participatory video training for partner organizations from Africa, which will be extended to other regions in 2023.



Developing opportunities in agriculture with Africa's youth

In 2022, the joint FAO-African Union [Investment guidelines for youth in agrifood systems in Africa](#), and the [Youth-sensitive value-chain analysis and development](#) were published.

Other developments included:

Opportunities for youth in Africa:

- The joint FAO-UNIDO project, implemented in collaboration with the African Union Commission, supported more than 700 young entrepreneurs through value chain skills development training, capacity building activities, and workshops on access to finance and markets. OYA is operational in six pilot countries: Cabo Verde, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Tunisia, and Zambia and has trained thousands of young people in agribusiness skills.
- The OYA programme incubated over 270 agribusinesses through local incubator programmes and selected 17 agricultural value chains that carry a high potential for job creation across the six priority countries.
- The programme has raised awareness about the importance of youth employment and entrepreneurship, including at a well-attended side-event at the 8th Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development (TICAD8).

- A new [OYA website](#) was launched, and the programme had a strong presence on social media in 2022, with over 12 000 followers on LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube, and more than 130 000 impressions.

Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture (YIYA) in Uganda:

- In September 2022, FAO enabled 10 youth agripreneurs to pitch their agribusiness enterprises to Ugandan investors living in the diaspora and to make matches for subsequent collaboration. This was during the [first-ever Uganda diaspora-youth agribusiness matchmaking conference](#) organized by Uganda Diaspora in Agribusiness Network (UDAN), supported by FAO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- As a result of the match-making conference, two young agripreneurs that emerged from the [YIYA program](#) found investors. Greco Organic Farm in Kyenjojo district and the United Kingdom's Waribe Limited entered a partnership where the former will supply solar-dried organic vegetables to the UK and the Middle East. Greco received a loan from Waribe to construct a solar drying tunnel and has since supplied two consignments to Waribe to test the UK market. Imani Grain Millers from Nebbi District, and Wisegates Company Limited registered in Kenya and Uganda, entered an agreement on cassava products.
- YIYA also published a [video](#) on some of the YIYA champions.



RWANDA. The President of Rwanda Paul Kagame addresses young Africans interested in agriculture at the YouthConnekt Summit 2022 at which FAO was a proud partner.



YouthConnekt Summit:

- For the first time, FAO was a co-organiser of the YouthConnekt Africa Summit at which thousands of young innovators and African leaders gathered in Rwanda's capital Kigali in October 2022. FAO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Culture and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources co-hosted Track VI dedicated to agriculture.
- FAO led a high-level panel discussion on the future of agriculture and food systems, and hosted a masterclass on fit-for-finance for young agripreneurs. FAO also co-hosted with the Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness Forum (RYAF) an exhibition and a marketplace to promote one of FAO Rwanda's flagship campaigns "Buy from Youth".

African Youth Agripreneurs (AYA) platform in East Africa:

- The platform was launched by FAO and the East African Farmers Federation (EAFF) in 2021 and encourages experience-sharing, networking and mentorship among young African agripreneurs, and access to tools and training. In 2022, the platform had 3 000 young African agripreneurs as members, with a roughly even balance of women and men engaging with the site.

Integrating fish into rice farms in Rwanda to improve food security and nutrition

In 2022, FAO in Rwanda worked with partners on a transformative rice and fish project in the rice fields of Rwamagana District, Eastern Province. The project integrates tilapia and cuttlefish production into rice plots to increase productivity, resource efficiency, incomes and access to nutritious foods.

A key feature of the project is the co-benefits: the fish thrive in the rice paddy and provide organic manure for the rice and eat any insects that could harm the crop. Farmers reported a reduction in production costs because they no longer need to buy pesticides and fertilizers. One farmer, Emmanuel Nsabimana, reported previously spending FRW 70 000 (approx. USD 65) on fertilizer for 20 hectares of rice but now spends nothing.

According to Jean-Bosco Nyiringango, president of the 500-strong local rice farmers' cooperative Kokiriki, the farmers increased their income per hectare by eight percent, and on 20 acres of rice they harvested about 12 000 fish. FAO is in discussions with the Government of Rwanda to expand this innovative approach to better production in other parts of the country.





Better production at a glance

Angola: With the National Institute for Small and Medium Enterprises, FAO supported 57 youth and women agripreneurs to increase their skills in a mentoring and coaching program and agribusiness bootcamps.

Central African Republic: A pilot project introduced and multiplied improved cassava cuttings resistant to African mosaic and brown streak disease, and provided capacity development in production techniques, integrated pest management, and the packaging and distribution of cuttings.

Lesotho: FAO has spearheaded an innovative contract farming scheme, where parties agree in advance on terms and conditions for production and marketing of farm products. It contributes to integrating smallholder farmers into improved value chains and gaining a fair share in the domestic food market. This is expected to contribute to transforming rural communities by enabling job creation and economic growth, increasing agricultural productivity and output, and creating attractive employment.

South Africa: The Government of South Africa developed a Youth Empowerment Strategy in Agriculture and Rural Development Sector with support from FAO to address the country's high youth unemployment rate. The Strategy aims at ensuring effective and equal integration of youth in rural agriculture. An inception meeting and a series of project steering committee meetings were held in 2022, followed by numerous stakeholder consultation workshops to solicit inputs from key stakeholders.

South Sudan: In collaboration with Cordaid, FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) to establish three seed laboratories. FAO also facilitated the formal release of four high-yielding fall armyworm-resistant hybrid maize varieties.

West Africa: FAO assisted the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to assess risks and impacts on agriculture related to the war in Ukraine. The discussions at ECOWAS ministerial level led to the launch of a major regional initiative to address the issue of supplying farmers with agricultural inputs including fertilizers, to facilitate trade by reducing barriers to the movement of food commodities and agricultural inputs, and to see fertilizer as a strategic product without borders, accessible to all farmers in all countries in the region.

Across the region: More than 3 500 people were trained in better production techniques, including farmers, producers, entrepreneurs, members of cooperatives, veterinarians, health workers, government officials and technicians.

SOUTH SUDAN. A young boy poses with a newly acquired goat.





BETTER NUTRITION

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition in all its forms, including promoting nutritious food and increasing access to healthy diets.



BETTER NUTRITION

The results achieved at regional, subregional and country level in 2022 under better nutrition span across five Programme Priority Areas: Healthy diets for all, Nutrition for the most vulnerable, Safe food for everyone, Reducing food waste and loss, and Transparent markets and trade. These results focus on strengthening capacities and systems in FAO Member Nations and supporting evidence-based policy action. The positive effects of these results are geared towards reducing the malnutrition burden in target countries, improving nutritional standards, improving access to healthier and diversified diets, reducing post-harvest losses, boosting nutrition-informed value chains and production, strengthening capacities to enter trade agreements and to implement international food quality and safety standards.

In 2022, capacities were developed under better nutrition in post-harvest handling, improved survey methods such as the SMART nutrition methodology, agribusiness management, home and school gardening, value chain management to prevent food losses, and measurement of the chemical constituency of fortified food items.

FAO also worked with farming communities to enhance nutrition-sensitive production and post-harvest handling, and with national authorities on standards and regulations, accession to international treaties, and access to trade.

Model Law on Food and Nutrition Security in Africa

2022 saw a policy breakthrough when the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) adopted the Model Law on Food and Nutrition Security in Africa with the support of FAO.

The law serves as a normative framework that highlights the best legislative principles and practices to promote healthy diets and better nutrition.

It covers key issues such as access to productive resources, agricultural inputs and services, measures to promote a balanced diet and fight malnutrition, regulation of food markets and trade, food safety standards, and regulation of food labelling.

The law follows a human rights-based approach to food and nutrition security, and combines rights, responsibilities and entitlements with governance arrangements for coordination and implementation, and accountability mechanisms.

FAO has a strategic partnership with PAP including a technical cooperation project. The model law is the result of advocacy and support under that project, as well as good collaboration between all stakeholders.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA. Veronica Jackson is a chef and advocate for locally-grown, nutritious food.



Compendium of Forgotten Foods

As part of recognizing the African Union's Year of Nutrition, FAO published a compendium of Africa's forgotten foods, with the Forum for Agricultural Research (FARA). The publication showcases underutilized indigenous foods from across sub-Saharan Africa. It details the scientific name of the commodity as well as the common and local names and an identifying picture. It includes the geographical locations where the food is found, common production methods, nutritional value, a brief description of how it is prepared and used, and the food's environmental and economic benefits.

Boosting intra-regional trade for better nutrition

Policymakers, bilateral partners and the private sector came together in November 2022 to discuss ways to enable greater intra-African trade under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement. The online seminar was organized by the FAO Regional Office for Africa and the FAO Markets and Trade Division, and hosted by the FAO Virtual Learning Centre for Southern Africa access to information and standards for stakeholders all along food systems, improving the feedback loop from the private sector to the AfCFTA Secretariat, and further involving youth in agrifood systems.

Safe food for everyone

Support was provided to regional economic communities to strengthen their capacity to participate in the activities of international standard-setting bodies including Codex Alimentarius procedures in Africa. FAO supported the organization of the FAO/WHO Codex coordinating committee meeting for Africa in September 2022 in Uganda. Capacities for science-based decision-making in food safety management were reinforced through capacity development on risk analysis, good manufacturing practices (GMPs) and good hygienic practices (GHPs).

In 2022, FAO also continued to work on the development of a digital platform for remote food inspection and collection of information on the status of the harmonization of food safety controls in ECOWAS.

Nourishing mothers for healthy babies in Malawi

The Afikepo nutrition programme in Malawi, funded by the European Union and implemented by FAO, the Government of Malawi and UNICEF, is supporting better nutrition particularly for women and children.

One of the participants, Alice Ndhlovu, was trained in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and now grows her own vegetables and raises chickens for eggs and meat. She has four children and says the benefits from the program have been remarkable. She directly links her lack of good pre-natal care and nutrition with the low birth weights of her three older children, and her own ill-health. But after learning about nutrition, such as including eggs in the household diet and preparing diversified meals using locally-available foods, her fourth child was born a healthy 4 kgs.

"With the last pregnancy, I experienced less body weakness and recovered quickly after giving birth. I also noticed that I had enough milk to feed my baby which helped him grow well," she says.

The initiative is supporting more than 6 000 groups and 652 000 households in ten districts across Malawi.



©FAO/Christopher Harawa





Better nutrition at a glance

Burundi: A European Union-funded joint project implemented by FAO, UNICEF and UNIFPA focusing on improving resilience and nutrition found a significant decrease in vulnerability among project participants, from 60 percent in 2020 to 25 percent in 2022.

Central African Republic: At the request of the national parliament, FAO helped build the capacity of parliamentarians on food and nutrition security issues to enable them to best allocate government spending on food and nutrition security issues.

Congo: FAO support has enabled the Ministry of Industry, through the Congolese Agency for Standardisation and Quality (ACONOQ), to develop the Congolese standard for edible cassava flour.

Gambia: A food fortification and surveillance system, FORTIMAS, was established that tracks the effective coverage and nutritional impact of fortified food programmes over time in populations that regularly consume fortified foods.

United Republic of Tanzania, Zanzibar: FAO supported a nutrition campaign to promote healthy eating habits in Zanzibar based on locally-available food as set out in the Zanzibar Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs) which were developed with support from FAO.

Across the region: More than 16 400 people were trained in nutrition-related topics including food inspectors, government officials, technical experts, farmers, members of cooperatives and agripreneurs. A regional policy workshop in October 2022 brought together sub-Saharan African and Asian countries to exchange policy and institutional experiences in the development of rice value chains, including prioritising nutrition, and initiate cooperation among the attending institutions, organized by the South-South and Triangular Cooperation team at the FAO Regional Office for Africa.



BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and combat climate change (reduce, reuse, recycle, residual management) through more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.





BETTER ENVIRONMENT

The results achieved at regional, subregional and country level in 2022 under better environment span across three out of four Programme Priority Areas: Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems, Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture, and Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture. In 2022, progress focused on improving access to timely and reliable information on climate, natural resources, livelihoods, food security and nutrition, strengthening institutional and technical capacities for natural resource management, land governance, adaptation to climate change in the agriculture sector, landscape restoration, and dissemination of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and energy-efficient solutions.

The positive effects of these results are geared towards reducing vulnerabilities of households and communities chronically vulnerable to natural hazards so as to protect their livelihoods, protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, reduce adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture, and preserve biodiversity for food and agriculture.

Greening Africa's cities

FAO supported Paraguay in the design of a national forest. In Africa, the FAO Green Cities Initiative (GCI) is helping urban areas to adopt holistic, sustainable strategies to become greener, healthier places to live.

In the port city of Quelimane, Mozambique, FAO has worked with local communities, the non-government organization Mani Tese and the city council to reforest exploited mangroves to reduce soil erosion and the risk of flooding.

In markets in Nairobi, Kenya, unsold or spoiled fruit and vegetables are usually abandoned, polluting the streets and burdening waste collection systems. Estimates suggest that up to 40 percent of Kenya's food is lost after it has left the farm and before it reaches consumers. FAO worked with Kenya's National Environment Authority to train 100 market operators in waste management, from composting techniques to using biogas digesters to convert food waste into fuel.

In Kisumu, Kenya, and in line with FAO's Urban Food Agenda, FAO is supporting women street-food vendors with training on hygiene and business management.

Integrated Urban Planning for African Cities

FAO with the Politecnico di Milano (Department of Architecture and Urban Studies – DASTU) and the African Centre for Cities held a training course on Integrated Urban Planning for African Cities, which helped to develop capacity building in African cities to integrate urban forestry, urban agriculture and urban food systems in urban and territorial planning to enhance resilience and the health and wellbeing of urban dwellers.

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

Over 215 participants from 27 countries participated in the 23rd Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, held in Kinshasa in August 2022.

The 44 recommendations will help to drive forward sustainable forest and wildlife management in Africa in coming years.



The FAO Commission is the most important continental forum to discuss policy, scientific and technical issues relating to forestry and wildlife in Africa.

Recommendations from the Session include implementing policies that conserve, restore and sustainably manage forests and wildlife as a means of creating resilient recovery plans from COVID-19 and other shocks, enhance the skills of women and youth in the sectors, and strengthen public and private investments to enhance forest resilience and the capacity to adapt to climate change.

Building resilience in Africa's drylands

The technical land use report for the [Africa Open D.E.A.L. \(Data For Environment, Agriculture and Land\)](#) and [Africa's Great Green Wall](#) initiative – a first-of-its-kind collection of accurate, comprehensive, and harmonized African land use and land use change data – was released in 2022. It provides a detailed panorama of the continent based on analysis of satellite imagery using FAO's Collect Earth tools developed in partnership with Google.

Scaling up climate-smart agriculture in Africa

At least ten countries implemented climate-smart agriculture (CSA) through scaling up of good practices. These technologies include solar-powered irrigation for crops and vegetable production, market gardening, and improved agroforestry in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda and Togo. CSA investment plans were prepared to support mobilization of climate funds in three states of northern Nigeria.

How Somalia used nature-based biopesticides to win against desert locusts

During the 2019–2022 desert locust crisis, the Government of Somalia, together with FAO, used biopesticides and insect growth regulators (IGRs) exclusively to control these pests, achieving a first in this kind of response and setting an example for locust management worldwide.

Biopesticides use natural bacteria, fungi or viruses to attack insect pests. One fungus used in Somalia, *Metarhizium acridum*, has proven to be particularly effective in controlling locusts.

IGRs are a more innocuous and targeted chemical remedy. They prevent locusts from moulting from one stage to the next, stopping reproduction and egg-hatching. Because they selectively target insect pests and have low levels of toxicity, these, too, have a much lighter environmental impact than traditional pesticides.

“The adoption of new technologies and alternatives to conventional chemical pesticides is shifting how the world manages locusts. FAO's goal is to promote the best solutions on a case-by-case basis, providing experience, technology and proven solutions to reduce the damage caused by locusts globally,” says Shoki Al-Dobai, FAO Senior Agricultural Officer.

The Government of Somalia also received eLocust3 tablets and GPS modules from FAO, as well as training. The outstanding results achieved by Somalia with FAO's support are being analysed and shared between locust-affected countries worldwide.



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Better environment at a glance

Botswana: FAO strengthened national capacity in sustainable land management and sustainable forest management through the development and launch of the Land Degradation Monitoring System.

Comoros: As part of support to establish a regional information network on food security and nutrition in Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles, FAO and the Institut National de Recherche pour l'Agriculture, la Pêche et l'Environnement (INRAPE) conducted an assessment of the stocks of species targeted in the sustainable management of marine resources.

Gambia: FAO-Thiaroye Technique (FTT) fish-smoking houses were constructed through the Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources to reduce the demand for firewood and charcoal therefore reducing deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions.

Lesotho: monitoring of progress on natural resources management in general and land management in particular has been boosted by FAO through the development of the land cover atlas and database. The database has baseline information that is critical for tracking changes in land cover and providing a strong basis for evidence-based policy and programme decision-making.

Mozambique: FAO strengthened national capacity to design and implement regulations for sustainable management of environmental and natural resources. A draft new forest law was revised, and the concept of payment for environmental services and an improved revenue-sharing mechanism were included in the law. This marks a milestone in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into the country's development policy framework.

Namibia: Members of parliament were trained on the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of Food Security (VGGTs) and the African Union Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa. Parliamentarians reported an enhanced capacity to deliver on their legislative, budgetary and oversight roles pertaining to land tenure governance.

Somalia: The Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), managed by FAO and which collects climate data from across the country, has begun a transition process to be owned by national authorities. The close collaboration between SWALIM, the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS), and the newly established Multi-hazard Centre within the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHADM) will see government staff undergo training in data collection, processing and analysis as part of the handover. 217 water catchments and other related infrastructure, such as irrigation canals, have been rehabilitated to better manage precious water resources.

South Africa: the farmer field schools approach is being upscaled to catalyze the uptake of innovative Climate Smart Agriculture practices.

Togo: Nearly 100 000 forest plants have been established with FAO support. 811 hectares of degraded land have been rehabilitated through agroforestry and agroecology techniques.

SENEGAL. Trees being planted as part of FAO's implementation of the Action Against Desertification project to promote sustainable land management and restore degraded land.





BETTER LIFE

Promote inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities, such as between urban and rural areas, rich and poor countries, and women and men.





BURKINA FASO - Barkissa Fofana, a young microbiologist, is collecting data as part of a partnership between Burkina Faso's Institute for Environmental and Agricultural Research (INERA) and Action Against Desertification.

BETTER LIFE

The results achieved at regional, subregional and country levels in 2022 under better life span across all six Programme Priority Areas: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment, Inclusive rural transformation, Agriculture and food emergencies, Resilient agrifood systems, and the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HiHI). Results delivered in the region in 2022 span across the humanitarian-development nexus and encompass:

- promoting the uptake of gender-transformative approaches;
- facilitating income diversification and decent work along agricultural value chains;
- ensuring equal participation of and benefits to poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups;
- improving and expanding access to social protection;
- preventing conflict at local level;
- equipping countries facing or at risk of acute food insecurity with urgent livelihood and nutrition assistance;

- strengthening national capacities to prepare and respond to shocks and risks;
- producing data for anticipatory action;
- enabling data-driven and responsible investments and partnerships for inclusive agrifood value chain development; and
- improving skills of rural people and facilitating better engagement in and benefit from sustainable agrifood systems.

Hand-in-Hand Initiative

By the end of 2022, 30 African countries had joined the [Hand-in-Hand Initiative](#) (HiHI). A total of USD 6.4 million has been invested across 20 countries through FAO Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs) to undertake analytic studies and catalyze key investments.

Seven of the African countries presented their investment plans at the 1st HiHI Investment Forum in October 2022: [Burkina Faso](#), [the Congo](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Mali](#), [the Niger](#), [São Tomé and Príncipe \(STP\)](#) and [Zimbabwe](#). STP was represented by H.E. President Carlos Vila Nova.

Highlights at the Forum included:

- Burkina Faso presented an investment case on value chain development for rice, peanuts, sesame, moringa, shea, and meat, requiring a USD 352 million investment to directly benefit close to a million small-scale producers.
- The Republic of the Congo made a case for a USD 245.8 million investment in cassava, soy, maize and poultry, directly benefiting 57 000 farmers and creating opportunities to cut USD 2 billion from the national food import bill.
- São Tomé and Príncipe called for EUR 24 million in investments for the Blue Economy which would directly benefit 75 000 people.
- Zimbabwe called for more than USD 1 billion for irrigation for 350 000 hectares of farming land and support for tomato and banana value-addition, impacting 2.5 million people. Incentives for investors include five-year tax relief, lower rate tariffs for imported agricultural equipment, duty-free fertilizers and more.





KENYA. A young Turkana pastoralist at his homestead early in the morning in Lorgum, Turkana County, Kenya

Solutions for scaling up investment in Africa

In 2022, the [FAO Investment Centre](#) operated under its new transformation plan, approved by the FAO Director-General. The plan expands on the public and private investment role and introduces new business lines particularly related to innovative climate and blended finance. During the year, it provided design support to 13 new investment projects in West and Central Africa worth USD 1.49 billion, and five in East and Southern Africa for USD 2.15 billion with partners such as the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Of note is a growing appetite for large-scale regional public investment projects in Africa as evidenced by programmes such as the World Bank-financed West Africa Food Systems Resilience Programme (2nd phase) and the Food Systems Resilience Programme for Eastern and Southern Africa (1st phase).

The Centre provided implementation support to ongoing investment projects in 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including the Joint Sahel Programme to Respond to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change. It also expanded its advisory work on blended finance with the European Union and on financial instruments to increase access to finance among small and medium agribusinesses. The Centre led the design of a project financed by the GCF on sustainable fisheries in the Gambia, approved in 2022.

The Centre contributed to 20 agricultural strategies and four policy and sector studies and published 21 country food systems assessments, co-funded with the European Union. It further supported 27 African Hand-in-Hand countries in 2021/22 and supported seven African country delegations at the first Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum in October 2022 to present their priority investments to potential investors.

FAO's work on the FAO-EU funded Global Sustainable Cocoa Initiative at global, regional and national levels continued apace in 2022, including support to the three cocoa-producing countries of Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

The Centre supported capacity development through several RuralInvest trainings in Africa, while the AgrInvest project in Uganda, financed by the European Union and FAO, continued strengthening the Uganda Development Bank's ability to use tools such as the Ex-ante Carbon Balance Tool (EX-ACT) and Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model-interactive (GLEAM-i). [Investment Guidelines for Youth in Agrifood Systems in Africa](#) and [Transforming agriculture in South Sudan. From humanitarian aid to a development oriented growth path](#) are among the many knowledge products published in 2022.



African rural women's empowerment

The FAO Regional Office for Africa addresses gender as a cross-cutting theme in all its regional priorities and initiatives through capacity building, stocktaking and analyses, and the support to country gender focal points to ensure that every project is inclusive, gender-responsive and transformative.

In 2022, FAO worked to empower African women with entrepreneurial and business planning skills to boost their potential in local economies.

Throughout 2022, the team carried out eight gender-related capacity building workshops, reaching over 180 colleagues, and engaged in five country gender assessments. The team also engaged in seven national and two subregional gender stocktaking exercises.

To strengthen its support to the African Union Commission in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), FAO launched a pilot programme in late 2022 in partnership with the International Trade Centre (ITC) entitled Empowering women and boosting livelihoods through agricultural trade (EWAT): Leveraging the AfCFTA. Ninety women entrepreneurs were trained in Ghana, Malawi and Nigeria on trade facilitation, access to finance and overall AfCFTA readiness.

FAO also launched an accelerator mentorship programme for African women-led small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) in collaboration with the International Agrifood Network. Engaging 50 emerging female agripreneurs from sub-Saharan Africa and pairing them with experienced entrepreneurs, the programme will equip the mentees with the tools and expertise to boost their businesses.

Throughout 2022, FAO organized three virtual events to raise awareness, foster dialogue and exchange experiences on different themes relevant to gender equality and rural women's empowerment in Africa. In February, over 180 participants attended a two-day South-South Cooperation event featuring policy makers, the private sector and women's organizations from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa to discuss ways to seize the opportunities of the AfCFTA for women traders, hosted in collaboration with the African Women Agribusiness Network.

In March, FAO partnered with the African Women's Collaborative for Healthy Food Systems to celebrate the contribution of Africa's peasant and indigenous women to sustainable food systems in the context of International Women's Day.

FAO also organized a side event to the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women with the African Risk Capacity Group to promote women's and girls' participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction and financing.

The ARC32 regional conference held a ministerial roundtable on placing women, youth and the poor at the forefront of inclusive agrifood systems. The session's discussions fed into the recommendations of the Conference, which include the introduction of "appropriate, accessible and gender-responsive digital technologies, targeted to meet the needs and address the specific constraints of the poorest and most vulnerable, so they

can benefit from, and contribute to, inclusive and gender-responsive transformation".

To promote the use of sex-disaggregated data in the development of second-generation national agricultural investment plans (NAIPs), FAO provided technical support and capacity building sessions to national statistics divisions and officials formulating NAIPs in the Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Senegal, and the United Republic of Tanzania, through a Technical Cooperation Programme.



GHANA. Fafali Azaglo showcases her products at a joint FAO-International Trade Centre training on creating business opportunities for women in the AfCFTA.



Responding to emergencies and building resilience

In 2022, FAO continued to respond to hunger emergencies, with the aim of saving lives and livelihoods and building resilience against future shocks.

Horn of Africa drought:

As of February 2023, 22.7 – 23.6 million people face high levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in drought-affected areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, including 3.2 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Djibouti, Kenya and Somalia and 322,010 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Somalia.

Against the Regional Drought Rapid Response and Mitigation Plan, FAO mobilized USD 110.5 million and reprogrammed USD 9.5 million from pre-existing projects in 2022, allowing to provide essential livelihoods-based support to 589 000 households, equivalent to some 2.95 million people.

FAO and implementing partners:

- reached 100 000 households, equivalent to around 557 000 people, with cash transfers which enabled recipients to access food to meet their needs for up to 90 days;

- dispersed USD 26 million in cash transfers;
- reached 2.95 million people through distribution of livelihood packages, enabling them to grow their own food or raise livestock;
- supported the planting of 99 500 ha belonging to 0.6 million people through provision of drought-tolerant crops and training;
- enabled the production of 110 000 tonnes of cereals;
- saved 16.4 million animals belonging to around 1.6 million people.

Indirect benefits included:

- 600 000 people had adequate cereals to meet food consumption needs for an entire year;
- 2.71 million children accessed a cup of milk each day for at least six months.

FAO was cluster co-lead in Ethiopia and Somalia and provided support to the Government of Kenya upon request. FAO also played an active role in food security analyses and drought-related advocacy.

The cost effectiveness of agricultural aid

In north-east Nigeria, overlapping crises have disrupted food security and livelihoods. In response, FAO is collaborating with vulnerable communities, government and partners in protecting and promoting agricultural livelihoods to shore-up resilience.

The intervention has had an astounding return on investment.

Evidence shows that a support package of seeds and fertilizer costing USD 88 on less than 1 hectare of land yielded 918 kilograms of cowpea and maize, which is enough to feed an average household of 7 people for up to 6 months.

A vegetable production package of improved seeds, tools and fertilizer costing USD 93 contributed to better and direct access to nutritious vegetables for households for up to 4 months.

A fuel-efficient stove and 2 kilograms of briquettes costing USD 30 led to a reduction of firewood consumption by 58 percent and increased safety for women and girls by halving the number of trips needed to collect firewood.

A livestock package of 4 goats per household costing USD 326 grew to a herd size of up to 10 goats within just a year, worth around USD 640 on the local market.

“These livelihoods kits are not hand-outs; they are investments that actually pay off in terms of better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, and they can be brought to scale to save more lives and livelihoods,” said FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa Abebe Haile-Gabriel.





Better life at a glance

Angola: as part of the implementation of the National Contingency Plan, national systems for locust surveillance and response were strengthened through training of 210 technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Locust Pest control brigades on the use of the e-locust pest monitoring and early-warning tool. Over 20 locust pest control brigades from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry were equipped with protective gear and computers.

Cabo Verde: a joint assessment mission in April 2022 by the Executive Secretariat for Food Security of Cabo Verde, the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, WFP and others found that the war in Ukraine was impacting the country's school canteen system that serves nutritious meals to school children. Recommendations from the mission were used to inform discussions with development partners and to support the mobilization of funds to respond to the government's call for support to ensure continuity of school children's access to nutritious meals.

Central African Republic: FAO assisted the Ministry of Livestock to conduct an analysis of the causes of conflicts linked to transhumance aimed at establishing a local conflict management system that can peacefully manage agro-pastoral tensions. Local dialogue committees were identified and trained to sensitize communities on local dispute resolution mechanisms. FAO also elevated the discourse on gender empowerment by establishing women listening centres, sensitization campaigns against gender-based violence and capacity building of local peace committees and women's and youth organizations.

Guinea: FAO provided livelihoods support to the Association for the Welfare of the Albinos of N'Zérékoré, Guinea's second-largest city, as part of a framework of support coordinated by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator.

Mali: FAO with the International Labour Organization (ILO) supported cotton-growing households to improve and diversify their livelihoods so that they did not have to resort to sending their children to work. More than 130 village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) were created to benefit participating households. In 2022, FCFA 45 996 840 (about USD 76 000) was saved and FCFA 30 891 600 (about USD 54 000) was allocated in loans to VSLA members to support their income-generating activities. Sixteen new farmer field schools and junior farmer field schools were established to train farmers in improved production techniques, including poultry production, sheep fattening, disease control, and livestock feed production.

Somalia: FAO has designed a productive social safety net programme, in line with the country's Social Protection Policy, informed by evidence generated by FAO through the Productive Safety Net Report (endorsed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) and expected to be launched in early 2023) and the Livelihood Insurance Report. A study tour between Somali and Ethiopian Government officials was facilitated to learn about productive safety nets.

West Africa: FAO's Regional Resilience, Emergency and Rehabilitation Office for West Africa/Sahel (REOWA) trained more than 200 specialists on the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) methodology for food security and nutrition analysis. REOWA also supported the development of curriculum for teaching CH methods at universities and higher education institutions. Overall, 12 countries were assisted technically and financially with conducting food insecurity analyses using the Cadre Harmonisé in 2022. Cumulatively, this bulk of work is expected to improve the performance of national systems of information collection, analysis, early warning and early response.





Partnerships

Working better together

PARTNERSHIPS

Working better together

- FAO in Africa mobilized USD 764 million in 2022, which is more than 170 percent of the total resources mobilized in 2021. Much of this success was due to implementation of the new FAO Africa Resource Mobilization Strategy (ARMS) (2022–2025).
- Two regional partnership agreements were signed, with the Pan-African Farmers Organization (PAFO) for policy advocacy and capacity development of smallholder producers/family farmers and their organizations, and with Agricycle Global Inc. for capacity development of youth in value-addition and market access. Groundwork was also laid for the signing in early 2023 of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) Group to promote women's inclusion in climate action.
- The private sector and civil society were consulted in dialogue sessions ahead of the 32nd session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC32).
- The Africa Agribusiness Leadership Dialogue (AALD) 2022 brought together over 80 private investors and industry representatives from over 20 African countries to exchange experiences on agrifood systems transformation.
- In collaboration with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), FAO held a consultation with African academia and research institutions on FAO's Science & Innovation Strategy.
- FAO was an organising partner at the AGRF Summit 2022 in Rwanda that focused on Africa's agrifood systems transformation.
- FAO partnered with the AU, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) to organize the High-Level Food Security and Nutrition Conference HLFSN Conference 2022, held in October 2022 at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- FAO showcased its work at the Africa Dialogue Series 2022 (ADS2022) in collaboration with the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UNOSAA). FAO's week-long showcase included a TwitterSpaces event on engaging Africa's youth in digital agriculture.
- FAO and the International Agrifood Network (IAFN) launched the Accelerator Mentorship Programme that offers one-on-one mentorship from experienced women leaders to 50 African women agripreneurs who lead or manage agrifood SMEs in sub-Saharan Africa.



No.	Donor	Total approvals (USD)	No. of projects
1	United States of America	214 550 001	13
2	South Sudan (*)	137 627 095	5
3	European Union	49 674 365	23
4	UNOCHA - UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	34 398 628	25
5	Somalia	31 156 566	4
6	GEF (FAO) - Global Environment Facility (through FAO)	27 692 805	18
7	Sweden	26 921 869	23
8	Democratic Republic of the Congo (*)	23 129 857	4
9	GCF - Green Climate Fund	21 664 458	12
10	Norway	20 990 966	10
11	Zimbabwe (*)	20 620 000	1
12	UNDP Administered Donor Joint Trust Fund (UNJ)	20 265 539	24
13	Central African Republic (*)	15 257 237	1
14	World Food Programme Administered Trust Fund	12 902 433	7
15	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	10 621 651	4
16	Uganda (*)	9 623 703	1
17	Germany	8 865 403	6
18	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	8 218 837	10
19	Madagascar (*)	6 810 870	2
20	Niger (*)	5 310 105	1
	<i>Other resource partners</i>	58 386 981	224
	TOTAL	764 689 369	419

Source: FAO Field Programme Management Information System (FPMIS)

(*) Countries that contributed through Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) agreements established between the government of a given country and FAO. The UTF is a funding modality financed entirely by a government for programmes or projects to be implemented in the country, typically originating from loans and/or grants by international financial institutions (IFIs) or by development partners through budget support



COMMUNICATIONS
Sharing our story

COMMUNICATIONS

Sharing our story

The Regional Office for Africa (RAF) continued in 2022 to amplify messaging on the urgent need to transform Africa's agrifood systems.

Highlights in 2022 included communications support for the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa including the FAO Director-General's first visit to Africa since his appointment.

Communications also played an important role in highlighting the impacts of FAO's work to a broad array of target audiences including government partners, donor organizations, implementing partners and beneficiary communities. Media, online, publications, events and social media were the primary channels to reach these audiences, including using the new TwitterSpaces to host live audio events on Twitter.

By December, the regional office saw an increase in website visitors and growth in the number of followers on Twitter.

Media

The FAO Assistant Director-General (ADG) and Regional Representative for Africa Abebe Haile-Gabriel took part in 12 media interviews with high-profile outlets in 2022 including [CNBC Africa](#), Reuters, CGTN Africa, the [South African Broadcasting Corporation](#), Deutsche Welle, the BBC, Voice of America, the [Rwanda Broadcasting Cooperation](#), the Anadolu Agency and France 24.

Subregional Coordinators (SRCs) and FAO Representatives (FAORs) in the Africa region were also active media spokespeople for the Organization in 2022, such as SRC for West Africa Robert Guei raising

awareness through the media on the Sahel crisis, and SRC for Eastern Africa David Phiri raising the alarm through the media on the drought in the Horn of Africa and the desert locust emergency.

Two regional OpEds penned by the ADG were published across the continent, for International Women's Day and World Food Day.

More than a dozen press releases on regional topics were distributed at the regional level to major regional news outlets, and corporate press releases, stories and events were amplified to regional correspondents. The sub-regional and country offices also leveraged media as an important communications channel throughout the year.

Digital Content

Stories

The RAF Communications team worked with country offices to identify and help develop great stories to pitch to headquarters to feature on the corporate homepage. Some story highlights include [Increased fish demand in Gabon offers youth an outlet in aquaculture](#); [Solar irrigation in the Gambia](#) and [Leading the charge for rural women's empowerment in Niger](#).

Videos

The RAF Communications team produced or supported countries to produce more than 30 scripts and videos about FAO projects in Africa. Support included conceptualising, scripting, reviewing and liaising with headquarters to see a video from concept to finished product. Some highlights include: [Commercial aquaculture: an entrepreneurial opportunity for youth in Gabon](#), [Promoting youth employment in agriculture in Uganda](#), [Reinforcing women's resilience in Togo](#) and [Digital technologies empowering young Rwandan farmers](#).



FAO Uganda communications specialist Anita Tibasaaga speaks with a project participant about the improvements they've experienced from a project on post-harvest loss reduction.

Social Media

The @FAOAfrica Twitter account saw strong engagement and growth in 2022 – adding around 15 000 new followers over the 12 months.

To reach new audiences, particularly young people, @FAOAfrica held several TwitterSpaces live audio events in 2022, on youth and digital agriculture, aquaculture in Africa, and eliminating gender-based violence.

Website

The Regional Office for Africa website received 94 048 total unique visitors in 2022, an increase of 3517 on the year before.

In 2022, the FAO Regional Office for Africa launched [an Africa-focused One Country, One Priority Product \(OCOP\) page](#), and a page on [Youth in Agriculture in Africa](#).

Events

Communications support was provided to major regional events including ARC32, the AGRF Summit, the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, YouthConnekt, the 12th Regional Management Team (RMT) Meeting, and the regional closing event for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA).



SOMALIA. Bringing project participants' experiences to greater audiences is an important function of the Communications team.

Publications

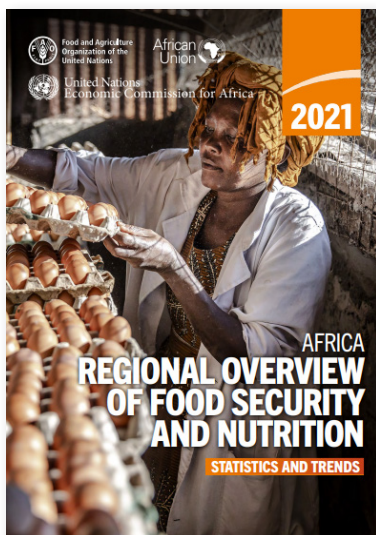
Major regional publications produced in 2022 included:

- the digital statistical update of the [Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Africa](#),
- the [Africa Regional Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance: Communications and Advocacy](#),
- [FAO in Africa: Highlights in 2021](#),
- [Digital innovation strategy for agrifood systems in Africa](#),
- [FAO's work on South–South and Triangular Cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa](#) (corporate digital brochure),
- quarterly editions of the [FAO in Africa newsletter](#) (tailored to be read and shared on a smartphone),

- [Building resilience to climate change-related and other disasters in Ethiopia](#),
- the technical report for the [Africa Open D.E.A.L \(Data For Environment, Agriculture and Land\) and Africa's Great Green Wall](#) initiative and
- the report of the 26th Session of the [African Commission on Agricultural Statistics](#).

Support to country offices

The Regional Office for Africa Communications team continued to offer guidance and support to country offices in 2022, including through the RAF Online Communications Toolkit, support during the recruitment process and onboarding of new communications specialists, support and promotion of country World Food Day events and more.



FAO Regional Office for Africa
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