



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION



After decades of steady advances in the global fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, we are now witnessing a reversal of the progress made: in the last two years, the number of undernourished people has increased to 821 million, taking us back to the figures registered a decade ago. Climate change, a surge in the number and complexity of conflicts in African and Near East nations, and economic slowdowns are the main reasons behind the increase.

Meanwhile, other forms of malnutrition are also on the rise: overweight and obesity affect almost four out of ten adults, leading to a significant surge in diet related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in both the developed and developing world. At the same time, 1.5 billion people are affected by one or more forms of micronutrient deficiency.

Right to Food as a constitutional principle. In many parts of the world, at both the national and regional level, politically neutral parliamentary fronts and alliances against hunger have helped pass legislation specifically aimed at eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, by supporting the design and the implementation of policies and programmes on family farming, public food procurement or school feeding.

Working together towards Zero Hunger

In order to effectively address the complex causes and cross-sectoral nature of hunger and malnutrition, broad, multidisciplinary partnerships are needed. To this end, SP1 has fostered strategic partnerships with regional entities and economic commissions in various parts of the world.

In Latin America, together with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), SP1 supports the Hunger-Free Initiative through the formulation of CELAC's Food Security and Nutrition Plan. In Africa, a partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has helped to develop a regional strategy on fisheries and aquaculture in West African countries, while continued partnership with the African Union ensures nutrition considerations are at the heart of national agriculture investment plans.

In Europe, the EU and FAO have partnered through the FIRST Policy Assistance Facility to strengthen

ACHIEVEMENTS

Turning political commitment into action

In today's world, eradicating hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition calls not only for reduced rural poverty and improved resilience of the most vulnerable people, but also for efficient food systems which are able to deliver sufficient and nutritious food for everyone. However, to make this happen, strong political commitment at global, regional and especially national levels is necessary.

FAO's Strategic Programme 1 (SP1) is aimed at translating such political commitment into real impact, ensuring that policy actions at all levels are targeted at achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 ending hunger, achieving food

security and improved nutrition, while promoting sustainable agriculture.

SP1 works with governments to identify their priorities and needs and provide the needed evidence base and analysis for decisions. Drawing on FAO's expertise and experiences across its network of member states, the Programme is able to support decision-makers in transforming legal, policy and institutional frameworks while making them more conducive to food security and nutrition. Thanks to the Programme's support, 35 countries between 2014 and 2018 have stated their commitment to achieving SDG2 by introducing bills aimed at improving food security and nutrition. Of these, several countries, such as Costa Rica, Cabo Verde, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nepal, Malawi, Mozambique, Paraguay and, have integrated the

the policy environment and delivery at a country level. The Programme acts as a broker between those who pursue change (governments), those who are willing to support those efforts with investments (in this case, the European Union) and those who can provide their expertise and technical assistance (FAO).

The policy assistance services provided by FIRST create an enabling environment for investments on food security and nutrition to achieve real impact. In Timor-Leste, the facility has helped to strengthen the participatory and multi-sectoral council that governs all domains related to Food Security and Nutrition. In Myanmar, the facility has helped the Government to make the link between land tenure and nutrition sensitive agriculture. Several legal changes now allow and support crop diversification and encourage farmers and others to invest in different activities, from fruits and vegetables to aquaculture.

Linking policies to investments

SP1 also provides support to tie policies and programmes to investments and monitor budget allocation for a stronger focus on achieving SDG2. Countries like the Niger have developed revised agricultural investment plans aligned with the budgeting of the different ministries involved in FSN, while others like Honduras have put mechanisms in place to make sure that the Dry Corridor Alliance multi-donor basket is oriented at addressing hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. On top of that, over 15 countries (from Burkina Faso to Bangladesh and from Cote d'Ivoire to Kyrgyzstan) have received support to develop investment plans for their sectoral strategies integrating issues of extreme poverty, social protection and nutrition.



MUMBAI

Pulses samples in a market in New Mumbai.
©FAO/Atul Loke

Informing local policies with international standards and principles

Parliamentary fronts and alliances against hunger and similar legislative initiatives are key to encouraging progress on the global recognition of the right to adequate food and nutrition and in strengthening legal and policy frameworks which ensure the realization of such right at global,

regional and national levels. SP1 supports countries in the uptake of global normative frameworks for the formulation of country policies and programmes through Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger. In 2018, the First Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, hosted in Madrid, brought together around 200 parliamentarians from 80 countries to address common challenges in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

CHALLENGES

- In light of emerging global priorities and crises, from obesity to the surge of NCDs, from climate change to migration and from conflicts to natural disasters, global leaders and national decision-makers must remain steadfast in their efforts to achieve SDG2, in order to prevent further backtracking on the progress made over the past few decades.
- SP1 will work to ensure that ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms through sustainable agriculture and food systems remains central for countries as they fulfil the 2030 Agenda, while pushing for new partnerships, including with the private sector, to promote bigger investments in FSN-related sectors. The Programme will also continue to assist governments in strengthening policy environments so that interventions are impactful, and will try to ensure that all actors involved in the food system, from farmers to consumers, are included in national, regional and global dialogues on food security and nutrition. This will help to ensure that issues of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, including issues of micronutrient deficiencies, obesity as well as diet-related NCDs are comprehensively discussed and addressed.