

**ToR to Develop
an Environmental and
Social Impact Assessment
and Management Plan
Sensitive to the Right to
Food**

January 2024

Table of Contents

Acronyms	3
01 Introduction	4
02 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	6
2.1 Background	7
2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Plan	8
2.3 Legal and Institutional Framework	9
2.4 Business Operation	11
2.5 Environmental and Social Baseline	12
2.6 Environmental and Social Impacts	12
03 Environmental and Social Management Plans	17
3.1 Measures to Manage Risks	18
3.2 Development of Monitoring Plan	20
3.3 Capacity Development	21
3.4 Grievance Mechanism	21
References	22

Acronyms

CFS	Committee on World Food Security
EHS Guidelines	Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
FSS	Food Security Standard
FSS QAT	FSS Quick Assessment Tool
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organization
NaFSA	National Food Security Assessment
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



01 Introduction

More than 735 million people suffered from hunger globally in 2022 representing approximately 1/10 of the global population.¹ In particular, a significant number of waged agricultural workers suffer from food insecurity, and smallholder farmers are disproportionately impoverished and experiencing hunger.^{2,3} Meanwhile, it is forecasted that the area of cultivated land in the Global South will increase by over 47% by 2050.⁴ The main risks associated with the expansion and development of agricultural operations include forced displacement, reduced or denied access to land and natural resources, water scarcity and environmental and health damages among others.^{5,6} These risks could both directly and indirectly deprive even more farmers and local communities of accessing adequate food.

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) allows for identifying and predicting the impacts and consequences a future project/intervention might entail, which are critical steps prior to expanding and developing agriculture operations. The respective Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) aims to identify and establish adequate measures and controls to manage the potential environmental and social risks and impacts identified. Having both will ensure the final design of the business activities is sustainable and long-standing.

Given that many environmental and social risks from these operations affect food security, it is vital that ESIA and ESMPs adequately reflect the right to food. The expansion and development of agricultural operations that are assessed as negatively impacting local food security and do not demonstrate improvements to the local security system shall not be authorized unless targeted prevention, mitigation and compensation measures are integrated.⁷

The right to food *“is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, have physical and economic access at*

all times to adequate food or means for its procurement”.⁸ In this sense, responsible agricultural expansion sensitive to the right to food can effectively contribute to food security by increasing decent employment, capacity development opportunities, access to markets, strengthening land tenure rights of the local rural population, promoting participation, adopting new technology and improving access to agricultural extension services.⁹

This document is the Terms of Reference (ToR) that presents a general outline for preparing and implementing an ESIA and ESMP sensitive to the right to food. It aims to support the recognized expert conducting the ESIA and ESMP in reflecting the right to food within the impact assessment and management plan. The generic ESIA and ESMP structures proposed and utilized by different recognized international organizations have been used as a basis for the document.

Chapter 1 in this document refers to the structure of an ESIA and describes the objectives and methodology, how to engage stakeholders and which is the legal and institutional framework relevant to the right to food. The chapter also explains how the business operation should be described within an ESIA and what needs to be considered for assessing the environmental and social conditions in the area impacted by the operations. Chapter 2 refers to the Environmental and Social Management Plan and includes suggestions on how to manage the risks identified through the ESIA and how to establish a monitoring plan. This chapter also describes prevention measures to manage risks such as capacity development and establishing a grievance mechanism.

This document should be used as generic guidance and should be adapted to the context in which the company operates, as the required information for each section depends largely on the business operations and activities.



02
**Environmental
and Social
Impact
Assessment**



2.1 Background

The introduction section must include an overview of the planned development or expansion of the agriculture production site, explain the objectives of the impact assessment and describe the methodology.

Overview

The impact assessment overview explains the context and background in which the ESIA is conducted. It should also provide a brief overview of the exact plan for expansion and the potential positive and adverse impacts. It is a concise summary of subchapters 4, 5, and 6.

When presenting the food security status or risk on the affected parties (agricultural workers, contracting farmers, smallholders, and

communities in the area of influence), the overview must cover the four pillars as presented in Table 1.¹⁰ These four pillars should also be referred to in later parts of the ESIA.

Gender should be considered in the overview alongside the overall ESIA because women face systemic discrimination when accessing resources despite their significant role in food production.¹¹ Therefore, the right to food will never be fully realized without progress in women's rights and rights to equality.¹² It is recommended to describe women's representation, gender-inclusive or exclusive working environment, and risks of gender discrimination in the agriculture development or expansion plan.



AVAILABILITY

Physical availability of food.

Determined by the supply level of food production, stock levels, and net trade.



ACCESS

Economic and physical access to food.

Determined by household resources, food prices, and physical infrastructure such as roads and restricted properties to access food/markets/shops.



STABILITY

Constant and long-term adequate access to food.

Can be affected by climate change, natural disasters, price volatility, political instability, epidemics, etc.



UTILIZATION

How food is prepared and distributed determines healthy and nutritious food consumption. Can be achieved by good feeding practices, preparation and storage processes, intra-house food distribution, a healthy physical environment, and adequate sanitary facilities.

Objectives

By meeting the objectives described below, the ESIA can support the business operation's decision-making process and ensure that environmental and social concerns are considered during agriculture development and expansion.

The general objectives of an ESIA are:

Ensure Compliance with National and International Laws and Standards

An ESIA ensures the operation and expansion plan meets the environmental and social requirements and regulations. The document must include a list and description of relevant national legislation, international standards, and safeguard policies.

For the ESIA to be sensitive to the right to food, the list must include national and international regulations and principles on the right to food. This is because the right to food is an essential right and is dependent on the guarantee of other human rights.

Outline the baseline and potential environmental and social impacts of the farm operation and expansion of the operation.

The social and environmental context of the business operation and the impact of the expanded operation must be identified. Potential positive and adverse social and environmental impacts must be discussed.

The food security status in the area of influence and the potential impact on food security in the area of development or expansion should be assessed.

In addition to the general objectives, the ESIA may include company context-specific objectives.

Methodology

This section must consist of a detailed description of the information, data, and methods used for the assessment. It must include a description of desk research conducted, data availability and utilization, visual observations, as well as consultations and interviews conducted with interested and affected parties.

2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Businesses should actively involve stakeholders in all stages of agriculture development and expansion plans. Therefore, the ESIA and ESMP should be developed in close consultation with individuals, groups, and organizations with a stake in agriculture development and expansion. Stakeholders must be provided with the draft and final ESIA and ESMP report, regular reports on the business plan, and opportunities to participate in public consultations for their input.

The public consultation process will provide the stakeholders with the opportunity to have an improved understanding of the business plan and decision-making, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the business plan.¹³ Accordingly, businesses can enhance their long-term viability by enhancing the benefits and reducing the negative consequences. Public consultation must take place regularly and include diverse parties affected and interested in the business plan (e.g. women, indigenous communities, and marginalized and disadvantaged groups).

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) must be developed to promote effective stakeholder engagement in the public consultation process. The plan must include the methodology for the identification of

stakeholders, descriptions of planned consultation events, and processes for stakeholder engagement.¹⁴ After the consultation events, a description of stakeholders involved, location and dates of meetings, description of the consultation process, an overview of the issues discussed (questions asked and answers provided), how the stakeholder engagement was reflected on the business plan, and details of outstanding issues must be included in the plan.

SEP Integrating food security considerations should gather Indigenous local knowledge perspectives on food security, local farming practices, and local technology.¹⁵ The consultation with marginalized and vulnerable populations reliant on local food security is critical for the development of the SEP. The Food Security Standard (FSS) also recommends identifying and consulting with at least six external stakeholders in the operation's area of influence. The external stakeholders should be selected based on their understanding of the food security situation of workers and/or farmers at the community and district levels.¹⁶

- For the topics of public consultations, specifically on identifying and managing the impact on food security, the following topics can be discussed:
- Potential social and environmental risks of the agriculture development and expansion plan that are interrelated to the food security risk of the local community.
- Social benefits that may be provided by the employer to the employees, their families, and the local community (e.g. support in professional development, medical/health care, support in getting health insurance).
- Measures to support local value creation (e.g. employment of local workers, investment in local processing facilities, creating and maintaining school/training centers, supporting

shops that sell local produce, offering income-generating activities to the local people).

- Assure good access to local markets and stores for communities. Consultations should address how agriculture development and expansion can negatively affect or improve travel regarding the distance and quality of the roads from the communities to the markets and stores.

2.3 Legal and Institutional Framework

The ESIA should ensure that the operation meets legal and institutional frameworks. Therefore, it must list and describe relevant national, regional, and international legal frameworks to which the operation must be compliant.

Also, a comparison between national, regional, and international frameworks that include food security or recognize the right to food must be conducted. The higher standards must be used and corrective actions implemented accordingly. In case of difficulty to comply with the higher standard, a detailed justification should be provided.

The following is the list of national, regional, and international requirements and regulations relevant to the right to food. The list presented below is not an exhaustive list of frameworks relevant to the right to food and it should be used only as a reference in identifying the relevant frameworks. In addition, frameworks on topics that should be considered in agriculture development and expansion plan such as land use, environmental protection, and other human rights are not included in this list.

National Framework

National strategies, policies, and legislation on food security and nutrition specific to each country should be included. Country-specific frameworks can be found when referring to the corresponding country section in the FAOLEX Database from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which includes national legislation, policies, and bilateral agreements on food, agriculture and natural resources management.

Regional Framework

Businesses must identify treaties, agreements, and guidelines relevant to the region where the operation is located. The following is the list of examples of regional standards that cover the right to food:

- African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, Article 16 & 22 (1981)
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the “Protocol of San Salvador”), Article 12 (1988)
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Article 14 (1990)
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, Article 15 (2003)
- American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Article 11 (1948)
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 12 (1978)
- ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, Article 28 (2013)

International Framework

When developing an ESIA, international frameworks must also be met. The right to food has been recognized in different international treaties, principles, and guidelines:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25 (1948)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 11 (1966)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 1.2 (1967)
- Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition (1974)
- Declaration on the Right to Development, Article 8 (1986)
- World Declaration on Nutrition (1992)
- Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 31 (1993)
- Rome Declaration on World Food Security (1996)
- Plan of Action of the World Food Summit (1996)
- Food and sustainable agricultural development: General Assembly Resolution, 51/171 (1996)
- General Comment 12, UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1999)
- Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, (2004)
- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 24 & 26 (2007)

- Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), (2012)
- Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI Principles), (2014)
- CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis (CFS-FFA), (2015)
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights on Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas: General Assembly Resolution, 39/12 (2018)
- CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN), (2021)
- OECD Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Value Chains

2.4 Business Operation

For this section, a detailed description of the agriculture development and expansion plan, its justification, and its management structure must be included. The description of the business operation should clearly identify the specific environmental and social issues related to it, including food security.

Description

The main parameters of the business operation that must be described in this section include:

- Details and scope of the agriculture development and expansion plan
- Objectives and expected results/outcomes of the operation
- Environmental and social features

Typical onsite and offsite elements of agriculture development and expansion plan that may be described include agricultural land, agriculture chemicals, agricultural tools, crops cultivated, water infrastructure, storage, power supply, and labour. Elements in the farm that may affect the food security of farmers, workers, and the local communities are canteens, clean water supply, road infrastructure to the markets, crop production, crop diversity, surplus crop produce to be consumed by workers in the farm, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, and lunch and break time.

Based on the description of the business operation, the agriculture development and expansion plan must be justified by presenting and analysing alternatives to the business plan. This should include:

- Alternative options for the business location, size, and activities that could be considered for the agriculture development and expansion plan.
- A comparative analysis of the business plan with alternatives on the feasibility and potential short-, medium-, and long-term impact, including their impact on food security.

Business Structure

The executing entities of the business such as management, technical team, contractors, and farmers and their respective roles in the operation must be described. In addition, stakeholders that have potential influence on the operation must be identified and described.

A person responsible for food security in the business must be appointed and their role must be clearly described.

2.5 Environmental and Social Baseline

This section describes the existing environmental and social conditions of the area planned for agriculture development and expansion. Description of the area impacted shall include a map showing the area of influence of the operation. This area may be affected by the operation's direct, indirect, and cumulative impact.¹⁷ If the national and regional conditions have environmental and social impact on the area, a description of those conditions should be included as well.

For this section to reflect on the right to food, the food security status of the area, region, and country should be described. The description should include the food security status focusing on the four pillars: availability, accessibility, stability, and utilization. The FSS has developed a toolbox to assess food security in the area of influence of the operation. The toolbox includes the following tools:

NaFSA - National Food Security Assessment

- Facilitates a quick and easy, yet comprehensive, overview of the national food security situation and framework conditions using publicly available information from the websites of UN agencies and other relevant institutions.¹⁸ The NaFSA tool can help identify potential critical issues regarding the right to food at the national level.
- The FSS Quick Assessment Tool (QAT): Provides a structured interview questionnaire for smallholder farmers, workers, and stakeholders.¹⁹ The QAT can support the identification of the food security situation at the operation level.

In addition to the food security status, other environmental and social conditions that have any influence on food security in the area may be described. The following elements may be included in this section:²⁰



- Environmental conditions: land use, meteorology, air quality, noise, geology, soil natural disaster risks, water resources, flora and fauna, protected areas, environmental legacies from previous activities, pollution levels, (hazardous and non-hazardous) waste generation
- Socio-economic conditions: food security, nutrition, population, social composition, levels of urbanization, economic activities, income indicators, levels of health and education, social organization systems, sanitation infrastructure (water, sewage, solid waste), energy and transport, media (newspapers, radio, TV), cultural, historical and archaeological sites or monuments in the vicinity, migrant workers, temporary workers, indigenous peoples and communities, gender patterns.

2.6 Environmental and Social Impacts

This section must present the identified potential positive and adverse environmental and social impacts in the area of influence of the agriculture development and expansion plan. Potential positive and adverse impacts for all phases of the business operation (planning, construction work, management, etc.) must be identified. This ToR presents examples of the positive and adverse impacts related to the right to food.

Potential Positive Impacts

Development or expansion of the agriculture business may bring positive impacts on the food security of farmers, their families, or the local communities. Anticipated positive impacts must be identified so that they are weighed with the potential adverse impacts and determine the viability of the business operation.

The following section provides examples of potential positive impacts:

Healthy Diet and Nutrition

Other potential positive impacts listed below also have secondary impacts on improved food security, which may also contribute to improving healthy diet and nutrition.

Job Creation with Good Working Conditions

Business operation development and expansion can bring increased decent employment in the area as it increases the need for a larger workforce during and after the expansion.²¹

Decent employment allows workers to access increased and stable income, which provides improved economic access to food from nearby markets. In addition, adequate dining area in the workplace and lunch or snacks provided during working time may also be an important contribution to food security of the workers as well as the households.

Education and Training Opportunities

Agricultural operations may provide training opportunities and improve the education level in its area of influence. Agricultural workers, contracting farmers and smallholders can be given training²² on sustainable productive farming, farm management, use of technology, or other topics to improve their livelihood. Training on these topics can contribute to increased income of households, further improving food security.

Workers can also receive training on food security—including topics on nutrition and healthy diet, food storage, healthy and safe cooking, and food preservation. This can improve and strengthen the food security of farmers, their families, and the local community.

In addition, businesses providing increased access to decent employment may reduce the risks of child labour and increase the opportunities for children to receive education. This will reduce the risk of children facing food insecurity in the future.

Household food security can also provide improved nutrition for women during pregnancy, infants, and children. This is especially important for preventing nutritional deficits in the first three years of life, which contributes to physical and cognitive development of the child—leading to young children achieving their full development potential.²³

Access to Social Security Benefits

Agricultural operations provide access to social security benefits to their workers, farmers, and their families. The social security benefits should normally include access to pension systems, maternity and paternity benefits, unemployment insurance, and medical insurance. In rural areas, where the coverage of health and social services is generally lower, the farm management could participate in improving its workers and farmers' access to social security by engaging with local authorities and health/social services providers.

Improved social security can reduce the household's level of vulnerability to poverty and hunger by providing protection against livelihood shocks such as food price spikes, natural disasters, crop failure, epidemics, illness, or business failure.²⁴



Women's economic empowerment

Agricultural operations that ensure equal opportunity and treatment to their workforce can promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Women's equal access to economic resources—such as jobs, market information, skill development, financial resources, and natural resources—is fundamental to strengthening their rights and enabling them to have control over resources.²⁵

Women play a key role in food production but are often deprived of receiving resources, which limits their capacity—they are disproportionately represented among the poor and food insecure.²⁶ Therefore, providing equal opportunities and access to resources to women can eventually improve the productivity of the farms alongside alleviating them from poverty and food insecurity. In addition, women traditionally have a significant role as a care giver within their families and are typically responsible for household nutrition.²⁷ Therefore, their economic empowerment and improved food security can also contribute to the improved food security of the household.

Improved Infrastructure

Agricultural operations can bring improved infrastructure to the area of influence,²⁸ benefiting the people residing in the area. Large-scale farming requires industrial facilities on the farm and public infrastructure such as roads, water infrastructure, and medical facilities for the farms and for the people involved in the business and their families.

Building roads can help workers and communities have improved access to markets—improving food security. In addition, water infrastructure can improve water treatment, which can ensure food safety and the health of the communities—improving food utilization.

Potential Adverse Impacts

The next section provides examples of adverse social and environmental impacts that affect the right to food of farmers, workers, their families, and the local community. Additional environmental and social impacts of agriculture business development and expansion can be consulted in the Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHS Guidelines) targeting perennial and annual crop production.^{29,30}

Environmental Degradation

Agriculture development and expansion plans may have potential adverse impacts on the environment such as degradation of soil health, air quality, water quality, as well as biodiversity and ecosystems. This environmental degradation presents threats to the stability and availability of food in the area. Examples of potential environmental degradations that affect the food security of farmers and the area of influence include but are not limited to:

- Potential physical and chemical degradation of soil, leading to erosion, nutrition depletion and imbalanced nutrition. This may be caused by inappropriate use of machinery and mineral fertilizers, long-term use of nitrogen fertilizers, and excessive use of poor-quality water.³¹ Degradation of soil can reduce the productivity of the farm, leading to increased vulnerability of the agriculture business³² and, thus, risk the food security of workers and their families.
- Potential degradation of water quality and quantity due to poor water management in the farm, intensive farming, and contamination of water resources. This may not only affect the productivity of the farm but also the health of the local community and water supply to the livestock and ecosystem in the area, changing food security in the area.
- Potential impacts on biodiversity loss and habitat conversion due to deforestation,

habitat fragmentation, land use intensification, pollution (air, soil, water), and introduction of invasive species. The impact may deprive the community of ecosystem services such as pollination, water regulation and purification, erosion control, and climate regulation.³³ This may reduce the farm's productivity and the shared resources such as forests, scrub, and grasslands that contribute to the community's food, fuelwood, building materials, medicinal plants, and grazing areas for livestock.³⁴ This affects the amount and diversity of food available to the local community, as well as the additional income they can earn, which can contribute to food accessibility.

Low Crop Diversity

Low crop diversity in the expanded farm can increase the risk of food insecurity. Farmers and their families may become less self-sufficient and more dependent on purchasing food products in the markets. This dependence can increase their vulnerability to external concerns such as unstable income and rising prices of food and agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides. When farms with low crop diversity are the main provider to the local markets, local communities have less access to diverse produce.

Low crop diversity also affects the resilience of crop production and reduces the vulnerability to biotic and abiotic stresses,³⁵ which risks stable food supplies. In addition, farms with low crop diversity are more prone to environmental degradation that can reduce crop productivity in the long term, risking the food security of the farmers, their families, and the local communities.

Poor Working Conditions

Poor working conditions in the agriculture business may affect worker's health, safety, and well-being, while enhanced working conditions can contribute to improved labor productivity and increase local food availability.³⁶

Poor working conditions can affect food security negatively in the following ways:

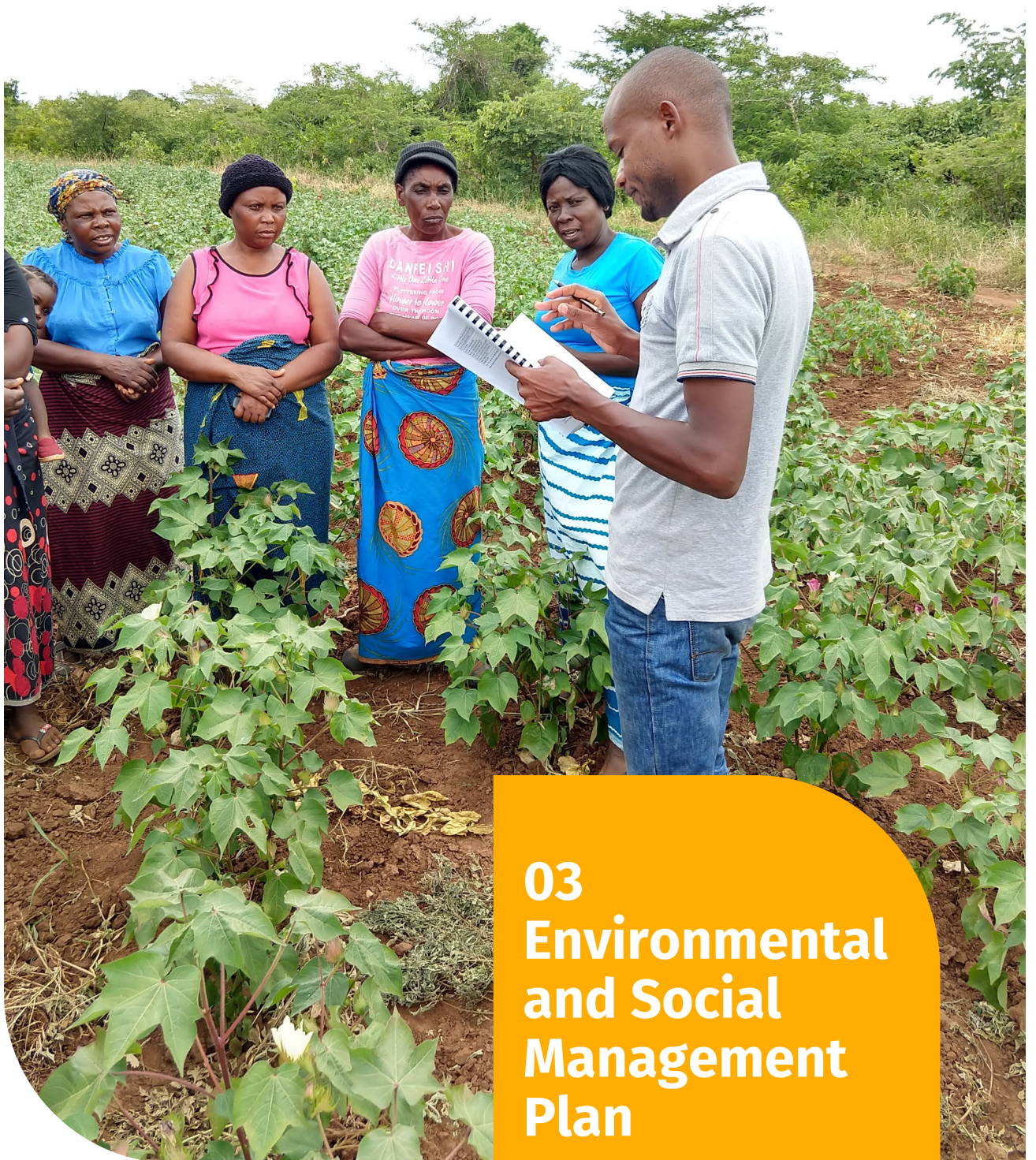
- Working conditions with poor sanitation and high-risk hygiene behaviors and facilities may cause poor utilization of food in the workplace (adverse impacts on health that hinders absorption of nutrients e.g. diarrhea).
- Providing wages under the minimum wage may hinder workers from being able to afford food and basic needs for themselves and their families.
- Not providing adequate breaks and lunchtimes can increase the risk of food insecurity.
- Lack of access to drinking water in the working environment may increase the risk of food insecurity as quality and quantity of drinking water affects the effective absorption of nutrition.³⁷
- There is a risk of underaged workers recruited in the workforce. As it is illegal employment, they may not receive above minimum wage or adequate working conditions, which affects their health and safety and can be exposed to higher risk of food insecurity.

Disproportionate Benefits

Agricultural development and expansion without gender sensitivity may widen the inequality gap, posing a risk to food security. Women may face unequal opportunities in the workplace, with their roles often marginalized through positions that are more informal, irregular, and low-skilled than those of men.^{38,39} This disparity can result in lower productivity and income for women,⁴⁰ leaving them in a more vulnerable position in accessing food.

Well-off men are often the main beneficiaries of agriculture intensification or expansion. They have enough capital to invest in expansion and focus on cash crops rather than food crops for financial profit. In the long term, their investment on cash crops may reduce the amount and diversity of food supplied in the farm and the local markets,⁴¹ affecting the overall food security in the area.





03 Environmental and Social Management Plan

After recognizing the impacts of agriculture development or expansion on food security risks, an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) shall be developed that explains how the identified risks will be addressed. Effective measures to manage risks in different contexts must be identified and integrated into the planning and managing of the business, as well as monitored periodically.

The process must involve stakeholders that are part of, or potentially affected by, the agriculture development and expansion plan through public consultations and following the principles of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

3.1 Measures to Manage Risks

The ESMP must include effective measures to manage the negative environmental and social impacts of the agriculture development and expansion plan.

Measures must be linked with the identified risks and described in detail by including actions to take, location, frequency, timing, required human and financial resources, and monitoring and organizational structure for the implementation. The potential social and environmental impact of the measures must also be estimated.

The following shall be considered when implementing measures to manage risks:⁴²

- Measures to prevent environmental and social risks by avoiding or eliminating the reasons for the risks
- Where it is not technically or financially feasible to prevent the risks or to identify measures to minimize and mitigate risks
- Where it is not technically or financially feasible to minimize and mitigate risks, identify measures to offset them by enhancing the business plan's positive environmental and social impacts
- Where avoidance, mitigation, and offset measures are not technically or financially

feasible, identify compensatory measures to balance the residual adverse impacts.

This document focuses on measures to prevent, mitigate, offset, and compensate the potential food security risk that the agriculture development or expansion plan may bring. The following chapters provide examples of measures to address environmental and social risks associated with food security risks. Additional environmental and social risk management measures on agriculture development and expansion can be consulted in EHS Guidelines targeting perennial and annual crops production.^{43,44}

Environmental Risk Management

Measures to address environmental risks that are related to food security risks include but are not limited to:⁴⁵

- Practice sustainable agriculture practices such as reduced tillage, direct seeding, use of cover crops and intercropping, recycling of crop residues, and soil erosion management practices (e.g., contour and strip planting, terracing, grass barriers in sloping areas) to minimize damage to soil structure, conserve soil organic matter, and reduce soil erosion.
- Ensure efficient and safe irrigation water use through irrigation techniques, water treatment or filtration, suitable timing and amount of irrigated water, and setting up buffer zones around water bodies.
- Avoid open burning for land preparation and pesticide-treated agricultural waste.
- Check the list of chemicals used in the farm and make sure the farm uses non-hazardous agrochemicals (according to FAO's International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management,⁴⁶ WHO's Recommended Classification of Pesticides,⁴⁷ and Stockholm Convention Annex A and B⁴⁸). Keep fertilizer, pesticides, and machinery separate from each other, and store and dispose safely.

- Any waste disposal shall align with the international and national legal frameworks. (e.g. Pesticide waste should be disposed as FAO guidelines).
- Screen the location of the agriculture development and expansion plan and avoid locations that are highly biodiverse or have high conservation values.

Working Conditions Risk Management

Measures to address identified risks to poor working conditions that are related to food security risks include but are not limited to:⁴⁹

- Establishment of safe and healthy workplace policies in the operation area.
- Work contracts that include work-related accident and sick leave.
- Business policy to ensure no child labour and forced labour occurs.
- Young, pregnant, or disabled workers are not included in hazardous work.
- Provide workers with access to personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Provide clean food storage area, dining area, hand washing facilities, safe water, and hygienic toilet facilities.
- Provide a cooking facility to prepare food on the farm if applicable.
- Permanent contracts are made available and ensure employment conditions are aligned with national and international standards.
- Develop company policy authorizing the right of workers to collective bargaining and freedom of association.

- Provision of services such as medical/health care, health insurance, school/training centers for children, and pension schemes.

Food Security Risk Management

Additional measures that can reduce food security risks and improve food security in the area of influence include but are not limited to:⁵⁰

- Disputed water or land shall not be used until settled through agreements. Negotiations shall include equal representations of concerned groups and suitable representatives are chosen regarding expertise and experiences.
- Training to improve livelihoods (e.g. financial literacy, safety and health, cooking, cleaning, etc.) and on food security awareness and healthy diets for workers, farmers, and communities.
- Provide support to the workers in accessing social security benefits to provide protection against price shocks, natural disasters, and crop failure.
- Ensure access to markets is not negatively affected by the business expansion. The farm management should measure the time and distance from the farm to the market and guarantee the difficulty and distance have not increased. If so, it should provide alternative means of access through the provision of infrastructure, like buses, bridges, etc.
- Establish an onsite dining area in compliance with food hygiene and safety regulations.
- Provide food or agriculture produce onsite in compliance with food safety regulations such as, canteens, food shops, and sharing agriculture raw produces.
- Open fallow land gardening and food production for self-consumption.

- Work with local businesses such as processing facilities or purchasing local produce for the business
- Ensure living wages.

and ensure both in-farm and community impacts are frequently measured so that sufficient progress due to corrective actions takes place. Stakeholders shall be included through public consultation and complaints or grievances mechanisms.⁵¹ The FSS QAT could be used to involve stakeholders in monitoring the food security status.

3.2 Development of Monitoring Plan

How the management plan effectively addresses the identified risks related to the right to food must be monitored periodically. The ESMP must include a description of the monitoring plan with an agreed timetable that can track the risk status and whether the measurement has taken place. The plan must be monitored using defined indicators

Table 2 shows an example of core indicators to monitor the effectiveness of food security measures applied to the operation. This list of indicators was developed as part of the impact assessment tool for the Food Security Standard and is not exhaustive. The indicators can be generally applied to most crop production systems. For the complete list of indicators, please contact info@foodsecuritystandard.org.

<i>Performance Indicator</i>	<i>Additional information (question)</i>	<i>Measurement</i>
Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in workers and smallholders, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).	The food insecurity level is classified as “severe” if the interviewee responds to one or more of the FSS-QAT questions 8d–8h (workers) or 19d–19h (smallholders) with a “yes”, i.e. either that she/he skipped a meal or ate less, was hungry and did not eat, and/or ran out of food in the household.	Number of smallholders and workers on moderate and severe food insecurity/total number of smallholders and workers.
Proportion of participants reporting an effective operation's risk reduction response plan in case of disaster in the previous year.	Interview questions for workers: 1. In the past 12 months, was there any significant disasters in your area? 2. How would you qualify the response of the operation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Totally effective • Somehow effective • Somehow ineffective • Totally ineffective 	Participants reporting an effective risk reduction response in case of disaster in the previous year / total number of participants interviewed.
SEP report improvement or no deterioration in the food security status in the surrounding areas.	Based on selected questions from FSS QAT for stakeholder interview (see subchapter 1.4).	More than half of interviewed stakeholders report improvement or no deterioration in the food security status in the surrounding area.

Table 2: Core monitoring indicators for food security

In addition, the EHS Guidelines on perennial or annual crops production⁵² provide a table and description of indicators, their monitoring criteria, and examples of measurements which can complement the above-stated indicators to establish the monitoring plan.

3.2 Capacity Development

The ESMP may provide information on management arrangements for the project, including the structure and responsibilities required to ensure the reduction of food security risks.

The business may designate a food security focal point that is responsible for management plans on food security risk. This is because food security is associated with diverse environmental and social risks that require oversight on the specific topic. The focal point should have received training on food security, as well as nutrition, and shall be able to implement and monitor the measures taken on food security risk in the farm. Depending on the context and capacity of the business, recruiting an expert in food security nutrition might be necessary.

The focal point may provide trainings on food security and nutrition to the business management and the farm workers. Capacity development of the management on the topic of food security can empower effective decision-making—facilitating

the proper implementation of measures aimed at reducing the risk and improving food security on the farm and in the area of influence. Trained workers on the topic can expand their food security knowledge to their families, enabling more people to be equipped to make informed decisions and take sustainable actions (healthy diets, sustainable agriculture production, food storage and preservation, food safety, etc.).

3.3 Grievance Mechanism

The ESMP shall describe an effective grievance mechanism that will be established for the agriculture development and expansion plan.

The grievance mechanism shall enable workers, contract farmers, communities, and external stakeholders to file complaints and grievances for the business itself and the agriculture development and expansion plan. Right-to-food-related complaints and grievances shall be filed using the mechanism. The mechanism shall be communicated to all people on the farm or in the area of influence and shall be easily accessible. In addition, the system shall allow anonymity of complaints and grievances and resolve them in an effective, timely, and appropriate manner.⁵³ All complaints and grievances shall be recorded including the process taken to address them, and the outcomes of the process.



References

- 1 FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), IFAD (International Fund for Agriculture Development), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), WFP (World Food Programme), and WHO (World Health Organization), *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022: Repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable* (Rome: FAO, 2022): <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0639en>.
- 2 ILO (International Labour Organization), *Decent Work in the World's Least Developed Countries* (Geneva: ILO, 2019): https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/publication/wcms_437170.pdf.
- 3 IFAD, *Why small farms are key to the future of food and how we can support them*. IFAD Blogs. Accessed May 12, 2023: <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/blog/why-small-farms-are-key-to-the-future-of-food-and-how-we-can-support-them>.
- 4 Jellason et al., *Winners and losers: Exploring the differential impacts of agricultural expansion in Ethiopia and Ghana, Current research in environmental sustainability* (Amsterdam: Elsevier B.V, 2022)
- 5 FAO, *The right to food and responsible investment in agriculture and food systems: Towards eradicating hunger and malnutrition: enhancing responsible investment in agriculture to contribute to the right to adequate food* (Rome: FAO, 2021): <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0639en>
- 6 Mena-Vasconez et al., *Food or flowers? Contested transformations of community food security and water use priorities under new legal and market regimes in Ecuador's highlands* (Journal of Rural Studies, volume 44, 2016)

- 7 Blackley, J., Tedeja-Gonzalez, J C., Rohr, V., Rocio Vazquez Uribe, S., Food security in Impact Assessment, International Association for Impact Assessment, Fastips no. 24 (Fargo; IAIA, 2023): https://www.iaia.org/uploads/pdf/Fastips_24-Food-security_1.pdf
- 8 Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *General comment 12 on the right to adequate food* (art. 11) (1999)
- 9 FAO, *The right to food and responsible investment in agriculture and food systems: Towards eradicating hunger and malnutrition: enhancing responsible investment in agriculture to contribute to the right to adequate food* (Rome: FAO, 2021)
- 10 FAO, *An Introduction to the Basic concepts of Food Security* (Rome: FAO, 2008): <https://www.fao.org/3/al936e/al936e00.pdf>
- 11/12 FAO, *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Food and Agriculture: A Scoping Paper* (Rome: FAO, 2020): https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1920/Gender/GEWE_Scoping_Paper-FINAL040ct.pdf
- 13/14 IFC, *Doing better business through effective public consultation and disclosure* (Washington, D.C.: IFC, 1998): <https://www.ifc.org/en/insights-reports/1990/publications-handbook-doingbetterbusiness--wci--1319576642349>
- 15 Blackley J et al, *Food Security in Impact Assesment* (Fargo: IAIA, 2023)
- 16 FSS, *Handbook for auditors* (Version 1.0, June 2020) (Bonn: FSS, 2020):<https://foodsecuritystandard.org/en/publication/handbook-for-auditors-2/>
- 17 For a definition of the area of influence of the operation and direct, indirect and cumulative impact, please refer to IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social sustainability at <https://www.ifc.org/en/insights-reports/2012/ifc-performance-standards>

- 18** To access the NaFSA tool, see the Food Security Standard website at <https://foodsecuritystandard.org/nafsa-tool/>
- 19** FSS, *Handbook for auditors* (Version 1.0, June 2020) (Bonn: FSS, 2020)
- 20** UNDP, Generic Terms of Reference for Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) Accessed June 5 2023:
https://info.undp.org/sites/bpps/SES_Toolkit/SES%20Document%20Library/Uploaded%20October%202016/Generic%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20for%20ESIA.pdf.
- 21/22** FAO, *The right to food and responsible investment in agriculture and food systems: Towards eradicating hunger and malnutrition: enhancing responsible investment in agriculture to contribute to the right to adequate food* (Rome: FAO, 2021)
- 23** WHO, *Improving Early Childhood Development: WHO Guideline* (Geneva; WHO, 2020):
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/97892400020986>
- 24** FAO, *Social protection for food security A report by The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition* (Rome; FAO, 2012):
<https://www.fao.org/3/me422e/me422e.pdf>
- 25** ILO, *Empowering Women in Rural Economy* (Geneva; ILO, 2019):
https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/publication/wcms_601071.pdf
- 26** FAO, *Social protection for food security A report by The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition* (Rome; FAO, 2012)
- 27** USA Agency for International Development, Fact Sheet: *Food Security and Gender* (Washington: USAID, 2009) <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/46460857.pdf>

- 29** IFC, *Perennial Crop Production Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines* (Washington D.C: IFC, 2016): <https://www.ifc.org/en/insights-reports/2015/publications-policy-ehs-perennial>
- 30/31** IFC, *Annual Crop Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines* (Washington D.C: IFC, 2016) : <https://www.ifc.org/en/insights-reports/2016/publications-policy-ehs-annual-crop-production>
- 32/33** Jellason, Davies, Adolph, Neina, *Understanding the winners and losers of agricultural expansion in Ghana* (London: IIED, 2022)
- 34** Nugun P. Jellason et al., *Winners and losers: Exploring the differential impacts of agricultural expansion in Ethiopia and Ghana, Current research in environmental sustainability* (Amsterdam, Elsevier B.V, 2022)
- 35** FAO, *Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Farmers' Varieties/Landracess* (Rome: FAO, 2019): <https://www.fao.org/3/ca5601en/ca5601en.pdf>
- 36** FAO, *Decent rural employment for food security: A case for action* (Rome: FAO, 2012): <https://www.fao.org/3/i2750e/i2750e00.pdf>
- 37** The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), *Water for Food Security and Nutrition* (Rome: CFS,2015): <https://www.fao.org/3/av046e/av046e.pdf>
- 38** FAO, *The status of women in agrifood systems* (Rome: FAO, 2023): <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5343en>
- 39/40** FAO, *Decent rural employment for food security: A case for action* (Rome: FAO, 2012)
- 41** N. Jellason, J. Davies, B. Adolph, D. Neina, *Understanding the winners and losers of agricultural expansion in Ghana* (London: IIED, 2022): <https://www.iied.org/20751x>

- 42** UNDP, *Generic Terms of Reference for Environmental and Social Impact Assessments* (ESIA)
- 43** IFC, *Perennial Crop Production Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines* (Washington D.C: IFC, 2016)
- 44/45** IFC, *Annual Crop Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines* (Washington D.C: IFC, 2016)
- 46** FAO, *International Code of Conduct on Pesticides Management* (revised 2014) (Rome: FAO, 2014):
http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/Code/CODE_2014Sep_ENG.pdf
- 47** WHO, *Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification* (Geneva: WHO 2019):
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240005662>
- 48** The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2016: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22006A0731\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22006A0731(01))
- 49/50** FSS, *Food Security Standard Principles, Criteria, and Indicators*. (Bonn: FSS, 2020):
<https://foodsecuritystandard.org/publication/fss-criteria-indicators/>
- 51** UNDP, *Generic Terms of Reference for Environmental and Social Impact Assessments* (ESIA) (Washington D.C: IFC, 2016)
- 52** IFC, *Perennial Crop Production Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines* (Washington D.C: IFC, 2016)
- 53** FSS, *Handbook for auditors* (Version 1.0, June 2020) (Bonn: FSS, 2020)

PUBLICATION DETAILS

PUBLISHER: Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e. V. & Meo Carbon Solutions

DATE: January 2024

AUTHORS/

EDITORS: Cécile Poitevin (Meo Carbon Solutions)
Kyuhee Do (Meo Carbon Solutions)
McCall Mash (Meo Carbon Solutions)
Lisa Heinemann (Welthungerhilfe)
Theresa Heering (Welthungerhilfe)
Laura Mack (Welthungerhilfe)

info@foodsecuritystandard.org

www.foodsecuritystandard.org



With support from



by decision of the
German Bundestag