

Web Annex 2:

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020: Transforming food systems to deliver affordable healthy diets to all

1. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* is an FAO annual flagship publication series that monitors progress towards globally agreed food security and nutrition targets, presenting and analyzing global, regional and country level trends, and providing in-depth analyses on emerging issues to inform decision-making and contribute to the achievement of ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms.
2. Over the last twenty years, the report has grown in importance and has achieved wide recognition as the leading global report providing critical information to policy-makers on food security and nutrition. Since 2017, the publication reports progress towards the targets of ending hunger (SDG Target 2.1) and all forms of malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2). An exemplar of UN collaboration work, jointly produced by five UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO), 2020 is the second year the report will be launched on the sidelines of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York.
3. Five years into the 2030 Agenda, it is time to assess progress and to question whether continuing efforts implemented thus far will allow countries to reach SDG 2 targets of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition. For this reason, this year's report provides new estimates of hunger in the world with greater accuracy and complements the usual assessment of the state of food security and nutrition in the world with projections of what the world may look like in 2030 if trends of the last decade continue. Importantly, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, this report attempts to foresee some of the impacts of this global pandemic on food security and nutrition.
4. In this year's report, the most recent estimate of the prevalence of undernourishment, the indicator to monitor Target 2.1 of the SDGs, is based on new data on population, food supply, and more importantly, new household survey data that enabled the revision of the inequality of food consumption for 13 countries, including China.
5. The last three editions of this report have presented evidence that the decades-long decline in hunger in the world had unfortunately ended. Furthermore, hunger and food insecurity are not the only challenges, but also overweight and obesity and other forms of malnutrition. Food systems and nutrition patterns, therefore, will feature prominently in upcoming editions of this report, starting with this 2020 edition. This is one of the six entry points that, according to the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)¹, offer the most promise for achieving the desired transformation at the necessary scale and speed.
6. This year the report's theme is "*Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets.*" This theme is especially relevant to the HLPF 2020 theme "*Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*" and will provide an excellent opportunity to build on GSDR recommendations guiding HLPF discussions on necessary actions to delivering on the Secretary-General's Decade of Action.
7. More specifically, this year the report looks closely at the cost and affordability of healthy diets. Diet quality is a critical link between food security and nutrition outcomes that is often overlooked, but needs to be present as part of all efforts to achieve the hunger, food security and nutrition targets of SDG 2. Meeting these targets will only be possible if we ensure that people have

¹ Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General, Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development, (United Nations, New York, 2019). Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/gsdr2019>

enough food to eat, and that what they are eating is nutritious. One of the biggest challenges to achieving this is the current cost and affordability of healthy diets. New evidence presented in this report will show that healthy diets are unaffordable for many people in every region of the world, especially for the poor and those facing economic challenges.

8. Beyond the direct cost of nutritious food and the affordability of healthy diets, the report will also examine the hidden costs to society and our planet associated with current consumption patterns; for example, costs in terms of both health (SDG 3) and climate change (SDG 13). The report will present estimations of the healthcare and climate change costs associated with current consumption patterns, and will compare them with potential impacts if consumption patterns shifted toward healthy diets that include sustainability considerations. Lastly, the analysis will lead to a discussion of the policy instruments and strategies that can be used to prioritize and plan for making the most of synergies while avoiding unfavourable trade-offs, as countries move to transform their food systems to ensure affordable healthy diets, while both ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

9. As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads across the globe, wreaking havoc in ways that will only become apparent in the months and years to come, an effort is made to foresee what some of the impacts may be on food security and nutrition, and to provide policy recommendations to prevent cost increases of nutritious foods and ensure access to affordable healthy diets.

10. Based on evidence, the report provides guidance on policy and investments for countries to transform their food systems to provide access to affordable healthy diets for everyone, while tackling trade-offs and making the most of synergies for environmental sustainability. The policy recommendations will be in line with key recommendations under the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, 2016–2025. They will also help set the agenda for the first UN Food Systems Summit, which will take place in 2021 with the overarching goal of helping stakeholders better understand and manage complex choices that affect the future of food systems and their needed transformation to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

11. This year's *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* will be launched virtually on 13 July 2020 on the sidelines of the HLPF in New York.