



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Let us take a look at ...



FAO Africa

1. BACKGROUND



As a specialized agency of the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is leading international efforts to defeat hunger through the Organization's technical capacity, global reach, monitoring expertise, and rich experience building partnerships and shaping policy.

Under FAO's mandate of building a world without hunger, five Strategic Objectives Programmes (SPs) are in place to globally guide FAO activities.





The 29th Session of the FAO Council in 1958 established the **FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) in Accra, Ghana** to mobilize FAO's efforts to win the battle against hunger, malnutrition, and rural poverty in the region.

The **regional office** acts as a specialized advisory body to the member governments, provides technical assistance, and helps build regional capacity for policy formulation, agricultural development planning, and knowledge management. Furthermore, by bringing 46 countries together, RAF seeks to increase support through developing partnerships and cooperation with regional technical and financial organizations – enhancing resource mobilization to achieve #ZeroHunger in Africa. Moreover, FAO Africa strengthens cooperation between countries in the areas of development policies and programmes, technical and economic cooperation, as well as the use of regional and national institutions; provides assistance for the establishment of regional information exchange networks; and bolstering technical cooperation.

In close collaboration with FAO country offices and strategic public and private sector partners, FAO ultimately aims to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, eliminate poverty, drive universal economic and social progress forward, and manage and utilize natural resources sustainably.



 FAO Regional Office for Africa

 Sub-regional offices

 FAO Member Countries in Africa

RAF ensures effective collaboration with strategic partners and efficient implementation of FAO's mandate by overseeing:

4 **sub-regional offices** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Dakar, Senegal; Libreville, Gabon; and Harare, Zimbabwe, **and**

47 **country offices** throughout the African continent.



2. REGIONAL INITIATIVES



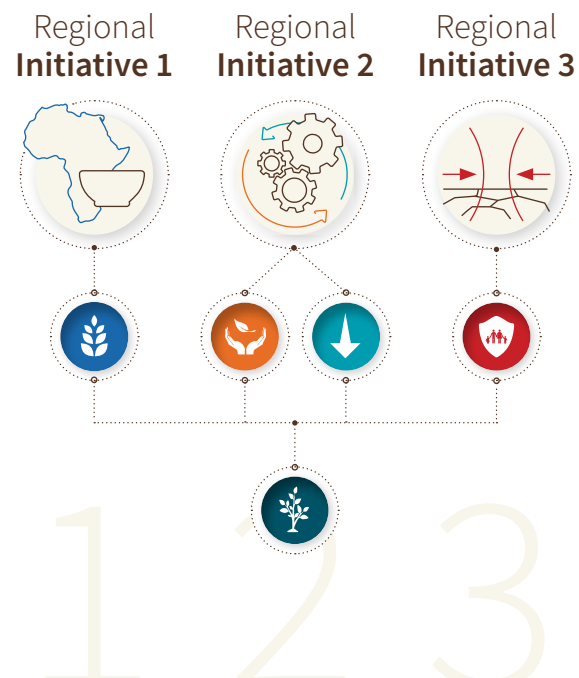
Embracing the socio-economic, agricultural, and cultural diversity of the African region, FAO has established three Regional Initiatives (RI), unique to the African region, to ensure effective delivery and demonstrate impact of FAO's work on the key regional priorities, while responding to FAO's Strategic Objectives.

The **Three Regional Initiatives** call to:

- Accelerate action by countries in the fight against hunger (Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025)
- Promote inclusive, sustainable, innovative production and post-production practices (Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development in Africa), and
- Strengthen resilience among vulnerable farming and pastoral communities (Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands).

The three Regional Initiatives were developed based on an in-depth cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary review of regional issues and trends, as well as alignment with regional commitments, such as the African Union's Malabo Declaration adopted in 2014, which includes committing to ending hunger by 2025, pursuing inclusive agricultural transformation agenda to reduce poverty, and enhancing resilience of livelihoods and production systems.

The three Regional Initiatives are also linked with FAO's Global Strategic Objective Programmes, each corresponding to different objectives. Strategic Objective Programme 3, which aims to reduce rural poverty, cross cuts all the Regional Initiatives. The graph below presents how the Regional Initiatives and Strategic Objective Programmes co-relate to each other.





The Regional Initiative on ‘Africa’s Commitment to End Hunger by 2025’ is anchored in the African Union’s Malabo Declaration on “Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods” adopted in 2014. It aims to translate political commitments into concrete actions at country and regional levels, while responding to the UN Secretary General’s Zero Hunger Challenge.

Within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the initiative supports countries to engage in multi-sectoral planning, coordinated implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The initiative adds value to ongoing works by mobilizing political commitment for a sharper programmatic and investment focus on food security and nutrition, facilitating stronger partnerships and inter-sectoral coordination, and strengthening governance and accountability mechanisms needed to achieve tangible impact.

Regional Initiative 1: Africa’s Commitment to end hunger by 2025



Among 821 million undernourished people in the world, 257 million are located in Africa, representing 20 percent of the population. Despite efforts to decrease the number of undernourished population, the region is not yet on track to meet the **second Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger**.



Working for  #ZeroHunger

How FAO changed people's lives



©FAO/Sven G. Simonsen

Eunice is now producing more crops and consuming a balanced diet thanks to FAO's Increasing Smallholder Productivity and Profitability (ISPP) project. She is also sharing her success story with her community in Kitui County in Eastern Kenya as a Zero Hunger advocate.



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Calista has become the model farmer of her village in Muzenge, Zimbabwe after receiving FAO training from the Zimbabwe Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP). She is sharing new, but practical, agricultural skills that has increased her maize yields by 2.5 times.



©FAO/Serge Ramazani

Georgette's children are no longer malnourished after her participation in nutrition and farming training from FAO in Democratic Republic of the Congo. She learned how to cook nutritious recipes made from local ingredients, creating a healthy diet for her children.

How FAO supported the legal and strategic frame for change

- Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy; the Sustainable School Food and Nutrition Strategy (2015-2025)
- National and Regional Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans (NAIPs/RAIPs)
- Africa Renewed Initiative for Stunting Elimination (ARISE)
- AU Chairperson Initiative for nutrition in drought and conflict countries
- Pan-African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition
- SDG-Mainstreaming and Accelerating Policy Support (MAPS).

Way forward

The RI **will emphasize** the mainstreaming of Zero Hunger in FAO's work at country and regional levels; promoting a food systems approach for better nutrition; strengthening policy support towards creating a conducive policy and institutional environment; strengthening public sector implementation capacity and stimulating public and private sector investment in sustainable food and agriculture; supporting accountability mechanisms in the context of SDGs (Voluntary National Reviews) and Malabo Declaration (Biennial Reviews).

 **Keywords**
 #ZeroHunger #FoodSecurity #NutritionSecurity
 #Mutual accountability



Regional Initiative 2: Sustainable production intensification and value chain development in Africa



In Sub-Saharan Africa, agricultural production and productivity continue to be lower than the global average; and with the rapidly growing population there is an urgent need to, and enormous potential for, closing the production gap.

Regional Office for Africa's Regional Initiative 2 takes a food systems approach with two integrated components, namely sustainable production intensification and inclusive value chain development, with special consideration of gender, youth, governance, and climate change.

Regional Initiative 2 supports agricultural transformation in Africa and aims to make nutritious food accessible to everyone, and at the same time, manage natural resources to preserve biodiversity and ecosystem services. Through promoting climate smart agriculture, technology transfer, mechanization, and greater access to markets and trade, RI2 is supporting countries to achieve their nationally determined commitments on climate change, diversify agriculture, and increase competitiveness using an inclusive value chain approach.

From a socio-geographic context, migration of large numbers of Africans are moving to urban centers creating enhanced rural to urban value chains and a large demand for processed food. Agricultural transformation supported by RI2 also contributes to poverty reduction, in and around urban centers, creating economic and livelihood opportunities for youth and women and allowing farmers, pastoralists, fisher-folks, and foresters to benefit financially from this food systems transformation. To achieve inclusive and sustainable transformation in food and agriculture, FAO is focusing on developing capacity to generate youth employment and to engage youth as agro-entrepreneurs of Africa, making employment in the agriculture sector both desirable and profitable.

How FAO changed people's lives



@FAO/Luis Tato

#Bluefashion: Rather than letting fish skin go to waste, fishers near Lake Turkana, Kenya started to reutilize the skin of Nile perch and turned it into high fashion material.



@FAO/Teopista Mutesi

Christine from Rubavu District of Rwanda has started to reap much more than her family could consume following FAO's Farmer Field and Life School (FFLS) training. Now Christine's children are back to school after being able to afford school materials and furthermore, she will start commercial farming from next season.



@FAO/Arete/WillBaxter

Hawa, who lives in a camp for displaced people in Bassaso, Somalia, now provides sun-dried fish to her family and community after learning how to process fish through FAO trainings. Sun-dried fish are a reliable source of food for longer term as these fish can last up to six months without requiring storing in a fridge.


How FAO supported the legal and strategic frame for change

- Mainstreaming of Sustainable Food and Agriculture in the Implementation of the SDGs in the context of Malabo Declaration
- Formulation, implementation and reporting of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) within the Paris Agreement with partners
- Healthy and safe production systems through consumable and capital agricultural inputs and innovative practices
- Natural resource sensitive, climate smart agro-ecological practices to improve agricultural production and food and nutrition security
- Ecosystem management through landscape restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity to mitigate risks and increase resilience across agricultural and environmental systems

- Global knowledge products on sustainable agriculture, NDC implementation and climate change
- Supporting of Africa level commissions in fisheries, forestry, wildlife, and climate change

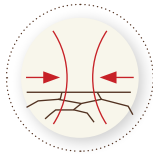
Way forward

The Regional Initiative 2 **will focus** on strengthening sustainable food and agriculture systems, promotion of innovative and climate smart practices, post-harvest management and inclusive value-chain development through promoting public-private partnerships and supporting judicious management and responsible utilization of natural resources. The Initiative will also support countries in the integration of SDGs and climate actions, as well as themes of decent youth employment and migration in their national policies and development plans.

 **Keywords**
 #SustainableValueChain #NaturalResourceManagement
 #YouthRuralDevelopment #YouthEmployment



Regional Initiative 3: Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands



Africa faces increasingly severe and frequent human-induced and natural shocks to which rural people often pay the heaviest toll. They are particularly affected by slow and sudden onset climate related disasters, animal and plant pests and disease epidemics, as well as armed conflicts and socio-economic shocks and turmoil. These threats, together with structural weaknesses and chronic poverty, further jeopardize their livelihoods and hamper the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and of the African Union Agenda 2063 aspirations.

The **Regional Initiative 3** aims to address both root causes and consequences of these shocks and crises so as to reduce their occurrence, magnitude and negative impacts, especially on the most vulnerable, in Africa's drylands.

It assists stakeholders at all levels, from households to the African Institutions in all areas of disaster risk management and resilience, including prevention, preparedness, adaptation, mitigation, response and recovery. Stakeholders are supported to develop capacities, generate and have access to relevant information, analysis, good practices, partnerships and dialogue, and implement interventions.

Regional Initiative 3 pays particular attention to the increasingly fast structural changes arising from globalization, climate change, demographic growth, amongst others factors, in order to tackle emerging threats at source and to promote and scale-up innovations and good practices tailored to achieve the goal of leaving no one behind.

Pastoralism and agro-pastoralism, regeneration of agro-ecosystems and water management, nutrition sensitive agriculture, plant and animal pests and diseases, gender issues, youth employment, conflict prevention, community empowerment, are some of thematic areas of work of the initiative.

Changes from the field



© FAO/Luca Sola

22 000 at-risk people in Malawi are better off in safeguarding crop production and livestock from recurring **El Niño** events thanks to the early maturing and drought-tolerant crop seeds, livestock vaccinations, and better access to water resources for agricultural use.



© FAO

Zaraforomeny from Madagascar is better equipped to cope with recurrent droughts thanks to FAO's Early Warning, Early Action program. Zaraforomeny and her community can now start the agricultural season on time and use their new irrigation equipment to be less reliant on rain.



© FAO/Benedicte Kurzen/NOOR for FAO

In response to the lower and irregular rainfall, **Guile** a Senegalese farmer, can have stable access to clean water all year long for drinking and farming as a result of FAO's "1 million cisterns for the Sahel" programme.

How FAO supported the legal and strategic frame for change

- Resilience strategies for countries and regional bodies
- Documentation and publication of IGAD regional good practices booklet further to the implementation of the six pillars of IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability initiative (IDDRSI)
- Capacity building support to the AUC on resilience measurement and analysis for the monitoring of the Malabo Declaration
- Livestock feed management strategies in the drylands
- Promotion of the FAO signature resilience approach *Caisses de résilience*

- Facilitated exchanges and cross-fertilization between regions in particular on knowledge management and animal feeding action plan

Way forward

The Initiative on Building Resilience on Africa's drylands **will support** efforts in addressing vulnerability to risks, while linking development and humanitarian approaches in resilience building to contribute towards sustainable peace, in the context of protracted crises/ conflicts, and for effective control and management of transboundary animal and plant diseases and pests with high impact food chain threats.

 **Keywords** #Resilience #Emergencies #ClimateChange #AnimalDisease #PlantDisease #Pest

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Working for  #ZeroHunger



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