

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

FAO provided policy and programme support to countries for the design and implementation of initiatives that promote decent youth employment in agri-food systems in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery, including through the joint FAO-UNIDO regional programme on Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA). FAO advocated extensively for COVID-19 responses to be sensitive to the needs of children, informal and agricultural migrant workers, and aligned with green recovery plans. In particular, FAO launched an initiative to listen to the needs, concerns and proposed solutions of young agripreneurs leading to a reorientation of its flagship youth employment programme to support youth COVID-19 related needs, and addressed return migrants affected by COVID-19 in country-level activities. FAO stepped up its advocacy and capacity building activities for agricultural stakeholders in the context of the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, collaborating with ILO and other organizations in the framework of the Alliance 8.7, and facilitated multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on strategies to foster decent working conditions in fisheries and aquaculture through the 2020 Vigo Dialogue in collaboration with ILO and OECD.

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

COVID-19 has negatively affected the livelihoods and incomes of rural households, further highlighting the urgency of extending coverage of social protection to them. FAO makes an economic case for scaling up social protection programmes in rural areas so that these reach farmers, fishers, pastoralists, and forest-dependent communities and are adequately adjusted to their needs. Moreover, FAO supports integrated approaches to poverty reduction by strengthening the linkages between social protection, economic inclusion, gender equality and climate adaptation as well as by better linking humanitarian cash responses and social protection systems.

Partnerships are at the heart of FAO's work on social protection. At the global level, FAO continued to contribute to the Universal Social Protection Partnership, with ILO, identifying approaches to extend coverage of social protection to rural populations; and joined the Partnership for Economic Inclusion that leverages social protection systems to strengthen economic inclusion of the rural poor. At the regional level, FAO established and continued partnerships with ILO and UNDP in the Near East and North Africa, ASEAN in East Asia, and IFAD in Africa and Latin America.

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

FAO recognizes that poverty is multidimensional and distinguishes the specific vulnerabilities of the rural poor and extreme poor, supporting governments in designing and implementing comprehensive poverty reduction policies to achieve inclusive and sustainable structural transformation. The work focuses on small-scale producers, family farmers and rural women, particularly under the UN Decade on Family Farming (UNDDF); diversification of rural livelihoods; market linkages, including between urban and rural areas; expansion of shock-responsive social protection; and participatory territorial development processes. FAO is enhancing the use of poverty diagnostics and analysis through development of poverty measurement methods, including a rural multidimensional poverty index (R-MPI) jointly developed with OPHI, poverty mapping using small-area estimation and artificial intelligence techniques, poverty profiles of rural areas, and targeting techniques. These tools are helping FAO target and design inclusive agricultural and rural development investments, specifically under the Hand in Hand Initiative.

FAO is playing a role in assessing and responding to COVID-19's impacts on people's lives and livelihoods, global food trade, markets, food supply chains and livestock, allowing countries to anticipate and mitigate socio-economic disruptions and ensure food and nutrition security, especially for the most vulnerable.

D) THE FUTURE OF FOOD AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

FAO supports integrating territorial development and landscape management approaches to deepen the linkages between poverty reduction and sustainable agriculture. With partners FAO promoted the workshop Territorial and Landscape Days to exchange experiences on integrating such approaches. FAO is the implementing agency for the "Improving Capacity Building in Rural Finance" (CABFIN) project in partnership with IFAD, FAO, GIZ/BMZ, UNCDF, WFP and the World Bank. Through this initiative, FAO facilitates knowledge dissemination and capacity development on increasing the availability of financial services adapted to the needs of rural livelihoods – specifically women and youth. FAO continues to support countries in strengthening tenure policies for poorer and more marginalized groups: rural women, pastoralists, small-scale fishers, forest users and indigenous people. Through the Dimitra Clubs approach, FAO supports community empowerment and rural women's agency in several countries. FAO plays a key role in the implementation of the UNDRR and supported several countries on designing policies to strengthen family farming.

E) REDUCING INEQUALITIES

FAO supports countries in fostering more inclusive processes and reducing inequalities throughout agri-food systems by addressing structural constraints and by fostering empowerment of rural people and their institutions. The Forest Farm Facility (FFF) promotes producer organizations representing smallholders, rural women's groups, local communities and indigenous peoples. To respond to COVID-19, FFF refocused efforts by implementing locally-adapted emergency response measures and promoting e-commerce to allow producer organizations to trade and develop new market opportunities while socially distancing.

FAO's work on gender equality and women's economic empowerment focuses on enhancing women's leadership and equitable access to resources, services, information, technologies, institutions and economic opportunities. A Joint Programme on women's economic empowerment implemented by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP in 7 countries, as well as FAO's Extreme Poverty Framework, guide dedicated actions to support the extreme poor.

FAO's Hand In Hand Initiative, designed to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development to eradicate poverty and end hunger, began implementation at the onset of COVID-19; its innovative approach to analysis and partnership-building has been useful for coordinating integrated rapid response to COVID-19 impacts on agri-food systems.

F) ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE INTENSIFICATION OF NATURAL HAZARDS

FAO supports countries to strengthen the inclusivity of their climate actions and investments through technical and capacity support to policy and programme design and implementation. Key avenues for achieving this include formulation and implementation of GCF and GEF programmes that facilitate the achievement of Nationally Determined Contribution objectives; operationalization of adaptive social protection systems that promote inclusive disaster management and uptake of climate-resilient agriculture by the poorest and most vulnerable; implementation of coordinated interventions aimed at increasing efficiency by aligning inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR) actions, social protection programmes and knowledge strengthening. FAO continues to contribute to the UNFCCC Gender

Action Plan and the socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change under the Koronivia joint work in agriculture.

G) FIGHTING POVERTY IN FRAGILE AND HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS

FAO supports countries facing agriculture and food emergencies, providing livelihood support and promoting economic inclusion processes in line with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. To support the extreme poor living in fragile contexts, FAO generates evidence-based information and analysis by conducting poverty and socio-economic assessment to strengthen the continuum between humanitarian and development efforts. This evidence is also translated into policy and programmatic support via technical assistance to national stakeholders.

FAO has increased capacity and expertise to adopt pro-poor, gender transformative and conflict-sensitive approaches focusing on anticipatory actions, disaster risk reduction strategies and shock responsive social protections systems. FAO supports collective action and empowerment of local actors, economic inclusion of host communities and refugees, and employment and skill building for youth in conflict-prone zones. To build resilient agri-food systems, FAO provides technical assistance on multiple risk governance, decision-making and vulnerability reduction measures.