

WORLD FOOD DAY 2018

World Food Day 2018 will mark the 73rd anniversary of the Organization's founding. One of the most celebrated days in the UN calendar, events organized by FAO country offices, governments, local authorities and other partners in over 130 countries across the world will call for increased action to achieve Zero Hunger.

The official World Food Day (WFD) ceremony on 16 October at FAO headquarters will be an opportunity for leaders and key global players in the drive to achieve Zero Hunger, to remind the world that **Zero Hunger is still possible** if we can come together and take account of lessons learned, best practices and all evidence available. The campaign will **raise the alarm over recently increased hunger figures** and call on countries and other stakeholders to get back on track.

Read more about WFD 2017 events [here](#).

THEME

Our Actions are our Future.

A #ZeroHunger world by 2030 is possible.

After a period of decline, world hunger is on the rise again. Today, over **815 million** people are suffering chronic undernourishment, according to the latest FAO report. **Conflict**, extreme weather events linked to **climate change**, **economic slowdown** and rapidly increasing **overweight and obesity levels** are reversing progress made in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Now is the time to get back on track. **The world can achieve Zero Hunger** if we join forces across nations, continents, sectors and professions, and act on evidence. 80 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas where people's lives depend on agriculture, fisheries or forestry. That's why Zero hunger calls for a transformation of rural economy.

Governments must create opportunities for greater private sector investments in agriculture, while boosting social protection programmes for the vulnerable and linking food producers with urban areas.



Smallholder farmers need to adopt new, sustainable agricultural methods to increase productivity and income. Ensuring the resilience of rural communities requires an approach that is mindful of the environment, that leverages the power of technological innovation and creates stable and rewarding employment opportunities. But employment and economic growth aren't enough, especially for those who endure conflict and suffering. Zero Hunger moves beyond conflict-resolution and economic growth, taking the long-term approach to **build peaceful, inclusive societies**.

While millions go hungry, **600 million people suffer from obesity**, and a further **1.3 billion are overweight**. We can change this.

Zero hunger means working together to ensure everyone, **everywhere, has access to the safe, healthy and nutritious food they need**. To achieve it, we must adopt a more sustainable lifestyle, work with others, share our knowledge and be willing to help change the world – for the better.

Zero Hunger is at the heart of FAO's mandate as we work to ensure that people have access to enough high-quality food to lead active and healthy lives. FAO collects, analyses and disseminates data that aids development and works with countries both to devise and implement policies that take into account the multifaceted elements of Zero Hunger.

THE CAMPAIGN

This year's action oriented campaign will explore the various challenges that are reversing recent progress in fighting hunger and malnutrition and call for action from various target audiences –countries and decision makers, the private sector, the general public, civil society and UN organizations.

We are asking family farmers, government representatives, goodwill ambassadors, social media influencers and the general public to talk about their actions to achieve Zero Hunger, be it through their work or simple actions in their daily lives.

A multimedia package in at least 7 languages will also include video news releases, features and stories based on a series of video and photo missions that present ways in which FAO is working with partners to achieve Zero Hunger across the world.



KEY MESSAGES

- i. Achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 is possible but countries need to redouble their efforts to get back on track.** After a period of decline, world hunger is on the rise again. According to the latest FAO report, over 815 million people suffered chronic undernourishment in 2016, up 38 million from 2015. At the same time, 1.9 billion people are overweight, 600 million of which are obese. The right policies need to be in place to take advantage of the recent global economic upturn. Countries need to get back on track, act on evidence, and tackle the root causes of hunger and malnutrition to ensure healthy, balanced and nutritious diets for all. They need to target rural populations, promote pro-poor investment and growth and address rising overweight and obesity levels by devising national strategies that promote synergies between nutrition and food security, rural development, social protection, sustainable agriculture, climate change, biodiversity, health and education.
- ii. We need to work in partnership to achieve Zero Hunger.** Countries need to enhance governance and coordination mechanisms, to facilitate dialogue and create incentives for different sectors and stakeholders to work together. All actors – including political leaders, civil society, UN organizations, the private sector, farmers' cooperatives, academia etc. – must partner and share knowledge to support countries as they implement and monitor the SDGs.
- iii. We need to increase investments to achieve Zero Hunger but this is viable and affordable, and makes business sense.** The estimated impact of all forms of malnutrition on the global economy could be as high as USD 3.5 trillion per year. Achieving Zero Hunger will require a mix of public and private investments, and risk-informed policies and interventions to ensure that the poor and most vulnerable benefit from the growth and employment opportunities generated.
- iv. Zero Hunger is key to achieving the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.** Many SDGs such as quality education and good health for all cannot be achieved without first eliminating hunger. Food and agriculture also lie at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda from ending poverty, hunger and malnutrition to sustaining our natural resources and responding to climate change.





v. **FAO** is supporting the global effort to achieve Zero Hunger both at international, regional and national levels by providing decision-makers with solid and relevant evidence, including statistics and monitoring data; advising on the formulation, implementation and promotion of international treaties and legal frameworks; supporting national agriculture and food policies, strategies and legislation; advocating for support from other sectors; and assisting in monitoring progress against SDG indicators/targets.

vi. **Everyone has a role to play in achieving Zero Hunger.** Governments have an important role to play but they can't do it alone. Over time people have become desensitized and disconnected to the fact that millions of people are hungry. People need to adopt a new mindset by the using the Earth's resources more wisely, following nutritious diets, and also changing day-to-day actions with the aim of reducing waste and taking on a more sustainable lifestyle. With a #ZeroHunger way of living comes a right and responsibility to treat food with respect. It also means having respect for the people that give us our food, the farmers, and the resources that went into producing it. Vulnerable rural populations need to empower themselves by uniting and forming local cooperatives to realise their right to adequate food and decent employment, and share knowledge about sustainable agriculture.



KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- The world produces **enough food to feed everyone**, yet, **about 815 million people suffer from hunger**. That is one in nine people. 60% of them are women.
- About **80% of the world's extreme poor live in rural areas**. Most of them depend on agriculture.
- **Hunger kills more people** every year than **malaria, tuberculosis and aids combined**.
- Around **45% of infant deaths** are related to **malnutrition**. **Stunting** still **affects 155 million children under the age of five years**, but at the same time, **childhood overweight is on the rise** in all regions.
- **1.9 billion people** – more than a quarter of the world's population – are **overweight**. **600 million** of these are **obese and adult obesity is rising everywhere at an accelerated pace**.
- **3.4 million people die** each year due to overweight and obesity. In many countries **more people die from obesity than from homicides**.
- The **cost of malnutrition** to the global economy is the equivalent of **USD 3.5 trillion a year**.
- **FAO estimates that agricultural production must rise by about 60% by 2050** in order to **feed a larger and generally richer population**. **Conflict, extreme weather events** linked to **climate change** and **economic slowdown** are **putting this objective at risk**.
- A vast majority of the world's hungry - **489 million** – and **75 percent of stunted children under age five, live in countries affected by conflict**.
- **Climate change** is also exacerbating hunger. For example, **in developing countries**, up to **83% of the overall economic impact of drought, which climate change is expected to intensify, falls on agriculture**.
- **One third of the food produced worldwide is lost or wasted**. The global costs of food wastage are approximately **USD 2.6 trillion per year**, including USD 700 billion of **environmental costs** & USD 900 billion of **social costs**.

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Working for  #ZeroHunger

