Food Security Programme at ESCWA: Pathway towards a monitoring framework

Training Workshop: Food security monitoring in the Arab region

Tunis, 29 July-01 August 2019
Quick overview of food security

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 1996)

✓ Availability
✓ Access
✓ Utilization
✓ Stability
Situation in the Arab region
Based on the publication Arab Horizon 2030

• Reviews issues related to food security in the Arab region notably challenges and opportunities in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
• It reviews suggested policies to enhance food security at the national and regional levels
- Increasing scarcity of water and land resources, and
- Growing challenge due to potential impact of climate change
- Slow growth in productivity and production,
- Growing gap between production and consumption,
- Increased reliance on imports to meet demand, and
- Challenge to fund food imports in Arab LDCs
High levels of food loss and waste projected to keep increasing
- High levels of undernourishment related to poverty and conflict, and
- Increasing rates of obesity due to unhealthy consumption patterns
- High levels of undernourishment related to poverty and conflict, and
- Increasing rates of obesity as a result of unhealthy consumption patterns
Serious challenges which require regular monitoring to better advise policy-making but also raise awareness
Project: Promoting Food and Water Security through Capacity Development in the Arab region

Objective

Promote food and water security in the Arab region through improved and coordinated policy design, strategy development and programme implementation

- Building resilience to climate change
- Unifying visions & policies on water & agriculture
- Enhancing food safety in local markets
- Informing decision-making for food security
- 4 components implemented through a collaborative approach

Component 1
Integrating climate change projections for resource use efficiency

Component 2
Coordinating food and water policies for increased security

Component 3
Adopting Good Agricultural Practices for food safety

Component 4
Monitoring food security for decision making

Beneficiaries & Partners:
Member countries, LAS & Ministerial Councils, AOAD, ACSAD, FAO, Academia
To develop a clear set of indicators for monitoring the state of food security at the national and regional levels taking into consideration regional specificities and global directions.

- Consultations led to increasing the scientific knowledge as well as reaching consensus among national focal points on monitoring the state of food security and collecting the necessary data.
- Statistical reports to provide adequate information to policy makers on current state and related challenges of Food security at the national level.
- Policy makers are better informed to formulate adequate strategies and development plans to improving national food security status.
Informed Decision Making for Food Security

ESCWA is cooperating with FAO and AOAD in monitoring and assessing the status of food security in the Arab region.

Activities Undertaken
- Regional monitoring system and unified methodology for data collection and indicator calculations;
- Three Consultative meetings for focal points and experts on Food Security Assessment and Monitoring in the Arab Region
- Endorsement of the monitoring framework by AOAD Executive Council- 28 March 2019

Remaining Activities:
- Training national authorities on the methodology of the monitoring system for Food Security
- Preparation of the first “Report on the Status of Food Security in the Arab Region” to be used as a diagnostic tool that describes the status of food security and identifies improvement areas of possible interventions.

Main Challenges

1- Lengthy process to ensure endorsement of monitoring framework by Countries
2- Data deficiencies
3- Engagement of stakeholders
THANK YOU!