

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO
Contributions

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

FAO provided extensive support to nearly 20 countries for the integration of decent work into agri-food related policies, strategies and programmes and the design of dedicated employment initiatives targeting rural youth, including green jobs. Emphasis was placed on promoting youth agri-entrepreneurship, enhancing youth skills and strengthening youth organizations and networks. FAO developed and tested methodologies for assessing youth engagement in agri-food value chains, youth access to finance, and youth communication practices and preferences (with focus on ICT use), and developed a corporate Migration Framework to promote migration as a choice and an opportunity for rural development. FAO and UNIDO launched a regional joint programme on Opportunities for Youth (OYA) at the TICAD7. FAO undertook extensive advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns and capacity building initiatives at global and regional level to reduce child labour in agriculture, and improve working conditions in fisheries and aquaculture. In addition to UNIDO, FAO collaborated with ILO, IOM, the European Union, the Apostleship of the Sea and the International Maritime Organization, GIZ, Sida and regional and national farmers and youth organizations.

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

FAO continues to build the economic case for the scale up of social protection programmes in rural areas. This work contributes to the USP2030 (Universal Social Protection Partnership) agenda, enhancing the visibility of those living in rural areas – including farmers, fishers and forest dependent communities- and the need to adjust social protection programmes to better address their multiple vulnerabilities, while ensuring adequate coverage. Across regions, FAO supports integrated approaches for poverty reduction, strengthening the linkages between social protection, economic inclusion and climate adaptation. FAO was a key contributor to the SDG Fund-Social Protection window at national level, supporting rural poverty reduction in 8 countries; partnered with the Central American Integration System (SICA) in the development of its Regional Agenda on Social Protection and Productive Inclusion (ARIPSIP); developed a regional south-south learning exchange platform in Africa on social protection and agriculture, and collaborated with UNICEF and WFP on a regional review of nutrition sensitive and shock responsive social protection in Asia.

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

FAO recognizes that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon and distinguishes the specific vulnerabilities of the rural poor and extreme poor. FAO supports governments in designing and implementing comprehensive poverty reduction policies by linking them to agricultural, rural development policies and strategies, as well as across the food system, to achieve inclusive and sustainable structural transformation. This includes support in the development of dedicated policies for small-scale producers and family farmers, particularly in the context of the UNDF; supporting the diversification of rural livelihoods and enhancing market linkages and opportunities between urban and rural areas; expansion of shock-responsive social protection in rural areas and fostering participatory territorial development processes. Across its programme of work, FAO is enhancing the use of poverty diagnostics and analysis, including through a rural multidimensional poverty index.

D) THE FUTURE OF FOOD AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

FAO supports linking between poverty reduction and sustainable agriculture from global to local levels. FAO convened a Joint Initiative with international science and financing partners on future food

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systems and their impacts on SDG 1 and SG2 under climate change and agriculture transformation, and with partners launched the United Nations Decade of Family Farming based on inclusion and sustainable agriculture systems. FAO continues to support countries in strengthening tenure policies for poorer and more marginalized groups: pastoralists, small-scale fishers, forest users and especially indigenous people, who stewards of important agroecological and biodiverse systems. FAO developed assessment tools, provided guidance and supported policy dialogue and models for inclusive sustainable agriculture value chains and productive infrastructure in many countries. This has strengthened smallholder business capacity in terms of natural resource management; guided extension and advisory services for innovation and market orientation; and strengthened women's roles in national policies on agriculture and economic empowerment. FAO has promoted integrated territorial approaches in areas of high poverty and food insecurity. Processes for removing barriers for the poor to access and adopt sustainable practices and enhance climate adaptation are supported through linking social protection with natural resource management.

E) REDUCING INEQUALITIES

FAO supports countries in fostering more inclusive processes and reducing inequalities throughout the food system by addressing structural constraints that prevent access to food, productive and natural resources (land, water, and infrastructure), markets, decent work and social protection. FAO fosters the empowerment of rural people and their institutions across all sectors of agriculture (crop, livestock, fisheries, forests and aquaculture). The Forest Farm Facility, a joint initiative with multiple partners, promotes producer organizations representing smallholders, rural women's groups, local communities and indigenous peoples' institutions. Gender equality and women's economic empowerment are strengthened through a Joint Programme with multiple UN agencies, and along with the implementation of FAO's Extreme Poverty Framework, guide dedicated actions to support the extreme poor throughout the Organization's work. FAO's Hand In Hand Initiative promotes a territorial approach to agricultural development and accelerating inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation by targeting the territories with the highest productive (crop, livestock, fisheries and/or forestry) potential and largest number of poor. This approach is based on coordination across efforts by government, development partners, private sector and civil society.

F) ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE INTENSIFICATION OF NATURAL HAZARDS

The effects of climate change exacerbate poverty, increase inequalities and disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, particularly women and indigenous peoples. FAO supports countries to strengthen their policies and capacities to address the linkages between climate change action and rural poverty reduction strategies. FAO formulates and implements GCF and GEF projects which focus on building resilience and reducing vulnerability of the poor to climate change. Social protection efforts are integrated with risk management to support poor households in removing barriers to the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture and women's resilience building. FAO contributes to the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan and the socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change under the Koronivia joint work in agriculture. With partners such as the World Bank, FAO convened events at COP25 and the International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability to showcase solutions to the climate change and poverty nexus, including social protection. FAO has fostered interlinkages between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, including a regional NDC-SDG dialog with Caribbean SIDS.

G) FIGHTING POVERTY IN FRAGILE AND HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS

FAO promotes a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach in its operations in fragile and protracted crises settings. Recognizing that the majority of the extreme poor live in fragile contexts,

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FAO supports the integration of poverty and socio-economic analysis in humanitarian needs assessments to inform programming. Moreover, FAO has also enhanced its capacity and expertise around conflict-sensitive analysis and programming. FAO has placed strong emphasis in anticipatory action, providing support to chronically poor households and crises-affected populations before, during, and in the aftermath of a shock, and continues to support the development of risk informed and shock responsive social protections systems. Further, FAO supports the strengthening of collective action and empowerment of local actors; promotes the economic inclusion of host communities and refugees, while promoting the generation of employment and skill training for youth, including refugees, in conflict-prone zones, using Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools.