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Organization of the
United Nations



STRATEGY AND VISION FOR FAO'S WORK IN NUTRITION



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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Executive Summary

The Strategy and vision for FAO's work in nutrition has been prepared in response to the Evaluation of FAO's role and work in nutrition carried out in 2011. The Strategy was developed through an approach endorsed by the Council,¹ involving a series of internal workshops with a Strategy Development Team of technical staff from across divisions; an Internal Task Team, being a more extensive group of FAO staff that was consistently advised and consulted on the process; as well as senior management and key partners, including members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), United Nations partner agencies, non-governmental organizations and, through informal consultations, a number of Member States reflecting all regions.

The purpose of the Strategy is to reposition and prioritize FAO's work in nutrition and to assert its leadership role in bringing stakeholders together, in generating and communicating knowledge to build political commitment and guide actions, and in strengthening capacities of governments and other implementing partners to act effectively.

Development of the Strategy was coordinated with the Strategic Thinking Process, launched by the FAO Director-General in January 2012 to determine the future strategic direction and priorities of the Organization. The Strategy has been formulated to directly contribute to the achievement of FAO's proposed Strategic Objective 1 "eradicate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition", although FAO's work in nutrition will also contribute to achieving all its Strategic Objectives.²

The Strategy sets out FAO's vision and role in nutrition, taking a people-centred approach and applying four key principles to contribute to three outcomes designed to be linked to FAO's Strategic Objectives. Five criteria for prioritizing FAO's work in nutrition are applied in considering the implications for implementation of the Strategy. Key considerations for implementation concern building meaningful partnerships, mobilizing resources and applying them where FAO can have greatest impact.



¹ CL 143/REP paragraph 17 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/024/mc783e.pdf>

² CL 145/4 Reviewed Strategic Framework and Outline of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/026/me999e.pdf>

Introduction

Improving nutrition is fundamental to achieving FAO's vision of a world without hunger. As the international organization for food and agriculture, FAO has a leading role to play in ensuring good nutrition for all. Raising levels of nutrition is an organizational priority, enshrined in FAO's Constitution.³ The Evaluation of FAO's role and work in nutrition,⁴ noted that FAO's leadership in nutrition at global and national levels had declined over time, primarily due to lack of priority given to nutrition by the Organization. At the same time, over the past five years, the importance of nutrition has been rising on international and national agendas.

Global and country actors believe that FAO must bring the perspective of food and agriculture to their efforts to eradicate malnutrition. The Strategy aims to help FAO to take advantage of these opportunities. It provides a structure to prioritize work on nutrition within FAO, as well as reposition FAO to take leadership within the nutrition architecture at country, regional, and global levels.

A. Context

Problems of malnutrition – of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity – exist in all countries and cut across socio-economic classes.⁵ In the poorest countries, undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are by far the greatest problem. WHO estimates that 167 million children under five years of age in developing countries are chronically malnourished.⁶ Deficiencies in Vitamin A and iodine in adults, caused largely by deficiencies in diets, range from around 30 to 40 percent in Africa and Asia and 10 to 20 percent in Latin America. Iron deficiencies in non-pregnant women are also high in these regions.⁷ Disturbingly, these numbers have not changed much in spite of widespread food fortification and distribution of supplements and ready-to-use therapeutic foods.

The environment surrounding malnutrition is also changing. Emerging and not yet fully understood challenges are leading to the transformation of food and agricultural systems⁸ and raising questions about how to meet the world's food and nutrition needs in sustainable ways. These challenges include globalization, climate change, environmental sustainability and rapid technological shifts and scientific advances. Urbanization in developing countries is having a profound impact on livelihoods and patterns of food acquisition and consumption. By 2020, half the population of Asia will live in urban areas. The same will be true of Africa by 2035. Most of this growth will occur in the smaller cities and market towns of developing countries, many of which are highly dependent on the agricultural economy of the surrounding rural areas.⁹

³ Basic Texts, Part A Constitution <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/022/K8024E.pdf>

⁴ PC 108/6 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/023/mb663E01.pdf>

⁵ Malnutrition is a physiological condition caused by inadequate, excessive, or imbalanced intake in macronutrients (carbohydrates, proteins, fats) and micronutrients (vitamins and minerals). The condition includes deficiencies in adequate nutrition (undernutrition), specific deficiencies (or excesses) in micronutrients, and an excess of certain food components such as fats and sugars, often in combination with low physical activity (overweight and obesity, or overnutrition) (cf. PC 108/6). <http://www.fao.org/bodies/pc/pc108/en/>

⁶ <http://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/estimates/en/index.html>, accessed Sept 1, 2012.

⁷ J. Meerman, B. Carisma, and B. Thompson "Global, Regional, and Subregional Trends in Undernourishment and Malnutrition". Draft background paper prepared for The State of Food and Agriculture 2013 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3300e/i3300e00.htm>. Rome: FAO.

⁸ A food and agricultural system is a system including food and non-food products that serves the production, processing, marketing, consumption and disposal of goods that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries. It also includes the inputs needed and outputs generated at each of these steps. Adapted from *Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture Systems (SAFA) 2012*. http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/sustainability/SAFA/SAFA_Guidelines_draft_Jan_2012.pdf

⁹ United Nations. Economic and Social Affairs. *World Urbanization Prospects. The 2011 Revision. Highlights*. New York: The United Nations. http://esa.un.org/unup/pdf/WUP2011_Highlights.pdf (Accessed September 1, 2012).

At the same time, many developing countries, including middle-income economies, face a 'nutrition transition'. Uneven economic growth, social and economic transformations and mechanization plus changes in lifestyles, cultural norms and behavioural practices have involved new consumption preferences, major dietary changes and less physical activity. As a result, the prevalence of overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases are increasing at the same time that undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies continue to exist. With well over 1.6 billion people thus afflicted, governments must act now to address this emerging problem, before solutions become even more complex and costly.

Such recent fast-growing trends in malnutrition are increasingly being attributed to lifestyle changes. Food system changes influencing nutrition status are, in turn, attributable to systemic economic transformations, including increasingly powerful corporate domination of the production, processing and marketing of food and beverages. Consequently, major cultural transformations have profoundly and rapidly transformed nutrition challenges in the last two generations, requiring greater understanding of continuity and change in gastronomy, diet, exercise and other aspects of lifestyle reshaping human nutrition and malnutrition.

Governments and other actors at global and national levels have become increasingly aware of the importance of improving nutrition. Nutrition is not only an outcome of overall social and economic development, but is also now understood as an essential input, affecting health, productivity and overall well-being. The basic causes of undernutrition have long been known. More specifically, the causes are limited availability of, and access to food of sufficient quantity (energy) and quality (diversity, nutrient content); poor caring and feeding behaviours for children, and, for adults, food choices; and inadequate health care and an unhealthy environment. Despite awareness of these basic causes, undernutrition persists for several reasons, including:

- a. The most nutritionally vulnerable – those who are low-income, resource-poor, food insecure, socially excluded and economically marginalized (especially women and children) – often have little voice in public policy matters and lack the means to advocate for appropriate, pro-active nutrition policies.
- b. Many people, including decision-makers, believe the visible consequences of undernutrition are normal or virtually impossible to address through public policy, and are therefore reluctant to press for specific action on nutrition. Knowledge gaps continue to persist on linkages between food and nutrition, and on how to turn this knowledge into guidance for strategies, policies, programmes, and investments. These knowledge gaps lead to limited awareness of the problem, its impacts and potential solutions.
- c. The causes of undernutrition cut across multiple sectors (food, agriculture, health, social protection and education) while solutions depend on the collective action of multiple players, including citizens and the private sector. Governments often find it difficult to undertake the needed alignment and coordination of policies, programmes, and investments to deal with undernutrition effectively.
- d. Finally, even when solutions are known, institutional and individual capacities at country level, especially among governments, and the enabling environment (primarily the policy and regulatory environment) are insufficient for effective implementation.

As for eliminating hunger, without strong commitment by governments, societies and the international community to improving the nutritional status of their populations, it will be difficult to overcome these challenges.

B. FAO's vision and role in nutrition

FAO's Strategy for nutrition addresses these fundamental constraints building on FAO's core functions and comparative advantages. The Strategy recognizes that combating malnutrition in a sustainable way requires a holistic approach, bringing the potential of food and agricultural systems to bear on the problem, joining with those working on health and care.

FAO seeks a world free of hunger and malnutrition, where food and agriculture¹⁰ contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially of the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally-sustainable manner.¹¹ Improving nutrition is fundamental to achieving FAO's vision. In focusing this vision on nutrition, FAO seeks to help improve diets and raise levels of nutrition of the poorest and most nutritionally vulnerable in gender-sensitive and sustainable ways.

FAO's role in achieving this vision is to support Member Nations in their efforts to increase the effectiveness of food and agricultural systems in improving nutrition across the life cycle for their populations, working with partners at global, regional and national levels.

While many institutions are required to meet the challenge of malnutrition, FAO has a unique role to play. As a knowledge leader, provider of global public goods and trusted presence at country level, FAO serves to create and share knowledge, bring stakeholders in nutrition together and help align their actions for the greatest impact. More specifically, FAO works to strengthen the capacity of countries to evaluate and monitor the nutrition situation, analyse options and act effectively in improving nutrition.

FAO's substantive work, such as data, statistics, analyses, as well as guidelines and tools, benefits all Member States. All these global public goods and all the efforts that FAO makes must improve peoples' lives. This includes FAO's work on nutrition. It will be important to continue to provide and improve these global public goods, including reliable and useful statistics and scientific knowledge on nutrition and malnutrition, especially in relation to food and agricultural systems.



¹⁰ Agriculture encompasses all aspects of crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries.

¹¹ C 2009/3 Strategic Framework 2010-19, paragraphs 52-53

C. A people-centred approach

Improved nutrition at the local level requires a more pro-poor, people-centred approach. Therefore, FAO will work with partners to improve diets and nutrition for the poorest and most nutritionally vulnerable households in developing and middle-income countries. Because the household is where food is usually produced or procured and prepared, and because each individual's nutritional status is affected by interactions with other household members, FAO will use a household lens for guiding actions on strategies, policies, programmes and investments at the global, regional and national levels.

FAO will aim to impact on households and diets and the nutritional status of individuals through policies, programmes and investments of governments and in collaboration with development and implementing partners, such as civil society. Undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, should remain FAO's primary focus, as WHO continues to emphasize its work on the public health implications of non-communicable diseases relating to overnutrition. However, the multiple burdens of all forms of malnutrition will continue to be addressed by FAO, especially in providing global public goods. At the same time, there are particular populations where poor nutritional status can have a lifelong impact and where a food-based approach can provide lasting solutions. A special focus on these population groups will enable FAO to strengthen synergies with key partners and give broad, cross-organizational support to FAO's wider priorities. These include:

Infants and young children (in particular, those older than 6 months) and women and girls of reproductive age

Besides supporting the First 1000-days focus of SUN, as well as WFP, UNICEF, the World Bank, other multilateral development banks, and the Zero Hunger Challenge,¹² FAO brings knowledge to inform actions about complementary feeding and good nutrition for mothers and women of reproductive age, including adolescent girls, through food-based approaches.

Preschoolers, school-aged children and youths

As children get older, good nutrition continues to be important for adequate growth and development. Focusing on these groups in terms of ensuring they receive nutritious diets and develop nutritious eating habits is important for providing a foundation for good nutrition throughout life. Schools provide an excellent entry point for all sectors to join forces in improving nutrition. In addition, working with schools and youth clubs provides a platform for reaching the family and other members of local communities. Together with governments and partners like WFP on school feeding, FAO brings expertise in improving dietary quality, strengthening nutrition education.

At-risk households

FAO can build on its experience in emergencies and development to support country programmes and work with other partners to improve nutrition and promote the resilience of households at high risk of undernutrition due to shocks and threats from natural disasters, conflict and chronic illness. FAO has a major role to play in enhancing the nutritional status of communities, households and individuals at risk through the food-system.



¹² Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN); United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF); the Zero Hunger Challenge is an initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General, supported by FAO, inviting all countries, to work for a future where every individual has adequate nutrition and where all food systems are resilient.

D. Guiding principles

The Strategy will strengthen the contribution of food and agricultural systems to raising levels of nutrition, particularly through improvements in food quality and diets, taking into account the complex causality and institutional issues surrounding nutrition. It is guided by four principles.

1. Shape food and agricultural systems to be more nutrition-sensitive so to produce good nutritional outcomes. This implies the potential to take action across the entire system, from production to marketing, storage, processing and consumption. Increasing food diversity and dietary balance in consumption and raising consumer awareness are two ways to improve nutrition sensitivity.
2. Have greater impact at country level by harnessing knowledge and experience across the Organization, and by aligning its work to build upon and serve country initiatives, policies, programmes and projects. A particular challenge is to ensure that people who depend on local production can produce and purchase affordable, highly nutritious products in their local markets.
3. Work in partnership, as well as across sectors among stakeholders.
4. Promote economically, socially, environmentally-sustainable and gender-sensitive policies, programmes and investments.



E. Expected outcomes

Development of the Strategy was coordinated with the Strategic Thinking Process, launched by the FAO Director-General in January 2012 to determine the future strategic direction and priorities of the Organization. The Strategy has been formulated to directly contribute to the achievement of FAO's proposed Strategic Objective 1 "eradicate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition", although FAO's work in nutrition will also contribute to achieving all its Strategic Objectives.¹³ The expected outcomes highlight FAO's role in bringing stakeholders together, in generating and communicating knowledge to build political commitment and guide actions, and in strengthening the capacities of governments and other implementing partners to act effectively.

FAO will work to maximize the impact on nutrition of countries' food and agricultural systems by achieving three outcomes:

Outcome 1. Increased knowledge and evidence to maximize the impact of food and agricultural systems on nutrition

Outcome 2. Improved food and agricultural systems' governance for nutrition

Outcome 3. Strengthened national, regional and local capacities to formulate and implement policies and programmes to improve nutritional status

Outcome 1. Increased knowledge and evidence to maximize the impact of food and agricultural systems on nutrition

Currently, FAO meets global knowledge demands for decision-making by creating, sharing and promoting the use of critical, high-quality global public goods, such as databases on some basic food and nutrition data and methods (e.g. scientific advice on nutritional requirements, nutrition and dietary assessment, including food consumption patterns and food composition), as well as other analyses, tools, guidelines and curricula. Knowledge must not only be generated, but also communicated effectively and used by decision makers at global, regional and national levels. Effective strategies for advocacy and communication to policy-makers and other stakeholders who can influence the policy process will be one key output. The creation of global public goods must reflect and respond to global, regional and country needs, and must be disseminated to deepen political commitment, improve governance processes and decision-making, and assist with capacity development.

Based on its assessment of global needs and country experiences, FAO will identify knowledge gaps and endeavour to fill them. Based on an assessment of global and country needs, FAO can identify research needs and partner with, or commission researchers and/or research organizations to carry out the work. In particular, research on policy and programme design and on impact for nutrition-enhancing food and agricultural systems, such as appropriate advice to consumers on how to optimize resource use and adopt healthy eating habits, is needed. Important knowledge gaps in statistics and data persist. For many years, the global community has focused its attention on increasing the number of calories in the diets of the poor. Increasing attention is being focused on improving the content of their diets, but the global community has relatively limited information on the location and nature of nutrient gaps in developing countries. An important component of this Strategy will be to improve the information and data underpinning decision-making, disaggregated by sex and age, where relevant.

¹³ CL 145/4 Reviewed Strategic Framework and Outline of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17

Outcome 2. Improved food and agricultural systems' governance for nutrition

FAO will work with countries to shape more inclusive, participatory and evidence-based systems of governance of food and nutrition security. This includes policy-making processes, as well as platforms and initiatives where stakeholders need to work together to understand problems and develop solutions. Empowering processes should be put in place to place nutrition on the policy agenda and to enable people, especially the most vulnerable, to participate in and influence the decisions that affect their lives. Through participation, transparency and accountability, FAO will contribute to increased effectiveness of governance systems for nutrition.

FAO will work with and through, among others SUN, REACH, and the UN SCN,¹⁴ as well as regional and country organizations and actors to support multi-sectoral and interagency initiatives that advocate the reduction of malnutrition. FAO will also work with partners to build or strengthen institutional platforms for planning, coordination and alignment, and mechanisms for stakeholder accountability, such as joint results frameworks and common monitoring and reporting systems.

Outcome 3. Strengthened national, regional, and local capacities to formulate and implement policies and programmes to improve nutritional status

FAO will work to strengthen countries' capacities to lead in the planning, prioritization, development, and implementation of nutritional policies, programmes, and strategies across the three dimensions of capacity development, namely individuals, organizations, and the enabling environment (primarily the policy and regulatory environment), to improve nutritional status.

FAO works to develop capacities in many ways, including: in-country policy assistance, dietary promotion strategies, national and regional data centres and networks on food composition, professional training in nutrition education, dietary assessment and consumer awareness, curricula and tool development, awareness raising for stakeholders, and support for food and nutrition security information systems. FAO's regional Nutrition Officers, with support from colleagues at headquarters, will provide leadership and coordination to assist countries in assessing capacity needs and tailor FAO's activities accordingly. This approach will enable different regions to focus on the nutritional problems unique to their countries and populations. FAO will place more emphasis on strengthening capacities at the institutional level. FAO's officers will work in close collaboration with academic and training institutions, other UN agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders in carrying out activities for this outcome.



¹⁴ Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger (REACH), United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UN SCN).

F. Prioritizing nutrition work and resources

The elements of the Strategy – vision and role, guiding principles, outcomes – emerge from a causal analysis of the problem of malnutrition and provide parameters and guidelines to allow FAO's work to have maximum impact. During the development process of the Strategy, criteria were elaborated to further assess what FAO should do and what might be best leave to other actors.

Work that FAO undertakes in nutrition must meet five criteria:

1. fulfil the vision and outcomes in line with FAO's Strategic Objectives;
2. be feasible, given current organizational capacities or those that can reasonably be developed;
3. clearly demonstrate how the work will improve diets and nutritional outcomes through better food and agricultural systems;
4. meet specific nutrition priorities identified by countries and regions;
5. take issues of environmental, economic and social sustainability and gender equity into account.

FAO initiatives should also be innovative and cutting-edge, especially where existing ways of working have proved ineffective. Priorities should emphasize work with greater potential for scaling-up or with considerable multiplier effects. FAO staff and partners should take a comprehensive, cross-sectoral and multi-institutional approach, strengthening the organizational and operational links between applied/field and analytical/substantive work.



G. Considerations for implementation

The Strategy and vision for FAO's work in nutrition is ambitious. Six key considerations for successful implementation are put forward.

Linking normative work and country action

Ultimately, success must be measured by results on the ground. This necessarily requires that FAO pay specific attention to how its normative responsibilities will be translated into operational activities and their impact at country level.

FAO must be more responsive to regional and country needs, especially as expressed through regional cooperation and Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), which should involve all stakeholders in nutrition. FAO is undertaking initiatives to improve performance at country level, including empowering decentralized offices and strengthening cooperative and collaborative networks.¹⁵

The Strategy will require sufficient high-level technical expertise at headquarters with regional and subregional staff in nutrition having more responsibilities for programme oversight. Those who work at country level are largely responsible for the execution of projects and programmes. Senior Nutrition Programme Officers will be required in each region to support countries and facilitate the links between normative mandates, substantive analyses and country activities. A staffing review will determine needs (numbers, areas of expertise) for staff at headquarters and decentralized offices. Clearly, the scope and impact of FAO's nutrition work will depend on resources available and the effectiveness of partnerships.

Ensuring regional and national impact

The alignment of FAO's substantive work and country action with the Strategy is a starting point. Given the complexity of the task, a more permanent presence at country level will be needed for significant impact. Following the recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO's role and work in nutrition, a small number of focal countries will be selected by regional offices for in-depth implementation of the Strategy. This would require that a Nutrition Officer work with the FAO Representative and national institutions to identify needs and design policies and programmes that can be incorporated into the CPF. The approach would be applied in 2013-2014, using both Regular Programme and extrabudgetary resources. Important lessons learned from this approach will assist the further rollout of the Strategy.

Building and reinforcing key partnerships

At the global level, FAO will continue to play an active and supportive role in SUN, REACH, and the UN SCN. FAO will also strengthen its collaboration with WHO, the other UN specialized agency focusing on nutrition, in providing scientific advice on nutrition. At the country level, FAO's work on nutrition will be implemented as part of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), using the platforms of UN Joint Programmes to align its actions with those of other agencies with consideration of comparative strengths.

FAO will aim to enhance existing partnerships with WFP on food and nutrition security information systems, school-based nutrition programmes, Purchase-for-Progress and on nutrition strategy for areas and households at risk. FAO will also increase collaboration with IFAD, as part of its work on mainstreaming nutrition in agricultural investment plans and programmes. FAO will continue collaborating with WHO in the areas of nutritional requirements, food safety and infant and young child feeding, as well as improve its cooperation with UNICEF on work on child nutrition, and with UNFPA, especially on maternal reproductive health.

¹⁵ CL 144/15 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/025/md901e.pdf>

FAO will continue to work in support of Members as leaders and owners of their nutrition strategy and with civil society, including international NGOs and national CSOs in advocacy and building the evidence base, technical support and training. FAO will also work with research institutions to develop the knowledge base, particularly with Bioversity International and the CGIAR's research programme on Agriculture for Improved Nutrition and Health.

FAO will also strengthen its engagement with the private sector. Initial discussions may focus on advocacy and information for improving diets. The report of the stakeholder consultation for NGOs/CSOs and the private sector planned under ICN2 will help inform FAO's approach on engagement with the private sector.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Strategy will be implemented as part of FAO's overall Strategic Framework and its results-based Programme of Work and Budget. Monitoring of implementation of the Strategy will be integrated into the performance evaluation, accountability and reporting framework. As the Strategic Framework is implemented, a reporting structure will be established, which will include specific indicators for monitoring progress against planned activities and assessment of performance.

Resource mobilization

As evidenced in the Evaluation, nutrition work at FAO operates under significant resource constraints. Adjustments to the resource allocations for nutrition are likely to be required for FAO to have increased impact. A cost analysis will be developed alongside the more detailed implementation plan. It will be based on the Evaluation's recommendation that nutrition at FAO needs strengthening, including additional financial support and human resources for both normative and country level work.

Implications for FAO's ways of working

Applying the Strategy and achieving the outcomes requires strengthening FAO's capacity to work more effectively, through and with all technical divisions in FAO, to enhance impact at the global, regional and country levels, and to mainstream nutrition into its programme of work. Through training, communication and working together, FAO will strengthen its operational environment and enable staff to incorporate nutrition into their technical work and activities, work plans and budgets. Nutrition concerns, considerations and objectives will be incorporated into Country Programming Frameworks and technical materials will be developed for FAO staff to assist governments in mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Training FAO Representatives and their staff on the links between food and nutrition will help them raise the priority of nutrition in country work.



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**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**



OUR PRIORITIES

The FAO Strategic Objectives

Achieving FAO's goals to end hunger and poverty is a challenging and complex task. Today, thanks to major changes in how we do business, FAO is a fitter, flatter and more flexible organization, whose activities are driven by five strategic objectives. The new and improved FAO has a real chance to win the battle against hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty.

HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

We contribute to the eradication of hunger by facilitating policies and political commitments to support food security and by making sure that up-to-date information about hunger and nutrition challenges and solutions is available and accessible.

MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

We promote evidence-based policies and practices to support highly productive agricultural sectors (crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries), while ensuring that the natural resource base does not suffer in the process.

REDUCE RURAL POVERTY

We help the rural poor gain access to the resources and services they need – including rural employment and social protection – to forge a path out of poverty.

ENABLE INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

We help to build safe and efficient food systems that support smallholder agriculture and reduce poverty and hunger in rural areas.

INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS TO DISASTERS

We help countries to prepare for natural and human-caused disasters by reducing their risk and enhancing the resilience of their food and agricultural systems.