UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

African Statistics Day, "*Strengthening data systems by modernizing the production and use of agricultural statistics with a view of informing policies to improve resilience in agriculture, nutrition, and food security on the African Continent.*"

MONITORING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RELATED SDG INDICATORS

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Introduction

- The objective of strengthening data systems by modernizing the production and use of agricultural statistics is at the basis of with FAO's overall approach to supporting countries produce high quality data for food and agriculture, and use this data for informed decision-making

- SDG indicators related to food and agriculture under FAO custodianship cover a range of statistical domains and data sources, touching on all three dimensions (social, economic and environmental) of sustainable development

- To collect these indicators, countries can use administrative data, agricultural surveys, agricultural censuses, as well as geospatial data. FAO then collects the data and indicator values from countries through dedicated questionnaires.

- Food and agriculture-related SDG indicators are not an isolated sub-sector of national statistics: increasing countries' capacities for reporting on these indicators hinges on the modernization and streamlining of actions of the **entire National Statistical System**

- This systemic approach is essential for evidence-based policy advice and interventions on **issues of critical importance to the African continent – food security, nutrition and sustainable use of natural resources**

SDG Indicators under FAO custodianship

2 ZERO HUNGER — Zero Hunger – 9 indicators under 6 targets

5 GENDER EQUALITY — Gender Equality – 2 indicators

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION — Clean Water and Sanitation- 2 indicators

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION — Responsible Consumption and Production – 1 indicator
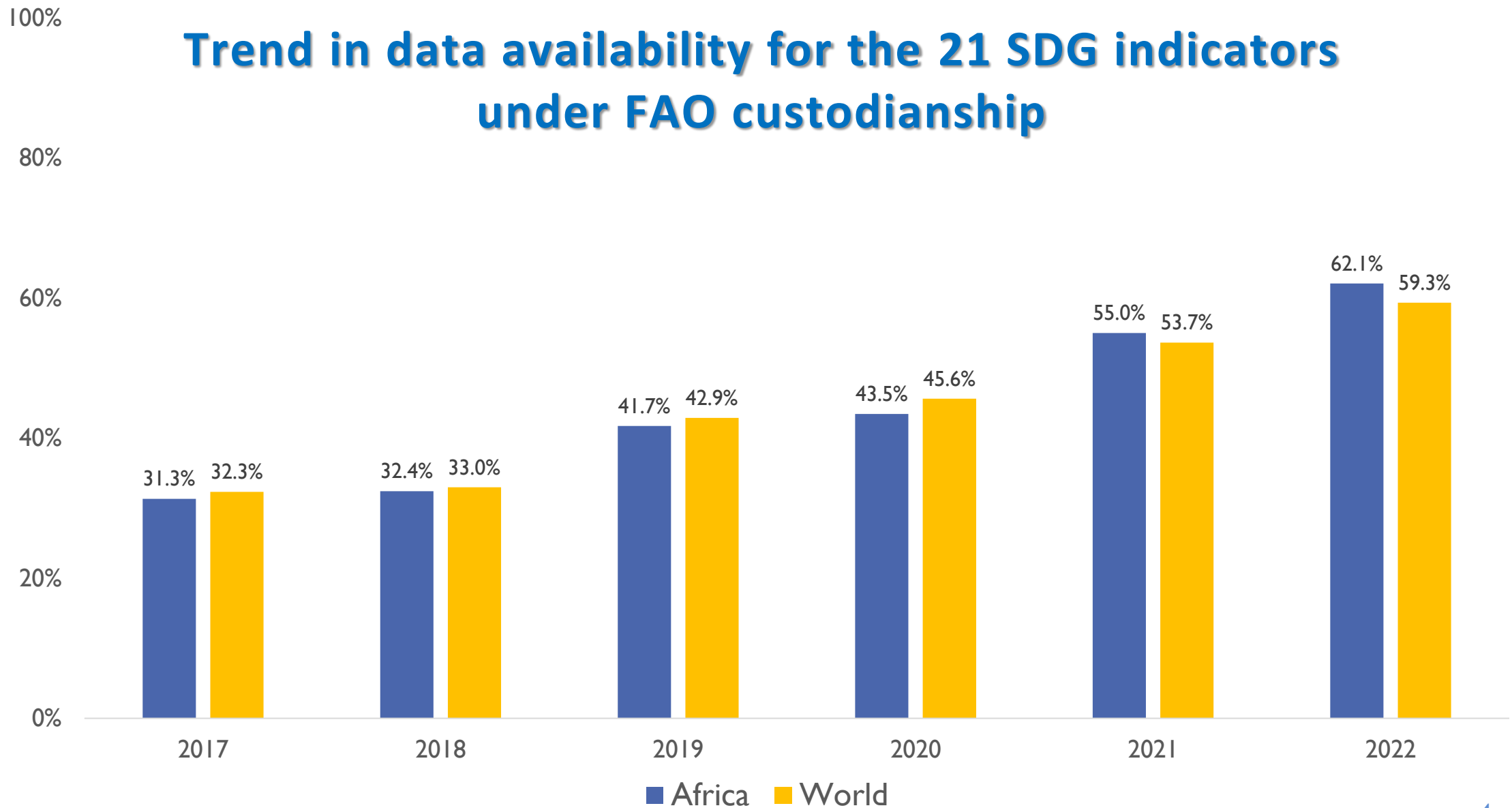
14 LIFE BELOW WATER — Life below Water – 4 indicators under 4 targets
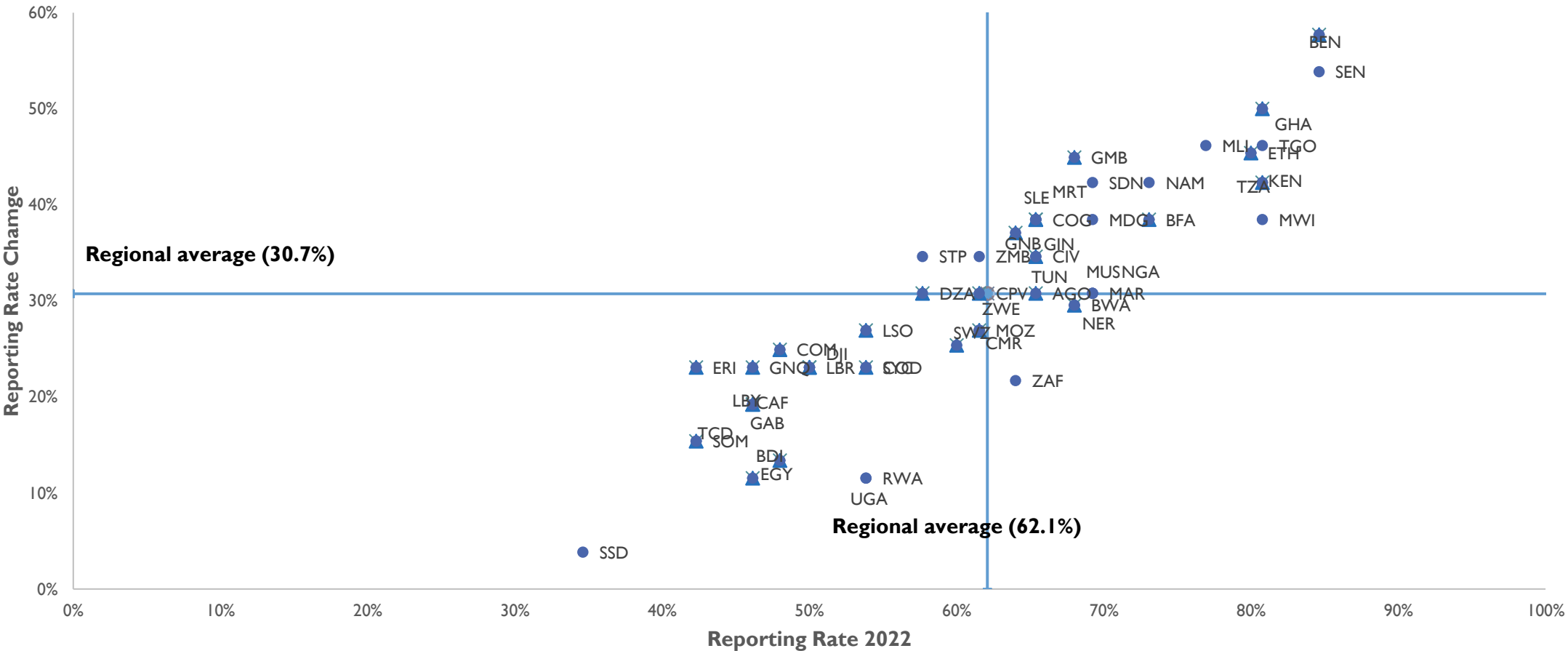
15 LIFE ON LAND — Life on Land – 3 indicators under 3 targets

In addition, FAO is a contributing agency for 5 additional SDG indicators across Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 14 (Life below water) and Goal 15 (Life on land)

Trend in data availability for the 21 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship

Africa ■ World

Year	Africa	World
2017	31.3%	32.3%
2018	32.4%	33.0%
2019	41.7%	42.9%
2020	43.5%	45.6%
2021	55.0%	53.7%
2022	62.1%	59.3%

SDG Reporting Rate of African countries: current situation and progress compared with 2017

Key findings

- The average reporting rates of African countries with respect to the 21 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship **exceeded the world average** in 2022 for the second consecutive year

- **Concerted efforts in Africa have led to positive progress, above the global average.** By contrast, SIDS countries have a very low reporting rate, and many developed countries also do not have the systems in place to report on the SDGs (several of which were introduced with the 2030 Agenda in 2015).

- This is an encouraging sign but by no means a basis for complacency. For example, at the specific indicator level, compared to the world average, African countries **lag behind** in the availability of data for plant genetic resource conservation (2.5.1a) livestock breed populations (2.5.2) and the Goal 14 indicators. In addition, there is still no data on sustainable agriculture (2.4.1).

- We need to **continue our efforts** in data collection to facilitate effective monitoring of progress towards to SDG targets related to food security, sustainable agriculture, and the sustainable use of natural resources.

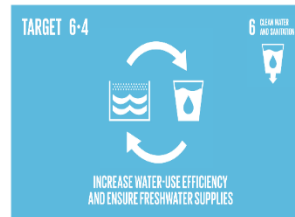# FAO Support to Agricultural Statistics and SDG Monitoring in Africa

- Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, FAO has been **supporting countries** in the region address agricultural data scarcity, inaccessibility, quality and comparability issues to allow more effective agricultural programming and policies

- Some of the major FAO statistical capacity development programs that support SDG monitoring in particular are the discussed in the following slides, and more details can be found here

- All these programmes have promoted a **systemic approach** as mentioned in the introduction, by not only training countries in the specificities of each indicator, but also addressing cross-cutting issues affecting the entire National Statistical System.

- For example, FAO has promoted and provided country support for the establishment of several **new cost-effective tools for data collection**, such as integrated Agricultural Surveys, geospatial data, and machine learning/AI tools.

- FAO has also invested in improving **data dissemination, analysis & use** of FAO-SDG indicators for decision-making, and in 2023 will implement a new programme to support countries in developing their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

Measuring the SDGs Program

- *Measuring the SDGs* aimed to boost country reporting across the 21 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship

- *Focusses* on methodological development, and provision of dedicated training and technical support to countries

- *Complements* the array of FAO's sectoral extra-budgetary projects which often focus on a limited set of indicators (E.g. Global Environmental Management Initiative-GEMI phase I & II; Voices of the Hungry, Forest Resource Assessment; 50x2030 Initiative; AGRIS-Survey) and activities/projects implemented through its regular programme budget (SDG special allocation and TCPs)

A growing number of countries received support in **upgrading existing agricultural surveys** to collect data on smallholder productivity and women's access to land.

A global study was carried out on the potential for **disaggregation of SDG indicator 6.4.2 by major basin level** identifying areas with high and critical levels of water stress.

73 countries have implemented the FIES at least once within official household surveys. The FIES module was adapted to assess the impact of COVID-19 on food insecurity.

700 national staff from about **100 countries** worldwide received training on SDG Indicator 2.4.1 in 2020-2021 to improve country reporting on sustainable agriculture.
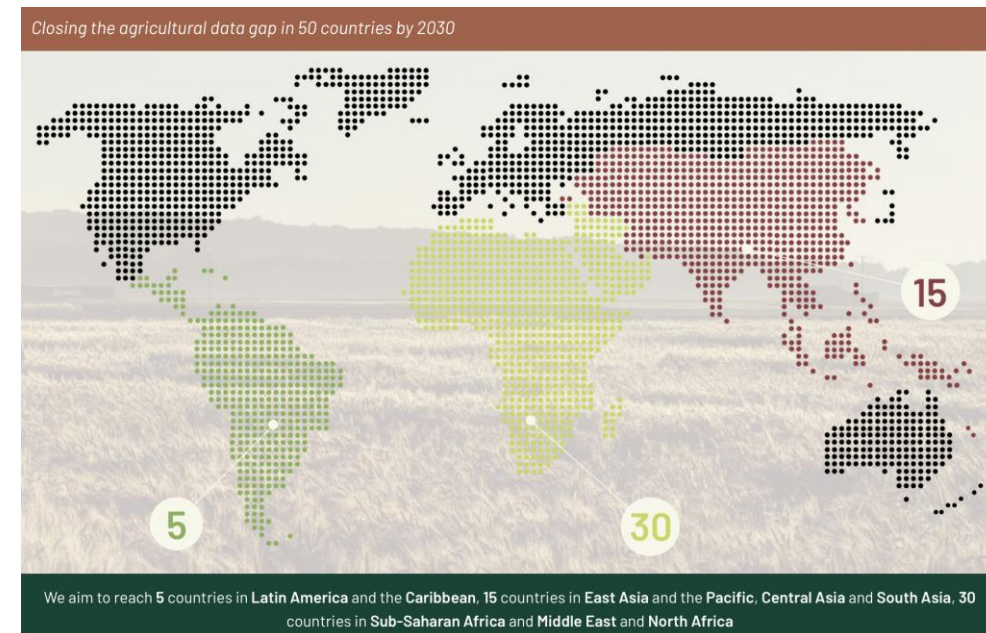
Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSARS)

- Multi-phase "framework for national and international statistical systems enabling developing countries to produce, and to apply, the basic data and information needed in the 21st Century".

- The second phase of the Global Strategy, underway since 2021, is focusing on **strengthening the overall capacity of countries to implement complex integrated agricultural surveys** and is **complementing data collection efforts that already exist in the African countries.**

- It facilitates the implementation the 50x2030 Initiative to close the agricultural data gap in countries eligible to the initiative.

- Support will be provided through the provision of training and technical assistance at national, regional and global level, with a special focus on the African continent, in the following areas:
  - ✓ assistance in the design of strategic plans for agricultural statistics;
  - ✓ training in agricultural statistics and provision of scholarships; and
  - ✓ technical assistance and training on tools, methodologies for data collection, data analysis and dissemination.

50x2030 Initiative to Close the Agricultural Data Gap

- *Multi-partner initiative,* implemented through a **World Bank, FAO and IFAD partnership,** that aims to collect data in 50 low income and lower middle-income countries by 2030, thus bridging key global agricultural data gaps

- It supports data collection that can help report on SDG indicators 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 5.a.1 and 12.3.1(a)

- Currently in various stages of implementation in Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda

Closing the agricultural data gap in 50 countries by 2030

15

5

30

We aim to reach **5** countries in **Latin America** and the **Caribbean**, **15** countries in **East Asia** and the **Pacific, Central Asia** and **South Asia**, 30 countries in **Sub-Saharan Africa** and **Middle East** and **North Africa**

Examples of additional FAO collaborations with the region on SDG indicators

- **FAO-AFRISTAT collaboration on 2.3.1/2.3.2**: FAO and AFRISTAT are working together on analyzing agricultural surveys to measure productivity and incomes of smallholders in Burkina Faso and Mali, as well as working with countries to update surveys for future rounds.

- **Lesotho - harnessing geospatial data**: FAO has brought together a group of experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forests and Rangeland, and the Bureau of Statistics for the purpose of the developing the Lesotho Soil Information System (LESIS), with a view to improving country data on SDG 15 indicators.

- **Improving data on women's access to land**: A series of workshops have been conducted for NSOs to become competent in the indicator 5.a.1 official methodology and utilize existing survey data (DHS and EHCVM) to produce the indicator. Some 80 participants from various countries participated in a series of webinars since August 2022.

- **FAO engagement in the AUC Biennial Review**: in 2022, FAO stepped up its engagement in the AUC's Biennial Review Process of the Malabo Indicator Framework. Many Malabo indicators are equivalent to SDG indicators under FAO custodianship. A key aim is to help countries align their reporting under both frameworks.

- **Supporting countries in measuring Food Insecurity**: FAO has helped numerous countries in Africa collect the Food Insecurity Experience Scale through large national population surveys. In 2022, FIES data was published for 46 African countries, of which 25 countries produced national estimates for prevalence of food insecurity

FAO'S SDG MONITORING ROADMAP FOR AFRICA, 2022-2023

1 UN Capacity Development
Build capacity of FAO Decentralised Offices and UNCT staff to support SDG monitoring

2 Country Capacity Development
Encourage and support countries to enroll in Capacity Development programmes and activities that support SDG monitoring

3 Country census and survey support
Encourage and support countries in collecting key SDG indicators in major WCA/HHS Projects

4 UN Cooperation Frameworks and CPFs
Ensure statistics and data are seen as development outcomes and mainstreamed into UNSDCF/CPFs & regional initiatives

5 Country level resource mobilization
Support national resources mobilization for SDG monitoring

6 Regional Partners
Leverage partnerships with AUC, UNECA, and initiatives to increase SDG reporting and data use

Conclusions

➢ High quality data for food and agriculture is essential for effective policy formulation on issues of food security, nutrition, resilience building and natural resource management

➢ A systemic approach is needed to improve the production and use of food and agriculture-related SDG indicators within a broader effort of modernizing the entire National Statistical System

➢ While data availability across Africa is increasing, data gaps in key indicators and some countries still constrain the continent's ability to design and implement targeted interventions to combat food insecurity, malnutrition, and the degradation of natural resources

➢ FAO looks forward to continuing our engagement with national and regional partners to enhance data collection and reporting for SDG indicators, ensure alignment with national and regional statistical frameworks and development plans, and further promote the use of data for evidence-based decision-making

Thank you
for your attention!