



Global dimensions of food security and nutrition

Ending hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition

The world produces enough food to feed the global population and significant progress has been made in reducing hunger and chronic malnutrition over the past 15 years. Yet in spite of this progress we are far from the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition. FAO estimates that 793 million still suffer from chronic hunger, lacking access to adequate amounts of dietary energy. An estimated 161 million children under five years of age are chronically malnourished (stunted), and over two billion people suffer with micronutrient deficiencies. New challenges threaten to undermine the progress already made in reducing hunger and malnutrition, and hinder further progress. Significant increases in the global population, rapid urbanization, changing diets, persisting inequalities and intense competition for scarce land, water and energy resources, and natural and human-induced disasters and the threat of climate change are already exerting pressures on food and agriculture systems. The human, social and economic costs to society of hunger and malnutrition are substantial in terms of lost productivity, health, well-being, decreased learning ability and reduced fulfillment of human potential.

Meeting the challenge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end hunger and all form of malnutrition, requires comprehensive policy actions. Policies need to be designed and coordinated to ensure relevance, complementarity and purposeful action towards eradicating hunger and malnutrition. Information on the state of food security and nutrition, progress in achieving targets, analysis of emerging issues and challenges, and knowledge of policies, programmes, legislation and investments and their impact on food security and nutrition will be critical for evidence-based policy formulation and decision-making.

FAO role in promoting policy dialogue and evidence-based decisions on food security and nutrition



Helping eliminate hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition is at the heart of FAO work. FAO strives to help countries make the transition to more sustainable food and agriculture systems that provide food security and good nutrition for all people.

This effort includes facilitating stakeholder dialogue on food security and nutrition policy issues, helping translate hunger eradication pledges into actions and creating enabling environments for discussions and actions on food security and nutrition across sectors. Sharing experiences and knowledge across countries and strengthening the evidence-base for decision-making is needed to support political commitment and efforts towards ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

This work also entails assessing global trends and supporting governance mechanisms related to food security and nutrition through the following platforms and initiatives:

- The **Committee of Food Security and Nutrition (CFS)**, the foremost intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder body within the UN, is supported by the FAO-based Secretariat in providing an enabling environment for stakeholders to discuss, debate and identify critical and emerging food security and nutrition issues and to agree on policy recommendations and guidance for use by all stakeholders.
- The **Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum)** provides a neutral forum and online network to discuss and debate global, regional and national policies and issues on food security and nutrition, bringing stakeholders to the forefront of decision-making.
- **The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)**, FAO flagship publication series, delivers information and analysis on the complex issues of food and agriculture, bringing insights to strategies and policies to ensure a sustainable transformation of food and agriculture systems to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.
- **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)**, joint flagship publication series of FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO), monitors progress towards globally agreed food security and nutrition targets, providing analytical interpretation of trends and in-depth analysis on emerging issues to inform decision-making contributing to the achievement of ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.
- The **Global Perspectives Studies (GPS)** team analyzes long-term and forward looking scenarios on global food and agriculture, informing debates and decision-making to achieve permanent and universal food and nutrition security and sustainable development.
- The **Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Support Analysis (FAPDA)** initiative monitors, analyses and shares policy information on national food and agriculture from more than 70 countries globally, promoting policy monitoring, dialogue and analysis to eradicate hunger and enhance food security.

How the global dimension of food security and nutrition work contributes to the FAO Strategic Framework

This area of work is aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework and directly contributes to FAO's five Strategic Programmes aiming to *Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition (SP1)*, *Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable (SP2)*; *Reduce rural poverty (SP3)*; *Enable efficient and inclusive agriculture and food systems (SP4)*; and *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises (SP5)*. It also contributes to the Organization's sixth Objective on safeguarding the *Quality and integrity of the technical and normative work of the Organization*.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

The *Global dimensions of food security and nutrition* area of work includes the following initiatives:

- CFS – www.fao.org/cfs
- FSN Forum – www.fao.org/fsnforum
- SOFA – www.fao.org/publications/sofa
- SOFI – www.fao.org/publications/sofi
- GPS – www.fao.org/global-perspectives-studies
- FAPDA – www.fao.org/in-action/fapda

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