



Implementing EU food and nutrition security policy commitments: Fourth biennial report

Report from the
Commission to the
European Parliament
and the Council

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1. Introduction

This is the fourth report highlighting progress made by the EU and its Member States towards implementing their common policy commitments on food and nutrition security.¹ It is accompanied by a Commission staff working document (SWD) with further information on the analysis and case studies.

The report focuses on the main policy developments, analyses the financial trends in disbursements² and the evaluation of policy priorities. It also highlights the results and progress achieved by the EU and its Member States on the two thematic focus areas identified by the Council in 2018: (i) women's empowerment for food security and nutrition, and (ii) rural employment creation. It concludes by highlighting the importance of eight policy orientations.

Examples are included throughout the report on how the EU and its Member States have stepped up their action on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

natural disasters and climate change. If current trends continue, this would jeopardise the achievement of not only Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (Zero Hunger), but all SDGs by 2030.

In 2018, the Council of the EU expressed concerns about global food and nutrition security, in response to the already alarming figures and following the most recent reports on implementing EU food and nutrition security policy commitments and on the Commission's action plan on nutrition.⁵ The Council invited the Commission to maintain and intensify its efforts to achieve SDG 2 and thus reverse current trends.

In the reporting period, the EU and its Member States made a significant contribution to improving global food security through the scale of its funding, advocacy and championing of key governance issues.

In 2018, the EU and its Member States focused on implementing the European Consensus on Development of June 2017.⁶ The Consensus sets out a common approach to international cooperation and development policy and how EU external action can contribute to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Recognising that food and nutrition security are major global challenges, it identifies sustainable agriculture and fisheries as key drivers in the fight against poverty and growing inequality. It also calls on the EU and its Member States to pursue efforts to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

2. Global and European policy developments

After decades of decline, hunger and malnutrition have been on the rise again since 2015. In 2018, it was estimated that 821 million people were undernourished.³ Moreover, when the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity is aggregated, it is estimated that 26.4% of the world population (about 2 billion people) suffer from food insecurity and more than 135 million people across 55 countries have experienced acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance⁴. This increase is largely due to conflicts,

At the global level, EU and its Member States' efforts continued to: (i) strengthen food and nutrition security governance, including through the Committee on World Food Security and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement; and (ii) advocate for a new global coordination mechanism to end food crises. Through its support for the 'Global Network against Food Crises', the EU continued to play a leading role and fulfil its commitment to work multilaterally to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (priority 6). This integrated

¹ An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges, COM(2010)127.

² The financial part of this report and accompanying SWD cover up to and including 2018 (for methodological/comparability reasons); experiences captured also include 2019.

³ State of Food and Agriculture in the World (2019).

⁴ Sources: Global Report on Food Crises (2020) released on 21/04/2020.

⁵ Council conclusions (14283/18) of 26 November 2018.

⁶ https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/24004/european-consensus-on-development-2-june-2017-clean_final.pdf

approach to crises brings together all key actors and actively promotes coordination and collaboration on the ground. The annual Global Report on Food Crises brings together 16 leading global and regional institutions under the Food Security Information Network and is now widely recognised as the reference for consensus-based analysis of food crises. In 2018, the Global Network prepared the 'Food and agriculture in times of crisis' conference, which took place early 2019 in Brussels.

As part of the global effort to tackle malnutrition, the EU has been actively working on undernutrition, especially on preventing stunted growth in children. The Commission pledged to mobilise EUR 3.5 billion by 2020 to reduce the number of stunted children in partner countries by at least 7 million by 2025. In its conclusion of 26 November 2018, the Council recognised the Commission's efforts to honour EU commitments and to mobilise all relevant sectors to support the nutrition agenda at global and partner-country levels. The 4th progress report on the *EU action plan on nutrition* released in 2019⁷ confirmed that the Commission's nutrition-related investments were on course to meet the EU's political commitment. In 42 partner countries, the prevalence of stunted growth decreased from 39.2% in 2012 to 34.9% in 2019. Based on current trends, an estimated 4.7 million children in these countries will avoid having their growth stunted. The commitment to allocate EUR 3.5 billion by 2020 was met ahead of schedule in 2019.

In line with the 2nd EU gender action plan (GAPII), efforts have continued to have a transformative approach to improving gender equality. Women's critical role across agri-food value chains in managing natural resources and ensuring food and nutrition security is fully acknowledged. The number of gender-sensitive contracts increased from 37% in 2014 to 57% in 2018.⁸

At the One Planet Summit in 2017, the EU pledged EUR 270 million to support climate resilience and agricultural innovation for sustainable rural transformation.

With financial support from France, the Commission initiated the DeSIRA⁹ initiative to strengthen the link between research and innovation in climate-resilient food systems and build evidence to underpin policies in low and middle-income countries. DeSIRA supports research and innovation projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and strengthens research capacities and governance for key national, regional and global actors. It has three main pillars: 1) Research and innovation in agricultural and food systems; 2) Research infrastructure conducive to innovation and 3) Knowledge and evidence to feed policy design. Since 2018, more than 40 projects have been adopted in over 31 countries, and six Member States¹⁰ committed additional funds to DeSIRA to strengthen synergies with their bilateral and multilateral research and innovation portfolios in agriculture and rural development.

The EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture is implementing a jointly agreed EU-African Union roadmap (2016-2020). By the end of 2020 funding in the order of EUR 190 million will have been mobilised from Horizon 2020, through the African Union Research Grant Scheme and through a joint funding scheme (LEAP-AGRI ERANet) from 10 EU and 9 African Union Member States. In total close to 100 projects are funded.¹¹

Two events strengthened cooperation between the African Union and the EU. The 2019 African Union – EU Ministerial Conference agreed on 10 action points, including the establishment of the Pan-African Network for the Economic Analysis of Policies (PANAP), which is intended to share knowledge on policy impact analysis in sub-Saharan countries. The 2019 African Union – EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science Technology and Innovation aims to make better use of research results and translate these into products and processes that increase the production of high quality food with appropriate inputs, enhance income growth and promote rural development in both regions.

⁷ 11850/19.

⁸ Study on EU Achievements in Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture 2014-2018, p.27.

⁹ Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture.

¹⁰ France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands have provided some cash co-funding to DeSIRA through their foreign affairs departments or development agencies; Spain and Belgium have provided in-kind but quantified co-funding via their development agencies.

¹¹ [https://library.wur.nl/WebQuery/leap4fnssa-projects?q=*](https://library.wur.nl/WebQuery/leap4fnssa-projects?q=)

The EU and its Member States made progress in strengthening the link between small-scale farmers and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and in targeting their investments to the creation of job opportunities in rural areas, especially for youth and women. In 2018, a Communication on the Africa–Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs¹² was adopted, aiming to create jobs and promote sustainable and inclusive development. A taskforce on rural Africa was also set up to boost job creation in agriculture and the agri-food sector. The main EU tools to encourage investment in Africa (including by mobilising other sources of funding to develop agriculture) are the External Investment Plan and the Trust Fund for Africa.

On multilateral coordination, the Commission and five Member States¹³ continue as Board members of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD). In the GDPRD, the EU has strongly engaged in the Global Donor Working Group on Land. The EU and 28 partners have committed to increase coordination and knowledge exchange on land governance programmes, and they jointly support solutions to land issues in policy processes. In 2018, the EU adopted a programme on land governance¹⁴ that aims to boost investment in land to increase agricultural productivity and sustainable development.

3. Finance and progress

This section provides a snapshot of the food and nutrition security (FNS) disbursements by the EU and its Member States and the latest progress towards the policy priorities.

Disbursements¹⁵

Since 2012, total official development assistance (ODA) of the EU and its Member States for FNS has increased steadily, rising to EUR 5,027 million in 2018 – a 19.7% increase from 2016. This represented 8.1% of the total ODA flows in 2018, the highest level since 2012.

From a policy design perspective, country-level disbursements continued to make up the highest proportion of ODA since 2012, accounting for 66% in 2018. The proportion of regional-level disbursement has been stable in 2018 compared to 2016, but the volume has nearly tripled since 2012. Peaking at more than EUR 1 billion, spending on global initiatives and on the delivery of global public goods have risen in 2018, following a small dip in 2014 and 2016.

In 2018, Africa–South of the Sahara region remained the biggest beneficiary of FNS support, receiving about half of all disbursements. The joint share of FNS funding allocated to North and Central America and South America has been fairly stable since 2012, fluctuating around 6%. Although FNS support in Neighbourhood countries has risen since 2012, it still accounts for a small proportion of total FNS disbursements (an average of 6.7% per year).

Many activities were supported in 2018, mainly on sustainable agricultural development, food assistance, rural development, basic nutrition and agricultural research, which accounted for about half of the total funding.¹⁶

¹² COM(2018) 643 final of 12.09.2018.

¹³ Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands.

¹⁴ Annex 1 of 2018 annual action programme, Commission Decision C(2018) 8063 final.

¹⁵ Different reporting methodologies exist across the EU and its Member States. The figures reported here solely reflect the specific methodology for this exercise and exclude humanitarian aid flows. Data include EU institutions and only ten Member States, which represent 91.2% of the total ODA flows of the EU institutions and 28 Member States in 2018. The detailed methodology is provided in the SWD annexed to this report. As with previous reports, this 4th report (issued in 2020) presents the latest official figures available, in this case for 2018. This report also includes smaller projects (below EUR 100,000), leading to an increase in the number of projects captured. But even without this methodological change, 2018 shows a marked increase in the number of projects and the amounts disbursed compared to 2016, from 3,462 to 3,928. However, these smaller projects accounted only 2.4% of the total FNS disbursements in 2018.

¹⁶ Sectors defined in terms of OECD DAC sector classification.

Table 1: Geographical distribution of aid disbursements from the EU and its Member States to FNS in 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018. In EUR million and percentage share¹⁷

Geographical area	2012	2012, in %	2014	2014, in %	2016	2016, in %	2018	2018, in %	Total	Total, in %
Africa–South of Sahara	1,440	42.8	1,650	45.1	2,242	53.4	2,463	49.0	7,795	48.0
Asia Pacific and Oceania	622	18.5	559	15.3	521	12.4	659	13.1	2,361	14.5
Middle East	12	0.3	54	1.5	40	0.9	64	1.3	169	1.0
Neighbourhood	98	2.9	273	7.4	312	7.4	405	8.0	1,088	6.7
North, Central and South America	232	6.9	225	6.2	285	6.8	289	5.8	1,031	6.3
Regional and unspecified	962	28.6	898	24.5	800	19.1	1,148	22.8	380	23.4
All regions	3,366	100	3,659	100	4,200	100	5,027	100	16,251	100

Table 2 provides an overall picture of FNS assistance for EU policy priorities. Disbursements for ‘*smallholders’ resilience and livelihoods*’ (priority 1) made up the bulk of total FNS flows. Support for ‘*social protection mechanisms for food and nutrition security*’ (priority 4) fell slightly compared to 2016. By contrast, the EU and its Member States considerably increased their support for building resilience at individual and country level (priorities 1 and 6), allocating 62% of the net increase from 2016. Overall, the significant net increase in total FNS disbursements in 2018 was because more programmes were implemented and the average support was higher.

Empowering women and girls and promoting gender equality has been increasingly incorporated into FNS programmes. Table 2 shows that this objective accounted for a significant proportion (64%) of total FNS support in 2018 (up from 53% in 2016). A similar trend was observed for environmental objectives, 51% of FNS-related disbursements addressed climate adaptation and/or climate mitigation. Research investments in FNS-related sectors remained relatively stable: 10% in 2018 vs 12% in 2016. Furthermore, FNS development initiatives in 2018 benefited more partners (130 beneficiary countries).



¹⁷ Regions refer to the OECD DAC regional classification. Neighbourhood refers to European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) partner countries and a few other candidate and potential candidate countries. The numbers of tables 1 and 2 are rounded.

Table 2: Progress against policy priorities¹⁸

Performance criteria	Number of programmes			
	2012	2014	2016	2018
1. Improve smallholders' resilience and livelihoods	1,560	1,822	1,863	4,471
2. Support effective governance	410	588	632	1,160
3. Support regional agriculture and food and nutrition security	98	188	228	333
4. Strengthen social protection mechanisms for food and nutrition security	94	102	123	124
5. Enhance nutrition	278	341	455	935
6. Enhance coordination of humanitarian and development actors to increase resilience	63	148	161	423
Total	2,503	3,189	3,462	7,446
Of which...				
Research programmes	149	154	463	1,189 (16%)
Gender-sensitive programmes			1,879	4,251 (57%)
<i>Principal objective</i>			155	575 (8%)
<i>Significant objective</i>			1,724	3,676 (49%)
Climate change adaptation programmes			1,344	2,976 (40%)
<i>Principal objective</i>			308	691 (9%)
<i>Significant objective</i>			1,036	2,285 (31%)
Climate change mitigation programmes			598	1,315 (18%)
<i>Principal objective</i>			82	192 (3%)
<i>Significant objective</i>			516	1,123 (15%)

Progress on policy priorities

This section provides an overview of activities undertaken to support the six FNS policy priorities. More detailed information and specific examples are provided in the accompanying SWD.

Policy priorities 1 and 6 'Improve smallholders' resilience and livelihoods' and 'improving the coordination of humanitarian and development actors to increase resilience' remain the most significant part of the EU and its Member States development cooperation portfolio. This support increasingly addresses the underlying socio-economic, environmental, and security dynamics at play in sustainable, resilient

and healthy food systems. Developing such food systems should strengthen sustainable rural development as well as prevent food crises. The EU intensified its support for the Global Network against Food Crises, which plays a critical role in transforming agri-food systems with a focus on consensus-based information, leveraged strategic investments, and coordinated and integrated action across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus.

Policy priorities 2 and 3: the EU and its Member States invested in *land governance in about 40 countries and greatly increased responsible investments in agri-businesses*, notably through blending initiatives for sustainable agri-food value chains. The

¹⁸ Data include the EU and only ten Member States. For the detailed methodology, see the SWD annexed to this report.

Support received, EUR million				Number of countries				
2012	2014	2016	2018	2012	2014	2016	2018	
2,022	2,137	2,120	2,377	108	103	108	126	
395	535	698	802	84	92	87	97	
151	191	226	409					
209	133	254	238	40	40	44	48	
467	504	638	683	63	64	71	92	
122	159	265	517	18	37	37	70	
3,366	3,659	4,200	5,027			114	130	
379	300	493	491	(10%)		69	92	(71%)
		2,404	3,382	(67%)		97	114	(88%)
		171	168	(3%)		51	77	(59%)
		2,233	3,214	(64%)		97	113	(87%)
		1,826	2,407	(48%)		95	116	(89%)
		342	381	(8%)		67	93	(72%)
		1,484	2,026	(40%)		91	100	(77%)
		693	946	(19%)		89	108	(83%)
		75	85	(2%)		40	56	(43%)
		618	861	(17%)		86	105	(81%)

EU also developed sustainable fisheries and aquaculture with a special attention to small-scale fisheries because of their potential to deliver economic and social benefits, particularly for women. Moreover, the EU and its Member States have stepped up their support to the overall governance and architecture for agricultural research and innovation and significantly enhanced country research capacities for innovation within national agriculture knowledge and innovation systems.

Policy priority 4: EU support to *social protection mechanisms* remained at the same level – EUR 237 million in 2018. The EU produced a guidance package including guiding principles, lessons learned

and promising practices to support social protection programmes in situations of shocks and protracted crises.¹⁹

Under **policy priority 5**, the EU has already met in 2019 (one year ahead of schedule) its commitment to invest EUR 3.5 billion in *nutrition* by 2020 and has stepped up efforts to analyse how its assistance helps avoid stunted growth. The EU and its Member States continue to strengthen global governance and accountability mechanisms and to address multiple forms of malnutrition in their support programmes to achieve the global stunting reduction target by 2025.

¹⁹ <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/sp-nexus/documents>

Table 3: Examples of projects with notable results

Policy priority 1	The Netherlands supports the ' <i>Projet d'Appui à la Production Agricole au Burundi (PAPAB)</i> ' applying the PIP (<i>Plan Intégré Paysan</i>) approach. Based on a farm business plan, small-scale food producers can better invest in soil fertility management, farming system resilience and thus increased food security. Through this approach, 37,400 households have demonstrably increased their productivity and income, while 18,700 hectares of farmland are managed more sustainably. Another Dutch programme ' <i>Geodata for Agriculture and Water (G4AW)</i> ' uses satellite data to improve food security. Involving 23 projects in 14 countries, the goal is to reach 4.5 million small-scale farmers by 2022. In 2018, Ireland released 13 new and improved varieties of legumes, cereals, roots, and tubers in Malawi, including bio-fortified beans with iron and zinc, and a vitamin A rich orange-fleshed sweet potato.
Policy priority 2	Finland carries out the ' <i>Responsible and Innovative Land Administration</i> ' project in Ethiopia to develop the National Rural Land Information System, which handles all land registration data and land-related transactions (inheritance, divorce, gift etc.). By 2019, 14.5 million parcels had been registered.
Policy priority 3	Germany funded the ' <i>Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training for Women</i> ' regional project championing women's skills development in the agricultural sector. It implemented the project together with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) in six countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Togo.
Policy priority 4	UK ²⁰ support to social protection systems in 23 developing countries helped poor and vulnerable people build more productive and resilient livelihoods. It also helped governments build shock-responsive systems, including through programmes providing cash transfers in countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia. In the aftermath of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, these programmes helped people secure enough food, reducing hunger and the risk of famine.
Policy priority 5	Italy's ' <i>SA.NI – Food Security, Nutrition and Hygiene for Equatorial band's communities in South Sudan</i> ' project provided water access to 1,550 people, as well as 'Safe Water Champion' training for 450 women and pre-natal services to 5,000 pregnant and/or breastfeeding women.
Policy priority 6	The EU funded the ' <i>Rapid City Profiling Towards Early Recovery in Yemen</i> ' project to better target and coordinate humanitarian, recovery and development investments, and strengthen the resilience of stakeholders and affected populations in selected cities in the face of the conflict.

Joint programming

Significant progress was made in joint programming by the EU and its Member States. The approach has been adopted in 23 countries, and implementation started. To support the process, the EU has developed new joint programming guidelines and guidance documents for conflict-affected and fragile states and more advanced developing and middle-income countries.²¹ Two global peer-learning events were

also organised in Cambodia and Uganda, in December 2018 and November 2019 respectively. Both events brought together a broad range of representatives from partner countries, the EU and representatives from 16 Member States, who identified practical steps and tools to formalise joined-up approaches and increase the EU's impact, voice and visibility at country level.

²⁰ During the period under review of this report, the UK was a member of the European Union.

²¹ <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/joint-programming/highlights?page=1>

Box 1: EU joint programming in Bolivia

Bolivia was among the first countries to embark on joint programming with the EU, eight Member States and Switzerland. The 2017-2020 joint European strategy is aligned with Bolivia's 2025 Patriotic Agenda and the 2016-2020 economic and social development plan. Joint programming has fostered collaboration and coordination in a range of sectors among the EU+ group. In FNS, it proved that regular dialogue and joint activities are key incentives to bring EU partners together from joint programming to joint implementation.



Box 2: EU joint programming in Madagascar

In 2018, the EU, Germany, and France embarked on joint programming and developed a joint analysis. Following the presidential elections of January 2019, which marked the first political alternation of power in the country, the Malagasy government prepared the 2019-2023 *Plan Emergence Madagascar*, which should set out the strategy for the joint programming planned in 2020. The EU partners have increasingly implemented joint programmes and projects across sectors. This wide collaboration has improved the synchronization and complementarity of the interventions – including in terms of support to civil society. In FNS, the *working better together* culture has clearly accelerated progress in joint implementation and enabled a structured policy dialogue with the government in the various coordination platforms.



4. Reporting the results

The multidimensional nature of FNS issues, the diversity of projects, the different implementation systems and channels, the specific aims of development policies and the individual statistical practices of Member States, all make it challenging to report standard aggregated indicators that show impact on the ground. Nevertheless, the EU and its Member States are stepping up their harmonisation efforts for Eurostat and SDG reporting.²²

Table 4 sets out quantified results on a few selected themes, namely assistance to food insecure people, nutrition, sustainable management in agricultural and pastoral ecosystems and support to smallholders to increase sustainable production, and improve access to markets, land and finance. However, caution should be taken in making any comparisons, as calculation methods may differ between countries, and the table does not provide a full picture of efforts in each area, but only what has been captured through available tools.

Table 4: Outputs and impact on the ground

Austria	In 2017-2018, 1,327,983 smallholder farmers were reached by measures funded by the Austrian Development Agency designed to increase sustainable agricultural production, and/or improve access to land and other natural resources, to financial services and/or markets. Of these, 399,217 were food insecure.
European Commission (2013-2018)	17,787,000 women of reproductive age and children under five benefited from nutrition-related programmes, of which 1,381,000 were food insecure (2018); 26,197,000 food insecure people received EU assistance; sustainable land management practices were introduced on 4,152,000 ha; 6,985,000 smallholders benefited from EU-supported measures designed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land, of which 828,000 were food insecure (2018).
Finland	In 2015-2017, bilateral and civil society projects provided support for about 3,106,000 farmers, of which 41% were women, to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land. Private sector cooperation has supported more than 2,200,000 farmers. 120,000 families have secured tenure of land – 64% of land tenure certificates were obtained by married couples and 19% by women only. In addition, 3,245,400 ha of forest was brought under sustainable use through bilateral, civil society and private sector operations.
France	In 2016-2018, 9,086,289 family farms were supported by AFD-financed projects designed to increase their competitiveness, adapt their agricultural practices to climate change, and facilitate their access to land and financial services. 57,621 ha have benefited from biodiversity conservation, restoration or sustainable management programmes (2016-2018). In 2017-2019, 5.4 million food insecure people benefited from the food assistance programme of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.
Germany	178,600 women of reproductive age and 67,400 children under two targeted by BMZ's global 'food and nutrition security and enhanced nutrition' programme (part of Germany's 'ONE WORLD – no hunger' initiative), demonstrably improved their nutrition in 2018. At least 16,000,000 food insecure people benefited from the German government's FNS improvement measures. ²³

²² Formed by the United Nations Global Compact and Global Reporting Initiative.

²³ This number only refers to technical cooperation projects (implemented by GIZ). Due to overlaps of the target groups, impact data of other projects (financial cooperation, multilateral projects) have not been considered here.

The Netherlands (2019)

20,100,000 undernourished people received assistance, of which about 15,300,000 demonstrably benefited from improved food intake; 19,200,000 smallholder family farms received support, of which 6,600,000 increased their productivity and/or income and 5,600,000 gained better access to markets; 673,000 ha of farmland were improved, 612,000 ha of which adopted more eco-efficient practices and 118,000 ha became more resilient to stresses and shocks; 113,000 farmers obtained secure tenure of land.

UK

60,300,000 children under 5, women (of childbearing age) and adolescent girls were reached through nutrition-related measures (April 2015–March 2019). In 2018/19, DFID had 49 ongoing commercial agriculture programmes that had benefited over 22 million farmers and sustained or created over 140,000 jobs.

5. Thematic focus

As requested by the Council in 2018, this report provides a deeper focus on two specific themes: women empowerment and rural employment.

Women empowerment for food security and nutrition

Reflecting the EU's commitment to a transformative gender approach, the share of FNS measures that include a gender-equality aspect rose from 37% in 2014 to 57% in 2018. EU and Member States' measures have increasingly improved women's access to productive resources and employment opportunities, stimulated behaviour changes – such as joint decision-making in rural households, and provided women with platforms to voice their rights.

In Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi and Senegal, the LANDac programme funded by **the Netherlands** supports women's access to agricultural land by involving them in data collection and in land governance discussions. In Malawi, the EU strengthens land governance systems for smallholder farmers by training local officials on women's land rights and through a Women's Land Rights Forum to strengthen women's leadership skills. **Italy** increased women's involvement in value chains in Mozambique and scaled up community-based maternal and child nutrition services in Afghanistan. In Mali, the **EU and Germany** facilitated women's access to irrigated land, thereby improving their access to diversified and healthy diets.

The EU and its Member States increasingly advocate for a gender transformative approach during policy dialogues with partner countries. The EU and its Member States contributed for example to a joint gender analysis as a step to forge partnerships across sectors in Madagascar, and stepped up the coordination between EU partners in delivering gender-sensitive messages on violence against women in Colombia.

The EU's thematic briefs setting out a gender-responsive approach to land governance, nutrition, and value chain development included *Closing the gender gap through agri-food value chain development*, complementing its value chain analysis for development (VCA4D) methodology to assess a value chain's impact on social development, including gender equality. In Cambodia the VCA4D tool highlighted women's participation in aquaculture activities in the semi-intensive and small-cage production systems and their under-representation in decision-making on fisheries policy.

Creating rural jobs

Under the 2018 Communication on the Africa–Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs²⁴, the EU and its African partners are developing jobs and growth compacts (JGC), concentrating their joint efforts on value chains with the highest potential for job creation. Where relevant, the JGC links up with other international

²⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/soteu2018-africa-europe-jobs-alliance-communication-643_en.pdf



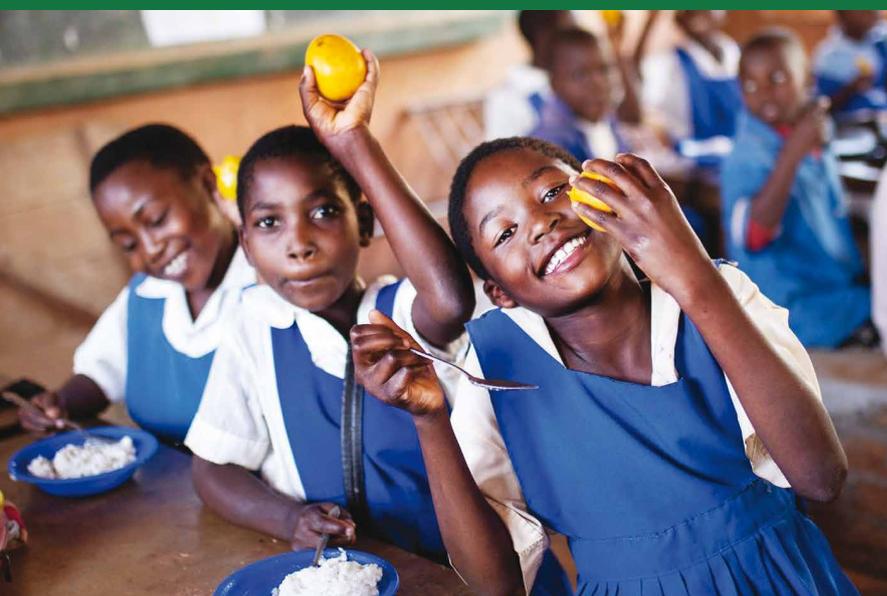
Box 3: Boosting job creation in value chains in Sierra Leone

Germany supports the 'Employment Promotion Programme III' to increase jobs in cocoa, coffee, rice and vegetables value chains. The programme entails working with MSMEs and youth to improve skills, with strong mentorship and coaching elements to increase self- and wage employment. In 2016-2019, the programme supported 1,200 businesses and trained 36,000 young people, creating more than 9,000 new jobs and self-employment opportunities. By 2019, it had benefited more than 250,000 people.



Box 4: Working with partner countries to boost job creation and achieve peace, security and development in the Sahel

In the Sahel and Lake Chad region, the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) created more than 27,500 jobs, helped 129,000 people develop income-generating activities, and enabled 50,000 people to receive professional training and or/skills development in 2018-2019. The EU's support is critical for increasing economic participation among young people, and thus contributes to the EUTF's stabilisation efforts in the region. Approximately 700,000 youngsters benefited from job creation and work placement initiatives, professional training and/or support to develop their skills.



Box 5: Increasing sustainable agricultural growth, employment, and food security in Malawi

The **EU and Germany** support the KULIMA More Income and Employment in Rural Areas of Malawi (MIERA) programme to increase income and employment opportunities for smallholder farmers and MSMEs in a number of value chains (cassava, groundnut, soybean, and sunflower). Since 2017, more than 23,000 smallholder farmers have been trained on farm economics, agribusiness and marketing and 300 marketing and contract farming agreements have been signed between leading companies and farmers' organisations. Farmers have increased their incomes by 20% and 900 jobs were created.

initiatives like the G20 Initiative on Rural Youth Employment.²⁵

In July 2019 for example, the EU shared its JGC²⁶ with the Ugandan government to encourage convergence with key EU priorities identified with the Member States, partner financial institutions and other actors, as well as through dialogues with the government and the private sector. The JGC aims to support forestry, farming and agriculture value chains that enable job creation, innovation, the participation of women and youth in the production process, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and complementarity with other programmes.

EU-funded actions to boost investment and jobs include the AgriFI initiative that promotes investments in smallholder agriculture and micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through blended finance. To help develop agricultural value chains, the EU takes advantage of the opportunities offered by local, regional and global markets, and applies the VCA4D methodology to assess the impact of value chains on job creation, such as in Zambia (egg and aquaculture), Honduras (coffee), Sierra Leone (palm oil), Tanzania (coffee), Guinea Bissau (mango and lime), Burundi (banana), and Benin (pineapple).²⁷

6. Conclusion

The EU and its Member States have taken a comprehensive approach to supporting partner countries' policies and programmes. Joint efforts have focused on strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable people to food crises, increasing responsible investments in sustainable food systems, improving nutritional outcomes, stimulating innovation, and addressing gender equality and the empowerment of women. The experiences presented in this report and in the accompanying SWD demonstrate the importance of:

1. **Taking a comprehensive approach to sustainable and inclusive food systems that enable safe and nutritious food and healthy diets for all.** This means focusing on food systems as a whole, from sustainable production to consumption, processing, trade and marketing, and balancing climate, health, environmental, economic and social factors. It takes account of gender equality, in line with the second EU gender action plan (GAPII). It also recognises the important role of fisheries and aquaculture for FNS, which requires better marine governance that upholds laws on access to fish stocks, land and water resources, and a particular focus on the resulting benefits for small-scale fishers and smallholder fish farmers.
2. **Supporting the Global Network against Food Crises as a critical contributor to developing sustainable food systems along the humanitarian, development and peace nexus.** This support by the EU and its Member States entails joint analysis, strategic investments, and coordinated responses at national, regional, and global level. The EU and its Member States should continue to address both immediate needs and underlying socio-economic, environmental, and peace factors to prevent recurrent food crises.

²⁵ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/23551/2017-g20-rural-youth-employment-en.pdf>

²⁶ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/68138/eu-jobs-and-growth-compact-uganda-supporting-job-creation-and-economic-growth_tk

²⁷ VCAs studies, 2016-2020: <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/value-chain-analysis-for-development-vca4d->

- 3. Prioritising a multi-stakeholder approach to food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in order to speed up progress on Agenda 2030.** This approach notably includes global, regional, national and local governance mechanisms. The strategy should involve strengthening partnerships with the UN system (including with the Rome-based UN agencies and the Committee on World Food Security), research organisations, global multi-stakeholder platforms, private sector and civil society organisations to develop and apply global norms.
- 4. Reinforcing agricultural research and innovation systems at national, regional, and global level to promote climate resilience.** The EU and its Member States should continue to support institutional governance architecture and the capacities of regional and national agricultural research organisations, and should stimulate sustainable innovation through multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the DeSIRA initiative.
- 5. Increasing responsible public and private investments in sustainable agriculture, fisheries and agri-businesses, including through blending assistance to support smallholder agriculture, fisheries and MSMEs.** The EU and its Member States should keep economic, environmental, and social development impact as the core priority in supporting private investments in agri-businesses, including by further investing in gender-responsive, sustainable and inclusive value chains.
- 6. Supporting local and regional marketing and accelerating inter- and intraregional agricultural trade.** The EU and its Member States should continue to support agreements, such as on the African Continental Free Trade Area, that promote regional integration and that can help to create new markets and new decent jobs, increase competitiveness, and reduce dependency on food imports.
- 7. Promoting climate-sensitive agriculture, including agro-ecology, acknowledging the importance of sustainable agriculture in adapting to and mitigating climate change** as set out in the Koronivia joint work on agriculture²⁸ and highlighted in other relevant commitments. In this context, the EU and its Member States should help developing countries deliver on their nationally determined contributions.
- 8. Addressing malnutrition in all its forms, while continuing to focus on the most vulnerable population groups.** The EU should continue to assess and report on its impact on reducing stunted growth, while addressing all forms of malnutrition that affect vulnerable people. Nutrition programmes should also contribute to the sustainable transformation of food systems.

These observations are also relevant when preparing for the Nutrition for Growth Summit and the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021.



²⁸ Decision 4/CP.23



COVID-19 and food security

The COVID-19 pandemic was still unfolding when this report was being finalised. The full effects of COVID-19, and of the socio-economic crisis it triggered, on food and nutrition security are still largely unknown in terms of severity of lockdowns and spillover effects on rural livelihoods. Early indications suggest that impacts could be substantial with many millions of people losing their income, while simultaneously facing an increase in local and imported food prices due to logistics and in some cases export restrictions (for example rice).

Moreover, the risk that measures to tackle the health crisis could strongly aggravate current food crises was clear, as agricultural production in some regions could be affected by farmers' difficulties in accessing inputs while also facing other challenges (such as weather extremes, pests and diseases, e.g. desert locusts). Countries affected by multiple crises are at particular risk of food insecurity.

The EU and its Member States are adjusting their cooperation portfolios to respond to these challenges. More fundamentally, the COVID-19 pandemic underlined the need to strengthen the 'one health' approach and to address the underlying reasons for the rise in diseases stemming from animal-human interactions, including the loss of biodiversity, unsustainable farming practices and unsafe food marketing and trade.

ANNEX: COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Acronyms

ABC Fund	Agri-Business Capital Fund
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AFR100	African Forest Landscape Restoration initiative (AFR100)
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AATIF	African Agriculture Trade and Investment Fund
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
COM	Communication
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSA	Community-Supported Agriculture
DeSIRA	Development-Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EC	European Commission
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ERRY	Enhancing Rural Resilience in Yemen
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
EUR	Euro
EUTF for Africa	European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
FNS&SA	Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture
FMO	Dutch Development Bank
G7	Group of 7
G20	Group of 20
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GNAFC	Global Network Against Food Crises
IDPs	Internally Displaced Peoples
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
KfW	German Credit Institute for Reconstruction
MS	Member State
JES	Joint European Strategy
JGC	Jobs and Growth Compact
JP	Joint Programming

LIFT	Livelihoods and Food Security Fund
MCNP	Maternal and Child Nutrition Programme
MS-NPAN	Multi-sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition
MSMs	Micro-, Small-, and Medium-sized Enterprises
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECD DAC	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
OM4D	Organic Market for Development
PATAE	Projet d'Appui à la Transition Agroécologique en Afrique de l'Ouest
PEM	Plan Emergence Madagascar
PSNP	Producing Safety Nets Programme
RESET	Resilience Building Programme in Ethiopia
SCTP	Social Cash Transfer Programme
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SESAMUM	Sustainable Economic Development of Agriculture in Magway
SPS	Social Protection Systems
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition Movement
SWD	Staff Working Document
SWEEP	Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection
TAP	Tropical Agricultural Platform
TFUE	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US	United States
USD	United States Dollar
VC	Value Chain
VCA4D	Value Chain Analysis for Development
WFP	World Food Programme

This staff working document (SWD) accompanies the fourth biennial report "Implementing EU food and nutrition security policy commitments".

The fourth report highlights the progress which the EU and its Member States (MS) have achieved towards implementing their common policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges.¹ Since its adoption in 2010, the policy framework has guided the EU and its Member States in engaging in international cooperation and development assistance concerning food security. A specific Implementation Plan was adopted in 2013, further detailing commitments in this area. Subsequently, the EU and its Member States have reported every second year on progress made on the 2010 policy framework and the 2013 implementation plan. A first biennial report was issued in 2014, a second in 2016, and a third in 2018. In line with Article 210(2) Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the fourth report is coordinated by the European Commission, with inputs from the following MS: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.² The financial reporting of the report and this accompanying SWD covers up to and including 2018 (for methodological/comparability reasons), while experiences captured also include 2019.

¹ An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges, COM(2010)127.

² During the period under review of this Report, the UK was a member of the European Union.

1. Additional figures and examples of intervention, by priority

1.1 Overview of food and nutrition security assistance compared to total Official Development Assistance (ODA), in EUR million³

Donor(s)	Total ODA in all sectors				Food and nutrition security ODA			
	2012	2014	2016	2018	2012	2014	2016	2018
Austria	421.587	474.754	892.258	402.643	16.652	12.879	24.413	31.772
Belgium	1,148.809	1,029.645	1,331.763	1,144.553	158.787	143.387	158.847	138.751
Finland	589.001	671.372	557.510	374.172	53.087	63.732	46.526	45.761
France	7,319.011	6,260.428	6,715.343	7,931.848	362.426	388.151	456.246	603.158
Germany	7,510.396	10,194.420	19,209.131	18,532.456	613.221	760.658	887.442	1,215.425
Ireland ⁴	417.145	395.320	386.142	449.342	94.010	89.501	106.864	82.460
Italy	558.353	1,100.027	2,253.088	1,904.949	90.680	107.288	83.896	193.148
Netherlands	3,083.975	3,150.545	3,017.312	3,247.971	317.626	317.301	438.456	551.691
Spain	814.804	519.810	2,562.570	878.022	-	55.672	43.327	54.160
United Kingdom	6,549.610	8,584.962	10,551.963	10,593.946	656.157	595.964	729.433	662.300
EU institutions	14,001.031	13,832.739	16,653.741	16,463.027	821.743	1,015.119	1,224.773	1,447.908
Member States non-allocated	-	-	-	-	181.399	109.035	-	-
Total ODA for EU and Member States	42,413.721	46,214.022	64,130.819	61,922.929	3,365.786	3,658.687	4,200.223	5,026.532
Share of FNS in total ODA, in %					7.508	7.681	6.549	8.117

³ OECD DAC official annual US dollar exchange rate is used for 2018 data flows: 1 USD = 0.8473 EUR. Total ODA data comprise two types of flows: ODA grants and ODA loans without grant equivalent. Source: <https://data.oecd.org/conversion/exchange-rates.htm>.

⁴ The variation in Ireland's FNS disbursements in 2018 compared to 2016 is mainly due to the advance FNS disbursements in 2016.

1.2 Evaluation of the policy priorities over time

The table shows disbursements, number of programmes and number of countries which received funding per policy priority.

Performance criteria	Number of programmes				Support received, EUR million				Number of countries			
	2012	2014	2016	2018	2012	2014	2016	2018	2012	2014	2016	2018
1. Improve smallholders' resilience and livelihoods	1,560	1,822	1,863	4,471	2,022	2,137	2,120	2,377	108	103	108	126
2. Support effective governance	410	588	632	1,160	395	535	698	802	84	92	87	97
3. Support regional agriculture and food and nutrition security	98	188	228	333	151	191	226	409				
4. Strengthen social protection mechanisms for food and nutrition security	94	102	123	124	209	133	254	238	40	40	44	48
5. Enhance nutrition	278	341	455	935	467	504	638	683	63	64	71	92
6. Enhance coordination of humanitarian and development actors to increase resilience	63	148	161	423	122	159	265	517	18	37	37	70
Total	2,503	3,189	3,462	7,446	3,366	3,659	4,200	5,027			114	130
Of which...												
Research programmes	149	154	463	1,189 (16%)	379	300	493	491 (10%)			69	92 (71%)
Gender sensitive programmes			1,879	4,251 (57%)			2,404	3,382 (67%)			97	114 (88%)
<i>Principal objective</i>			155	575 (8%)			171	168 (3%)			51	77 (59%)
<i>Significant objective</i>			1,724	3,676 (49%)			2,233	3,214 (64%)			97	113 (87%)
Climate change adaptation programmes			1,344	2,976 (40%)			1,826	2,407 (48%)			95	116 (89%)
<i>Principal objective</i>			308	691 (9%)			342	381 (8%)			67	93 (72%)
<i>Significant objective</i>			1,036	2,285 (31%)			1,484	2,026 (40%)			91	100 (77%)
Climate change mitigation programmes			598	1,315 (18%)			693	946 (19%)			89	108 (83%)
<i>Principal objective</i>			82	192 (3%)			75	85 (2%)			40	56 (43%)
<i>Significant objective</i>			516	1,123 (15%)			618	861 (17%)			86	105 (81%)

1.3 Examples of interventions per priority

Policy priority 1: Improve smallholder resilience and rural livelihoods

	Recipient countries	Project Title
Austria	Ethiopia	SWEEP - Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection
Belgium	Malawi	Reducing food and income insecurity among vulnerable households in Malawi through climate services and integrated risk management
EU	Yemen	Enhancing Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY)
Finland	Nepal	Rural Village Water Resources Management Project
France	Cuba	Support for the modernisation of the cattle breeding and dairy production sector in Camaguey province
Germany	Niger	Smallholder Irrigation Farming to increase agricultural production
Ireland	Malawi	Implementing the promotion of Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) technologies to improve food and nutrition security
Italy	Ethiopia	Inclusive and sustainable agricultural value chain development. Modernisation of strategic agricultural value chain in the Agro-Commodities Procurement Zones of two Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks
Netherlands	South of Sahara	Organic markets for development (OM4D). Development of organic farming in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Sao Tome and Principe and Togo
Spain	Ethiopia	Food security for agropastoral communities of DoloBay Woreda through the introduction of an innovative fish farming system
United Kingdom	Tanzania	Agribusiness window- support to innovative business ideas in agribusiness, agribusiness value chains, and financial services
Austria	Georgia	Promoting sustainable forest management for climate resilient rural development in Georgia by establishing an enabling environment and effective interagency coordination for improved forest and watershed management, sustainable rural energy solutions, and diversification of rural income opportunities

Policy priority 2: Support effective governance

	Recipient countries	Project Title
Belgium	Benin	Appui Institutionnel au Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche afin de renforcer les capacités institutionnelles, organisationnelles et individuelles des acteurs impliqués dans le développement agricole
EU	Developing countries	Information for Nutrition Food Security Resilience Decision Making - Worldwide component with FAO. Improve availability of regular, timely and early warning information as well as evidence-based analysis regarding the food security, nutrition and resilience situation for decision-making
Finland	Mozambique	Support to the Institute of Social and Economic Research. Increasing the research capacity in the country, bringing topics into public debate and supporting evidence based decision making, including in food and nutrition security
France	Senegal	Technical and financial support to agricultural cooperatives
Germany	Philippines	Enhancing community resilience and farmers collective capacities to achieve food security and food sovereignty
Italy	Jordan	Institutional strengthening for innovative rural development strategies in Jordan
Netherlands	Benin	Land administration
Spain	Mali	Strengthening the Women's Cooperative Musow Ka Cesiri through the improvement of the capacities and the commercialisation of its food products
United Kingdom	Rwanda	Support to Rwanda natural resources authority to issue registered title to every landholder, and establish systems for maintenance of those titles

Policy priority 3: Support regional agriculture and food and nutrition security policies

	Recipient countries	Project Title
France	West Africa	Supporting the resilience of agropastoral systems in West Africa. Contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of agropastoralists and the sustainable economic development of livestock in the sub-region.
Germany	Africa, regional	Enhancing food security and rural development through the African Forest Landscape Restoration initiative (AFR100)
Italy	South of Sahara	Drought mitigation caused by El Nino in Southern Africa
Netherlands	South of Sahara	Trademark East Africa strategy 2 to support increased intraregional trade in the East African Community and its neighbours by reducing barriers to trade and by increasing business competitiveness
Spain	Mali	Agriculture Irrigation Sahel
EU	West Africa	West African Agroecological Transition Support Project (PATAE/Projet d'Appui à la Transition Agroécologique en Afrique de l'Ouest). Implemented together with the French Development Agency (AFD), the project contributes to stimulate the development of innovative practices, which optimise the mobilisation of ecological processes in the field of agricultural production and food security in West Africa and this, mainly in areas affected by issues of land degradation and stressful rain conditions.
United Kingdom	South of Sahara	Delivering sustainable intensification of agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa to generate new evidence to help women and poor African smallholder farmers develop environmentally and financially sustainable enterprises and boost productivity

Policy priority 4: Strengthen social protection mechanisms for food and nutrition security, particularly for vulnerable

	Recipient countries	Project Title
EU	Nigeria	EU Support to Food Security and Resilience aiming to strengthen the resilient livelihoods and socioeconomic development of the people through social protection/safety nets and strengthening market system
EU	Eswatini	Technical Assistance for development of a Social Protection system in Swaziland. Support to the Department of Social Welfare (social work, welfare) of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and the University of Swaziland (BA).
Finland	Developing countries	Supporting Sustainable and Inclusive Social Protection Systems (EU/SPS-Programme) to eradicate extreme poverty and to reduce social and gender inequalities and to guarantee the realisation of the human right to adequate livelihoods for all
Germany	Malawi	Social Protection of the Ultra Poor IV
Ireland	Malawi	Scale up of Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP), including resilience to climatic and socio-economic stress
Italy	Sudan	Support to the Development of the National Health System of Gedaref, Kassala and Red Sea States and integration with the EU
Netherlands	Ethiopia	Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP FASE 3)
United Kingdom	Malawi	Strengthening social protection systems to strengthen the resilience of poor households in Malawi to withstand current and projected weather and climate-related shocks and stresses

Policy priority 5: Enhance nutrition, in particular for mothers, infants and children

	Recipient countries	Project Title
Austria	Kenya	Siaya Maternal and Child Nutrition Nawiri project
Belgium	Burundi	Programme FBSA Burundi - Croix Rouge - Amélioration de la situation nutritionnelle des populations des communes de Cendajuru, Kinyinya et Gisuru
EU	Pakistan	Capacity-Building and Systems Development in Support to a Sindh Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Policy, Strategy and Implementation Framework.
Finland	Cameroon	Nutrition Education promotion of gender equality and empowerment of poor girls and women in Cameroon
France	South of Sahara	Pasteur institut, Malinea project : improve the management of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) by acting on intestinal infections and exploring the interactions between malnutrition and changes in the intestinal microbiota.
Germany	Tajikistan	Improvement of nutrition for women and infants in rural areas of Tajikistan
Ireland	Sierra Leone	Improving the Nutritional Status of Children under five
Italy	Afghanistan	Scaling up Community-based Maternal and Child Nutrition Services
Netherlands	Bangladesh	Scaling up of rice fortification
Spain	Guatemala	Improvement of living conditions and reduction of chronic malnutrition in rural families
United Kingdom	Kenya	Maternal and child nutrition programme (MCNP) to improve the capacity of health system to respond effectively to fluctuations in demand for nutrition services resulting from seasonal spikes and recurrent crises
Belgium	South Africa	Climate Change: Promoting Ecosystem Based Adaptation in South Africa. An adaptation strategy providing technical assistance to South African EbA planning, implementation and monitoring
EU	Sri Lanka	Homes not just Houses: Building Sustainable Future Together aiming to bridge the gap between relief, rehabilitation and development for resilient and secure communities in the North and East
Germany	Haiti	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation. Strengthening emergency preparedness and resilience in Haiti supporting the government in developing national resilience plans
Italy	West Bank	From the water to the market: a great challenge for the small farmers and the women producing milk products in the West Bank
Spain	Mauritania	Supporting women's leadership in strategies to mitigate climate change and sustainable productive initiatives
United Kingdom	South Sudan	World Food Programme emergency operation for the South Sudan humanitarian assistance and resilience building programme helping approximately three million South Sudanese by providing critical life-saving support and helping people to better cope with shocks from conflict, drought and flooding

1.4 Highlights on the progress made in policy priorities

This section presents highlights of the progress made in the six policy priorities and reflects how the EU and its Member States have stepped up support to increasingly address them in an integrated manner.

“Improve smallholders’ resilience and livelihoods” remains the most significant part of the EU and its Member States’ development cooperation portfolio. This support is increasingly addressing the underlying dynamics of the socio-economic, environmental, and security factors of sustainable, resilient and healthy food systems. The development of such food systems should strengthen sustainable rural development.

“Enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable to food crises” also remains significant in the development cooperation of the EU and its Member States. The EU continues to support the Global Report on Food Crises which 2020 edition showed that, for the third consecutive year, over 100 million people suffer from acute hunger and malnutrition.⁵ In order to address the immediate needs and the underlying dynamics of the socio-economic, environmental, and security trends generating food crises, the EU is supporting the transformation of food systems to prevent food crises, mitigate their impact and boost recovery.

The Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) plays a critical role in agri-food transformation with a focus on three priorities addressed across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus: the Network generates consensus-based information on food crises⁶; leverage strategic investments to prepare, prevent and respond to food crises; and foster political uptake and coordination across sectors. During a High Level Event held in April 2019 *Food & Agriculture in times of crisis: working better together for long-term solutions*, the EU, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, and Finland and their partners reiterated their support to the GNAFC action at national, regional, and global level.

The EU, France, and Germany reiterated their support to the Committee on World Food Security. The EU and its Member States have significantly increased *responsible investments in agriculture and agri-businesses*. Blending assistance has increased markedly in 2018 with the AGRIFI Facility set up with the Dutch Development Bank (FMO); a contribution to the African Agriculture Trade and Investment Fund (AATIF) via Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW); the Agri-Business Capital (ABC) Fund managed by IFAD and established with the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the international NGO AGRA; and the HURUMA Fund focussing on micro-loans with the Spanish agency for international cooperation and a Spanish development finance institution (COFIDES). The EU continues to support land governance interventions in about 40 countries and the development of value chains with a particular focus on their economic, social and environmental impact. The EU contributes to the development of fisheries and aquaculture value chains to boost economic returns and social equity, and reduce negative impacts on the marine environment. The FISH4ACP innovative programme develops sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific paying special attention to small-scale fisheries because of their potential to deliver economic and social benefits, particularly for women.



⁵ More than 135 million people across 55 countries experience acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance. Global Report on Food Crises 2020.

⁶ The EU, Germany, Belgium, and the United Kingdom enhance, for example, early warning and food security information systems.

The EU and its Member States cooperate in the Development-Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA) Initiative. Within this framework, the EU stepped up its support to the overall governance and architecture for agricultural research and innovation (e.g. funding the Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP), Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), the CAADP research and extension organisations and the CGIAR). DeSIRA has also enhanced country research capacities for innovation within national agriculture knowledge and innovation systems with projects addressing agro-ecology and climate-relevant practices; agroforestry; livestock; or the water–energy–food–forest nexus. A number of interventions are specifically implemented in partnership with EU Member States including Italy (Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger and Sudan), the Netherlands (Mali, Benin, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Kenya), and France (Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar, and ECOWAS), which also provided financial support.

To support the implementation of *social protection programmes* in situations of shocks and protracted crises, the EU produced a Guidance Package including guiding principles, lessons learned and promising practices. EU support to social protection mechanisms remained significant in 2018: EUR 237 million. In Yemen the **EU, Germany, UK, and the Netherlands** significantly support the Social Fund for Development interventions enhancing livelihoods and empowering smallholders. During the emergency period 2016–18, the Fund directly benefited more than 62,000 thousand people (47% women). In Niger, the EU and its Member States continue to support the capacity of *The Dispositif National de Prévention et de Gestion des Crises Alimentaires*, progressively integrating social protection schemes to tackle chronic malnutrition and support production and capital reconstitution.

The **EU, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands**, and the **United Kingdom** support the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. The fourth progress report on the implementation of the Commission's Action Plan on Nutrition published in 2019 highlights the need to further escalate nutrition-relevant actions at country level, by mobilising the full potential of sectoral interventions necessary to address the range of causal factors of malnutrition in order to achieve the global stunting reduction target by 2025. The 2020 resource-tracking exercise confirmed that by 2019, the Commission's EUR 3.5 billion global pledge for nutrition has already been achieved – one year ahead of schedule. Moreover, the EU is increasing its efforts to analyse how its support is contributing towards changes in stunting. The EU remains committed to strengthen global governance and accountability mechanisms (SUN networks and the 2019 and 2020 Global Nutrition Reports) and support the implementation of country partners' policies and action plans for nutrition through a *Capacity for Nutrition* programme implemented in partnership with Germany.

The EU partners have increasingly embarked on nutrition JP: in **Lao PDR** the **EU, France, UK, Ireland, Germany, and Switzerland** support the Government's National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action. The Mid-Term Review of this programming highlighted the good progress made in terms of division of





labour, policy dialogue, and strengthening the Provincial Nutrition Committees with a priority given to the provinces with the worst nutrition indicators. The Review also suggested further efforts to be made to use more effectively the local coordination mechanisms, mainstream nutrition programming across sectors, and expand joint implementation.

Through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF for Africa) in **Burkina Faso**, the **EU** was able to support nearly 950,000 beneficiaries by improving access to basic social services (health, nutrition, water and sanitation); strengthening livelihoods (small-scale agriculture and livestock, income generating activities, cash transfers); and improving the capacity of actors at the local level. It sets out a good example of partnering effectively with decentralised government services and civil society to improve local governance accountability and civil society participation. In a context where local authorities are affected by lack of resources to effectively implement decentralisation, positive experiences were demonstrated in terms of better and more responsible water management, public works and resource management. Improving the relationship of trust between local authorities and citizens has made it possible to improve the payment of local taxes (in seven communes, these

increased by 20%), making it possible to initiate other local actions.

In **Myanmar**, the *Livelihoods and Food Security Fund* (LIFT) multi-donor initiative funded by the **EU**, the **UK**, Australia, Switzerland, the USA, Canada and **Ireland** contributed to improve nutrition, income diversification and skills development. The programme supports innovative maternal and child cash transfers (incorporating social and behaviour change communication interventions). These inputs showed significant positive results thereby reinforcing the government's policy and budgetary commitments. Endorsed in November 2018 a Multi-sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS-NPAN) engages key actors and stakeholders to develop sub-national planning with convergence across interventions and services. A transformative approach to enhanced gender equality is also central to LIFT's strategy, whether via interventions fostering equitable access to and control over land and natural resources or support to vocational training and livelihood opportunities for youth in camps established for internally displaced people (IDPs). In 2018, LIFT had reached 11.6 million people and 2.6 million families while 247 out of 330 townships have benefited from the programme's support.

1.5 EU and Member States' FNS support to partner countries in 2018

(Disbursements in EUR million)

Countries and regions	Austria	Belgium	EU	Finland	France	Germany	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	Spain	United Kingdom	Total	Number of donors	Average per donor
Afghanistan			53.442	13.400	0.306	23.655	0.552	1.419	7.319		4.075	104.169	8	13.021
Africa, regional	1.163	0.409	30.628	0.820	0.019	51.338		3.621	7.009		32.008	127.015	9	14.113
Albania	0.132				0.014	1.093		1.096				2.334	4	0.584
Algeria		2.252	4.466		0.020			0.351				7.088	4	1.772
America, regional			0.072		0.005	0.156		0.496		0.700		1.429	5	0.286
Angola			16.510		0.031	1.710		0.049		0.004		18.303	5	3.661
Argentina	0.013				0.138	0.578		0.042				0.770	4	0.193
Armenia	0.587		2.192	0.007	18.999	0.690						22.475	5	4.495
Asia, regional			1.451		0.761	7.266					1.762	11.240	4	2.810
Azerbaijan			2.565					0.015				2.580	2	1.290
Bangladesh	0.106		21.725	0.141	1.457	8.537	0.220	0.045	18.507		6.190	56.928	9	6.325
Belarus			0.589			0.019						0.608	2	0.304
Belize			4.129									4.129	1	4.129
Benin		9.305	12.804		1.964	8.045		0.304	9.255	0.010	0.329	42.016	8	5.252
Bhutan	0.231		4.411			0.009						4.652	3	1.551
Bilateral, unspecified						254.283	9.073			2.679	134.572	400.608	4	100.152
Bolivia	0.015	4.706	7.305	0.031	0.806	7.898		3.588		3.373		27.723	8	3.465
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.063					0.164		0.141				0.368	3	0.123
Botswana											0.644	0.644	1	0.644
Brazil	0.168	0.463	3.091		2.217	12.803		0.756		0.401	2.394	22.293	8	2.787
Burkina Faso	2.456	4.309	43.300	0.067	10.802	19.026		6.257		0.115		86.334	8	10.792
Burundi	0.001	11.423	21.182	0.161	0.500	8.397	0.703	0.160	18.048	0.525		61.099	10	6.110
Cabo Verde								0.261		0.148		0.409	2	0.204
Cambodia		0.409	8.093	0.046	9.016	10.348		0.024			0.282	28.218	7	4.031
Cameroon		0.966	32.939	0.086	1.949	21.344		0.120				57.405	6	9.567
Caribbean & Central America, regional			5.700			6.931		0.120		0.393		13.144	4	3.286
Central African Republic			2.481	0.001	3.253	5.250	0.532	0.080		0.057		11.653	7	1.665
Central Asia, regional	0.700		0.359			1.099		0.500				2.658	4	0.665
Chad	0.012	0.140	53.474		6.007	23.918	0.655	0.038		0.146		84.390	8	10.549
China (People's Republic of)		0.315	0.485		0.052	20.153		0.159			6.704	27.868	6	4.645
Colombia	0.062		10.544		1.263	4.935		0.454	0.346	1.885	1.573	21.061	8	2.633
Comoros			0.157		0.959							1.116	2	0.558
Congo, Rep.			1.129		0.213			0.235		0.002		1.579	4	0.395
Costa Rica					1.028	0.463		0.015			0.199	1.706	4	0.426
Côte d'Ivoire			25.678		0.798	4.733		0.175		0.101		31.485	5	6.297
Cuba		0.731	2.054		3.058	0.606		0.703		1.479		8.631	6	1.438
Democratic People's Republic of Korea			4.106	0.321	0.350	0.175	0.210	0.060				5.223	6	0.870
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.028	21.768	16.452	0.004	2.456	33.896	1.110	1.493		0.935	1.430	79.574	10	7.957
Developing countries, unspecified	0.748	6.562	104.331	8.295	261.231		5.920	90.043	269.809			746.940	8	93.368
Djibouti			6.154		0.488	0.125		0.020				6.787	4	1.697
Dominica			2.071									2.071	1	2.071
Dominican Republic			2.818			0.176		0.020		0.052		3.066	4	0.767
Ecuador		2.286	5.481		0.151	1.049		1.392		2.795		13.154	6	2.192
Egypt			8.052	0.216	0.071	24.102		0.059			0.243	32.743	6	5.457
El Salvador	0.173	0.747	0.625		0.153	1.472		0.773		1.436		5.378	7	0.768
Eritrea			1.600			2.243	0.235					4.078	3	1.359
Eswatini	0.090		34.176	0.000	0.541	4.984	1.434	0.135		0.235	8.815	50.411	9	5.601
Ethiopia	5.024	0.719	34.208	7.655	1.781	34.817	18.119	5.623	29.716	3.918	77.702	219.283	11	19.935
Europe, regional			1.618			0.160						1.777	2	0.889
Far East Asia, regional			0.527			0.637						1.164	2	0.582

Countries and regions	Austria	Belgium	EU	Finland	France	Germany	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	Spain	United Kingdom	Total	Number of donors	Average per donor
Fiji	0.035		6.181			0.109						6.326	3	2.109
Gambia			10.258		0.002	0.070		2.000		0.087		12.417	5	2.483
Georgia	2.436		27.162		5.789	0.401		0.019				35.808	5	7.162
Ghana		1.340	15.864		8.000	11.097		0.026	9.730		2.955	49.012	7	7.002
Grenada			0.015									0.015	1	0.015
Guatemala	0.409	0.884	6.046	0.051		4.300	0.209	0.023		6.533		18.456	8	2.307
Guinea		4.400	3.701	0.043	0.699	0.234		0.006				9.084	6	1.514
Guinea-Bissau			11.225		0.242	0.049		0.143		0.413		12.072	5	2.414
Guyana			0.280									0.280	1	0.280
Haiti	0.035	1.607	20.696	0.015	4.913	5.916		0.065		0.225		33.471	8	4.184
Honduras		0.376	19.976	0.084		2.885	0.248	0.025		1.899		25.492	7	3.642
India	0.148		0.975	0.484	0.028	29.968	0.099	1.155		0.309	23.856	57.022	9	6.336
Indonesia		1.052	1.199		1.108	9.760	0.079	0.032	2.243		0.720	16.194	8	2.024
Iran					0.004	0.003		0.062				0.069	3	0.023
Iraq					1.450	9.349						10.799	2	5.400
Jamaica		0.166	15.168									15.335	2	7.667
Jordan			3.536		1.251	18.560		0.584				23.931	4	5.983
Kazakhstan						1.462						1.462	1	1.462
Kenya	0.105		31.794	1.162	6.541	22.223	1.945	5.535	6.100	0.017	27.560	102.982	10	10.298
Kiribati			0.114									0.114	1	0.114
Kosovo	1.431				0.021	0.197		0.048				1.696	4	0.424
Kyrgyzstan			4.959	0.445		2.922						8.327	3	2.776
Lao People's Democratic Republic			5.708	0.084	2.716	13.099						21.608	4	5.402
Lebanon			6.140		2.375	25.539		9.065	7.264			50.383	5	10.077
Lesotho			3.741			0.264						4.005	2	2.003
Liberia			1.382			0.441	0.569					2.392	3	0.797
Madagascar		0.520	14.384		8.543	9.022		0.096		0.032		32.597	6	5.433
Malawi		5.711	24.362	0.179	0.003	24.548	12.633	0.156		0.014	22.788	90.395	9	10.044
Malaysia					0.264	0.348					0.061	0.673	3	0.224
Maldives								0.594				0.594	1	0.594
Mali	0.028	5.417	22.710	0.094	20.642	49.897		1.433	8.230	2.695		111.146	9	12.350
Mauritania			11.963		1.427	5.685	0.098	2.300		2.582		24.055	6	4.009
Mauritius			1.235		0.003							1.238	2	0.619
Mexico			0.014		0.748	3.127		0.011		0.509	1.362	5.771	6	0.962
Middle East, regional	2.000					3.455	0.285					5.741	3	1.914
Moldova	0.356		5.261			0.008						5.625	3	1.875
Mongolia			2.402		0.012	0.911		0.011				3.336	4	0.834
Morocco		3.613	16.826		12.069	4.436		0.012		0.423		37.380	6	6.230
Mozambique	1.470	4.252	17.031	1.279	9.041	4.891	1.090	11.894	2.841	3.548	7.474	64.810	11	5.892
Myanmar	0.010		18.564	1.001	0.861	6.787	0.527	1.224	1.156		31.420	61.550	9	6.839
Namibia			1.445	0.290		8.908						10.643	3	3.548
Nauru								0.039				0.039	1	0.039
Nepal	0.340		5.388	4.416		6.298	0.026	0.142		0.009	1.305	17.925	8	2.241
Nicaragua	0.215	1.284	2.971	0.071	19.593	4.126	0.440	0.061		1.787		30.547	9	3.394
Niger	0.002	4.468	56.664		7.860	42.997	0.990	2.635		1.056		116.672	8	14.584
Nigeria			31.622		35.506	2.310	0.030	0.034	0.532		39.069	109.102	7	15.586
North Macedonia								0.001				0.001	1	0.001
North of Sahara, regional	1.000		2.420		1.071	1.362		0.944				6.797	5	1.359
Oceania, regional			18.996									18.996	1	18.996
Pakistan			35.899			1.717	0.427	0.029			44.580	82.653	5	16.531
Panama						0.153		0.019				0.172	2	0.086
Papua New Guinea	0.012		10.261			0.461						10.734	3	3.578
Paraguay	0.100		1.244			2.518		0.030				3.891	4	0.973
Peru	0.015	6.594	2.064		0.354	4.600	0.016	0.610		2.945		17.198	8	2.150
Philippines		1.367	1.033		0.160	4.502	0.011	0.395	0.034	0.125	2.425	10.051	9	1.117

Countries and regions	Austria	Belgium	EU	Finland	France	Germany	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	Spain	United Kingdom	Total	Number of donors	Average per donor
Peru	0.015	6.594	2.064		0.354	4.600	0.016	0.610		2.945		17.198	8	2.150
Philippines		1.367	1.033		0.160	4.502	0.011	0.395	0.034	0.125	2.425	10.051	9	1.117
Rwanda	0.080	1.470	35.178	0.000	0.286	0.548	1.021	0.512	33.589	0.129	12.766	85.579	11	7.780
Saint Lucia			2.212									2.212	1	2.212
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			3.075									3.075	1	3.075
Samoa			3.000									3.000	1	3.000
Sao Tome and Principe			0.805		0.204					0.020		1.029	3	0.343
Senegal	0.544	5.113	2.900		23.899	1.706		1.527	3.000	3.677		42.365	8	5.296
Serbia	0.076				0.005	8.138		0.052				8.271	4	2.068
Sierra Leone			5.808			1.238	4.951	0.159			2.551	14.708	5	2.942
Solomon Islands						0.105						0.105	1	0.105
Somalia			23.590	0.426		21.779	0.190	3.587			19.134	68.707	6	11.451
South & Central Asia, regional			0.349									0.349	1	0.349
South Africa	0.001	0.739	1.171		1.073	2.482	0.042				0.438	5.945	7	0.849
South America, regional			1.784			2.623		0.018		0.363	0.302	5.090	5	1.018
South Asia			1.275									1.275	1	1.275
South Asia, regional			1.580		0.011	2.210		0.009	0.025		1.304	5.139	6	0.857
South of Sahara, regional	1.211	0.761	66.808	0.433	18.138	98.615	0.095	0.126	79.431	1.423	18.443	285.485	11	25.953
South Sudan	0.163		11.558			27.768	1.886	1.789	19.669		28.275	91.108	7	13.015
Sri Lanka	0.001		13.501			0.326		0.958				14.787	4	3.697
States Ex-Yugoslavia unspecified								0.060				0.060	1	0.060
Sudan			11.796		0.436	14.475	1.157	2.055	0.048		11.253	41.220	7	5.889
Suriname			1.612									1.612	1	1.612
Syrian Arab Republic			29.434		0.300			1.035				30.769	3	10.256
Tajikistan			6.739	0.001		7.732						14.472	3	4.824
Tanzania	0.468	6.594	12.877	0.295	0.059	10.147	4.194	1.436			44.727	80.796	9	8.977
Thailand			1.296	0.001	1.630	0.818					1.241	4.986	5	0.997
Timor-Leste			9.636		0.005	0.007						9.648	3	3.216
Togo		0.465	1.551		1.603	4.404		0.108		0.074		8.207	6	1.368
Tunisia			3.783	0.052	6.304	13.847		12.240				36.226	5	7.245
Turkey					52.489	1.644		0.015			10.845	64.993	4	16.248
Turkmenistan			0.747									0.747	1	0.747
Tuvalu								0.017				0.017	1	0.017
Uganda	2.895	2.577	18.979	0.817	0.600	15.948	3.254	1.153	13.889	0.002	16.483	76.596	11	6.963
Ukraine	2.300		3.640		0.104	2.342		0.012				8.398	5	1.680
Uzbekistan			19.647			0.395						20.043	2	10.021
Vanuatu			3.006		0.204							3.210	2	1.605
Venezuela			1.900		0.003	0.023		0.004		0.000		1.930	5	0.386
Viet Nam		10.466	0.143	0.370	2.761	2.550	4.427	0.062			1.533	22.312	8	2.789
Wallis and Futuna					0.405							0.405	1	0.405
West Bank and Gaza Strip	2.116		6.568	0.077	4.184	1.891		3.589	3.900	1.873		24.198	8	3.025
Yemen			38.444		2.300	4.983		0.009				45.737	4	11.434
Zambia			5.461	2.340		5.482	2.754	0.314			8.506	24.857	6	4.143
Total	31.772	138.751	1,447.908	45.761	603.158	1,215.425	82.460	193.148	551.691	54.160	662.300	5,026.532	11	456.957

2. Case studies

2.1 EU Joint Programming (JP) in Bolivia

In May 2018, the then European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, and Bolivia's Ministers of Planning and of Foreign Affairs launched the 2017-2020 Joint European Strategy (JES) for Bolivia⁷ with an indicative funding of EUR 530 million. One of the largest recipients of EU bilateral development assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean, Bolivia has been among the first countries to embark on JP with a JES adopted by the Government, the **EU, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden, the United Kingdom** and Switzerland. The development of the Strategy has built on a roadmap, a joint analysis and a Common European Strategy in place since 2014. The partners used the flexibility allowed in the process to build trust and ownership. They also invited Switzerland to join the process. The JES is aligned with Bolivia's 2025 Patriotic Agenda and the 2016-2020 Economic and Social Development Plan, which in turn, are aligned with both the SDGs and COP21 objectives.

The Strategy has not led to a reduction of the number of donors per sectors or the number of sectors covered per donor: it encompasses eight priority sectors and 5 crosscutting approaches. In the food security and rural development sector, the EU and its Member States (**Germany, Denmark, and Italy**) fund a programme package worth EUR 66 million to support the 2016-2020 Plan for the Agricultural and Rural Sector with Integral Development⁸. **The EU** supports the fight against illicit drugs by promoting alternative economic and employment opportunities to coca growers with a Sector Reform Contract worth EUR 27 million, while the **Danish** cooperation strengthens the institutional capacities of the Ministry of Rural Development and Land (EUR 20 million). Having a limited number of Member States willing to embark on sectoral JP proved to be an enabling factor in a context where collaboration with the government is good and European visibility was (and still is) high. Moreover, those Member States

that were in the process of phasing out (**Belgium** and **Sweden**) took advantage of the JES exercise to further ensure the sustainability of their programmes with the on-going interventions.

JP has created greater awareness around the programmes/projects managed by the EU+ group and in several sectors such as environment and climate change, it has fostered collaboration and coordination. In the food security and rural development sector maintaining the momentum to keep the JP process going proved to be challenging and further efforts should contribute to move from joint strategising to joint implementation. Maintaining regular dialogue and joint activities are key incentives to bring Member States together via a more sustained coordination approach and more guidance regarding joint implementation opportunities and joint reporting expectations. The next programming exercise offers a good opportunity for the EU+ partners for the alignment of bilateral strategies and their linkages to the SDGs and the Paris Agreement objectives. As the European Consensus on Development (2017) makes results frameworks core elements of the joint response to inform policy dialogue and enhance mutual accountability, the next JES should use SDGs indicators as key JP performance indicators (if measurable at country level) and an emphasis should be put on the availability of means of verification - at sector level - when selecting key indicators.



⁷ https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bolivia/45328/estrategia-europea-conjunta-2017-2020_sl

⁸ <https://www.ruralytierras.gov.bo/leyes/plansectorial.pdf>



2.2 EU JP in Madagascar

In 2017, the **European Union** and the most active EU Member States in the country (**Germany and France**) embarked on a joint JP process organised around the SDG themes of People, Planet, Prosperity, and Peace. A joint analysis was validated in July 2018 which included three key avenues for cooperation: (i) support to good governance and effective institutions; (ii) the sustainable use of natural resources; and (iii) support to the emerging industrialisation, in particular through the quality and adequacy of education including labour skills. Following the presidential elections -marking the first political alternation of power in the country- the Malagasy Government prepared the 2019-2023 *Plan Emergence Madagascar* (PEM) which should provide the strategic framework for the next steps of JP planned in 2020.

The main challenge in this process relates to the alignment of the EU partners to the government policy framework and more specifically the delayed adoption of the PEM. From a sectoral perspective, the

transition has enabled the establishment of a structured policy dialogue that takes place within the framework of coordination platforms and includes the government and the development partners. The EU partners implement rather similar interventions spread across the country, including the support to food and cash crops along value chains, institutional capacity building, the improvement of nutrition, and the sustainable management of natural resources alongside adaptation to climate change. In these areas, a range of joint initiatives translates a culture of collaboration and partnership.

France and Germany have been actively involved in the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture sector for an extended period, and with the **EU Delegation**, have increasingly jointly implemented programmes and projects across sectors. The wide array of collaborative efforts by the EU partners has improved the synchronisation and complementarity of their interventions – including in terms of support to the civil society. This ‘working better together’ culture has clearly eased the development of JP. JP is facilitated by the presence of a limited number of Member States, geographical complementarity, good communication flows between the EU partners; and since 2019, the establishment of a Dialogue and Cooperation Group boosting multi-sectoral coordination.

The challenge now is to consolidate the progress made in a context where there is limited ownership of the national development plan. The EU partners are adopting a pragmatic approach and move a sectoral JP exercise forward around the fight against environmental degradation and climate change, taking into account that agriculture and livestock activities are the most important factors causing deforestation and land degradation in Madagascar. In order to achieve a greater impact, the JP is expected to promote a more integrated, coordinated, and focused approach based on an increased division of labour. The EU partners could seize this opportunity to incorporate the objectives of Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement and the EU Green Deal into this second phase of the JP and enhance policy dialogue, alongside data collection and analysis. In this manner bilateral strategies can be progressively replaced by a joint EU programme.

3. Further details on the thematic focus

3.1 Gender

The 2nd EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II) underlines the link between gender inequalities and disparities and food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture, and supports transformative change for equal access to land and assets, and control over resources. Reflecting this commitment to a gender transformative approach, the EU interventions including gender-responsive activities in FNS have risen from 37% in 2014 to 57% in 2018. EU interventions increase women's access to productive resources and employment opportunities, stimulate behaviour changes such as strengthened joint decision-making in rural households, and provide women with platforms to voice their rights.

In **Malawi**, the EU strengthens land governance systems for smallholder farmers by training local officials on women's land rights and developing a Women's Land Rights Forum whose members have enhanced women's leadership skills. In **Lao PDR**, the EU funds the "Sustainable Change Achieved through Linking Nutrition and Governance" programme supporting video clips on national television that examine the role of men during women's pregnancy and in childcare activities.

In **Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi and Senegal**, the LANDac programme funded by the Netherlands supports successful initiatives promoting and extending women's access to agricultural land. The programme focuses on women's voice and vision, actively involving them in data collection and increasing their role in land governance related discussions.

Italy has been engaged in gender equality and women empowerment, strengthening women access to value chains in **Mozambique**, scaling up Community-based Maternal and Child Nutrition Services in **Afghanistan**, or enhancing the skills and networking capacity of shepherds and farmers in **West Bank** vulnerable communities.

The EU developed thematic briefs underlining the principles of social change and gender transformation in policy dialogue and programming. The briefs detail how to incorporate a gender-responsive approach in land governance, nutrition, and value chains development. The brief "Closing the gender gap through agri-food value chain development" complements for example the EU's Value Chain Analysis for Development (VCA4D) methodology, which provides a detailed assessment of a value chains' operation and its impact on the social dimensions of sustainable development – gender equality being one of the six domains of the social analysis. In **Cambodia** the VCA4D tool highlighted women participation in aquaculture activities in the semi-intensive and small-cage production systems and their under-representation in decision-making processes in the fisheries policy.

Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the EU will support the activities of the three agencies to embed gender transformative approaches in policy dialogue, programmes, institutional culture and the working modalities of the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs), while contributing to deliver on SDG2. The aim is to contribute to the achievement of food security and nutrition and sustainable agricultural development by addressing the root causes of gender inequalities principally in – but not limited to – rural areas and triggering transformative change processes that lead to the empowerment of women in their households, communities, and society for the improved well-being of all persons.

The EU has also stepped up its engagement in advocating a transformative gender approach in its policy dialogue. The EU, jointly with **Germany and Finland** organised for example a side event on women's land rights and women's empowerment at the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York in 2018. With the partner countries, the EU has contributed to the



3.2 Rural employment creation

In September 2018, the Commission published a Communication on a new Africa – Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs⁹, aiming to enhance job creation and sustainable and inclusive development. In this context, Jobs and Growth Compacts (JGC) are being developed, steering joint efforts around value chains with the highest potential for job creation. In July 2019, the EUD **Uganda** prepared a strategic JGC serving the programming exercise and as a means to foster convergence towards the EU key priorities identified with EU Member States, financial institutions and other actors as well as through structured dialogue with the government and the private sector. In June 2019, under the French Presidency, the G7 adopted a Framework on decent job creation for rural youth in the Sahel. Developed by the G7 Working Group of Food Security, this Framework was jointly welcomed by the G7 and G5-Sahel ministers and by the G7 Summit, as part of the Biarritz Sahel Partnership Action Plan. Acknowledging that the creation of decent jobs for rural youth in the Sahel should help meet the twin challenges of food insecurity and poverty while providing new economic opportunities for young Sahelians.

drafting of national strategies emphasising gender equality in **Nepal** and in **Kenya**, joint gender analysis with EU Member States as a step to forge partnerships across sectors in **Madagascar**, or stepped up the coordination between EU partners in delivering gender-sensitive messaging on violence against women in **Colombia**.

Funded by the EU Trust Fund and the **Netherlands and Austrian** Development Cooperation (EUR 48.3 million), the Resilience Building Programme in Ethiopia (RESET II) builds people and community's resilience in the most vulnerable areas of the country. The programme has contributed to successfully mainstream gender in its strategy, approach and tools. Half of the 1.9 million people reached by the programme were women whose vulnerability has been reduced and capacity strengthened. In the Wolaita cluster, the EU focused on extremely poor women (with 0.125 ha and some labour), members of women's economic groups. By increasing their skills, connecting them to formal systems such as savings and loans groups, and providing livestock and drought-resistant/nutritious seeds/roots free of charge, the programme contributed to shift women's status from dependency to self-reliance.

In the framework of the Alliance, the EU supports a range of actions to boost investment and job creation, including through the AgriFI initiative that provides blended finance to increase investment in smallholder agriculture and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The EU supports the development of agricultural value chains taking advantage of the opportunities offered by local, regional and global markets. This is based on the assessment of the economic, social and environmental aspects of value chains in development, using the VCA4D Facility. In partnership with Agrinatura¹⁰, the EU applied this tool in value chain programmes to identify if and how growth generated by those value chains' activities impact job creation. This has, for instance, been the case in **Zambia** (egg and aquaculture), **Honduras** (coffee), **Sierra Leone** (palm oil), **Tanzania** (coffee), **Guinea Bissau** (mango and lime), **Burundi** (banana), and **Benin** (pineapple).¹¹

⁹ COM(2018) 643 final.

¹⁰ AGRINATURA is a grouping of 27 European universities and research organisations.

¹¹ Value chain analysis studies from 2016 to 2020 : <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/value-chain-analysis-for-development-vca4d->

France, Italy and Germany promoted agricultural entrepreneurship for young people in agricultural value chains to increase income and employment prospects in a wide range of countries. For example in **Sierra Leone, Germany** supports the “Employment Promotion Programme (EPP III)” boosting job creation in cocoa, coffee, rice and vegetables value chains. The programme works with MSMEs and youth to improve skills – with strong mentorship and coaching elements as a means of increasing self- and wage employment. Between 2016 and 2019, the EPP III supported 1,200 businesses and trained 36,000 youth, creating more than 9,000 new jobs and self-employment opportunities. By 2019, the programme positively affected more than 250,000 people. In **Somalia, Italy** is promoting innovative agricultural technologies for economic growth.

The **EU** significantly contributed to job creation through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF). In the **Sahel and Lake Chad** region more than 27,500 jobs were created, 129,000 people developed income-generating activities and more than 50,000 people benefited from professional training and or/skills development between 2018 and 2019. With the aim to increase the economic participation among young people -thereby contributing to the EUTF’s stabilisation efforts in the region- approximately 700,000 youths have been supported by the EUTF through job creation initiatives, support to find a work placement, skills development, and/or professional training. For example, in Cameroon high-intensity labour programmes contributed to create 6,200 jobs, while in Senegal, the programme ‘Développer l’emploi au Sénégal’ supported existing or new MSMEs and provided professional training and/or skills development to 18,700 people.



4. Methodological note

This section briefly outlines data sources, definitions and classifications used to produce the figures presented in this report.

Purpose

The fourth EU report provides a consolidated assessment of EU and Member States' achievements on the six food and nutrition security policy priorities set out in the Implementation Plan. It provides information on how their collective performance delivered on these policy priorities, and on the level of coherence, complementarity and coordination, based on a quantitative assessment of total food and nutrition security interventions, as well as a qualitative assessment of how well the EU and its Member States are working together at national, regional and global levels.

Data

In this report, data is limited to EU institutions and ten Member States: **Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and United Kingdom**¹². The total ODA flows of these donors amounted to 91.2% of the total ODA flows of the EU Institutions and twenty-eight member states in 2018. The OECD/DAC reported disbursements data is used as a source. FNS disbursements flows in this report concern only development initiatives and disbursements recorded under DAC humanitarian sector codes are not included.

Core contributions at multilateral level to a range of UN agencies, funds and programmes were not taken into account, when it was difficult to allocate a proportion of this funding to food and nutrition security. Only those contributions to these agencies that specifically target food and nutrition security as stated below (points A, B and C) are considered.

Identification of the food and nutrition security interventions

In order to ensure the greatest possible consistency, a common approach is applied by the EU and its Member States.

Programmes/projects meeting the following conditions are supposed to contribute to food and nutrition security:

- A. which have a particular focus on FNS (by being specifically designed to improve FNS, or by having specific FNS objectives or activities), and/or
- B. which clearly fall within one or more of the four pillars of food security – food availability, access to food, utilisation of food and stability, and/or
- C. which clearly fall within the definition of 'FNS': "Food and nutrition security exists when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to food, which is consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care, allowing for a healthy and active life."

Number of food and nutrition security programmes

The diversity of implementation modalities across the EU institutions and EU Member States makes it difficult to use a standard definition of "programme". The lack of comparable data for it, resulted in taking the number of disbursements recorded in the OECD DAC CRS database as a proxy for the number of programmes. Although, this overestimates the number of programmes in absolute terms in a given time, it is a reliable method to observe an evolution over time, which is the main purpose of the report. In addition, the data for 2018 cover all disbursement amounts in the database, which were limited to disbursements above EUR 100,000 in the previous reports.

Classification of the identified food and nutrition security interventions

- a) **Gender and climate sensitiveness and research**
OECD DAC CRS policy markers are referenced to identify whether a project targets gender equality and environmental objectives. Research

¹² During the period under review of this Report, the UK was a member of the European Union.

related disbursements have been captured by specific DAC sector codes (agricultural research, fishery research etc), as well as by some implementation partners with a research mission (e.g. CGIAR Fund and member organisations and other).

b) Geographical classification

The geographical classification is made in two ways. First, by geographical area of recipients adjusted to this exercise but closely aligned to OECD DAC classification. Neighbourhood region includes the EU Neighbourhood policy partner countries and a few other European countries. Another classification refers to the policy intervention level: whether a project is designed with impacts at country, regional or global level. At country level, the OECD DAC list of ODA recipients and country names conventions is used.

c) Policy priority classification

FNS disbursements are regrouped in the six sub-groups according to one of the six FNS policy priorities set out in the Implementation Plan.

A project is classified only under one priority. Due to financial breakdown difficulties and to avoid double-counting, for multi-sectorial projects, only one priority, i.e. the one which seems the most important, is assigned and allocated the full project budget amount.

The description of the six policy priorities is provided below, with some examples of typical activities.

Policy priority 1: Improve smallholder resilience and rural livelihoods

Interventions

1. Support policies and programmes which focus on sustainable agricultural intensification and diversification for smallholder farmers, particularly women, including through enhanced public private partnerships.
2. Support policies and programmes in partner countries which aim to increase access for smallholder farmers, in particular women farmers, to land and water resources, improved farm inputs, credit, and extension services, and which aim to reduce post-harvest losses and improve storage facilities.
3. Assist partner countries in addressing climate change and its effects on food and nutrition insecurity and agricultural development through adaptation, mitigation and resilience-building measures.
4. Support pro-poor, demand-led research for development and technology transfer, extension and innovation, and ensure that this research is accessible to, and used by, smallholder farmers and in particular, women.
5. Support programmes in rural areas which aim to build resilience and generate income and off-farm employment, including by assisting smallholder and women farmers, to add value to their produce and to develop viable agribusinesses, to improve the links between smallholder farmers and markets and to enhance the efficiency of agricultural value chains.



Policy priority 2: Support effective governance*Interventions*

1. Support the progressive realisation of the right to safe, sufficient and nutritious food for all in partner countries, and the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.
2. Support national, regional and international initiatives for good governance and security of land tenure and use rights, including the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines and responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security, and facilitate responsible agricultural investments and investments in land.
3. Support initiatives to strengthen and enhance the functioning of civil society organisations in partner countries and farmers' organisations, particularly those which actively target poor smallholder and women farmers as members, contributing to their empowerment to participate in decision-making and implementation and evaluation of programmes.
4. Support programmes which focus on empowering women, strengthening their decision-making role at household level, including in relation to decisions about food production, consumption and the use of household assets, and which seek to ensure that women's voices are heard and integrated into decision making at national and local levels.
5. Increase support to continental, regional and national CAADP programmes and plans.
6. Strengthen global governance for food and nutrition security and take a strong leadership and advocacy role internationally to ensure that food and nutrition security is prioritised in global and regional development fora.
7. Promote coherence between relevant internal policies and the objectives of external development assistance policies.

Policy priority 3: Support regional agriculture and food and nutrition security policies*Interventions*

1. Support the development and implementation of regional level agricultural policies and strategies to step up integration of regional food markets and disease control programmes, including food safety against foodborne illness.
2. Reinforce regional information systems in support of agriculture and food and nutrition security policies, including those for early warning systems and transparency in markets.

Policy priority 4: Strengthen social protection mechanisms for food and nutrition security, particularly for vulnerable population groups*Interventions*

1. Support countries to develop nationally owned and led comprehensive social protection systems which are flexible, adapted to local contexts, and target both labour and non-labour constrained vulnerable population groups, and funded increasingly from domestic resources.
2. Support existing social protection programmes to expand their coverage and linkages with other sectors and enhance predictability, reliability, sustainability, scalability, resilience and the crisis response capacity of the interventions.



Policy priority 5: Enhance nutrition, in particular for mothers, infants and children

Interventions

1. Increase advocacy with partner country governments to raise the profile of nutrition within their respective national strategies and programmes, and to align their resources accordingly.
2. Increase financial and technical support to partner countries to scale up and effectively address under-nutrition and improve national governance on nutrition, with a particular focus on those countries which have signed up to the SUN Movement.
3. Increase financial support for scaling up proven direct nutrition interventions, in particular those which combat maternal, infant and child under-nutrition and the irreversible effects of chronic under-nutrition in early childhood, targeting the 1,000 day window of opportunity from pregnancy to the age of 2.
4. Support to continental, regional and national nutrition research programmes and plans.
5. Support partner countries to integrate nutrition into national sectoral policies including agriculture, food safety, health and HIV/AIDS, education, gender, environment, social protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene, and increase awareness raising and financial support for scaling up proven nutrition sensitive interventions in partner countries.
6. Incorporate nutrition specific objectives and indicators into the design and evaluation of EU supported agriculture and food security policies and programmes.

Policy priority 6: Enhance coordination between development and humanitarian actors to build resilience and promote sustainable food and nutrition security

Interventions

1. Support integration of resilience-building into partner countries' policies and planning, in particular into national development, poverty reduction and food and nutrition security strategies and encourage ownership of resilience priorities at national and local levels.
2. Support programmes and activities which strengthen the capacity of partner countries and local communities and assist them to anticipate, prevent and prepare for food security crises and to enhance crisis response, recognising the differential impacts and capacities of women, men and vulnerable groups.
3. Build capacity to improve risk monitoring, including climate risk, and vulnerability assessments in partner countries and regions prone to food crises.
4. Provide specific support to food insecure countries in transition and fragility to build resilience according to the Fragile States principles and the New Deal for engagement in fragile states.
5. Promote principles of aid effectiveness as outlined in the Busan conclusions.
6. Ensure that humanitarian and development funding mechanisms are flexible, predictable, and sufficient to support resilience in food insecure partner countries.



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