

42nd Session of the Conference

Introduction to Item 16: Programme Implementation Report 2018-2019

1. The Programme Implementation Report (PIR) is FAO's accountability document. It provides quantitative and qualitative information on delivery, targets and indicators of results of the Strategic Objectives, Functional Objectives and Special Chapters as planned in the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019 for all sources of funds. It also provides key programmatic and operational lessons learned for each Objective.
2. The PIR 2018-2019 outlines major policy developments and FAO's role in keeping hunger, food security and malnutrition at the forefront. FAO, through its active engagement in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG), ensured the methodological development and successful endorsement of all 21 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators under FAO's custodianship. The report also highlights major work on emerging threats and opportunities including on Fall Armyworm, the Desert Locust outbreaks, antimicrobial resistance, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), biotechnologies and agroecology. FAO is actively contributing to the implementation of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, with an overall objective of reinforcing collaborative efforts with other UN partners and the Rome-based Agencies.
3. The FAO results framework for 2018-2019 guided the planning and monitoring of the Organization's work to help achieve a world free of hunger and malnutrition. At the core of the framework are the indicators that measure progress at each level of the results chain (Outputs - Outcomes - Strategic Objectives).
4. Outputs represent the results for which FAO is directly accountable at the national, regional and global levels through the tangible delivery of FAO's interventions. Output indicators targets were considered met when actuals reached 100 percent of the target. On this basis, in 2018-2019, FAO fully met 95 percent (41) of its 43 output indicators targets, while 5 percent (2) were not achieved. Approximately 79 percent of Output results were delivered at country or regional level.
5. Outcomes reflect changes in the country-level and/or global enabling environment needed to foster the achievement of the higher-level Strategic Objective. Movement in Outcome indicator values are the result of policies and programmes implemented by all key stakeholders - FAO, Members and development partners. The Outcome Assessment describes a generally positive trend, with 16 out of 22 indicators showing improved performance status for the majority of countries between the years 2015 and 2019. In addition, for about 90 percent of the indicators, there is a higher percentage of countries in the medium to high performance categories in 2019 compared to 2015. Finally, FAO's contribution to change is recognized as significant or moderate in 95 percent or more of the countries for all but two of the assessed outcome indicators.
6. To measure progress at the level of FAO's Strategic Objectives, the Organization aligned its results framework to the SDGs, and the trends of the 38 SDG-based SO indicators used to measure progress at the level of FAO's Strategic Objectives are illustrated in this report.
7. Throughout the PIR document, we have identified the key programmatic and operational lessons learned in delivering the Programme of Work. Key lessons include the importance of coordinated multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approaches that are instrumental to addressing the Agenda 2030. This includes broadening partnerships, widening the range of stakeholders with which we collaborate and addressing synergies and trade-offs between sectors and thematic areas. The report also outlines the need to strengthen innovations and evidence-based analysis to help Members target investment, innovation and policy changes. Additional lessons are included across the document.

8. In the final section of the document, the PIR shows how FAO has benefitted from improved means of delivery. The PIR 2018-2019 covers progress in the quality and integrity of FAO's core technical, normative and standard-setting work, including high-quality statistics and the cross-cutting themes on climate change, gender, governance and nutrition; the Technical Cooperation Programme; outreach, Information Technology, FAO governance, oversight and direction; efficient and effective administration including Capital and Security Expenditure.
9. 77.3 percent (34) of the 44 KPIs in Chapters 6 through 14, reached their biennial target.
10. Total expenditure amounted to USD 2.8 billion in 2018-2019, 7.2 percent higher than in 2016-17, with 99.6 percent (USD 1 002.6 million) of the net appropriation spent and extra budgetary expenditure reaching USD 1.8 billion.
11. Mobilization of extrabudgetary resources for current and future work increased by 17 percent to USD 2.4 billion.
12. The new FAO Cost Recovery Policy, based on the Comprehensive Financial Framework for cost recovery approved by the FAO Council in 2015 was gradually introduced starting in January 2018. A strengthened risk management and internal control framework now includes the preparation of risk logs for all FAO offices, with specific attention paid to fraud risks, with the launch of an anti-fraud strategy and action plan in 2018.
13. The Conference is requested to endorse the Programme Implementation Report 2018-2019, providing such guidance as it deems appropriate.

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