

43rd Session of the FAO Conference

Introduction to Item 18: Programme Implementation Report 2020-21

The Programme Implementation Report (PIR) is FAO's main accountability document. It provides qualitative and quantitative information on results achieved by the Organization over the previous biennium, in supporting Members in progressing towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for all sources of funds. It also describes the creation of an enabling environment to ensure inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency; and details the biennial financial performance under all sources of funds. Document C 2023/8, *Programme Implementation Report 2020-21*, informs on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21 and subsequent adjustments in its main section and nine Annexes.

The main document is shorter and more focused than previous versions. It highlights FAO's key programmatic results supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showcasing results achieved in implementing the Strategic Programmes, in terms of our aspiration to realize the *four betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*.

The document describes FAO's role in addressing the main challenges and opportunities that unfolded during the biennium, including the unprecedented events triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing socioeconomic impacts; the outbreaks of transboundary pests and zoonotic diseases; the climate crisis and its impact on ecosystems and natural resources; the repositioning of the UN development system; and the UN Food Systems Summit 2021. Focused on its goal of attaining zero hunger, the Organization rose to the exceptional challenges, proving its flexibility, adaptability and responsiveness to rapidly changing contexts. FAO reprogrammed activities and redirected resources to address shifting priorities and ensured business continuity throughout the pandemic lockdowns.

The PIR 2020-21 reports on key results in applying an agrifood-systems approach to drive sustainable agricultural and rural development. It highlights achievements in promoting inclusion and targeting investments to implement policy changes for sustainable agricultural production; access to safe, nutritious and healthy diets; reduced food loss and waste; open and well-functioning markets and value chains; strengthened livelihoods and resilience; and measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation. It also describes how FAO responded to Members' needs for global public goods in food and agriculture, such as evidence for decision-making and leveraging technical expertise, leadership and convening power, including through intergovernmental fora and the creation of global networks such as the World Food Forum.

Additionally, the document offers illustrative examples of innovative, tangible results at national, regional and global levels and highlights results achieved through key organizational initiatives, including the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and the flagship Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

The PIR 2020-21 also reports on improvements to the enabling environment: the Director-General's broad programme of deep transformation strengthened internal governance and created a people-centred organizational culture, boosting FAO's capacity to serve its Members. The document also highlights the Organization's results in upscaling new partnerships and cooperative mechanisms, in particular with the private sector, as well as the continued commitment to inclusive approaches that leave no one behind, the dedicated attention accorded to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and the focus on technological and other innovations.

Annex 1 reports on Output, Outcome and Impact, through SDG indicators and additional indicators, within the framework of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21, as well as on the Key Performance Indicators for assessing the enabling environment and operational achievements.

In its final section, the PIR 2020-21 summarizes how FAO managed resources, with complete information on the use and mobilization of funds provided in Annexes 2 and 3. In 2020-21, the Organization spent 99.6 percent of the net appropriation, or just over USD 1 billion. Extra-budgetary expenditures reached USD 2.2 billion, accounting for 68 percent of total expenditures. USD 2.7 billion was mobilized for current and future work; an 11 percent increase compared to the last biennium, exceeding the target of USD 1.7 billion – an all-time high that is on track to be further surpassed in 2022-23. FAO supported Members in designing investment projects to be financed by international financial institutions (IFIs) for a total of USD 13.8 billion and, through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), catalysed USD 1.7 billion in financing.

The Conference is requested to endorse the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21, providing such guidance as it deems appropriate.

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