

INFORMATION NOTE

THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD (SOFI)

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It monitors and analyses the world’s progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition. It also provides in-depth analysis on key challenges for achieving these goals in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report targets a wide audience, including policymakers, international organizations, academic institutions and the general public.

On **12 July 2023 from 10 AM to 12 PM (New York Time)**, FAO and its co-publishing partners will be launching, for the fifth time, the SOFI report at a Special Event in the margins of the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The 2023 edition of the report will, as usual, present the latest updates on the food security and nutrition situation around the world, including updated estimates on the cost and affordability of healthy diets. Subsequently, the report’s theme “Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation, and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum” will explore how urbanization is shaping agrifood systems and the implications of this nexus for the availability and affordability of healthy diets, food security and nutrition.

Urbanization is changing agrifood systems globally in ways that can no longer be understood across the rural and urban divide. The changing pattern of population agglomerations along a rural–urban continuum and its interface as a place of exchange and socioeconomic interactions, is reshaping and being reshaped by agrifood systems, with implications for the availability and affordability of healthy diets, and in turn, for food security and nutrition.

Such timely and relevant theme is aligned with the UN General Assembly “New Urban Agenda” and will contribute new evidence on the policies, investments and actions needed to limit risks of the negative effects of agrifood system transformation under urbanization and enable opportunities for access to affordable healthy diets, to improve food security and nutrition. The theme will complement and guide the discussions at the 2023 HLPF – particularly on sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), and especially during the three-day ministerial segment of the forum held **from 17 to 19 July 2023 and in the lead-up to the SDG Summit in September**.

What precedes the 2023 edition is an exemplary model of UN collaboration in monitoring and analysing progress towards achieving a world without hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

First launched in **1999**, the publication series, then titled ***The State of Food Insecurity in the World*** (SOFI), served as a regular progress report on global and national efforts to reach the goal set by the World Food Summit in 1996 of reducing the number of undernourished in the world by half by the year 2015. The report provided the first data available on progress and reversals on reducing hunger as well as analyses of the underlying causes behind these trends during the 1990s. From 2000, the report continued to monitor progress on reducing hunger annually, but in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and in 2015 the report took stock of global, regional and national achievements in reducing the number of hungry people in the world by half and reflected on what needed to be done in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In **2017**, the report marked the start of a new era in monitoring progress towards achieving a world without hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). To reflect the broadened and integrated approach to food security and nutrition of this new agenda, the report was renamed ***The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*** – although its acronym SOFI was retained. Since then, for the first time the report began to regularly monitor global, regional and country progress towards the targets of ending both hunger (SDG Target 2.1) and all forms of malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2). An important feature of the report since the 2017 edition is an in-depth thematic analysis of the underlying causes and drivers of observed food insecurity and malnutrition trends and how food security and nutrition (SDG 2) are related to other SDG targets.

Over the years, SOFI has grown in importance and has achieved global recognition as the leading global report providing information on all forms of malnutrition. Over time, FAO expanded its partnership in producing the report, with the World Food Programme (WFP) joining in 2009. Two years later (2011), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) joined as co-publishers. In 2017, as the report began monitoring progress towards targets related to all forms of malnutrition, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) became new partners in preparing the report. Ever since the SOFI report is considered an exemplary model of UN collaboration work.

In **2019**, SOFI – on the theme of ***"Safeguarding against economic slowdowns and downturns"*** – was not only the third edition of the report jointly produced by the five UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) but it was also, **for the first time, launched during a Special Event** in the side lines of the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The report helped to inform not only the HLPF discussions, but also greatly contributed to the 2nd Committee negotiations on resolutions related to hunger and malnutrition.

Ever since, the report has continued to be launched as such Special Event in the side lines of the ECOSOC HLPF, proving especially relevant to the HLPF themes.

In **2020**, the theme ***"Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets"*** proved to be especially relevant to the HLPF 2020 theme "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development" and provided an excellent opportunity to build on GSDR recommendations guiding HLPF discussions on necessary actions to delivering on the Secretary-Generals Decade of Action.

In **2021**, the theme [“Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all”](#) was particularly important for providing the latest updates and trends in food security and nutrition while offering some indication of what hunger would look like by 2030, in a scenario further complicated by the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In **2022**, the theme was [“Repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable”](#). The report also offered indication of what hunger would look like by 2030, in a scenario further complicated by the war in Ukraine and the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Amid the recessionary context, this edition of the report was particularly timing to provide evidence that public resources allocated to food and agriculture could be used more smartly – or repurposed – to achieve more economic growth and make progress towards SDG 2 and other development goals.