

**Acting on food insecurity  
and malnutrition:**

# **Food Security Commitment and Capacity Profile**

**Methodology Paper 2014**

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## Foreword

There is sufficient capacity and resources in the world to ensure adequate food and good nutrition for everyone. Nevertheless, in spite of progress made over the last two decades, an estimated 840 million people still suffer from chronic hunger and two billion people worldwide are affected by micronutrient deficiencies. Among children, it is estimated that 171 million under five years of age are chronically malnourished (stunted), almost 104 million are underweight, and about 55 million are acutely malnourished (wasted). Beyond the ethical dimensions of this complex problem, the human, social and economic costs to society at large are enormous in terms of lost productivity, health, well-being, decreased learning ability and reduced fulfillment of human potential.

The persistence of hunger and malnutrition is all the more hard to accept in the face of the major strides made in areas such as economic growth, science and technology, and food availability. Governments and stakeholders need to make a much stronger political commitment to the elimination of hunger and malnutrition, which goes beyond declarations and announcements. Strong political commitment means that food security and nutrition objectives are fully factored into countries' development policy, investment and programme frameworks; that gender gaps are effectively addressed; and that the required actions are adequately funded, implemented and coordinated. It also means that all relevant stakeholders are enabled to participate in inclusive and evidence-based dialogue around food security and nutrition policy processes and that transparent, rights-based institutional mechanisms are in place which enable people to realize their right to adequate food.

Prerequisites for this to happen include the creation of a common understanding of food security and nutrition problems and solutions among decision-makers; the generation and use of reliable data and information on food security and nutrition in decision making processes; adequate capacities for policy analysis, planning and implementation; and the availability of effective accountability mechanisms with systematic progress monitoring and impact evaluation.

Various policy processes at global, regional and country level to which governments and other stakeholders have expressed support and which include the reduction of hunger and malnutrition in their objectives offer important windows of opportunity for strengthening the commitment and capacities of stakeholders towards reducing hunger and malnutrition. The UN High-Level Task Force (HLTF) on the Global Food Security Crisis, the Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC), the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) constitute examples of such processes. FAO is intensifying its engagement with various global, regional and national partners to raise levels of commitment and strengthen countries' capacities to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. In support of this, FAO developed a methodology to assess and track efforts of national stakeholders to act on food insecurity and malnutrition: the Food Security Commitment and Capacity Profile (FSCCP). The FSCCP can be applied by different stakeholders for the purpose of informing dialogue, of planning and prioritizing investments and of monitoring performance over time. Since 2013, the FSCCP has been an integral part of FAO's new Results Framework and provides a tool for planning and regularly monitoring progress, both internally and externally with countries and partner organizations engaged in reducing hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

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## Acknowledgements

The FSCCP methodology was developed by a core team composed of: Karel Callens (FAO Senior Food Security Officer), Esther Wiegiers (International Consultant), José Valls Bedeau (FAO Food Security Officer), Alberto Suppa (International Consultant), Ceren Gurkan (FAO Food Security Officer), Micheline Detraux (FAO Programme Development Officer) and Amélie Solal-Céline (FAO Monitoring and Evaluation Officer). For more information, please contact the lead authors: Karel Callens (Karel.Callens@fao.org), Esther Wiegiers (Esther.Wiegiers@telfort.nl), José Valls Bedeau (Jose.VallsBedeau@fao.org).

We are grateful for the input from FAO colleagues across different departments and would like to specifically acknowledge the following staff for their valuable comments at different stages of the methodology development: Astrid Agostini, Terri Ballard, Sally Berman, Veronica Boero, Carlo Cafiero, Giovanni Carrasco, Juan Garcia Cebolla, Vito Cistulli, Luisa Cruz, Amadou Oury Diallo, Coumba Dieng, Mina Dowlatchahi, Pablo Faret, Carmelo Gallardo, Lidia García, James Garrett, Jacques De Graaf, Valentina Gualtieri, Guenter Hemrich, Johanna Jelensperger, Regina Laub, Luis Lobo, Mohamed Manssouri, Neil Marsland, Alberta Mascaretti, Yasaman Matinroshan, Mark McGuire, Kae Mihara, Cristian Moscoso, Frank Mischler, Ellen Muehlhoff, Andrew Nadeau, Ivan Nazif, Jorge Oryan, Halka Otto, Hajnalka Petrics, Adam Prakash, Ricardo Rapallo, Rodrigo Rivera, Stephen Rudgard, Adoniram Sanchez, Josef Schmidhuber, Julia Seevinck, Mark Smulders, Kostas Stamoulis, Saifullah Syed, Lucas Tavares, James Tefft, Laurent Thomas, Benoist Veillerette, Margret Vidar, Claudia de Vitiis and Peter Wobst.