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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The 126th Session of the Programme Committee, in March 2019, when discussing the *Evaluation of the Strategy and Vision for FAO's Work in Nutrition*, recommended an update of the vision and strategy. The 127th Session of the Programme Committee, in November 2019, reviewed an Annotated Outline of the updated *Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition* (the Nutrition Strategy). The first draft was submitted to FAO's Technical Committees in anticipation of consultation throughout 2020. The draft was discussed at the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), and the 73rd (Extraordinary) Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP).
- It is proposed that FAO's vision for nutrition is a world where all people are eating healthy diets from sustainable, inclusive and resilient agri-food systems. The mission is to tackle malnutrition in all its forms by accelerating impactful policies and actions across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets for all. Through this mission, and in the realization of the aspiration of Better Nutrition, FAO will contribute to the achievement of targets across the SDGs including SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG10, SDG 12, SDG 14, and SDG 17. .
- FAO will support all stakeholders to accelerate impactful policies and actions through five inter-dependent action areas and actions:
 - Action area 1 – generate, collate and share data on healthy diets and agri-food systems;
 - Action area 2 – generate, collate and share evidence on the options for policies and actions across agri-food systems that enable healthy diets and on trade-offs and synergies with other agri-food systems outcomes;
 - Action area 3 – convene and participate in dialogues to catalyze policy coherence and collective action across agri-food systems for healthy diets;
 - Action area 4 – build the technical and policy capacity needed to design, implement, and scale-up impactful policies and actions for healthy diets; and
 - Action area 5 – advocate for and secure commitment to healthy diets as a priority goal for governance of nutrition and agri-food systems.
- In order to complete this mission and contribute to the vision, the Nutrition Strategy describes fifteen actions FAO will undertake and five outcomes as results of FAO actions.
 - Outcome 1 – data. Decision-makers are using more and better data to guide the selection, design and implementation of impactful policies and actions across agri-food systems for healthy diets;
 - Outcome 2 – evidence. Decision-makers are using a larger body of evidence to guide the selection, design and implementation of impactful and coherent policies and actions across agri-food systems for healthy diets;
 - Outcome 3 – policy coherence and collective action. Greater coherence exists between policies designed to achieve nutrition, social, economic and environmental outcomes of agri-food systems and there is greater collective action on healthy diets;
 - Outcome 4 – capacity. FAO Members and stakeholders at all levels are implementing policies and laws, practices, investments and innovative actions at scale across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets; and
 - Outcome 5 – advocacy and commitment. Global, regional and national bodies have a stronger commitment to healthy diets.
- The Nutrition Strategy includes both an Accountability Framework and Implementation Plan. The Accountability Framework provides a mechanism for FAO to hold itself accountable for actions towards reaching the outcomes of the Strategy. It includes a series of outputs and corresponding indicators that reflect the degree of accomplishment of the actions outlined in the Strategy related to each outcome. The Implementation Plan outlines the enabling factors, with a list of corresponding key performance indicators that FAO will foster or develop to successfully execute the Nutrition Strategy.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

The Programme Committee is invited to:

- review the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition in light of FAO's mandate and its ability to support countries' efforts to reach their SDG targets; and
- recommend the Nutrition Strategy for endorsement by the Council.

Draft Advice

The Committee:

- **welcomed the updated Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition and commended the extensive and inclusive consultative efforts taken in its development;**
- **appreciated that key recommendations from the Evaluation of the previous Strategy and Vision for FAO's Work in Nutrition were reflected in the Nutrition Strategy, as well as the integration of comments provided by the Programme Committee at its 127th Session;**
- **welcomed the Accountability Framework and Implementation Plan developed and the inclusion of a description of terms used in the Nutrition Strategy, in accordance with the recommendation of the Programme Committee at its 127th Session;**
- **appreciated the integration of recommendations from all of the FAO Technical Committees for the finalization of the Nutrition Strategy;**
- **emphasized the important role of FAO in raising levels of nutrition, taking note of the Organization's commitment to this goal in its Constitution;**
- **noted that the Nutrition Strategy is a living document which may be further improved and adjusted during the course of implementation; and**
- **recommended the Nutrition Strategy's endorsement by the 166th Session of the Council.**

I. Background

A. Nutrition and diets

1. Better nutrition offers one of the greatest developmental opportunities in the world today. Reducing wasting, stunting, underweight, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) has the potential to contribute to reaching targets across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Better nutrition will directly contribute to SDG Target 2.2 (ending all forms of malnutrition), Target 2.1 (ending hunger), Target 3.4 (reducing premature death from NCDs), and Targets 3.1 and 3.2 (reducing child and maternal mortality), while also supporting the achievement of an array of social, economic, and environmental targets.^{1,2}

2. Despite some progress, the world is off track from meeting global nutrition targets.³ The COVID-19 pandemic further threatens the ability to attain nutrition goals, with increased levels of food insecurity and predictions that undernutrition will rise.^{4,5} People affected by obesity and underlying NCDs are more vulnerable to COVID-19. Action to counter malnutrition in all its forms, thus, emerges as an integral part of building resilience to infectious diseases especially among the most vulnerable segments of the population. This includes emerging diseases with pandemic potential like COVID-19.

3. A major challenge for achieving better nutrition is the inadequacy of current diets. Billions of individuals are unable to afford and access healthy diets.⁶ Across geographies and populations, people are consuming diets with deficiencies, excesses and imbalances of energy and nutrients, and that are unsafe, thus impairing their health, growth and development, leading to all forms of malnutrition and premature death.⁷ The problem affects all groups but is experienced disproportionately among those vulnerable to not meeting their dietary needs, including poor rural communities and smallholders whose livelihoods depend on the agri-food system; marginalized urban populations; women and young children; indigenous peoples; persons with disabilities and people experiencing humanitarian crises, conflict and fragility. While better nutrition will also require improvements in health, hygiene and sanitation, education, income, livelihoods and women's empowerment, healthy diets are the cornerstone of good nutrition, for present and future generations.

4. Healthy diets consist of the foods needed for individuals to have a healthy life: adequate, safe, diverse and balanced in terms of both quantity and quality. Although it does not alone guarantee a healthy diet, food security is a vital contributor.⁸ There are many ways to compose a 'healthy diet', depending on geography, age, population needs, gender, physiological status, presence of underlying health conditions and cultural preferences. Regardless of specific dietary needs, a healthy diet limits the levels of pathogens, toxins and other agents that cause food-borne diseases. Safe and clean drinking water also makes an important contribution to healthy diets. Evidence-based guidelines and guiding principles are available to inform the formulation healthy diets based on these diverse characteristics.

¹ Development Initiatives. *Global Nutrition Report 2017: Nourishing the SDGs*. Bristol, DI: 2017

² Scaling Up Nutrition. *Implementation of the SDGs At The National Level: How To Advocate For Nutrition-Related Targets And Indicators*. SUN: 2017

³ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets*. Rome, FAO.

⁴ United Nations. Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition. June 2020. https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_on_covid_impact_on_food_security.pdf

⁵ Headey D, Heidkamp R, Osendarp S, Ruel M, Scott N, Black R, Shekar M, Bouis H, Flory A, Haddad L, Walker N. Impacts of COVID-19 on childhood malnutrition and nutrition-related mortality. *The Lancet*. 2020 Aug 22;396(10250):519-21.

⁶ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. Op cit

⁷ Murray CJ, Aravkin AY, Zheng P, Abbafati C, Abbas KM, Abbasi-Kangevari M, Abd-Allah F, Abdelalim A, Abdollahi M, Abdollahpour I, Abegaz KH. Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. *The Lancet*. 2020 Oct 17;396(10258):1223-49.

⁸ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. Op cit

B. Diets and agri-food systems

5. An *agri-food system* gathers all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, policies, infrastructures, institutions, among others) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, trading, marketing, selling, preparation, serving, consumption and disposal of food, and the output of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes.⁹ Agri-food systems incorporate agriculture and food supply chains, food environments and consumer behaviour. Because healthy diets consist of a diversity of foods from different food groups and diversity within food groups, agri-food systems for healthy diets should incorporate agriculture relevant to crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture products. Local, regional, and international trade is important for agri-food systems to enable the availability, accessibility and affordability of diverse foods for healthy diets, as well as the stability of markets and the limitation of extreme food price volatility.

6. Agri-food systems play an important role in social (e.g., indigenous knowledge and culture, gender equity), economic (e.g. viability for smallholder farmers, economic development, decent work) and environmental (e.g. climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, soil and water degradation) sustainability. As set out by the The High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) report *Food Systems and Nutrition*,¹⁰ agri-food systems also have a vital role to play in enabling healthy diets for all peoples (**Figure 1**).

7. FAO Members have called for more action in agri-food systems for healthy diets. In 2014, Members adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action as an outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) co-organized by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Declaration acknowledged that current agri-food systems are increasingly challenged to provide adequate, safe, diversified and nutrient rich food for all that contribute to healthy diets.¹¹ In April 2016, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the *United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)* through Resolution 70/259.¹² Co-led by FAO and WHO, the first activity in its Work Programme is to improve diets through agri-food systems.^{13,14} In 2019, with technical support from FAO and other UN agencies, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) initiated the development of the *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition*. The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit has placed healthy diets at the forefront of its work and the 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit has identified food systems as one of its three core areas for commitments. All are examples of the reinforced and invigorated commitment to healthy diets through strengthened agri-food systems.

8. However, agri-food systems are not working optimally to enable healthy diets. Policies across agri-food systems are often not coherent with healthy diets nor between the nutrition, social, economic and environmental outcomes of agri-food systems, requiring concerted management and efforts to identify synergies.¹⁵ The aspiration is to optimize agri-food systems' policies and actions for benefits across all the pillars of sustainability.

9. Agri-food systems also face significant and interconnected stresses, including demographic changes, poverty, inequalities, climate change, a degrading environmental resource

⁹ HLPE. 2014. *Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems*. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security. Rome. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3901e.pdf>

¹⁰ HLPE. 2017. *Nutrition and food systems*. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.

¹¹ FAO/WHO. 2014. *Rome Declaration on Nutrition*. Second International Conference on Nutrition, Rome, 19-21 November 2014. Conference Outcome Document, para. 10. Rome, FAO.

¹² Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 1 April 2016. 70/259. *United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)* https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/259

¹³ United Nations Decade of Action on nutrition: Work Programme.

https://www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/work_programme_nutrition_decade.pdf

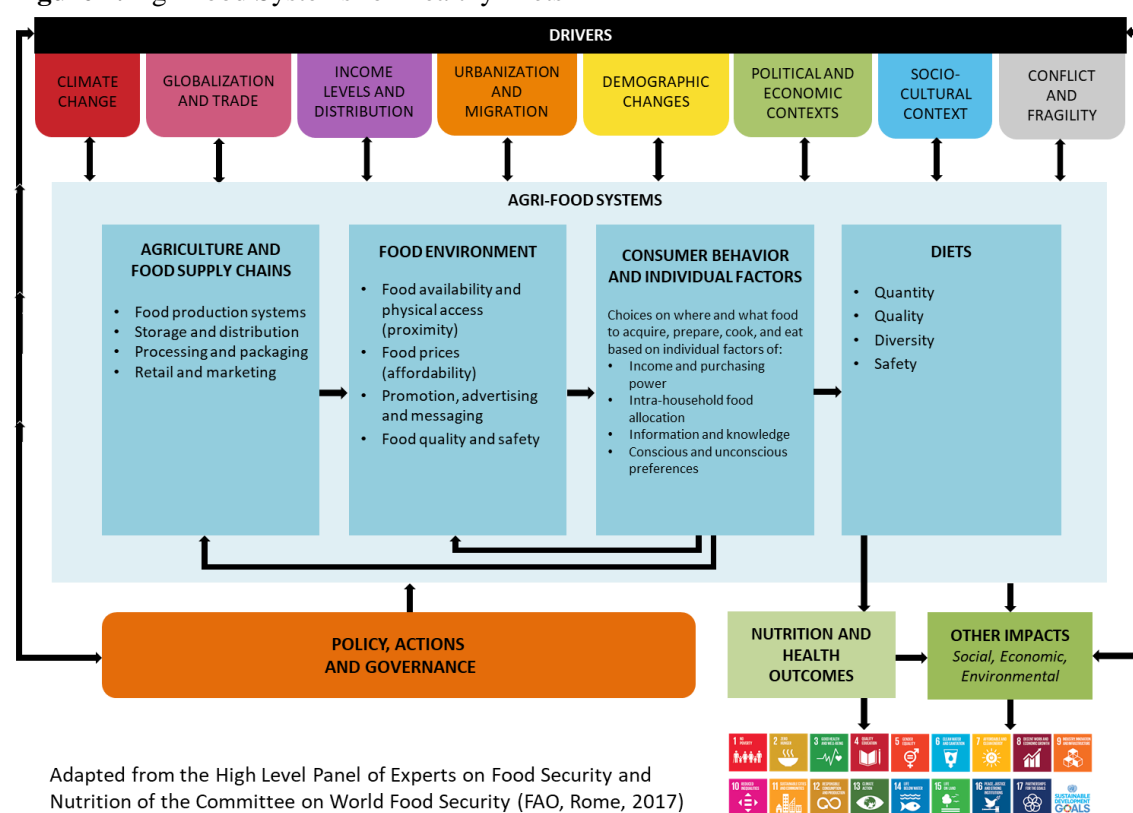
¹⁴ FAO's contribution to the Nutrition Decade. <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/FAO-s-contribution-to-the-Decade.pdf>

¹⁵ Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition. 2020. *Future Food Systems: For people, our planet, and prosperity*. London, UK. <https://www.glopan.org/foresight2/>

base, conflict, fragility and fragmented governance.¹⁶ These stresses threaten the sustainability, inclusiveness and resilience of agri-food systems. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed agri-food systems under even greater strain. While food systems have shown greater resilience than initially predicted, the pandemic has exposed the interconnection among agri-food systems, disease and environmental sustainability, implying the need to strengthen the One Health approach and be more pro-active in ensuring agri-food systems deliver better outcomes.¹⁷ COVID-19 has also underlined the importance of universal, open, fair and non-discriminatory trade rules in agri-food systems, especially for the benefit of developing countries.

10. An ‘agri-food systems approach’ to enabling healthy diets considers agri-food systems in their totality. The approach takes into account all of the different elements of agri-food systems, their interconnected relationships and related effects, and the importance of agri-food system sustainability, inclusiveness and resilience to deliver better health, social, economic, and environmental outcomes (**Figure 1**).¹⁸ An agri-food system approach thereby provides a framework for identifying policies and actions throughout agri-food systems to enable healthy diets for good nutrition, while also considering other agri-food systems’ goals.

Figure 1. Agri-food Systems for Healthy Diets



C. The role of FAO

11. While significant efforts are already underway to ensure agri-food systems enable healthy diets, they are not yet at the scale needed, nor achieving sufficient impact to reach global nutrition targets and the SDGs. There is a major opportunity to implement policies and actions, including global, regional, national and local policies, laws, investments, innovations and practices

¹⁶ FAO. 2017. *The future of food and agriculture: trends and challenges*. Rome.

¹⁷ UNEP & ILRI (2020). Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic Diseases and How to Break the Chain of Transmission. United Nations Environment Programme and International Livestock Research Institute.

¹⁸ Adapted from High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, (FAO, Rome, 2017)

(hereafter referred to as ‘policies and actions’), to ensure agri-food systems enable healthy diets while also delivering on the social, economic and environmental targets of the SDGs.

12. Article I of the FAO Constitution establishes that a function of the Organization is “to generally to take all necessary and appropriate action to implement the purposes of the Organization as set forth in the Preamble and, in that context, it is observed that the Preamble refers to “furthering separate and collective action” for the purpose of “raising levels of nutrition”.¹⁹

13. In discharging its functions, FAO has the unique collaborative advantage to work in partnership to accelerate policies and actions across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets at the scale needed to achieve the SDGs, while also striving to improve social, economic and environmental outcomes. As the UN specialized agency for food and agriculture working across all elements of agri-food systems, FAO has a leadership role in accelerating policies and actions with impact across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets for all. The FAO likewise has a key role to play in tackling trade-offs, harnessing synergies and creating policy coherence between actions designed to ensure healthy diets across agri-food systems and those designed to improve social, economic and environmental outcomes.

14. This leadership role for FAO in nutrition is aligned with the recommendation in the 2019 Evaluation of FAO’s Work in Nutrition that FAO’s global contribution to nutrition should be to define and advocate for improvements in all forms of malnutrition through integrated and food-based approaches, agri-food systems and healthy diets.²⁰ It also builds on significant work already conducted by FAO on agri-food systems and nutrition, such as on nutrition-sensitive agri-food systems and value chains for nutrition.

15. Fully tackling malnutrition in all its forms into the future will require a concerted effort on the part of all stakeholders working in partnership with shared responsibilities. In pursuing its goals, FAO will work in partnership with its sister UN agencies and with an array of other partners including intergovernmental agencies, international and regional financial institutions, investment partners, regional economic integration bodies, FAO Members, parliamentarians, local governments, civil society, private sector actors, indigenous peoples, small-scale producers and fisherfolk, and other vulnerable and marginalized peoples, including women and youth, involved in the production, processing, distribution, trade, marketing, sale, consumption and disposal of crops, livestock, and forestry, fisheries and aquaculture products in support of healthy diets. FAO will continue strategic engagement with multilateral partner entities such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). It will also leverage the attributes of FAO Statutory Bodies such as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), and the Codex Alimentarius Commission²¹. FAO will also work through relevant food security and nutrition coordination platforms at the global, regional and national levels, including UN Nutrition, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and the CFS. Each agency and platform has a unique role to play in achieving the SDGs and aligned global nutrition targets by 2030, and taking action to advance the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

II. Scope of the Strategy

16. The Strategy establishes FAO’s vision and mission for nutrition and provides the framework to guide the specific activities at global and decentralized levels throughout 2021–2025, to leverage its collaborative advantage to achieve this vision.

17. The Strategy sets out the main action areas aligned with FAO core functions and the intended outcomes of its work in nutrition (**Figure 2**). It is accompanied by an Accountability Framework which sets out the specific outputs and indicators until 2025 and an Implementation Plan of how FAO will deliver these outputs. Specific activities will be set out as part of annual work planning of FAO offices.

¹⁹ FAO. 2017. [Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#). Volumes I and II. Rome

²⁰ FAO. 2019. [Evaluation of the Strategy and Vision for FAO’s Work in Nutrition](#), pp. 119. Rome. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

²¹ The Codex Alimentarius Commission is the central pillar of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

18. The Strategy builds on significant previous and ongoing efforts and applies to all of FAO's work relevant to diets and nutrition, including on food production (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture), food value chains, food environments and consumer behaviour as well as its work on policy, investment support, data, emergency preparedness and resilience building, climate, natural resource management, biodiversity, food safety, social protection, trade, statistics, partnership, science and innovation, gender, investments, amongst others.

III. Guiding Principles

19. FAO acknowledges that for policies and actions (i.e., policies, laws, investments, innovations and practices) across agri-food systems to have impact at scale to enable healthy diets:

- a) **people must be placed at the centre.** Understanding people's lives and needs must be the starting point for identifying how policies and actions in agri-food systems can have most impact on healthy diets. Healthy diets must be available, affordable, accessible, culturally acceptable and appealing to people in the environments and territories in which they live. Data and evidence must be gathered and analyzed in the context of people's lives;
- b) **adaptation to local, country and regional contexts is vital.** Contexts have profound implications for the policies and actions needed; local adaptation ensures peoples' needs are met in the context of their lives and practices. There is a diversity of agri-food systems and diets and a diversity of solutions; FAO's work must be directed at, but also be responsive to, regional, country and local needs and enable ownership through in-depth work to analyze and identify constraints, solutions and effective options for investments;
- c) **no one can be left behind.** Equitable access to healthy diets by all is needed at all levels and marginalized populations must be prioritized. The livelihoods of the people who work in the agri-food system including smallholder producers, and their diets and nutrition, must be protected and supported; efforts should be made also to include other marginalized groups, such as youth, indigenous peoples, migrant workers and people with disabilities;
- d) **gender equality is critical.** Gender equality must be achieved throughout agri-food systems. Women are not only caregivers but also workers across the agri-food system including being fishers, farmers and traders, amongst other roles. Women should be supported as leaders of change. Adverse gender impacts must be avoided;
- e) **efforts should build upon the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.** The right to food is realized when every person, "alone or in community with others, has the physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement." It entails the "availability of food in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture [and] ... the accessibility of such food in ways that are sustainable and that do not interfere with the enjoyment of other human rights";²²
- f) **innovation is urgently needed.** Achieving the further change that is needed, at scale and within the timeframe of the SDGs, will require accelerating the pace and widening the scope of policy, institutional, organizational, technological, social and financial innovation including digitalization and technology transfer and uptake even in the most remote and marginalized contexts;
- g) **agri-food systems must also be sustainable, inclusive and resilient.** Agri-food systems must be sustainable, inclusive and resilient if they are to produce the foods needed for a healthy diet in support of the SDGs. Sustainable agri-food systems have economic, social and environmental bases needed to generate healthy diets now and for future generations.

²² UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). 1999. *General Comment No. 12: The Right to Adequate Food (Art. 11 of the Covenant)*. Geneva, Switzerland.

Resilience allows communities and institutions to withstand, cope, recover, adapt and transform in the face of agri-food system shocks. Inclusiveness allows marginalized and vulnerable people to benefit from the opportunities that agri-food systems can bring. Agri-food systems should thus minimize their negative and maximize their positive impacts on ecosystems and adapt to, and mitigate, climate change; support the livelihoods and wages and provide decent work for producers, workers and marginalized and vulnerable groups; reduce food loss and waste; and align diets with the environmental resource base, sociocultural norms and nutrition requirements; and

- h) **working in partnership is essential.** Given the many actors involved in changing agri-food systems, there is a need to harness existing experience and knowledge about agri-food systems to implement this Strategy and have impact at scale. While vital, enabling healthy diets is just one aspect of tackling malnutrition in all its forms; engagement is needed with stakeholders beyond agri-food systems, extending to those from both the public and private sectors that influence social protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, and health systems, among others.

IV. Vision and Mission

20. FAO's vision for nutrition is a world where all people are eating healthy diets from sustainable, inclusive and resilient agri-food systems.
21. To deliver this vision, FAO's mission in nutrition is to tackle malnutrition in all its forms by accelerating impactful policies and actions across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets for all.
22. Through this mission, and in the realization of the aspiration of Better Nutrition, FAO will contribute to the achievement of targets across the SDGs including SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG10, SDG 12, SDG 14, and SDG 17.
23. As indicated in **Figure 2**, success of this Strategy would be that all stakeholders (paragraph 15) are implementing policies and actions at a scale across the agri-food system commensurate to the achievement of the SDGs with the following impacts:
- a) agriculture and food supply chains²³ are producing, processing, distributing, preparing, trading, marketing, selling, serving and reducing loss and waste of foods that contribute to healthy diets, including by improving food safety while also making agri-food systems more sustainable, inclusive and resilient;
 - b) food environments are making healthy diets available, affordable, accessible, safe, culturally acceptable and appealing, aligned with evidence-informed national food-based dietary guidelines, food safety and quality standards and good environmental practices, as appropriate; and
 - c) consumers have the access, means, motivation and competences needed to practice and demand healthy diets.

V. Action Areas and Outcomes

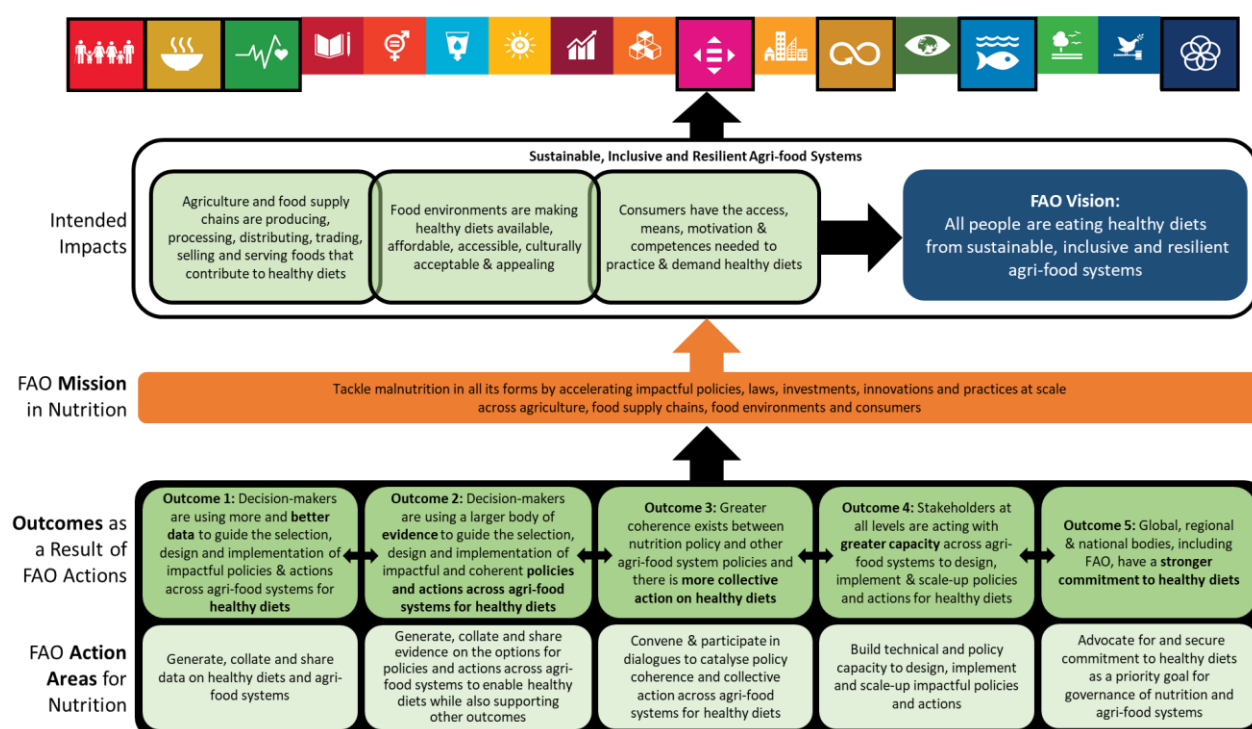
24. FAO will support all stakeholders (paragraph 15) to accelerate impactful policies and actions through five inter-dependent action areas (**Figure 2**) and actions:
- a) as the global lead in providing a public repository for dietary data and data on food, agriculture and agri-food systems as they relate to diets, FAO's first action area for nutrition will be to generate, collate and share data on healthy diets and agri-food systems;
 - b) in line with its function to collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture, FAO's second action area will be to generate, collate and share evidence on the options for policies and actions across agri-food systems (food

²³ i.e., for crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture products.

supply chains, food environments and consumer behaviour) that enable healthy diets and on trade-offs and synergies with other agri-food systems outcomes;

- c) to leverage its role as convener of diverse stakeholders, FAO's third action area for nutrition will be to convene and participate in dialogues to catalyze policy coherence and collective action across agri-food systems for healthy diets;
- d) building on prior experiences of developing toolkits and e-learning modules, and in capacity strengthening, FAO's fourth action area for nutrition will be to build the technical and policy capacity needed to design, implement and scale-up impactful policies and actions; and
- e) as the lead global agency with responsibility for food and agriculture, FAO's fifth action area for nutrition will be to advocate for and secure commitment to healthy diets as a priority goal for governance of nutrition and agri-food systems.

Figure 2. Pathway to impact of the Vision and Strategy of FAO's Work in Nutrition



25. **Outcome One - data.** Decision-makers are using more and better data to guide the selection, design and implementation of impactful policies & actions across agri-food systems for healthy diets due to FAO's efforts in making data accessible, understandable and relevant²⁴. *To achieve this outcome, FAO will generate, collate and share data on people's diets and on agri-food systems. Specifically, FAO will:*

1.1 generate, collate, visualize, share and communicate data and metrics on people's diets and agri-food systems (e.g., food composition, food consumption, food safety and quality, nutrient requirements and scientific advice to inform food standards, food security, dietary socio-cultural beliefs and practices; food production, trade and associated agriculture commodity policy, loss/waste and prices of foods important for healthy diets), and disseminate through FAO platforms, including the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform, and others. In so doing, FAO will focus on disaggregating wherever possible, data relevant to people in rural communities whose livelihoods depend on the agri-food system; marginalized urban populations; women (sex-disaggregated data) and young children; youth; indigenous peoples; migrants; persons with disabilities and people experiencing humanitarian crises, conflict and fragility;

²⁴ Data will be handled in accordance with FAO's data protection policies.

1.2 provide guidance and technical assistance to global, regional, national and local stakeholders on data collection, analysis and reporting including support to digitalization and technology transfer, and how to understand, use and communicate the implications of data to inform policies and actions to enable healthy diets. This will include targeted guidance for the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) exercise and subsequent UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and FAO Country Programming Framework development (CPF), and for collecting and analyzing data on relevant SDG indicators at the country level; and

1.3 monitor SDG indicators relevant to diets of which it is custodian to inform decision-making and track progress towards SDG targets.

26. **Outcome Two – evidence.** Decision-makers are using a larger body of evidence to guide the selection, design and implementation of impactful and coherent policies and actions across agri-food systems for healthy diets, as collated, communicated and facilitated by FAO. *To achieve this outcome, FAO will generate, collate and share evidence on the options for policies and actions across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets and on their trade-offs and synergies with other agri-food systems outcomes.* Specifically, FAO will:

2.1 generate, collate, share and communicate options for policies and actions that show promise of impact across agri-food systems for healthy diets, including policies, laws, Codex Alimentarius Commission standards and related texts, indigenous knowledge and practices, investments, innovations and actions relevant to making agri-food systems more sustainable, inclusive and resilient such as reducing inefficiencies in the system; reducing food loss and waste; increasing diversity of foods such as products of agriculture, fisheries, and forests; and increasing consumer awareness and demand for healthy diets;

2.2 generate and communicate evidence on trade-offs and synergies between options for policies and actions for healthy diets and with social (e.g. indigenous knowledge and cultures, gender equity), economic (e.g. viability for smallholder farmers, economic development, decent work) and environmental (e.g. climate change, biodiversity, soil and water degradation) outcomes of agri-food systems and on the value of policy coherence across these outcomes; and

2.3 through partnerships and strategic guidance, facilitate the generation of evidence to monitor and evaluate the impacts of policies and actions on people's diets and other outcomes, what influences impact, and economic costs and benefits, to inform future design and implementation of the various options.

27. **Outcome Three –policy coherence and collective action.** Greater coherence exists between policies designed to achieve nutrition, social, economic and environmental outcomes of agri-food systems and there is greater collective action on healthy diets as a result of FAO's convening and participation in dialogue. *To achieve this outcome, FAO will convene and participate in dialogues (meetings, conferences, congresses and summits or analogous virtual events) to catalyze policy coherence and collective action across agri-food systems for healthy diets.* Specifically, FAO will:

3.1 convene and participate in global, regional and national multi-stakeholder dialogues on how to enhance policy coherence between policies and actions designed to enable healthy diets and other social, economic and environmental outcomes towards the SDGs (synergies), and discuss how to tackle controversial trade-offs. In doing so, FAO will serve as a credible actor to facilitate dialogue and, recognizing power imbalances, strengthen common understanding and overcome blockages to change;

3.2 engage with private-sector actors and financial and investment institutions in innovative ways to achieve healthy diets from sustainable, inclusive and resilient agri-food systems, through new business models, entrepreneurship, financing opportunities for small- and medium-sized enterprises, and partnerships, while always avoiding conflicts of interest in accordance with FAO's rules for engagement with these actors²⁵; and

²⁵ Such engagements will be conducted in accordance with the FAO Strategy for Engagement with the Private Sector.

3.3 engage with representatives of civil society and indigenous peoples and other stakeholders in global, regional and national collective action catalyzed by developing consensus on the role of food-based approaches and healthy diets alongside other ways to tackle malnutrition in all its forms.

28. **Outcome Four – capacity.** FAO Members and global, regional, national and local stakeholders are implementing policies and laws, practices, investments and innovative actions at scale across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets as a result of capacity-strengthening activities by FAO. *To achieve this outcome, FAO will build technical and policy capacity to design, implement and scale-up impactful policies and actions.* Specifically, FAO will:

4.1 provide policy and technical assistance, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, to strengthen the capacity of policy- and decision-makers, including parliamentarians and implementing actors, to design, implement, and scale-up policies and actions across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets while also supporting other agri-food system outcomes;

4.2 provide training materials, evidence-based guidance, toolkits, advice on digitalization, innovative learning modalities and standards to strengthen capacity for governmental decision-makers and partners to diagnose the problems and identify priority solutions across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets and develop and implement food-based dietary guidelines; and

4.3 strengthen the capacities of civil society, research institutions, academia, rural advisory and agricultural extension services, farmers' associations, indigenous peoples' groups, youth groups, and schools to develop, implement and evaluate effective and context-specific awareness raising and education interventions relevant to the role of agriculture, supply and value chains, food environments, gender, natural resource management, climate change and consumer behaviour to enable healthy diets.

29. **Outcome Five – advocacy and commitment.** Global, regional and national bodies have a stronger commitment to healthy diets due to FAO's support to nutrition and agri-food systems governance and advocacy. *To do so, FAO will advocate for and secure commitment to healthy diets as a priority goal for governance of nutrition and agri-food systems.* Specifically, FAO will:

5.1 promote incorporation of healthy diets as a goal for policies and actions across agri-food systems into relevant global, regional and national agreements, laws, Codex Alimentarius Commission standards and related texts, investments and funding mechanisms, awareness-raising activities, multi-stakeholder processes and country-level guidance, including by actively supporting multi-lateral guidance such as those of the CFS, including the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN), and by considering how different dimensions of trade can improve nutrition;

5.2 continue to support, promote and contribute to effective nutrition governance at the global and national levels through commitments to UN Nutrition, CFS, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and other coordination mechanisms, platforms and partnerships; and

5.3 make healthy diets an organizational priority by supporting alignment among the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition and new corporate initiatives including the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, new FAO policies, the new FAO Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan, and the work plans of existing FAO policies and strategies²⁶.

30. **Inter-dependence between the outcomes.** These five outcomes are inter-dependent and inter-connected. Understanding what data needs to be generated and communicated should be guided by information about the promising options and the potential trade-offs, synergies, impacts and costs of those options. Gathering and collating data can, in turn, inform the selection of options for policies and actions which the evidence indicates are impactful and what the trade-

²⁶ Including FAO's Strategy on Climate Change (2017), Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across the Agricultural Sectors (2019), Policy on Gender Equality (2013), work on Agroecology (2018), and its existing commitments made under The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

offs might be. Evidence on the value of policy coherence and the trade-offs involved is vital to inform dialogue to enhance policy coherence and tackle trade-offs, which would in turn identify where more evidence and data is needed to inform the dialogue. Building technical and policy capacity must be informed by data, evidence and dialogue but the process of building capacity is also needed to enable stakeholders to collect data and evidence. Awareness and commitment will be strengthened by greater data, evidence, coherence and capacity and, in turn, is required in order to ensure that nutrition governance is fit for purpose to select, design and implement impactful policies and actions.

VI. Accountability Framework

31. Improved agri-food systems for healthy diets and better nutrition are critical for reaching targets from across the SDGs, including SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG10, SDG 12, SDG 14, and SDG 17..

32. The Accountability Framework (**Table 1**) provides a mechanism for FAO to hold itself accountable for actions towards reaching the outcomes of the Strategy. The output indicators reflect a degree of accomplishment of the actions outlined in the Strategy related to each outcome. They will monitor FAO's progress in implementing activities towards the Strategy's stated mission in nutrition. Output indicators are designed to optimally indicate the degree of progress in reaching the output while aligning with FAO's corporate monitoring mechanisms.

33. FAO continues to evaluate the feasibility of measurement and quality of data for each of the indicators. Flexibility over time is required to make the best use of new data that will underpin FAO's Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2022–25 and the new UNSDCF and CPF. Indicators will be adjusted if they do not appear to result in the collection of robust, useful information.

34. In view of the wide scope of FAO's work in nutrition, this Strategy does not attempt to detail work activities across the Organization. Aligned with standard FAO rules and procedures, and in line with the results framework adopted for the Medium Term Plan 2022-25, detailed country-specific work plans will be developed and implemented by FAO's decentralized offices under the CPF process and based on the UN Common Country Analysis and UNSDCF; FAO headquarters technical units will develop biennial work plans that will describe the specific activities by each unit that contribute to the Strategy's outcomes and align with its actions.

Table 1. Accountability framework for the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition.

OUTCOME 1: Decision-makers are using more and better data to guide the selection, design and implementation of impactful policies & actions across agri-food systems for healthy diets.	
ACTION AREA 1. GENERATE, COLLATE AND SHARE DATA ON HEALTHY DIETS AND AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS.	
OUTPUTS	INDICATORS
OUTPUT 1.1: Data and metrics on food composition, diets, dietary socio-cultural beliefs and practices, food safety and quality, food security and agri-food systems are generated, collated, visualized shared, and communicated.	<p>1.1a. Number of countries with high-quality, dietary data collated, visualized, disaggregated by sex and shared on FAO platforms.</p> <p>1.1b. Number of countries with data shared through the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform to inform decision-making on healthy diets and agri-food systems.</p>
OUTPUT 1.2: Guidance and technical assistance provided, including targeted guidance for the UN Common Country Analysis exercise and for collecting and analysing data on relevant SDG indicators at the country level, on data collection, analysis and reporting, and how to understand, use and communicate their implications to inform policies and actions to enable healthy diets.	<p>1.2a. Number of countries FAO has supported to collect, understand, use and communicate data and metrics on food composition, diets, dietary socio-cultural beliefs and practices, food safety, food security and agri-food systems.</p> <p>1.2b. Number of UN Country Common Analyses that include the collection, analysis and reporting of dietary data to inform the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) with support from FAO.</p>

OUTPUT 1.3: SDG indicators relevant to diets monitored to inform decision-making and track progress towards SDG targets.	1.3a. Number of relevant SDG indicators relevant to food, diets or nutrition reported to FAO Governing Bodies biennially.
OUTCOME 2: Decision-makers are using a larger body of evidence to guide the selection, design and implementation of impactful and coherent policies and actions across agri-food systems for healthy diets.	
ACTION AREA 2. GENERATE, COLLATE AND SHARE EVIDENCE ON THE OPTIONS FOR POLICIES AND ACTIONS ACROSS AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS TO ENABLE HEALTHY DIETS WHILE ALSO SUPPORTING OTHER OUTCOMES.	
OUTPUTS	INDICATORS
OUTPUT 2.1: Options for policies and actions that show promise of impact from across agri-food systems collated, communicated and shared.	2.1a. Number of countries reporting having drawn on knowledge products* about promising practices developed by or with support from FAO to inform their policies and actions.
OUTPUT 2.2: Evidence on the synergies and trade-offs associated with an agri-food system approach to enable healthy diets and the impacts on sustainability, inclusivity and productivity generated and communicated.	2.2a. Number of countries reporting making use of knowledge products* developed by or with support from FAO to analyze synergies and trade-offs.
OUTPUT 2.3: Evidence on the impact of policies and actions across the agri-food system on diets and the costs and benefits facilitated through partnership and strategic alliance.	2.3a. Number of strategic academic/research partnerships established to increase the knowledge base on the impact of policies, investments and actions across the agri-food system for enabling healthy diets.

*Knowledge products include traditional publications, digital media (social media and web content), videos, among others.

OUTCOME 3: Greater coherence exists between policies designed to achieve nutrition, social, economic and environmental outcomes of agri-food systems and greater collective action on healthy diets.	
ACTION AREA 3: CONVENE AND PARTICIPATE IN DIALOGUES TO CATALYSE POLICY COHERENCE AND COLLECTIVE ACTION ACROSS AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS FOR HEALTHY DIETS.	
OUTPUTS	INDICATORS
OUTPUT 3.1: Global, regional and national stakeholders convened in dialogue on opportunities to enhance policy coherence, achieve synergies, and address controversial trade-offs in enabling healthy diets and agri-food systems sustainability, inclusivity or productivity.	3.1a Number of global, regional and national dialogues* convened by FAO to discuss evidence to enhance policy coherence, achieve win-wins and address trade-offs across policies and actions in agri-food systems in support of healthy diets.
OUTPUT 3.2: Private-sector actors and financial and investment institutions engaged in innovative ways to enable healthy diets and agri-food systems sustainability, inclusivity and productivity, while always avoiding conflicts of interest in accordance with FAO's rules for engagement with these actors.	3.2a. Number of high-level engagements between FAO and private sector actors established that include explicit actions or investments with the objective of enabling healthy diets. 3.2b. Number of new tools and guidance for private sector engagement, including those that support identifying and managing interests in support of healthy diets and "do no harm" for nutrition, developed by FAO.

OUTPUT 3.3: Global, regional and national actors collaborate for collective action, including through food-based approaches, to end malnutrition in all its forms.	3.3a. Number of stakeholders participating in action networks under the auspices of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.
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*A dialogue refers to a meeting, conference, congress, summit, or equivalent virtual event for knowledge sharing, debate, negotiation and consensus building.

OUTCOME 4: FAO Members and global, regional, national and local stakeholders are implementing policies and laws, practices, investments and innovative actions at scale across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets.	
ACTION AREA 4: BUILD TECHNICAL AND POLICY CAPACITY TO DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND SCALE-UP IMPACTFUL POLICIES AND ACTIONS.	
OUTPUTS	INDICATORS
OUTPUT 4.1: Policy and technical assistance provided to policy- and decision-makers, including parliamentarians and implementing actors to design, implement, and scale up policies and actions across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets while supporting agri-food systems outcomes.	4.1a. Number of countries benefiting from policy, investment and technical assistance (including in the form of South–South and triangular cooperation, direct assistance in areas of production, investment in sustainable value chains, climate change, natural resource management and gender) to enable healthy diets through FAO support.
OUTPUT 4.2: Training materials, evidence-based guidance, toolkits and innovative learning modalities and standards provided to strengthen capacity for governmental decision-makers and partners to diagnose the problems and prioritize solutions across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets.	<p>4.2a. Number of new training materials to enable healthy diets, diagnose agri-food systems and prioritize policies, investments and practices throughout agri-food systems, developed and disseminated by FAO.</p> <p>4.2b. Number of countries developing food-based dietary guidelines with support from FAO.</p>
Output 4.3: Capacities of civil society, academia, rural advisory and agricultural extension services and schools have strengthened to develop, implement and evaluate effective and context-specific education interventions relevant to the role of agriculture, supply chains, food environments, gender equality, natural resource management, climate change and consumer behaviour to enable healthy diets.	4.3a Number of school food and nutrition programmes benefiting from FAO support.
OUTCOME 5: Global, regional and national bodies have a stronger commitment to healthy diets.	
ACTION AREA 5: ADVOCATE FOR AND SECURE COMMITMENT TO HEALTHY DIETS AS A PRIORITY GOAL FOR GOVERNANCE OF NUTRITION AND AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS.	
OUTPUTS	INDICATORS
Output 5.1: Healthy diets as a goal for policies and actions across agri-food systems is promoted for incorporation into relevant global, regional and national agreements, laws, Codex standards and related texts investments and funding mechanisms, awareness-raising activities, multi-stakeholder processes and country-level guidance, including by actively	<p>5.1a: Number of Codex standards or related texts providing guidance on nutritional issues adopted with support of FAO (or jointly with WHO).</p> <p>5.1b: Number of global and regional intergovernmental agreements addressing issues across SDGs (such as: nutrition, climate change, natural resource degradation, gender) that have incorporated healthy diets as a goal or strategic objective.</p>

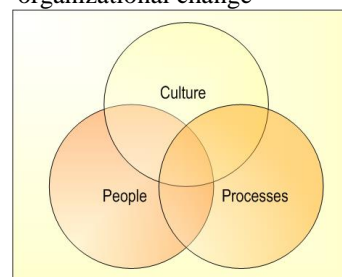
supporting multi-lateral guidance such as those of the CFS.	
Output 5.2: Effective nutrition governance at the global and national levels supported, promoted and contributed through commitments to UN Nutrition, CFS, the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and other coordination mechanisms, platforms and partnerships.	5.2a: Number of strategic engagements between global and national nutrition governance platforms and FAO.
Output 5.3: Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition aligned and new corporate initiatives, such as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, new FAO policies and strategies, the new FAO Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan, and the work plans of existing FAO policies and strategies are aligned.	5.3a: Percentage of new FAO policies, strategies and frameworks approved by FAO Governing Bodies that include support to enable healthy diets as a strategic priority.

VII. Implementation Plan

35. In line with the recommendations made by the Evaluation of the former Strategy²⁷ (adopted in 2012), this Strategy includes an Implementation Plan, which outlines the enabling factors that FAO will foster or develop to successfully execute the Strategy.

36. FAO's ambitious mission for nutrition requires organizational change if the Strategy is to be successful. Effective organizational change needs to address three aspects of an organization: people, processes and culture (**Figure 3**)²⁸. Critical to the delivery of FAO's work in nutrition are human resources, financial resources and monitoring systems for course correction and improvement over time. The development and execution of the FAO corporate change management strategy will provide an excellent opportunity to address the critical aspects of people, processes, and culture necessary for successful implementation of the Nutrition Strategy as integral part of the new FAO Strategic Framework. The calendar year 2021 will be Year 0 of the Strategy, during which the action needed to catalyse change will be initiated.

Figure 3: Components of organizational change



37. *People – nutrition expertise.* FAO leadership in nutrition requires the right set of nutrition experts at headquarters and in the decentralized offices. During Year 0, FAO will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment as part of a “FAO skills mix exercise”, which will identify the number of nutrition officers needed for different roles across the Organization and will work to guarantee that expertise.

38. *People – nutrition awareness and knowledge.* The relationship of the Strategy to each employee's purpose supports effective implementation of the Strategy and will be paired with capacity strengthening for all levels of engagement. The tools for capacity strengthening of external partners outlined in Outcome 4 of the Strategy will also be used to ensure appropriate internal capacities are strengthened. To support implementation of the Strategy, FAO has developed the *Capacity Development Roadmap: Promoting healthy diets through sustainable agri-food systems*, an internal, living document that will be the guide for capacity strengthening at all levels and all needs for the diverse roles of FAO personnel.

²⁷ FAO. 2019. [Evaluation of the Strategy and Vision for FAO's Work in Nutrition](#), pp. 119. Rome. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

²⁸ D. Cohen. 2005. *The heart of change field guide*. Harvard Business Review Press.

39. *Culture –leading by example.* FAO embodies the principles it wishes to convey in projects and investment programming by demonstrating commitment to the Strategy’s guiding principles and support to enabling healthy diets for its employees. FAO will work to develop a Healthy Food Environment Checklist, a tool to support FAO offices globally in creating a food environment for personnel and visitors that supports the mission of the Strategy.

40. *Culture – collective ownership.* Successful implementation of the Strategy also requires all FAO personnel, from management to technical and administrative personnel, to engage with, and have ownership of, this corporate strategy. Strong communications inside FAO (at all levels) will be an essential element of raising awareness and understanding of the Strategy and of FAO’s role and work in nutrition. As personnel will change over time, communication about activities, purpose and progress will be continuous. The process of developing the Strategy has been collaborative and the mechanism for collaboration (the Nutrition Strategy Technical Task Team) will continue to be used to maintain strong relationships across technical units at headquarters and in the decentralized offices.

41. *Processes – financial resources.* The successful execution of the Strategy requires dedicated financial resources from Regular Programme and extrabudgetary funds. Engagement in innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships will also be needed. During the Organization’s work planning process for 2022-23 that will take place in the latter half of 2021, more detailed activities aligned to the Strategy will be planned. There will also be an intensified effort to develop proposals to mobilize extra budgetary resources for executing actions aligned with the Strategy.

42. *Processes – monitoring.* Monitoring systems and capacities for their successful execution will be enhanced to capture the extent of the integration of nutrition into FAO’s work. FAO will continue rolling out guidance and strengthening internal capacity for using the Nutrition Marker developed to identify projects with nutrition as a principal or significant objective. FAO will also innovate and develop mechanisms to use the Nutrition Marker in corporate systems for tracking Regular Programme-funded results. Enhanced use of the Nutrition Marker can quantify the actions FAO takes that integrate nutrition outcomes, and also the use of extra budgetary and Regular Programme funds for nutrition.

43. The key performance indicators from the Implementation Plan (**Table 2**), as well as the output indicators from the Accountability Framework (**Table 1**) will be reported to the FAO Governing Bodies on a biennial basis as part of FAO’s Programme Implementation Report. During Year 0, FAO will socialize the Strategy and conduct awareness-raising activities throughout the Organization and with partners and will ensure alignment with FAO’s new Strategic Framework and the MTP 2022–25. Thus, the planning and reporting cycle for the Accountability Framework and Implementation Plan will coincide with that for corporate strategic planning and reporting.

Table 2. Implementation Plan for the Vision and Strategy of FAO’s Work in Nutrition.

Component 1. People			
Needs for nutrition awareness, knowledge and expertise in headquarters and the decentralized offices are met.			
Key performance indicators		Targets (end 2023)	Targets (end 2025)
1.A	Percentage of country offices reporting sufficient nutrition expertise to complete activities aligned with the Nutrition Strategy relevant to the country context.	TO BE DEVELOPED DURING YEAR ZERO OF STRATEGY	
1.B	Percentage of country offices reporting sufficient nutrition expertise to effectively reflect relevant policies and actions to enable healthy diets from across the agri-food system in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).		
Component 2. Culture			
FAO communicates continuously about nutrition and leads by example.			
Key performance indicators		Targets (end 2023)	Targets (end 2025)

2.A	Number of internal communication products highlighting the Nutrition Strategy.	TO BE DEVELOPED DURING YEAR ZERO OF STRATEGY	
2.B	Principle of leading by example is codified by proportion of FAO offices that provide annual data on the Healthy Food Environment Checklist.		
Component 3. Processes			
FAO monitoring systems can capture the extent of integration of nutrition into FAO's Programme of Work and Budget (PWB).			
Key performance indicators		Targets (end 2023)	Targets (end 2025)
3.A	Percentage of projects with nutrition as a principal or significant component (i.e. classified as having nutrition as a principal or significant component using the FAO Nutrition Marker).	TO BE DEVELOPED DURING YEAR ZERO OF STRATEGY	
3.B	Percentage of programming results that are nutrition-sensitive (i.e. classified as having nutrition as a principal or significant component using the FAO Nutrition Marker)		
3.C	Percentage of biennial level of voluntary contributions mobilized for projects that are nutrition-sensitive (i.e. classified with nutrition as a principal or significant component using the FAO Nutrition Marker)		

Annex. Description of terms as they are used in this document.

Access to food ¹	The ability to acquire food physically, economically and socially, at individual or household level.
Agri-food systems ²	This term is used as the contraction for food and agriculture systems, including food and non-food products that serves the production, processing, trade, marketing, consumption and disposal of goods that originate from agriculture, forestry, or fisheries. It also includes the inputs needed and outputs generated at each of these processes.
Agri-food systems approach ³	A food system approach is a way of thinking and doing that considers the food systems in its totality, taking into account all the elements, their relationships and related effects. Agri-food system approach is used in this strategy to refer to an analogous approach that encompasses food and agriculture systems, including food and non-food products.
Child overweight and obesity (under 5 years) ⁴	Overweight is weight-for-height greater than 2 standard deviations above the WHO Child Growth Standards median; and obesity is weight-for-height greater than 3 standard deviations above the WHO Child Growth Standards median.
Consumer behaviour ⁵	The actions and/or decisions made by consumers at societal, household or individual levels, on what, where and how they procure, use and dispose of food and feed others (considering gender, age and social factors); as well as actions to promote changes in their food environments. Consumer behaviours are influenced by a complex myriad of factors ranging from personal beliefs to political structures.
Food affordability ⁶	Price of a food, relative to cost of other foods and/or population income.
Food availability ¹	The amount of food physically available for consumption over a reference period.
Food-based approaches ⁷	Food-based interventions focus on food – natural, processed, fortified, or in combination – as the primary tool for improving the quality of the diet and for overcoming and preventing malnutrition. The approach recognizes the essential role that food has for good nutrition as well as the importance of the food and agriculture sector for supporting rural livelihoods.
Food environments ⁸	The physical, economic, political and socio-cultural context in which each consumer engages with the agri-food system to acquire, prepare and consume food. The key elements of the food environment that influence food choices, food acceptability and diets are: physical and economic access to food (proximity and affordability); food promotion, advertising and information; and food quality and safety.
Food safety ⁹	Assurance that food will not cause adverse health effects to the consumer when it is prepared and/or eaten according to its intended use.

Food loss and waste ¹⁰	Food loss is the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by food suppliers in the chain, excluding retail, food service providers and consumers. Food waste is the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by retailers, food services and consumers.
Food supply chain ⁸	The food supply chain encompasses all activities that move food from production to consumption, including production, storage, distribution, processing, packaging, retailing and marketing.
Healthy diet ¹¹	A balanced, diverse and appropriate selection of foods eaten over a period of time. A healthy diet protects against malnutrition in all its forms, as well as NCDs, and ensures that the needs for macronutrients (proteins, fats and carbohydrates including dietary fibres) and essential micronutrients (vitamins, minerals and trace elements) are met specific to the person's gender, age, physical activity level and physiological state.
Malnutrition ¹	An abnormal physiological condition caused by inadequate, unbalanced or excessive consumption of macronutrients and/or micronutrients. Malnutrition includes undernutrition and overnutrition as well as micronutrient deficiencies.
Micronutrient deficiencies ¹²	Lack of vitamins, minerals, and/or trace elements required in small amounts which are essential for the proper functioning, growth and metabolism of a living organism. It is also referred as Hidden Hunger as it may be difficult to detect based on a person's physical appearance (people can suffer from micronutrient deficiencies while being of normal weight and height).
Non-Communicable Diseases ¹³	The result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behavioural factors. The four main types of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases (heart attacks or strokes), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.
Overweight and obesity ¹	Body weight that is above normal for height and they are usually a manifestation of overnourishment. For an adult, overweight is defined as a Body Mass Index (BMI: weight in kilograms / height in metres ²) of more than 25 but less than 30 and obesity as a BMI of 30 or more.
People-centred ¹⁴	Those approaches that put people at the centre of human development, both as beneficiaries and as drivers, as individuals and in groups. This type of approach empowers people with the tools and knowledge to build their own communities, states and nations.
Undernutrition ¹	The outcome of insufficient food intake and/or repeated infectious disease. It includes being <u>underweight</u> for one's age, too short for one's age (<u>stunted</u>), dangerously thin for one's height (<u>wasted</u>) and deficient in vitamins and minerals (micronutrient malnutrition).

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- ¹ FAO. 2016. ICN2 Glossary. FAO TERM Portal: Nutrition (<http://www.fao.org/faoterm/collection/nutrition/en/>)
- ² Adapted from FAO. 2012. SAFA- Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture systems guidelines (Test Version 1.1). Rome, available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ap773e/ap773e.pdf>
- ³ <http://www.fao.org/3/ca2079en/CA2079EN.pdf>
- ⁴ WHO. 2020. Obesity and overweight. Fact sheet (available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/obesity-and-overweight>)
- ⁵ FAO. 2020. School-based food and nutrition education – A white paper on the current state, principles, challenges and recommendations for low- and middle-income countries. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb2064en>.
- ⁶ FAO. 2016. *Compendium of indicators for nutrition-sensitive agriculture*. Rome.
- ⁷ FAO. *Improving diets and nutrition: food-based approaches*, edited by B. Thompson and L. Amoroso. Rome.
- ⁸ HLPE. 2017. *Nutrition and food systems. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security*. Rome.
- ⁹ *Codex General Principles of Food Hygiene CAC/RCP 1-1969*
- ¹⁰ FAO. 2019. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2019. Moving forward on food loss and waste reduction*. Rome.
- ¹¹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9692en>
- ¹² FAO. 2015. *Nutrition, food security and livelihoods: basic concepts*. E-learning course (available at <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=194>)
- ¹³ WHO. 2018. Noncommunicable diseases. Fact sheet (available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/non-communicable-diseases>).
- ¹⁴ Adapted from UNDP. 2011. *People-centred Development. Empowered lives. Resilient nations*. UNDP in Action – Annual Report 2010/2011.