

United Nations bodies with an interest in food and nutrition security

(Adapted from Shaw 2004:207)

UN Body	Full Name	Key Focus	Website
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	<p>FAO's activities comprise four main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting information within reach; • Sharing policy expertise; • Providing a meeting place for nations; • Bringing knowledge to the field. 	http://www.fao.org/
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	<p>The IAEA's mission is guided by the interests and needs of Member States, strategic plans and the vision embodied in the IAEA Statute. Three main pillars - or areas of work - underpin the IAEA's mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and Security; • Science and Technology; and, • Safeguards and Verification <p>For food: Irradiation of food</p>	http://www.iaea.org/
IBRD/IDA	The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association	<p>The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) aims to reduce poverty in middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries by promoting sustainable development through loans, guarantees, risk management products, and analytical and advisory services. Established in 1944 as the original institution of the World Bank Group, IBRD is structured like a cooperative that is owned and operated for the benefit of its 187 member countries.</p> <p>The International Development Association (IDA) is the part of the World Bank that helps the world's poorest countries. Established in 1960, IDA aims to reduce poverty by providing interest-free credits and grants for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve people's living conditions.</p> <p>For food: lending for food security and nutrition improvement, CGIAR Secretariat</p>	<p>http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTABO/UTUS/EXTIBRD/0,,menuPK:3046081~pagePK:64168427~piPK:64168435~theSitePK:3046012,0.html</p> <p>and</p> <p>http://www.worldbank.org/ida/</p>
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	<p>IFAD is dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries. Seventy-five per cent of the world's poorest people - 1.4 billion women, children and men - live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and related activities for their livelihoods.</p> <p>Working with rural poor people, governments, donors, non-governmental organizations and many other partners, IFAD focuses on country-specific solutions, which can involve increasing rural poor peoples' access to financial services, markets, technology, land and other natural resources.</p>	http://www.ifad.org/
ILO	International Labour Organization	The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the only tripartite U.N. agency with government, employer, and worker representatives. This tripartite structure makes the	http://www.ilo.org

		<p>ILO a unique forum in which the governments and the social partners of the economy of its 183 Member States can freely and openly debate and elaborate labour standards and policies.</p> <p>The ILO has 4 strategic objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote and realize standards and fundamental principles and rights at work 2. Create greater opportunities for women and men to decent employment and income 3. Enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all 4. Strengthen tripartism and social dialogue 	
IMF	International Monetary Fund	<p>The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 187 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.</p> <p>For food: Financing of food imports</p>	http://www.imf.org
UN-INSTRAW	UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women	<p>UN-INSTRAW is the leading UN institute devoted to research, training and knowledge management to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Through alliance building with governments around the world, the UN System, academia, civil society, the private sector and other actors, UN-INSTRAW conducts action-oriented research, creates synergies for knowledge management, and builds capacity in organizations working toward gender equality.</p> <p>UN-INSTRAW works to promote women's security, development and participation through three programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending violence against women—in the home, at work, in the street • Contributing to the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, among others • Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration, gender and remittances—looking at the impact of migration on national and community development, women's human and economic rights, and the formation of transnational families • Human Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening women's role in politics and decision-making • Making equality central to good governance • Advisory services to promote women's participation and gender mainstreaming • Contributions to the UN Foundation's Fund for UN-INSTRAW can be directed to the overall mission of UN-INSTRAW. <p>For food: Women and food security</p>	http://www.unfoundation.org/donate/instraw.html

UNFPA	UN Population Fund	<p>UNFPA is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty.</p> <p>The three core areas of work - reproductive health, gender equality and population and development strategies - are inextricably related.</p> <p>For food: Food security and population question</p>	http://www.unfpa.org/
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees/ UN Refugee Agency	<p>The Agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.</p> <p>For food: Refugees and food security and nutrition issues</p>	http://www.unhcr.org/
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)	<p>UNICEF's Areas of Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child survival and development • Basic education and gender equality • HIV/AIDS and children • Child protection • Policy advocacy and partnerships <p>For food: Food security and nutrition programmes; mothers and children; structural adjustment</p>	http://www.unicef.org/
UNITAR	UN Institute for Training and Research	<p>UNITAR is concentrating on the means of delivering adult training and professional learning; how to monitor and evaluate their impact on behaviour; and how to capitalize on capacity development.</p> <p>In addition, UNITAR conducts research on knowledge systems to explore innovative and modern approaches for high-quality training, with the goal to be a centre of excellence, measured by international standards.</p> <p>For food: Training programmes in food security, nutrition and related issues</p>	http://www.unitar.org/
UN Regional Commissions (5)		<p>The Regional Commissions are the regional outposts of the United Nations in their respective regions. They are also an integral part of their regional institutional landscape. Stationed in five regions of the world</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 2. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), 3. Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), 4. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and 5. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) <p>share key objectives aiming to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed</p>	http://www.un.org/regionalcommissions/index.html

		development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to support regional sustainable development by contributing to bridging economic, social and environmental gaps among their member countries and subregions. For food: food security and nutrition in regional policy and context.	
UNRISD	UN Research Institute for Social Development	The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) is an autonomous UN agency engaging in multidisciplinary research on the social dimensions of contemporary problems affecting development. Through its research, UNRISD stimulates dialogue and contributes to policy debates on key issues of social development within and outside the United Nations system. For food: Research on food security and related issues.	http://www.unrisd.org/
UN Commissioner for Human Rights		The OHCHR is the United Nations office with primary responsibility for promoting and protecting the enjoyment and full realization of human rights for all. The Office's priorities are set out in two key strategic documents: the OHCHR Plan of Action and its Strategic Management Plan 2010-2011 . For food: Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (SRRTF), Food and a Human Right (Right to Food).	http://www.ohchr.org/
UN-HABITAT	UN Centre for Human Settlements	The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. For food: food security and viable and sustainable settlements	http://www.unhabitat.org/
UN DSPD	Division for Social Policy and Development (former Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs)	The Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) is part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat. The Division seeks to strengthen international cooperation for social development, particularly in the areas of poverty eradication, productive employment and decent work and the social inclusion of older persons, youth, family, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, persons in situations of conflict and other groups or persons marginalized from society and development. The Division is functionally structured into the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Perspective on Development Branch • Social Integration Branch • Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities • Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues • Civil Society and Outreach Unit • Technical Cooperation Unit For food: Food policy in context of social development.	http://social.un.org/

UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development	<p>The organization works to fulfil this mandate by carrying out three key functions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It functions as a forum for intergovernmental deliberations, supported by discussions with experts and exchanges of experience, aimed at consensus building. 2. It undertakes research, policy analysis and data collection for the debates of government representatives and experts. 3. It provides technical assistance tailored to the specific requirements of developing countries, with special attention to the needs of the least developed countries and of economies in transition. When appropriate, UNCTAD cooperates with other organizations and donor countries in the delivery of technical assistance. <p>For food: For trade and agriculture subsidies.</p>	http://www.unctad.org/
UNDHA	United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs	<p>United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs addresses humanitarian affairs. They set up new systems to improve the delivery of relief, including access through the Internet to an enhanced database, known as "Relief Web".</p> <p>For food: Humanitarian operations.</p>	http://www.un.org/en/humanitarian/
UNDP	UN Development Programme	<p>UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.</p> <p>UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals. Our focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Governance • Poverty Reduction • Crisis Prevention and Recovery • Environment and Energy • HIV/AIDS <p>For food: Food cooperation and grant aid for programmes and projects for food security and nutrition, management of round-table process; also linked to MDGs.</p>	http://www.undp.org/
UNEP	UN Environment Programme	<p>The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) coordinates United Nations environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.</p> <p>For food: Food production, food security, environment and sustainability</p>	www.unep.org/
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	<p>UNESCO works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values. The broad goals and concrete objectives of the international community – as set out in the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – underpin all UNESCO's strategies and activities. Thus</p>	www.unesco.org

		<p>UNESCO's unique competencies in education, the sciences, culture and communication and information contribute towards the realization of those goals. The Organization focuses, in particular, on two global priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa • Gender equality <p>And on a number of overarching objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning • Mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development • Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges • Fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace • Building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication <p>For food: formal and information education on food and nutrition and related issues; recognition of food as intangible cultural heritage.</p>	
UN Secretariat and Departments (New York)		<p>The Secretariat — an international staff working in duty stations around the world — carries out the diverse day-to-day work of the Organization. It services the other principal organs of the United Nations and administers the programmes and policies laid down by them.</p> <p>For food: UN General Assembly and Security Council; general oversight, political questions, macro policy; structural adjustment, population, environment, sustainability.</p>	http://www.un.org/en/mainbodies/secretariat/
UNU (including WIDER)	UN University	<p>The United Nations University is the academic arm of the UN system implementing research and educational programmes in the area of sustainable development with the aim of assisting developing countries.</p> <p>For food: research and teaching on food security and related issues.</p>	http://unu.edu/
WFP	World Food Programme	<p>WFP is the food aid arm of the United Nations system. Food aid is one of the many instruments that can help to promote food security. The policies governing the use of World Food Programme food aid must be oriented towards the objective of eradicating hunger and poverty. The ultimate objective of food aid should be the elimination of the need for food aid.</p> <p>Targeted interventions are needed to help to improve the lives of the poorest people - people who, either permanently or during crisis periods, are unable to produce enough food or do not have the resources to otherwise obtain the food that they and their households require for active and healthy lives.</p> <p>Consistent with its mandate, which also reflects the principle of universality, WFP will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use food aid to support economic and social development; 	http://www.wfp.org/

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meet refugee and other emergency food needs, and the associated logistics support; and • promote world food security in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations and FAO. <p>The core policies and strategies that govern WFP activities are to provide food aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to save lives in refugee and other emergency situations; • to improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times in their lives; and • to help build assets and promote the self-reliance of poor people and communities, particularly through labour-intensive works programmes. 	
WHO	World Health Organization	<p>WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.</p> <p>In the 21st century, health is a shared responsibility, involving equitable access to essential care and collective defence against transnational threats.</p> <p>For food: Health and nutrition programmes; food standards (CODEX, with FAO)</p>	http://www.who.int/en/