



Ending hunger is possible – UNIDO’s contribution

Date: Monday, 27 November 2023

Time: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (CET)

Location: Vienna, Austria (Vienna International Centre)

Background

The world faces unprecedented challenges, ranging from economic and political instability to the devastating impacts of a changing climate. These challenges have taken a significant toll on food systems, exacerbating the ongoing issue of food insecurity. In 2022, approximately 735 million people, equivalent to 9.2% of the global population, experienced hunger. Amid diminishing resources, notably land and water, there is an urgent need to prepare for feeding a growing global population. While solutions for food systems transformation, such as technologies and know-how, have been developed, they have not yet been expanded to the required scale and scope.

The response to these challenges is threefold, combining innovative solutions, partnerships, and investments. In the development context, innovations have the potential to catalyze a broader transformation and play a pivotal role for people, planet, and prosperity. However, improvements in agricultural output alone cannot guarantee access to food for those who need it most. Enabling policies should facilitate this transformation and encourage stakeholders to define mutually agreed roadmaps. For example, developing local innovation ecosystems and strategic infrastructure, such as rural transformation centers and integrated agro-industrial parks, is essential for disseminating best practices and improving the competitiveness of agribusinesses. Finally, collaborative efforts are required to steer and enable access to international financial mechanisms, incentivize and channel investments, and, where necessary, reform the international financing architecture.

UNIDO contributes to the global effort to eradicate hunger by strengthening agri-food value chains, promoting rural development, improving food processing and quality standards, and fostering innovation ecosystems. It also facilitates public-private partnerships and offers innovative financial solutions to enhance international trade, all aimed at addressing multiple facets of the food systems transformation.



Panel discussion: “Ending hunger is possible – UNIDO’s contribution”

The event aims to highlight the importance of innovation for the transformation of global food systems and to explore the linkages between innovation, investments and partnerships as prerequisites to address the global food security situation. Furthermore, it will call for a global dialogue among governments, industry stakeholders and academia to further discuss the key needs of Member States on the path to a food secure and sustainable future.

Key questions to be addressed

- What are the key challenges faced by different stakeholders in accelerating food systems transformation to reverse the current worrying trend and move towards achieving the ultimate goal of the SDG2 – Zero Hunger?
- What achievements have been made in transforming food systems, and how can these be scaled up and replicated effectively?
- How can the public sector provide support and incentives to steer financial resources towards food systems transformation and foster private sector investments at the necessary scale and scope?
- What realistic options does the international community have at its disposal to achieve tangible results by 2030?
- How can UNIDO’s expertise further support the Member States in accelerating industrialization as a catalyst for food systems transformation?

Format

The session will feature opening and closing remarks, and a moderated high-level panel discussion (Davos-style). It will have simultaneous interpretation in all official languages of the United Nations, and will be livestreamed on UNIDO’s website: <https://www.unido.org/general-conference-20>.