



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

The FIRST Programme

In the United Republic of Tanzania



Today, despite the efforts against hunger, the world still hosts over 820 million undernourished people. On top of this, some of the food systems transformations that contributed to reducing undernourishment have taken a hefty toll on the planet and on human health and nutrition. Besides natural resources depletion, biodiversity loss and climate change, we are witnessing a surge in obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases worldwide.

All these challenges share a common ground: agriculture. Therefore, it is essential to refocus the way we produce, process, transform and distribute food — and that we strengthen our focus on agriculture — in order to make it sustainable, so that it helps us to effectively address all the above issues.

The Food security and nutrition impact, resilience, sustainability and transformation (FIRST) programme is a strategic partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that has been working hand-in-hand with governments since 2015.

Through its network of policy officers embedded in the relevant ministries, FIRST aims at ensuring that policies set the right conditions for investments in agriculture and food systems to have a real impact on reducing hunger and all forms of malnutrition while contributing to solve other issues.

While new challenges emerge and priorities shift, it is clearer than ever before that governments cannot bear all the responsibility for the profound transformations that are needed in the ways we produce, process, distribute, access and consume our food. Thus, it is crucial to create an enabling environment that allows for the private sector (from smallholder farmers to big corporations) to push for sustainable agriculture and food system transformations.

FIRST supports the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania by:

- **ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES** related to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.
- **SUPPORTING CAPACITIES THROUGH POLICY ASSISTANCE**
- **PROMOTING INCLUSIVE POLICY DIALOGUE**
- **ENHANCING LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE IMPACT**

FIRST is accompanying the Ministry of Agriculture in strengthening the contribution that agriculture makes to improving nutrition by supporting:

- the development of an action plan for nutrition sensitive agriculture
- the reinforcement of capacities to monitor and evaluate agriculture's contribution to improved nutrition
- the strengthening of capacities to coordinate the implementation of nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities
- the assessment of the food security and nutrition policies' effectiveness

A thorough analysis on the effectiveness of food security and nutrition policies

Through its network of policy officers, the FIRST Programme continuously assesses the effectiveness of existing policies, plans and programmes related to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. The goal is to identify the main bottlenecks that prevent efforts from achieving impact and obtaining evidence to inform policy design.

In the last year, FIRST has carried out an ambitious and comprehensive Policy Effectiveness Analysis of the Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture (FSNSA) situation in 27 countries, one territory and a sub-regional economic organization, including the United Republic of Tanzania.

The aim of this stocktaking exercise was to build consensus around a set of top priorities for immediate policy action and financial commitment based in an evidence-based consultative process.

The report – a true “**diagnostic**” of the situation throughout the United Republic of Tanzania – maps the existing policies and programmes; assesses their effectiveness and the existing capacities to implement them; lists the emerging issues; reviews the funding of such interventions; analyses the relevant political economy factors and evaluates the credibility and feasibility of the policies objectives and identifies priority policy domains for action.

The methodology included: a desk review of global evidence and recent national data, research and analysis relevant to FSNSA; a policy review of the main FSNSA policy documents, relevant sectoral policies and programmes; an assessment of key informants’ perceptions of their sector/organizational capacities based on in-depth interviews; and consultations and workshops with multiple stakeholders, including development partners, private sector and representatives from national and local governments.



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SOME KEY TAKEAWAYS

- With its rich agroecological diversity, the agricultural sector in the United Republic of Tanzania has potential to **produce a wide range of nutritious foods** for domestic and export markets. This should be properly promoted and incentivized along the value chain according to nutrient requirements.
- There is a need to enhance coordination between the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP) and the Agriculture Sector Development Programme II (ASDP-II), with greater focus on integrating nutrition into agricultural value chains (including those in livestock and fisheries) **through appropriate capacity-building** both at national and local level, where the implementation takes place.
- Nutrition definitely **needs more funding**, both from the government and from development partners. Along with funding, effectiveness calls for tools to **budget, monitor impact and report** in a more coordinated way.
- Malnutrition in children and their mothers is not only due to lack of availability or accessibility of nutritious food, but also to a number of socio-cultural or gender issues, as well as education-related. **Nutritional awareness-raising is thus necessary** to encourage the consumption of more nutritious and diversified diets tackle obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (which represent a growing problem), but also to address the high rates of stunting.

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