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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Thirty-eighth Session

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Results for FAO in the region 2022–2023

Executive Summary

This document presents major developments and results achieved in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) during the 2022–2023 biennium that contribute to supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*, leaving no one behind. It also highlights FAO's new ways of working, modalities and corporate initiatives.

FAO addressed recommendations of the 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC 37), achieving significant results in: (i) supporting measures and investments aimed at ensuring physical and economic access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets and supporting policies and programmes to reduce malnutrition; (ii) promoting rural economic activities to build productive, innovative, and inclusive rural societies accompanied by social inclusion policies, focusing on eradicating extreme poverty and ending hunger; and (iii) building sustainable and resilient agrifood systems and supporting Members in accessing environmental and climate financing to overcome the challenges in the rural sector.

Global FAO initiatives were implemented in the region with successful results: FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, Hand-in-Hand Initiative, 1000 Digital Villages Initiative, and One Country One Priority Product. All results achieved were underpinned by innovation, technology, data and complements and considering the importance of gender, youth, inclusion, and partnerships.

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

Suggested action by the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference is invited to:

- acknowledge the results achieved in the region in 2022–2023 in responding to the priorities and recommendations identified by the LARC 37;
- commend the result achieved in resource mobilization for the biennium, valued at USD 324 million, and, in addition, FAO’s support to the mobilization of USD 1.24 billion in investments in the region; and
- note the region’s arrangements regarding its contribution to the Programme Priority Areas in 2022–2023.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document presents major developments and principal results achieved in the region during the 2022–2023 biennium, which represents the first biennium under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, focusing on the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind.

2. FAO conducts its regional, subregional and country level work under the Strategic Framework 2022–31, delivering against its results framework through the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs). Furthermore, during the biennium, FAO supported Members in the successful implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change, the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and their action plans, as well as other thematic strategies.

3. Following the 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC 37) held in 2022, FAO focused its work on the region through the following Regional Initiatives:

- a. Regional Initiative 1 (RI1): Sustainable agrifood systems for healthy diets for all;
- b. Regional Initiative 2 (RI2): Prosperous and inclusive rural societies; and
- c. Regional Initiative 3 (RI3): Sustainable and resilient agriculture.

4. These Regional Initiatives are implemented through relevant PPAs and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure a clear causal results hierarchy, complemented by elements to focus, accelerate and enable the Organization’s work.

II. CONTEXT CHANGES AND PRIORITY ADJUSTMENTS

5. Food inflation has risen since 2019, due to the COVID19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The region, with the world’s highest healthy diet cost at USD 4.08 per person per -day,¹ needs to reinforce policies and programmes on nutrition sensitive social protection and agriculture.

¹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2023. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3017en>

6. Following the war in Ukraine, fertilizer prices soared in 2022. The region, heavily dependent on imported fertilizers (85 percent are imported), needs to improve fertilizer use efficiency. FAO strengthened national management of biofertilizers, promoting the *International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers*. FAO also facilitated discussion between governments and technical experts on coping with fertilizer shortages.

7. After three years of consecutive increase, the prevalence of food insecurity in the region showed a slight decrease in 2022. According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 (SOFI 2023), the number of undernourished people fell from 45.6 million (7 percent) in 2021 to 43.2 million (6.5 percent) in 2022. The prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity, measured by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), has also decreased from 40.3 percent in 2021 to 37.5 percent in 2022 in the region; however this figure is 7 percent higher than the global prevalence of 29.6 percent.²

8. Subregional differences in trends of hunger have been observed. Hunger increased in the Caribbean from 14.7 percent in 2021 to 16.3 percent in 2022, and currently affects 7.2 million people. In Mesoamerica, the prevalence of hunger remained at similar levels, going from 5 percent in 2021 to 5.1 percent in 2022, and affects a total of 9.1 million people. In contrast, South America reversed this trend with a decrease of 0.9 percentage points, from 7 percent in 2021 to 6.1 percent in 2022, which means that currently 26.8 million people face hunger, 3.5 million less than the previous year.

9. FAO in the region has been gathering and disseminating timely and impartial market and food security information to provide decision makers key evidence to address the crisis of high food and input prices and the related food security challenges. FAO supported Members to monitor policy decisions and measures to avoid or absorb the negative impact of price shocks on the cost of food, as well as to prevent disruptions in supply chains.

10. The region is currently facing water stress, expected to worsen, disrupting ecosystems and impacting farming communities, public health and energy production.³ Freshwater stress is anticipated, especially in Caribbean countries. The region has identified challenges for integrated water management.

11. Climate-related disasters are increasingly impacting the region, with the poorest 40 percent suffering double the average income loss.⁴ This necessitates an emergency response for urgent needs, livelihoods restoration, resilience, and facilitating sustainable rural transformations.

12. FAO supported regional agreements to address food security and nutrition during the 2022–2023 biennium. At the 7th Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Summit, FAO backed updating the *CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025* to adapt to current agrifood systems challenges through regional integration.

² FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2023. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3017en>

³ IPCC. *Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>

⁴ Jafino, B.A., Walsh, B., Rozenberg, J., & Hallegatte, S. 2020. *Revised Estimates of the Impact of Climate Change on Extreme Poverty by 2030* (No. 9417; World Bank Research Policy Papers). <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34555>

III. ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE REGION

III.1. Regional Initiatives and key achievements in 2022–2023

Regional Initiative 1

Sustainable agrifood systems for healthy diets for all

13. FAO supported measures aimed at improving national capacities to implement legal, regulatory and programmatic frameworks to address food security and nutrition (FSN), as well as at increasing food supply and facilitating access, information and consumption habits to ensure sufficient healthy, safe, diverse and nutritious food.

Programme Priority Areas (PPA)	SDGs targets	Regional areas of emphasis
BN1: Healthy diets for all	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.4, 12.8	a. Contributing to reversing hunger and increasing food security
		b. Ensuring physical and economics access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets
		c. Supporting policies and programmes to reduce overweight and obesity
		d. Promoting agrifood trade
BN2: Nutrition for the most vulnerable	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2	a. Contributing to reversing hunger and increasing food security
		b. Ensuring physical and economics access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets
BN3: Safe food for everyone	2.1, 2.2, 3.2	b. Ensuring physical and economics access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets
		d. Promoting agrifood trade
BN4: Reducing food loss and waste	2.1, 2.2, 12.3	b. Ensuring physical and economics access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets
BN5: Transparent markets and trade	2.b, 2.c, 10.a, 17.11	d. Promoting agrifood trade
BE4: Achieving sustainable urban food systems	1.1, 2.1, 11.a, 12.1	b. Ensuring physical and economics access to safe and nutritious foods to achieve healthy diets
		d. Promoting agrifood trade

BN1: Healthy diets for all

14. Members prepared frameworks to address FSN. Three countries approved, and eight are drafting FSN policies. FAO and the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean (PFH LAC) supported 15 national parliaments and five regional parliaments in prioritizing the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

15. The X PFH-LAC Forum and the II Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition were held in 2023 with over 70 parliamentarians and six heads of state. Legislators committed to transforming agrifood systems to ensure the right to adequate food.

16. FAO supported four countries to enact legislation incorporating Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. Nine governments advanced their food-based dietary guidelines (FBDGs), while five countries are updating their FBDGs. FAO co-published a guidance note on nutrition labelling in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), now implemented in ten countries.

BN2: Nutrition for the most vulnerable

17. Governments improved school feeding programmes by reinforcing governance, improving nutritional value of meals and Food and Nutrition Education (FNE), increasing budgets and public procurement from family farming. Fourteen countries, 536 municipalities, 1.6 million students and 23 000 schools implemented the sustainable schools' methodology by 2023.

BN3: Safe food for everyone

18. FAO supported seven countries to better manage antimicrobial resistance (AMR) risk in the animal production sector. FAO organized capacity building activities including workshops on the application of AMR tools. Further, FAO organized webinars to promote the application of Codex Alimentarius standards.

BN4: Reducing food loss and waste

19. Under the Voluntary code of conduct for food loss and waste reduction (FLW), the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino)'s Model Law provided a reference for legal frameworks for reducing food loss and waste in three countries. Two countries supported the creation of advisory committees to generate FLW data. Three countries are designing protocols for fresh food recovery in wholesale and supply markets. Members of #SinDesperdicio platform reinforced the commitment to implement innovative approaches to prevent FLW.

BN5: Transparent markets and trade

20. FAO courses on agrifood trade attracted over 1 700 participants, with specific courses for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Central American Integration System (SICA) countries. Over 4 000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) participated in virtual matchmaking events, generating over USD 170 million in business intentions.

21. FAO, the Latin American Federation of Supply Markets (FLAMA) and the Regional Network of Public Food Supply and Marketing Systems (SPAA) facilitated thirteen countries to modernize traditional markets. Sixteen countries improved their marketing and supply policies, promoting short-circuit actions, strategic reserve management, analysis and monitoring of markets and price information.

BE4: Achieving sustainable urban food systems

22. The Intermediary Cities and Food Systems Network comprises 53 cities from ten countries and aims to improve local agrifood systems governance. The Feeding and Greening the Cities project, active in eleven countries, contributes to evidence generation and local policy implementation.

Regional Initiative 2
Prosperous and inclusive rural societies

23. FAO supported Members in reducing rural poverty and revitalizing rural territories, focusing on addressing inequalities and enhancing social protection and productive inclusion.

Programme Priority Areas (PPA)	SDGs targets	Regional areas of emphasis
BP1: Innovation for sustainable agriculture production	2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 9.5, 15.2	b. Increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities
BP4: Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources	1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 6.b, 9.3, 14.b	b. Increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities
BP5: Digital agriculture	1.4, 5.b, 9.c, 17.8	b. Increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities
BL1: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment	2.3, 5.4, 5.a, 5.c	c. Fostering equitable rural societies through the economic inclusion of rural women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent
BL2: Inclusive rural transformation	1.1, 8.3, 8.5, 10.1, 10.2, 10.7	a. Protecting rural livelihoods
		b. Increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities
BL5: Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative	1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2	d. Supporting the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and increasing productivity and expanding rural economics opportunities
BL6: Scaling up investment	1.b, 2.a, 10.1, 10.2, 10.b, 17.5	b. Increasing productivity and expanding rural economic opportunities

BP1: Innovation for sustainable agriculture production

24. FAO supported Members in adopting sustainable agriculture practices and innovations. Four thousand people attended soil management webinars, and the Soil Community of Practice was established with over 650 members. Integrated pest management and agrochemical registration were promoted in the SICA region. Five countries implemented animal identification traceability to enhance international livestock trade. Seed banks were implemented in three countries and two are studying Sargassum as a fertilizer and pest control.

BP4: Small-Scale producers' equitable access to resources

25. Over 200 participants from 24 countries prioritized strengthening family farming at the LAC Decade for Family Farming meeting. FAO presented data on family farming access to services, land, and natural resources.

26. Three Members in the Caribbean are developing an agricultural land bank to address land access, administration, data-base management, legal issues and enhancing land tenure communication strategies.

BP5: Digital Agriculture

27. FAO created a catalogue of 25 digital innovations for food systems productivity and promoted "digital ecosystems" in 16 countries to extend digital technologies in agrifood systems.

BL1 Gender equality and rural women's empowerment

28. FAO's global report *The status of women in agrifood systems* reveals that women constitute 36 percent of all agrifood-system workers in Latin America and the Caribbean, examining gender gaps in income, resource access, social norms and resilience.

29. FAO provided technical assistance for SDG indicator 5.a.2 in 14 Caribbean countries; developed the seventh and eighth campaign *#RuralWomen, women with rights*; supported rural women's economic inclusion policies; and worked with Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger to include a gender approach in agrifood systems laws.

BL2: Inclusive rural transformation

30. FAO supported the Amazon Dialogues, a seven-country initiative for new Amazon region Strategies. FAO proposed a Model law on agrifood cooperatives to the Parlatino to promote democratic cooperatives management, increase productivity in agricultural value chains, strengthen family farmers, enable innovation, digitalization and gender balance.

31. FAO organized a learning cycle on Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent territories recognition. Policy dialogues were held in five Caribbean countries within the program Farmer Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (FO4ACP). Thirty-five producer organizations and the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers were supported, benefiting over 3000 family farmers.

BL5: Hand-in-Hand Initiative

32. The Initiative facilitated 12 investment plans to strengthen 31 agricultural value chains with a committed investment of USD 771.42 million. FAO is also supporting the special investment plan in Central America "Dry Corridor and Arid Zones of the SICA region: building resilience", with a committed investment of USD 268 million in alliance with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI). As Executing Entity, FAO is implementing a materialized investment of USD 45.1 million to support ecosystem-based adaptation across the region. In addition, with support of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) and the United States of America, FAO will provide support to implement climate resilient measures (digital soil mapping, agricultural zoning of climate risk, management water, strengthening the entrepreneurship of micro, small and medium enterprises [MSME] through digital ecosystems for market access) in dry corridor territory.

BL6: Scaling up investment for food and agriculture systems

33. During the 2022-2023 biennium, FAO helped design international financing institutions (IFI)-approved public investment projects in ten countries for a total of USD 1.24 billion in new investment. It also provided implementation support to 51 ongoing investment projects representing a portfolio worth over USD 5.85 billion, financing government-led programs aimed at achieving their national development goals and SDGs.

Regional Initiative 3***Sustainable management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change***

34. FAO supported Members in efficient natural resource use, ecosystem protection and enhancement, and the development of climate adapted agrifood systems and livelihoods.

Programme Priority Areas (PPA)	SDGs targets	Regional areas of emphasis
BP2: Blue transformation	2.1, 2.2, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b, 14.c	a. Building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient
		b. Enhancing ecosystem services and biodiversity for <i>better production</i> and <i>better nutrition</i>
BP3: One Health	1.5, 3.d, 15.8	a. Building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient
BE1: Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems	2.4, 6.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 14.3	a. Building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient
		c. Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of agrifood systems
BE2: Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture	12.2, 12.4, 12.5	b. Enhancing ecosystem services and biodiversity for better production
BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture	2.5, 6.6, 14.4, 15.1, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6	b. Enhancing ecosystem services and biodiversity for better production
BL3: Agriculture and food emergencies	1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 16.1	a. Building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient
BL4: Resilient agrifood systems	1.3, 1.5, 2.4	a. Building agrifood systems that are better adapted to climate change and more resilient

BP2: Blue Transformation

35. FAO supported sustainable development of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, launched the Mesoamerican Network of Small-scale Aquaculture Farmers, and strengthened science and evidence-based decision-making in the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) through the Nansen Programme. FAO also enhanced social protection in fisheries and aquaculture and strengthened aquaculture extension programmes.

BP3: One Health

36. FAO supported Members' capacities to prevent pest and disease, early warning and management of health risks, including Fusarium (TR4), highly pathogenic avian influenza and African swine fever. FAO developed six large-scale virtual training programmes for animal health, engaging over 14 000 participants, and implemented the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) programme in four countries.

BE1: Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems

37. FAO fostered knowledge exchange on climate change in agriculture through the Platform for Climate Action in Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLACA); 1 470 participants strengthened capacities related to the Enhanced Transparency Framework, biennial transparency

reports and National Adaptation Plans; and 727 agricultural extensions services personnel were trained to mainstream climate change into agricultural extensions services.

38. Twelve countries advanced strategies to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). Three countries implemented results-based payment projects worth USD 174 million, and FAO supported Members to access USD 134 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture

39. Members implemented projects worth over USD 163 million for the restoration of productive landscapes, ecosystem services and biodiversity. Twelve Central and South American countries improved data collection and analysis on forests, improving their national forest inventories, satellite land monitoring systems, greenhouse gas inventories and national forest monitoring systems. FAO incorporated country profiles into the Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS), and initiated studies on insect pollinator ecosystem services in four countries to formulate pollinator-oriented practices and policies.

BL3: Agriculture and food emergencies

40. FAO supported improved multi risk monitoring and early warning systems and supported rapid recovery of agricultural livelihoods in nine countries, benefitting more than 170 000 vulnerable people. FAO assisted 30 000 small-scale pig farmers against African swine fever and conducted more than 19 000 surveys in six countries to monitor disruptions and crises on food security and agricultural livelihoods.

BL4: Resilient agrifood systems

41. FAO's anticipatory action protected livelihoods against El Niño in nine countries, involving over 1.1 million individuals. Capacity building related to anticipatory action was promoted through webinars and e-learning, and anticipatory action plans were developed at various levels.

III.2. Accelerators, cross-cutting themes and partnerships

42. FAO's work in the region was delivered through accelerators, cross-cutting themes and partnerships.

43. Innovation was guided by the Regional FAO Science and Innovation Strategy Action Plan, with over 70 actions showcasing the integration of science and innovation in FAO's work.

44. Technology promotion focused on digital technologies for rural development, with an emphasis on agroecological innovations such as soil fertility management and integrated pest management. Rural youth were mobilized to deliver technological solutions.

45. Data capabilities were improved, with 16 LAC countries now measuring food insecurity using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). Four countries integrated survey modules on agricultural sustainability, and post-harvest food losses into national statistical operations. FAO assisted 13 countries in planning, implementing and evaluating agricultural census and surveys, and three countries in using earth observation data and machine learning techniques for agricultural statistics.

46. FAO supported legislative and policy processes, assisting 15 Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger and five supraregional fronts. Three countries approved regulatory frameworks to improve social protection systems, rural development and the reduction of food loss and waste. FAO reached more than 115 000 enrolments in 95 courses and learning activities.

47. FAO supported gender mainstreaming, with five legislative initiatives of the Andean Parliament, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Forum of Presidents of the Legislative Powers of Central America and the Caribbean (FOPREL) and the Parlatino, incorporating a gender approach. Key data on women's participation in small-scale fisheries were published.

48. FAO aided in preparing documents to strengthen rural youth, including the SICA region's Rural Youth Strategy 2022--2030. Webinars facilitated the exchange of experiences and good practices.
49. The FAO regional strategy for collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean was formulated to guide interactions between FAO, governments and Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, aiming for more inclusive, efficient, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.
50. FAO signed the first two formal agreements with private sector entities, aligning with the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021--2025. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Brazilian Development Bank and a Letter of Intent was signed with the Latin American Association of Financial Institutions.

III.3. FAO's corporate initiatives, new ways of working

51. *FAO Science and Innovation Strategy*: The Regional FAO Science and Innovation Strategy Action Plan guided a greater penetration and mainstreaming of science and innovation in the region's program of work. More than 70 actions exemplify how science and innovation are mainstreamed into FAOs work.
52. *Hand-in-Hand Initiative*: FAO is working with 14 countries under this Initiative, 13 of them have developed microregion typology maps and one is being developed. Additionally, 11 investment plans for prioritized sectors have been developed, with USD 771.42 million of committed investment for 11 countries. A subregional plan for the Dry Corridor in Central America has been elaborated with a committed investment of USD 268 million in agreement with the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (CABEI). As Executing Entity FAO is implementing a materialized investment of USD 45.1 million to support ecosystem-based adaptation across the region.
53. *1000 Digital Villages Initiative*: This Initiative supported 52 agritourism ventures in 14 countries, involving almost 110 rural localities. Participating digital villages have progressed in the identification of demand for digital services and have improved their capacities in digital marketing, as well as developed a rural youth virtual network to foster continuous exchange on digital innovation.
54. *One Country One Priority Product (OCOP)*: Launched in May 2022, the OCOP initiative involves 14 countries promoting 11 special agricultural products (SAPs) such as honey, dairy, cocoa, and coffee. The sustainable value chain of the respective SAPs can play an essential role in ensuring food security and nutrition, more effective use of unutilized resources, supporting farmers' livelihoods and economic growth, and protecting the environment and biodiversity. The OCOP Regional Organizing Group was established and Trinidad and Tobago has been selected as a demonstration country for cocoa value chain development.

IV. ONE FAO

55. The One FAO approach has been integrated into regional work through various methods. A programmatic approach has been implemented, focussed on improved prioritization, efficiency, and quality in technical assistance. Over 4 600 participants have enhanced their operational, administrative, and technical capacity through training sessions.
56. The *FAO Transforma* initiative identified and disseminated 14 innovative experiences in the region to highlight innovative projects, lessons learned and best practices to promote sustainable agrifood systems. FAO continues to support the formulation and monitoring of 24 Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), fully derived from the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).
57. *OnTrack*, a new integrated monitoring system for projects and programmes, is being implemented. The Project Managers Network has been introduced to strengthen the capacities of national officers and project managers, fostering collaboration across functions as One FAO.
58. The Country Office Development and Support Stream reform has been implemented to facilitate and support the continuous development of Country Offices.

59. In 2022–2023, FAO allocated USD 78 million in Regular Programme funds – excluding projects of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) – to deliver the regional programme of work. Field Programme expenditures reached USD 298 million.

60. Over the biennium, FAO assisted countries in accessing voluntary contributions worth USD 324 million, contributed by more than 40 resource partners, with an additional USD 293 million calculated as co-financing, reflecting confidence in FAO’s support towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FAO also participated in the design of thirteen investment projects in ten countries in the region, to be funded by international financial institutions for an estimated total of USD 1 239 million. FAO provides technical assistance in the implementation of 375 field projects with a budget of USD 854 million.

V. GAPS AND LESSONS LEARNED

61. FAO identified the need of reinforcing regional strategic agreements for FAO's cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, to address the main concerns of food security and nutrition at the highest political level with regional and subregional organizations. In 2023, FAO focused on expanding the presence and advocacy of the Organization in the region, to improve the impact of FAO's cooperation in countries, based on major regional agreements.

62. In the midst of the global pandemic, food crisis and its contributing factors, FAO has demonstrated agility in adapting its regional work to the evolving scenario while reinforcing its normative work and addressing the structural challenges as part of its core function, in response to Members demands.

63. While the three Regional Initiatives are solid mechanisms for technical support and delivery, FAO in the region identified the need for a straightforward alignment to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 to promote a better integration among FAO’s technical areas of work and increased clarity to define the Programme of Work in the next biennium.