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# PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

**Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session**

**Rome, 18-22 May 2020**

**Follow-up Report to the Evaluation of FAO's contribution to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition (SO1)**

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

Mr Máximo Torero  
Chief Economist  
Economic and Social Development (ES)  
Tel: +39 06570 50869

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Evaluation of FAO's contribution to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition (Strategic Objective 1) was considered at the 124<sup>nd</sup> Session of the FAO Programme Committee in May 2018. The Programme Committee noted the positive findings of the evaluation in terms of the design and implementation of SO1, expressed agreement to the four recommendations, and appreciated the proposed actions and timeframes contained in the Management Response.
- The Recommendations called for FAO to:
  - 1) better integrate municipalities and local governments, national academia and training institutes, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) (policy analysis and evaluation), farmer organizations, consumer organizations and the private sector in the results framework and activities under SO1; and explore non-traditional donors and resource mobilization mechanisms;
  - 2) strengthen capacities to offer support to policy implementation and analysis at country level;
  - 3) raise awareness on the pathways from agriculture to nutrition and increase attention to diversifying diets as a way to address overweight and obesity, including from a gender perspective, and promote agriculture and policy concerns in nutrition coordination spaces; and
  - 4) advocate for more sustainable and equitable development policies, relying on a variety of advisory and advocacy channels.
- FAO made substantive progress in addressing the four recommendations by: broadening the range of partners covered in the results framework of SO1; strengthening capabilities at country level to provide evidence-based policy support to Governments and development partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 targets; heightening the attention to dietary diversification and pathways from agriculture and food systems to nutrition and healthy diets at global, regional and country levels; and by advocating for more sustainable and equitable development policies through a broad range of advisory and advocacy channels.
- FAO Management welcomes the opportunity to present the progress made in implementing the follow-up action to the SO1 evaluation in the context of the Organization's increased efforts to support countries in achieving the SDGs. Due to their scope, the review of follow-up actions to the SO1 evaluation also considers initial findings of the evaluation of FAO's contributions towards SDG2 targets, presented to the 128<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee under a separate item.
- New initiatives, such as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and concerted efforts to work towards the transformation of food and agriculture systems to achieve the SDGs, provide additional entry points for accelerating FAO's contribution to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms while ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources. These are highlighted in the delineation of next steps.

### GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- The Programme Committee is invited to take note of the progress in implementing the agreed FAO Management Response actions of the Evaluation of the Organization's contribution to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition (SO1) and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.

#### Draft Advice

#### **The Committee:**

- **noted the progress in implementing the agreed Management Response actions;**
- **affirmed the direct association between FAO's SO1 and the food security and nutrition targets of SDG2, as well as the close link to other SDGs, in particular SDG1 and SDG3;**
- **noted that new initiatives, such as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and new concerted efforts to work towards food systems transformation, provide additional entry points for accelerating FAO's contribution to achieve multiple SDGs.**

## I. Overview/Highlights

1. FAO Management welcomes the opportunity to present the progress made in implementing the actions agreed in the Management Response to the *Evaluation of FAO's contribution to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition (Strategic Objective 1)*.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Evaluation provided four recommendations to expand and enhance the quality of FAO's support to SO1 at country, regional and global levels, building on the Organization's comparative advantage.
3. In responding to the recommendations, FAO Management made substantive efforts to ensure follow-up actions and enhanced coherence in addressing the four highlighted areas. The follow-up actions are fully aligned with the process of revising and updating the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition, which is pertinent to the recommendations of the SO1 evaluation.

## II. Summary of progress in relation to the four Evaluation Recommendations

4. Progress in all four Management Response actions included in the Management Response matrix, has been assessed as "good" (5) or "excellent" (6). A detailed list on the actions taken to respond to each recommendation is included in the Annex to this report. A summary of the results of these actions is provided below.
5. In response to **Recommendation 1**, FAO broadened the range of partners covered in the results framework of SP1. For example, following the launch of FAO's framework for the urban food agenda in 2019, FAO stepped up its engagement with local governments, municipal and other sub-national authorities to address the occurrence of persistent problems of food insecurity and malnutrition in the context of urbanization. FAO also deepened its engagement with private sector stakeholders with a view to harness the sector's contribution to achieving the 2030 agenda. Collaboration has also been stepped up with consumer organizations, to better integrate consumer perspectives in food security and nutrition policies and programmes. FAO is engaged in an increasing number of partnerships with knowledge institutions and the academia at international and national levels to support Governments and the development community with analysis, capacity development and evidence-based policy advice.
6. In light of the preparations for a UN Food Systems Summit in 2021, FAO expanded and deepened partnerships with the whole range of food system stakeholders at global, regional, national and sub-national levels and in close collaboration with other UN agencies. The aim is to promote the transformation of food systems to help countries achieve the SDGs, giving due focus to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms while ensuring that natural resources and the environment are managed sustainably.
7. In response to **Recommendation 2**, FAO strengthened country capabilities by providing evidence-based policy assistance, supporting Government and Development partners' efforts towards the SDG2 targets. Through the FIRST programme, policy effectiveness analyses were carried out in 25 countries, providing substantive evidence on the main policy bottlenecks hindering progress to the SDG2 food security and nutrition targets. The analyses suggest prioritized options for each country to improve resource allocation, investment and capacity development in support of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems. Policy effectiveness analyses provide guidance for the next phase of the FIRST programme. The FIRST programme's presence on the ground is also allowing FAO to provide direct analytical and policy support to Governments and development partners in their response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security, nutrition, and agriculture and food systems.
8. FAO is drawing and sharing valuable lessons from countries' experiences, through a cross-country analysis of the 25 policy effectiveness reports, complemented with a global quantitative analysis carried out in collaboration with IFPRI including a literature review. Findings are documented in the forthcoming publication on "Agriculture and Food Systems at a Crossroads:

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/mw696en/mw696en.pdf>

Summary findings of a Cross-Country Analysis”. FAO started preparations of national overview reports of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in selected countries (national SOFIs), with the first agreement signed in March 2019 to develop a national report for Pakistan. This effort is taking place in close collaboration with national authorities and international organizations.

9. In response to **Recommendation 3**, FAO heightened the attention of global, regional and country level partners on the pathways from agriculture to nutrition and healthy diets, the roles of sustainable agriculture and agro-biodiversity in diversifying and improving the quality of diets and addressing overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Furthermore, FAO uses the agreed Biennial Theme for 2020-2021: “Promoting healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition” as a significant opportunity to strengthen the integration of nutrition in FAO's corporate work and to engage FAO Governing Bodies, including the Regional Conferences. New and enhanced data tools, knowledge products, advocacy material and policy guidance notes helped increasing the access by member countries to the evidence needed to better support national policies, plans and programmes on food security and nutrition.

10. In terms of promoting gender equality and rural women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition, focused interventions resulted in strengthened institutional and human capacities in a number of countries to address key policy concerns, on the road to meeting national development commitments, particularly under SDG2 (zero hunger) and SDG5 (gender equality).

11. In response to **Recommendation 4**, FAO advocated for more sustainable and equitable development policies through a broad range of advisory and advocacy channels. In particular, FAO actively supported intra- and inter-Parliamentary dialogues, as Parliamentarians continue to play a pivotal role in the fight against hunger and all forms of malnutrition by promoting an enabling legislative environment and forging alliances and partnerships on food security and nutrition (FSN).

12. With the support of SP1, FAO stepped up efforts to adapt globally endorsed guidelines and principles<sup>2</sup> to the national and local contexts and ensure that they inform ongoing policy and legislative processes.

### III. Challenges and the way forward

13. FAO's focus on the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition remains highly topical and relevant. The rise in the number of undernourished documented in the last three reports on the Status of Food Security and Nutrition (2017, 2018 and 2019 SOFI editions) illustrates that there is no time for complacency. Furthermore, the emphasis on food security and nutrition remains important in the context of emerging challenges, such as climate change, migration, urbanization, the rise of overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs, as well as the stresses exerted on local and global food systems and livelihoods as a result of infectious diseases outbreaks and pandemics like COVID-19.

14. Addressing the root causes of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms, requires that the pillars underpinning the approach of SO1 are in place: political commitment; a common understanding of problems and solutions based on scientific evidence and sound data, information and analysis; inclusive governance mechanisms and stakeholder coordination; and coherent frameworks for policies and investments. It is also essential that sectoral policies targeting food and agricultural systems include explicit gender-sensitive food and nutrition objectives.

15. Accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs, and in particular SDG2, depends on stronger political commitment and an explicit focus on the contribution of agriculture and food systems (from primary food and agricultural production to consumption) to fighting extreme poverty, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, while managing natural resources sustainably. FAO will

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<sup>2</sup> These include (i) Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (RtF); (ii) Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT); (iii) CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI); and (iv) Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF).

continue to apply the lessons from the implementation of the Strategic Programme on Food Security and Nutrition to the Organization's future approach for supporting countries in achieving the SDGs.

16. Major new initiatives, such as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the preparation of the UN Food Systems Summit, the revisions of the Strategy and Vision for FAO's Work on Nutrition as well as the finalization of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition provide great opportunities to apply the lessons learned from the implementation of the Strategic Programme. FAO will provide continued follow-up to the evaluation through the potential successor programme of the FIRST, as well as through the above-mentioned channels for enhancing the Organization's contribution to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition.

## Follow-up to the Evaluation of FAO's contribution to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition (SO1)

Accepted evaluation recommendations (a)	Action agreed in the management response (b)	Description of actions actually taken, or reasons for actions not taken (c)	MAR score (d) <sup>3</sup>	Impact of, or changes resulted from taken actions (e)
<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> While the programme design was largely validated, a number of potential partners deserve greater emphasis in the result framework and activities of SP1: municipalities and local governments (implementation capacity, rural-urban linkages); national academia and training institutes (for capacity building and policy analysis); IFPRI and the CGIAR (Policy analysis and evaluation); farmer organizations (for advocacy, participation in coordination spaces and policy evaluation), consumer organizations and the private sector (to work on food systems).</p> <p>Exploration of non-traditional donors and particularly national and regional funding opportunities, as well as links with development banks and the resource mobilization mechanism agreed in the Financing For Development conference in Addis Ababa (2015) could be better exploited.</p>	<p>(a) In setting out plans for SP1 the MTP (2018-21) already advocates for stronger engagement of various food system actors in policy analysis, development, implementation and impact evaluation, including state and non-state actors, private sector, consumer and producer organizations, academia, among others. Collaboration with IFPRI and BRAC is already ongoing. SP1 will intensify collaboration with DPS to expand and strengthen partnerships along the lines suggested.</p> <p>(b) One obstacle to work at sub-national level is the availability of disaggregated food security and nutrition data and analysis.</p> <p>(c) SP1 will work to attract funding for this area and alongside SP5, to include Integrated Phase Classification analyses in SP1 where available.</p> <p>(d) SP1 will further intensify efforts to help Governments mobilize resources from IFIs and others for programmes to make agriculture and food systems more nutrition-sensitive.</p> <p>(e) SP1 will continue to approach non-traditional donors. In particular, the Zero-Hunger Accelerator programme proposal can be used to attract extra-budgetary funding. SP1 will also seek to expand work undertaken with the World Bank to assess the nutrition-sensitivity of their investment portfolio, and also cover other IFIs/Development Banks.</p>	<p>(a) FAO has been engaging with a wider range of key stakeholders to transform food systems for FSN outcomes: FAO organized the Future of Food Symposium in June 2019 with leaders from Academia/Research Institutes to explore their role in ensuring healthy and sustainable diets to achieve SDG2 by 2030. FAO and IFPRI co-organized the Global Event on <i>Accelerating the End of Hunger and Malnutrition</i> (November 2018) that identified the accelerators and highlighted the importance of innovative partnerships and investment approaches to achieve SDG2. FAO will further deepen collaboration on evidence-based policy support to achieve SDG1 and 2 through a new MoU with IFPRI. FAO's collaboration with BRAC deepened the understanding sharpening the focus of FSN in policy and programmes and linking policy to investments in FSN in Bangladesh.</p> <p>(b) The Pakistan Food Security Information System is a good example where FAO demonstrated the importance of collecting and analyzing FSN data at national and subnational levels.</p> <p>(c) Work under FIRST and the Global Network against Food Crisis is intensified in crisis countries. This involves the use of IPC analysis in food security and nutrition policy work.</p> <p>(d) Through the Investment Centre, FAO continues its strong collaboration with key partner International Financing Institutions (World Bank, IFAD, EBRD, AfDB), while expanding its engagement with regional and sub-regional development banks, enhancing the nutrition-focus of their investment strategies and projects. FAO's support to the new CDB <i>Agricultural Sector Policy and Strategy</i> is a good example of making sub-regional investments in agriculture more focused on addressing food security and all forms of malnutrition. FAO continues to work with the <i>Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP)</i>, to enable eligible countries to invest in agriculture, food security and nutrition. In 2019, FAO Supported 18 countries affected by crises to access GAFSP grant resources.</p> <p>(e) FAO has increasingly recognized the role of the private sector in transforming agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition outcomes. FAO developed a new strategy, and implemented several initiatives on private sector engagement, such as the workshop on the role of the private sector to accelerate progress towards zero hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa (Addis Ababa, December 2019). FAO also strengthened its work with consumer organizations, through the partnership with the <i>Consumer International</i> and its associated networks and brought consumer organizations to the multi-stakeholder consultation forum to advocate for healthy food environments.</p>	5	<p>FAO has been engaging with a wider range of key stakeholders to transform food systems by creating an environment that supports governance mechanisms, harmonized policies, strengthened capacity of our partners and responsible investments for sustainable agriculture practice and food systems.</p> <p>The closer and deepened engagement with academia and research institutions, such as IFPRI, allowed FAO to enhance policy analyses based on robust statistics and data, while developing stakeholder capacities in policy development, through increased dissemination of knowledge and awareness from the country to the global levels.</p> <p>FAO's broadened engagement at the sub-national level led to increased capacity to develop urban food policies and incorporate FSN-related objectives and gender considerations into urban/local policies, investment plans and programmes through fostered dialogue and vibrant city-to-city collaboration.</p> <p>FAO's technical support to Parliamentarian Alliances resulted in: a Model Law on Food Security and Nutrition (to be endorsed in Africa in May 2020); a Law on Food Losses and Waste in Japan (enacted); and the initiation of a process by the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean to introduce a Model Law against food losses and waste that could be adopted by all countries in the region.</p> <p>Continuing the successful engagement with IFIs, made possible to provide gender and nutrition lenses to large-size agriculture and rural development investments at country level. Regarding private sector engagement, strategic partnerships with business entities created a solid basis for FAO to play a catalytic role in facilitating policy dialogue, which is essential to achieve SDG2 and beyond, with government counterparts, SMEs, financial institutions, consumer organizations, producer/farmer organizations, and women's organizations.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 2:</b> While FAO is well positioned globally, it needs to strengthen its capacities to offer support to policy implementation</p>	<p>(a) Discussion about the extension of the EU-FAO FIRST programme are ongoing, involving DEVCO, EU Delegations in the countries, FAORs and Regional Offices.</p>	<p>a) The EU approved in August 2018 the extension of the FIRST Policy Assistance Facility until end of 2022 with additional funding. Based on the findings of the FIRST Programme evaluation, a proposal for a successor programme is under discussion. During the 2018-19 period, FIRST supported</p>	6	<p>The actions taken strengthened FAO's capabilities at country level to provide evidence-based policy assistance and support efforts by Governments and development partners to achieve the SDG2 targets. The Policy Effectiveness Analyses and the</p>

<sup>3</sup> Management Action Record (MAR) Score: **1 - None:** no action was taken to implement the recommendation; **2 - Poor:** plan and actions for implementation of the recommendation are at a very preliminary stage; **3 - Inadequate:** implementation of the recommendation is uneven and partial; **4 - Adequate:** implementation of the recommendation has progressed; there is no evidence yet of its results on the intended target; **5 - Good:** the recommendation has been fully implemented and there is some initial evidence of its impact on the intended target; **6 - Excellent:** there is solid evidence that the recommendation has had a positive impact on its intended target.

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<p>and analysis at country level, through inter alia: the continuation and geographic expansion of the FIRST programme; better staff training and the publication of national SOFI reports in a few selected countries.</p> <p>The SP1 also needs to strengthen its capacities to support and learn from FAO Country Offices.</p>	<p>(b) Because FIRST is a project of finite duration, FAO needs to look beyond FIRST. To that end, a proposal has already been formulated to provide the type of services rendered by FIRST on a more permanent basis.</p> <p>(c) An inter-regional TCP proposal for developing national reports that cover the status of and policy response to hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty in selected countries has been developed by SP1 and SP3. However, rather than be an FAO-led process, such reports need to be developed under the leadership of the government and owned by the country stakeholders, with support from FAO.</p> <p>(d) Because of resource constraints, this work will only be feasible in selected countries, and not on a continuous basis. It also needs to be closely coordinated with the Regional Panorama work, and should serve the Agenda 2030, being connected to the SDG National Voluntary Reporting. Support to - and learning from - COs is a key aspect of the decentralized office structure. Lessons harvested from countries will also feed-into South-South Cooperation work promoted by the SPs and DPS.</p>	<p>the development of “Policy Effectiveness Analysis” reports in order to assess progress against the SDG2 targets. These assessments provided the basis for the FIRST “Graduation Plans” covering the next phase of the programme. These plans have been agreed upon with Governments, EUDs, and FAORs outlining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modalities for cost-effective policy implementation, making greater use of national capacities and including country support from sub-regional hubs as is the case with ECOWAS and countries in the Pacific.</li> <li>- Actions to mobilize additional resources at country level for policy assistance.</li> <li>- Actions for strengthening national policy support capacities, including of Governments, the FAO Representations and the EU Delegations.</li> </ul> <p>(b) Senior management approved in September 2018 a concept note outlining a proposal for establishing a corporate Policy Assistance Facility in support of Governments’ efforts to achieve the SDGs. The proposal builds on the FIRST experience, and aims to expand the scope and the funding base of the Facility. The PSR-led Business Development Task Force included the proposal in the corporate business development portfolio and developed marketing communication material targeting resource partners.</p> <p>(c) FIRST with support from SP1, SP3 and other units in HQ and DOs and with support from the Multi-Disciplinary Fund, assisted Governments in carrying out “Policy Effectiveness Analyses” in 25 countries, assessing progress against the SDG2 targets, identifying bottlenecks hampering progress towards the SDG2 targets and outlining areas for priority action and investment.</p> <p>(d) Lessons learned from SP1 policy work are shared through various means, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- South-South Exchange missions (i.e. policy makers from Kenya visited Indonesia, Ecuador and Peru, and Afghanistan visited Bangladesh to learn from their experiences with food security and nutrition policy and governance).</li> <li>- The SP1 Policy Guidance Note series also serves as a vehicle for disseminating countries’ experiences on various policy issues.</li> <li>- Regional Events organized by FIRST in RAP, RAF and RLC Regions in 2018 allowed policy officers, FAO/Rs, EU Delegations and Governments to share their experiences.</li> <li>- Various events, globally and regionally provided opportunities to share country experiences (i.e. CFS 2018, COFI, FAO Council meetings, FAO-IFPRI Global Nutrition Event, Latin America and Caribbean Food Security week, etc.)</li> <li>- FIRST developed in 2019 a global report synthesizing the experiences of the programme and other policy initiatives, together with IFPRI, WFP, and IFAD. The expected publication date of the report is mid-2020.</li> <li>- SP1 together with DPS, RAF and SFE, with support from FIRST, organized a regional South-South exchange event for the Africa region in November 2019 to exchange experiences gained in efforts to achieve the SDG2 targets.</li> </ul>		<p>Graduation Plans are endorsed by Government, EUDs and FAO/Rs and widely shared among the development partners in the targeted countries.</p> <p>Beyond its work at national level, SP1 is drawing and shares valuable lessons from its country level work through the co-development of a cross-country analysis report of the Policy Effectiveness Analyses. Findings are documented in a publication “Agriculture and Food Systems at a Crossroads: Summary findings of a Cross-Country Analysis”.</p> <p>Moreover, the lessons learned from the development of the FIRST Graduation Plans are feeding the development of the FIRST successor programme, which is discussed with EU.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3</b></p> <p>Nutrition and gender have received increased attention from FAO in recent years, but there is still much room for progress. In particular, FAO needs to pay more attention to diversifying diets as a way to address overweight and obesity. FAO should raise awareness on pathways from agriculture to</p>	<p>(a) Dietary diversification is an important strategy to address all forms of malnutrition. The challenge is to develop an integrated approach that can address the different forms of malnutrition, including from a gender perspective, for whatever specific setting. An important pre-requisite is the availability of food consumption data, and analysis of policy and other bottlenecks hampering</p>	<p>(a) SOFI 2018 drew international attention to the pathways from inadequate food access to multiple forms of malnutrition, distinguishing between the undernutrition pathway (leading to stunting and wasting) and the obesogenic pathway (leading to obesity).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy Effectiveness Analyses supported by the FIRST programme, were carried out in 25 countries and provide evidence on the main policy bottlenecks in delivering results for improved food security and nutrition. Gender considerations were mainstreamed throughout.</li> </ul>	5	<p>The actions taken have heightened the attention of FAO’s global, regional and country-level partners on dietary diversification as a way to address overweight and obesity, including from a gender perspective.</p> <p>Within and beyond FAO, there is an increased momentum in debates around the policy concerns surrounding the pathways from agriculture to nutrition and the role of agro-biodiversity in improving human health and wellbeing as well as in promoting the sustainable management of natural resources</p>

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<p>nutrition and try to promote agriculture and policy concerns in nutrition coordination space where the issue is still often seen only as a health problem</p> <p>In gender equality, there are opportunities for FAO and SP1 to help reform national support systems for agriculture such as extensions systems, veterinary networks or rural credit schemes to make them more supportive of female farmers, particularly in contexts characterized by male migration out of agriculture and resulting increased feminization of agriculture.</p>	<p>improvements in dietary diversification. This will be a priority for resource mobilization.</p> <p>(b) SP1 and ESN will aim to ensure this ongoing work in the main “nutrition coordination” spaces is well reflected and highlights regional- and country-level follow-up to the Regional Symposia on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets, as part of the ICN2 Framework for Action</p> <p>(c) The toolkit developed by TCI and ESN on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems is an important contribution to raising awareness on pathways from agriculture to nutrition. ESN will continue to be at the forefront in developing and disseminating the knowledge and tools necessary at global level (UNSCN, SUN, ICN2 and the Decade of Action for Nutrition) SP1 together with other SPs and Technical Units and with support from the EU-FAO FIRST Programme has developed a series of Policy Guidance Notes on strengthening these policies for better food security and nutrition.</p>	<p>- Under the MDF allocation, FAO started in 2019 a series of studies in five countries to build evidence around the drivers of inadequate diets, obesity and NCDs, and the links to agricultural and food systems. An FMM-funded sub-programme was approved in 2019 to foster the sustainable production of diversified and healthy food and access to nutrition-sensitive social protection in four focus countries. In 2019, RLC conducted a regional high-level consultation on the links between Food Systems, Obesity and Gender.</p> <p>(b) FAO leveraged partnerships with global governance mechanisms like CFS, UN-Agencies (through UNSCN), and with multi-stakeholder mechanisms like the SUN Movement and GAIN to raise awareness on the pathways from agriculture to nutrition, to promote nutrition using a Food Systems approach and to strengthen country-level capacities of multi-stakeholder platforms.</p> <p>- Regional and country-level follow-up contributions were provided to the Regional Symposia on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets, as part of the ICN2 Framework for Action. Analytical reviews on the impact of food and agriculture policies on food and nutrition security of selected FAO member countries in Asia (RAP) were prepared for the regional policy forum (2019). In partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), NEPAD, the SUN Movement, UNICEF and WHO, FAO developed a Parliamentarian Handbook on Nutrition and Food Systems. CFS 45 (2018) endorsed the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Nutrition and Food Systems.</p> <p>-CFS 46 (2019) endorsed the thematic workstream on gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition (MYPoW 2020-2023), paving the way for the preparation of Voluntary Guidelines that will provide member countries and development partners with practical guidance on how to advance gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights and women’s empowerment.</p> <p>(c) A number of data tools, knowledge products, advocacy material and policy guidance tools are developed, including:</p> <p>-The Indicator on the Minimum Dietary Diversity Score for Women of Reproductive Age (MDD-W) was operationalized in three countries. Quantitative dietary data were made accessible through the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool (FAO/WHO GIFT) web-based platform. A methodology for Nutrition SMART Agriculture (NSMARTAg) country profiles was developed with the World bank and analysis is carried out in four countries. Studies are conducted to assess changes in food consumption trends, nutrient intake and diet-related diseases in two countries (testing a methodology for Sustainable Healthy Diets). The Rapid Urban Food System Appraisal Tool (RUF SAT) was developed and implemented in three cities: Nairobi, Dhaka and Lima.</p> <p>- A FAO Food System Framework and a School Food and Nutrition Framework were developed. A Toolkit and e-Learning Module on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems was completed and a course was designed on</p>		<p>and a healthier planet. Such debates help reshaping FAO’s priorities, as the objective of healthy diets gains prominence in FAO’s global and regional strategic visions for the next biennium.</p> <p>The promotion of nutrition and healthy diets from a sustainable agriculture and food systems perspective is becoming FAO’s unique contribution to the global food and nutrition policy debate.</p> <p>New and enhanced data tools, knowledge products, advocacy material and policy guidance notes, increasingly support member countries to access the evidence needed to support national policies, plans and programmes on food security and nutrition, gender equality and rural women’s empowerment.</p> <p>Focused interventions resulted in strengthened institutional and human capacities in a number of countries to address key policy bottlenecks, on the road to meeting national development commitments, particularly under SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 5 (gender equality).</p>

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		<p>Education for Effective Nutrition in Action (ENACT) to build professional capacities to help people improve their diets.</p> <p>- Seven new Policy Guidance Notes for strengthening sector policies for better food security and nutrition results were developed on: (1) food systems for healthy diets, (2) nutrition education, (3) public food procurement, (4) food safety, (5) seeds and varieties (6) biodiversity; and (7) rural poverty.</p> <p>- In collaboration with IFPRI, evidence was generated on the impact of women's empowerment on nutritional outcomes at household-level, leading to the compilation of best practices and a policy brief. Using the Gallup World Poll data, a study on gender differences in global food security was prepared, which informed the SOFI 2019. Using FIES Survey data in three countries, empirical analyses were carried out on the impacts of male outmigration from rural areas, on the food security of non-migrant spouses and family members. Findings and recommendations informed national policy processes.</p> <p>- Country Gender Assessments have been conducted in 42 countries (18 of them in 2019), building the ground for the UNCT-CEDAW country reports and related national policy dialogues. RLC promoted policy dialogue around the links between food systems, obesity and gender, and supported the generation of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis to help countries design and implement gender-sensitive policies on food security and nutrition (findings are included in Food and Nutrition Security Panoramas for LAC in 2018 and 2019). In 2019, a collaboration started with REMSIP to use the Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool (GRAST) to enhance national extension services' capacities in two LAC countries to design and deliver gender-sensitive services.</p>		
<p><b>Recommendation 4:</b> Building upon the strong level of trust established with national institutions, FAO should continue to advocate for more sustainable and equitable development policies, relying on a variety of advisory and advocacy channels such as national academia, farmer organizations, south-south cooperation and mainstream national media, and grounding its advice on a strong analytical base and socio-economic argument, in complement to a rights-based argument.</p>	<p>(a) Various advocacy channels are already being exploited and efforts are being made to make much greater use of South-South Cooperation around the Zero Hunger agenda. In particular, the “Alianzas” in the RLC region tap into academia, and this could be replicated in other regions.</p> <p>(b) In all FIRST countries, SDG2-focused policy-effectiveness analyses that look at socio-economic but also other factors that affect policy implementation and effectiveness, have been carried out in 2018 and the findings were discussed through inclusive multi-stakeholder processes in 2019.</p> <p>(c) The inter-connectedness of SDGs 1 and 2 will be mainstreamed in all</p>	<p>FAO continues to advocate for sustainable and equitable development policies to address FSN through various advocacy channels such as national academia and Parliamentary networks. Advocacy work is carried out through various stakeholder engagements at the global, regional and country levels:</p> <p>(a) At global level and through the South-South Triangular Cooperation, FAO has engaged with Parliamentarians to create a global coalition in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. This led to a Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition that took place in Madrid, Spain in 2018. The Summit was a joint initiative of the Spanish Parliament, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), FAO and the Latin America and the Caribbean Parliamentary Front against Hunger.</p> <p>Parliamentarians continue to play a pivotal role in the fight against hunger and all forms of malnutrition by promoting an enabling legislative environment and forging Alliances and partnerships on FSN. FAO is actively supporting intra and inter-Parliamentary dialogues on FSN and national and international networks such as Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean (PFH LAC) and the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO). In all, 25 Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger are supported by FAO in LAC. FAO is also supporting the Pan African Parliamentary front.</p>	5	<p>The Global Parliamentary Summit led to the creation of a network of Parliamentarians that is fostering new or improved parliamentary partnerships with key stakeholders that can facilitate actions towards the achievement of SDG2. Parliamentary networks also use best practices related to laws, programmes and policies to fight against hunger and malnutrition.</p> <p>Seven countries in LAC approved laws promoting food and nutrition sovereignty and security, family farming, food labelling, agro-ecological practices and reduction of food losses and waste. Thirteen national parliaments are currently reviewing such laws and regulations and eleven are discussing budgetary allocations to support them.</p> <p>Best practices and lessons learned led to new Parliamentary Alliances and Fronts Against Hunger and Malnutrition (e.g. the Inter-regional – African-Latin America Parliamentary Forum - AFROLAC, the Network of Central African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition-RAPAC-SAN);</p>

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	advocacy channels at the disposal of FAO.	<p>RLC region created an alliance with Academia (Alianzas) for transforming food systems to reduce overweight and obesity in Latin America and the Caribbean. In order to strengthen partnerships with Academia, FAO organized a Symposium on the Future of Food in June 2019. Many MoU and Letters of Agreements have been signed with various universities and institutions to carry out evidence-based work on FSN and achieve SDG2 targets.</p> <p>(b) The findings of policy effectiveness analyses in all FIRST countries identified key bottlenecks and emerging challenges that affect policy implementation and hamper the achievement of SDG2 targets. The findings outlined the need for: policy change in support of food systems transformation that works simultaneously for human health, social development, the environment, hunger and poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth; social transformation through the empowerment agenda to bring women, youth and consumers to the epicenter of policy; and refocus governance mechanisms to address key implementation bottlenecks that hinder the achievement of SDG targets. Two multi stakeholder workshops were conducted in May (Rome) and December (Addis Ababa) 2019 to discuss the findings and the implications for country, regional and global work. A global Think Piece on “Agriculture and Food Systems at Crossroads: Summary findings of a Cross-Country Analysis” is produced.</p> <p>(c) FAO flagship publications and communication tools highlighted the interconnections between SDG1 (zero poverty) and SDG2 (zero hunger). For example, SOFI 2019 described and analyzed the economic growth, poverty/inequality, food security and nutrition nexus and the importance of tackling the issues in a holistic and integrated manner. FAO’s Extreme Poverty Framework (launched in 2019) also tackles the poverty/hunger nexus extensively. In addition, FAO embarked on the preparation of a Policy Guidance Note on Rural Poverty, aiming to strengthen national poverty reduction policies for better food security and nutrition results.</p>		FAO’s flagship publications, in particular the State of Food Security and Nutrition, continue to serve as the unique globally recognized analytical, advocacy and monitoring tools for the SDG targets on poverty, food security and nutrition.