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# Food Security Information for DECISION MAKING

## BACKGROUND

The “*Linking Information and Decision Making to Improve Food Security*” Programme aims at improving the quantity and quality of food security information available, and promotes its use for decision making.

The Programme is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It is funded by the European Union (EU) as part of its thematic programme on food security.

## OBJECTIVES

- Global understanding of food insecurity is enhanced through improved and harmonized analysis and monitoring, and tailored support to regional partners.
- Effective mechanisms that enhance the use of food security analysis to better inform decision-making are strengthened and developed.
- Communication and knowledge sharing mechanisms are strengthened, particularly with respect to the development and implementation of demand-driven strategies to address food security.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Building solid partnerships lies at the core of the programme. Partners include:

- Regional Economic Communities
- The African Union and NEPAD
- National governments and agencies
- Donor agencies
- International and national NGO’s
- Research centres and universities
- Other FAO and EU funded programmes

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Food security exists when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

- 1996 World Food Summit



## Themes of work

- Climate change and food security
- Communications and capacity building
- Deriving nutrition information from household budget surveys
- Methodologies for deriving food security information from household budget surveys
- Integrating food security parameters and classifications
- Food security analysis and decision-making processes
- Markets and price volatility
- Dietary diversity
- Resilience and vulnerability

## Specific Activities

- ..... harmonizing international standards for food security information
- ..... developing tools and methodologies for nutrition and food security analysis
- ..... publishing case studies and lessons learned
- ..... building capacity especially in conducting food security related analysis
- ..... disseminating food security information and data
- ..... providing support to regionally based programmes and organizations
- ..... keeping decision makers up to date with country briefs that monitor markets, prices and the food security situation.  
See: [www.foodsec.org/countrybriefs](http://www.foodsec.org/countrybriefs)

## REGIONAL WORK

The Global Programme is based at FAO headquarters but works closely with regional partners and EU funded programmes in:

- Southern Africa
- East Africa
- West Africa
- Central America
- Eastern Europe
- Southeast Asia



We support regional programmes by building capacity, providing technical and methodological support, harmonizing standards across regions, promoting food security related dialogue and providing policy support at all levels.

## THE LEARNING CENTER

The learning center offers e-learning and training materials on food security in English, French and Spanish. Food Security professionals can refresh their knowledge with these free self-paced courses.

Courses include assessment techniques, indicators, methodologies and guidelines for food security analysis, as well as cross-cutting skills for knowledge sharing, communication and advocacy. They can be taken online or on CD-Rom.

Related training materials include guides for trainers, presentation slides and learners' notes. These ready-made resources reduce workshop preparation time and can be easily adapted to local contexts.

**To access the courses go to:**  
<http://www.foodsec.org/dl>  
**or write to:**  
[information-for-action@fao.org](mailto:information-for-action@fao.org)

