

COMPENDIUM — FINAL REPORT  
ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE WORKING GROUPS

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S  
HIGH-LEVEL TASK FORCE ON  
GLOBAL FOOD AND  
NUTRITION SECURITY



**100% ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD ALL YEAR ROUND**

**Working Group Composition – Participating Agencies**

Co-Chairs: FAO, WFP

Other Participants: DPA, IFAD, ILO, OHRLLS, UNCTAD, UNHCR, UNIDO, World Bank

This compendium summarizes the outcome of the work done by the twenty-three High level Task Force of Global Food and Nutrition Security entities, coordinated by the HLTF Coordination Team from October 2014 to October 2015.

This report outlines the main features of this specific Zero Hunger Challenge element, including suggested metrics to monitor progress, as a guide to all stakeholders willing to join the challenge. The report is articulated around four sections. Each section explains the approach used, bottlenecks encountered, alternatives considered and all the information necessary for the reader to understand how the group reached its conclusions.

I. <b>Definition:</b> The definition of the element is clarified when necessary.	Page 1
II. <b>Policy measures:</b> This explains policy measures which provide the enabling environment for reaching the final objectives.	Pages 1 - 3
III. <b>Metrics:</b> A set of indicators for monitoring progress toward the Zero Hunger Challenge element has been identified.	Pages 4
IV. <b>Messaging:</b> Trade-offs and priorities have been included. This material is intended to help the Zero Hunger Challenge reach other stakeholders, particularly civil society and the private sector.	Pages 5 - 7
V. <b>Conclusion:</b> This highlights remaining knowledge gaps and work. The group reviewed the newly-adopted global agenda on development and suggested next steps.	Page 7

## I. Definition

### **Concordance reached by the High level Task Force of Global Food and Nutrition Security entities**

One hundred percent access to adequate food means physical, economic and social access to food for everyone at all times, and for nutritionally adequate diets, in terms of quantity, quality, and safety.

Barriers to physical access may result from systemic causes, such as inefficient infrastructure, policy induced trade impediments and other impediments to the movement of food, especially in security-related constraints induced by man-made or natural disasters.

Lack of economic access to adequate food and good nutrition affects all countries, influenced by low employment income or poverty. People suffering from chronic hunger often lack the means to access adequate food through their own production or purchases, leading to under-nutrition and micro-nutrition deficiency. Impediments to the movements of food mentioned above may not block physical access, but they may cause prices to rise so that poor households cannot afford the food. More nutritious foods may require more preparation, time, and money than less nutritious foods. This can contribute to overweight and obesity in many countries.

Social structures, norms and traditions also affect people's access to food. Economic growth and rising incomes have contributed to reducing hunger at national level. However, inequalities (including inequitable distribution of available food within a household) and social exclusion (such as exclusion related to inequality, under-resourced social protection programmes, or targeting errors) often prevent economic growth benefits from reaching the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. Women often face challenges in access to assets and may have little or no control of how household income is spent.

Displacement and disruptions to markets and livelihoods caused by man-made or natural disasters also impair economic access. These disruptions require both immediate humanitarian response and recovery efforts to stabilize prices, rebuild production and markets, and support livelihoods. Vulnerable households, who may spend as much as 80 percent of their income on food, face resulting risks such as sudden price increases or crop failures, or lack adequate food on a seasonal basis.

## II. Policy measures

### **Concordance reached by the High level Task Force of Global Food and Nutrition Security entities**

Achieving 100 percent access to adequate food requires creating an enabling environment to allow and create incentives for key sectors and stakeholders to focus on food and nutrition security, including access to food. Strengthening access to food should be embedded in an overall strategy to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. Entry points include:

- 1) Policies and legal frameworks.
- 2) Programmes for inclusive food access.
- 3) Governance.
- 4) Human and financial resources.

Policy entry points for 100 percent access to food all year round:

**Policies and legal frameworks:** A comprehensive and coherent set of sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and legislation provide a critical foundation to address the underlying and immediate causes of inadequate food access. This includes:

- Reviewing policies and legislation for food and nutrition security in support of government efforts to improve food access; including Government considerations of social protection strategies and links to right-based approaches to enhance food access;
- Promoting pro-poor and gender-sensitive policies and legislation. Preventing discrimination in access and distribution of culturally appropriate food to women and vulnerable groups, financial inclusion, access to credit and land rights and using as much as possible local food systems.
- Improving access to food and addressing malnutrition in all its forms, increasing consumer awareness/behavioural change, especially related to the challenges of overweight and obesity, and links to food safety and food quality.

**Programmes for inclusive food access:** Enhancing market access, addressing market inefficiencies, building resilience, supporting livelihoods, implementing appropriate social protection mechanisms, and boosting consumer awareness and behavioural change campaigns are important elements for ensuring food access to end hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. This will require:

- Improving the nutrition-sensitivity of agriculture and food systems, such as includes food production and diversification, with attention to small-holders; food processing and fortification; trade and market infrastructure and access; and marketing; food consumption and diets);
- Increasing women's control over and access to productive agricultural inputs and financial services. Reducing excessive food price volatility through open, fair and well-functioning markets and domestic and international trade are essential elements.
- Expanding local procurement for school feeding programs to raise producer incomes, promoting food diversification, fostering behaviour change, and supporting improved nutrition consumption for school-aged children.
- Supporting livelihoods and increasing access to decent and productive employment, including private sector employment and public works programmes.
- Promoting social protection measures, including conditional and unconditional cash, voucher, and food transfers. Dedicating attention to the most vulnerable — people living in crises (including protracted crises) and the rural and urban poor. Providing national social protection floors and wider social protection systems. Providing regular and predictable transfers to poor or transitional communities can stimulate demand for local agricultural production and local food processing;
- Facilitating access to universal health protection in the context of national social protection floors. This can address malnutrition and improve access to food by freeing up household resources previously spent on health care. Providing dietary

counselling and nutrition education in the context of health protection helps improve diets and overall food security.

- Implementing resilience-based approaches to ensuring food access, by mitigating the effects of shocks and stressors and recognizing the complex transitions between relief, recovery and development.
- Promoting consumer awareness on nutrition, including community-based approaches and education. Provide food subsidies to nutritious food to promote behaviour-change.

**Governance:** Establishing viable, inclusive, and coherent governance systems for food and nutrition security, including:

- Building mechanisms which coordinate and ensure coherence in food production, processing, and markets, nutrition, and social protection policies and enhance access to healthy and nutritious food. Reducing hunger and malnutrition (including the hidden hunger and micronutrient deficiencies).
- Building governance structures to support efficient, stable and fair markets. Reducing private as well as public corruption. Strengthening accountability of both public and private actors for actions which impact food access.
- Supporting mechanism to improve access to food for the most vulnerable groups.
- Promoting cross-cutting governance mechanisms to address the multi-faceted nature of food and nutrition security through inter-ministerial oversight instruments.
- Providing market information, public facilities, access to technologies and know-how, and other public goods to foster stable markets and improve adaptation to natural and man-made climate events.

**Human and financial resources:** Governments and development partners, and private actors should translate the food and nutrition security aspects of policies, legislation, and programmes into effective action by allocating the necessary financial, organizational and human resources and solid administrative capacity. This requires:

- Advocating for, and supporting the tracking resource allocations and expenditures by sectors and stakeholders. Supporting actions that have explicit and measurable impacts on food access.
- Promoting investments in sustainable agriculture and the food industry which adhere to the principles for responsible investments in agriculture and food systems and the voluntary guidelines on the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security adopted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS);
- Investing in education and skills training at all levels to improve workers' productivity and incomes.

### **Implementation:**

Implementation should be country-led, draw on inputs, support and participation by various levels of government, international agencies, the private sector, farmer organizations, food industry organizations, trade unions, guilds, civil society, consumer groups, and non-governmental organizations. Actions should build on existing initiatives. Specific activities and the level of

engagement (local, national, regional, or global) should be tailored as appropriate for each country and context. The principles for implementation to enhance food access include:

**Partnerships, coordination and inclusivity:** All concerned sectors and stakeholders should be able to take part in decision-making on food and nutrition security, and promote access to healthy food. Aspects include:

- Engaging stakeholders, including local communities, government and non-governmental actors (such as civil society and the private sector) in food and nutrition security consultations. This can help avoid conflicts of interest.
- Promoting partnerships and coordinated action across the broad range of actors at national and sub-national, national, and regional levels.

**Evidence-based Decision-making:** Policy, legislation, and program decision-making should draw on evidence generated through information systems. These systems should monitor trends, track, and map stakeholder actions, monitor progress, and assess impact in a manner that is timely, comprehensive and transparent. Lessons learned should be incorporated into the policy process for:

- Promoting food and nutrition security evidence and impact evaluations of policies and programmes in terms of their design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Developing technology that can be scaled up to promote data collection, analysis and projections.
- Ensuring adequate institutional and technical capacities to track and monitor changes in the food and nutrition security situation.

### III. Metrics

#### **Concordance reached by the High level Task Force of Global Food and Nutrition Security entities**

- 1) Prevalence of undernourishment.
- 2) Food insecurity experience scale.
- 3) Prevalence of households with inadequate food consumption.
- 4) Prevalence of households with over 75 percent share of food expenditure over total consumption expenditure

The following indicators for food access will help monitor progress, long-term trends, diet quality, economic vulnerability and the effects of shocks.

#### **1) Prevalence of undernourishment — the country measure of sufficient access to food:**

FAO's prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) indicator is an established indicator used to monitor progress against the hunger target of the Millennium Development Goals. PoU is defined as the probability that a randomly selected individual from the reference population consumes less than his or her calorie requirement for an active and healthy life. This is a well-established measure for long-term chronic food insecurity national trends (FAO State of Food Insecurity in the World, SOFI).

**2) Prevalence of people with inadequate access to food, as measured through the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES):** FIES is an experience-based metric of the severity of food insecurity. It relies on people's direct and objective responses to eight questions regarding their experiences with inadequate access to food. The FIES measurement system builds on the content and experience of similar tools already used in the US and in Latin America. For worldwide application of the FIES (in more than 150 countries), FIES is using the Gallup® World Poll (GWP).

**3) Prevalence of households with inadequate food consumption (Food Consumption Score):** This indicator captures the dietary diversity and food frequency dimensions of food access. Data for this indicator is easy to collect, economic, is included in a number of national surveys and can monitor changes. This indicator has been extensively used by WFP in food security assessments for many years, and is included in a number of national Living Standards Measurement Surveys (LSMS) and monitoring surveys.

**4) Prevalence of households with over 75 percent share of food expenditure over total consumption expenditure:** This indicates economic vulnerability and data is available from national household and income surveys for most countries.

#### IV. Messaging

##### **Concordance reached by the High level Task Force of Global Food and Nutrition Security entities**

The world can achieve zero hunger by 2030, but it will require the individual and collective effort of all stakeholders. For this to be achieved, every person has to have adequate access to sufficient, diverse and nutritious diets that are sustainable. Moreover, economic and physical factors must not prevent consumers from obtaining adequate food. Food access must be universal and sustainable.

In striving to achieve food and nutrition security, the private sector and civil society have the power to mobilize resources and society. These stakeholders should therefore contribute to access to healthy food through promoting social, environmental and economic sustainability.

**Public-private partnerships:** The private sector needs to be engaged to support food and nutrition security. The private sector can turn government commitments into actions. Public-private partnerships should be assessed to ensure they will strengthen food and nutrition security (such as food production, processing, marketing, trade, consumption and diets). Public-private partnerships should sustainably support productivity, implement food and nutrition security policies and programmes, carry out emergency responses, and promote price stability. The private sector can give political support to national food and nutrition security plans. The private sector can also, where appropriate, help implement national programmes. Successful public-private partnerships can:

- Strengthen public-private dialogue to integrate, if appropriate, the private sector perspectives and requisites into national planning frameworks.
- Identify and implement sector specific regulatory reforms creating an enabling environment for business;
- Through innovation, technology and know-how, support governmental policies that promote social and financial inclusion. The private sector can help with social security systems, solidarity-based microcredit initiatives, recovery programmes. The private sector can also participate in food/non-food based support during emergencies for poor families through cash transfers or vouchers programmes.

- Improve supply chain efficiencies to cut costs. Contribute to making healthy food available and affordable.
- The private sector has data about consumer food purchases and food consumption. The private sector could potentially share some of this data with the public sector (for example, data that would not compromise corporate competitiveness), as appropriate, with those public sector institutions that have a mandate or responsibility, to help monitor food and nutrition security.

**Market access and development:** By enabling enhanced access to markets, the private sector can help healthy food reach vulnerable households and individuals at affordable prices. It could also increase incomes of family and small-scale farmers and food processors, which could lead to improved food access.

- Companies — such as distributors, purchasers and retailers — can support the development of local certified food products, especially sustainable production by small-scale producers.
- Food supermarket chains could sell nutritious food at affordable prices.
- Businesses could assist smallholder producers and processors by sharing improved storage technologies; developing warehouse receipt systems; and making better market information systems available;
- The private sector should include attention to enhancing productivity, incomes and food security of smallholders by developing proactive procurement procedures targeting inclusion of smaller scale producers in value chains and by providing incentives for diversifying food and commercial production. The private sector is encouraged to be involved with smaller and medium-scale agricultural enterprises, including input suppliers as well as food manufacturers, distributors and retailers, in order to develop locally adapted solutions and develop sustainable and inclusive food value chains through partnerships and inclusive business models. Businesses should increase shareholder value, and also value for consumers, suppliers, and business partners. Value is not only monetary, but can also be social or environmental.
- Supporting producers and processors by assisting and building capacities on food safety standards, labelling and marketing.

**Investments:** Investments which promote sustainable food systems (including producers, markets, and others along the value chain) to ensure access to nutritious food, complement social protection mechanisms and other public programmes and increase the resilience of vulnerable populations, will be critical for not only eliminating hunger and reducing overweight and obesity. Complementary innovative financing — through value chain financing, public private partnerships, catalytic funds, guarantee funds, and other financing mechanisms — is needed:

- Invest responsibly in sustainable and local food systems. This in accordance with the Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and food systems of the Committee of World Food Security, creates decent employment opportunities, reduces poverty, fosters social and gender equality, ensures sustainable development, and improves access to adequate food.
- Invest responsibly in sustainable food systems requires respecting, protecting, and promoting equitable growth and human rights, including the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. Such investments will yield greater and more viable economic growth.

- Responsible investment includes priority investments with smallholders — including family farmers, small-scale producers and processors, pastoralists, artisans, fishers, communities closely dependent on forests, indigenous peoples, and agricultural workers — and integrating smallholders into the food system.
- The viability of investments in the food system must respect functioning ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources.

**Employment:** Decent jobs and adequate incomes enable individuals and families to access food that is nutritious and diverse. If families have healthy diets and eating habits, they will usually have positive food and nutrition outcomes. The private sector can promote quality employment and inclusive business models in rural areas. The private sector can also link family farmers, smallholders, processors and producer organizations to modern value chains and urban and peri-urban areas.

- Create more and better jobs, in both rural and urban populations, to empower workers by guaranteeing their rights at work, ensuring decent levels of income and social protection, and securing a safe and healthy working environment, thereby strengthening their ability to access healthy and nutritious food.
- Invest in education and skills training at all levels to improve workers’ productivity and incomes. Particular attention could be paid to increasing the skills and employment potential of youth.
- Improve employment opportunities for women taking into account local customs and cultures. Provide equal pay, child-care, flexible working hours and options for part-time work, which enhance women’s participation and incomes and thus access to food. Close the gender gap in both rural and urban labour markets by ensuring equitable access of women and men to productive resources, skill development and services.
- Ensure that workers receive enough wages to provide for them and their family’s basic needs, including access to adequate and nutritious food.

### **Civil society and farmers’ organizations**

- Advocate for active participation and raise awareness on the benefit of engaging all sectors of the society and farmers’ organization in the policy-making process for food and nutrition security, ensuring that the decision makers take their interest into consideration.
- Strengthen the partnership with civil society to build stronger public support. Give voice to the poor and ensure that their views are considered in the decision making process in view to addressing the causes of inadequate food access.
- Strengthen civil society mechanisms and promote inclusive governance systems for food and nutrition security to improve access to sufficient, diverse and nutritious food;
- Enhance civil society mechanisms to improve accountability and ensure that stakeholders meet their commitments.

## **V. Conclusion**

The Zero Hunger Challenge will benefit from a greater coordination and links among the five pillars as well as a concrete discussion on how to leverage the strength of the Zero Hunger Challenge in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Work to-date on the five pillars pave way for more strategic partnerships among the United Nations agencies and development partners in order to create an enabling environment for ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition (SDG 2).