



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Food Security – A world without hunger

CONTEXT

Our food systems have been facing unprecedented challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and the war in Ukraine. Disruptions in food supply chains and their required inputs for production have led to the highest food price index in our history.

Furthermore, some estimates suggest that one-third of all food produced gets lost or wasted every year, making post-harvest losses a critical issue for global food security and climate change. In some countries, smallholder farmers regularly lose 40 percent of their harvest due to inadequate storage capacities and lack of knowledge and equipment on food manufacturing practices.

As a result, around 830 million people faced hunger in 2021, 180 million more since the launch of the 2030 Agenda with a sharp increase (150 million) after the COVID-19 outbreak. We had approximately 2.31 billion people who were either moderately or severely food insecure and 3.1 billion who were not able to afford a healthy diet.

APPROACH

Achieving food security in developing countries is only possible through a systematic approach. This requires setting

short- (humanitarian relief), and long-term (food system transformation) objectives, considering environmental, economic, and social issues. UNIDO's framework aims to tackle food insecurity by addressing the both challenges by:

- Contributing to humanitarian relief programs: UNIDO collaborates with the World Food Programme (WFP) in supporting their local suppliers to comply with their food safety requirements.
- Transforming practices in food system: UNIDO focuses on climate-adaptive on-farm practices, local value addition/post-harvest loss reduction through green agricultural mechanization, strategic infrastructure development, and compliance with environmental, social, and food safety standards. Ultimately, these interventions aim at improving the economic resilience of local farmer communities and food producers through higher income. Fostering food safety advocacy and partnerships through enabling the engagement of the private sector in local, regional and global partnerships and advancing multi-stakeholder food safety dialogue and interventions.

WORKING TOWARDS



GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



30+
COUNTRIES



PARTNERS

FAO, WHO, development banks, national governments, and the private sector



FOCUS AREAS

- Integrated agro-industrial parks
- Green agricultural mechanization
- Food safety compliance
- Strategic value chains
- Logistics and cold chains



CONTACT

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IMPACT AND KEY RESULTS

The food security-related interventions aims at achieving their objectives through four interconnected components which could be implemented under an overarching programme:

- **Component 1.** Promotion of impact investment and innovative financing solutions in agri-food and agribusinesses. Under this component, the programme will focus on facilitating strategic investments and developing innovative financing solutions in order to build national and regional capacities for agricultural production and food manufacturing. Activities focus on areas, such as creating access to agricultural inputs, e.g. fossil-free fertilizer from green hydrogen, local machinery and equipment production, logistic and transportation solutions, high-tech precision agriculture, production of climate-resilient seeds, tissue cultures, agriculture financing, and renewable energy.
- **Component 2.** Enhancement of national and regional policy, regulatory and institutional framework to ensure public health and enhanced market access. This component is inevitable to enhance current practices and capacities of food control systems as well as relevant policy and legal elements for food security. In this regard, national governments in Africa will be supported in the formulation of relevant policies, regulations, and institutional capacity building, touching upon areas, such as trade and food safety, blended finance, and supply chain due diligence.
- **Component 3.** Establishment and piloting of local support services in the form of (regional) innovation centers for the dissemination of green and digital technology and knowledge (climate-adaptive and improved farm practices, market intelligence, standard compliance, etc.) and research and development. This component comprises elements for the creation of relevant local services required to achieve the

long-term needs for food security. The programme will identify required services based on a market assessment and introduce them thus aiming to create the innovation centers. These services will encompass the following main areas: 1) technology and knowledge transfer, 2) research and development, 3) market intelligence and linkages, and 4) certification and market compliance. Subsequently, the innovation centers will foreseeably focus on climate adaptive (carbon sequestration and seed production) and improved farm practices for biodiversity, digitalization for traceability, adapted agricultural mechanization for local value addition, sustainable packaging, and finally compliance with sustainability, environmental and food safety standards.

- **Component 4.** Assistance in the development of strategic infrastructures and value addition, such as food industrial parks and strategic storage capacities. UNIDO conducts feasibility studies, identifies locations and supports the implementation of strategic infrastructure to create opportunities for local value addition and storage for the selected value chains participating in the pilot initiatives. This in turn will possibly tackle issues related to food price fluctuation and job creation. UNIDO often focuses on building capacities of local suppliers, focusing on the improvement of their manufacturing practices and food safety management systems. UNIDO will also collaborate with international finance institutes, like the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to leverage required large-scale investments.



UNIDO's Food Safety Approach



Establishment of collaboration mechanism among

5
regional organizations



Capacity-building for
18
member states



Qualification and deployment of
12
regional risk assessors



Empowerment of
2,580
food safety officials and practitioners



Development of
25
regional technical guidelines, protocols and manuals