



Our Ref:

Your Ref:

3 October 2017

Dear Ms. Lynn Gentile,

I refer to the letter of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, dated 25 August 2017, sent to the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to request information and views on contributions of the right to health framework to the effective implementation and achievement of the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The letter was forwarded to me for reply.

I am pleased to attach herewith a table containing areas of work and activities within FAO mandates that relate to identified health-related indicators. Even though the organization works on a number of social, economic and environmental determinants of health such as adequate nutrition, safe food and gender equality, the link to the right to health framework is generally not explicit and less obvious.

Yours sincerely,



Antonio Tavares  
Legal Counsel

Ms. Lynn Gentile  
Human Rights Officer  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
United Nations Office at Geneva  
CH-1211 Geneva 10

## FAO Areas of Work Relevant to Health-Related SDG Indicators

Health-Related SDG Indicators	FAO Relevant Areas of Work
2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment	FAO is the primary custodian of this indicator. As one of its core missions, FAO promotes food security and supports countries to ensure that people have regular access to enough nutritious food. FAO also has a mandate to protect, promote, and improve nutrition-sensitive food systems as the sustainable solution to hunger and malnutrition
3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)	FAO strives to reduce rural poverty by promoting inclusive infrastructure and social protection programmes that provides rural populations with access to social services including medical care.
3.8.2 Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income	FAO advocates for well-desigend social protection system that prevents risk coping strategies, which deplete household assets.
3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)	<p>A longstanding collaborative programme between FAO and World Health Organization (WHO) is related to the Codex Alimentarius, a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice related to food safety and quality: food hygiene; maximum limits for food additives; residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs; and codes for the prevention of chemical and microbiological contamination</p> <p>FAO also tries to address issues related to water pollution from agriculture and promotes coherent approach to water management</p>
3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness	Over 70 percent of human diseases originate in animals. FAO is a key implementing agency for One Health initiative. Its main contributions include strengthening surveillance systems to prevent and detect disease emergence, and reinforcing safe animal production practices to defend against high-impact diseases in the long term
5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations,	Gender equality is central to FAO's mandate. FAO pushes for equal access to land, credit, extension services and other productive resources so that rural women are empowered economically and enjoy more options and autonomy. Elevated

<p>contraceptive use and reproductive health care</p>	<p>status of women in the communities can also challenge restrictive gender norms and attitudes associated with reproductive health.</p>
<p>6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated</p>	<p>FAO supports properly adequate treatment of wastewater for reuse in crop production either directly through irrigation or indirectly by recharging aquifers.</p>
<p>7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology</p>	<p>Committee on Forestry, one of FAO statutory bodies, have also identified this as a forest-related indicator. FAO calls for sustainable production and efficient use of wood fuels, and the adoption of cleaner fuels and improved stoves. In addition, FAO runs Energy-Smart Food Programme to increase access to modern energy service in rural areas.</p>
<p>8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status</p>	<p>FAO promotes decent rural employment where workers are able to perform their work under safe and healthy conditions. This includes advocating for the adoption of sector-specific minimum occupational safety and health measures</p>
<p>12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment</p>	<p>FAO promotes the lifecycle approach to pesticides management. This encompasses proper practices to dispose of obsolete pesticides, which are considered hazardous waste, in order to reduce risks to human health and the environment.</p>
<p>13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population</p>	<p>FAO is supporting countries to prepare and respond to disasters that threaten food production as well as to address increased disaster risks related to climate change in the food and agricultural sectors. To this end, FAO provides technical capacity development, guidance, data and tools for the implementation of more climate-smart agricultural practices and policies. FAO also advocates for measures that decrease exposure and vulnerabilities to the negative effects of climate change, and that enhance adaptive capacities of farmers, fishers, herders, and foresters.</p>
<p>16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause</p>	<p>One of FAO's mission is to help countries govern, prevent and mitigate threats and crises including violent conflicts such as civil unrest, civil wars, and interstate conflicts. FAO capacitates countries to establish "risk governance" for agriculture, food and nutrition that involves prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery and rehabilitation. Furthermore, FAO supports improving food security as an important contribution to peacebuilding and reducing the risk of relapse into conflict.</p>