SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

FACTS AND FIGURES


- Globally in 2022, an estimated 148 million (22.3%) children were affected by stunting, 37 million (5.6%) were overweight, while 45 million (6.8%) experienced wasting.

- Record-high food prices in 2022 worsened purchasing power and access to food, negatively impacting food security and nutritional outcomes.

- Globally, the proportion of countries facing moderately to abnormally high food prices rose sharply in 2022, reaching a new record high of 58.1%. This represented a nearly fourfold increase from the 2015-2019 average level of 15.2%.

- In 95% of countries with available data, the average annual income of small-scale producers is less than half that of larger-scale producers. Small-scale food producers headed by men typically generate higher incomes than those headed by women.

- Between 2015 and 2022, global government spending on agriculture increased steadily, reaching a record high of $749 billion in 2022. However, government expenditure on agriculture relative to the sector’s GDP contribution declined from 0.5 in 2015 to 0.43 in 2021 before rebounding to 0.48 in 2022.

- From 2015 to 2022, the volume of aid for agriculture provided to developing countries increased by 47.2%, from $12.3 billion to $18.1 billion (in constant 2022 prices).

- Data from 2021 showed that the world was at a moderate distance from achieving productive and sustainable agriculture (with a score of 3.4 out of 5), with the highest score of 4.1 in Europe and Northern American compared to the lowest score of 2.6 in the LDCs.

WHERE WE STAND

- Nearly 1 in 10 people globally face hunger. In 2022, 2.4 billion people experienced moderate to severe food insecurity.

- Despite progress, 148 million children under age 5 suffered from stunting in 2022. If current trends persist, 1 in 5 children under age 5 will be affected by stunting in 2030.

- In 2022, almost 60% of countries worldwide faced moderately to abnormally high food prices due to the spillover effects of conflicts.

- Achieving zero hunger requires intensified efforts to transform food systems so they are sustainable, resilient and equitable. Moreover, accelerating improvements in diets, nutrition, health and hygiene is crucial to meeting the SDG target of halving the number of children suffering from chronic undernutrition.
FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

The High Impact Initiative on Food Systems Transformation aims to mobilize commitments from Member States to prioritize their journey of food systems transformation to ensure food security and healthy diets for all. The initiative calls on UN Agencies, international financial institutions (IFIs), the private sector, civil society partners and all relevant stakeholders to assist countries in this journey. Further, academia will help assure state of the art science and innovation is part of this process. Building on the outcomes of the Food Systems Summit 2021 and the UNFSS+2 Stocktaking Moment, and ongoing means of implementation that will help to accelerate national processes (such as Hand-in-Hand Initiative, School Meals Coalition, Food is Never Waste Coalition, Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets, Zero Hunger Coalition, among others). The initiative will achieve its objectives through three key pillars:

- The development and provision of tools, methods, models, and analyses that leverage the best results obtained from the implementation of the FSS recommendations, including the advantages of applying a territorial approach and data resources of the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform.
- A flexible and innovative approach to partnership based on identifying technical and programmatic challenges and supporting the design and implementation of innovative solutions.
- The pooling of existing investments and, where appropriate, the deployment of new financial instruments as well as risk-reducing or risk-sharing financial structures, as investment is an indispensable driver of transformative change.

For more information about the high impact initiative, please visit here.

- Led by an Oversight Steering Group comprising the Principals of FAO, WFP, IFAD, UN-DCO and the UN “Food Systems Task Force” Leads (WHO and UNDP), the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub serves countries through systemic, country-driven, customized support in translating their commitments into effective actions to reach sustainable food systems by 2030, leveraging the wider UN system’s capacities. (see its 2024-2026 work plan)
- The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, co-published by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, provides an annual update on global progress towards the targets of ending hunger (SDG Target 2.1) and all forms of malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2).
- With UNIDO and FAO leading at the global level, ILO and UNFPA at the country-level, the Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA) assists countries in transforming their agrifood systems by facilitating innovative partnership and SDG-compliant investments in selected value chains. It designs and implements catalytic systems-based projects that create new opportunities and partnership at the interface between the public, private and civil society sectors.
- The Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus Coalition, co-led by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Group of 7+, FAO and WFP, funded by the EU and hosted by the Global Network Against Food Crises, aims to contribute to ending hunger through pursuing peace and unleashing the potential of sustainable food systems to enhance the prospects for peace.
- The Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative, a collaborative initiative of WBCSD, SRP, FAO, UNEP, IRRI, GIZ, brings together diverse stakeholder to promote more sustainable rice production practices and products to deliver a range of local and global environmental benefits.
- Working with relevant government ministries and local stakeholders, FAO’s Global Network of Digital Agriculture Innovation Hubs initiative aims to establish a global network of interconnected national Digital Agriculture Innovation Hubs to share knowledge, experience and expertise.
- The Thirteen Replenishment of IFAD Resources (IFAD13) aims to deliver a programme of work of USD10 billion and generate a significant impact for over 100 million rural people, including the endorsement of the Additional Climate Contribution (ACC) as a new instrument to attract new climate finance to small-scale agriculture.
- UNICEF continue to implement nutrition programmes in 140 countries including in development and humanitarian settings, and in fragile contexts to reach over 430 million children and caregivers with policies, programmes and services for the prevention of malnutrition in early childhood.

*This is not an exhaustive list of UN system actions to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please visit here.*