

KEY MESSAGES

- i. Achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 is possible but countries need to redouble their efforts to get back on track.** After a period of decline, **world hunger is on the rise again.** Today, **over 821 million people are suffering chronic undernourishment**, according to the latest FAO 2018 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report. At the same time, 1.9 billion people are overweight, 672 million of which are obese. The right policies need to be in place to take advantage of the recent global economic upturn. Countries need to get back on track, act on evidence, and tackle the root causes of hunger and malnutrition to ensure healthy, balanced and nutritious diets for all. They need to target rural populations, promote pro-poor investment and growth and address rising overweight and obesity levels by devising national strategies that promote synergies between nutrition and food security, rural development, social protection, sustainable agriculture, climate change, biodiversity, health and education.
- ii. We need to work in partnership to achieve Zero Hunger.** Countries need to enhance governance and coordination mechanisms, to facilitate dialogue and create incentives for different sectors and stakeholders to work together. All actors – including political leaders, civil society, UN organizations, the private sector, farmers' cooperatives, academia etc. – must partner and share knowledge to support countries as they implement and monitor the SDGs.
- iii. We need to increase investments to achieve Zero Hunger but this is viable and affordable, and makes business sense.** The estimated impact of all forms of malnutrition on the global economy could be as high as USD 3.5 trillion per year. Achieving Zero Hunger will require a mix of public and private investments, and risk-informed policies and interventions to ensure that the poor and most vulnerable benefit from the growth and employment opportunities generated.
- iv. Zero Hunger is key to achieving the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.** Many SDGs such as quality education and good health for all cannot be achieved without first eliminating hunger. Food and agriculture also lie at the very





heart of the 2030 Agenda from ending poverty, hunger and malnutrition to sustaining our natural resources and responding to climate change.

- v. **FAO** is supporting the global effort to achieve Zero Hunger both at international, regional and national levels by providing decision-makers with solid and relevant evidence, including statistics and monitoring data; advising on the formulation, implementation and promotion of international treaties and legal frameworks; supporting national agriculture and food policies, strategies and legislation; advocating for support from other sectors; and assisting in monitoring progress against SDG indicators/targets.

- vi. **Everyone has a role to play in achieving Zero Hunger.** Governments have an important role to play but they can't do it alone. Over time people have become desensitized and disconnected to the fact that millions of people are hungry. People need to adopt a new mindset by the using the Earth's resources more wisely, following nutritious diets, and also changing day-to-day actions with the aim of reducing waste and taking on a more sustainable lifestyle. With a #ZeroHunger way of living comes a right and responsibility to treat food with respect. It also means having respect for the people that give us our food, the farmers, and the resources that went into producing it. Vulnerable rural populations need to empower themselves by uniting and forming local cooperatives to realise their right to adequate food and decent employment, and share knowledge about sustainable agriculture.

