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World Food Programme Background Guide 2021

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2021 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the World Food Programme (WFP). This year's staff is: Directors Alliyah Edwards (Conference A) and Martina Paoletti (Conference B). Alliyah is a Legal Administrative Assistant for a Legal Aid firm that services Florida residents statewide. She is also pursuing her M.A. in Criminal Justice Administration. Martina Paoletti holds a Master of Arts in International and European Politics and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations. She currently works as news editor for CNBC.

The topics under discussion for the World Food Programme are:

- I. Smallholder Agriculture Market Support to Achieve Zero Hunger
- II. Improving Food Assistance for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency, within the United Nations (UN) framework, assisting 97 million people across 88 countries each year. The WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for its efforts to combat hunger, for bettering conditions for peace in conflict-addicted areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict. The WFP is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 17. For the purposes of NMUN•NY 2021, the committee has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues within the mandate of WFP related to the overall function of the organization.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 1 March 2021 in accordance with the guidelines in the [Position Paper Guide](#) and the [NMUN•NY Position Papers](#) website.

Two resources, available to download from the [NMUN website](#), that serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions are the:

1. [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#) - explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) - include the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the HRHA Department, Ismail Dogar (Conference A) and Tobias Dietrich (Conference B), at usg.hrha@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference

Sincerely,

Conference A

Alliyah L. Edwards, *Director*

Conference B

Martina Paoletti, *Director*

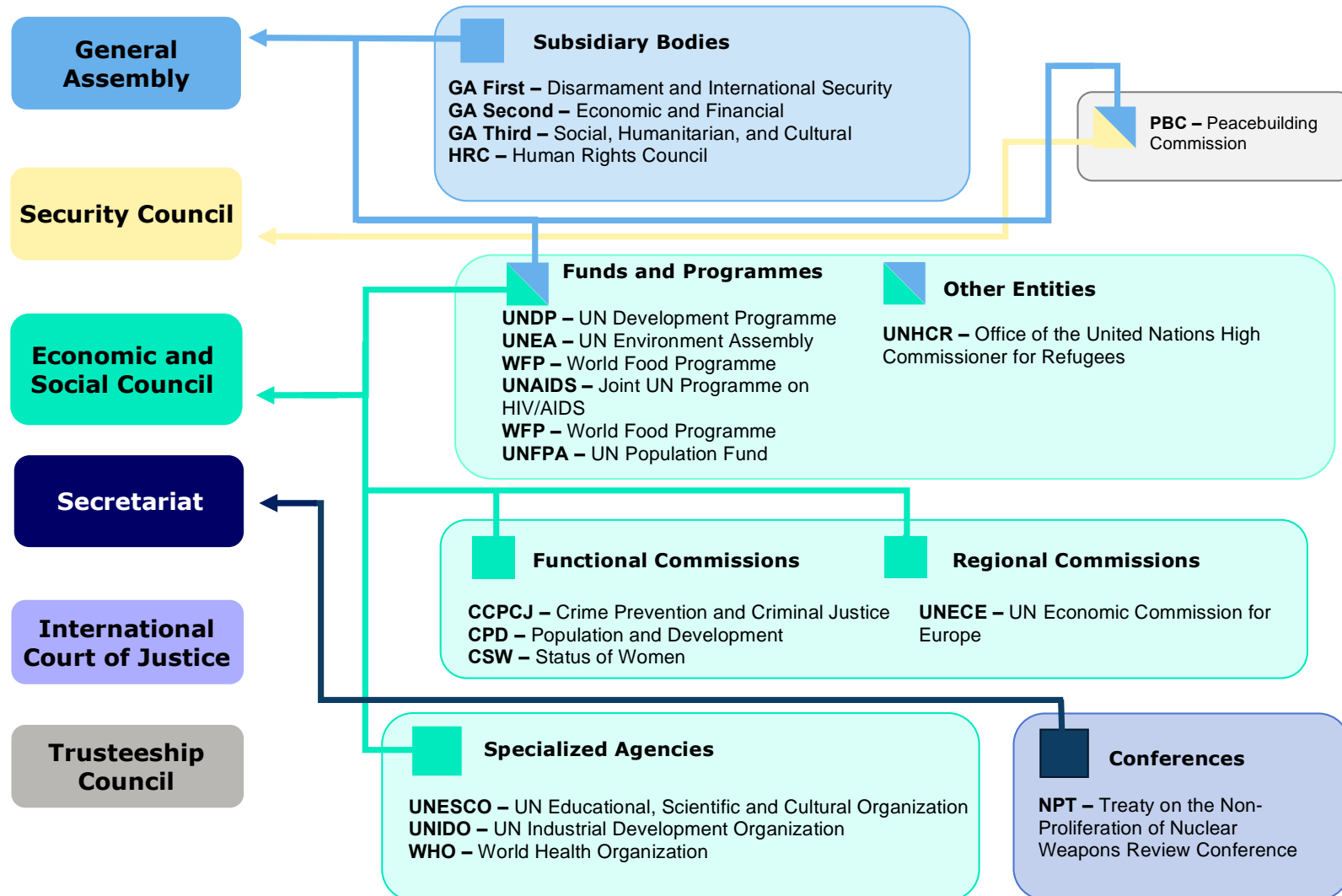


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United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at NMUN•NY and demonstrates the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the UN system.



Committee Overview

Introduction

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the United Nations (UN) agency mandated with providing and coordinating food aid, and is the leading international organization fighting hunger worldwide.¹ WFP is committed to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda), specifically Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, to end hunger and achieve food security by 2030.² The agency focuses on emergency assistance, delivering humanitarian aid, and supporting food security programs in least-developed countries and low-income countries for individuals affected by natural disasters, food shortages, poverty, and conflict.³ Each year, WFP assists 80 million people on average in more than 80 countries.⁴ The latest figures in 2020 recognized that there are over 138 million people, suffering from hunger worldwide, with an estimated death toll to be around 750,000 people.⁵ Additionally, with the world in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, many individuals face new challenges regarding the ability to work or grow food.⁶ Due to this increase, the WFP is providing more aid than ever before.⁷

The **World Food Programme (WFP)** is a programme and fund of the United Nations, reporting to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

WFP is an “autonomous joint subsidiary program of the UN and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).”⁸ It is one of the three Rome-based UN agencies and international institutions, along with FAO and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), which work towards the common goal of eradicating hunger, each of them with a different mandate for achieving this vision.⁹ IFAD mobilizes and offers financial resources on concession terms for agricultural and rural development projects.¹⁰ FAO focuses on the overall initiative of food security on a global level, developing programs and strategies to raise nutrition levels and increase sustainable agriculture activities.¹¹ The three agencies work together to find solutions on emergencies by setting collective targets and goals, cooperating on food aid projects, and collaborating on the distribution of information and press releases.¹²

At NMUN•NY 2021, we are simulating the Executive Board of WFP in terms of composition and size; however, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Executive Board during the conference. For the purposes of NMUN•NY 2021, and corresponding with the educational mission of the conference, the committee has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues within the mandate of WFP in line with the overall function of the organization.

In 1961, George McGovern, Director of “Food for Peace” in the United States, proposed a program for the delivery of multilateral food aid.¹³ Seven months later, the FAO Conference adopted resolution 1/61 (1961), and the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 1714 (1961), which established the WFP on a

¹ UN WFP, *Overview*, 2020.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ UN WFP, *COVID-19 pandemic*, 2020.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 13.

⁹ UN WFP, *UN Agencies and International Institutions*, 2020.

¹⁰ IFAD, *Our approach*.

¹¹ FAO, *What we do*, 2020.

¹² UN WFP, *UN Agencies and International Institutions*, 2020.

¹³ UN WFP, *History*, 2020.

three-year pilot basis.¹⁴ Food aid services started in 1962 to respond to an earthquake in Northern Iran, a destructive typhoon in Thailand, and the resettlement of five million Algerian refugees.¹⁵ In 1965, FAO and the UN General Assembly adopted two additional resolutions that extended WFP's mandate "for as long as multilateral food aid is found feasible and desirable."¹⁶ WFP's first governing body was the Intergovernmental Committee, which began in 1962 and was subsequently replaced by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) in 1976.¹⁷ On 1 January 1996, the CFA was reconstituted from a 42-member body to the current 36-member Executive Board.¹⁸

Governance, Structure, and Membership

WFP is comprised of two entities: the Executive Board and the Secretariat.¹⁹

Executive Board

WFP's Executive Board supervises all programs and initiatives.²⁰ The 36-member body meets three times per year in Rome, Italy, at the WFP Headquarters.²¹ All decisions of the Executive Board are reached by consensus.²² The substantive function of the Board is to make immediate decisions on funding and operational needs, as well as to establish long-term policy goals.²³ The Board's administrative and management functions include approving program proposals submitted by the Executive Director and reviewing the administration and execution of these programs.²⁴ The Executive Board reports annually to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and FAO regarding its decisions and policy recommendations, budget, organizational administration, strategic outlook, and the development of global statistics regarding food and nutrition.²⁵ WFP reports on its decisions and recommendations during its Executive Board sessions to the General Assembly, as outlined in the WFP General Regulations.²⁶ Members are elected by both ECOSOC and FAO, with each body electing 18 members for a three-year term.²⁷

Secretariat

The Executive Director heads the Secretariat of WFP.²⁸ The Secretariat and the Executive Director are accountable to the Executive Board for the administration and implementation of WFP programs, projects, and other activities.²⁹ The UN Secretary-General and the Director-General of FAO appoint the Executive Director in consultation with the Executive Board members for a five-year term and up to one reappointment.³⁰ The Executive Director represents WFP in all matters, including as a liaison to Member

¹⁴ FAO, *Utilization of food surpluses – World Food Program (FAO/1/61)*, 1961; UN General Assembly, *World Food Programme (A/RES/1714 (XVI))*, 1961.

¹⁵ UN WFP, *History*, 2020.

¹⁶ UN General Assembly, *Continuation of the World Food Programme (A/RES/2095(XX))*, 1965, p. 32; UN WFP, *History*, 2020.

¹⁷ UN WFP, *Executive Board*, 2020.

¹⁸ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 267.

¹⁹ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 7.

²⁰ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 267; UN WFP, *Members of the Board*, 2020.

²¹ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 267.

²² UN WFP, *Executive Board*, 2020.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, pp. 8-9.

²⁵ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 267.

²⁶ UN WFP, *Decisions and Recommendations of the 2018 Annual Session of the Executive Board*, 2020.

²⁷ UN WFP, *Members of the Board*, 2020.

²⁸ UN WFP, *Executive Board Secretariat*, 2020.

²⁹ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 11.

³⁰ Ibid.

States.³¹ David Beasley has served as Executive Director since 2017.³² In the foreword of the 2019 *Annual Performance Report*, Mr. Beasley noted how much of the success of 2019 would not have been possible without the support of donors, who helped to fund a record breaking year with over 8 billion in contributions.³³ With the year 2019 being compared to the severity of World War II, he was able to highlight the varying work efforts helped prevent famine in South Sudan and Zimbabwe.³⁴ Mr. Beasley then emphasized the importance of the work that still needed go be done by WFP.³⁵ He said “in the decade that remains for WFP an its partners to achieve zero hunger and the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to step up the pace and scale of action if we are going to reach our destination.”³⁶

Funding

Predictable funding is paramount for the effective work of the WFP. The voluntary contributions by Member States is the single principal source of funding followed by corporations and individuals.³⁷ In addition, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund also supports WFP programs; WFP continues to be its largest recipient in 2020, receiving \$191.4 million.³⁸ As of July 2020, Contributions to the WFP, totaled around 4.6 billion.³⁹ Some of the largest donations have come from the United States,, Germany, United Kingdom, and Canada.⁴⁰ With the launch of the *WFP Strategic Plan* in 2017, WFP has established a new financial framework to enhance transparency and accountability in resource management, demonstrate value for money, and improve decision making.⁴¹ As part of the new framework, a country portfolio budget (CPB) approach facilitates the implementation of country strategic plans (CSP), which means that funds are allocated per country’s need and each country is given an action plan to facilitate sustainable solutions that are specific to each region.⁴² The CPB approach formalizes and better aligns WFP activities with other UN agencies supporting the achievement of joint performance, planning, and resource mobilization.⁴³ The budget is based on the calendar year, and linked to the SDGs targets and results.⁴⁴

In times of emergency, WFP, FAO, and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) may issue joint appeals for donations due to a shortage in funds for humanitarian assistance.⁴⁵ WFP has periodically been forced to cut assistance, as received funds regularly fall below the appeals made, such as in Syria, where the organization received 78% of the funds sought.⁴⁶ However, the new financial framework aims to increase alignment between resources and results, enhancing the CSPs to strengthen the financial links of short and long-term operational goals.⁴⁷ The Executive Director is responsible for referring programs, projects, and activities to the Executive Board, where Member States review and approve the allocation of funds.⁴⁸

³¹ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 13.

³² UN WFP, *Governance and leadership*, 2020.

³³ UN WFP, *2019 Annual Performance Report*, 2020.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ UN, WFP, *Funding and donors*, 2020.

³⁸ UN CERF, *2020 Allocations by Agency*, 2020.

³⁹ UN WFP, *Contributions to WFP in 2020*, 2020.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017, pp. 44-45.

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ UN WFP, *Race Against Time to Save Millions of Lives in Yemen*, 2017.

⁴⁶ UN WFP, *Annual performance report for 2018*, 2018; UN WFP, *WFP Forced to Make Deeper Cuts in Food Assistance for Syrian Refugees Due to Lack of Funding (For the Media)*, 2016.

⁴⁷ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017, pp. 44-45.

⁴⁸ UN WFP, *Executive Board*, 2018; UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, pp. 9, 12.

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

Established by the CFA in December 1994 during its 38th session, WFP's mission statement outlines the operational priorities of the agency as: "(1) to use food aid to support economic and social development; (2) to meet refugee and other emergency and protracted relief food needs; and (3) to promote world food security in accordance with the recommendations of the UN and FAO."⁴⁹ The new "WFP Core Values," a list of seven policy-guiding categories, underline these priorities by formulating ethical guidelines concerning inclusiveness, integrity, action-orientation, accountability, and transparency.⁵⁰ WFP's Strategic Plan is a conceptual framework for an innovated operational and planning structure and cooperation with other organizations.⁵¹ It aims at increasing WFP's effectiveness by focusing on its core strengths: intervention in cases of disruption, structural poverty, and/or transitions/recovery.⁵²

WFP's functions are to:

"(a) ... aid in economic and social development, concentrating its efforts and resources on the neediest people and countries; (b) to assist in the continuum from emergency relief to development by giving priority to supporting disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation and post-disaster rehabilitation activities; (c) to assist in meeting refugee and other emergency and protracted relief food needs ... (d) to provide services to bilateral donors, [UN] agencies and non-governmental organizations for operations which are consistent with the purposes of WFP and which complement WFP's operations."⁵³

WFP selects which projects to support either upon request of the UN Secretary-General or through Member State reports.⁵⁴ Assistance agreements are put in place with national governments, which are expected to give full support to WFP in the monitoring and implementation of programs.⁵⁵

When responding to humanitarian emergencies, WFP operates within the Cluster Approach, which coordinates key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners, such as WFP, UNICEF, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.⁵⁶ The approach was developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the UN's emergency response mechanism, and is managed through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).⁵⁷ Cluster leads are responsible for technical knowledge of one particular aspect of humanitarian response; they coordinate aid delivery and serve as the central point of contact for governments and regional centers.⁵⁸ WFP leads the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication Clusters and co-leads the Food Security Cluster with FAO.⁵⁹

In addition to handling emergencies and development programs, WFP provides protracted relief and recovery for regions emerging from disaster.⁶⁰ This includes food for education and training programs, relief for refugees, and providing food for people in the wake of damage to infrastructure or crops.⁶¹ WFP also works with the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), which gives air support for over 700

⁴⁹ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 5.

⁵⁰ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, pp. 5-6.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 18-19.

⁵⁶ Phillips, *FAO: its origins, formation, and evolution. 1945-1981*, 1981, p. 169.

⁵⁷ UN OCHA, *OCHA on Message: The Cluster Approach*, 2012; Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *IASC*.

⁵⁸ UN OCHA, *OCHA on Message: The Cluster Approach*, 2012.

⁵⁹ UN WFP, *Food Security Cluster*, 2020.

⁶⁰ UN WFP, *Protracted Relief and Recovery*, 2015.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

humanitarian organizations around the world.⁶² For example, UNHAS provides transportation in places where air travel is the only means to reach populations in need of humanitarian assistance, such as Chad and the islands in the Caribbean after the recent hurricanes.⁶³ This is particularly important when peacekeeping missions finish their mandates, but aid is still required.⁶⁴

Adopted in 2015, the 2030 Agenda the SDGs constitute a new horizon for action.⁶⁵ WFP is committed to the 2030 Agenda, specifically, SDG 2 (end hunger and achieve food security by 2030), and SDG 17 (promote partnership for the goals through capacity building and services to humanitarian sector).⁶⁶ Adopted in July 2017, the *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)* provides a new operational framework for the organization, leveraging WFP's primary strengths and capacities in humanitarian response, and aims to align the strategies and objectives of WFP with relevant SDGs.⁶⁷ The plan formulates two strategic goals, "support countries to achieve zero hunger" and "partner to support implementation of the SDGs."⁶⁸ These form the basis for five strategic objectives: ending hunger, improving nutrition, achieving food security, supporting SDG implementation, and partnering for SDG results.⁶⁹ The anticipated results of the objectives coincide with SDG targets, including SDG Target 2.1 and SDG target 2.2.⁷⁰ This continues WFP's efforts to transition from being a food aid agency to becoming a food assistance agency.⁷¹ Food assistance goes beyond aid by delivering holistic "hunger solutions" such as providing access to food through vouchers or cash transfers, to guarantee the provision of a given quantity, quality, or value of food.⁷² WFP's focus on SDG 17 can be seen in its close cooperation with the international community and civil society.⁷³ Partnerships with civil society play a key role in humanitarian aid delivery and food security, with approximately 80% of WFP's food and cash assistance is being distributed with the support of its local civil society partners.⁷⁴

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

Recent sessions, led by Executive Director, David Beasley, covered ways to help mitigate the potential spread of the COVID-19, while also ensuring that the demand needed from around the world continued to be met.⁷⁵ With the pandemic changing everyday field operations for on-the-ground employees, totaling 97% of its workforce, WFP had to implement more creative and sustainable ways to keep their staff safe.⁷⁶ These processes included medical evacuation and other support for workers.⁷⁷ Precautions of the health and safety of workers remains important, especially as over one million people worldwide had died as a result of COVID-19.⁷⁸ With the demand for food and aid assistance rising every day, the WFP understands that continued contributions from Members States, as well as agency donations will be vital to the success of helping millions of vulnerable people.⁷⁹

⁶² UN WFP, *Supply Chain*, 2020.

⁶³ UN WFP, *UN Humanitarian Air Service*, 2020.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid., p. 4-5.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Omamo et al., *Innovations in food assistance: issues, lessons and implications*, 2010, pp. 3-4.

⁷³ UN WFP, *Update on WFP's Role in the Collective Humanitarian Response*, 2018.

⁷⁴ UN WFP, *Non-governmental Organizations*, 2018; UN WFP, *NGO Partnerships, Strengthening National Capacity*, 2020.

⁷⁵ UN WFP, *2020 Current and future strategic issues*, 2020.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

Additionally, WFP has been providing medical equipment to 78 Member States, and aircraft passenger and cargo assistance to countries whose commercial airlines were severely effected by COVID-19.⁸⁰ Challenges have been discussed in regard to the achievement of the SDGs, as combating world hunger has worsened and may be prolonged due COVID-19.⁸¹ This is largely in part to the loss of livelihoods for millions of people that were already on the brink of poverty.⁸² Despite these new setbacks, the agency continues to remain focused on working towards promoting zero hunger by 2030 as outlined in the SDGs.⁸³ Recent meetings within the WFP have sought to address some of the various concerns including: food insecurity, supply chain constraints, and the impacts COVID-19 has had on world hunger.⁸⁴

Some areas of the world have required a greater amount of the WFP's attention, namely in the Middle East.⁸⁵ These include the conflict in Yemen and the civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic.⁸⁶ The crisis in Yemen has continued to be in the forefront of WFP efforts in combating famine and malnutrition.⁸⁷ Prior to the armed conflict which started in 2015, Yemen was already considered to be a State that has ranked low in the Human Development Index.⁸⁸ Over 20 million Yemenis are suffering at the hands of food insecurity.⁸⁹ Another 3.65 million Yemenis are displaced due to the prolonged conflict.⁹⁰ To help alleviate these challenges, the WFP has been providing in-kind food assistance, cash assistance, nutrition assistance, assistance to refugees, school feedings, and logistics, all in the fight to stop the famine in Yemen.⁹¹

Additionally, WFP has continued to provide assistance and efforts to Syria as they are entering into their tenth year of humanitarian crisis.⁹² Conflict along with economic disparity and displacement of persons due to violence is pushing Syrian families to rely on the WFP now more than ever.⁹³ In 2019, 1.8 million people were displaced.⁹⁴ Currently around 4.5 million people in Syria receive food assistance each month from WFP, as meals are crucial to the survival of many.⁹⁵ WFP is committed to assisting Syria with a funding requirement of \$197 million USD until this November.⁹⁶

Conclusion

WFP tasks range from emergency relief and development assistance to providing support as communities rebuild themselves after natural disasters and conflicts.⁹⁷ WFP's work is a coordinated effort with other UN bodies, NGOs, private stakeholders, and governments to eradicate hunger and provide assistance to the most vulnerable populations.⁹⁸ WFP's work is action-oriented and very closely aligned to the 2030 Agenda.⁹⁹ The Strategic Plan, builds on the activities of WFP and policies of the Executive

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Global Network Against Food Crises, *2020 Global Report on Food Crises*, 2020.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ UN WFP, *Yemen*, 2020.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ UN WFP, *Situation Report: Yemen*, 2020, p. 1.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² UN WFP, *Syria Emergency*, 2020.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ UN WFP, *The Year in Review: 2018, 2019, 2020*.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

Board, and further align them in the context of the 2030 Agenda as it pertains to eradicating world hunger.¹⁰⁰

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 23 August 2020 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 overarching global goals with 169 targets between them that were approved by the Member States in order to set the work of the United Nations from 2015 to 2030. As a result, it impacts the work of WFP moving forward, and how its operations work and will be utilized within the international system. All of WFP's operations have a direct or indirect relation with the SDGs. Further research will be required by delegates to identify the SDGs which are directly correlated with the topics on the agenda.

United Nations, World Food Programme (2020). *Annual Report for 2019*. Retrieved 25 August 2020 from: https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000115522/download/?_ga=2.112778247.2079546593.1598298946-960531736.1598053228

This source provides a report on the annual performance of the WFP. The report mentions financial resources and funding, management performance, programme and operation performance, and future planning. This report illustrates how the WFP works towards humanitarian aid and eradication of world hunger. 2019 was the biggest year for the WFP in regard to work efforts and providing aid to countries in crisis. Delegates will be able to have an overview of these work efforts and look to either create more programs or further develop Programme already in fruition.

United Nations, World Food Programme (2020). *Current and future strategic issues*. Retrieved 23 August 2020 from: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000117423/download/>

This source provides a summary of the current priorities as well as future plans of the WFP that were discussed during their sessions. It breaks down the various areas of focus within the agency and how they contributed to providing relief efforts. From the supply of food to vulnerable countries threatened by the spread of COVID-19, to passenger and air cargo assistance, the WFP worked tirelessly to provide support for the areas of the world in need. Delegates will be able to analyze the processes of how this aid was conducted and find ways to improve them.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2014). *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*. Retrieved 24 August 2020 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/govman/wfp244037.pdf>

This document is a comprehensive overview of how the Executive Board of WFP is structured and its operational procedures, as well as its funding. It demonstrates how programs are defined, categorized, supervised, and administered. Furthermore, it highlights the monitoring mechanisms for these programs. Delegates should utilize this document to educate themselves further on the mandate, functions, and powers of WFP. Additionally, it provides insightful information of the organizations segments and how it operates.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2020). *2020- Global Report on Food Crises*. Retrieved 24 August 2020 from: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/2020-global-report-food-crises>

The Global Report on Food Crises is published through the Global Network against Food Crises, The organization works to eradicate the root causes of hunger. The Global Report on Food Crises provides an in-depth description on the severity of acute hunger

¹⁰⁰ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

facing the world today. This report also provides analytical breakdowns of potential factors contributing to food insecurity world wide. The Global Report also provides insight into the potential perpetuation and determination it may bring.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2015). *Protracted Relief and Recovery*. Retrieved 25 August 2020 from: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/protracted-relief-and-recovery-operation-1>

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRROs) are long-term programs run by WFP which help sustain communities affected by disaster. This extended relief can appear in many forms, for example, the agency can support the education of children in food insecure areas by providing nutritious meals for schools. For more detailed information on PRROs and the components which can be included, delegates should refer to this website. Reviewing this program will also provide delegates an understanding of how WFP allocates funds for emergency relief and protracted recovery efforts.

United Nation, World Food Programme. (2020). *Situation Report: Yemen*. Retrieved 25 August 2020 from:

https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/bac220a57be446e88e1e14ae3b31aa2b/download/?_ga=2.47903524.2079546593.1598298946-960531736.1598053228

This report provides statistics and data on the humanitarian crisis facing Yemen to date. With over 20 million people seeking food due to famine, many Yemenis are left wondering where their next meal will come from. This report outlines the plans of action as well as country specific data regarding the aid they are receiving. This report provides a more detailed look at how the WFP distinguishes which issues need to be highlighted, and how they plan to combat those issues.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2017). *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*. Retrieved 23 August 2020 from: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000019573/download/>

The aim of the strategic plan is to align WFP's operations with the 2030 Agenda, with a particular focus on achieving zero hunger by 2030 (SDG 2). It sets out WFP's principles and vision in light of the framework provided by the SDGs. It clarifies the priorities of WFP for the coming period, and focuses on the operational and policy role WFP can play in achieving these goals. It is an excellent source for delegates to get an introductory understanding to the work of WFP, its principles and values, structure, and an overview of the current and upcoming policy priorities.

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I. Smallholder Agriculture Market Support to Achieve Zero Hunger

Introduction

In 2019, 690 million people suffered from hunger and the prevalence of malnutrition.¹⁰¹ A further 135 million people suffer from acute food insecurity and in 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic pushed an additional 135 million vulnerable people towards starvation.¹⁰² Smallholder farmers produce around 80% of the world's food supply, and 80% of the extreme poor live in rural areas and work within the agriculture sector.¹⁰³ With definitions varying due to country-specific contextual factors, there is no rigid definition of smallholder farmers, however, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) consider smallholder farmers to be “small-scale farmers, pastoralists, forest keepers, [or] fishers who manage areas varying from less than one hectare (2.5 acres) to 10 hectares (25 acres).”¹⁰⁴ Smallholder farmers are also considered to be family-farmers, as they are motivated by family-focused goals such as “the stability of the farm household system, using mainly family labor for production and using part of the produce for family consumption.”¹⁰⁵

Many smallholder farmers do not have access to formal markets, which are physical locations whereby sellers can market their goods and list prices to attract buyers.¹⁰⁶ This further inhibits the farmer's ability to increase income security.¹⁰⁷ This obstacle to profitable market engagement is further entrenched by risk-adverse business practices caused by a lack of access to financial services.¹⁰⁸ Additionally, many smallholder farmers face a range of other challenges including inadequate logistical infrastructure and security risks which constrain physical access to markets, lack of adequate storage leading to plunging prices, and climate change.¹⁰⁹ These challenges make the 2.5 billion people that rely on smallholder agriculture for food security extremely vulnerable.¹¹⁰ WFP aims to promote food security on a local and global level, ensuring that ‘all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs’, especially in rural areas.¹¹¹ WFP facilitates this objective by providing access to formal markets through livelihood-orientated interventions to boost smallholder resilience, supply chain-orientated interventions to overcome physical barriers, and nutrition-orientated interventions to address direct causes of hunger and malnutrition.¹¹²

International and Regional Framework

In 2017, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted resolution 72/239 on the “United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028)” to highlight the important contributions of smallholder farmers towards achieving global food security.¹¹³ Within the resolution, the General Assembly stressed the importance of implementing a “universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system” that promotes family farming, rural development, and is implemented in national, regional, and international strategies that include smallholder farmers in various markets at all levels.¹¹⁴ The following year, the General Assembly adopted resolution 73/165 on the “United Nations Declaration on

¹⁰¹ FAO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, 2020.

¹⁰² GNAFC, *2020 Report on Food Crises*, 2020; WFP *Chief Warns of Grave Dangers of Economic Impact of Coronavirus as Millions are Pushed Further into Hunger*,

¹⁰³ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) (A/RES/72/239)*, 2017, p. 3.

¹⁰⁴ FAO, *Smallholders and Family Farmers*, 2012.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁶ Anbarci et al., *Formal and Informal Markets: A Strategic and Evolutionary Perspective*, 2013, p. 1; UN WFP, *Changing Lives for Smallholder Farmers*, 2019, p. 5.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ UN, WFP, *Pro-Smallholder Food Assistance*, 2017.

¹⁰⁹ UN WFP, *Towards Systemic Food Assistance*, 2017.

¹¹⁰ FAO, *Smallholders and Family Farmers*, 2012.

¹¹¹ World Food Summit, *Rome Declaration on World Food Security*, 1996, p.2; UN WFP,

¹¹² UN WFP, *Pro-Smallholder Food Assistance*, 2017.

¹¹³ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) (A/RES/72/239)*, 2017.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas” which links the rights of those in rural and indigenous areas to the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948), and specifies how the international community should acknowledge and protect their rights.¹¹⁵ The declaration notes the contributions smallholder farmers in rural and indigenous areas have made in the development and conservation of biodiversity, which are key factors in achieving food security.¹¹⁶ Furthermore, the UDHR emphasizes the challenges smallholder farmers face due to climate change, environmental degradation, poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.¹¹⁷ The Secretary-General’s report, “Challenges and Opportunities in achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls” (E/CN.6/2018/3) also highlights how rural women and girls can be smallholder farmers, and that providing market support to female farmers is one of the many ways Member States can empower them in rural areas.¹¹⁸

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2020/6 on the “Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development” reaffirms market access for smallholders, especially women, as a “top priority” in reducing poverty for all in African countries.¹¹⁹ In 2014, the Second International Conference on Nutrition adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and an accompanying Framework for Action which recognized that strengthening smallholder farmer access to “efficient and effective trade is key to achieving nutrition objectives”.¹²⁰ In 2015, during the Expo 2015 held in Milan, Italy, a ministerial meeting held by the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) adopted the 2015 Milan Declaration on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaption in Small Island Developing States (Milan Declaration).¹²¹ The Milan Declaration emphasized the need for a multilateral trading system that includes agriculture and fisheries, and called for “small, vulnerable economies” and “net food-importing developing countries” to be included in the creation of the trading system.¹²² Within the same year, the UN General Assembly also passed resolution 70/1, “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” which contains the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹²³ The SDGs are goalposts for international actors to strive towards within their work on promoting sustainable development.¹²⁴ The 2030 Agenda has several goals that align with empowering smallholder farmers, such as SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9.3 (increasing access to financial services, credit and markets), , and SDG 17.6 (enhancing partnerships to mobilize knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to assist smallholders).¹²⁵

Role of the International System

WFP plays a vital role in combatting hunger and strengthening food security through several programs such as Purchase for Progress, the Farm to Market Alliance, and the R4 Rural Alliance initiative.¹²⁶ WFP, in collaboration with several UN bodies that focus on food security and human development, releases an annual report, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, on the progress being made towards

¹¹⁵ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas* (A/RES/73/165), 2018.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ UN ECOSOC, *Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls: Report of the Secretary-General* (E/CN.6/2018/3), 2017.

¹¹⁹ UN ECOSOC, *Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development* (E/RES/2020/6), 2020.

¹²⁰ Second International Conference on Nutrition, *Rome Declaration on Nutrition*, 2014; Second International Conference on Nutrition, *Framework for Action*, 2014.

¹²¹ Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, *Milan Declaration on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States, in the Framework of the SAMOA Pathway*, 2015.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (A/RES/70/1), 2015.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ Ibid.; UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017; FAO, *Transforming Food and Agriculture to Achieve the SDGs*, 2018.

¹²⁶ UN, WFP, *Pro-Smallholder Food Assistance*, 2017.

achieving global food security and nutritional goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda.¹²⁷ The 2020 report outlines various solutions the international community can utilize to combat the rising rate of hunger, such as implementing policies and investments into agriculture and food systems to increase the affordability of nutritious food and encourage the creation of policies that strengthen and build resilience to prevent shocks and stressors during times of conflict, pandemics, and natural disasters.¹²⁸ At the beginning of 2020, WFP adjusted its efforts to combat shocks and stressors of the global COVID-19 pandemic and supported smallholder farms by integrating them into COVID-19 recovery plans.¹²⁹ WFP's *Strategic Plan (2017-2021)* outlines how WFP aligns its activities to the 2030 Agenda with a particular focus on ending hunger (SDG 2) and strengthening global collaboration on implementing the SDGs (SDG 17).¹³⁰ Throughout the Strategic Plan, WFP notes the importance of promoting access to markets in order to increase people's access to land, crops, livestock, and other food supplies as a means to achieve zero hunger and alleviate poverty.¹³¹

WFP's Purchase for Progress initiative encourages national governments and the private sector to buy from smallholder farmers while WFP works with farmers' organizations to provide training and facilitates access to financial services and markets.¹³² The training and access to financial services and markets that WFP provides to smallholder farmers aim to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and resources to build resilience against financial turmoil and grow their business through expanding their access to financial markets.¹³³ The Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) is a public-private sector consortium comprised of WFP and five other private sector and civil society organizations that provide smallholder farmers access to "predictable markets, affordable financing, technologies and quality inputs, and handling and storage solutions" as a means of empowerment.¹³⁴ FtMA's work has helped 135,000 farmers and 688 crop aggregators in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia grow their business by providing training on farming practices, improving access to technology and inputs, and connecting financial services between farmers and financial institutions.¹³⁵ In collaboration with Oxfam America, WFP created the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative to increase food and income security of farmers by managing climate-related risks.¹³⁶ This is accomplished by improving resource management through asset creation, insurance, livelihood diversification and microcredit, and savings strategies.¹³⁷ As of 2019, the initiative has helped over 450,000 people in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Zambia, and Zimbabwe through its risk reduction opportunities.¹³⁸

Other international actors collaborate with WFP on a number of initiatives that focus on promoting market support for smallholder farmers and achieving zero hunger.¹³⁹ FAO held the High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets in 2015 to allow stakeholders to share policy recommendations and lessons learned, and identify challenges and opportunities in promoting market support to smallholders.¹⁴⁰ FAO also contributes to the annual *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report, co-funds the Committee on World Food Security, and oversees the committee alongside WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).¹⁴¹ IFAD is another UN body that promotes rural development, food security, improved livelihoods, and resilience in rural areas.¹⁴² IFAD's Adaption for Smallholder

¹²⁷ FAO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, 2020.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ UN WFP, *WFP Global Response to COVID-19*, 2020.

¹³⁰ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² UN WFP, *Purchase for Progress*, 2020.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ UN WFP, *Farm to Market Alliance: Taking Farmers from Seed to Market.*, 2020.

¹³⁵ Farm to Market Alliance, *Home*, 2020.

¹³⁶ UN WFP, *The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative*, 2019.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ UN WFP, *Taking Farmers from Seed to Market: Farm to Market Alliance*, 2020.

¹⁴⁰ FAO, *CFS High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets*, 2019.

¹⁴¹ Committee on World Food Security, *CFS Structure*.

¹⁴² IFAD, *About*.

Agriculture Programme channels climate and environmental finance to smallholder farmers to empower women, promote private sector engagement with smallholders, provide climate risk assessment, and strengthen smallholders' participation in the decision-making process for natural resource management and governance.¹⁴³ The World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund also collaborate with WFP, FAO, and IFAD on the annual *State of Food Security report* and a number of different initiatives focusing on nutrition and food security in rural areas.¹⁴⁴

Civil society and the private sector are key stakeholders in achieving zero hunger and often provide market support, training, and financial support to smallholders through various programs.¹⁴⁵ Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Bayer Crop Science AG, Syngenta Crop Protection AG, Rabobank, and Yara International ASA are the other five members that compromise the Farm to Market Alliance consortium alongside WFP to provide financial support to smallholder farmers.¹⁴⁶ FtMA focuses on four "pathways" when supporting smallholder farmers: predictable markets, affordable finance, technologies and quality inputs, and handling and storage solutions.¹⁴⁷ Using this model, FtMA empowers smallholder farmers to become reliable and resilient against natural disasters and financial turmoil in order to enhance their success within formal markets.¹⁴⁸ FtMA categorizes themselves as a "neutral broker" when assisting smallholder farmers to allow them to increase their profits while not competing against the farmers receiving their assistance.¹⁴⁹ FtMA also created a network of service delivery centers that allow smallholder farmers to obtain the products and services they need for their farms and to become more competitive in formal markets.¹⁵⁰ The model FtMA uses also builds trust and confidence with other stakeholders, such as buyers, financiers, and suppliers.¹⁵¹

The Global Agricultural and Food Security Program (GAFSP) focuses entirely on leveraging public and private expertise, investment, and policies to form partnerships that promote sustainable agriculture through the empowerment of smallholder farmers, with a particular emphasis on women and youth.¹⁵² GAFSP is comprised of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UN Member States, (Australia, Canada, Germany, Republic of Korea, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States), and regional representatives (Africa, Asia, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and Middle East and North Africa) as voting members. Additionally, non-voting UN Member States (Canada, Ireland, Japan and The Netherlands), administrative units, (the World Bank and International Finance Cooperation), UN bodies (WFP, IFAD, and FAO), development banks as supervising entities (African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank), and four civil society organizations (ActionAid, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, Réseau des Organisations Paysannes & de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, and Women for Women) form the steering committee.¹⁵³ This multilateral program provides direct support to smallholder farmers and their organizations in strengthening capacity in value chains, increasing market support for smallholder farmers, and providing economic services to smallholder farmers through mobile platforms.¹⁵⁴ One of GAFSP's successful projects was the Small Farmer Agriculture Technology Transfer Project (PTTA) in Haiti, which supported 164,091 people by providing agricultural inputs like fertilizers that increased crop yield for farmers.¹⁵⁵ The technology that was provided in PTTA was adopted by 27,930 farmers and led to

¹⁴³ IFAD, *Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme*.

¹⁴⁴ FAO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, 2020.

¹⁴⁵ UN WFP, *Farm to Market Alliance: Taking Farmers from Seed to Market*, 2020.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁷ Farm to Market Alliance, *About PATH*, 2020.

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵² Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, *Empowering Smallholder Farmers*, 2019.

¹⁵³ Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, *GAFSP Steering Committee*, 2020.

¹⁵⁴ Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, *Empowering Smallholder Farmers*, 2019.

¹⁵⁵ Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, *Small Farmer Agriculture Technology Transfer Project (PTTA)*, 2020.

an income increase of 63% for farmers that focused on agroforestry.¹⁵⁶ Not only were smallholder farmers directly benefiting from this project, but GAFSP was able to take the lessons learned from the project to improve on other projects they created in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia.¹⁵⁷

Post-Harvest Challenges

A common challenge smallholder farmers face after harvesting their crops, fish, and animal byproducts is accessing adequate storage.¹⁵⁸ Many smallholder farmers do not have adequate storage resources and practices, which can lead to a loss of revenue when goods rot or are eaten by pest.¹⁵⁹ To prevent loss from rot and pests, smallholder farmers flood markets with their goods, meaning that they try to sell everything right away, leading to depressed prices due to oversupply of goods immediately following harvest.¹⁶⁰ This is a leading cause of income insecurity for smallholder farmers, and in some developing countries smallholder farmers frequently lose 40% of their harvest.¹⁶¹ During the COVID-19 pandemic a slowing of global markets and supply chains disproportionately affected smallholder farmers who cannot store their harvests for prolonged periods.¹⁶² The WFP’s “Zero Loss Initiative” in Uganda found that providing training, hermetic crop bags, and plastic and metal silos could extend crop purchasing periods by 1.5 months.¹⁶³ Due to COVID-19 satisfying SDG2 has become more challenging and will more innovations related to preventing post-harvest losses interventions and addressing hunger.¹⁶⁴

Another challenge smallholder farmers face is when there is a “bad harvest year” due to conflicts and/or natural disasters.¹⁶⁵ Droughts, flooding, other natural disasters, and most recently the global COVID-19 pandemic, can create shocks for smallholders through the loss of crops, fish stock, and livestock, which can lead to a domino effect throughout global supply chains.¹⁶⁶ If smallholder farmers are not able to harvest enough, they lose revenue, which can lead to food insecurity for their families.¹⁶⁷ Along the supply-chain, if multiple smallholders are unable to meet the demand for food and agricultural products, local communities can experience food insecurity and malnutrition until the next good harvest year.¹⁶⁸ To prevent these shocks, WFP recommends national governments collaborate with the international community and smallholder farmers to provide risk-management practices and social support systems, as well as innovative solutions to build resilience for local communities, such as adopting climate adaptation and mitigation farming practices.¹⁶⁹ Smallholder farmers can also utilize different insurance policies, such as Crop Loss Insurance and Weather Index Insurance, to protect themselves from significant profit loss due to bad harvest years.¹⁷⁰ However, WFP notes that smallholder farmers often lack access to insurance and other financial services that can help with risk management.¹⁷¹ Access to credit facilities and insurance can also provide risk management options for smallholder farmers as a means to allow smallholder farmers to finance their farms and protect their crops from natural disasters that insurance can cover.¹⁷²

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Ibid.

¹⁵⁸ Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition, *Food Sustainability Index: Food Sustainability and the Role of Smallholder Farmers*, 2020.

¹⁵⁹ World Bank Group, *A Year in the Lives of Smallholder Farmers*, 2016.

¹⁶⁰ Oluwatayo, *Towards Assuring Food Security in South Africa: Smallholder Farmers as Drivers*, 2019.

¹⁶¹ UN WFP, *Post-Harvest Loss Reduction*, 2020.

¹⁶² UN WFP, *Responding to the Development Emergency Caused by COVID-19*, 2020.

¹⁶³ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2019, p. 74.

¹⁶⁴ UN WFP, *Post-Harvest Loss Reduction*, 2020.

¹⁶⁵ Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, *Protecting Farmers from Weather-Based Risk*, 2016.

¹⁶⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Global response to COVID-19*, 2020.

¹⁶⁷ Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, *Protecting Farmers from Weather-Based Risk*, 2016.

¹⁶⁸ Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition, *Food Sustainability Index: Food Sustainability and the Role of Smallholder Farmers*, 2020.

¹⁶⁹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017, p. 10.

¹⁷⁰ Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, *Protecting Farmers from Weather-Based Risk*, 2016.

¹⁷¹ UN WFP, *Smallholder Market Support*, 2020.

¹⁷² UN WFP, *Farm to Market Alliance Taking Farmers from Seed to Market*, 2020.

Expanding Market Support for Smallholders

Expanding market support for smallholder farmers requires a multi-faceted approach in the form of policies, partnerships, and practices.¹⁷³ Smallholders need access to markets to sell their crops, fish, livestock, and other agricultural goods, but in order to increase supply-chains, there needs to be facilitation actors and infrastructure that connect smallholders to global markets.¹⁷⁴ Supply-chains are needed in every market in order for businesses to make a profit from their agricultural goods, but also supply buyers with food and other agricultural products needed and desired by the local and global markets.¹⁷⁵ WFP has many key objectives including facilitation of partnerships between smallholder farmers, civil society, Member States, other UN entities, and other private sector as a means of connecting smallholders to markets to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.¹⁷⁶ A significant barrier to market participation is smallholder farmer rurality; public and private investment often fails to reach the “last mile” and so smallholders require strategic infrastructure investment to overcome basic physical barriers to markets.¹⁷⁷ Policies that expand economic zones, which are special areas where a country’s trade laws are different than outside the zone, can be used to encourage more entrepreneurship and trade.¹⁷⁸ Such a policy has the potential to promote economic growth and increase income security for smallholder farmers by reducing barriers to trade.¹⁷⁹ Best practices, such as diversification of crops and business prospects, are ways that smallholder farmers can utilize to increase income and food security, to manage risks, and to protect themselves from shocks caused by economic factors related to conflict and natural disasters.¹⁸⁰

In order to meet the demand for food and agricultural products, WFP recommends that national governments and the private sector source products from smallholder farmers.¹⁸¹ WFP’s Home Grown School Feeding programs are a prime example of how national governments can drive demand to benefit smallholder farmers.¹⁸² These programs encourage schools to source their food from local smallholder farmers as a way to promote food security and nutrition for school children while providing economic opportunities for smallholder farmers.¹⁸³ During the COVID-19 pandemic Home Grown School Meals initiatives have adapted, providing take-home rations, simultaneously stimulating smallholder demand, and reducing malnutrition, benefiting children’s immune systems.¹⁸⁴ While these programs are operating in 46 countries, WFP continues to urge other Member States to adopt similar approaches in order to address food insecurity in rural areas.¹⁸⁵ FtMA utilizes technology to assist smallholder farmers in selling their products in formal markets through digital ordering processing services between smallholder farmers and private sector entities, digital receipts for credit history, input order forms, and quality planting inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, and crop protection packages.¹⁸⁶ In Zambia, FtMA introduced handling and storage technologies to smallholder farmers, connected smallholder farmers to local microfinance institutions, and expanded smallholder farmers’ crop diversification to complement the government’s call for crop diversification and climate smart agriculture initiative.¹⁸⁷

¹⁷³ UN WFP, *Smallholder Market Support*, 2020.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

¹⁷⁷ UN WFP, *Towards Systemic Food Assistance*, 2017.

¹⁷⁸ Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition, *Food Sustainability Index: Food Sustainability and the Role of Smallholder Farmers*, 2020.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid.

¹⁸⁰ UN WFP, *The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative*, 2020.

¹⁸¹ UN WFP, *Farm to Market Alliance: Training Farmers from Seed to Market*, 2020.

¹⁸² UN WFP, *Home Grown School Feeding*, 2020.

¹⁸³ Ibid.

¹⁸⁴ UN WFP, *Responding to the Development Emergency Caused by COVID-19*, 2020, p. 13.

¹⁸⁵ UN WFP, *Home Grown School Feeding*, 2020.

¹⁸⁶ Farm to Market Alliance, *Handling and Storage Solutions*, 2019; Farm to Market Alliance, *Technologies and Quality Inputs*, 2020.

¹⁸⁷ Farm to Market Alliance, *Zambia*, 2020.

Conclusion

Addressing the needs of small holder farmers is a vital component to addressing SDG 2 (zero hunger), without empowering smallholders to be “competitive actors in food systems” through the provision of market access, zero hunger is unachievable.¹⁸⁸ Furthermore, despite the unprecedented scale of intervention by WFP, the global COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the number of people worldwide going hungry thereby making zero hunger increasingly unattainable.¹⁸⁹ WFP has been working closely with a wide range of international actors to promote market support for smallholder farmers.¹⁹⁰ Additionally, WFP continues to encourage international partnerships in order to achieve zero hunger through increasing investment in supply chains sourced from smallholder farmers.¹⁹¹ The problems that smallholder farmers face is often a double edged sword; during good harvest years smallholder farmers face a significant post-harvest challenge caused by a lack of storage, leading to depressed prices, and during bad harvests smallholder farmers and those that rely on them face starvation.¹⁹² Furthermore, there is a need to build resilience for smallholder farmers to recover quickly from natural and man-made shocks.¹⁹³ Providing technology and financial services to smallholder farmers is another key element that can support smallholder farmers as they grow and connect their business to formal markets by reducing risk from financial turmoil and natural disasters.¹⁹⁴ Ultimately, expanding market support for smallholder farmers requires policies, practices, and partnerships to be implemented at the local, national, regional, and international level to increase supply-chains and promote food security to achieve zero hunger.¹⁹⁵

Further Research

Delegates should consider the following questions to assist them in their research: Why does WFP place such great importance on facilitating smallholder farmer access to markets as a means to achieve zero hunger? What partnerships can WFP establish in collaboration with Member States, other UN entities, and civil society to empower smallholder farmers and spur economic growth? How can WFP assist smallholder farmers in becoming more resilient to external shocks and stressors during times of conflict, pandemics and natural disasters? What has to change so that SDG2 (zero hunger) can be achieved by 2030 given the setback caused by COVID-19? How can WFP best finance its long- and short-term programs and initiatives? How can WFP leverage its role in alleviating short-term hunger to make smallholders more resilient to long-term hunger? How can WFP empower women who are smallholder farmers to achieve zero hunger? How can technology be used to further WFP’s programs and initiatives to promote market support to smallholder farmers?

Annotated Bibliography

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2020). *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*. Retrieved 14 September 2020 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9692en/CA9692EN.pdf>
The 2020 State of Food Security report tracks the progress that has been made in the last year in addressing food insecurity and other food and health related issues. The report notes many threats to progress, including economic slowdowns, climate change and conflict and discusses how smallholders and small-scale farmers may have been affected by recent developments such as locus outbreaks and the global COVID-19

¹⁸⁸ WFP Chief Warns of Grave Dangers of Economic Impact of Coronavirus as Millions are Pushed Further Into Hunger, UN WFP, 2020.

¹⁸⁹ UN WFP, *Pro Smallholder Food Assistance*, 2017, p. 19.

¹⁹⁰ UN WFP, *Speech by Executive Director of World Food Programme on the Economic Impact of Coronavirus at the virtual session of the UN Security Council on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict on 17 September 2020*.

¹⁹¹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

¹⁹² UN WFP, *Toward Systemic Food Assistance*, 2017.

¹⁹³ *Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition, Food Sustainability Index: Food Sustainability and the Role of Smallholder Farmers*, 2020.

¹⁹⁴ UN WFP, *Smallholder Market Support*, 2020.

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

pandemic. Delegates can read this report to have a better understanding of how WFP, FAO, and other UN entities collaborate to monitor and evaluate food security issues around the world.

Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. (2015). *Milan Declaration on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States, in the Framework of the SAMOA Pathway*. Retrieved 14 September 2020 from:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/8537MilanDeclaration.pdf>

The Milan Declaration outlines how small island developing States are impacted by the effects of climate change and food insecurity, and outlines recommendations that Member States can take to address these issues in multiple ways. Within the declaration, several of the recommendations call upon empowering smallholder and family farmers through trade and agricultural practices. Delegates can read this declaration and use it as an example of how Member States can collaborate to find joint programming and activities to achieve food security.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2018/3)*. Retrieved 14 September 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2018/3>

This report by the Secretary-General notes the challenges and opportunities that rural women and girls face, and how Member States can work towards achieving gender equality. The report outlines how rural women and girls can also be smallholders and family farmers, and how they can contribute to the SDGs through empowerment in the agricultural sector. Delegates can read this report to understand the recommendations made by the Secretary-General and devise solutions to the challenges raised in the background guide.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2018). *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (A/RES/73/165)*. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/73/589/Add.2). Retrieved 14 September 2020 from:

<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/165>

This declaration outlines the rights of peasants, rural workers, and indigenous people and acknowledges their contribution to sustainable development. As peasants and other people working in rural areas are often considered smallholders and family farmers, this declaration directly relates to their rights to adequate food and water, gender equality, and other rights shared with those outside rural areas. Delegates can use this declaration to gain a better understanding of the importance of empowering smallholders and achieving the goals in the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028) (A/RES/72/239)*. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/426).

Retrieved 14 September 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/72/239>

This resolution declares 2019-2028 the Decade of Family Farming, thus highlighting the importance and the contributions family farmers make towards sustainable development. Furthermore, the decade encourages Member States and UN entities to improve and/or develop practices and policies that promote family farming programming and activities. Delegates can use this resolution to understand how impactful family farming is towards achieving food security goals and the other SDGs.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2017). *Pro-Smallholder Food Assistance*. Retrieved 17 September 2020 from: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000023124/download/>.

This report outlines the analysis behind WFP's emphasis on boosting smallholder resilience and market access worldwide as a means to achieve zero hunger. It introduces WFP's significant portfolio of programmes that support smallholder farmers, defines key concepts and principles that guide WFP strategy and provides a framework for future-focused pro-smallholder food assistance policies. Delegates can use this report to

understand why WFP places such importance on smallholder farmers in combatting hunger and malnutrition, and how it implements its Strategic Plan (2017-21) and the UN SDGs through the formation of partnerships.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2020). *Responding to the Development Emergency Caused by COVID-19*. Retrieved 16 September 2020 from: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000117124/download/>

This report addresses how WFP capitalizes upon its unique position to support vulnerable populations during the global COVID-19 pandemic. It outlines how WFP can help governments with social protection systems, basic service delivery such as providing school meals to children, and mitigating stress in food supply-chains to alleviate pressure on smallholder farmers. Delegates should use this report to connect long-standing challenges facing smallholder farmers to shorter-term contemporary events such as the global COVID-19 pandemic.

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II. Improving Food Assistance for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

“The action we take will determine our success, or failure, in building sustainable food systems as the basis of stable and peaceful societies. The truth is, we do not have time on our side, so let’s act wisely – and let’s act fast.”¹⁹⁶

Introduction

An estimated 2 billion people, around 26% of the world’s population, did not have regular access to an adequate and safe amount of food in 2019.¹⁹⁷ Food security is defined as the condition in which people have nutritious, safe, and sufficient food to maintain a healthy lifestyle and is made up of three components: food availability, food access, and food utilization.¹⁹⁸ The 2020 *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report warns that between 83 and 132 million additional people all over the world may become undernourished due to the COVID-19 pandemic’s economic consequences.¹⁹⁹ The World Food Programme (WFP) is the main humanitarian agency fighting hunger and food-related issues worldwide.²⁰⁰ Therefore, WFP is responsible for providing food assistance to vulnerable groups such as refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in emergency situations like conflicts and natural disasters.²⁰¹ According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there were 79.5 million displaced people worldwide at the end of 2019, around 26 million of which were refugees and 45.7 million were IDPs.²⁰² The United Nations (UN) defines refugees as people who don’t live in their country of origin for reasons such as persecution, conflict, violence, or other conditions which require international protection for them.²⁰³ The International Organization for Migration (IOM) describes IDPs as people who have been forced to leave their homes due to circumstances like armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or disasters, but who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.²⁰⁴

WFP works in collaboration with other UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and Member States to assist all those in need of food assistance worldwide.²⁰⁵ In 2019, WFP assisted 86.7 million people through its operations in 83 countries, especially in most vulnerable areas such as Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, the Sahel, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.²⁰⁶ Since 2000, WFP’s operations have shifted from the concept of food aid to that of food assistance, which aims not only to feed all those in need, but also to find approaches to meet people’s long-term nutritional needs.²⁰⁷ Food assistance means empowering people, by giving them the tools, such as cash assistance and vouchers, to choose how to meet their essential needs.²⁰⁸ Among the efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (zero hunger), WFP has been working on implementing innovative and efficient solutions to improve access to food for refugees and IDPs, such as food fortification, educational

¹⁹⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Chief Warns of Hunger Pandemic as COVID-19 Spreads (Statement to UN Security Council)*, 2020.

¹⁹⁷ FAO & UN WFP, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI): Transforming Food Systems for Affordable Healthy Diets*, 2020.

¹⁹⁸ Committee on World Food Security, *Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition*, 2017.

¹⁹⁹ FAO & UN WFP, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI): Transforming Food Systems for Affordable Healthy Diets*, 2020.

²⁰⁰ UN WFP, *Overview*, 2020.

²⁰¹ UN WFP, *History*, 2020.

²⁰² UNHCR, *Figures at a Glance*, 2020.

²⁰³ UNHCR, *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, 1951.

²⁰⁴ IOM, *Key Migration Terms*, 2020.

²⁰⁵ UN WFP, *Orientation Guide on WFP and its Operations for new WFP Employees and Evaluation Companies*, 2015; FAO & UN WFP, *Monitoring Food Security in Countries with Conflict Situations*, 2017.

²⁰⁶ UN WFP, *Overview*, 2020.

²⁰⁷ UN WFP, *Food Assistance: Cash and In-kind*, 2020.

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

or work initiatives, and technological methods.²⁰⁹ In light of the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on the food and agricultural sector, especially in already affected areas, WFP works on boosting social protection programs, and meeting the immediate food needs of vulnerable groups.²¹⁰

International and Regional Framework

Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) states that food is a “crucial factor for ensuring an adequate standard of living for all peoples.”²¹¹ *The Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees* (1951) is the main document in the field of the protection of refugees and displaced people.²¹² Specifically, article 23 underlines that refugees have the right to food assistance.²¹³ The *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954) further outlines the rights of IDPs, while stating fundamental principles for their protection and assistance.²¹⁴ For example, principle 3 states that IDPs have the right to request humanitarian aid and that authorities are responsible for such assistance.²¹⁵ Moreover, principle 18 underlines the right for IDPs to live with an adequate standard of living, which includes safe access to food.²¹⁶ In 1967, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2200A (XXI), titled *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR), which points out people's cultural, economic, and social rights.²¹⁷ Article 11 of the ICESCR directly recognizes the right to food, while affirming that states have the responsibility to realize this right.²¹⁸ The *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition*, which was adopted at the first World Food Conference in 1974, formally recognizes that everyone has the right to food for mental and physical growth.²¹⁹ The World Food Summit in 1996 adopted the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security* and the *World Food Summit Plan of Action*, both of which further underline the right of every man, woman, and child “to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.”²²⁰

More recently, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/177, which urges Member States to implement the international obligations to fulfill the ICESCR, including the right to food.²²¹ In 2012, 16 Member States, including the United States of America (USA), the European Union (EU), Japan, Australia, Norway, Switzerland, Argentina, and Canada adopted the *Food Assistance Convention* (FAC), which aims to strengthen international cooperation in improving the effectiveness and quality of food assistance for the most vulnerable groups worldwide.²²² In addition, the FAC aims to facilitate information-sharing among Member States, by providing a forum for the discussion about how to use the parties' resources to respond to needs.²²³ The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* includes the goal ‘zero hunger’ as SDG 2.²²⁴ Targets 2.1 and 2.2 specifically call to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, making sure that all people, especially those who live in precarious conditions and children, have sufficient and nutritious food every day.²²⁵ SDG 2 is directly linked to SDG 1 (no poverty) since the poor are most at risk for hunger; SDG 3 (good health and well-being) since food insecurity affects people's

²⁰⁹ UN WFP, *Food Fortification*, 2018.

²¹⁰ Sustainable Development Goals, *Goal 2: Zero Hunger*, 2020.

²¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A(III))*, 1948.

²¹² UN Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, 1951.

²¹³ *Ibid.*

²¹⁴ UNHCR, *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*, 1954.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*

²¹⁷ UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 1967.

²¹⁸ *Ibid.*

²¹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Report of the World Food Conference*, 1974.

²²⁰ FAO, *The Right to Food: Voluntary Guidelines*, 2006; FAO, *Rome Declaration on World Food Security*, 1996.

²²¹ UN General Assembly, *Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 2008.

²²² FAC, *Food Assistance Convention*, 2019; FAC, *About*, 2019.

²²³ FAC, *About*, 2019.

²²⁴ Sustainable Development Goals, *Goal 2: Zero Hunger*, 2020.

²²⁵ UNDP, *Goal 2: Zero Hunger*, 2020.

health; and SDG 5 (gender equality) since gender mainstreaming, or integrating gender in policies, is key to addressing hunger of women and girls.²²⁶ The General Assembly adopted resolution 70/259 on “United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)” in 2016, which recognizes the importance of nutrition to global well-being and directs efforts to end hunger.²²⁷ In 2018, the Security Council adopted resolution 2417 on “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”, which affirms the direct link between armed conflicts and food insecurity and warns about the threat of famine.²²⁸ This resolution urges all parties to protect civilian infrastructure which is essential to deliver humanitarian aid.²²⁹

On a regional level, the EU introduced the *European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid*, which defines the guidelines to maximize the effectiveness of EU’s food aid during humanitarian crises.²³⁰ In 1969, the African Union (AU) adopted the *Organization of African Unity (OAU) Refugee Convention*, which is the world’s first regional refugee protection instrument and explains specific aspects of refugees’ problems in Africa.²³¹ In addition, the *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child* (1990) underlines the right of children to have access to adequate nutrition (article 15) and the right of refugee children to protection, which includes food security (article 23).²³² Moreover, the *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa* (2003) highlights the rights of women refugees and IDPs to live in a safe manner (article 10) and affirms women’s right to food security (article 15).²³³

The Organization of American States (OAS) adopted the *Protocol of San Salvador* in 1988 that confirms the right of everyone to adequate nutrition in article 12.²³⁴ In 2017 OAS also introduced the *Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework* (MIRPS), a regional contribution to the *Global Compact on Refugees*, which addresses forced displacement in Central America and Mexico.²³⁵

Role of the International System

WFP is at the forefront of providing food assistance in emergencies and two-thirds of their work is in conflict-affected countries, where it focuses on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development, and special operations.²³⁶ It provides food assistance to refugees, IDPs and all those who are more likely to be undernourished.²³⁷ WFP leads, and is a part of, several clusters and multi-stakeholder partnerships managing emergency responses with regards to food assistance, logistics, and telecommunications.²³⁸ WFP works in close cooperation with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), by co-leading the Food Security Cluster to address food security in humanitarian emergencies.²³⁹ In addition, WFP leads the Logistics Cluster, which is a group of humanitarian actors who are responsible for coordinating responses to humanitarian emergencies, by managing information and supporting the logistics services.²⁴⁰ WFP is also a head of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster and provides

²²⁶ UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2020.

²²⁷ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)*, 2016.

²²⁸ UN Security Council, *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/RES/2417)*, 2018.

²²⁹ Ibid.

²³⁰ European Commission, *Humanitarian Food Assistance*, 2013.

²³¹ AU, *OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa*, 1969; UNHCR, *1969 OAU Refugee Convention Fact Sheet*, 2019.

²³² AU, *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, 2019.

²³³ AU, *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*, 2019.

²³⁴ OAS, *Protocol of San Salvador*, 2015; OAS, Department of International Law, *Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights “Protocol of San Salvador”*, 2019.

²³⁵ MIRPS, *Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework*, 2017.

²³⁶ UN WFP, *Overview*, 2020.

²³⁷ Ibid.

²³⁸ UN WFP, *Humanitarian Support and Services*, 2020.

²³⁹ Food Security Cluster, *About Food Security Cluster*.

²⁴⁰ UN WFP, *Logistics Cluster*, 2020.

reliable telecommunications to humanitarian actors responding to crises.²⁴¹ WFP published its *Strategic Plan 2017-2021*, which focuses on maximizing the organization's contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, and provides a new planning and operational framework for its operations to ending hunger and chronic malnutrition.²⁴² The Strategic Plan not only focuses on SDG 2, but also on SDG 5, by describing WFP's work on gender equality with female-focused policies, and SDG 4, by including its school meals program.²⁴³

WFP is among the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs); therefore, it constantly collaborates with the FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to implement SDGs.²⁴⁴ In 2018, the RBAs signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen their collaboration to help countries achieve the SDGs, and in particular SDG 2.²⁴⁵ The three agencies share a common vision according to which they need to work on a comprehensive and holistic approach to achieving food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.²⁴⁶

UNHCR works to protect and assist refugees worldwide.²⁴⁷ UNHCR and WFP agreed on the *Joint Principles on Targeting Assistance to Meet Food and Other Basic Needs*, which define best practices to assist refugees.²⁴⁸ The two agencies signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* in 1997, which formally recognizes their collaboration during emergencies and longer-term crises.²⁴⁹ WFP conducts food assessments, and distributes food rations to at least 5,000 beneficiaries per operation and furthermore provides cash-based assistance to refugees, which reflects the agency's shift in providing increased food assistance instead of food aid.²⁵⁰ The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) of the UN Secretariat coordinates with WFP to feed all those in need in crises and it manages the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) that helps fund WFP's work.²⁵¹ CERF acts as the international emergency response fund that helps humanitarian actors of Member States to coordinate their responses to emerging crises.²⁵²

On a regional level, the EU is among the world's major contributors to assisting victims of food crises worldwide.²⁵³ Since 2010, the EU has been implementing its humanitarian food assistance policy, which supports more than 100 million malnourished people.²⁵⁴ The European Commission joined the *Food Assistance Convention* and provides a minimum of € 350 million per year to end food insecurity.²⁵⁵ For example, the EU has contributed to alleviate hunger of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh by providing € 2 million funding.²⁵⁶ The EU has been among the partners who have worked on the *2020 Global Report on Food Crises*, which explores the main food crises in 2019 and sets goals to implement SDG 2.²⁵⁷ As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU has been providing immediate support to the most-affected countries, by delivering additional financial aid to carry on its humanitarian food assistance policies and provide emergency food assistance and nutrition.²⁵⁸ The AU also works to help refugees and their access

²⁴¹ UN WFP, *Emergency Telecommunications Cluster*, 2020.

²⁴² UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017–2021)*, 2017.

²⁴³ Ibid.

²⁴⁴ UN WFP, *Rome-Based Agencies*, 2020.

²⁴⁵ UN WFP, *UN Food Agencies Commit to Deeper Collaboration to Achieve Zero Hunger*, 2018.

²⁴⁶ Ibid.

²⁴⁷ UNHCR, *What We Do*, 2020.

²⁴⁸ UNHCR & WFP, *Joint Principles on Targeting Assistance to Meet Food and Other Basic Needs*, 2017.

²⁴⁹ UNHCR, *World Food Programme*, 2020.

²⁵⁰ UN WFP, *Cash Transfers*, 2020.

²⁵¹ UN DGC, *Deliver Humanitarian Aid*.

²⁵² UN Central Emergency Response Fund, *Who We Are*, 2020.

²⁵³ European Commission, *Food Assistance*, 2020.

²⁵⁴ European Commission, *Humanitarian Food Assistance: From Food Aid to Food Assistance*, 2013.

²⁵⁵ European Commission, *Food Assistance*, 2020.

²⁵⁶ UN WFP, *New EU Funding Helps WFP Provide Food Assistance to Rohingya Refugees and Ensure Their Safety through the Monsoon Season*, 2019.

²⁵⁷ FSIN, *2020 Global Report on Food Crises – Joint Analysis for Better Decisions*, 2020.

²⁵⁸ European Commission, *Food Assistance*, 2020.

to safe food, by organizing events, such as trainings and capacity building activities to engage partners like the Pan-African Parliament and UN agencies on displacement in Africa.²⁵⁹ Other regional efforts include the adoption of the *Humanitarian Assistance in Venezuela* resolution in 2019 by the OAS, which calls on Member States to continue providing support, including food, to the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.²⁶⁰

Civil society also plays a key role in supporting WFP and its partners in their operations worldwide.²⁶¹ There are currently around 1,000 national and international NGOs that help WFP delivering food assistance in more than 80 countries.²⁶² For example, in Syria, where the war displaced more than 5.6 million people, WFP worked with 22 NGOs, like the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, and 2 IGOs, like the Aga Khan Foundation, to provide people with adequate food.²⁶³ The WFP's Corporate Partnership Strategy (CPS) serves as the guiding document for partnerships between civil society and the UN agency.²⁶⁴ Since 1995, WFP holds Annual Partnership Consultations (APCs), which are a forum to discuss and maximize the collaboration with the current and potential future partners.²⁶⁵ Academia and think tanks, like the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), also support WFP's operations, by conducting research needed to formulate policy decisions to address humanitarian crises.²⁶⁶ Moreover, WFP has been building important private sector relationships, which provide technical assistance and financial contributions.²⁶⁷ For example, Mastercard introduced the new 100 Million Meals initiative that aims to support food assistance worldwide and to raise funds for children in need via marketing campaigns and events.²⁶⁸

The Evolution of Food Assistance

The original way for the WFP to provide assistance to all those in need was delivering food aid, which didn't directly address people's long-term needs.²⁶⁹ However, in the last two decades, WFP's work has shifted from the concept of food aid to that of food assistance.²⁷⁰ This concept is based on the recognition that to end hunger it is necessary to define multi-year support programs that can address everyone's long-term needs, not only during an emergency.²⁷¹ WFP uses several tools to provide food assistance, such as in-kind food transfers, vouchers, cash transfers (both digital and physical), and food purchases.²⁷² The decision on whether to use one instrument rather than another depends on several factors, such as the kind of recipients.²⁷³ WFP continues to use alternatively, jointly and/or singly, cash and in-kind assistance as tools in its fight against hunger in vulnerable populations.²⁷⁴ For example, since 2012, WFP has assisted refugees in Lebanon by giving them food portions, paper voucher and e-cards, which give families the possibility to decide for their own meals, while strengthening the Lebanese economy.²⁷⁵

In-Kind versus Cash Based Assistance

²⁵⁹ UNHCR, *The African Union's Theme for 2019*, 2020.

²⁶⁰ OAS, *OAS Permanent Council Adopts Resolution on Humanitarian Assistance in Venezuela*, 2019.

²⁶¹ UN WFP, *Non-governmental Organizations*, 2020; UN WFP, *WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014-2017)*, 2014.

²⁶² UN WFP, *Non-governmental Organizations*, 2020.

²⁶³ UNHCR, *Syria Emergency*, 2020.

²⁶⁴ UN WFP, *Partner with us*, 2020.

²⁶⁵ UN WFP, *Non-governmental Organizations*, 2020.

²⁶⁶ UN WFP, *Academia and Think Tanks*, 2020.

²⁶⁷ UN WFP, *Private Sector*, 2020.

²⁶⁸ UN WFP, *Mastercard and the World Food Programme Announce 100 Million Meals Commitment*, 2017.

²⁶⁹ UN WFP, *Food Assistance: Cash and In-kind*, 2020.

²⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁷¹ *Ibid.*

²⁷² UN WFP, *World Food Assistance 2017*, 2017.

²⁷³ UN WFP, *Food Assistance: Cash and In-kind*, 2020.

²⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁵ UN WFP, *Food Assistance for Refugees in Lebanon*, 2020.

WFP defines cash assistance as physical bank notes, vouchers, or electronic funds which are given to beneficiaries to be spend directly.²⁷⁶ This approach empowers refugees and IDPs in particular since it gives them the possibility to arrange for their own meals and buy the most suitable food for their needs.²⁷⁷ In addition, it has positive consequences on local economies because beneficiaries buy at local markets.²⁷⁸ In 2019, WFP transferred more than \$ 2 billion to people in need in 64 countries with 84 operations, which represented 38 % of its total assistance portfolio in 2019.²⁷⁹ Cash assistance now represents over a third of all WFP assistance, but it is not always possible to use this approach.²⁸⁰ In emergency situations, where the basic market infrastructure doesn't function properly, WFP uses in-kind food assistance.²⁸¹ This approach is usually applied for a shorter time and involves the distribution of a selection of foods that are used to prevent malnutrition and meet the energy needs of beneficiaries.²⁸² According to WFP's findings, vulnerable families that receive cash assistance make choices aimed to improve their food security.²⁸³ However, a joint UNHCR and WFP project has shown that while the reliance on cash assistance increases, refugees and IDPs who receive it are at a higher risk of abuse of power by Financial Service Providers (FSP).²⁸⁴ The agencies have published their findings and recommendations in a report that shows the risks identified so far in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Iraq, Uganda, Rwanda, Chad, Afghanistan and Burundi.²⁸⁵ Partnerships with other agencies and organizations are important in promoting different forms of food assistance and WFP has partnered with UNHCR to roll out the innovative iris scan payment system in Jordan's Zaatari refugee camp.²⁸⁶ WFP works with UNHCR biometric registration data of refugees, Iris Guard's iris scan, Jordan Ahli Bank, and Middle East Payment Services to administer this form of payment which scans irises to match up with corresponding bank accounts before confirming the purchases of goods.²⁸⁷ Among many initiatives, in Jordan WFP has also collaborated with Mastercard to provide electronic cards to Syrian refugee households to buy food.²⁸⁸ Electronic cards are called SCOPE cards and require beneficiaries to register with their personal information and fingerprints to buy food at local markets or pick up food from WFP distribution points.²⁸⁹ Refugees and IDPs can also use the Dalili smartphone application to compare food prices and boosts competition among shops.²⁹⁰ First piloted in November 2017 in Lebanon, Dalili's success nationwide in helping 11,900 users a month compare 250 items across 385 shops has led to its expansion into Jordan and Kenya.²⁹¹

The use of block-chain technology

In 2015 WFP launched the Innovation Accelerator, which supports WFP entrepreneurs, external start-ups, and companies in implementing innovative ideas and technological solutions to strengthen humanitarian operations worldwide.²⁹² The Innovation Accelerators has worked for more than 60 projects across 45 countries and has reached 1.4 million people in 2019.²⁹³ It uses new technologies, such as

²⁷⁶ UN WFP, *Food Assistance: Cash and In-kind*, 2020.

²⁷⁷ Ibid.

²⁷⁸ Ibid.

²⁷⁹ UN WFP, *Cash Transfers*, 2020.

²⁸⁰ UN WFP, *Food Assistance: Cash and In-kind*, 2020.

²⁸¹ UN WFP, *Cash-based Transfers for Delivering Food Assistance*, 2016.

²⁸² UN WFP, *In-kind Food Distribution*, 2020.

²⁸³ UN WFP, *Cash Transfers*, 2020.

²⁸⁴ UNCHR & UN WFP, *Mitigating Risks of Abuse of Power in Cash Assistance*, 2019.

²⁸⁵ Ibid.

²⁸⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Introduces Iris Scan Technology To Provide Food Assistance To Syrian Refugees In Zaatari*, 2016.

²⁸⁷ Ibid.

²⁸⁸ UN WFP, USA, *Vouchers and E-Cards*, 2019.

²⁸⁹ UN News, *Digital Cards Improve Food Assistance to Displaced Families and Syrian Refugees in Iraq – UN Agency*, 2016.

²⁹⁰ UN WFP, *Dalili*, 2019.

²⁹¹ Ibid.

²⁹² UN WFP, *Innovation Accelerator*, 2020; UN WFP, *2017: A Year In Review. The WFP Innovation Accelerator*, 2017.

²⁹³ UN WFP, *Innovation Accelerator*, 2020.

blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI), to implement WFP's work, while partnering with many international agencies such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), educational institutions such as Singularity University, start-ups, foundations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and corporations such as Cargill to find the most effective ways to achieve zero hunger by 2030.²⁹⁴ Blockchain technology makes cash transfers more effective, reliable, and transparent which helps WFP distribute food assistance more easily and its flexibility gives recipients more freedom with their food options.²⁹⁵ The pilot project in this sense is called Building Blocks and it aims to give refugees' more choices in terms of how they can access and spend their cash assistance.²⁹⁶ Building Blocks harnesses the distributed ledger technology to protect beneficiary data and reduce costs for cash transfers.²⁹⁷ The transactions use blockchain and UNHCR's biometric identity management system to create a virtual wallet and virtual bank account that beneficiaries can use to securely purchase goods at markets.²⁹⁸ Building Blocks was first used in Jordan, where now more than 100,000 refugees can buy food by scanning an iris at checkout.²⁹⁹ While blockchain technology has proven to be successful in many ways, some challenges related to its use still remain, such as the lack of security within financial institutions to provide cash transfer in the countries where IDPs and refugees live.³⁰⁰

Food fortification

Food fortification, also known as food enrichment, is the concept that refers to the process of adding micronutrients, such as vitamins and minerals, to food in order to increase its nutritional value.³⁰¹ Some of the risks related to malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies include brain damage due to iodine deficiency and death during childbirth due to iron deficiency, which represent an obstacle to achieving SDG 2 and improving living conditions of refugees and IDPs.³⁰² WFP has been working on rice fortification in West Africa countries.³⁰³ Since rice is largely considered as a food staple, WFP introduced a pilot program in Mali that aims to develop a rice fortification model to improve nutritional status of vulnerable populations in this region and worldwide.³⁰⁴

Accessibility to Food Assistance and the COVID-19 Pandemic

The safe access to food is among the major areas of concern for IDPs and refugees.³⁰⁵ The direct access to people in need and to secure sites for carrying out their work is crucial for WFP as well as other humanitarian relief organizations in order to ensure the safety of humanitarian actors, especially in conflict areas.³⁰⁶ In vulnerable areas like conflict zones, humanitarian actors often experience threats including illegal checkpoints, bureaucratic impediments, and detention, which represent an obstacle to their work.³⁰⁷ UNHCR published an Emergency Handbook that provides a comprehensive framework to coordinate humanitarian assistance in a safe manner.³⁰⁸ Among the key-points of the handbook, UNHCR underlines the necessity to provide all refugees with adequate food, as well as to establish infant and young child feeding programs.³⁰⁹ In addition, it suggests detailed best practices to organize the

²⁹⁴ Ibid.

²⁹⁵ UN WFP, *Building Blocks: Blockchain for Zero Hunger*, 2020.

²⁹⁶ Ibid.

²⁹⁷ Ibid.

²⁹⁸ Dell Technologies, *How Blockchain is Bringing Food Security to Refugees*, 2019.

²⁹⁹ UN WFP, *Building Blocks: Blockchain for Zero Hunger*, 2020.

³⁰⁰ Ibid.

³⁰¹ UN WFP, *Food Fortification*, 2018.

³⁰² Ibid.

³⁰³ Ibid.

³⁰⁴ UN WFP, *Rice Fortification*, 2017; FAO & WFP, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI): Safeguarding against Economic Slowdowns and Downturns*, 2019.

³⁰⁵ UN WFP, *Evaluation of WFP Policies on Humanitarian Principles and Access in Humanitarian Contexts*, 2018.

³⁰⁶ Ibid.

³⁰⁷ Phiri, *Against all the Odds: Getting Through to People in Need in South Sudan*, *World Food Programme Insight*, 2019.

³⁰⁸ UNHCR, *Emergency Handbook Food Security in Camps*, 2018.

³⁰⁹ Ibid.

distribution of food in refugee camps.³¹⁰ Key steps include conducting regular nutrition surveys to monitor the nutrition situation in camps; ensuring that all refugees have access to treatments programs when needed; setting up at least one distribution point for every 20,000 people; and supporting and prioritizing refugees with specific nutritional needs.³¹¹

WFP does not have an independent source of funds; instead it is completely reliant on donations, which mainly come from governments and private companies.³¹² As reported by WFP's officials, over 2.7 million refugees in Africa have been impacted, with food or cash transfers reduced up to 30 per cent, as a consequence to the reduction of funding from donors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³¹³ The most vulnerable refugees, including women, children, and elderly are at risk of becoming malnourished.³¹⁴ In particular, many children in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Rwanda haven't had access to school meals, since schools in refugee camps were closed.³¹⁵ Many other refugees worldwide have experienced a fall in their access to food as a result to national lockdowns and reduced imports.³¹⁶ For example, in Lebanon, food imports decreased by 14.4 % between the last part of 2019 and March 2020, which led to increasing food prices.³¹⁷ Therefore, many refugees who receive cash assistance through the UN electronic card weren't able to buy food for more than two weeks with the monthly allowance.³¹⁸ WFP has rapidly introduced creative solutions to keep delivering food assistance during the pandemic.³¹⁹ For example, in Jordan and Bangladesh, WFP continued to use blockchain technology by swapping fingerprint identification for a digital QR code so that refugees didn't need to touch devices and risk to get coronavirus; in Somalia, WFP created an app that gives people the possibility to ask for assistance, including home delivery; in Ghana, WFP supported the Ministry's Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme, which consisted of providing five months of money transfers via mobile phone to those in need.³²⁰ Moreover, WFP has worked closely with UNHCR and other partners in Iraq to reach 76,000 refugees and 280,000 IDPs and help them cope with the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic.³²¹ It is estimated that WFP is going to reach as many as 138 million people in 2020.³²² As a recognition of "its efforts to combat hunger, and contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas", WFP was awarded The Nobel Peace Prize 2020.³²³

Conclusion

It is estimated that almost 690 million people around the world faced hunger in 2019.³²⁴ In 2020, as a consequence of lockdowns and other restrictive measures to contain the spread of coronavirus, up to another 132 million people may go hungry.³²⁵ Refugees and IDPs are among those vulnerable groups who are most likely to suffer from food insecurity and hunger.³²⁶ WFP works closely with these vulnerable

³¹⁰ Ibid.

³¹¹ Ibid.

³¹² UN WFP, *Funding and Donors*, 2020.

³¹³ UN News, *Refugees at Risk of Hunger and Malnutrition, as Relief hit in Eastern Africa*, 2020.

³¹⁴ WFP, *Food Rations Cut for Refugees in Eastern Africa as Coronavirus Stretches Resources*, 2020.

³¹⁵ Ibid.

³¹⁶ Tuzi, *Refugees in the MENA: How Food Insecurity Hits the Most Vulnerable*, *Istituto Per Gli Studi Di Politica Internazionale*, 2020.

³¹⁷ Ibid.

³¹⁸ Ibid.

³¹⁹ UN WFP, *WFP and COVID-19*, 2020.

³²⁰ Ibid.; UN WFP, *WFP supports 75,000 Food Insecure People in Ghana to Recover from Socio-Economic Effects of Coronavirus*, 2020.

³²¹ UN WFP, *UNHCR and WFP Extend Assistance Net to Cover Displaced and Refugee Families Affected by Pandemic*, 2020; UN WFP, *WFP Global Response o COVID-19: June 2020*, 2020.

³²² UN WFP, *WFP Chief Warns on Grave Dangers of Economic Impact of Coronavirus as Millions are Pushed Further Into Hunger*, 2020; UN WFP, *WFP Global Response o COVID-19: June 2020*, 2020.

³²³ The Nobel Prize, *World Food Programme (WFP)*, 2020.

³²⁴ UNICEF, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020*, 2020.

³²⁵ Ibid.

³²⁶ Food Security Information Network, *Global Report on Food Crises 2019*, 2019.

groups to provide them with safe, nutrient, and adequate food.³²⁷ Starting from 2000, WFP's operations have shifted from the concept of food aid to that of food assistance, which considers people's long-term needs and provides them with cash, vouchers, and electronic cards so that they are more empowered in their dietary decisions.³²⁸ Thanks to new technologies, such as blockchain and mobile applications, WFP has been able to make its policies of food assistance more efficient and accurate.³²⁹ Part of WFP's work focuses on improving the food refugees and IDPs eat.³³⁰ Through food fortification, WFP adds micronutrients to staple food in order to increase its nutritional value.³³¹ Safety of aid workers and people in camps need to be improved so that food assistance can be distributed in a safe manner.³³² The COVID-19 pandemic had severe consequences on the status of refugees and IDPs, primarily because of the reduction of funding from donors.³³³ Insufficient funding remains a major issue affecting WFP, since it does not have an independent source of funds, but only relies on voluntary donations.³³⁴

Further Research

While researching on this topic, delegates should think about the following questions: What are the most effective ways for WFP to help refugees and IDPs become more food secure? What are the main challenges WFP need to consider while using new technologies in implementing its food assistance's strategy? What other technologies may WFP use for its food assistance programs? How can the international community coordinate humanitarian responses so that both humanitarian actors and beneficiaries are safe? How can WFP find reliable source of funding? What are the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on food assistance programs? What can WFP and its partners do to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on refugees and IDPs?

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WFP's annual flagship report is a compilation of data, analyses, knowledge and expertise regarding the status of food security and malnutrition worldwide. It provides an in-depth analysis about the challenges in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and examines how the health and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic may deteriorate most vulnerable groups' living conditions. In additions, the report underlines the importance of quality diets to prevent food insecurity and malnutrition. Delegates will learn more about what kind of policies and strategies the international community developed in order to transform food systems and ensure affordable healthy diets.

Food Security Information Network. (2020). *2020 Global Report on Food Crises: Join Analysis for Better Decision*. Retrieved 14 September 2020 from: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/2020-global-report-food-crises>

This report analyzes the status of acute hunger worldwide. It describes the main factors that cause food crises and explores how the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic may worsen the situation. The report gives a comprehensive definition of food insecurity and shows how this impacts vulnerable groups' lives in certain regions. Delegates will

³²⁷ UN WFP, *Food Assistance: Cash and In-kind*, 2020.

³²⁸ Ibid.

³²⁹ UN WFP, *World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator 2018 Year in Review*, 2018.

³³⁰ UN WFP, *Food Fortification*, 2018.

³³¹ Ibid.

³³² UN WFP, *Evaluation of WFP Policies on Humanitarian Principles and Access in Humanitarian Contexts*, 2018.

³³³ UN WFP, *Funding and Donors*, 2020.

³³⁴ Ibid.

find this very helpful, particularly as a starting point of their research on the topic, since it reports numerous data and detailed analyses of the main food crises worldwide. Therefore, delegates will have a deeper understanding of current food crises and what the international community is planning to do to end them.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2016). *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*. Retrieved 12 September 2020 from: https://www.wfp.org/publications/wfp-strategic-plan-2017-2021?_ga=2.245205441.558830538.1563575127-554700610.1563575127

The Strategic Plan (2017-2021) explains WFP's strategies to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on ending hunger and finding partnerships to achieve the SDGs. It identifies WFP's main goals and strategies to support vulnerable groups and end hunger worldwide. The plan also describes how the agency plans to monitor its operations and the financial framework to fund its work. The Strategic Plan will help delegates understanding WFP's main objectives and evaluating the status of their implementation so far.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2018). *Evaluation of WFP Policies on Humanitarian Principles and Access in Humanitarian Contexts*. Retrieved 14 September 2020 from:

<https://www.wfp.org/publications/wfps-policies-humanitarian-principles-and-access-humanitarian-contexts-policy-evaluation-ter>

This evaluation assesses the quality of the policies and WFP's progress on humanitarian principles, by examining its work in the time period 2012-2017. The report shows that WFP performance on delivering food assistance was effective, especially in conflict affected areas. However, it recommends that WFP should work more on implementing humanitarian principles, as well as investing more in the implementation of the policies. Delegates will learn more about past WFP policies and programs in providing humanitarian aid, and think about what changes can be done to make humanitarian food assistance in the future.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2020). *WFP and COVID-19: Stories from the Field on how Innovation, Technology and Digital Transformation are Enabling a Rapid Response*. Retrieved 13 September 2020 from: <https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/covid19-response/>

This section of the WFP's website gives updated information on how WFP has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in terms of technological innovations and solutions. It confirms the necessity of using new technologies to achieving the SDGs and describes the major challenges WFP has to face in the digital transformation. Delegates will find interesting videos and articles describing what is happening on the field and how WFP staff around the world developed creative solutions to keep supporting vulnerable groups despite the pandemic.

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