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Update on FAO's collaboration with other United Nations system entities

Executive summary

The document provides an update on FAO's progress in strengthening coordination and partnerships with United Nations (UN) system entities over the reporting year 2023-2024. It highlights key achievements in institutionalizing UN partnerships, leveraging joint funding mechanisms, and integrating the agrifood systems approach into UN frameworks and mechanisms at global, regional and country levels. The report also outlines FAO's successful collaboration with UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams (UNCTs), emphasizing concrete efforts to transform agrifood systems to end poverty, ensure food security and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

While recognizing the significant progress made, the document also delves into existing system-wide challenges faced by UN entities, such as high transaction costs, capacity gaps, limited access to flexible funding and different operational modalities, which pose limitations to effective collaborations, especially at the country level. Building on the lessons learned and moving forward, FAO aims to further strengthen its UN partnerships, leveraging its convening power and technical leadership, to promote integrated approaches, sustainable investments, and enhance capacities within UNCTs for agrifood systems transformation. This coordinated effort will accelerate progress toward achieving the SDGs and address emerging global crises.

Suggested action by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council

The Joint Meeting and the Council are invited to review the update on FAO's collaboration with other UN system entities report and provide guidance, as deemed appropriate.

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I. Introduction

A. Purpose and scope

1. This document builds on the previously issued [CL 174/12](#), where FAO presented a comprehensive overview of its broad and expanding transformative partnerships with other United Nations (UN) system entities. It provides an update on the progress made over the previous twelve months across key global, regional and country-level mechanisms and modalities through which FAO collaborates with its UN system partners to end poverty, ensure food security for all and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
2. In response to Members' feedback and requests for further updates, the document outlines achievements in institutionalizing these partnerships, leveraging joint funding mechanisms and developing policy tools to integrate the agrifood systems approach into UN frameworks at the global, regional and country levels. Additionally, it details FAO's successful collaboration with UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs), which has strengthened leadership capacity and advanced the positioning and integration of the agrifood systems transformation at the heart of Member's national development agendas.
3. The first section of this document introduces this year's update, highlighting FAO's actions to strengthen and further institutionalize key UN partnerships. It also documents recent UN efforts to assess progress towards SDG 2 and examines how FAO and its UN development system (UNDS) partners are collectively responding to Members' demands to mainstream and leverage the transformative potential of agrifood systems to accelerate progress across other SDGs.
4. A summary of the progress made in the implementation of the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the foundational collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), signed last year, is provided in Section II.
5. Section III presents concrete evidence from country, regional and global mechanisms that demonstrate how FAO, in collaboration with its UN partners, has progressed in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the SDGs, within the scope of FAO's mandate. These examples emphasize the impacts of FAO's partnerships on the ground, demonstrating how coordinated efforts are driving progress in diverse contexts.
6. Further demonstrating FAO's commitment to thematic collaborations across agrifood systems, Section IV illustrates how these thematic UN collaborations not only align with and contribute to FAO's strategic organizational goals, but also advance broader systemic development objectives related to the SDGs.
7. To address the broader context and prepare for future challenges, the final section of this document provides a summary of the challenges FAO has encountered in its engagement with UN system partners. It also explores opportunities for enhancing and further strengthening FAO's collaborations and coordination with these partners, and identify priority areas of focus for the upcoming year, ensuring FAO's partnerships continue to evolve in alignment with Members' needs.

B. Overview

8. Building on the momentum of the 2023 SDG Summit, the UNDS adopted agrifood systems as a core element of its support to accelerate SDG progress by addressing challenges, such as food insecurity, malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, resource degradation, rural poverty and economic recession, through a multidimensional and multisectoral approach. This strategic pivot is grounded in a clearer conceptual framework and bolstered by advocacy from key stakeholders, including FAO, its RBA partners and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub ("the Hub").
9. Over the past year, in support of SDG acceleration efforts, the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) has prioritized the alignment of UNCT policy and programmatic frameworks with UN entities' expertise, leveraging interagency pooled funds and joint programmes tailored to national contexts.

10. FAO has expanded its partnerships across agrifood systems by establishing new strategic partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). These partnerships aim to align global trade policies with food security and SDGs, enhance employment and social protection in agrifood sectors, address socioeconomic impacts of crises and environmental challenges, and support vulnerable populations. Through specific, time-bound, country-focused and results-driven joint workplans, these partnerships leverage the comparative strengths of each organization, highlighting the collaborative spirit of FAO's strategic approach and yielding significant outcomes.

11. Furthermore, FAO's collaboration with other UN system entities led to the development of policy toolkits for UNCTs, facilitated national food systems assessments and influenced significant policy shifts towards agrifood systems transformation. These efforts supported the strengthening of agrifood systems, reduced vulnerability among marginalized communities and the implementation of the Paris Agreement through systems-level assessments of agrifood value chains.

12. During the FAO and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) Expert Group Meeting on SDG 2 progress, held in March 2024, participants emphasized slow advancement, worsened by global inequalities, conflicts, economic downturns and climate change and called for integrated, rights-based approaches, sustainable investments and stronger partnerships to address these issues and set a clear path for future actions.

II. Rome-based Agencies collaboration

13. The RBA MOU signed in 2023 has strengthened collaboration across six thematic areas: agrifood systems, nutrition, gender equality, resilience, youth and climate change. This framework has revitalized RBA partnerships, improved coordination and aligned operations with UNDS repositioning.¹

14. At the global level, the MOU enables a flexible, collective approach that influences key fora like the UN Security Council, the Group of Seven (G7), the Group of 20 (G20) and the Conference of the Parties (COPs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Regionally and nationally, joint initiatives, such as the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment,² benefited nearly 20 000 direct and 138 000 indirect beneficiaries in 2023. Projects like Kenya's home-grown school feeding programme reflect progress in South-South and Triangular Cooperation. An FAO survey indicated that over 100 Country Offices recognized the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) or the World Food Programme (WFP) as top partners, with 80 percent reporting strong collaboration in programme design, implementation and advocacy.

15. In the UNFCCC process, RBAs have contributed to climate finance goals and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), exemplified by projects like the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Food System Integrated Program and the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) initiative, which showcase innovative agricultural practices and greenhouse gas accounting. The Financial Flows to Food (3FS) tool, developed by IFAD in partnership with the Hub and other partners, tracks financial flows to food systems, ensuring alignment with national priorities and accountability. FAO and WFP have also co-developed an Anticipatory Action Strategy to better support at-risk communities, expanding their reach through platforms like the Anticipatory Action Task Force and Early Warnings for All.

16. Challenges in operationalizing the MOU remain, particularly in mobilizing resources at the country level to transform national agrifood systems. Access to flexible and predictable funding is a key obstacle, alongside reconciling differences in programming and operational modalities, especially with IFAD's role as an international financial institution. Nonetheless, a clearer vision for

¹ A more detailed update on the implementation of the UNDS repositioning checklist requirements will be provided in the next FAO's Interim Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review to be issued for the next FAO Conference in 2025.

² <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/446441f6-28c7-4223-af04-69a9aa293730/content>

collaboration is emerging, guiding future joint efforts. Further insights and detailed analysis of ongoing joint efforts and their impact into RBA collaboration in the 2024 will be provided in document *Update on Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies*³ and are available in [document PC 138/7](#) “*Follow-up report on the Joint evaluation of collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies*”, which was presented at the 138th Session of the Programme Committee.

III. Modalities of FAO-United Nations engagement

A. Global level

17. A 2023 survey of FAO’s UN system partners highlighted increased collaboration. Half of the 130 respondents recognized FAO’s strengths in technical expertise, knowledge sharing, advocacy and capacity building. FAO’s role in humanitarian country teams earned an average rating of 7 out of 10 for strategic coordination and resource mobilization, driven by its alignment with country needs and shared priorities.
18. Despite challenges like bureaucratic hurdles, differing approaches and limited resources, FAO’s resources, including FAOSTAT, AQUASTAT and flagship publications,⁴ were highly valued.
19. In 2024, FAO, alongside WFP and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), contributed to UN Security Council discussions on conflict-induced food insecurity. At the High-Level Political Forum, FAO co-hosted a side event showcasing agrifood systems transformation, with examples from Brazil, Egypt and Mexico. FAO and its UN partners contributed with technical notes on global food security to the G20 and G7. FAO designed, in close collaboration with WFP and UN OCHA, and presented to the G7 the “Financing for Shock-Driven Food Crises Facility”, which was included in the G7 Apulia Food Security Initiative and G7 Leaders’ Declaration.
20. The UNDS prioritized support to Members on the operationalization of six key transitions⁵ to accelerate SDG progress. FAO, alongside UNSDG partners, played a critical role in these transitions, supporting efforts to updating policy and regulatory frameworks, developing national project pipelines, expanding partnerships and scaling capacity-building efforts. FAO provided technical leadership in agrifood systems transformation, spearheading the High-Impact Initiative on Food Systems and the Food Systems Window of the Joint SDG Fund.
21. The 2024 Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) Partnership Forum featured an SDG Action Segment for Goal 2, co-organized by FAO in collaboration with the UN Major Groups for Science and Technology and for Children and Youth. The segment shared strategies to strengthen multistakeholder partnerships for agrifood systems transformation. Speakers from the scientific community, youth organizations and farmer groups discussed how partnerships can leverage science, intergenerational knowledge and producer cooperation to advance the implementation of interconnected SDGs.
22. As a key player in the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), FAO helped facilitate knowledge sharing on anticipatory action to better prepare for potential crises. It also played a critical role in advancing Target 21 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and took part in the UNFCCC discussions on loss and damage, contributing to the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative and supporting countries like Djibouti, Ghana, Mongolia and Zambia. Additionally, as Chair of the UN Coalition to Combat Sand and Dust Storms, FAO raised awareness about the impacts of sandstorms on health and food security.

³ The report will be made accessible here: <https://executiveboard.wfp.org/>

⁴ Such as *The State of Food and Agriculture* and *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*

⁵ UNSDG. 2023. Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to Deliver the SDGs. <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/Six%20Transitions%20English.pdf>

23. The Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) expanded in 2024, adding IFAD and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with its reports and events highlighting the links between food insecurity, climate change and conflict.

24. FAO also played a key role in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), promoting local actor involvement in humanitarian efforts and co-developing an IASC Guidance Note to integrate humanitarian, development and peace initiatives. FAO contributed to the IASC Climate Crisis Roadmap and supported the establishment of the System Wide Evaluation Office at the UN Secretariat, whose upcoming priorities include the alignment of country programmes with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and the mainstreaming of the six key transitions.

B. Regional level

25. In line with the revamped regional UN architecture, FAO is prioritizing stronger engagement with UN regional economic commissions, particularly in their new role as co-chairs of the Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCP). FAO is negotiating action-oriented partnership agreements with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the UN Economic Commission for Africa to provide harmonized support and maximize collective action on the ground.

26. FAO is also strengthening regional collaboration through strategic partnerships to address critical challenges. In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO, UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have developed a joint 2023-2025 action plan focused on advancing gender equality and empowering rural women. The plan includes advocacy to reduce gender disparities in access to resources like land, water and fisheries, alongside interagency programmes for improving rural access to care services, reproductive health and gender-based violence prevention. The initiative also emphasizes producing data on rural women's roles in agrifood systems to enhance their autonomy.

27. In parallel, FAO is advancing the One Health (OH) approach with WHO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Through the OH Joint Plan of Action, FAO has supported policy dialogues, strategy reviews and regional initiatives, including a One Health platform in the Near East and regional antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance guidelines for Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific. FAO's efforts in addressing zoonotic diseases and rabies in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific were complemented by outbreak response in Central America and risk assessments in Bhutan, Madagascar and the Republic of Korea. Despite these achievements, disparities remain across the OH approach, with varying implementation across regions.

Action Track 1: Enhancing One Health capacities to strengthen health systems	Action Track 2: Reducing the risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics	Action Track 3: Controlling and eliminating endemic zoonotic, neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases	Action Track 4: Strengthening the assessment, management and communication of food safety risks	Action Track 5: Curbing the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance	Action Track 6: Integrating the environment into One Health
All Regions	All Regions	RAF RAP RLC	REU	RLC RNE	RAP

Source: FAO

28. Additionally, FAO contributed to the UN Regional Comprehensive Prevention and Integration Strategy for the Horn of Africa, providing insights into food security trends. Through GNAFC, FAO supported regional consultations in West Africa, reviewing progress in countries like Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, and defining steps for operationalizing the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus. In July 2024, FAO co-hosted a workshop and ministerial meetings with Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the HDP Nexus Coalition in Kenya,

leading to an endorsed *communiqué*⁶ outlining collective commitments for advancing agrifood systems transformation in Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan.

29. FAO's engagement in regional processes remains active but faces challenges in providing timely support to UNCTs, due to limited resources. A UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) survey of UNCTs and FAO Representatives indicated moderate support from RCPs, highlighting the need for further improvement.

C. Country level

30. At the country level, FAO has strengthened its leadership within UNCTs, driving efforts to integrate agrifood systems into national frameworks and fostering coordinated approaches with UN entities. By 2024, 127 countries had developed national pathways for agrifood systems transformation, with Resident Coordinators (RCs) leading implementation, supported by FAO and its RBA partners.

31. FAO's partnerships with the RC system have significantly deepened, with RCs participating in the accountability mechanisms of FAO Representatives increasing from 55 percent to 70 percent over the past year. A 2023 UN DESA survey found that most FAO Representatives valued the RCs' leadership in advancing SDG-aligned changes in national policies (93 percent) and building the capacity of public institutions and civil society (79 percent). However, RCs' support for leveraging national opportunities for large-scale public and private investments has been less prominent (60 percent), requiring further improvement.

32. The adoption of the Funding Compact 2.0 is expected to enhance interagency pooled funds like the Joint SDG Fund, the Pandemic Fund, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and OCHA's Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs),⁷ which have been crucial for joint UN actions on food systems at the country level. In 2024, FAO's share of joint UN programmes increased from 5.9 percent to 6.4 percent, marking progress, but still below the 15 percent target set by the Funding Compact.

⁶ [IGAD. 2024. Joint Communiqué: Accelerating Food Systems Implementation in the IGAD Region](#)

⁷ <https://www.unocha.org/country-based-pooled-funds>

Country	Partners	Results
Ethiopia	GNAFC, IGAD, HDP Nexus Coalition, UNFSS Coordination Hub	Consultations with government and stakeholders, supporting operationalization of National Pathways for food systems transformation.
Timor-Leste	WFP, WHO, Joint SDG Fund	Reallocated USD 80M to "Cesta Básica" program to provide essential food items to households, boosted local agriculture, and completed the first national food systems assessment, advancing SDGs 2, 3, and 12.
Bangladesh	WFP	Enhanced food security through targeted urban programs, piloted the Open Market Sales mechanism, introduced digital solutions for women, improved public food distribution, and advanced SDGs 1, 2, and 5.
Ghana	WFP	Strengthened food security and nutrition monitoring in 120 districts, providing vital data for evidence-based policymaking and interventions.
Nepal	WFP, USAID	Assessed the impact of the global crisis, findings informed government actions and IMF analysis.
Morocco	UNICEF, UNIDO, GCF, GEF	Secured climate financing, focused on industry decarbonization, and assessed impacts of energy/food price hikes on food security.
Madagascar	UNRC	Worked closely with the RC on UNSDCF implementation, resource mobilization, and government engagement on locust invasions and food system transformation.
Somalia	UNRC	Collaborated with the RC to restructure an MPTF into the Somalia Joint Fund (SJF), with FAO leading climate resilience efforts and successfully securing funding for five joint proposals.

Source: FAO

33. As a key player in all 120 signed UNSDCFs, FAO is committed to mobilizing resources for agrifood systems transformation. Its new analytical support to common country analysis (CCA)/UNSDCF mechanism aims to expand technical support, integrating agrifood systems into UN country programming.

IV. Issue-based engagement

A. Climate and the environment

34. FAO remains an active participant in [the UN Environment Management Group](#), coordinating system-wide efforts on environmental sustainability and human settlements. In 2023, FAO co-chaired the adoption of [the UN System Common Approach Towards a Pollution-Free Planet](#), underscoring the UN's commitment to pollution prevention. FAO is also leading the development of a common statement on plastics for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution in 2024, which aims to establish a legally binding agreement on plastic pollution, including marine environments.

35. Alongside IFAD and WFP, FAO provides interim coordination for the UN Group on Environmental and Social Sustainability, with an annual meeting scheduled at FAO headquarters in November 2024. As part of [the Greening the Blue initiative](#), FAO shares best practices to enhance environmental sustainability across its facilities and operations. FAO also supports the implementation of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity, the Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment, and the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United

Nations System 2020–2030. Through these initiatives, FAO plays a key role in shaping global environmental policies, fostering collaboration, and integrating sustainability into agrifood systems.

36. FAO co-developed a resource manual with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat and the Society for Ecological Restoration to achieve Target 2 of the GBF. The manual will be launched at the COP16 Restoration Day, with initial workshops already underway in pilot countries.

37. FAO's Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA) partnership with UNDP, funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection, is a EUR 20 million initiative aimed at advancing climate solutions in agrifood systems under the Paris Agreement. Operating in 12 countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, with private sector engagement in 10 additional countries, SCALA draws on FAO's expertise in agrifood systems transformation and ecosystem restoration, combined with UNDP's strengths in governance and mobilizing climate finance.

38. SCALA has accelerated the implementation of the Paris Agreement by conducting systems-level assessments of agrifood value chains in 11 countries, providing data for evidence-based decisions. It has also supported countries in raising their ambitions for sustainable agrifood systems through updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0) and improved transparency and reporting in six countries under the UNFCCC's Enhanced Transparency Framework.

39. The tools, knowledge and capacity-building support provided by SCALA have proven effective across diverse contexts. However, the challenge for a program as ambitious as SCALA lies in focusing its efforts with limited resources. With additional funding, SCALA could support even more countries in achieving goals such as climate action, food security, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity preservation, and gender and social inclusion.

B. Trade

40. The new partnership framework with WTO underscores a shared commitment between the two Organizations in aligning global trade policies with sustainable development and food security goals, while addressing the challenges posed by climate change. In addition to existing areas of collaboration, such as the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and the market transparency mechanism of the G20, the new agreement will strengthen joint work around 17 areas of common interest, including support for the WTO's ongoing negotiations on agricultural reform, the implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies adopted at the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (including on projects funded through the Fisheries Funding Mechanism Trust Fund) and the commemoration of the annual World Cotton Day. Key objectives include bolstering support to the WTO Committee on Agriculture, enhancing collaboration on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and fostering safe trade through the Standards and Trade Development Facility. Additionally, the agreement outlines a plan for joint technical cooperation activities, particularly the development of joint publications addressing the nexus between food security, agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity, climate change, nutrition and trade.

C. Gender equality and women's empowerment

41. The UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN-SWAP), launched in 2012 and updated in 2018, serves as a comprehensive accountability framework, aimed at driving systemic and institutional change toward sustainable gender equality across the UN system. FAO is fully committed to this framework and has made significant progress, meeting or exceeding 14 out of 16 applicable performance indicators, including those that emphasize interagency collaboration. FAO actively participates in various interagency coordination mechanisms, such as the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the UN Network of Gender Focal Points, to advance gender equality and empower rural women. Through its Liaison Offices in Brussels, Geneva, New York and Washington, D.C., FAO integrates gender equality into advocacy efforts with key stakeholders, such as digital campaign to celebrate the Eighth International Day of

Women and Girls in Science, discussion on the *Status of Rural Women in Agrifood Systems* report, featuring high-level speakers from FAO, ILO and UN Women, and showcasing FAO's work on gender equality in the context of food security and nutrition during high-level events including during the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the Second and Third Committees of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). FAO also collaborates closely with RBAs, conducting peer reviews of UN-SWAP reporting to enhance accountability and share best practices. In anticipation of the UN-SWAP 3.0 and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+30) in 2025, FAO is actively contributing to the consultation process and the development of key outputs for the Beijing+30 commemoration, reaffirming its commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

D. Indigenous Peoples

42. FAO's work with Indigenous Peoples emphasizes Indigenous-led approaches to agrifood systems transformation, biodiversity conservation and climate action. Through initiatives like the Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration, FAO supports Indigenous-led processes based on their cosmogony, territorial management and knowledge systems to restore degraded lands and halt biodiversity loss. This effort contributes to the implementation of the GBF, working closely with the CBD Secretariat, the Indigenous Caucus and UNEP on Indigenous-led restoration as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

43. The Global-hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, hosted by FAO, unites indigenous and non-indigenous researchers to co-create knowledge that influences global policies and programmes, engaging organizations like UNFCCC and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). FAO also amplifies Indigenous voices, particularly youth, through its leadership in international fora, such as the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum, in collaboration with UN DESA and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This multifaceted approach not only recognizes indigenous knowledge systems, but also integrates them into global efforts to achieve the SDGs, promoting resilience and sustainability in ecosystems and communities.

E. Emergency and Resilience

44. In 2023, the Global Food Security Cluster, co-led by FAO and WFP, expanded its emergency and protracted food crisis responses across 29 countries, coordinating over 1 000 partners, most of which are national or local organizations. These efforts provided food, agricultural and livelihood support to 134 million people in 28 countries. By mid-2024, the cluster had reached 48 million people with food assistance and 17 million with agricultural and livelihood assistance, working towards a target of 112 million people across 30 operations, with a financial requirement of USD 14.9 billion.

45. FAO co-leads the HDP Nexus Coalition alongside WFP, the Group of Seven Plus (g7+) and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The g7+ supports countries affected by food crises and conflict, helping them implement national food systems transformation pathways while integrating peacebuilding into food security strategies.

46. FAO collaborates with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to support the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for Resilience and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework). It leads the development of over 60 UNDRR/International Science Council (ISC) Hazard Information Profiles, covering hazards such as biological, chemical and meteorological risks. FAO plays a key role in the G20 DRR Working Group, ensuring agrifood systems are integrated into global disaster risk strategies, and supports the monitoring of agricultural losses under the Sendai Framework. Additionally, FAO also contributed to the recently published "Words into Action A Guide to Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems".

47. Through its emergency joint programmes FAO is advancing its partnerships with other UN agencies, particularly in emergency settings. In Ukraine, FAO and WFP are jointly implementing programmes to restore agricultural livelihoods in mine-affected areas, focusing on land regeneration and revitalizing the agrifood sector. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, FAO, WFP and UNICEF

are collaborating to strengthen food security and nutrition data systems and promote integrated approaches to tackle malnutrition through nutrition-sensitive agriculture in conflict zones.

48. FAO partners with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to address forced displacement, co-developing a joint approach to anticipate the humanitarian impacts, with a comprehensive road map expected by 2025. FAO's partnership with UNHCR focuses on providing durable solutions for displaced populations. The Multistakeholder Pledge on agriculture, food systems and food security, launched at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, aims to enhance food security and social integration for refugees, particularly in East Africa, benefiting 660 000 people directly and 700 000 indirectly. Innovative projects, such as integrated insect farming for refugees and host communities in Uganda, are part of this effort, with FAO and UNHCR jointly mobilizing resources and their extended MOU fostering deeper cooperation on protection, climate change and long-term displacement solutions.

49. Despite challenges like limited funding and coordination difficulties, both agencies are committed to expanding joint efforts, especially in developing agricultural value chains and supporting vulnerable populations. FAO Country Offices advocate for leveraging UNHCR's protection capacities to strengthen joint programming for displaced communities.

F. Nutrition

50. UN-Nutrition is the United Nations interagency coordination mechanism for nutrition, funded by its five constituent members: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO. Since its establishment in 2020, UN-Nutrition has mobilized 15 UN entities with a mandate or interest in nutrition, harnessing the intersectoral nature of nutrition and the collective capabilities of its members to address malnutrition challenges. The UN-Nutrition secretariat supports the collective efforts, focusing on country support and promoting healthy diets in sustainable food systems.

51. Over the last year, UN-Nutrition has facilitated [Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping](#) exercises in six West African countries, including Sierra Leone, where the mapping identified 200 nutrition stakeholders and 30 interventions across six sectors, fostering collaboration and informing decision-making.⁸ These exercises highlight the importance of data in shaping effective nutrition interventions. UNCTs have also advanced coordination on nutrition, supporting government initiatives, such as the Philippines Plan of Action for Nutrition (2023-2028), School Feeding laws in El Salvador, Healthy Eating Promotion in Argentina, and the dissemination of a technical protocol on Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition in India. Countries like Liberia emphasize the participation of all stakeholders in multistakeholder platforms and sustained investment in multisectoral coordination and governance.

52. UN-Nutrition has developed an inventory of policies, approaches and best practices to deliver healthy diets from sustainable food systems, aligning methodologies and communication among its members. As the secretariat of the Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All, UN-Nutrition promotes Members' collaborative efforts, highlighted in sessions at the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment,⁹ the 51st Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 51)¹⁰ and COP28.¹¹ Furthermore, the UN-Nutrition Private Sector Task Team is working with the Hub to develop a Corporate Accountability Framework as part of the broader agenda on Food Systems Transformation.

⁸ For further information, visit:

<https://www.unnutrition.org/news/mapping-tool-provides-compass-road-scale-nutrition-sierra-leone>.

⁹ UN-Nutrition. 2023. Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS Coalition) at the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, 24-26 July 2023, Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.unnutrition.org/events/hdsfs-un-food-systems-summit-2-stocktaking-moment>

¹⁰ CFS 51 side event on [Maximizing transformative opportunities across the rural-urban continuum to deliver healthy diets from sustainable food systems](#)

¹¹ COP28 [Climate and Nutrition at COP28](#)

G. Health

53. The Quadripartite¹² achieved significant progress across three key areas - governance and advocacy, institutional development and knowledge exchange - under its One Health (OH) approach. Sustained political engagement with the G20, G7 and other intergovernmental platforms elevated OH within the global health agenda, resulting in USD 2 billion in commitments for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. At the Second Quadripartite Executive Annual Meeting in 2024, strategic priorities for 2024-2025 were renewed, focusing on global engagement, data integration for policy development, resource mobilization communications and enhanced coordination between regional offices and headquarters to support country-level implementation of the OH Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026).

54. FAO led the development of the One Health Knowledge Nexus, connecting over 1 500 members from 112 countries. This platform facilitates learning and collaboration through webinars, discussion boards and Communities of Practice, enhancing capacities across the One Health spectrum.

55. In 2024, the Quadripartite also made significant strides in global governance on AMR, playing a central role in shaping a political declaration for adoption at the UNGA79 High-Level Meeting on AMR. The Global Leaders Group on AMR, chaired by the Prime Minister of Barbados, continued to advocate for global action on AMR and the OH approach. The AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform grew to over 200 members, established 13 Action Groups and hosted its first Plenary Assembly with 180 delegations. The AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund supported 14 developing countries and four global programmes, advancing AMR interventions worldwide.

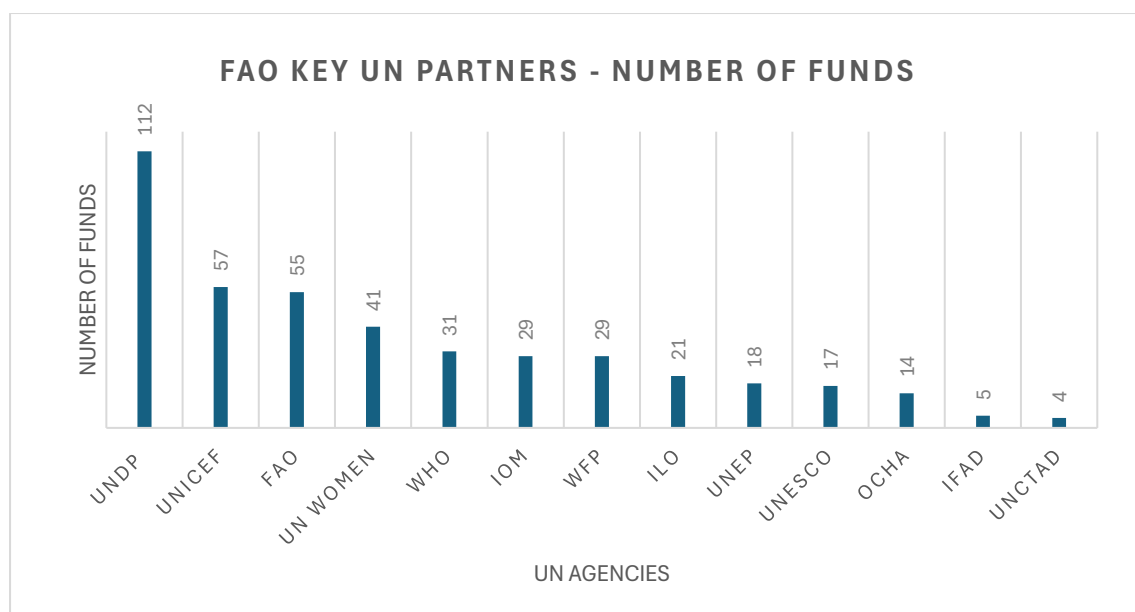
56. The Global Integrated Surveillance System on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use (GISSA) developed with FAO, WHO and WOAHA, improved AMR tracking, while the launch of the One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for Antimicrobial Resistance (OHLAT) helped countries evaluate AMR-related legislation. A joint guidance document¹³ on monitoring and evaluating AMR National Action Plans was also published, reinforcing global efforts to combat AMR.

H. Pooled funding

57. Pooled funds are essential in fostering partnerships and joint actions among UN entities, particularly at the country level. FAO has significantly increased its participation in interagency pooled funds, driven by its leadership in the agrifood systems agenda. This involvement has enhanced FAO's capacity to promote sustainable and resilient agrifood systems across diverse contexts. Since 2016, FAO has secured over USD 500 million from 100 pooled funds to support the SDGs, including USD 87 million through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) in 2023, reflecting a positive overall trend.

¹² In March 2022, FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOAHA signed a groundbreaking agreement to strengthen cooperation to sustainably balance and optimize the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment. Known as the Quadripartite, this partnership extended the former Tripartite (FAO, WHO and WOAHA) and marked a new era of One Health collaboration.

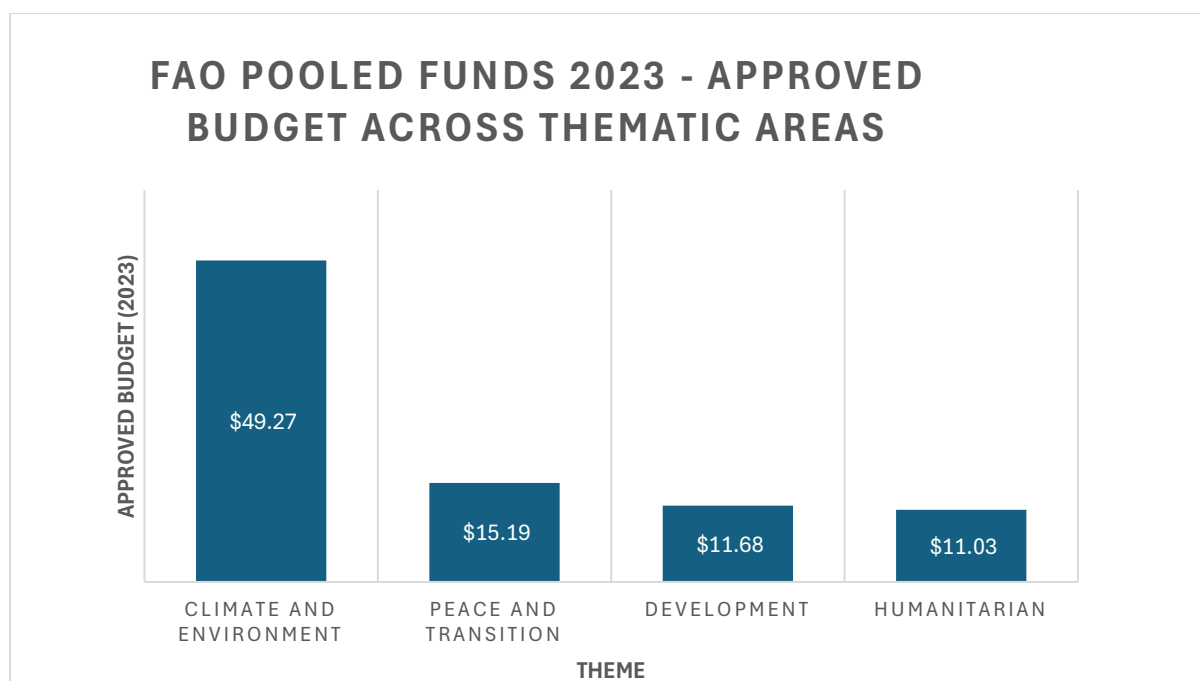
¹³ The Guidance is available [here](#).



Source: MPTF Gateway Data – extracted as of May 2024

58. In 2023, the largest share of FAO’s Voluntary Contribution was allocated to climate and environmental initiatives, with over USD 46 million mobilized through the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN REDD) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Trust Funds. Key projects include the Central America Dry Corridor, Small Island Developing States and the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative. Additionally, in 2024, FAO secured six new projects under the UN Peacebuilding Fund in countries like Burkina Faso, Gambia and Somalia, addressing climate security and resource-driven conflicts.

59. FAO has played a key role in developing Anticipatory Action frameworks under the CERF, helping over 530 000 people prepare for hazards. For instance, the July 2024 activation in Bangladesh provided USD 6.2 million to support 500 000 people ahead of severe flooding. In 2023, FAO secured USD 54.1 million through 35 CERF grants to assist 2.8 million food-insecure people across 25 countries. By September 2024, CERF had provided an additional USD 32.6 million for crises in countries such as Ethiopia and Mali, with FAO shaping a new USD 10 million climate funding envelope to promote climate-smart action. Despite the success of these interventions, only 8.9 percent of CERF funding was allocated to agricultural responses, compared to 17.3 percent for food assistance, highlighting the need for greater recognition of agriculture’s role in humanitarian responses.



Source: MPTF Office Gateway - Data extracted as of May 2024

60. FAO's work with Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) also demonstrates the Organization's commitment to supporting local responders, with USD 23 million allocated in 2023 for activities in Ukraine, South Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic. As one of 13 Implementing Entities for the Pandemic Fund, FAO strengthened animal health systems through a One Health approach, securing USD 60 million in 2023 for projects in 16 countries, and submitting 84 proposals in 2024.

61. The Joint SDG Fund has been instrumental in advancing FAO's leadership in agrifood systems, securing USD 15 million across thematic areas like emergency-development, SDG financing and SIDS resilience. In 2024, FAO's portfolio expanded further with the introduction of the agrifood systems, digital transformation and SDG localization windows. FAO leverages the Fund to engage national ministries and place agrifood systems at the centre of government agendas.

62. The Fund's blended financing model, where every USD 1 leverages USD 18, has allowed FAO to unlock further investments and partnerships with international financial institutions. In countries like Ethiopia, Nigeria and Somalia, FAO's focus on resilient agrifood systems and the HDP nexus continues to create new partnership opportunities.

63. Despite these successes, challenges remain, such as high transaction costs and technical capacity gaps that complicate joint programme development. FAO often provides direct support to meet eligibility requirements, making participation resource intensive. Nevertheless, the Joint SDG Fund remains vital in fostering inclusive partnerships and driving policy shifts toward sustainability. FAO's active engagement with pooled funding mechanisms such as CERF, PBF, CBPF and the Pandemic Fund underscores its commitment to mobilizing resources and promoting resilience in fragile contexts, ensuring timely and essential support for vulnerable populations during crises.

I. UN efficiency

64. FAO's engagement in the UN efficiency agenda has led to notable achievements, including significant cost savings and improved operational efficiency through Business Operations Strategies (BOS), Common Back Office (CBO), and Common Premises (CP) initiatives. Since 2019, FAO has achieved USD 22 million in cost efficiencies and avoidance, with USD 7 million realized in 2023 alone, by participating in 128 BOS strategies across various areas such as procurement, information technology and logistics. Key lessons learned include the critical role of interagency cooperation and the need for accurate cost estimation and validation processes, highlighted by the Business Operations Network's enhanced efforts in 2023. CBO pilot projects, notably in Brazil,

Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam, have demonstrated significant operational simplification, reducing the number of entities with which governments engage, thereby showcasing the broader impact beyond the UN system. FAO's involvement in CP initiatives, especially in non-capital locations, has further optimized resource use, improved security and strengthened a unified UN presence.

V. Challenges, opportunities and way forward

65. Despite significant progress, several system-wide challenges limit collaboration across the UN system. High transaction costs deter effective collaboration within UNCTs, complicating joint programming efforts. Uneven geographical distribution of expertise and capacity gaps hinder the application of system approaches necessary for agrifood systems transformation across UN system entities. Additionally, sectoral or agency-specific mandates often overshadow broader systemic goals like the SDGs, limiting the development of multisectoral solutions. Mobilizing joint resources at the country level is challenging due to limited access to flexible and predictable funding; furthermore, differences in programming and operational modalities among agencies further complicate joint efforts. There is also a need for greater recognition of the role of agriculture in humanitarian responses.

66. To overcome these challenges, FAO is leveraging various opportunities to enhance coordination and strengthen its UN partnerships. FAO aims to expand its participation in pooled funding mechanisms, working with its UN system partners to leverage the capacity development facility of the Joint SDG Fund to enhance UNCT's capacities in applying systems approaches in the design and implementation of joint programmes for sustainable and resilient agrifood systems. Moving forward, FAO's efforts in collaboration with other UN system entities will focus on integrated approaches, sustainable investments and stronger interagency and private sector partnerships to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs by 2030, while ensuring full alignment with national development priorities. FAO looks forward to hosting the support mechanism of the G20 Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, and working alongside its UN system partners, to enable large-scale country-owned and country-led implementation of evidence-based policy instruments.