

Foreword

The calls for action are numerous: at the United Nations Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in September 2012, governments reaffirmed the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. The same year, the UN Secretary General launched the “Zero Hunger Challenge” campaign to end hunger globally. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, endorsed in September 2015, confirms the importance of achieving food security, and eradicating hunger is the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2).

Since 1990, much progress has been made in reducing hunger. Yet, challenges to food security and nutrition remain as pressing as ever. Around 800 million people remain food insecure, although the world produces enough food to feed everyone. Food insecurity primarily affects the rural poor. Three-quarters of the world’s extreme poor live in the rural areas of developing countries. This marks not only the scope of the problem, but also identifies a territorial divide. And, not all rural areas are alike. Most rural poor and food insecure live in sub-national regions that are disadvantaged in many other ways: they lack adequate infrastructure and basic services and are more vulnerable to adverse climatic conditions. Continued population growth brings added pressure to these challenges and, through migration and urbanisation, food insecurity may also become an increasingly urban problem.

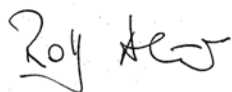
Tackling high levels of food insecurity calls for innovative policy approaches that recognise that geography matters. Different territories need different policy responses to account for their particular challenges. Food security issues in remote rural areas are not the same as those in metropolitan areas, nor are the problems in one rural area the same as those faced by adjacent rural areas. Territorial specificities, including the institutions, infrastructure, education, health, natural resources, and human and social capital, strongly influence food security and nutritional outcomes. Policies must be grounded in a coherent, multidimensional framework to address the problem’s inherent complexities. To this end, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) have launched a joint initiative to promote a territorial approach to food security and nutrition policies.

Indeed, this study presents a framework for a territorial approach to food security and nutrition based on five case studies in Cambodia, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Morocco and Peru and two national workshops held in Mali and Niger. It was conducted by the OECD Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) through its Working Party on Rural Policy (WPRP), a unique forum for international exchanges and debates. The case studies were carried out in close collaboration with national and/or local governments.

The study proposes a shift from a sectoral, top-down and “one-size-fits-all” approach to one that is multisectoral, bottom-up and context-specific. It highlights the importance of a well-functioning multi-level governance system. It stresses that achieving sustainable

food security and nutrition requires improving development conditions and accessing income-generating activities. The most efficient way of doing this is to tailor interventions to specific local conditions and to tap underutilised local assets and potential by means of a territorial approach. Governments, multilateral agencies, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and the media each have a critical role to play.

Ensuring that policies tackle each region's specific challenges confronting food security and nutrition will bring us closer to realising the call to action to eradicate hunger.



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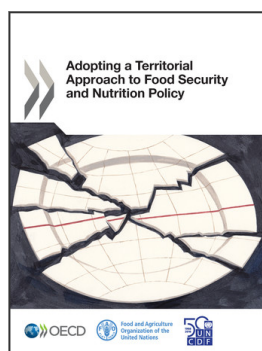
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