

# LAUNCH

THE STATE OF  
**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD**  
ECOSOC HLPF SPECIAL EVENT

MONDAY, 12 JULY 2021 | Virtual event | 10.00 am - 12.00 pm (EDT)



United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development ([HLPF](#))  
under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council ([ECOSOC](#))

## 2021 The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report

**“Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition, and  
affordable healthy diets for all”**

**The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World** is an annual flagship publication series that monitors progress towards globally agreed food security and nutrition targets, presenting and analyzing global, regional and country-level trends, and providing in-depth analyses on emerging issues to inform decision making and contribute to the achievement of ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. Over the last twenty years, the report has grown in importance and has achieved wide recognition as the leading global report providing critical information to policy makers on food security and nutrition. Since 2017, the publication has reported progress towards the targets of ending hunger (SDG Target 2.1) and all forms of malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2). An exemplary of UN collaboration work, jointly produced by five UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO), this is the third year the report will have been launched on the sidelines of the HLPF in New York.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to contain it have made it significantly more challenging to end world hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030. However, they have also highlighted the need for deeper reflection on how best to address the global food security and nutrition situation we are currently experiencing.

The 2021 edition of **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World** provides the latest updates and trends in food security and nutrition, and offers some indication of what hunger would look like by 2030, in a scenario further complicated by the enduring effects of COVID-19. As highlighted in previous editions of this report, the long decline in world hunger that began in 2005 came to a halt in 2014 and the number of people experiencing undernourishment began to slowly increase. Progress in reducing child stunting has slowed significantly, and adult overweight and obesity has continued to rise in rich and poor countries alike. Thus, the report underscores that other major drivers were leading to food insecurity and malnutrition before the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded.

The report draws on and presents updates and additional analysis from a synthesis of the past four editions, which have pointed to the major drivers behind the recent trends in food security and nutrition. These are conflicts, climate variability and extremes, and economic slowdowns and downturns, which are exacerbated by the underlying causes of poverty and inequality. Evidence presented in this year's report shows that, where these drivers co-exist, they create compounding effects.

In addition, the report provides updated estimates of the cost and affordability of healthy diets around the world, which are linked to food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, including stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Millions of people around the world cannot afford the cost of a healthy diet, due to the myriad factors that drive up the cost of nutritious food, on the one hand, and drive down people's incomes, on the other. Importantly, for the first time the report shows that recent increases in the unaffordability of healthy diets are associated with increasing food insecurity.

The theme this year, **“Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition, and affordable healthy diets for all”**, is a clear reflection of the fact that the world has recognized that food systems – and their transformation – are central to building forward better after COVID-19, and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Evidence of this recognition is the convening of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, which later this year will bring forward a series of concrete actions that people from all over the world can take to support a transformation of the world’s food systems. The SOFI theme is also especially relevant to the 2021 HLPF theme *“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”*.

At the global level we must achieve more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The 2021 SOFI report identifies the transformation pathways needed to pursue these aspirations, specifically by addressing the major drivers behind the recent rise in hunger and the slowing of progress in reducing malnutrition in all its forms and ensuring affordable healthy diets are for all.

Please follow the [link](#) to register for the event.



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

