

# Ending hunger and achieving food security for all

## Answers to guiding questions- Homi Kharas

1. **Which areas and socio-economic groups** are especially vulnerable to poor nutrition and food insecurity and what are ways to ensure that food systems transformations leave no one behind?

Understanding the geography of food insecurity is a critical step. As yet, most national data (eg FIES) is collected and reported at the national level (and for only a few countries), while IPC data is more concerned with short-term famines caused by conflict or natural disaster. Neither look at chronic food insecurity. One metric that is available at the subnational level is stunting, and even though this is a consequence of chronic food insecurity and hunger, it has the potential to be a valuable proxy for a granular geographical approach to identify the most vulnerable areas.

2. **What fundamental changes are needed** to make our food systems an engine for inclusive growth and contribute to accelerating progress towards ending hunger and achieving food security for all in the Decade of Action?
  - a) How could they be designed and implemented to generate synergies and strengthen existing ones with other Goals and Targets?
  - b) What are some of the possible trade-offs from these changes and how can they be mitigated?
3. **How might COVID-19 facilitate or complicate** the implementation of needed food systems changes?
  - a) Will it aggravate and/or reduce vulnerabilities?
  - b) What are the changes in design and implementation of policies affecting food systems which are necessary to prevent and better deal with food security and nutrition impacts of infectious disease outbreaks and pandemics in the future?
  - c) What of the current immediate actions we are seeing will contribute to the long-term resilience of food systems?
4. **What knowledge and data gaps need to be filled** for better analyzing current successes and failures in food systems and the trade-offs and synergies, across SDGs, in implementing food systems changes to fix these failures?

Data on proxies for “hunger” are moving in inconsistent ways. For example, time-series data suggests a falling trend in rural poverty in many countries, while undernutrition data suggests a rise in hunger in recent years. Gallup poll data on self-reported hunger shows a flat trend. Food systems that address food insecurity cannot be developed in priority areas without a better understanding of what the drivers of hunger really are. From this perspective, forming a technical Task Force to understand and validate hunger data and trends, advise on new data collection methods such as satellite imagery to measure crop yields on smallholder plots, would be of high importance.

5. **What partnerships and initiatives are needed** to harness synergies and/or reduce trade-offs in food systems?

- a) What are the most critical interventions and partnerships needed over next 2 years, 5 years, 10 years?

**A new high-level commission on SDG2:** High level commissions—which bring together prominent current or former policymakers, CEOs, heads of international organizations and civil society and business leaders to tackle a specific transnational policy challenge—can help set global agendas and galvanize action. With the right composition and strategy, a new SDG2 Commission could be a valuable forum for drawing attention to the need for urgency around SDG2 and coordinating the activities of key decisionmakers. (The Rockefeller Foundation and MIT have recently launched a similar commission around SDG7, the [Global Commission to End Energy Poverty](#), which provides a possible template.)

- b) Can these be scaled up or adjusted to fit other contexts?
- c) How can private sector support investments for sustainable agriculture production and supply reduce food insecurity?