

## Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

### *Inputs to the Report of the Secretary-General on “Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)”*

#### **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) provided policy and programme support to several countries for the design and implementation of initiatives that promote **decent youth employment, green jobs and reintegration of return migrants in agrifood systems in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery**, including through the FAO's Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agrifood system, the joint FAO-UNIDO regional programme on Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA), the Green Jobs for rural youth programme and the Strengthening capacities to harness the positive effects of migration programme.

Several initiatives were organized to support sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue and facilitating synergies. Examples include:

- Through the programme Building resilience in the Sahel through job creation for youth, and jointly with the G5 Sahel Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), regional fora were organized to identify priorities for young people's most urgent needs in order to facilitate social cohesion and their inclusion in the territorial development.
- The Uganda Diaspora in Agribusiness Network was set up.
- In collaboration with ILO, World Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), a series of publications on child labour elimination in agriculture and agrifood systems were produced, which resulted in the commitment to scale up actions to end child labour in agriculture as priority in the Durban Call to Action.

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

In addition to COVID-19, the Ukrainian war negatively affects livelihoods, incomes and food insecurity of rural households and workers in agrifood sectors, further highlighting the urgency of **extending social protection coverage and adequacy**.

FAO promotes social protection as a **human right** and makes an economic case for scaling up those interventions in rural areas. Digital tools and civil society organizations are being increasingly involved in FAO's work to extend coverage.

FAO supports integrated approaches to poverty reduction within agrifood systems by strengthening the linkages between social protection, decent rural employment, economic inclusion, gender equality, child labour elimination, climate adaptation, resilience, food and nutrition security, and humanitarian programming.

FAO highlights the importance of social protection through the Universal Social Protection (USP2030), the Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B), the United Nations Food Systems Summit UNFSS) and the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.

## Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

### *Inputs to the Report of the Secretary-General on “Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)”*

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

FAO recognizes that **poverty is multidimensional** and works on improving the livelihoods of poor and extreme poor rural people and those facing multiple forms of exclusion and discrimination, by focusing on building empowerment, promoting decent work, strengthening social protection coverage, and increasing incomes and productivity. This is done through policy support, knowledge generation, advocacy as well as technical support with the design and implementation of comprehensive poverty reduction projects and programmes for **inclusive and resilient rural transformation**.

FAO’s [Corporate Framework on Rural Extreme Poverty](#) guides its work towards reaching SDGs 1 and 2, while reinforcing the application of other corporate frameworks, particularly those related to gender equality, social protection, sustaining peace and migration.

FAO is advancing the use of multidimensional poverty diagnostics and analysis such as the [Rural Multidimensional Poverty Index](#). Thanks to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, FAO continues to provide technical support to reduce poverty and eliminate hunger in its multiple dimensions.

FAO provides support to anticipate to and mitigate economic disruptions as well as build resilience to multiple and overlapping shocks that often affect the most vulnerable the worst.

FAO leads the UN Secretary-General report on eliminating rural poverty, which this year highlights the negative impacts of crises on rural populations.

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

New actors seek alternatives to transform agriculture and promote rural development, whilst the companies leading the agrifood system position themselves to take ownership of these innovations.

In partnership with GIZ/BMZ, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and others, FAO supports territorial food systems governance to promote an **inclusive and sustainable food future**.

FAO, jointly with IFAD and other UN agencies, continues to support countries in strengthening **tenure policies** for poorer and more marginalized groups, community empowerment, rural women’s agency, and in designing policies to strengthen family farming.

FAO facilitates knowledge dissemination and capacity development on increasing the availability of **financial services** adapted to the needs of rural livelihoods, and cooperates in the Improving Capacity Building in Rural Finance (CABFIN) network. FAO also promotes **agricultural insurance innovation** by exploring the use of public sector data to enhance the inclusivity of the index-based agri-insurance for small-scale producers.

## Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

### *Inputs to the Report of the Secretary-General on “Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)”*

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

Ongoing crises continue to affect food security and poverty, especially in the poorest countries and those in the most vulnerable situations, widening inequalities.

FAO works towards reducing inequality by mainstreaming inclusivity in all its work, targeting marginalized populations and those in situations of vulnerability.

FAO continues to expand efforts to **improve livelihoods and resilience** by influencing discussion at the global level, as well as by supporting governments with the design and implementation of programs and policies to foster an **inclusive and resilient transformation of agrifood systems**. FAO’s recently launched Resilient and Inclusive Transformation Impact Initiative places the concept of leave no one behind at the core of its work.

With the publication of [The status of women in agrifood systems](#), FAO has made bolder commitment to deepen its focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The [Joint Programme on Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment](#), the [Dimitra Clubs approach](#) and the [FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020–2030](#) also guide actions in this regard.

The innovative approach to analysis and partnership-building of the Hand In Hand Initiative has been useful for coordinating integrated rapid response to shocks on food systems.

FAO is a member of the Inequalities Task Team and the Team on Duties to the Future of the High-level Committee on Programmes.

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

FAO provides countries with research, analysis, policy advice, technical support and capacity building to promote solutions that prioritize **inclusive rural economic growth** and create stronger **synergies** between climate adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, and poverty reduction in agrifood systems and rural areas.

FAO has developed the first database to measure the socio-economic impacts of climate shocks on rural populations in 22 countries. The Organization held multi-stakeholder consultations, and developed the global guides and toolkit on integrating human mobility into climate action and policy processes from a rural-livelihoods perspective.

FAO fosters a **human rights-based approach to poverty-environment action** and helps countries implement the Paris Agreement by building their capacity to better incorporate socio-economic considerations into policies and strategies such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

FAO provides technical support for programmatic design (GEF and GCF) and in-country development of integrated approaches that foster climate-resilient livelihoods. This approach promotes 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.

## **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

### *Inputs to the Report of the Secretary-General on “Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)”*

FAO supports climate governance by promoting the participation of rural women and youth in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations.

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

FAO has made progress in addressing poverty in fragile and humanitarian settings, while ensuring access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

FAO has provided technical support for the implementation of **social protection** interventions that can meet immediate needs of crisis-affected people, while addressing vulnerabilities to poverty and food insecurity. Policy and programmatic support has been informed by rigorous evidence generated by FAO on the role of social protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts, with cash transfers as central modality to deliver support, and accompanied by advocacy efforts.

FAO has also progressed in terms of **closing the gender gap** by addressing inequalities in the access to productive resources, services, decent employment opportunities and local institutions, in order to build the resilience to shocks and contribute to establishing just and sustainable agrifood systems. This implies adopting gender-transformative and inclusive approaches that seek to remove the structural barriers to gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, and change rigid gender norms and roles, unequal power dynamics and discriminatory social structures.