



FAO's Strategic Objective 1: Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition



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What we want to achieve

Over the past two decades, leaders worldwide have made various pledges to reduce hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. At the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in 2014, world leaders renewed their commitment to establish and implement national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and transforming food systems to make nutritious diets available to all.

Many countries have made good progress towards their commitments and are on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal hunger targets. Nevertheless, much remains to be done. With the MDGs coming to an end, 805 million people still suffer from chronic hunger, 161 million children under five remain chronically malnourished and over 2 billion people are affected by micronutrient deficiencies. It is time that the global community takes more decisive actions to address the structural causes of hunger and malnutrition in addition to addressing immediate needs. Strengthening the commitment of all stakeholders for a food-secure world and supporting them in turning commitment to action is the essence of the FAO strategy through its Strategic Objective 1 (SO1).

It is against this need for a strategic approach that FAO's new strategy for a world without hunger supports the creation of an **enabling environment** that promotes the right conditions for intensified, more focused and collaborative action by state and non-state actors from different sectors towards addressing hunger and malnutrition. The focus is on action along four main dimensions:

1. **Policies, programmes and legal frameworks:** policies and programmes with stronger focus on hunger and malnutrition supported by appropriate legislation.
2. **Human and financial resources:** greater commitment and allocation of human and financial resources to support the implementation of policies/strategies, programmes and legislation focusing on hunger and malnutrition.
3. **Governance, coordination mechanisms and partnerships:** stronger and more inclusive coordination across sectors and stakeholders and greater synergies among existing stakeholder policies and programmes.
4. **Evidence-based decision-making:** better informed decision-making for food security and nutrition through food security information systems, enhanced tracking and mapping of actions and improved impact assessment.



FAO striving for country-level results

FAO is paying particular attention to ensure that its work creates increased coherence and impact where it matters most, namely at country level. In doing so it uses the results of its work at global and regional levels as a framework and lever for increased political commitment and intensified action at country level. At global and regional levels, the emphasis is on advocacy and fostering inclusive policy dialogue to achieve high-level political commitment, promote a solid and common understanding of issues, facilitate consensus on policy and institutional options, develop global and regional policy frameworks, and share of tools and good practices.

At national level, FAO provides direct support to decision-makers in government and development partners by raising awareness about food security and nutrition issues, creating greater understanding of causes and options for action, developing skills, competencies and know-how, and fostering inclusive and evidence-based dialogue and collaborative action across the broad spectrum of stakeholders.



Moving forward through key areas of work

Better policies, increased investment, improved governance and evidence-based decision-making are key ingredients for hunger eradication. Tackling these areas simultaneously creates the conditions for effective work against food insecurity and malnutrition. To enhance greater impact at country level, FAO delivers its work through **Regional Initiatives** and **Major Areas of Work** that build on commitments made by countries by adding value to national policy processes and identifying concrete windows of opportunity where FAO can help strengthen the enabling environment for food security and nutrition.

FAO's Major Areas of Work build on FAO's unique capacity to facilitate inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms, convene policy-setting meetings and work as an 'honest broker' within a number of technical sectors relevant to food security and nutrition, and include:

- support to the Committee on World Food Security as the most pertinent global platform;
- strengthening information systems to facilitate evidence-based decision-making;
- supporting results-based planning and monitoring;
- mainstreaming food security and nutrition objectives and considerations in policies, programmes and investment plans; and
- promoting implementation at country level of various Voluntary Guidelines, including on the *Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security, to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food*, and for *Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication*.

FAO leverages its presence in the regions by working, *inter-alia*, through the following three **Regional Initiatives** in partnership with regional organizations and platforms to raise political commitment for country-level action and to improve the capacities of governments and stakeholders to create a more enabling environment for food security and nutrition:

- **Africa's 2025 Zero Hunger Challenge**
- **Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative**
- **Asia and the Pacific's Zero Hunger Challenge**

More detail on these key areas of work can be found in a series of briefs separate to this note.

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MORE INFORMATION

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