



www.fao.org

Field programme

Key facts

Over 90 percent of FAO field projects and programmes is funded by voluntary contributions through different types of trust funds.

In 2007-2008, close to US\$1 billion was mobilized for FAO development and emergency operations.

Fifty percent of voluntary contributions is spent on emergencies.

Agricultural technicians recruited under the South-South Cooperation component of the Special Programme for Food Security cost just US\$900 a month, much less than a consultant from an industrialized country.

Every year more than 200 million people are affected by natural disasters worldwide. In 2008, this included floods in Yemen, India and Bangladesh, earthquakes in Pakistan and China, a cyclone in Myanmar and hurricanes in the Caribbean.

Practical actions to fight hunger

FAO's activities in the field have a common denominator – they all deliver practical assistance to fight hunger. This can mean meeting an immediate need, such as restarting food production after a flood or other disaster, or it can mean taking action to prevent soil erosion in the long term. It can also mean helping a country mobilize resources for its priorities in the food and agriculture sector or put into action a national strategy for food security.

Scope of FAO's field activities

At any one time, FAO manages over 2 000 field projects and programmes worth close to US\$800 million. Funding comes from different sources. FAO itself is a contributor, but extrabudgetary funding from donors, financing institutions and international organizations is the driving force behind FAO's field programme.

FAO field activities cover a range of tasks, from controlling animal or plant diseases across whole countries or regions to renovation of village grain storage to providing policy advice.

The Organization has the expertise and experience needed to provide technical and operational support. Its technical staff

comprises agronomists, foresters, fisheries experts, engineers, nutritionists, economists, statisticians and sociologists. These experts are based at regional and subregional offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the Near East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and at FAO headquarters in Rome.

National institutions and NGOs are often closely involved in the implementation of both development and emergency projects. FAO implementation services range from recruitment and supervision of experts and consultants to procurement of goods and services to training.

Technical Cooperation Programme

This programme receives US\$50 million per year from FAO's own regular budget. It provides up to US\$500 000 each to projects that last up to 36 months and have the potential to show concrete and measurable results. The projects should fill crucial gaps and have catalytic effects. The programme stimulates the flow of bilateral and multilateral funding for agricultural and rural development.

Policy assistance

FAO provides analysis of global changes and their implication at the national and regional level. It helps governments formulate and review their national policies and strategies in agriculture and rural development. Examples include supporting developing countries in understanding the implications of positions in trade negotiations and in implementing World Trade Organization agreements, advising governments on policy measures in response to the food price crisis or providing advice on prioritizing agriculture and rural development within existing development frameworks such as the Poverty Reduction Strategies.



Farmer Field School in Kenya.

©FAO/Ami Vitale

Investment support

FAO's Investment Centre promotes greater investment in agriculture and rural development by assisting developing countries to identify and plan effective and sustainable agricultural policies, programmes and projects. It assists in the preparation of investment projects and programmes in collaboration with multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, regional development banks and international funds as well as FAO resources.

The Investment Centre is associated annually with projects and programmes that have a value of US\$3 billion.

National and regional programmes for food security

FAO's Special Programme for Food Security aims to reduce hunger and malnutrition. Initially, the programme targeted limited numbers of small-scale farmers, demonstrating low-cost technologies to boost food production and incomes of poor farming families. The success of the Special Programme has inspired governments to create National Programmes for Food Security in an attempt to help many more farmers. Governments bolster the effectiveness of the programmes with policies and investments to improve market access and provide direct

Capacity building

Building country capacities is a feature of nearly all FAO interventions, from strengthening a country's capacity to comply with food safety standards to training in pesticide management to establishing food information and early warning systems.

Farmer Field Schools, initially developed by FAO in Southeast Asia, are an alternative way of empowering small-scale farmers. The schools take a "living classroom" approach in which farmers study field ecosystems throughout the cropping year and learn to make informed decisions about such issues as pest and disease control.

access to food for those too poor to produce or acquire it by themselves.

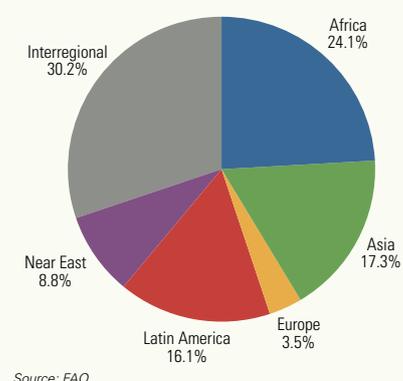
FAO also works closely with regional economic integration organizations to develop Regional Programmes for Food Security to promote integration and agricultural development among neighbouring countries.

One key feature of these programmes is "South-South Cooperation". Agricultural technicians from more advanced developing countries work in less advanced countries, sharing their expertise.

Responding to emergencies

From emergency prevention, monitoring and early warning to rapid response and rehabilitation, FAO offers a wide range of services. It warns of adverse conditions in the food and agricultural sectors and of impending food emergencies. It follows transboundary epidemics in livestock diseases and plant pests and encourages a global response. With other international agencies, it participates in field missions to assess post-disaster needs. Then it coordinates different players and helps create the conditions for a quick and lasting recovery.

FAO field programme by region, 2003–2007
(includes headquarters-based initiatives)



Decentralized Cooperation Programme

Increasingly regions, cities and local institutions in developed countries are reaching out to their counterparts in poorer countries to help tackle poverty and food insecurity. The FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme was launched in 2002 to promote participation of non-state

actors in the development process and to strengthen local government institutions with the aim of addressing hunger and malnutrition. Direct city-to-city or region-to-region partnerships are promoted with FAO acting both as a catalyst and provider of technical and operational support.



Emergency seed distribution in Haiti.

