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**Web Annex 4:****Pathways for transforming agrifood systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all**

1. This is the fifth year that 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) have jointly produced *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)*. In addition to providing the first comprehensive assessment of the state of hunger and food insecurity for 2020 based on fresh data collected around the world in a year heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, a key development in SOFI 2021 is the identification of six pathways to follow towards agrifood systems transformation.
2. Several major drivers have put the world off track to ending world hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030, even prior to COVID-19. At present the pandemic and related containment measures have made it significantly more challenging to achieve this goal. Six transformation pathways are being proposed to specifically address the major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition: conflict, climate variability and extremes, and economic slowdowns and downturns.
3. These major drivers present formidable challenges to food security and nutrition as they have a trajectory of continuing to occur in the future and often in combination. The frequency and the intensity of climate extremes are expected to increase. Income inequality is also proven to have worsened and amplified the negative impact of these drivers.
4. If countries are to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms, new targeted and holistic solutions are needed to address and mitigate the negative effects of these major drivers. Countries will need an agrifood systems approach and portfolios of policies and investments that address the specific challenges related to these major drivers.
5. Each of these major drivers is unique, but they interact and create multiple, compounding impacts in different components of agrifood systems. The complexity of these relations and its effects must be addressed to effectively transform these systems. Building resilience to conflict, climate extremes and economic slowdowns and downturns, as well as tackling poverty and inequalities and creating the right incentives to deliver affordable healthy diets, must be a key aspect in the transformation of agrifood systems that will put the world on track towards ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms.
6. Such transformation will require moving beyond sectoral, compartmentalized policies, into a new approach which recognizes the relationships and complementarities among policies – building a cross-sectoral portfolio of policies, investments and legislation that can comprehensively address the key drivers that are acting through agrifood systems to the detriment of food security and nutrition.
7. The first step countries should take towards building a portfolio of policies, investments and legislation is to undertake a country-specific situation analysis and assessment to establish what are the key drivers negatively affecting their food security and nutrition. This will determine which of the following six transformative pathways countries would need to follow:
  - a) Integrating humanitarian, development and peacebuilding policies in conflict-affected areas, consisting of policies, investments and legislation oriented to face conflict as a main driver of the food security and nutrition situation in the country.
  - b) Scaling up climate resilience across agrifood systems, paying special attention to policy areas focused on building resilience to climate extremes and variability.

- c) Strengthening resilience of the most vulnerable to economic adversity, which includes policies oriented to face the negative effects of economic slowdowns and downturns on food security and nutrition.
- d) Intervening along food supply chains to lower the cost of nutritious foods, through policies inside the agrifood system that make nutritious foods part of a healthy diet less costly.
- e) Tackling poverty and structural inequalities, ensuring interventions are pro-poor and inclusive, such that other policies can contribute more to improving food security and nutrition.
- f) Strengthening food environments and changing consumer behaviour to promote healthy dietary patterns with positive impacts on human health and the environment.

8. Most countries are affected by multiple drivers with compounding impacts throughout agrifood systems, and even beyond, affecting other systems (health, environment or social protection systems) with negative consequences for food security and nutrition. At the same time, other systems can also be supportive of agrifood systems transformation. Therefore, after developing their context-specific analysis and determining which pathways are to be followed, it will be particularly important that countries consider a multi-stakeholder consultation process to build coherence among the different elements of the portfolios. This is a key principle for developing a cross-sectoral response to such a complex problem as transforming agrifood systems.

9. FAO, together with its SOFI partners, particularly the other Rome-based Agencies (IFAD and WFP), can play an important role in supporting countries to navigate the transformative pathways and develop portfolios of policies, investments and legislation that will build resilience to the major drivers. The combined technical expertise and knowledge in agrifood systems and food and agricultural policies will be critical in supporting countries to undertake an assessment of the drivers and in building a portfolio of targeted and coherent policies and programmes. As UN agencies working with governments, civil society, the private sector and other development partners, they provide a neutral platform that can help foster country political commitment and accountability, while improving capacities and mobilizing resources at all levels toward these efforts.