

Inputs on the progress made in implementing the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication

#### **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**

Globally, 4 billion people continue to be excluded from any form of social protection. As conflicts, climate change and other crises weaken livelihoods, reduce incomes and threaten food insecurity, further investments are required to close social protection coverage and adequacy gaps for rural households and workers in agrifood sectors, including for women and other vulnerable or marginalised groups.

FAO highlights the importance of social protection in the overall transformation of agrifood systems through the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030), the Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B), the UN Food Systems Summit processes, the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

FAO advocates for the right to social protection for all and supports the extension of social protection to rural populations for improving food and nutrition security, facilitating access to decent, equitable and resilient livelihoods, and delivering environmental sustainability, biodiversity and inclusive climate action. Additionally, FAO provides technical support, knowledge exchange platforms, digital solutions and other services to governments to encourage synergies between social protection and agrifood systems. FAO enhances complementarities with key actors across systems and advocates for increasing investments in social protection systems, including climate finance for social protection to deliver inclusive and resilient climate action.

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

FAO acknowledges that non-monetary deprivations contribute to poverty and vulnerability. It is committed to improving the livelihoods of populations facing various forms of deprivation, particularly in rural areas and among those experiencing exclusion or discrimination based on factors such as gender, age, Indigenous identity, minority status, or disability. This commitment involves empowering individuals, promoting decent employment, expanding social protection, and boosting income and productivity. The [Hand-in-Hand \(HIH\)](#)

## Inputs on the progress made in implementing the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication

[Initiative](#), one of FAO's flagship corporate initiatives, is one example of how FAO supports ambitious, nationally driven programs to accelerate the transformations of agrifood systems.

FAO's [Corporate Framework on Rural Extreme Poverty](#) and FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031 direct the organization's efforts towards directly contributing to SDGs 1, 2, and 10, while also supporting the broader SDG agenda.

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

In partnership with GIZ/German Development Ministry (BMZ), the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), CIRAD, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the 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, development plans and programmes** for poorer and more marginalized groups, community empowerment, rural women's agency, and in designing policies to strengthen family farming.

FAO supports capacity development and promotes the accessibility of **financial services** tailored to rural households, 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.

Additionally, FAO leads knowledge dissemination and capacity development on SDG target 5.a. SDG target 5.a supports informing the full reporting cycle on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), supporting countries in monitoring and reporting on progress in the status of women's land rights protection, and identifying actions to address land degradation that disproportionately impacts women.

### E) REDUCING INEQUALITIES

**FAO is committed to promoting diversity, equality, and inclusion across its work to leave no one behind and achieve the SDGs.** Its vision is anchored in the international human rights, in which equality and non-discrimination are core principles.

Socio-economic inequalities have been widening within and between countries. Such inequalities disproportionately affect certain people or groups, based on factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, disability, economic or migrant status among other factors. FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031 places a renewed emphasis on inclusion, which is a new cross-cutting theme to mainstream across all of FAO's work, along with gender and youth.

A new **FAO Corporate Framework on Inclusion** is near finalization and will provide guidance to strengthen FAO's efforts on promoting inclusion, reducing inequalities, and combatting discrimination. This mainly entails prioritizing people or groups that are left behind or furthest left behind; implementing targeting strategies tailored to their needs, capabilities and condition; enhancing not only their access to productive and financial resources, assets, services and markets, but also their agency, participation, representation and leadership in decision-making processes and institutions; and addressing the structural causes of inequalities, unequal social relations and power imbalances, and discriminatory norms, policies, institutions, governance systems and practices (formal and informal).

## Inputs on the progress made in implementing the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication

FAO continues to expand efforts to improve livelihoods and resilience including through its **Resilient and Inclusive Transformation Impact Initiative**. This initiative has developed policy recommendations on actions required to promote a resilient and inclusive rural transformation. Additionally, it seeks to create a roadmap for investments that support this transformation and to serve as a platform for experts to contribute ideas, share knowledge, and disseminate outputs related to fostering a resilient and inclusive rural transformation.

Following the successful release of the 2023 report on "[The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems](#)", FAO has been working on regional briefs and reports to provide more granular and up-to-date information on gender inequalities and opportunities in agrifood systems. Moreover, to address the root causes of these gender-inequalities, FAO is continuing to advance its work on the gender transformative approaches. FAO collaborated with the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) and Care International to develop the Women's Empowerment Farmer Business School (WE-FBS), a gender transformative approach, which aims at fostering rural women's economic empowerment by strengthening the capacities of rural men and women farmers to create profitable enterprises and at the same time transform gender relations in the household, community and markets, according to the local context.

### 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.

In 2024, FAO released a groundbreaking report titled "[The Unjust Climate: Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on Rural Poor, Women, and Youth](#)". Drawing upon data from over 109 000 households across 24 low- and middle-income countries spanning five regions, the report assesses the differential impact of climate change on rural women, youth, and individuals living in poverty. It illustrates how climate change, through both sudden shocks and slow onset events, exacerbates inequalities between poor and non-poor households in rural areas, as well as between households headed by women and men.

Additionally, FAO provides technical support for programmatic design, respectively Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (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.

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 been supporting the development of national social protection systems in fragile and humanitarian setting where these do not exist or are nascent, while also providing direct support to poor and vulnerable people through these systems (when possible) or in alignment to them. This twin-track approach has proven to be effective in terms of ensuring a continuous flow of assistance, avoiding disruption and/or interruption of service while also strengthening governance, design and delivery chain of key social protection programmes.

FAO has also progressed in assessing the current situation of women and men affected by recent shocks and stresses and reducing the gender gaps, by improving women's access to resources, technologies, services, social protection, decent jobs and local institutions, and by strengthening their knowledge and skills, in order to enhance the adaptation and resilience of affected and vulnerable people and build just and sustainable agrifood

Inputs on the progress made in implementing the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication

systems. This implies adopting gender-transformative, inclusive and group-based approaches that seek to remove the structural barriers to gender equality and women's economic empowerment, and change rigid gender norms and roles, and unequal power dynamics. Special efforts are also made to reduce the risks of gender-based violence and the multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination against women and girls.