

# Enhancing food security and nutrition policy assistance

Lessons from experience



**ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION POLICY ASSISTANCE:**

**LESSONS FROM EXPERIENCE**

Edited by

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## FOREWORD

Precious time has elapsed since the 1996 World Food Summit (WFS) in which world leaders agreed that hunger reduction required a specific approach simultaneously ensuring that sufficient food is available, that people have the resources to access nutritious food, that they are in sufficiently good health to be able to absorb this food and that the stability throughout time of each of these dimensions is ensured. Yet, notwithstanding some isolated regional and national-level successes, hunger has increased and a dire lack of a comprehensive approach to hunger reduction is still witnessed. Even before the onslaught of volatile prices and the financial and economic crisis, progress in reducing hunger was insufficient. Worldwide, 1 020 million people are estimated to be undernourished in 2009 which represents an increase of 203 million hungry people compared with 1990–92, which is the WFS and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) baseline period.

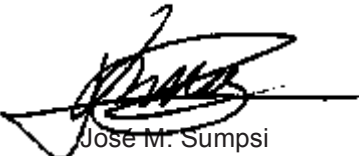
Food security is still largely misconceived as exclusively a matter of increased food production. As a result, comprehensive strategic approaches to hunger reduction have been insufficient.

With this in mind, in 2004, through the FAO Netherlands Partnership Programme (FNPP), FAO began assisting several countries, namely Bhutan, Cambodia, Kenya, Mozambique and Zanzibar in integrating a specific and comprehensive food security and nutrition focus into their poverty reduction strategies or other national development frameworks. Through the fruitful collaboration between FAO and counterpart governments under the FNPP, each of the above-mentioned countries is now including food security and nutrition into major national policy and planning processes.

The FNPP increased FAO's agility in delivering policy assistance. It enhanced FAO's responsiveness to the numerous demands from countries to establish coherence between global and national level frameworks in order to better integrate food security and nutrition in policy and mechanisms of food security governance. As a consequence, the work carried out at country level and the lessons drawn from it, triggered the development of a renewed analytical framework to hunger reduction that is currently under way in FAO. This framework emphasizes the need to better integrate the governance and institutional dimensions in food security related policy work.

In order to build on the opportunity to innovate, a lesson-learning exercise was carried out. The objective was to reflect on what worked well and what could be improved in FAO's approach to providing food security policy assistance. This publication highlights five essential considerations that must be kept in mind when engaging in food security policy assistance processes. These include (i) the careful design of the policy assistance process; (ii) the need to fully integrate food security analysis within the phases of the policy cycle, from formulation to implementation and monitoring; (iii) the need to complement the support to drafting policy statements with assistance in budgeting and planning of policy and programme implementation; (iv) the importance of addressing institutional challenges related to food security governance; and (v) the focus on strengthening capacities particularly with regard to the understanding of the multidimensional nature of food security and nutrition. These lessons learned will inform and shape FAO's future food security policy assistance in order to increase its effectiveness in responding to member countries' requests.

This publication is also a contribution to the ongoing reflection within FAO on ways to improve the delivery of FAO policy assistance to member countries. In this regard, it demonstrates the potential value added of multidisciplinary collaboration in the area of policy assistance and helped to generate new options to be considered within the context of FAO reform.



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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iv
LIST OF AUTHORS .....	v
LIST OF ACRONYMS .....	viii

### PART ONE: SYNTHESIS OF THE COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION POLICY ASSISTANCE: LESSONS FROM EXPERIENCE By Jean Balié, Marco Knowles and Anna Ricoy .....	3
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### PART TWO: COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

#### PROVIDING POLICY ASSISTANCE TO MAINSTREAM FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN NATIONAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

CHAPTER 1 - THE CASE OF BHUTAN By Marco Knowles .....	15
CHAPTER 2 - THE CASE OF CAMBODIA By Masa Kato, Kosal Oum and Günther Feiler .....	25
CHAPTER 3 - THE CASE OF KENYA By Mulat Demeke .....	35
CHAPTER 4 - THE CASE OF MOZAMBIQUE By Frank Mischler .....	47
CHAPTER 5 - THE CASE OF ZANZIBAR By Susanne Boetekees and Maarten Immink .....	59



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ANGOZA	Association of Non Governmental Organisations in Zanzibar
ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
ASCU	Agricultural Sector Coordinating Unit
BNFSSP	Bhutan National Food Security Strategy Paper
CARD	Council for Agricultural and Rural Development
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
EDPs	External Development Partners
ERS	Economic Recovery Strategy
ESA	Agricultural Development Economics Division of FAO
ESAN	Mozambique's food security strategy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAOR	FAO Representative
FNPP	FAO-Netherlands Partnership Programme
FNPP-FS	FAO Netherlands Partnership Programme – Food Security component
FSN	Food Security and Nutrition
FSNIS	Food Security and Nutrition Information System
FSNP	Food Security and Nutrition Policy
FSNPSP	Food Security and Nutrition Policy Support Project
FSNS	Food Security and Nutrition Strategy
FSNSec	Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat
FSSP	Food Security Support Programme
FYP	Five-Year Plan
GNHC	Gross National Happiness Commission
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation)
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ICCFN	Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Food and Nutrition
IDPPE	Institute for Development of Small-Scale Fishing
ISSC	Inter Sectoral Steering Committee
KFSM	Kenya Food Security Meeting
KRDS	Kenya Rural Development Strategy
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MALE	Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Environment
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MKUZA	Kiswahili acronym for ZSGRP
MoA	Minister of Agriculture
MoH	Minister of Health
MoHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
MoRASD	Ministry of Regional Administration and Special Departments
MPD	Ministry of Planning and Development
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NARC	National Rainbow Coalition
NFNP	National Food and Nutrition Policy
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPHFSR	National Programme for Household Food Security and Poverty Reduction
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OP	Office of the President
PAC	Plano de Accao Comunitario (Mozambique's Community Action Plan)
PARPA	Mozambique's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PDDs	District Development Plans (as abbreviated in Portuguese)

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PEPA	Plano Economico do Posto Administrativo (Mozambique's Economic Plan of the Administrative Post)
PPD	Policy and Planning Division
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
RGoB	Royal Government of Bhutan
RGoZ	Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar
RNR	Renewable Natural Resources
SAW	Agriculture and Water Sector
SETSAN	Mozambique's Technical Secretariat of Food Security and Nutrition
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SRA	Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture
TCA	Policy Assistance Division of FAO
TMSG	Task Management Support Group
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
ZFSNP&P	Zanzibar Food Security and Nutrition Policy and Programme
ZFSNSA	Zanzibar Food Security and Nutrition Situational Analysis
ZPRP	Zanzibar Poverty Reduction Plan
ZSGRP	Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty