

**Implementation Progress by Year2025 inputs from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to the report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027) (800 words)**

- provide inputs on the progress made in implementing the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication, focusing on key activities, assessment of results as well as proposed solutions, policies and best practices to eradicate poverty.
- highlight efforts made to foster greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds and providing technical assistance in the key areas of policy focus contained in the system-wide plan of action

**AREAS OF POLICY FOCUS**

**A) STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION, PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF A CHANGING GLOBAL SCENARIO**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported several countries in designing and implementing initiatives to promote decent rural employment, youth employment, green jobs, create alternatives to migration, and enhance its positive contributions to agribusiness and climate action including through the Integrated Country Approach (ICA), Green Jobs for rural youth programme, CLEAR Supply Chains Project “Ending child labour in supply chains”, and the Enhancing resilience and empowerment in communities at risk of climate-induced migration programme.

Several initiatives were organized to support knowledge sharing, promoting policy dialogue and facilitating synergies. For example, FAO conducted policy analysis on youth mainstreaming in agricultural policies across Africa and organized dialogues to promote youth inclusion in agrifood systems and share good practices.

Through the Resilient and Inclusive Transformation Impact Initiative, global expert consultations were organized to take stock of the current patterns of structural and rural transformations, and how these need to change in response to the ongoing polycrises. These consultations generated a set of peer reviewed scientific papers providing up-to-date analyses, highlighting key research priorities and policy investment areas.

**B) EXPANDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS TO UNDERPIN INCLUSIVE POVERTY-REDUCING DEVELOPMENT**

Despite progress, 2 billion people in low- and middle-income countries remain uncovered or inadequately covered by social protection. FAO advocates for the universal right to social protection and builds partnerships to achieve this goal. FAO has established a collaboration with the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty to promote the adoption of a multisectoral approach that recognizes the role of social protection in social development, economic inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Additionally, FAO provides technical support, knowledge exchange platforms, digital solutions and other services to governments to encourage synergies between social protection and agrifood systems, including the adoption of innovative investment approaches for more inclusive and resilient climate action through social protection.

**C) HUMAN CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT: ADDRESSING THE NON-INCOME FORMS OF POVERTY**

To accelerate its efforts to promote gender equality, FAO has launched the 2024 Commit to Grow Equality initiative, which brings together key stakeholders to commit investments, policy and programmatic action and partnerships to make agrifood systems work better for women. To date, around 20 partners, including governments, UN organizations, civil society and the private sector, have joined the initiative. Measurable commitments under the Initiative include increasing the number of projects that include gender-transformative action; the number of countries where the CFS [Voluntary guidelines on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition](#) are implemented; and enhancing the availability of gender data.

The FAO 2023 report on [The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems](#) highlighted that substantial gender gaps and inequalities contribute to women's multidimensional poverty in terms of income, assets, services, knowledge

and time, among others. Recent analysis from FAO confirms persisting gender inequalities in *de facto* and *de jure* access to land.

Through the [Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security and Nutrition](#) (2019-2024) FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) worked together to tackle the root causes of gender inequality and trigger transformative change processes that lead to women's empowerment.

#### **D) THE FUTURE OF FOOD AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

In the context of the UN Decade for Family Farming, FAO continues to support countries in strengthening **tenure policies, development plans and programmes** that empower poor and marginalized groups and strengthen family farming.

FAO, jointly with other partners, established a Global Land Observatory to provide evidence-based analysis and data on land tenure security, land inequalities, women's land rights, as well as the state of collective and customary land rights.

In 2024, FAO strengthened its work on the design and implementation of tailored financial instruments and technical assistance to expand the reach and adequacy of rural financial services. It developed evidence to inform better policies and built financial and digital literacy among women and youth to improve their access to financial services.

#### **E) REDUCING INEQUALITIES**

In 2024, FAO joined the Global Alliance Against Poverty and Hunger, a global initiative designed to accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2. It supports country-led, evidence-based policies and programs targeting those most affected by poverty and hunger. Members of the Global Alliance include governments, international organizations, knowledge institutions, development funds and banks, and philanthropies. There are currently 182 members and FAO will host its Support Mechanism in close collaboration with all its members.

FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031 emphasizes inclusion and "Leave No One Behind," guiding efforts to reduce inequalities systematically "across all of FAO's work". A new [Framework on Inclusion](#) (2025) provides guidance on promoting inclusion by implementing targeted strategies tailored to people or groups that are left behind. FAO's Environmental and Social Management Standards (2022) lists "Leave No One Behind" as one of its main guiding principles, which "requires prioritizing and designing interventions that explicitly address the needs and rights of people who are marginalized, vulnerable or disadvantaged".

#### **F) ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE INTENSIFICATION OF NATURAL HAZARDS**

FAO provides countries with research, policy advice, and technical support to promote inclusive solutions that strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups in rural areas and ensure that mitigation initiatives in agrifood systems deliver just and equitable outcomes.

FAO provides technical support on programme design (GEF and GCF) and development of integrated approaches that foster climate-resilient livelihoods, promoting gender and youth-responsive green jobs development, risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection systems, safe pathways of climate-induced migration and displacement, and land tenure programs and projects. FAO supports Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to secure collective land rights to deliver inclusive climate mitigation and adaptation. FAO also supports inclusive climate governance by promoting the participation of rural women and youth in UNFCCC negotiations.

#### **G) FIGHTING POVERTY IN FRAGILE AND HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS**

In the past year, FAO has actively contributed to building and strengthening national social protection systems in fragile and crisis-affected contexts, including where such systems are either lacking or still developing.

Alongside system-building efforts, FAO has also delivered direct support to poor and vulnerable communities—leveraging existing systems where feasible or aligning with them when direct use was not possible. This approach has ensured the continuity of assistance, and contributed to the improved governance, design, and implementation capacity of critical social protection programmes.