

Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia

4–5 May 2023

Background Note

Session 4

Priority areas for the work programme in the region for 2024–2025 in light of the key challenges and opportunities

Breakout session 4.4

Priority 4: Addressing food insecurity and reducing all forms of malnutrition

Objective

The main objective is to exchange views and collect inputs on the key challenges and opportunities in Europe and Central Asia and to provide recommendations related to the main areas of response as key inputs for the formulation of the FAO work programme 2024–2025 for the Europe and Central Asia region.

Methodology

Country representatives exchange their views on the main challenges and opportunities in the region and explore potential recommendations. The discussions focus on three questions, and the debate is facilitated by FAO staff directly involved in the design and implementation of this regional priority.

The presentation and background note of *“Session 3 - Key challenges and opportunities in the region that might affect the regional priority areas and should be addressed by the FAO work programme 2024–2025”* and of *“Session 2 - Update on FAO’s response to the multiple crises in the region”* serve as a basis for the discussion in the breakout session. The challenges and proposed response areas under Priority 4 have been summarized in Annex I.

Time: 35 minutes

Structure:

1. **Introduction by the group facilitator** (3 min)
2. **Round-table discussion** (30 min)

Guiding questions:

- What do you consider as key challenges related to Priority 4 in the context of your country or the region?
- What emphasis would you give regarding the main areas of response identified under Priority 4 in the context of your country or the region?
- Do you agree with the challenges/areas of response that are proposed in Annex I, or is there any challenge/area of response already included that you suggest de-emphasizing?

3. **Wrap-up by the group facilitator** (2 min)

Priority 4: Addressing food insecurity and reducing all forms of malnutrition

Challenges

- **Stagnation in the reduction of hunger and the multiple burden of malnutrition** associated with rapidly **changing dietary patterns and the high costs and unaffordability** of healthy diets.
- Socioeconomic shocks caused by conflicts, trade tensions, pandemics and disasters increase the difficulties among poor and vulnerable groups in **accessing nutritious and diverse food**.
- **Limited data, analysis and capacity** for strengthening the evidence base for policy development and implementation related to food security and nutrition.

Main areas of response

- Provide support for guiding the development and implementation of policies and programmes on **informed dietary choices** and provide an **enabling environment for better nutrition**.
- **Mainstream food and nutrition security to increase investments** in agrifood systems, e.g. in influencing consumer desire for healthy diets, nutrition-sensitive agrifood policy, and food chain actors' engagement to produce and responsibly market nutritious and safe foods.
- Enhance support in **food price monitoring, disaggregated data collection** and advocacy, and provide policy advice based on data and analysis.
- Support **regional and subregional coordination mechanisms** contributing to effective food security and nutrition governance.
- Provide **regional, subregional and country-level food security analysis** and monitoring.
- Consider **policy processes and documents on food and nutrition security** and promote the **Urban Food Agenda** and the **leave no one behind principle**.