



Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance

The UN Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) has generated additional momentum in the struggle to eliminate hunger worldwide and helped to align related actions by relevant organizations. Here are some examples of how EAA members have been working to make progress on the achievement of the ZHC elements.



GOAL 1: ZERO STUNTED CHILDREN LESS THAN 2 YEARS

At the international level: EAA works to ensure the meaningful participation of civil society organizations, including faith-based organizations, in policy spaces dealing with nutrition, such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN), the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and related processes.

Among our members: EAA provides a platform for dialogue with the aim of creating a 'code of good practice' on nutrition interventions.



GOAL 2: 100% ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD ALL YEAR ROUND

EAA members labor to ensure that food producers have access to and control over the natural resources that they need (land, water, and a diversity of locally-adapted seeds that can respond to a range of different climate challenges) to produce crops that will provide diverse diets throughout the year. This work includes farmer-to-farmer trainings covering issues such as which crops ripen when and how best to replenish the soil with nitrogen and organic matter so that they can grow nutritious food each month.

At the national level, EAA members advocate for social protection schemes, including safety nets, which target the most disadvantaged. If done right, these interventions can protect and reduce social, economic and cultural inequalities which can increase their food security and nutrition resiliency and enhance their ability to access food.



GOAL 3: ALL FOOD SYSTEMS ARE SUSTAINABLE

EAA works to increase community resilience and food sovereignty by promoting the strengthening of local food systems using an ecosystem-based model of agriculture. Agroecology combines the sciences and practices of agronomy and ecology, while adapting to the circumstances of each farm or region. Its methods aim to increase productivity through enhancing natural and sustainable processes, using local knowledge and experimentation that are well adapted to the needs of small-scale farmers. These methods actively restore the health of soils and encourage habitats for mutually beneficial wildlife. Healthier soil means improved water and nutrition retention and a greater variety of genetic resources leads to a better growing environment for plants. Diversifying crops also avoids the vulnerabilities in production and marketing that farmers encounter if they grow only one crop variety.



GOAL 4: 100% INCREASE IN SMALLHOLDER PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOME

Agroecology produces more food with fewer external inputs and improves income for farmers. It requires very little operational costs and delivers great returns on investment, both in terms of livelihoods, social and economic factors and for the environment.

EAA calls on governments to reform their national policies, institutions, and research and development agendas to make sure that agroecological farming methods are supported. This includes investing in local infrastructure (storage, processing facilities and roads) to make sure that small-scale food producers have better access to local and regional markets and sell their goods at fair prices. Governments can help by using produce from small-scale farmers in their public procurement schemes, such as school meals and hospital food programs.



GOAL 5: ZERO LOSS OR WASTE OF FOOD

EAA raises awareness about food waste and post-harvest losses by inviting our members to take the 'Zero Waste Challenge' during the Lenten period (see: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/sustainable-consumption/fast-for-life/>). Through that effort, we raise public awareness through churches, based on principles of Christian stewardship, about the dramatic levels of food waste in the retail chain. This effort also includes encouraging greater investment by governments and international donors in more and better local infrastructure for storage, preservation and processing of produce, and for transportation.

