

170th Session of the Council

Item 21: Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO

FAO thanks the European Union for its critical role in founding, as well as its continued active engagement in and support to, the Global Network Against Food Crises. The Global Network has a dedicated website that can be found here: <http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/>, which includes regular updates on the latest analyses, events and statements of the Global Network and its partners. Key new information includes: [the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises](#); the [outcomes of the High-Level dialogue on food and nutrition crises in the Sahel](#), which was co-organized by the Sahel and West Africa Club, the European Union and the Global Network Against Food Crisis; and a new page that brings together partners' analyses of the [impacts of the war in Ukraine in food crisis contexts](#). FAO stands ready to provide a specific presentation on the Global Network whether during the next Council session, should this be requested by Members, or in another agreeable context.

The Global Network recognizes fragile food systems and rural marginalization, together with environmental, political, and economic crises, as root causes of food insecurity, which in food crisis countries are often compounded by conflict and insecurity, weather extremes, and economic shocks. In food crisis countries, pre-existing fragilities have progressively been exacerbated by the impact of different crises and shocks with a cumulative effect. Not only are all those crises impacting at the same time, but the compounding effect of each is making the situation worse year after year.

Against this background, the Global Network has been providing consensus-based data and analyses to improve understanding of the root causes, magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity in support of decision-making at national, regional and global level. Based on these efforts, the current focus of the work is expanding to use this evidence to jointly identify solutions across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus to address the specific root causes of food crises in a given context. The approach of the Global Network is to convene stakeholders across the nexus through dedicated policy dialogues at country-level bringing together governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, resource partners, the private sector and civil society. The objective of these dialogues is to reach a joint understanding of the root causes of food insecurity based on evidence and jointly define priorities and actions to address the root causes of acute food insecurity and strengthen the resilience of local food systems.

FAO fully recognizes the importance of the Global Network Against Food Crises and supports the activities of the Global Network which extend across the Organization. Although the Global Network has a strong presence in FAO's Office of Emergencies and Resilience, it is also well integrated into other parts of the Organization. In its efforts to provide quality and timely data and analysis, the Global Network works in close collaboration with several divisions within the Economic and Social Workstream, under the guidance of FAO's Chief Economist. In particular, with the Markets and Trade Division (EST) and the Agrifood Economics Division (ESA), which hosts the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) representing the gold-standard for acute food insecurity analysis in food crisis countries and a fundamental building block of the Global Report on Food Crises and for the work of the Global Network. Moreover, with regard to the efforts at country level, the Global Network works closely with FAO Representations, leveraging also other relevant FAO technical capacities according to the countries' specific needs. This for instance includes the collaboration with the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division (ESP) on social protection as a viable nexus approach in food crisis countries.

The FAO Statistics Division is delighted to acknowledge the interest of Chile in the Rural Multidimensional Poverty Index (R-MPI) jointly developed by FAO and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI); and stands ready to provide further information as requested.

In particular, the FAO Statistics Division wishes to notice that the R-MPI can be applied to rural areas defined on the basis of any criterion relevant to Members, or any internationally agreed criterion of rural areas.

Details on the R-MPI are found in the joint FAO-OPHI report available at [https://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-statistics/resources/publications/statistical-development-series/en/\(FAO and OPHI. 2022. Measuring rural poverty with a multidimensional approach: The Rural Multidimensional Poverty Index. FAO Statistical Development Series, No. 19. Rome, FAO.\)](https://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-statistics/resources/publications/statistical-development-series/en/(FAO%20and%20OPHI.2022.Measuring%20rural%20poverty%20with%20a%20multidimensional%20approach%3A%20The%20Rural%20Multidimensional%20Poverty%20Index.FAO%20Statistical%20Development%20Series,%20No.%2019.Rome,%20FAO.)) Should this be appropriate, the FAO Statistics Division stands ready to communicate further details and address more specific questions in a dedicated meeting.

FAO acknowledges and welcomes the continuous strong support of Japan in the implementation of its plan of work and reaffirms the Organization's continued commitment to strengthening the resilience and sustainability of food systems as a means to support vulnerable livelihoods.

FAO is grateful for the support received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF). This has made it possible for the Agrifood Economics Division (ESA) and the Trade and Markets Division (EST) to carry out joint work in the framework of the project "Guidelines to increase the resilience of agricultural supply chains". The guidelines are being finalized and take into consideration very valuable feedback received from MAFF.

The guidelines will serve as an international reference on resilience of agrifood systems to different types of shocks. They are expected to be widely distributed among policymakers and used as a first line of advice for country agricultural policy decisions in the context of shocks. The Government of Japan may present the guidelines at a number of international meetings, including G20 meetings.

The indicators developed for the 2021 Report on the State of Food and Agriculture are being incorporated in a number of efforts that focus on the resilience of agrifood systems. In 2022, FAO plans to include the Dietary Sourcing Flexibility Index (DSFI) in FAOSTAT and update it annually thereafter. The DSFI is also being adopted as one of the indicators to measure resilience capacities by a consortium of institutions that include the Johns Hopkins University, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), FAO, WFP, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Bioversity International, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), CARE and others. Finally, the suite of SOFA indicators are being used to inform national policy debates on agrifood systems resilience in Indonesia and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).