



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Progress by innovation



# A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER IS POSSIBLE

UNIDO's approach and contribution

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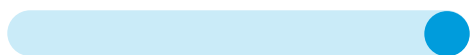
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# FOREWORD



A world without hunger is possible. We have the technologies and the knowledge to defeat hunger. What is needed above all, is the political will and the necessary investments. Over 850 million people do not know where their next meal will come from, and 2.8 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet. These numbers are worrying, if we are to meet the ambitious targets set out in the 2030 agenda, and this enormous challenge must be placed at the top of global political and private sector agendas. And we need the know-how, the resources, and the innovative power of the private sector, particularly agri-tech companies and agri-businesses, to transform our food systems and accelerate sustainable economic growth in the face of climate change, rapid population growth, and rising conflicts.

Ending hunger means much more than transforming agriculture and agri-food systems through innovation and technology. It means also tackling poverty and inequalities, it means equal rights and the empowerment of women, it requires rural development with access to energy for all, as well as fair and sustainable supply chains and local value addition. Above all, peace, stability and good governance are the prerequisites for food security.

There had been significant successes in reducing global hunger, but the Covid-19 pandemic and the many crises around the world caused the number of people suffering from hunger and food insecurity to rise again, and progress has stalled. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNIDO's work is in line with SDG 2, which aims to end hunger and promote sustainable agriculture. Additionally, SDG 9—focused on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation—plays a crucial role in supporting the goal to end hunger. In keeping with the indivisible nature of the 2030 agenda, with advances towards SDG 9 and related targets, we can create the necessary basic conditions for sustainable agricultural practices, improve access to markets, and

enhance the overall resilience of agri-food systems, all towards building a world without hunger. UNIDO is working to increase food security by reducing post-harvest losses through innovative technologies and solutions. We work on agricultural value chain development, increasing local production and processing, and reducing rural poverty. By optimizing supply chains, enhancing traceability, developing cold chains and sustainable packaging solutions, we work to preserve food quality, extend shelf life, and reduce food waste. Above all, all of our efforts at UNIDO, work on creating decent jobs, leading to better incomes, less poverty and ultimately to better nutrition and food security for everyone.

In line with Goal 17, UNIDO stands ready to foster and participate in building multi-stakeholder platforms and public-private partnerships to drive innovation and investment in the agri-tech sector. A world without hunger cannot be achieved without investments. This includes investments in youth, women, farmers, their education, and their access to markets. Of course, investors seek stability, and here lies the responsibility of governments. We must build broader partnerships among governments, private sector companies, NGOs, research institutions, international financial institutions like the African Development Bank; and other UN organizations such as the World Food Programme and FAO, are vital.

We have the technologies and the knowledge, and I am optimistic that we can achieve a brighter future as long as we have the political will to follow through. A world without hunger is within our reach—through sustainable industrialization, technology and knowledge transfer, and investment in agri-business. Together, we can build a world where hunger is a thing of the past.

**Gerd Müller**  
Director General, UNIDO



# WHO WE ARE

UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate to **promote and accelerate sustainable industrial development**. **Our mandate** is reflected in **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9**: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”, but UNIDO’s activities contribute to all the SDGs.

We deliver value to our 172 Member States through **four complementary core functions**:

- **Technical cooperation**
- **Action-oriented research and policy advisory services**
- **Normative standards-related activities**
- **Fostering partnerships for knowledge and technology transfer**



Our work is concentrated on the following **priorities**:



**Clean energy and climate action**

Using renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce industrial green-house gas emissions and applying nature-based solutions for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.



**Ending hunger**

By reducing post-harvest losses and developing sustainable agribusiness value chains and promoting innovative yet affordable agro-technology for improved food security and quality.



**Sustainable supply chains**

By promoting fair and environmentally responsible local industrial production so that developing country producers get a fair deal and scarce resources are preserved.

Cutting across these priorities we pursue the creation of decent jobs, women’s economic empowerment, innovative technology and knowledge transfer, digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI), investment promotion, training and skills development, the circular economy and environmental protection.

# GLOBAL CHALLENGES PUTTING INCREASED PRESSURE ON FOOD SECURITY

The global food system reflects entrenched socio-economic inequalities. According to FAO's SOFI 2024 report, over 864 million people faced severe food insecurity in 2023.<sup>1</sup> More than 2.8 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2022. These inequalities show up in stark relief when we see that in low-income countries, up to 71.5% of the population lacked access to affordable, nutritious food, while in high income countries, this figure was only 6.3%.<sup>2</sup>

The combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, economic downturns, and various climate-related shocks have significantly exacerbated food insecurity and challenged the resilience of food systems. These factors have disrupted supply chains, increased food prices, and diminished people's access to nutritious diets. 152 million more people are affected by hunger than before the pandemic in 2019, taking us back to hunger levels seen more than 15 years ago<sup>3</sup>.

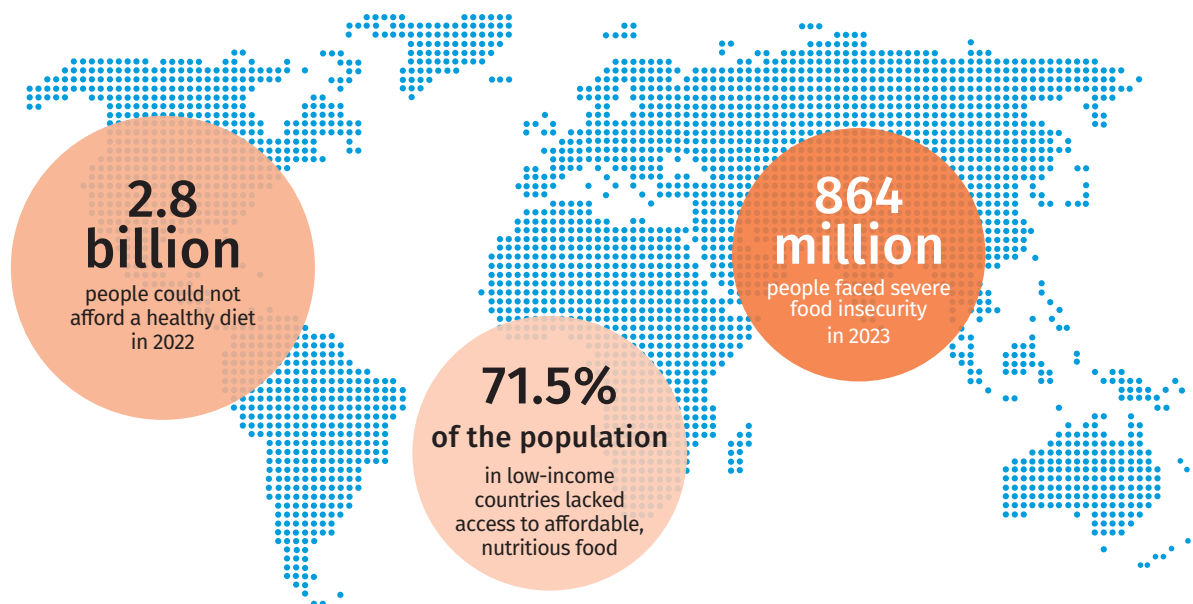
Conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine and the Middle East, have severely affected food and energy markets, leading to increased volatility and higher prices. Conflicts like these often result in the destruction of agricultural infrastructure, displacement of populations, and seizure of resources, disrupting food production and distribution.<sup>4-5</sup> The number of countries affected by conflict has risen sharply, from 121 in 2000 to 170 in 2021, highlighting the growing prevalence of geopolitical instability and widespread violence.<sup>6-7</sup> This instability not only disrupts local food systems but also has far-reaching consequences on global markets, making the eradication of hunger and food insecurity that much more difficult.<sup>8-9</sup>

Climate variability and extreme weather events, including floods, droughts, and extreme temperatures, have also reduced food security. Not only do they directly affect crop yields and livestock

production but also disrupt food supply chains, leading to price volatility and reduced access to food for vulnerable populations.<sup>10</sup> In 2023 alone, weather extremes were identified as the main driver of food insecurity in 18 countries, affecting approximately 72 million people.<sup>11</sup> As climate change continues to intensify, the frequency and severity of these weather shocks is expected to increase, posing a growing threat to global food security and making it more difficult for countries to achieve sustainable agricultural production and ensure stable food supplies.<sup>12</sup>

Africa's food import bill has more than doubled from 35 billion in 2015 to 75 billion in 2022 and is expected to exceed 110 billion by 2025.<sup>13-14</sup> This high dependence on food imports makes the continent vulnerable to global supply chain disruptions, rising food prices, and foreign exchange shortages. The price of wheat, for example, soared by over 45% in Africa following the onset of the Russia-Ukraine war, and fertilizer prices tripled, exacerbating food insecurity issues.<sup>15</sup> Rising food, fuel, and fertilizer prices have also put immense pressure on many African countries, where a large portion of the population spends a significant share of their income on food.

Undernutrition affects children disproportionately. Nearly half of all deaths of children under 5 are



attributable to undernutrition.<sup>16</sup> At the same time, the current food system involves excessive waste. About one-third of the food produced is lost and wasted, not reaching a plate. This wasted produce nonetheless required upstream inputs like seed material, labour, clearing of land for cultivation, water, provision of plant nutrients, irrigation, and transport, the use of which has economic, and environmental impacts. The gross imbalance in access to food is illustrated by the fact that overconsumption has contributed to making more than 2 billion people worldwide considered overweight, which in turn resulted in a worrying increase in associated illnesses like diabetes and cardiovascular disease.<sup>17</sup>

Inflationary pressures, particularly increases in the relative prices of food, continue to erode economic gains which leads to reduced access to food in many countries. High interest rates in the US, Europe, and other regions have had a significant impact on the prices of imported goods, particularly affecting food, fuel, and fertilizer costs. These increases disproportionately affect people in developing countries, where a large share of household income is spent on essential items like food. Food prices alone have contributed to a substantial portion of the recent inflation surge, especially in regions where food makes up a significant part of consumer spending. In low-income countries food costs can

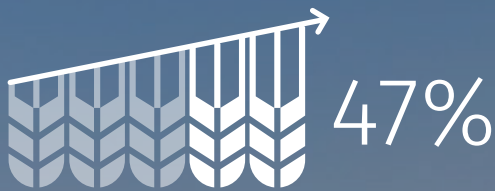
account for one-third to half of consumer spending, compared to less than one-seventh in high-income countries.<sup>18</sup>

While all the data cited above is testament to the deficiencies in the food system, a world without hunger and a more healthy, sustainable, and inclusive food system is still possible. The global food system has come under increasing strain in recent years. It has been buffeted by continuing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, new outbursts of armed conflict especially in the middle of Europe, one of the world's breadbaskets, extreme weather events changing the predictability of seasons, redefining cropping regions, impacting the spread of biological vectors for pests and pathogens. All this underscores the interconnected nature of how we produce, trade in and consume food. Likewise, solutions to these problems, need to be collective, mutually reinforcing and anchored in the shared vision of sustainable development enshrined in the 2030 agenda. Companies in the food processing industry are confronted with the challenge of reliably sourcing raw materials.

This brochure showcases how UNIDO contributes to these solutions, helping the global community move closer to a world without hunger.



# Drivers of future food demand, and corresponding cropland expansion



Demand for food will increase by 47 % over the coming 30 years



Growing demand for food will require an expansion of cropland by 47% by 2050



By 2050, climate change impacts will require a 9% increase in cropping area



Food waste is projected to nearly double by 2050 without further interventions



In some of the Sub-Saharan African countries, small holder farmers contribute up to 90% of food production



Agro-modernization and agro-innovation would reduce the required expansion of cropland by 38%

# ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE WITH UNIDO'S APPROACH

The prevailing approach to global food security is piecemeal, but it is evident that the road to lasting food security for all is a multi-lane highway, informed by system-wide and multi-dimensional perspectives. Cognizant of high food and post-harvest losses; low production, productivity and value addition; and escalating food crises, UNIDO seeks to showcase a systematic approach to inclusive and sustainable food security implemented along three interrelated vectors: (1) strengthening the link between agriculture production, food processing, and value addition; (2) reducing post-harvest loss and food waste; (3) and forging partnerships for immediate and direct support to the most vulnerable groups. This systematic three-prong approach can play a key role in the transformation of agro-food systems.

1

## Building production, processing, and value addition bridges

To address the binding constraints that undermine food security, UNIDO provides technical support across the food supply chain through capacity building, technological support, infrastructure development, and common user facilities. These include the development of agro-food transformation hubs/centres of excellence, rural transformation centres, industrial parks, and finance and market access support. UNIDO also emphasizes food safety, quality standards, and supply chain management.

### Innovation and modernization:

UNIDO supports the adoption of innovative agricultural practices and technologies, such as smart agriculture solutions and precision irrigation infrastructure, to adapt to climate change and improve productivity.

### Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks (IAIPs) and Special Agro-Processing Zones (SAPZs):

These initiatives aim to integrate local production with processing and value addition, enhancing the entire food supply chain and increasing the value of agricultural exports, thus boosting government forex earnings.

Improved practices should be coupled with robust educational and vocational programmes to ensure that enterprises can access skilled and well-educated labour in primary production, manufacturing, and tertiary services. This would require strong governmental action including reformed industrial policies, private sector financing and localization of the tertiary sector. Building bridges between productions, processing, and value addition helps reduce food loss and waste through post-harvest and food losses.



2

## Reducing post-harvest loss and food loss

Conventional approaches to food security often focus on increasing food production. However, a significant portion of produced food is lost or wasted. Plugging the post-harvest food loss in the food systems is critical to a sustainable food security and food system. UNIDO's approach includes:

### Improved storage and transportation:

Strategically relevant infrastructure, particularly like storage capacities at ports and airports, is necessary to ensure competitiveness and affordability of food commodities.

### Capacity building for smallholder farmers and MSMEs:

Providing training and resources to reduce food loss and waste, ensuring better integration into value chains through demand-led contracts with agro-industries.

### Centres of excellence and innovation hubs:

Enhancing competitiveness of agri-businesses through establishing centres of excellence, such as processing centres, rural transformation centres, packaging centres and other common user facilities, to provide sustainable and affordable services to agri-businesses.

3

## Partnership for immediate and direct support to the most vulnerable populations

UNIDO recognizes the multi-dimensionality of food security and every human's inalienable right to safe and healthy food and abides by the principle of leaving no one behind. UNIDO prioritizes, as part of its holistic approach to food security, strategic partnerships that enable direct access to food for affected populations. Leveraging the diverse and complementary mandates of UN-system organizations and other development partners, UNIDO endeavours to harness the combined power of local and regional food processing industries potential and global humanitarian food purchasing power to ensure sustainable production, sourcing, and supply of safe and nutritious food for vulnerable populations across the world. Not only does this approach help transform local SMEs and food industries, it also forges a formidable link between humanitarian and nutrition programming and boosting local economic and industries— capitalizing on it for better food security outcomes. Access to high-end markets in industrialized nations will become more complex and competitive. In a bid to assist LMICs stay relevant, UNIDO assists them in establishing robust compliance mechanisms based on international standards and norms. As mandatory due diligence requirements become a new regulatory trend, these countries, which become better at addressing human rights issues and transforming their environmental practices could gain significant trade advantages and challenges.



# BEST PRACTICES BASED ON UNIDO TECHNICAL COOPERATION

On the basis of the large portfolio of technical cooperation projects implemented by UNIDO globally, the following strategies are seen as yielding sustainable advances in alleviating hunger and food insecurity:



## Agricultural value chain development

Strengthening agricultural value chains by enhancing the efficiency of food production, processing, and distribution. This involves improving the quality of agricultural products, reducing post-harvest losses, and ensuring that smallholder farmers and MSMEs can effectively participate in and benefit from global markets.



## Investment and financing in agribusiness

Recognizing the crucial role of investment in agricultural development, UNIDO attracts private sector investment into agro-industries by creating an enabling environment through policy advocacy, capacity-building, and promoting innovative financing mechanisms.

To cover the global investment gap, UNIDO develops new financing solutions based on partnerships, facilitating both domestic investment and foreign direct investment (FDI) in rural and peri-urban areas of developing economies. This involves assisting infrastructure planning and de-risking investments to address the financing needs of MSMEs.

- **Access to finance:** Collaborating with local banks and IFIs to develop and promote innovative financial solutions in agriculture and agri-business.
- **Collaboration with private sector partners:** Expanding partnerships with the private sector to facilitate larger infrastructure investments.
- **Investment forums:** Organizing forums for agri-businesses to engage with stakeholders, identify solutions, and create new PPPs.



## Strategic infrastructure for agribusiness development

UNIDO emphasizes the importance of infrastructure in supporting agri-businesses. By developing and upgrading essential infrastructure such as storage facilities, processing plants, and transportation networks, UNIDO helps to reduce food losses, improve market access, and enhance the overall competitiveness of the agricultural sector.

# Productive sectors development programme (PSDP)



## CONTEXT

In view of the long-term structural challenges that Lebanon is facing as well as the profound effects that the current crises are having on its economy, there is a need to support job creation and inclusive economic growth, especially for women and youth in the most disadvantaged areas. Furthermore, with the rapid depreciation of the Lebanese Pound, it has become vital that private sector products reach export markets.

## UNIDO APPROACH

The Productive Sectors Development Programme (PSDP), co-led by UNIDO and FAO and implemented with UNDP, ILO, UNWOMEN and UNICEF, generously funded by the Government of Canada, took a comprehensive approach to supporting the agri-food and agriculture sectors in Lebanon, identifying initiatives with a high potential for generating jobs for women and youth. The programme operated on three levels: the macro (supporting a national policy framework conducive to creating an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment), meso (improve access of led MSMEs to markets) and micro (improving the manufacturing capacities of MSMEs and agricultural cooperatives producing fruits, vegetables, pulses and in the nuts value chains).

## RESULTS

- 3 interconnected Market Intelligence tools and an Export Promotion Platform were developed.
- “Lebanon Export Academy (LEA)” was founded and it helped improve the export readiness of 71 MSME, start-ups and entrepreneurs. Of this, 69% were women-led.
- 160 MSMEs (47% women-led) participated in 280 B2B meetings.
- 25 export deals amounting to at least US\$152,000 were secured in 2022 for 18 MSMEs.
- 16 MSMEs were supported with tailor-made processing equipment to expand their businesses.
- 524 individuals from Northern Lebanon (87% women) received training in various food processing techniques.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

The Ministry of Industry was the main counterpart. Others included the Ministry of Economy and Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon.



**DONORS**

Canada



**COUNTRY**

Lebanon





# European Union-East African community market access upgrade programme in Kenya (MARKUP)

## CONTEXT

The EU and EAC launched the MARKUP programme to boost market access for agro-food products in the EU and African regional markets. The programme has two intervention levels: the EAC Window and the Partner States Window. The EAC Window enhances regional trade by advocating for the removal of trade barriers, harmonizing sector standards, and improving Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures. It also supports the private sector by increasing export competitiveness through better awareness of market requirements, compliance procedures, access to finance, and business development opportunities, including strengthening business support organizations' capacities.

## UNIDO APPROACH

The programme enhances value chain actors' capability to produce and trade in compliance with international market requirements. UNIDO supported policy development, built capacity on quality inspection, trained and coached producers, exporters, and extension officers on standards and SPS and market requirements, including organizing campaigns to raise awareness on standards and market regulations.

## RESULTS

- 1,416 farmers and producers trained on Good Agricultural Practices in 9 counties on selected value chains.
- 35 County Extension officers trained as Global Gap Assurer Experts.
- 763 farmers gained access to new markets from signing contracts with exporting companies.
- 806 farmers trained on group dynamics and good governance.
- 5.9 million people reached by the "Proper use of pesticides" campaign.
- 2.9 million people reached by the "Aflatoxin control and management" campaign.
- Over 12.7 million youth reached by the agri-business campaign.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Kenya Bureau of Standards; Agriculture and Food Authority; Horticulture, Crops and Nuts Directorate; Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate; Fresh Produce Exporters of Kenya; Fresh Produce Consortium; Ministry of Agriculture Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives; Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development; and Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Organization; Pest Control Products Board; Ministry of Health – National Public health laboratories services; and County Governments.



**DONORS**  
European Union (EU)



**COUNTRY**  
Kenya





# Honey for job creation for youth, women and people with disabilities in Iran (Islamic Republic of)



## CONTEXT

The project creates productive work for young women and men and people with disabilities through the development of high-potential sectors linked to apiculture. For decades, honey was the sole product of the beekeeping industry in Iran. Limited attention was given to aspects of the ecosystem services like pollination and economic diversification into high value-added by-products.

## UNIDO APPROACH

This project was launched with the aim of skills improvement, development of value chains, and institutionalization of an enabling environment at the provincial and national levels. A notable feature of the project is that it is implemented in partnership with both, public and private sectors. In order to improve the value chain of by-products, various activities were designed and implemented taking a special approach to knowledge sharing and localization, skills development, value chain investment, private sector participation in research, and development activities in compliance with SDG2.

## RESULTS

- Participating enterprises won two gold medals for quality in the London Competition Honey Awards 2020 and a bronze medal in the commercial class category in the 45th Apimondia, Turkey, 2017.
- Specialized skills in the beekeeping sector improved through 50+ courses provided for 4,500 beekeepers, 10% of whom were women.
- Value chain of the high-value-added product (royal jelly) was developed and implemented.
- Market value of by-products reached 2.5 million.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Cooperative, Labour and Social Welfare of Iran (Islamic Republic of).



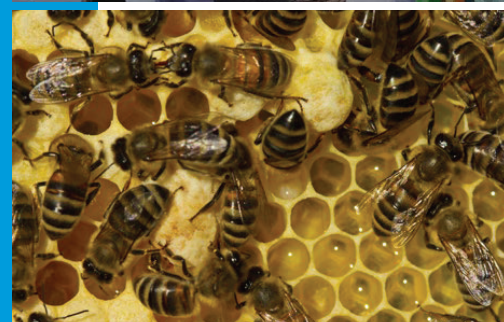
**DONORS**

Iran



**COUNTRY**

Iran



# Agri-business employment creation in Mongolia



## CONTEXT

This project upgrades skills in the livestock and horticulture sectors to spur economic diversification. Livestock husbandry and crop production are the main agricultural subsectors, and are a significant part of the Mongolian economy. With 25% of the population living below the poverty line, and one-third of the youth unemployed and underqualified, the creation of employment opportunities and improvement of livelihoods is a high priority for the Government.



**DONORS**  
European Union (EU)



**COUNTRY**  
Mongolia

## UNIDO APPROACH

Addressing gaps at the enterprise and institutional levels, the project aims to increase the productivity of livestock and vegetable agricultural value chains. A focus on value addition and increasing the competitiveness of products aims to help in sustainable economic growth and job creation.

## RESULTS

- 4,099 professionals trained.
- Developed a milk supply scheme that connects primary producers with large dairy companies.
- Assisted in the formation of 11 dairy producers' groups.
- Supported the establishment of 4 cooling centres with a combined capacity of 14.2 tons in 3 provinces.
- Established a model small-scale abattoir, fully compliant with the applicable meat hygiene standards.
- Increased incomes of 450 growers from 28 farmers groups, 6 farmers cooperatives and 7 companies in the framework of contract farm promotion.



## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

FAO; Mongolia Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MALI); World Packaging Organization.



# Food safety compliance and value addition for livelihoods in Pakistan



## CONTEXT

This project revitalizes the livelihood of meat value chain actors in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and apple value chain actors in Balochistan, through improved compliance and productive capacities and value addition. Meat consumption is central to dietary habits in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and contributes significantly to the livelihood of value chain actors. Meat sold in unhygienic conditions can lead to severe foodborne illnesses, contributing to productivity losses of an estimated US\$1.5 billion per year in Pakistan through higher health care costs and inability to work or decreased productivity of consumers.

## UNIDO APPROACH

UNIDO is enabling regulatory and industry shifts towards food safety compliance and integration of socio-environmental safeguards within the meat sector. This is being done by developing and obtaining endorsement of Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) and Good Animal Husbandry Practices standards by local regulatory authorities. It also conducts specialized training of trainer sessions delivered by international food safety experts for regulatory staff, food safety inspection and managers; and cascade training of field assistants on GHP and Food Safety Training booklets in the target districts. Further, UNIDO and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority launched the KP Safe Meat Competition to train butcher shops in Peshawar, Dera Ismail Khan, Abbottabad, and Kohistan.

## RESULTS

- People working in 200+ butcher shops were trained and evaluated on integrating GHP and food safety practices in their operations. The top 35 businesses were awarded meat processing equipment.
- 11,740 people with access to quality, safe meat.
- 70 meat processors engaged in food safety compliance, entrepreneurship, and value-addition trainings.
- 70 apple farmers awarded under the Good Agricultural Practices competition for improving GAP at the farm level.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Government of Japan; JICA; Ministry of National Food Security and Research of KP; Livestock and Dairy Development Department (KP); Local Council Board (KP); Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority; Agriculture Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP); Agriculture Extension Department (Balochistan); Balochistan Food Safety Authority (BFA).



**DONORS**  
Japan International  
Cooperation Agency  
(JICA)



**COUNTRY**  
Pakistan



# CAPFISH: Making Cambodia's fisheries more competitive



## CONTEXT

The “CAPFISH” -Capture: Post-harvest Fisheries Development project aims to improve post-harvest fishery by upgrading regulations and promoting better practices and innovation in the private sector. Funded by the European Union (EU), the project focuses on building inclusive value chains by enhancing the Fisheries Competent Authority's (FCA) capacity to operate official control systems, helping implement food safety measures, and supporting skills development and investment to boost the competitiveness of fishery business operators (FBOs) and to increase their market access, including listing of Cambodia as eligible country for export to EU.

## UNIDO APPROACH

With UNIDO's support, the FCA has established a food safety control system to enhance fishery product standards and meet hygiene, public health, and market requirements. This system includes food safety legislation, analytical laboratories, inspections, enforcement, certification, and initiatives to raise awareness. Additionally, the Cambodia Quality Seal (CQS) certification scheme promotes good hygiene practices and adds value to Cambodian fishery products. Furthermore, the Value Chain Investment Support Facility (ISF) is now operational, targeting over 100 enterprises in the fishery value chain. This transformative financial scheme blends project grants with collateral-free loans and enterprise contributions to upgrade the businesses. The ISF also provides tailored technical support to strengthen MSME capacities in business development, processing practices, quality certification, market linkages, and environmental management, as well as linking enterprises with national universities for knowledge transfer through applied research.

## RESULTS

- Food safety legal framework established and FCA capacity strengthened to carry out official control for food safety, and ready for DG SANTE audit.
- Food testing laboratory supported and accredited.
- Risk-based residue monitoring programme for aquaculture products implemented.
- Digital traceability system developed and implemented.
- CQS certification scheme developed and operationalized; 17 FBOs are certified and more enterprises are being prepared for CQS audit. Four enterprises are supported to be ready for export to EU.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

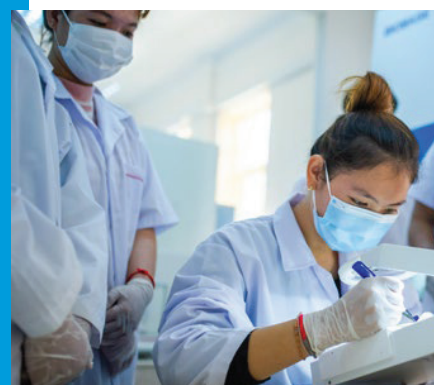
Fisheries Administration (FiA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).



**DONORS**  
European Union (EU)



**COUNTRY**  
Cambodia





# Improved rural livelihoods through supporting the Moringa value chain development in southern nations, nationalities, and peoples' region, Ethiopia

## CONTEXT

The project promotes the development of the Moringa value chain by enhancing agro-processing, production, and value addition. It addresses critical issues such as food security, environmental sustainability, and women's economic empowerment. By providing access to modern technologies, training, and job creation, the initiative strengthens local production and supports sustainable practices. With a focus on empowering women, the project fosters financial independence and creates sustainable livelihoods in rural communities while promoting long-term socio-economic development.

## UNIDO APPROACH

The project strengthens the Moringa value chain by transferring technology and enhancing sustainable processing and marketing practices. Key objectives include improving food and nutrition security while boosting the livelihoods of rural households, with a special emphasis on empowering rural women. UNIDO plays a pivotal role in product development, standardization, value addition, quality assurance, certification, and marketing, ensuring that Moringa products meet global standards and access broader markets.

## RESULTS

The project empowered over 780 beneficiaries, primarily women, in Good Agricultural and Manufacturing Practices (GAP, GMP) and Food Safety Systems (FSMS). It fostered innovation in product development and market access, strengthened regulatory frameworks, and established a Moringa processing unit in Arba Minch Zuria Woreda, boosting local capacity and livelihoods.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Institute of Ethiopian Standards, Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority. Southern Ethiopian Regional State. Jointly implemented with FAO and SNNPR-Bureau of Agriculture.



## DONORS

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

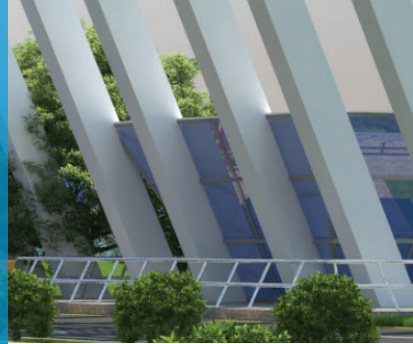


## COUNTRY

Ethiopia



# Ethiopia's Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks development initiative



## CONTEXT

Integrated agro-food parks (IAFP) are considered a vital driver of structural transformation of the economy through sustainable commercialization of the agricultural sector. This transformation will see the development of the Ethiopian agricultural production system, from its current fragmented and supply-driven practices, to one that is organized and based on high quality and consumer demand. Such a change will also boost agro-processing and help create employment. It will stimulate a shift in investment and human resources from agriculture to agro-industries.

## UNIDO APPROACH

In Ethiopia, UNIDO is supporting the development of four Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks (IAIPs). These are home to numerous companies, including many food-processing firms. UNIDO defines integrated agro-food parks as “an agri-business development corridor integrating value chain actors with high-quality infrastructure, utilities, logistics and specialized facilities and services to create economies of scale for sustainable market-driven agri-business development and rural transformation.” The development objectives of IAIPs are to promote the value addition of agricultural production through processing, manufacturing and storage of food, feed, and biofuel products; to spur technological change; and promote industrialization of the agri-business sector by offering premises and supporting services that connect value chain enterprises.

## RESULTS

- 3 operational IAIPs.
- Commitments by 112 investors.
- 22 factories under establishment.
- 9 operational agro-processing investments.
- Over US\$42.5 million generated in export revenue.
- 2,297 factory-level jobs created.
- Smallholder farmers linked as suppliers to the IAIPs: 131,605 (2022), 103,800 (2023); 39,992 (Q2 2024).

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Transformation Institute, the Ethiopian Investment Commission, Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation, Regional Industrial Park Development Corporations, Development Bank of Ethiopia, National Quality Institutions (NQIs).



## DONORS

European Union  
African Development Bank  
AICS



## COUNTRY

Ethiopia





# Improving agro-industrial value chain and supervision capacity in Quannan, China



## CONTEXT

The project continues supporting the endeavours for rural revitalization in Quannan through technical assistance and technological inputs to strengthen various agricultural value chain development initiatives and improve the safety and quality of agro-products. It aligns with advancing the supervision and monitoring capacity of the local competent authorities via smart technologies, knowledge transfer, compliance with national standards, and benchmarking against international best practices.

## UNIDO APPROACH

The project improves Quannan's agro-industrial capacity as means for promoting employment and income of left-behind rural population, and stimulating the development and creation of industries that provide safe and ecological goods and services.

## RESULTS

- 4 farmers' cooperatives/processing companies certified by the Good Agricultural Practices for 8 types of agro-products.
- Approximately 1,800 growers directly or indirectly benefited from participating in the Good Agricultural Practices training and certification.
- Quannan Agro-product Quality and Safety Inspection and Testing Station accredited for 74 testing parameters.
- Rapid testing rooms in 11 farmers' markets in Quannan fully equipped with necessary facilities and testing staff capacity.
- 2 cold storage facilities established with a capacity of 600 cubic meters total and a range of refrigerating temperature from 0 to 5 degree Celsius.
- Food safety inspection conducted in canteens of 13 Quannan kindergartens/schools supplying to 5,161 people, and supported their food safety compliance with smart technologies and facilities.
- Quannan Agro-Pack Competition held for technical, structural and visual objectives and received 66 submissions for student group and 10 submissions for professional group.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Quannan local County Government.



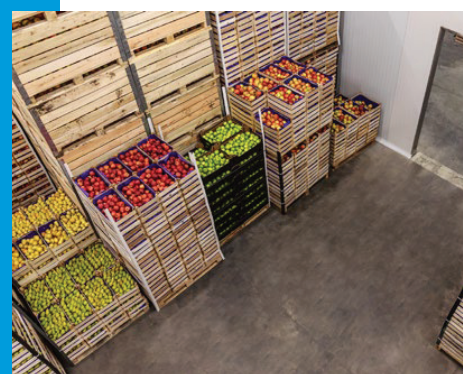
## DONORS

China Ministry of Commerce



## COUNTRY

China





# Pineapple value chain in Suriname (ASTA)



## CONTEXT

The pineapple value chain is a priority sector for the Government of Suriname to help in diversification of the economy, which has so far been largely dependent on extractive industries. The decreasing global demand for aluminum and sharp volatility in the market prices for oil and gold have put pressure on the Government to rethink its economic model. To this end, agri-business have been identified as a key development area, with pineapple being one of the commodities in focus.

## UNIDO APPROACH

The Joint SDG Fund has awarded a US\$2 million grant to boost Suriname's pineapple sector through a programme that will benefit indigenous and other rural communities. It will be implemented by UNIDO and FAO as lead agencies, in partnership with ILO and UNFPA. Under the Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA), the joint programme, in partnership with development banks and local financial institutions, will implement several initiatives including an innovation hub to provide cutting edge technical assistance and an innovative guarantee facility to ease access to credit and de-risk investments. Islamic development bank (IsDB) is providing a technical assistance grant to further support financial inclusion and market access activities under the project.

## RESULTS

- Improved livelihoods for at least 1,400 households.
- Increased incomes for at least 400 smallholders.
- 200 ha of forests preserved.
- Nearly 1,000 FTE jobs created.
- Increased female participation in all VC segments by 30%.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

UNIDO, FAO, ILO, UNFPA, with relevant ministries.



## DONORS

The Joint SDG Fund,  
IsDB



## COUNTRY

Suriname



# GROW-2: Promoting MSME development and employment opportunities in Liberia



## CONTEXT

Liberia's agro-industrial sector is poorly integrated and lacks basic infrastructure such as machines, farming equipment and tools, farm-to-market roads, fertilizers and pesticides, as well as food storage capacity. These challenges hinder productivity and economic growth in priority agro-based value chains like cocoa, horticulture, and cassava. GROW-2, funded by the Embassy of Sweden in Liberia, capitalizes on the results and lessons of GROW-1 and focuses on upscaling prior efforts and expanding sectoral and thematic outreach.

## UNIDO APPROACH

GROW-2 will prioritize interventions designed to enhance output, productivity, and value addition in response to market demand. Core principles include country ownership, effective synergies with related programmes, projects and initiatives, the pursuit of a Market System Development (MSD) approach adapted to the local context, emphasis on national capacity building and results orientation as well as facilitation of regional linkages. The programme will also address cross-cutting issues, among which gender equality, women and youth economic empowerment, and environmental protection including climate change and biodiversity concerns.

## RESULTS

- 2,084 additional jobs created and retained.
- 10,000 actors trained through cooperatives on good and climate-smart agricultural practices.
- 4,000 farmers enrolled in the certification training programme.
- 1,000 farmers linked to larger local buyers (supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, etc.)
- 35 firms and cooperatives with improved management practices.
- Supporting SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Agriculture, Liberia Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (LACRA), National Standards Laboratory, Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI).



**DONORS**

Sweden



**COUNTRY**

Liberia





# Improving the competitiveness of the mango value chain in Guinea Bissau: production, local processing and export support (WACOMP-GB)



Photo credit: Unsplash / Manash Kumar Mondal

## CONTEXT

The agri-food sector is the engine of the Bissau-Guinean economy and the main source of public revenue. Agriculture contributes to 50% of the GDP and employs 85% of the active population. In the agricultural sector, the mango value chain appears to be among the key choices to diversify the bases of the Bissau-Guinean economy.

## UNIDO APPROACH

To contribute to the development of the mango value chain in Guinea-Bissau, an integrated strategy has been followed all along the value chain, encompassing, but not limited to, actions aimed at increasing the primary production through renovation of orchards with pest-resistant varieties, improving the harvest process, catalyzing the processing/value-adding activities including through mobile units, developing the quality assurance infrastructure, promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing access to affordable finance. These actions could create the potential to generate hundreds of direct and indirect jobs along the value chain, in particular for women linked to primary production and processing.

## RESULTS

- Mango orchards renovated (13,000 mango tree seedlings of improved varieties resistant to pests, transplanted in 18 gardens in different regions of Guinea-Bissau).
- 5 lots of mango and derivatives processing equipment purchased, including 2 containerized mobile units about to be commissioned, generating dozens of jobs.
- National Quality Policy approved, providing an overarching framework for the Government.
- 2 lots of different laboratory equipment acquired, and successful participation in interlaboratory tests facilitated.
- Creation of two IDEA Incubation Centers with 60 projects being incubated, with potential impact in jobs generation.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Producers Association, Conformity Assessment Entities, Association of Women in Economic Activities.



**DONORS**  
European Union (EU)



**COUNTRY**  
Guinea Bissau





# Strengthening food security by enhancing agricultural value chains in Southern Egypt



## CONTEXT

Egypt has been experiencing extreme food and water security crisis in the recent years. The country's poverty rates remain high, with more than 30 million people living below the national poverty line, particularly in Southern Egypt.



## DONORS

World Food Programme (WFP)

## UNIDO APPROACH

The project strengthens food security and climate resilience, by focusing on the agro value chains in Southern Egypt. The project will target five crops (tomato, sesame, fennel, pomegranate and hibiscus) from five governorates (Luxor, Aswan, Qena, Sohag and Assiut), supporting smallholder farmers. It will also support the Community Development Associations (CDAs) in the target regions for their continuous service provision to the primary producers.



## COUNTRY

Egypt

## RESULTS

- 500 farmers and officials trained on Good Agricultural Practices and water management.
- Irrigation systems covering 10Ha provided.
- 60 CDAs trained as business development service providers for farmers and 3 CDAs upgraded to SMEs with agro-processing facility and equipment.
- Access to markets for the target 5 crops improved.



## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation.



# RESEAT: Improving the resilience of agropastoral populations in Eastern Sudan



## CONTEXT

The project aims to create sustainable jobs, improve energy access, and promote inclusive economic growth in Kassala State, Sudan. Despite significant food insecurity caused by economic vulnerability and inflation, agriculture remains key for economic diversification, poverty reduction, and export growth. Transforming subsistence agriculture into viable commercial enterprises requires credit, capital, market networks, and renewable energy technologies.

## UNIDO APPROACH

The project, guided by a value-chain development approach, integrates facilitation of access to financial and non-financial services to create sustainable job opportunities and promote inclusive economic growth. It combines agricultural production and processing with agricultural technology and agro-based enterprise development.

## RESULTS

- 8,733 people given decent and productive work (47% women, 39% youth under 35).
- 1,344 (57% women, 64% youth) agri-entrepreneurs have improved access to business support services, resulting in 875 investment-ready proposals.
- 441 (73% led by women, 68% led by youth) new agri-startups launched.
- 100 sqm cold storage facility for horticulture provided for the cooperative.
- 3 tons per hour sesame cleaning and packaging machinery set up under PPP.
- Innovative state-level risk-sharing financial mechanism set up enabling 94 firms (52% led by women) to access loans.
- 39 savings groups established involving 961 women, 43 investment plans prepared.
- US\$976,827 in new investments leveraged with a financial leverage ratio of 4:1.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Production and Economic Resources of the Kassala State, Ministry of Finance and Labour Force of the Kassala State, Federal Ministry of Industry, Central Bank of Sudan, Entrepreneurship Development Committee of the Kassala State.



**DONORS**

AICS



**COUNTRY**

Sudan





# ACP Business-Friendly: Supporting business-friendly and inclusive national and regional policies, and strengthening productive capabilities and value chains



## CONTEXT

UNIDO's global investment promotion efforts are geared towards enhancing sustainable investments in various regions, including Africa, the Caribbean, Pacific, and beyond. These efforts are crucial for boosting transparency, supporting investors, and fostering competitiveness in key sectors like agri-business, which are vital for economic growth and food security in many developing countries.

## UNIDO APPROACH

UNIDO focuses on empowering local SMEs within the agri-business sector by enhancing their investment promotion capacities. For instance, UNIDO has supported Chocolala, a women-led chocolate factory in the Dominican Republic, by assessing its investment needs and creating an investment opportunity profile. This initiative is part of a broader effort to help SMEs in global value chains attract investment, improve operations, and scale their businesses.

## RESULTS

- The UNIDO ACP Business-Friendly Programme supports women in investment promotion across multiple countries. UNIDO's Investment Platform features over 200 women-led projects (39 in agro-industry) from Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, aligned with various SDGs. In 2023, the Programme helped over 200 women (38% of total participants) enhance their investment promotion skills through targeted training and other initiatives.
- 242 agro-business Investment Opportunity Summaries have been published on the UNIDO Investment Platform.
- 1038 more agro-business Investment Opportunity Profiles are in the pipeline to be developed, appraised and published.
- 37 agro-business projects are under discussion with potential investors after receiving direct queries facilitated by the UNIDO investment platform.
- 6 investment opportunities in agro-business were supported to mobilize an aggregate of Euro 11.4 Million in financing from local financial institutions.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

WB, ITC



## DONORS

EU, OACPS



## REGION

various regions, including Africa, the Caribbean, Pacific, and beyond





# Strengthening certification services for building export competitiveness of the private sector in Mongolia

## CONTEXT

The Government of Mongolia prioritizes economic diversification and value-added processing and exports of livestock products, including meat, dairy, leather and textile within the framework of its national programmes including the “Food Revolution”, “White Gold” and “New Cooperative” initiatives under the aegis of the President. Building capacity of public and private sector as well as laboratories to comply with international standards has been instrumental in achieving progress; UNIDO’s global technical expertise were used to supplement local experience.

## UNIDO APPROACH

UNIDO’s technical assistance under the World Bank-funded Export Development Project implemented by Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia focused on building the capacity of SMEs to produce value added exports. It also helped in economic diversification by creating an enabling environment of the certification services related to the food (meat) and non-food (textile and leather) light industries.

## RESULTS

- A total of 5 certification bodies were accredited by international organizations on halal and organic product certification services.
- Built institutional and human resources capacity of the Mongolian National Accreditation body.
- Strengthened human resources and upgraded technological capacity of the central leather testing laboratory against ISO17025.
- 2 tanneries were audited and received the Leather Working Group (LWG)’s international environmental certificates and improved their entrepreneurship capacity.
- 2 slaughterhouse and meat processors were audited by Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology, which in turn is accredited by the Gulf Accreditation Centre, on Halal product certification. This opened the door to exports to the Gulf market.
- 3 wool and cashmere enterprises introduced OEKO TEX 100 international standard and increased their export markets.
- Set of food and non-food good practices guidelines and training programmes were developed.

## COUNTERPARTS; IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia and World Bank.



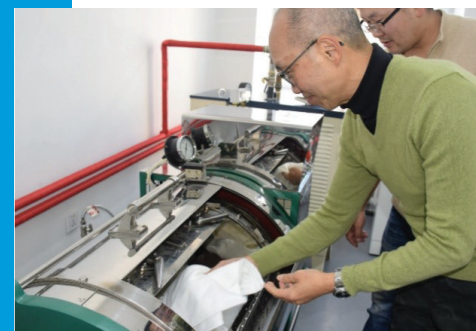
## DONORS

World Bank and Government of Mongolia



## COUNTRY

Mongolia



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

1

## International organizations

UNIDO is recognized as a valuable partner in improving the food security situation by focusing on economic transformation through inclusive and sustainable industrialization. As food security is inextricably interlinked with complex development challenges, close collaboration among development agencies is required more than ever before. The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations and UNIDO signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2022, focusing on normative work and cooperation in food security, zero hunger, and food safety. The two organizations have launched the Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA) which will have a socio-economic and environmental impact by transforming practices in selected value chains. UNIDO also collaborates with the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** provides nuclear technologies and know-how to Member States on food irradiation, food testing, authenticity, and climatesmart agriculture solutions. It also works with **international finance institutions (IFIs)**, like the **World Bank**, **African Development Bank** and the **Islamic Development Bank**, which can become lenders or donors to larger initiatives, which might include the purchase of equipment or the development of strategic infrastructure for food security. UNIDO has engaged in a unique partnership with the **World Food Programme (WFP)** by building capacities of local agri-businesses supplying nutrient-intensive food to WFP for its humanitarian assistance programmes. UNIDO's collaborations with IFAD in climate-related interventions help build the resilience of MSMEs.





## Partnering with FAO

UNIDO and FAO have established a global programme that aims to recognize the interdependence of agriculture and industry, the flagship initiative Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA), designed to make agrifood systems more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient through value chain development. ASTA has also established a robust collaboration with FAO's One Country, One Priority Product (OCOP) programme.

The journey that UNIDO and FAO have embarked upon in response to Member States' needs in a coherent and complementary way, seeks to be resolutely purposive, efficient, and result oriented. Field-based collaborations harness the professional skills of staff in both organizations towards a common purpose.



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



## Partnership with WFP on food security and food system transformation

The collaboration with WFP, the Global Programme Framework for local sourcing of specialized nutritious food leverages the two Organization's complementary mandates to address the twin problem of hunger and poverty through increased local production, processing and procurement of food for humanitarian assistance. Key interventions include strengthening smallholder farmers' resilience, reduction of post-harvest losses through provision of innovative post-harvest management, first mile storage, value addition infrastructure, energy, as well as financial and technological solutions.



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



World Food  
Programme

2

## Global partnerships

Exploring and joining existing global initiatives will open new avenues for delivering UNIDO's services and provide coordination mechanisms at the global level. The international community has already decided to advance the food security agenda through special initiatives, such as G20 and the Global Alliance for Food Security or the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) of the World Bank. UNIDO creates fora to bring together development partners, Member States and the private sector for the identification of new solutions and local partnerships that addressing food security challenges particularly from economic access and stability perspective.

3

## Business partnerships

UNIDO collaborates with the private sector to align its initiatives with the needs of sustainable agro industries by combining resources and expertise to promote shared prosperity, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. These partnerships provide innovative solutions to address industrial challenges in producer countries and provide concrete opportunities for action to achieve long-term sustainability goals. They also promote sustainable agri-business development and inclusive economic transformation in line with the SDGs.

UNIDO collaborates with multinationals, SMEs, foundations, and industry associations across various sectors and value chains. It acts as an implementation agency on behalf of its partners through its Public Private Development Partnerships (PPDPs). PPDPs are one of UNIDO's flagship approaches for delivery and funding of public services with wider development impact. The investment, risks, responsibilities, and rewards are shared between the public and private sectors, as well as the development partner. Some of these PPDPs include collaboration with private sector companies such as Ritter Sport, Illy Caffè, Lavazza, OCP Group, Deloitte, DHL, Google, Anuga, and Fairtrade to support agricultural services, skills development, and smallholder farmers.

4

## Development finance partnerships

UNIDO's engagement with IFIs and other public and private financial actors is essential to provide its Member States with the financial skills, expertise and resources, especially blended finance, to transform their food systems. In doing so, Member States can avail themselves of UNIDO's experience and expertise, rooted in decades of successful, technical assistance implementation. As such, UNIDO's support allow its Member States to realize their potential to address inequality, alleviate environmental and climate change impacts, and strengthen resistance to and recovery from shocks.

An example of such successful partnerships is the newly established Alliance for Special Agro-Processing Zones (A-SAPZ) with UNIDO being a founding member together with the African Development Bank, Afreximbank, ARISE and the Islamic Development Bank. The Alliance works towards bridging the critical financing gap in agri-business development, agro-processing and the establishment of integrated agro-food parks.

In addition, UNIDO is developing with Finance in Motion, a global impact fund manager, the Transformation Pathways Initiative that is comprised of an investment fund and a related technical assistance facility. This is a good example of how public and private funding can be effectively blended to address critical issues related to Member States' sustainable economic and industrial development.

5

## Academia and research

UNIDO will collaborate on technology and knowledge transfer with universities and Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and International Union on Food Science and Technology (IUFoST), Universities such as Wageningen University and Research. In case of interventions, UNIDO will engage the academia to improve their practices and support demand-driven research. Partnerships with academia and research institutions is particularly relevant for the set-up and successful operation of Innovation Hubs for Agricultural Transformation.



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