FAO working together with countries for monitoring SDG 2

The challenges

- SDG indicators will drive the international statistical agenda for the next 15 years and beyond

- Monitoring the SDG agenda will be **a demanding task** for all countries in the world
  - 169 targets, 230 global indicators: many **new areas**, not covered by traditional statistical systems
  - SDG-2 alone with **5 Targets and 3 M.o.i**
  - Some indicators are new: **methods still to be developed** (Tier III)
  - Indicators must be relevant for **both developing and developed countries**
  - Indicators must be **disaggregated to capture inequalities** within countries

The challenges for monitoring FS&N

- Food Security and Nutrition intervention needs **new, timely, reliable** and **granular** data
  - Many initiatives by Governments and Development partners devoted to the analysis & dissemination of existing data (e.g. IPC, FSIN, CountrySTAT, …)
  - But: **do we have the right data**? Proliferation of FS indicators and no internationally agreed standards
- **Statistical capacity is still limited** and often **fragmented** across different sectors
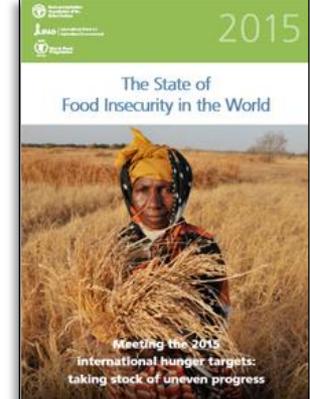 - Need to Integrate data collection, dissemination and analysis

The opportunities

- Strong **country ownership** will have important benefits:
  - **Accountability**: Indicators used to guide national policies
  - Promoting **institutional coordination** (SDG coordination units, etc.)
  - But countries **rushing into implementation** without considering the global indicator framework, may lead to **further fragmentation** and confusion

- **IAEG-SDG useful forum** to address monitoring challenges and promote stronger coordination between national & international statistical agencies
  - The responsibility for generating the data to inform the global indicators rests with national institutions
  - but international agencies have a key role as 'custodian' of the indicators (for methodological standards, capacity development, data collection and dissemination of internationally comparable data)

FAO actions so far

- FAO traditionally **very active in statistical capacity development** (WCA, Global Strategy, AMIS, CountrySTAT, …)

- Particularly active in the area of **food security statistics**,
  - To **develop methods and tools**
    - Development of guidelines for **improved food consumption measurement in household surveys** (with the WB)
    - Analysis of food consumption data collected with household surveys (**ADePT-FSM**)
    - The **Voices of the Hungry** project (FIES)
  - To **provide technical assistance** for promoting their adoption
    - Food Security Statistical Capacity Development in the Sahel

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

2015

The State of
Food Insecurity in the World

Meeting the 2015
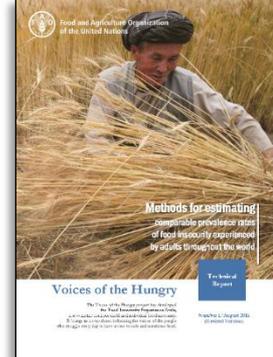international hunger targets:
taking stock of uneven progress

Ongoing activities (@ HQ)

- Indicator 2.1.1: **Prevalence of undernourishment**
  - Long established method to estimate the % of the population with insufficient caloric intake, **integrating information from different sources** (food availability; food access; population's characteristics for dietary energy requirements - sex, age, body mass)
  - **Production of only national estimates** so far; generally not used by countries
  - Developed a methodology for the computation of the **PoU at subnational level**
  - Greater and more intense **use of large scale household surveys with reliable food consumption data**

Ongoing activities

- Indicator 2.1.2: **Prevalence of food insecurity, using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)**
  - Based on more than 25 years of experience (USA, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala), FIES developed as a **global standard** producing internationally comparable estimates
  - Rigorous application of Item Response Theory to **test the validity and assess the reliability** of the measures obtained in different contexts
  - Applied in about 150 countries worldwide in 2014/15 through the Gallup World Poll: **baseline for monitoring SDG target 2.1**
  - Methodology **compatible with other existing experience-based food security scales (no additional burden to countries already using them)**
  - **Support provided to countries to include the FIES module** in large scale population surveys
  - Results can be **disaggregated for key population groups**

The road ahead

- **Engage with national institutions**, contributing to the processes leading to the definition of national SDG monitoring mechanisms
  - Make sure **national and global SDG indicators are aligned**
  - **Strong FAO presence in countries to support governments in national monitoring and reporting** (on the 21 FAO indicators)
- **Review existing data collection efforts** in the areas of food security & nutrition, to verify their ability to generate the data needed to inform SDG-2 indicators
  - **Direct technical support in the design and implementation of household surveys**
    - Assess the **suitability of existing food consumption data to estimate the PoU at subnational level**
    - Identify planned surveys as **potential vehicles for the FIES**
  - **Partnerships with other UN agencies**

The road ahead

- Train national professionals on the **principles and methods for agricultural, food security and nutrition statistics**
  - **E-learning** and other supporting training materials (manuals, user guides, etc.) on the PoU and on the FIES
  - Training **workshops at regional and national level**
  - **South-to-South cooperation**
  - **Technical assistance from FAO**

- Build capacities of national institutions **to analyze food security data from different sources and sectors** in an integrated way and use it to guide policy
  - Inclusion of SDG indicators 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 in the reference tables of the chronic Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

Thank you

Carlo.Cafiero@fao.org

FAO-Statistics@fao.org

**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**