



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International Fund for
Agricultural Development



World Food
Programme



World Health
Organization

INFORMATION NOTE

THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD (SOFI)

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It monitors and analyses the world’s progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition. It also provides in-depth analysis on key challenges for achieving these goals in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report targets a wide audience, including policymakers, international organizations, academic institutions and the general public.

On **15 July 2024 from 11:00 to 13:00 hours (New York Time)**, FAO and its co-publishing partners will present and discuss the theme of the 2024 edition of the report at a Special Event in the margins of the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The theme is “*Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition*” and by addressing this the report explores current levels and gaps in financing for food security and nutrition and provides guidance on innovative financing options to address the major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition and the agrifood systems transformation needed to free the world from hunger and food insecurity (SDG Target 2.1) and malnutrition in all its forms (SDG Target 2.2) by 2030.

Given the reversal in progress and the significant increases in hunger and food insecurity in recent years, the world is far off track to meeting SDG Targets 2.1 and 2.2. Rising hunger and food insecurity has wiped away past progress and is on a dangerous trajectory given the vulnerability of our agrifood systems to the major drivers behind these trends.

To reach the scale of actions needed to meet SDG Targets 2.1 and 2.2 by 2030 – sufficient levels of financing for development will be critical to their success. Current levels of finance development are insufficient and not equitably distributed to end global hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition. SDG targets 2.1 and 2.2 will remain out of reach without financing to transform our agrifood systems with greater resilience to major drivers, while addressing inequalities and ensuring they deliver affordable healthy diets.

Analysis on the theme of this report will contribute a better understanding of, on the one hand, the current levels of financing for action that contribute to improving food security and nutrition, and, on the other hand, the financing gap that must be bridged to meet SDG Targets 2.1 and 2.2. With updated estimates on how countries are affected by the major drivers, the report will also provide guidance on innovative financing options to target so as to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The theme will complement and guide the discussions at the 2024 HLPF and comes timely in the run up to the 2024 Summit of the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025.

What precedes the 2024 edition is an exemplary model of UN collaboration in monitoring and analysing progress towards achieving a world without hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

First launched in **1999**, the publication series, then titled *[The State of Food Insecurity in the World](#)* (SOFI), served as a regular progress report on global and national efforts to reach the goal set by the World Food Summit in 1996 of reducing the number of undernourished in the world by half by the year 2015. The report provided the first data available on progress and reversals on reducing hunger as well as analyses of the underlying causes behind these trends during the 1990s. From 2000, the report continued to monitor progress on reducing hunger annually, but in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and in 2015 the report took stock of global, regional and national achievements in reducing the number of hungry people in the world by half and reflected on what needed to be done in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In **2017**, the report marked the start of a new era in monitoring progress towards achieving a world without hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). To reflect the broadened and integrated approach to food security and nutrition of this new agenda, the report was renamed *[The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#)* – although its acronym SOFI was retained. Since then, for the first time the report began to regularly monitor global, regional and country progress towards the targets of ending both hunger (SDG Target 2.1) and all forms of malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2). An important feature of the report since the 2017 edition is an in-depth thematic analysis of the underlying causes and drivers of observed food insecurity and malnutrition trends and how food security and nutrition (SDG 2) are related to other SDG targets.

Over the years, SOFI has grown in importance and has achieved global recognition as the leading global report providing information on all forms of malnutrition. Over time, FAO expanded its partnership in producing the report, with the World Food Programme (WFP) joining in 2009. Two years later (2011), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) joined as co-publishers. In 2017, as the report began monitoring progress towards targets related to all forms of malnutrition, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) became new partners in preparing the report. Ever since the SOFI report is considered an exemplary model of UN collaboration work.

In **2019**, SOFI – on the theme of *[“Safeguarding against economic slowdowns and downturns”](#)* – was not only the third edition of the report jointly produced by the five UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) but it was also, **for the first time, launched during a [Special Event](#)** in the side lines of the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The report helped to inform not only the HLPF discussions, but also greatly contributed to the 2nd Committee negotiations on resolutions related to hunger and malnutrition.

Ever since, the report has continued to be launched as such Special Event in the side lines of the ECOSOC HLPF, proving especially relevant to the HLPF themes.

In **2020**, the theme *[“Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets”](#)* proved to be especially relevant to the HLPF 2020 theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” and provided an excellent opportunity to build on GSDR recommendations guiding HLPF discussions on necessary actions to delivering on the Secretary-Generals Decade of Action. Special Event webpage [here](#).

In **2021**, the theme [“Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all”](#) was particularly important for providing the latest updates and trends in food security and nutrition while offering some indication of what hunger would look like by 2030, in a scenario further complicated by the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Special Event webpage [here](#).

In **2022**, the theme was [“Repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable”](#). The report also offered indication of what hunger would look like by 2030, in a scenario further complicated by the war in Ukraine and the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Amid the recessionary context, this edition of the report was particularly timing to provide evidence that public resources allocated to food and agriculture could be used more smartly – or repurposed – to achieve more economic growth and make progress towards SDG 2 and other development goals. Special Event webpage [here](#).

In **2023**, the theme [“Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum”](#), provided for the first time global and regional estimates of food insecurity applying a rural, peri-urban and urban areas. The results show that while food insecurity is higher in rural areas, it is **also** very high in peri-urban and urban areas. Urbanization is a megatrend that must be factored into our efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. Special Event webpage [here](#).