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WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME BACKGROUND GUIDE 2016

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2016 National Model United Nations Conference in New York (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). This year's staff is: Directors Auric Kaur (Conference A) and Angela Shively (Conference B), and Assistant Directors Danielle Curtis (Conference A) and Ana Palma Gutierrez (Conference B). Auric Kaur is completing her B.A. in International Studies at the Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington. She specializes in Foreign Policy, Diplomacy, Peace and Security. She currently works for Microsoft as a Product Adviser in Visuals Lead & Merchandising in Bellevue, Washington. This is her fourth year on staff. Danielle Curtis is an Irish graduate from University College Dublin. She has a BA in International Politics and International Relations. She currently serves as her university's Student Union Education Officer, working to represent over 30,000 students on all governing bodies. This is her first year on staff. Angela Shively is completing her B.A. in Political Science with a minor in International Security Studies, and currently works in real estate management while working towards law school. This is her fifth year on staff. Ana Palma-Gutierrez is completing her B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Women's Studies. This is her second year on staff.

The topics under discussion for WFP are:

- I. Encouraging the Eradication of Hunger through Cooperation with the Farming Industry
- II. Improving Frameworks for the Supply of Food Aid
- III. Responding to Food Insecurity in Yemen

The WFP is an important organization in the UN system; it offers a forum for the international community to discuss a wide range of topics related to hunger, poverty, and nutrition. At NMUN•NY 2016, we are simulating the Executive Board. Though we are simulating the Executive Board of WFP, in terms of composition and size, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Executive Board as a budgetary and administrative body. On the contrary, for the purposes of NMUN•NY 2016, and in line 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 related to the overall function of the organization.

We hope you will find this Background Guide useful as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We highly encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in-depth, as well as to use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your research and knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will submit a [position paper](#). Please take note of the [NMUN policies](#) on the website and in the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#) regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct, dress code, sexual harassment, and the awards philosophy and evaluation method. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) are available to download from the NMUN website. This document includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure. It is thus an essential instrument in preparing for the conference, and a reference during committee.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, feel free to contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the Human Rights & Humanitarian Affairs Department, Moritz Müller (Conference A) and Claudia Sanchez (Conference B). You can reach either USG by contacting them at: usg.hr_ha@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations, and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Conference A

Auric Kaur, *Director*
Danielle Curtis, *Assistant Director*

Conference B

Angela Shively, *Director*
Ana Palma-Gutierrez, *Assistant Director*

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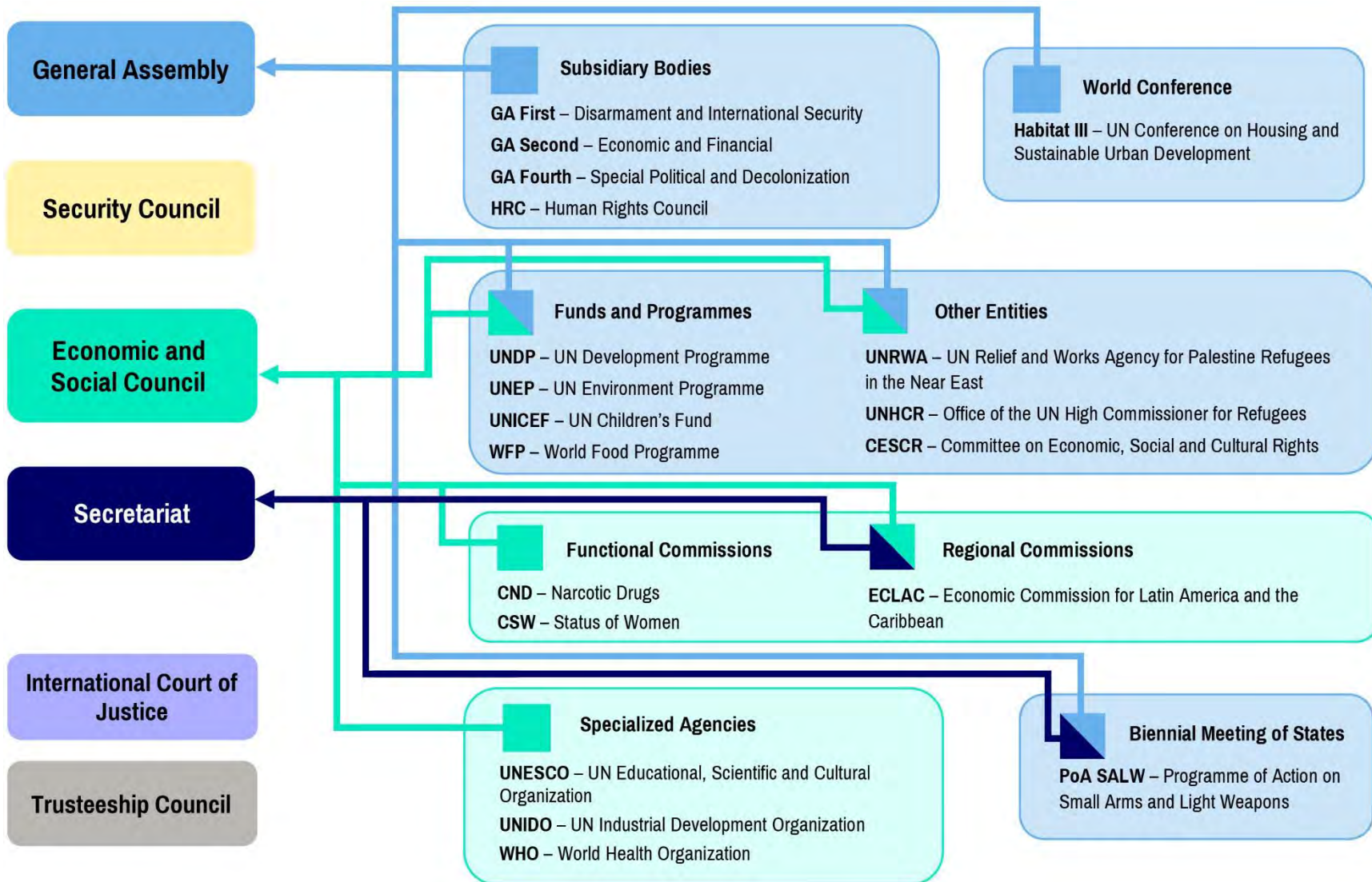


Abbreviations

CERF	United Nations Emergency Response Fund
CFA	Comprehensive Framework For Action on Food Security
CFS	Committee on Food Security
CISG	Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFE	Food for Education
GA	General Assembly
GPFA	Global Partnership for Afghanistan
HLTF	High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis
ICRC	International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
INTERFAIS	International Food Aid Information System
LDCs	Least developed countries
LICs	Low-income countries
LRPs	Local and regional purchases
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PICC	Principles of International Commercial Contracts
PRRO	Protracted Reliefs and Recovery
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme
RWEE	Economic Empowerment of Rural Women
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference for Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDROIT	International Institute for the Unification of Private Law
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-	United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation
WCMC	Monitoring Centre
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

United Nations System at NMUN·NY

This diagram illustrates the UN System simulated at NMUN·NY. It shows where each committee “sits” within the system, to help understand the reportage and relationships between the 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 in charge of providing and coordinating food aid, and it is the largest entity in the world that addresses hunger.¹ The organization is an “autonomous joint subsidiary program of the UN and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).”² WFP is also one of the “Rome-based agencies” headquartered in Rome, Italy, along with the FAO and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).³ WFP delivers humanitarian aid and supports food security programs in least-developed countries (LDCs) and low-income countries (LICs) for individuals affected by many different situations, including disasters, food shortages, climate-related concerns, poverty, conflict, and other circumstances.⁴ As a program of the UN, the WFP is financed through voluntary contributions mainly from Member States.⁵

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

WFP’s Executive Board, comprised of contributing Member States, reports yearly to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the FAO Council regarding its use of funds, its organizational administration, and the development of global statistics regarding food and nutrition.⁶ The WFP also reports on its decisions and recommendations during its Executive Board sessions to the General Assembly, as outlined in the WFP *General Regulations*.⁷ In 2014, WFP provided food assistance to 80 million people in 82 countries.⁸ Of those assisted, 66.8 million were women and children, 6.7 million were refugees, 14.8 million people were internally displaced, and 800 thousand people were affected by HIV/AIDS.⁹

At NMUN·NY 2016, 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 2016, 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.

The WFP has been working to deliver this type of aid since its creation. In 1961, George McGovern, director of the United States’ “Food for Peace Programme,” proposed a program to create multilateral food aid.¹⁰ Seven months later, the FAO conference adopted resolution 1/61 of 24 November 1961, and the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 16/1714(XVI) of 19 December 1961, which established the WFP on a three-year experimental basis.¹¹ Although the program was expected to launch in 1963, food aid services started earlier in order to respond to an earthquake in Iran, a hurricane in Thailand, and the resettlement of 5 million Algerians in 1962.¹² In 1965, the FAO and General Assembly adopted two additional resolutions that established WFP on a more permanent mandate: “for as long as multilateral food [was] found feasible and desirable.”¹³ 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 in 1976.¹⁴ On 1 January 1996, the CFA was reconstituted from a 42-member body to the current 36-member Executive Board.¹⁵

¹ UN WFP, *Mission Statement*, 2014; WFP, *About*, 2014.

² UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 13.

³ UN WFP, *Rome-Based Agencies*, 2014.

⁴ UNIC Tehran, *World Food Programme*.

⁵ UN Foundation, *What we do: UN Agencies, Funds and Programs*, 2014.

⁶ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013.

⁷ UN WFP, *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities*, 2012.

⁸ UN WFP, *WFP in Numbers*, 2014.

⁹ UN WFP, *The World Food Programme in 2014: Facts and Figures*, 2015.

¹⁰ UN WFP, *History*, 2014.

¹¹ FAO, *The FAO world food programme*.

¹² UNIC Tehran, *World Food Programme*.

¹³ UN WFP, *History*, 2014.

¹⁴ UN WFP, *Executive Board*, 2014.

¹⁵ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013.

Governance, Structure and Membership

WFP is comprised of two entities: the Executive Board, and the Executive Director and Secretariat.¹⁶ Additionally, four separate documents were combined into one, which is now referred to as the *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*.¹⁷

Executive Board

The Executive Board of WFP supervises all programs and initiatives.¹⁸ The 36-member body meets four times a year in Rome at the WFP Headquarters.¹⁹ The substantive function of the Board is to make immediate decisions on funding and operational needs, and to establish long-term policy goals.²⁰ The Board's function in terms of administrative matters and management includes approving program proposals submitted by the Executive Director, and reviewing the administration and execution of these programs.²¹ The Executive Board also reports annually to ECOSOC and FAO regarding its decisions and policy recommendations.²² Members are elected to the Executive Board by both ECOSOC and FAO, with each body electing 18 members for 3-year terms.²³

Secretariat

The Executive Director heads the Secretariat for WFP.²⁴ The Secretariat and the Executive Director are accountable to the Executive Board for the administration and implementation of WFP programs, projects and other activities.²⁵ The United Nations Secretary-General and Director-General appoint the Executive Director in consultation with the Executive Board members for a five-year term and up to one reappointment.²⁶ The Executive Director represents WFP in all matters, including as a liaison to Member States.²⁷ The current Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin, is from the United States, and in her role she has advocated for increased collaboration and the promotion of gender parity and mainstreaming within the three Rome-based organizations.²⁸

Funding

WFP is funded through the support of governments, corporations, and individuals.²⁹ In addition, the United Nations Emergency Response Fund (CERF) also supports WFP programs.³⁰ In 2014 WFP received \$5.5 trillion in funding, with the largest donations coming from the United States, United Kingdom, the European Commission, Canada, and Germany.³¹ In times of emergency, the WFP and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) may issue joint appeals for donations due to a shortage in international funds for humanitarian assistance.³² 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.³³

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 United Nations and FAO."³⁴

¹⁶ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 7.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013; WFP, *Executive Board*.

¹⁹ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013.

²⁰ UN WFP, *Executive Board*.

²¹ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 7.

²² UN WFP, *Executive Board*.

²³ UN WFP, *Members of the Board*, 2014.

²⁴ UN WFP, *Organization Chart of the WFP Executive Board Secretariat*.

²⁵ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ UN WFP, *Ertharin Cousin's biography*, 2014.

²⁹ UN WFP, *Funding*, 2014.

³⁰ UNHCR, *United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)*.

³¹ UN WFP, *Funding*, 2015.

³² UN WFP, *Heads of WFP & HCR Issue Urgent Appeal as Food Shortage Hit Nearly 800,000 in Africa*, 2014.

³³ UN WFP, *Executive Board*.

³⁴ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 5.

WFP's functions are to:

“aid in economic and social development, concentrating its efforts and resources on the neediest people and countries; assist in the continuum from emergency relief to development by giving priority to supporting disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation and post-disaster rehabilitation activities; assist in meeting refugee and other emergency and protracted relief food needs, using this assistance to the extent possible to serve both relief and development purposes; and provide services to bilateral donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations for operations which are consistent with the purposes of WFP and which complement WFP's operations.”³⁵

WFP selects which projects to support either by request of the Secretary-General or through Member State reports.³⁶ Assistant agreements are put in place with governments, and governments are expected to give full support to WFP in the monitoring and implementation of programs.³⁷

The UN's international emergency response mechanism, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), is managed through the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which developed the Cluster Approach.³⁸ Clusters are comprised of key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners, and are designated by IASC.³⁹ The Cluster Approach coordinates WFP, UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and other humanitarian organizations such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRC) to respond to humanitarian emergencies.⁴⁰ Cluster leads are responsible for technical knowledge of one particular aspect; the position serves as the central point of contact for governments and regional centers, and coordinates aid delivery.⁴¹ In an emergency response situation, WFP is the designated lead for the logistics and emergency telecommunication clusters, and co-leads the food security cluster with FAO.⁴² In addition to handling emergencies and development programs, WFP also provides protracted relief and recovery for regions emerging from disaster.⁴³ This includes food for education and training programs, relief for refugees, and providing food for people that suffer from infrastructure and crop damages.⁴⁴ Finally, WFP works with the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), who gives air support for over 700 humanitarian organizations around the world.⁴⁵ For example, UNHAS provides transportation in Chad, where air travel is the only means to reach populations in need of humanitarian assistance.⁴⁶ This is particularly important when peacekeeping missions, such as the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, finish their mandates, but aid relief is still required.⁴⁷

WFP works with the other Rome-based agencies, FAO and IFAD, towards the common goal of eradicating hunger; each of these organizations has different mandates for achieving this shared vision.⁴⁸ Whereas WFP provides food aid in emergencies, FAO develops programs and strategies to raise nutrition levels and increase sustainable agriculture activities.⁴⁹ IFAD mobilizes and offers financial resources on concession terms for agricultural and rural development projects.⁵⁰ The three agencies work together to find joint solutions on emergencies and development by setting collective targets and goals, working on food aid projects together, and collaborating on the distribution of information and press releases.⁵¹

³⁵ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, pp. 5-6.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 18-19.

³⁸ UNOCHA, *Cluster Coordination*.

³⁹ IASC, *IASC*, 2015.

⁴⁰ Phillips, *FAO: its origin, formation, and evolution*, 1981, p. 169.

⁴¹ UNOCHA, *The cluster approach*, 2012.

⁴² UN WFP, *Food, Trucks and Radios: WFP's Role in The 'Cluster System'*, 2013.

⁴³ UN WFP, *Protracted Reliefs and Recovery (PRROs)*.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ UN WFP, *UNHAS Current Operations*.

⁴⁶ UN WFP, *Chad*, 2014.

⁴⁷ WFP, *Chad*, 2014.

⁴⁸ IFAD, *FAO/IFAD/WFP: Working together to fight hunger and poverty*.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ UN WFP, *Rome-Based Agencies*, 2014.

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

The mission of WFP is to end global hunger.⁵² To achieve this, the *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)* was created, outlining four objectives: first, to “save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies”; second, to “support food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies”; third, to “reduce risk and enable people, communities, and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs”; and lastly, to “reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger.”⁵³ The strategic plan also requires WFP to implement early warning systems to prevent food shortages in order to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies.⁵⁴ Additionally, in regards to building livelihoods, the strategic plan highlights working with local governments, UN entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to implement programs in fragile situations.⁵⁵ Partnerships with civil society play a key role in achieving humanitarian aid delivery and food security program objectives.⁵⁶ 74% of WFP’s food is distributed with the assistance of its 1,400 civil society partners.⁵⁷

WFP’s agenda is evolving from working towards the Millennium Development Goals to aligning more closely with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the post-2015 development agenda.⁵⁸ The post-2015 development agenda is rooted in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁵⁹ Goal 2, to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture applies directly to the work of WFP.⁶⁰ However, several other goals coincide with WFP’s priorities including: Goal 1 to end poverty in all its forms; Goal 3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and goal 12 to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.⁶¹ Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the GA in September 2015, the focus and direction of the international community has shifted and will impact the way emergency response and relief in protracted crises is addressed.⁶²

The 2014 annual report of WFP highlighted its work in Syria, the Philippines, Central Africa Republic, South Sudan, and Iraq.⁶³ Additionally, WFP focused on West African states including Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone as a result of the Ebola epidemic where food assistance, logistics coordination, and treatment center assistance were provided.⁶⁴ These countries all received “level 3” emergency responses, the highest response category possible for a WFP emergency.⁶⁵ WFP, through its Country Offices and Regional Bureaus, distributed 3.2 million metric tons of food, with 81% of food procured from neighboring developing countries.⁶⁶ WFP programs operated 202 food-aid-related projects globally in 2014.⁶⁷ Also in 2014, the Executive Director approved \$2.2 million to provide support for WFP’s “Gender Mainstreaming Accountability Framework.”⁶⁸ In November 2014, WFP had two objectives for activating the Gender Mainstreaming Accountability Framework.⁶⁹ The first priority was to develop a plan for the implementation of the gender policy, and to begin consultations on all levels.⁷⁰ The second priority was to strengthen the framework itself.⁷¹ As of May 2015, WFP is exceeding the standards in 7 areas of focus including policy, organizational culture, knowledge generation and communication, and monitoring and reporting.

⁵² UN WFP, *Strategic Plan*, 2014.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ UN WFP, *Policy Issues: Agenda item 5*, 2013.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ UN WFP, *Non-governmental Organizations*, 2014.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ UN WFP, *The World Food Programme’s Achievement in 2013*, 2014.

⁶⁴ UN WFP, *The World Food Programme in 2014: Facts and Figures*, 2015.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ UN WFP, *Update on the gender policy*, 2014.

⁶⁹ UN WFP, *Update on Implementation of the WFP Gender Mainstreaming Accountability Framework*, 2015.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.



As of September 2015, WFP is faced with six large-scale emergencies in Nepal, South Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Ebola-affected regions in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.⁷² Additionally, the WFP Secretariat has warned that funding shortfalls in Syria will result in smaller food rations and a reduction of food vouchers to refugees in the future.⁷³ The World Food Programme's appeals for funding from now until the end of 2015 stands at \$99 million for operations for the situation in Iraq alone.⁷⁴

Conclusion

With over 80 million people assisted in 75 countries, WFP's work continues to be highly significant and necessary. By the end of 2015, WFP aims to deliver a total of 17 billion rations to over 75 million people in 76 countries.⁷⁵ Their tasks range from emergency relief to development, to providing support as communities rebuild themselves from natural disasters and conflicts. Additionally, 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 especially in times of disasters. WFP's work has a significant global impact and delegates should consider how WFP's work supports the three topics to be discussed during the conference: (1) Encouraging the Eradication of Hunger through Cooperation with the Farming Industry; (2) Improving Frameworks for the Supply of Food Aid; and (3) Responding to Food Insecurity in Yemen.

⁷² UN WFP, *Hunger Emergencies*, 2014.

⁷³ UN WFP, *Funding shortfall forces WFP to announce cutbacks to Syrian Food Assistance operations*, 2014.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

⁷⁵ UN WFP, *The World Food Programme in 2014: Facts and Figures*, 2015.



Annotated Bibliography

Inter-Agency Standing Committee. (n.d.). *IASC* [Website]. Retrieved 10 August 2015 from: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/about-iasc>

The IASC develops plans and coordinates the various humanitarian response teams in the event of an emergency. WFP is one of the key contributors to this coordination process, especially in the areas of food and telecommunication. This source will help delegates develop a stronger understanding of how the humanitarian coordination process works, and how various stakeholders and UN agencies contribute to humanitarian efforts. Delegates will want to use this source to determine ways in which WFP can further contribute to this system.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 26 October 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

This resolution on the post-2015 development agenda was adopted in late September 2015. The adoption of this resolution shifted the works of the entire UN System. This subsequently impacts the work of WFP and the manner in which the organization works to coincide with the international system. Thoroughly reviewing this document and applying its contents to further research will be crucial for delegates to accurately approach topics under the purview of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2014). *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*. Retrieved 12 July 2014 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/govman/wfp244037.pdf>

This is the document that provides the legal structure for how the WFP operates. The document outlines how the program is structured, and the operational procedures of the program. Furthermore, this document outlines how agreements are put in place to support food aid in countries, and the powers that WFP has in the administration and monitoring of these programs. Delegates will find this document useful in learning more about how the WFP and its Executive Board function and operate.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2015). *Update on Implementation of the WFP Gender Mainstreaming Accountability Framework, 2015*. Retrieved 12 September 2015 from: <http://bit.ly/1iKYYFN>

This May 2015 report on the Gender Mainstreaming Accountability Framework explains the progress made in gender policy implementation and improvement. The report explains the indicators for improvement in several areas of work, and the plans for meeting the expectations of those guidelines. Additionally, WFP explores methods of improvement in order to meet standards that will be essential for future implementation of gender mainstreaming in humanitarian assistance. By reviewing the successes and shortfalls, delegates will be able to conduct further research into Member States' contributions, in order to include this in topic discussions.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2015). *Funding* [Website]. Retrieved 10 August 2015 from: <http://www.wfp.org/about/funding>

Funding for the WFP comes directly from donors, including Member States and private donors. This link explains how the program is funded, the various sources of funding, mobilization of monies, and how individuals can contribute to the program. As funding is often a complex issue within the UN System, and given how unique funding is for the WFP, this source will guide delegates in gaining a better understanding of the WFP's sources of revenue.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (n.d.). *Protracted Reliefs and Recovery (PRROs)* [Website]. Retrieved 10 August 2014 from: <https://www.wfp.org/operations/relief>

Protracted relief and recovery is one of the key activities conducted by WFP. Protracted Reliefs and Recovery (PRRO) projects go beyond the initial emergency response and provide longer-term support to people impacted by disaster. A PRRO, as defined by the UNHCR, is one in which refugees are in long-lasting and intractable states of displacement living in camps. WFP's role is to provide basic services, and access to food as food sources may not be readily available. This will provide delegates with more information about what PRROs entail, as well as examples of



PRROs in progress. Reviewing this will also provide an understanding of how WFP acquires and allocates funds for emergency relief and protracted recovery efforts.

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I. Encouraging the Eradication of Hunger through Cooperation with the Farming Industry

“Family farmers are key to food security worldwide...they are vital to the solution of the hunger problem.”⁷⁶

Introduction

The international community currently faces challenges in feeding the world population.⁷⁷ Significant root causes of global hunger are poverty and poor support to those in desperate need of food.⁷⁸ It is important to take these challenges into consideration, as the international community looks towards 2050, when the world population is expected to surpass 9 billion people.⁷⁹ Poor infrastructure advancement in developing countries prevents these countries from finding sustainable solutions to hunger.⁸⁰ Likewise, the failure to support farmers, in particular those in desperate economic needs, leads to higher percentages of hunger.⁸¹ In particular, 70% of the world’s hungry live in rural areas, where agricultural activities and farming are the main means for survival.⁸² The definition of smallholder farmers varies geographically and economically; however, the term has become associated with farmers who do not own the land they cultivate, or they own less than one half of the land.⁸³ Smallholders manage over 80% of the 500 million farms in the world, and provide over 80% of food consumption in the developing world.⁸⁴

Considering these factors, smallholder farmers can play a vital role in reducing world poverty and food insecurity.⁸⁵ In fact, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has concluded that family farmers are a key element to food security worldwide.⁸⁶ However, small farmers in rural areas cannot compete with large corporations, and have difficulties producing healthy livelihoods for themselves.⁸⁷ Additionally, smallholder farmers have less resources than commercial-scale farmers, and they are vulnerable in supply chains.⁸⁸ The high increase of land fragmentation, lack of investment support, and the marginalization of small farms threaten farmers’ contributions to poverty reduction.⁸⁹ Regardless of their location, farmers also need improved access to technologies, land and water, and access to credit and markets.⁹⁰ While struggling economically, and unable to afford or access fertilizers, seeds, microcredit, and micro-insurance for their businesses, such farmers often have a difficult time fitting into the world economy.⁹¹ Therefore, in order to combat the growing prevalence of hunger worldwide in an increasing population, and in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is imperative for all stakeholders, governments, civil society, and the United Nations (UN) put in place policies that support farmers.⁹²

International and Regional Framework

During the World Summit on Food Security that took place in Rome, Italy from 16-18 November 2009, leaders of the international community gathered to take urgent action to eradicate world hunger.⁹³ World leaders adopted the *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security*.⁹⁴ By doing so, the international community agreed to undertake the necessary measures at the national, regional, and global levels to stop the number of individuals experiencing hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity.⁹⁵ World leaders also expressed the urgency of addressing climate change,

⁷⁶ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2014, p. vi.

⁷⁷ UN DPI, *Global Issues: Resources for Speakers on Global Issues: Hunger*, 2015.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ FAO, *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security*, 2009, p. 2.

⁸⁰ UN DPI, *Global Issues: Resources for Speakers on Global Issues: Hunger*, 2015.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Dixon et al., *Framework for Analyzing Impacts of Globalization on Smallholders*, 2004.

⁸⁴ IFAD & UNEP, *Smallholders, food security, and the environment*, 2013, p. 6.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2014, p. vi.

⁸⁷ UN DPI, *Global Issues: Resources for Speakers on Global Issues: Hunger*, 2015.

⁸⁸ Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing on Organizing, *Smallholder Farmers*, 2015.

⁸⁹ IFAD & UNEP, *Smallholders, food security, and the environment*, 2013, p. 6.

⁹⁰ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2014.

⁹¹ Anderson, *Battle to feed the world pits small farmers against big agriculture*, 2015.

⁹² FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2014, p. vi; UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

⁹³ FAO, *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security*, 2009.

⁹⁴ Ibid., p. 1.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

given its negative impacts on food security and the agriculture sector.⁹⁶ According to FAO, climate change is expected to significantly endanger smallholder farmers in developing countries.⁹⁷ The Declaration proposed five principles, which are formally recognized as the “Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security.”⁹⁸ The first principle highlights the importance of investing in country-owned plans, while the second principle highlights the importance of “strategic coordination at national, regional, and global level to improve governance and promote better allocation of resources.”⁹⁹ The third principle strives to provide an active long-term solution to world hunger.¹⁰⁰ The last two principles focus on ensuring a strong role for the international system by providing “improvements in efficiency, responsiveness, coordination, and effectiveness” with regards to world hunger.¹⁰¹

Legal frameworks in regards to the farming industry and the sale of goods include the *United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG)*, and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) *Principles of International Commercial Contracts (PICC)*.¹⁰² CISG serves as a legal international framework for transnational sale contracts, governing the contracts for movable goods as well as the rights of contracting parties.¹⁰³ As of 2012, CISG is composed of 77 Member States, including both developed and developing states.¹⁰⁴ The PICC is a non-binding agreement, and plays a role in agricultural contracting.¹⁰⁵

In 2012, the UN held the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, where Member States met to renew their commitment to sustainable development.¹⁰⁶ The conference ultimately led to the creation of 17 SDGs, which were adopted on 25 September 2015.¹⁰⁷ Goal 2 focuses on doubling the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers (in particular women and family farmers) by 2030.¹⁰⁸ This will be done by providing equal and secure access to land, productive resources, market opportunities for value addition, and the establishment of non-farm employment.¹⁰⁹

On 22 December 2011, the UN General Assembly (GA) adopted resolution 66/220 on “Agriculture development and food security.”¹¹⁰ In this resolution, Member States recognized that smallholder farming families do not have equitable access to land tenure rights, markets, and tools that can help them reach a productive potential.¹¹¹ In addition, on 2 February 2015, the GA adopted resolution 69/240 on “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition,” stressing the importance of the issue of agriculture development, food security, and nutrition in consideration of the post-2015 development agenda.¹¹² On 10 August 2012, as requested by GA resolution 66/220, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered a report entitled “Agriculture development and food security.”¹¹³ The report examined the challenges preventing a nourishing and thriving food production worldwide.¹¹⁴ Chapters 23 and 24 highlight the amount of loss and waste of food worldwide.¹¹⁵ Although both high-income and low-income countries face food waste, smallholder farmers in low-income countries suffer from more food loss and waste than any others, due to the lack of necessary financial and technical means to meet their harvesting demands.¹¹⁶ It was further recognized that smallholder farmers in developing countries not only do not compete with bigger

⁹⁶ FAO, *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security*, 2009, p. 1.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰² UNCITRAL, *United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods*, 2010; UNIDROIT, *UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts (PICC)*, 2010.

¹⁰³ UNCITRAL, *United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods*, 2010.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁵ UNIDROIT, *UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts (PICC)*, 2010.

¹⁰⁶ UN General Assembly, *The Future We Want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security*, 2012.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹¹² UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development, food security and nutrition*, 2015.

¹¹³ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General*, 2012.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

corporations, but they also struggle to meet their own food demands, many of them living with food insecurity.¹¹⁷ The Secretary-General thus highlighted the importance of establishing policy actions in developing countries that would allow for the engagement between the private sector and smallholder farmers.¹¹⁸

Role of the International System

The World Food Programme (WFP) met in Rome, Italy in 2013 to draft the *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, which was put into action in July 2014.¹¹⁹ The Strategic Plan focuses on four objectives, including the promotion of world food security, and support for economic and social development.¹²⁰ The Strategic Plan highlights the WFP's commitment to leveraging its purchasing power to connect farmers to markets.¹²¹ By working with governments, the private sector, and smallholder farmers, WFP works towards reducing poor-harvest losses and promoting economic opportunities, as well as agricultural productivity gains.¹²² In particular, through its Purchase for Progress (P4P) program, WFP continues to provide support to smallholder farmers by creating the incentive to invest in local production.¹²³ The P4P works with four main objectives. The first focuses on buying food directly from farmers through straightforward contracts and smallholder-friendly tenders.¹²⁴ The second objective focuses on supporting emerging trading systems, as it has been evident in the case of Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Zambia.¹²⁵ The third objective is similar to the first, in which WFP buys food from small and medium non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose work is focused on supporting smallholder farmers.¹²⁶ WFP will partner with international organizations and civil society, including NGOs, and the private sector, to “help vulnerable people, their communities and countries reduce and manage risk, build resilience and strengthen self-resilience.”¹²⁷ For those in the farming industry, this is crucially important. NGOs especially can help bring communities together and provide economic opportunities for farmers.¹²⁸ The fourth and final objective helps to develop food-processing capabilities that require raw materials from smallholder farmers.¹²⁹

In combination with the WFP, many UN entities, such as the FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), work directly in communities and with farmers on issues of poverty, hunger eradication, and food insecurity.¹³⁰ For instance, UN GA resolution 66/220 on “Agriculture development and food security” expressed deep concern about the high levels of starvation in the Horn of Africa.¹³¹ As a result, other UN bodies, including the UNDP, made efforts to assist those facing the hunger crisis.¹³² UNDP provided farm support, including 7.7 tons of seeds to 15,000 people in Kenya; and over 20,000 people with cash vouchers for both livestock restocking and agricultural inputs in Ethiopia.¹³³ Additionally, on 12 May 2014, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a core partner of WFP, released its fifth strategic framework for review: *A Strategic Vision for IFAD 2016-2025: Enabling inclusive and sustainable rural transformation*.¹³⁴ The Strategic Vision will work to eradicate hunger and provide support to farmers.¹³⁵ The agency recognizes that its efforts for the future will depend heavily on how well smallholder farmers and governments address key challenges such as climate change; and how they take advantage of opportunities, such as the higher incomes caused by rapid urbanization.¹³⁶ Additionally, IFAD concluded that in the context of the post-

¹¹⁷ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General*, 2012, p. 9.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10.

¹¹⁹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013.

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

¹²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

¹²² *Ibid.*

¹²³ UN WFP, *Our Work: P4P Overview*, 2015.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*

¹²⁷ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013, p. 15.

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

¹²⁹ UN WFP, *Our Work: P4P Overview*, 2015.

¹³⁰ UN WFP, *Partners*, 2015.

¹³¹ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General*, 2012.

¹³² UNDP, *The Horn of Africa crisis*.

¹³³ *Ibid.*

¹³⁴ IFAD, *A Strategic Vision for IFAD 2016-2025: Enabling inclusive and sustainable rural transformation*, 2014.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

2015 development agenda, agriculture is likely to become attractive for the large-scale private sector.¹³⁷ As a result, smallholder farmers will face increased competition for land and water resources, as well as challenges in accessing technology and markets.¹³⁸

Challenges for Smallholder Farmers

Lack of Support and Resources

In 2013, IFAD delivered three key messages regarding smallholder farmers in its joint report with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).¹³⁹ Smallholder farmers play an important role in global agriculture, and despite of their immense efforts, they are neglected government support and access to land and technology.¹⁴⁰ The FAO estimates there are about 2.5 billion people living in poor conditions who depend on the agricultural sector.¹⁴¹ Of this population, 1.5 billion individuals are in smallholder households, creating a cycle of high competition for resources and land.¹⁴² Therefore, smallholder productivity depends on well-functioning ecosystems.¹⁴³ Access to fertile soils, fresh water, pollination, and pest control are also essential elements of thriving ecosystems.¹⁴⁴ When farmers are deprived of these elements, they are forced to modify their habitats, which in turn harms the already vulnerable ecosystems around them.¹⁴⁵ Accordingly, the demand on agriculture to feed the ever-growing population will keep increasing, placing more pressure on land and natural resources, and making it impossible for smallholders to escape poverty.¹⁴⁶

Food Security and Conflict

Conflict and food security are interrelated; therefore, most of the world's food insecurity hotspots suffer from poor farming and agriculture.¹⁴⁷ A correlation between political conflict and food insecurity exists.¹⁴⁸ Food insecurity can both result from and lead to violence, which only further contributes to conflict.¹⁴⁹ Conflict leads to a shortage of resources that impede farmers from producing food.¹⁵⁰ This causes an increase in competition and a downfall in healthy nourishment in an already-affected conflict region.¹⁵¹ For example, in the conflict-affected zone in Mali, farmers grow primarily millet, sorghum, and wheat, with rice being the main crop cultivated.¹⁵² As a result of the conflict and its socio-economic impacts, tools for crop cultivation were negatively impacted; the most affected were fertilizers, irrigation systems, gas, and improved seed supplies.¹⁵³ Before the conflict, fertilizers were delivered by agro-dealers to the three major (and now, conflict-affected) regions of Gao, Timbuktu, and Kidal, found in the northern part of the country.¹⁵⁴ However, the conflict changed the course of delivery, and farmers must now travel over 500 kilometers from the conflict zone, placing themselves in dangerous circumstances.¹⁵⁵ Even large farms were greatly affected by the conflict; farmers of all sizes were cut off from their fields making them unable to produce their crops.¹⁵⁶ Rice is the main crop grown in Gao, and accounts for 80% of the total area cultivated in 2012.¹⁵⁷ Although there is limited data on the effect of the conflict on agricultural production in Mali, it was

¹³⁷ IFAD, *A Strategic Vision for IFAD 2016-2025: Enabling inclusive and sustainable rural transformation*, 2014, p. 3.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ IFAD & UNEP, *Smallholders, food security, and the environment*, 2013.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 6.

¹⁴¹ FAO, *Smallholders and family farmers*.

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ IFAD & UNEP, *Smallholders, food security, and the environment*, 2013, p. 6.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ IFAD, *Smallholder farmers key to lifting over one billion people out of poverty*, 2013.

¹⁴⁷ IPC Global Partners, *Integrated Food Security Phase Classification: Technical Manual Version 1.1*, 2008.

¹⁴⁸ Hendrix & Brinkman, *Food Insecurity and Violent Conflict: Causes, Consequences, and Addressing the Challenges*, 2011, p. 5.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid., p. 20.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ Hendrix & Brinkman, *Food Insecurity and Violent Conflict: Causes, Consequences, and Addressing the Challenges*, 2011.

¹⁵² Kimeny et al., *The impact of conflict and political instability on agricultural investments in Mali and Nigeria*, 2014, p. 8.

¹⁵³ Ibid., p. 9.

¹⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 4.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid., p. 9.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Ibid., p. 8.

estimated that in 2012 the production of rice decreased by 43% when compared to the previous year.¹⁵⁸ The case of food insecurity in Mali proves that conflict leads to poor agriculture, which ultimately leads to food insecurity.¹⁵⁹

Natural disasters

Unexpected natural disasters also have a negative impact on food security and farming industries.¹⁶⁰ The most notable and recent natural disaster was the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that devastated Nepal on 25 April 2015.¹⁶¹ A month after the earthquake, WFP published a report, *Nepal: A report on the food security impact of the 2015 earthquake, Food Security Cluster*, with data from household food security assessments, a market assessment, and District Food Security Network consultations.¹⁶² The assessment concluded that the significant concern for immediate and long-term food security in Nepal was the loss of food supplies.¹⁶³ Considering that agriculture contributes as much as 30% of Nepal's GDP, the earthquake left the country in critical agricultural devastation.¹⁶⁴ Another natural disaster that has presented devastation has been the drought in sub-Saharan Africa that occurred between 2003 and 2013.¹⁶⁵ The drought affected 27 countries and an estimated 150 million people.¹⁶⁶ The agricultural loss was also grave; due to these droughts, sub-Saharan Africa lost an estimated \$23.5 million, accounting for approximately 77% of all production losses caused by drought worldwide during that time period.¹⁶⁷

The Economic Challenges of Green Economies and Agriculture Practices

Farmers are already facing the challenges presented by climate change: the widespread degradation of resources such as land and water, and other negative environmental impacts.¹⁶⁸ Climate change creates extreme weather patterns that increase the likelihood of crop destruction, due to droughts and floods.¹⁶⁹ As a result of climate change, since small farmers in developing countries have fewer resources to cope with unexpected circumstances, crop losses can significantly harm household income and thus impact hunger and the ability to buy food.¹⁷⁰ One solution to this has been creating innovations capable of mitigating the risk imposed by climate change, such as flood-resistant crop varieties.¹⁷¹ Further, low investment in agriculture drives low crop yields, as in the case of Ghana: although cash grants and insurance grants are meant to help yield production in northern Ghana, uninsured risk, rather than lack of capital in the region, is the primary constraint in agricultural investment.¹⁷² Farmers who received insurance grants increased their expenditures of farm chemicals, which allowed them to cultivate more acres of land.¹⁷³ This then proves that the challenge was not a lack of capital, but rather farmers faced the uncertainty of an unforeseen risk.¹⁷⁴ Once having adjusted and recognized the value of insurance, production yields increased in northern Ghana, which provided farmers with healthier and more sustainable livelihoods.¹⁷⁵

Finding greener and more sustainable solutions to both hunger and the poor support for farming and agriculture industries, will guarantee smallholder farmers successful agricultural productions.¹⁷⁶ In order to do so, the international community must account for the challenges unsustainable approaches can present, and ways to address

¹⁵⁸ Kimeny et al., *The impact of conflict and political instability on agricultural investments in Mali and Nigeria*, 2014, p. 9.

¹⁵⁹ Hendrix & Brinkman, *Food Insecurity and Violent Conflict: Causes, Consequences, and Addressing the Challenges*, 2011.

¹⁶⁰ UN WFP, *Global Food Security Update: Tracking food security trends in vulnerable countries*, 2015.

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

¹⁶² *Ibid.*

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ FAO, *The impact of natural hazards and disasters on agriculture and food security and nutrition: A call for action to build resilient livelihoods*, 2015.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

¹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁸ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2014, p. vi.

¹⁶⁹ Emerick et al., *Adoption of improved fertilizer management practices under risk reduction due to flood-tolerant rice in India*, 2013.

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁷¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁷² Osei, *Examining underinvestment in agriculture: return to capital and insurance among farmers in Ghana*, 2012.

¹⁷³ Osei et al., *Examining underinvestment in agriculture: return to capital and insurance among farmers in Ghana*, 2012.

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁶ Emerick et al., *Adoption of improved fertilizer management practices under risk reduction due to flood-tolerant rice in India*, 2013.

such challenges.¹⁷⁷ The main challenges will be economic in nature, reliant on how the public and private sector address the economic expenses needed to provide farmers with more sustainable tools.¹⁷⁸ In 2013, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) released the *World Economic and Social Survey 2013: Sustainable Development Challenges*.¹⁷⁹ The survey concluded that large-scale investments are necessary to combat the economic challenges presented by current impacts of unsustainable agriculture and climate change.¹⁸⁰ More importantly, private sector investment will be crucial for the international community to meet these economic challenges.¹⁸¹ The survey also concluded that direct incentives (such as tax incentives) can encourage investments that can ultimately support local smallholder farmers.¹⁸²

Closing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity

Closing the gender gap in agricultural productivity is imperative for women farmers to be able to provide for themselves and their families.¹⁸³ WFP provides support for women farmers in different ways, most notably in its efforts of facilitating women's capacities in agriculture and farming.¹⁸⁴ In Senegal, WFP helps women to grow in their capacities to produce salt, thus creating jobs that ultimately benefit them and their families' nutrition – more family income can lead to the purchasing of healthier foods.¹⁸⁵ Especially, providing attention and support at an early age will determine women's involvement in food production and consumption.¹⁸⁶ Providing girls with nutritious meals encourages them to attend school, and gain intellectual experiences that can impact their futures in a positive way.¹⁸⁷ In addition, going to school will assist in preventing early marriage for young girls, and in attaining a successful job to provide for themselves and their families.¹⁸⁸

Technology is also increasingly becoming a key element in agriculture. The first step in ensuring that women farmers have access to technologies that will help them become agriculturally efficient, is creating technologies and environments that address women's needs.¹⁸⁹ While technology is often thought of as computers, cell phones, and other electronic such devices, basic infrastructure technology such as water sources to be used for irrigation and other farming needs.¹⁹⁰ In some African countries such as Kenya, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania, women have a hard time accessing the necessary resources needed to both feed themselves and produce agriculture stocks.¹⁹¹ Women in these parts of the world have to travel far distances to access water, and many times they do so bringing their young children with them.¹⁹² Travelling far distances is time consuming; it is time that children could be spending in school and that women could be spending on improving their own lifestyle by either obtaining an education or finding a successful job.¹⁹³ Therefore, ensuring the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure such as water sources in villages is imperative.¹⁹⁴

On 22 September 2011, WFP and the UN-Women co-hosted an event in New York to discuss the empowerment of rural women, and the role they play in food security and the eradication of hunger.¹⁹⁵ During the event, WFP Executive Director Josette Sheeran explained, “empowering women farmers with more tools can bring down the

¹⁷⁷ Binns, *Opportunities and Challenges Facing Farmers in Transitioning to a Green Economy Agriculture Practice*, 2012.

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁹ UN DESA, *World Economic and Social Survey 2013: Sustainable Development Challenges*, 2013.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. xv.

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*, p. xviii.

¹⁸² *Ibid.*

¹⁸³ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2014, p. 4.

¹⁸⁴ UN WFP, *Why Empowering Women Farmers Will Help Fight Hunger*, 2011, p. 2.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁹ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11: Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development*, 2011, p. 56.

¹⁹⁰ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11: Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development*, 2011.

¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 56.

¹⁹² *Ibid.*

¹⁹³ Dovi, *Bringing water to Africa's poor: Expanded access requires more funds, efficiency and capacity*, 2007.

¹⁹⁴ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11: Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development*, 2011, p. 56.

¹⁹⁵ UN WFP, *Why Empowering Women Farmers Will Help Fight Hunger*, 2011.

number of hungry of 150 million people in the world.”¹⁹⁶ In addition, Ms. Sheeran highlighted that food security is about ensuring adequate and nutritious food for everybody in a household.¹⁹⁷ By empowering and providing women with sources of nutrition, the international community can assure every household will be properly fed.¹⁹⁸ In March 2013, WFP along with UN-Women, FAO, and IFAD, created the joint UN project: Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (RWEE).¹⁹⁹ Through this five-year joint effort, the organizations agreed to spearhead a comprehensive response in support of rural women.²⁰⁰ Since its creation, RWEE has been implemented in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, Kyrgyzstan and Rwanda.²⁰¹ In Guatemala and Rwanda specifically, national policies and programs are being implemented to benefit rural women.²⁰² More notably, the Guatemalan and Rwandan governments have begun to provide technical support for rural staff, which in turn has allowed for the empowerment of women in farmers’ organizations.²⁰³

Case Study: Afghan Women in Agriculture

As of July 2015, Afghanistan has a population of 32,564,342.²⁰⁴ Women compose 60% of this population, and make up the majority of the agricultural workforce in the country.²⁰⁵ Assisting women has become imperative in recent years, particularly during the conflict that continues to threaten the livelihoods of all Afghans.²⁰⁶ The conflict in the country continues to spur violence and insecurity, thus making it difficult for farmers to provide for themselves and their families, since their farmland is often lost in the midst of fighting.²⁰⁷ Thousands of civilians have lost their homes and farms during the conflict, resulting in displacement of entire families, increasing poverty, and presenting a severe scarcity of basic resources.²⁰⁸ Since 2014, more than 13,000 families have sought refuge in Pakistan, and over 683,000 people have been internally displaced in Afghanistan.²⁰⁹ Despite their heavy influence on Afghanistan’s agricultural and rural industries, women are not recognized for their work and are given very little support.²¹⁰ In response, a group of Afghan Americans and United States citizens founded the Global Partnership for Afghanistan (GPFA) in 2000.²¹¹ By assisting women in their roles as rural workers and members of the community, GPFA has been successful in helping women gain higher incomes and increasing women’s decision-making roles within the farming industry.²¹² Aware that women usually suffer the most during conflict, GPFA has provided support for women in these circumstances.²¹³ Such was the case for Rabia, a pregnant young woman with two children who was forced to flee her home after her hometown was targeted by the Taliban.²¹⁴ After returning home to learn she had lost her livelihood, Rabia was given the opportunity to participate in GPFA’s Farmer Field Schools.²¹⁵ Rabia received training and farming supplies, along with a loan of 8,000 hybrid poplar cuttings, for which she otherwise would have not have been able afford.²¹⁶ Today, Rabia has two acres of land and 8,000 newly-planted poplar trees.²¹⁷ This has given Rabia a chance to harvest her own farm forestry, which in the future will allow her to have an income, and be able to maintain her family’s livelihood, provide food, and increase their individual food security.²¹⁸

¹⁹⁶ UN WFP, *Why Empowering Women Farmers Will Help Fight Hunger*, 2011.

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

¹⁹⁹ UN WFP, *Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (RWEE)*, 2013.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁰¹ UN WFP, *Joint UN initiative to empower rural women*, 2014.

²⁰² *Ibid.*

²⁰³ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁴ United States, *South Asia: Afghanistan, 2015*.

²⁰⁵ Global Partnership for Afghanistan, *Rural Afghan Women*, 2015.

²⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁷ UNAMA & OHCHR, *Afghanistan, Annual Report 2014: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2014.

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 67.

²⁰⁹ UNHCR, *Afghanistan: 2015 UNHCR country operations profile-Afghanistan*, 2015.

²¹⁰ Global Partnership for Afghanistan, *Rural Afghan Women*, 2015.

²¹¹ *Ibid.*

²¹² *Ibid.*

²¹³ *Ibid.*

²¹⁴ *Ibid.*

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*

²¹⁸ *Ibid.*

Conclusion

As noted by the WFP and FAO, farmers – most notably smallholder farmers – are vital to the success of the international community’s pursuit of total hunger and poverty eradication. Rising costs, resource scarcity, poor farming support, and climate change are just some of the principle challenges smallholder farmers face today.²¹⁹ While WFP and its partners have worked towards implementing solutions to address the challenges presented by such challenges, particularly within developing countries, where there are stark levels of severe hunger and poverty, there is still much to be done. The international community in its work should ensure that rural and poor farmers have access to the necessary capacity, infrastructure, and economic support to provide for themselves and their families, while also facilitating their contributions to the global demand for food and the global food supply.²²⁰ In addition, the support for women farmers has proven to be an imperative key to addressing the world’s hunger problem.²²¹ Therefore, the implementation of policies that will allow for the empowerment of women farmers is vital.²²² In conclusion, the farming industry has a key role to play in the eradication of hunger worldwide; yet the ability to capitalize on this will not be possible with continued and further support and cooperation from the international community.

Further Research

Considering the challenges presented by climate change, how can poor farming support be rectified? How can WFP further provide aid to Member States in need in accordance with the SDGs, in particular Goal 2? How can WFP strengthen partnerships with other UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, and other civil society partners, for farmers and the farming industry? What can Member States do to support the farming industry domestically? How can women farmers be better supported? In what ways can WFP work towards ensuring women farmers have access to necessary technologies and infrastructure for agriculture?

²¹⁹ UN DPI, *Global Issues: Resources for Speakers on Global Issues: Hunger*, 2015.

²²⁰ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11: Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development*, 2011.

²²¹ Ibid.

²²² Ibid.

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Binns, P. & United Nations Environment Program. (2012). Opportunities and Challenges Facing Farmers in Transitioning to a Green Economy Agriculture Practice. *Perspectives: Environment Papers Discussion No. 5*. Retrieved 26 August 2015 from: http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Portals/24105/documents/perspectives/ENVIRONMENT_PAPERS_DISCUSSION_5.pdf

Delegates will find this UNEP publication very useful when understanding the negative effects of climate change on farming and farmers themselves. The document presents key advice to the public and private sectors, as well as NGOs, regarding sustainable development and approaches to agriculture and farming. Heavily centered on the environment, delegates will find this source useful when searching for a clear explanation of the requirements needed to meet sustainable development.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2011). *The State of Food and Agriculture: Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development* [Report]. Retrieved 26 August 2015 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>

This publication emphasizes women's roles in rural markets, and the contribution women make in social and economic decision-making. Paying close attention to Part I, section 5 will be very beneficial to understanding the closing of gender gaps regarding access to land, rural labor markets, the financial service gap, the technology gap, and in social capital through women's groups. Part III (Annex), provides detailed statistics for countries in Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand), and others. The Annex provides information for over 50 countries. This document will be very helpful for delegates as they research their Member States' policy and try to get an understanding of what the international community has done in regards to the gender gap in agriculture.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11* [Report]. Retrieved 26 August 2015 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4040e.pdf>

This report by the FAO outlines the current situation facing agriculture and its relation to food security in the world. Delegates will benefit from the statistics presented by FAO on the challenges farmers and the international community face as they seek a sustainable and productive future. The detailed information on the distribution of farms around the world will be great guidance for delegates when understanding sustainable productivity growth and sustainable farming innovation.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2015). *The impact of natural hazards and disasters on agriculture and food security and nutrition: A call for action to build resilient livelihoods* [Brochure]. Retrieved 18 October 2015 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4434e.pdf>

This brochure provides great information on the trends in damage and losses caused by natural disasters on the agricultural sector. The detailed graphs, charts, and percentages provided in this document will give delegates a clear understanding of the impacts on distribution that damaged and lost crops can have. Additionally, the document provides charts focused on livestock, fisheries, and forestry production. Country profiles are provided as examples on how droughts in the Horn of Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia) affect these production industries.

Hendrix, C.S. & H. Brinkman. (2011). *Food Insecurity and Violent Conflict: Causes, Consequences, and Addressing the Challenges*. World Food Programme. Retrieved 18 October 2015 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp238358.pdf>

Delegates will benefit from the detailed information given for civil conflict, inter-state war, democratic and authoritarian breakdowns, protests and rioting, communal violence, and how each impacts food security. The text provides detailed examples on how these types of conflict affect farmers, production, and distribution. The country profiles found throughout the document will also be helpful for delegates' research. The information on food prices and fragile states will be helpful for understanding some of the causes of food insecurity. Lastly, the "Breaking the Food Insecurity - Conflict Link" section will provide clear examples of how governments have coped

with the issue of food insecurity as a result of conflict. Examples include Mozambique and El Salvador.

International Fund for Agricultural Development & United Nations Environment Programme. (2013). Smallholders, food security, and the environment [Report]. Retrieved 19 October 2015 from: http://www.ifad.org/climate/resources/smallholders_report.pdf

The three key messages found in this document are essential in understanding the significant role smallholder farmers play in the global agricultural community. Delegates will benefit from the research gathered here by FAO, IFAD, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), among other important international bodies. The information gathered by these bodies include country profiles, statistics, and solutions to the neglect of smallholder farmers. Lastly, the information provided in the Annex are helpful examples, and means to provide market-oriented incentives to farmers.

Kimenyi, M., et al. (2014). The impact of conflict and political instability on agricultural investments in Mali and Nigeria. *Brookings Institution*. Retrieved 25 August 2015 from: http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2014/07/conflict-political-instability-agricultural-investments-mali-nigeria/14-07-22-impact-of-conflict-malinigeria_final.pdf

This document provides context and background to the conflict in each country, as well as how it impacts the farming and livelihoods in those affected regions. More specific to the issues of farming and smallholder farmers, the document provides statistics and visual aids regarding crop loss and cultivation challenges presented by conflict. Delegates may find the “Coping Strategies” and “Potential for Post-Conflict Recovery” sections helpful in their research, particularly in understanding how rebel groups affect farming cultivation and the roles of NGOs in problem-solving. Lastly, the “Policy Implications” section will be useful to understand the impact of conflict on agricultural and crop value chains.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2013). *World Economic and Social Survey 2013: Sustainable Development Challenges*. Retrieved 19 October 2015 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2843WESS2013.pdf>

This document focuses on the issue of sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and serves as a follow-up document to the Rio+20 conference. Delegates should pay close attention to the “Strategies for pursuing sustainable development” section, and the subsections following it. These sections provide information on the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, the effects that increases in greenhouse gas have on reaching a sustainable future, and how technology plays an important role in the future of infrastructure and food security. The “Ensuring food and nutrition security” section provides detailed examples and statistics that can help delegates get an understanding of hunger and food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Overall, the document provides important graphs, charts, and statistics to help delegates grasp the importance of sustainable energy, innovations, and implementation mechanisms for the post-2015 development agenda.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2009). *WFP Gender Policy: Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Addressing Food and Nutrition Challenges*. Retrieved 26 August 2015 from: <http://one.wfp.org/eb/docs/2009/wfp194044~2.pdf>

The WFP Gender Policy sets out a framework for mainstreaming gender under its policies and programs. Further, the policy is reflective of the commitments made by WFP to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. Delegates seeking information regarding the WFP’s gender policies will find this document very useful, particularly the statistics provided. Additionally, delegates will find detailed information about WFP’s experiences in mainstreaming gender, its challenges and achievements, as it sets out to establish equality and women’s empowerment. Lastly, the report provides information about P4P in regards to gender inequality in access to farming and markets.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2013). *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*. Retrieved 19 October 2015 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfpdoc062522.pdf>

The Strategic Plan focuses on four objectives, including the promotion of world food security, and support for economic and social development. More importantly, the four objectives have led to three main areas of focus for the WFP in the next two years: preparing for and responding to unexpected circumstances; restoring and rebuilding lives and livelihoods; and reducing vulnerabilities and building lasting resilience. Delegates should pay close attention to the other UN bodies and NGOs presented in the document, and how they work with WFP in implementing these four objectives. Lastly, delegates should pay close attention to the information given on women farmers and WFP's efforts in connecting them with markets, providing them with food security, and empowering them to take part in decision-making in the farming industry.

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II. Improving Frameworks for the Supply of Food Aid

“We have been gaining access for the first time to some besieged and hard to reach areas we have never been able to reach before. We have more access opportunities, but are not able to scale up because of funding. You can’t deliver what you don’t have.”²²³

Introduction

Access to food is a top priority for the United Nations (UN) most recently reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly (GA) in September 2015.²²⁴ According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), there are roughly 795 million hungry or one in nine people globally.²²⁵ Additionally, for the first time since 1970, over one billion individuals are experiencing hunger or are undernourished in the world.²²⁶ Hunger is defined as “not having enough to eat to meet energy requirements” and can lead directly to malnutrition.²²⁷ The World Food Programme (WFP) stipulates that both malnutrition and undernutrition refers to a person who finds their body having difficulty performing regular tasks such as growing and resisting disease.²²⁸ Physical and cognitive abilities also become difficult and run the risk of diminishing completely when in these states.²²⁹ In January 2009, the UN Secretary-General stated that the right to food should be added as a third track of development as a response to the global food crisis; further, the UN hoped that food aid and heightened food security could address emergent global needs.²³⁰

Food aid has long been responsible for approximately 20% of global overseas development aid, primarily sent to developing countries; the top five recipient countries in 2008, for example, were: Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan – being in receipt of a total of 2.6 million metric tons of emergency food aid and representing 54% of the overall delivered amount.²³¹ At the start of the 21st century there was an increase in ‘man-made’ emergencies such as civil war and influxes of refugees and internally displaced persons.²³² As a result, such countries and those supporting them, like the WFP, faced increased amounts of and extremity in food crises.²³³ Thus, the growing need for food aid deliveries and demand for food aid supplies increased; in 2012, 70% of food aid delivered globally was for emergency operations.²³⁴ Specifically, food aid refers to development aid that is linked to the import of food, and unlike financial support, is referred to as non-tied aid.²³⁵ Untied aid refers to assistance given to developing countries to purchase both goods and services in any country, unlike tied aid where the country must purchase both goods and services from the donor country.²³⁶ This means to untie aid, the legal and regulatory barriers must be removed and competition opened for aid funded procurement.²³⁷ Food aid frameworks or infrastructure are the basic physical and organizational structures needed to supply and deliver the food by aid agencies on a global level.²³⁸ At present, the WFP operates a number of different supply structures, these include: Food for Assets, emergency relief, and the supply of food aid for stability of production levels in agriculture.²³⁹

²²³ UN to cut food aid to Syria, The Guardian, 2014.

²²⁴ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

²²⁵ UN WFP, *Hunger Statistics*, 2015.

²²⁶ FAO, UN WFP, & International Fund for Development, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World, Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress*, 2015.

²²⁷ UN WFP, *Hunger Glossary*, 2015.

²²⁸ UN WFP, *What is malnutrition?* 2015.

²²⁹ Ibid.

²³⁰ FAO, UN WFP, & International Fund for Development, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World, Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress*, 2015.

²³¹ Global Humanitarian Assistance, *GHA Report 2009*, 2009.

²³² FAO et al, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World, Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress*, 2015.

²³³ Ibid.

²³⁴ Harvey et al., *Food aid and food assistance in emergency and transitional contexts: A review of current thinking*, 2010.

²³⁵ OECD, *Revised DAC Recommendation on untying ODA to the least developed countries and heavily indebted poor countries*, 2014.

²³⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013.

²³⁷ OECD, *Revised DAC Recommendation on untying ODA to the least developed countries and heavily indebted poor countries*, 2014.

²³⁸ UN WFP, *What is food security?*

²³⁹ FAO, *Food Aid and Food Security, past performance and future potential*, 1985.

In 2007, the UN Economic and Social Council recognized the underperformance of food aid infrastructures.²⁴⁰ Furthermore, food aid has been a contentious subject over the years, with the concept traditionally seen as a short-term solution.²⁴¹ Increasingly, the form of food aid is changing from temporary emergency relief to a long-term fixed support.²⁴² In particular, the Humanitarian Policy Group recognized three growing trends in food aid: increases in emergency relief exports, more calls to support local and regional procurement of food aid rather than international supply, and the recognition of non-Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries as increasingly important funders of food aid.²⁴³ But there is also disagreement at a base level about definitions and there have been some calls to end food aid entirely.²⁴⁴ This inability to define the term complicates the tracking and monitoring of food aid and food assistance, impacting its effectiveness.²⁴⁵ As stated by the Overseas Development Institute, hunger needs to be addressed by implementing a “comprehensive package of food assistance measures, devised and implemented nationally, and with international support.”²⁴⁶ There are two predominant arguments for how the supply of food aid can be improved: through general framework changes including principles or policies, which should govern future food aid strategies, and through providing effective structures and programs for specific food aid operations as they are undertaken.²⁴⁷

International and Regional Framework

Internationally there have been a number of different responses to the issues of hunger, food aid, and food security. The *Food Aid Convention* (1999) has been the most impactful milestone on international food aid policy and in particular on the WFP’s approach to the issue.²⁴⁸ The *Food Aid Convention* recalled and reaffirmed the outcomes of the *Declaration on World Food Security* and the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* adopted in Rome in 1996, with particular commitment to achieving food security for all and enhancing the ongoing effort to eradicate hunger.²⁴⁹ More importantly, it highlighted the need for the international community to enhance their capacity to respond to emergency situations.²⁵⁰ These policies and corresponding debates sparked global discussion on the future of food aid as a resource for development, with both bringing into question the reliability and sustainability of food aid.²⁵¹

In November 2004, the 127th session of the FAO Council saw the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.²⁵² These guidelines take into account the particular instruments needed for the full realization of rights in the context of food supply including the right to an adequate standard of living.²⁵³ They have been used globally in the fight against hunger and in response to the global food crisis, remaining a cornerstone in the practical implementation of supplying food aid.²⁵⁴ The *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* (2005) was adopted at the Second High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.²⁵⁵ The Declaration “is a practical, action-oriented roadmap to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development.”²⁵⁶ Following the Paris Declaration, in 2008 at the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, the international community developed the *Accra Agenda for Action*, which reaffirmed the *Paris Declaration* and increased emphasis on the Paris targets through four priority areas: ownership, inclusive partnership, delivering results, and capacity development.²⁵⁷

²⁴⁰ UN DESA, *Strengthening Efforts to Eradicate Poverty and Hunger*, 2007.

²⁴¹ Shaw, *The Birth of the WFP: One Man’s Inspiration*, 2001.

²⁴² Ibid.

²⁴³ Harvey et al., *Food aid and food assistance in emergency and transitional contexts: A review of current thinking*, 2010.

²⁴⁴ Ibid.; Shaw, *The Birth of the WFP: One Man’s Inspiration*, 2001.

²⁴⁵ Harvey et al., *Food aid and food assistance in emergency and transitional contexts: A review of current thinking*, 2010.

²⁴⁶ Webb, *Food as Aid: Trends, Needs and Challenges in the 21st Century*, 2003.

²⁴⁷ Schneider, *Food Aid for Development*, 2005.

²⁴⁸ Shaw, *The Birth of the WFP: One Man’s Inspiration*, 2001.

²⁴⁹ *Food Aid Convention*, 1999.

²⁵⁰ Ibid.

²⁵¹ Brendan & Maxwell, *Food Aid After Fifty Years, Recasting its Role*, 2005; *Food Aid Convention*, 1999.

²⁵² FAO Council, *Voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security*, 2004.

²⁵³ Ibid.

²⁵⁴ Ibid.

²⁵⁵ *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*, 2005; OECD, *Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action*, 2015.

²⁵⁶ Ibid.

²⁵⁷ Ibid.; *Accra Agenda for Action*, 2008.

In response to growing concerns with these food aid frameworks, the *Comprehensive Framework for Action on Food Security* (CFA) was established in 2008 to combat food insecurity globally.²⁵⁸ The CFA was updated in 2010 to produce the *Updated CFA* (2010), which reaffirms the importance of a comprehensive approach to addressing food and nutrition security and now incorporates the availability of food and its access, utilization, and sustainability as key elements.²⁵⁹ Within this framework, the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF) was also created.²⁶⁰ According to the HLTF, food security exists only when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which aids them in meeting their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.²⁶¹ The Committee on Food Security (CFS), established in 1974, was reformed in this same vein in 2009 to better reflect the 21st century reality of food security.²⁶² The CFS is charged with coordinating and exchanging best practices and promoting accountability in food security.²⁶³ As part of the 2009 reform, the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition became part of the CFS.²⁶⁴ Subsequently, the *Declaration of the World Food Summit on Food Security* (2009) reiterated Member States' commitment to collectively accelerate steps toward realizing the right to adequate food in relation to food security.²⁶⁵

On 25 September 2015, the GA reaffirmed its dedication to development and achieving “a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want,” where all life can thrive by adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.²⁶⁶ Eliminating the need for food aid worldwide is a main target of the SDGs, carrying on the efforts made under Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals, “the Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger.”²⁶⁷ SDG 2, to End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture,” and SDG 3, to “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” are the SDGs intended to continue the fight against malnutrition, hunger, and food insecurity through 2030.²⁶⁸ This new development agenda and in particular the change in supply of food aid structures “requires a revitalized global partnership to ensure its implementation.”²⁶⁹

Role of the International System

Improvement of food aid and “effective action to prepare for and respond to shocks requires collaboration among a wide range of actors,” such as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO), civil society – including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector.²⁷⁰ Moving forward, the international community are seeking to embody the concept “delivering as one” intended to reduce fragmentation and duplication globally, and increase cooperation when supplying food aid.²⁷¹

NGOs such as the ICRC play a significant role in supporting and protecting local households, especially those part of the recent increase in the last three years of up to 75% of people relying on food aid.²⁷² Similarly, ICRC aids, on average, up to 4 million people annually with food aid, as well as 3.4 million people through food production and economic efforts.²⁷³ The role of civil society in development and the part UN organizations play in supporting civil

²⁵⁸ UN HLTF, *Establishing the HTLF in 2008*.

²⁵⁹ Ibid.

²⁶⁰ UN HLTF, *Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action*, 2010.

²⁶¹ Ibid.

²⁶² FAO, *Committee on Food Security*, 2015. 2015.

²⁶³ Harvey et al., *Food aid and food assistance in emergency and transitional contexts, A review of current thinking*, 2010.

²⁶⁴ FAO, *Committee on Food Security*, 2015.

²⁶⁵ UN WFSF, *Declaration of the World Food Summit on Food Security*, 2009.

²⁶⁶ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

²⁶⁷ UN DESA & Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators, *The Millennium Development Goals Report*, 2015.

²⁶⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

²⁶⁹ Ibid.

²⁷⁰ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013.

²⁷¹ UN General Assembly, *Quadrennial comprehensive review policy of operation activities for development of the United Nations System (A/RES/67/226)*, 2013; UN General Assembly, *Report on the Independent evaluation of lessons learned from “Delivering as one” (A/66/859)*, 2012.

²⁷² McDonald-Gibson, *Red Cross launches emergency food aid plan*, 2013.

²⁷³ International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, *The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at a glance*, 2009.

society, however, has evolved over time.²⁷⁴ When dealing with aid in the form of basic life necessities, such as food aid, questions about the successfulness and nature of engagement with civil society have arisen.²⁷⁵ Many researchers have noted that aid is not strictly beneficial for the Member States in which it is being received.²⁷⁶ Populations can become reliant upon, in particular, food aid, thus associating the concept with negative implications and risk.²⁷⁷ But there are also cases of significant positive impacts such as in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Nicaragua or Costa Rica where capacity of local groups has been built up to create sustainable solutions.²⁷⁸

The 2014 annual review of the WFP highlighted that significant change has been made since the 2007 WFP overview with regard to operations and functionality.²⁷⁹ The WFP relies on the database of the International Food Aid Information System (INTERFAIS) to help coordinate international response to food aid shortages, allowing for improvement of food aid management.²⁸⁰ One large driver of this change – and which will be for the future supply of food aid – is the WFP Strategic Plan 2014-2017.²⁸¹ The Strategic Plan notes that governments mainly need to ensure that citizens can access nutritious food; however, the WFP “will seek to provide beneficiaries with practical entry points for engagement in programme design” to assist national authorities in this regard when such assistance is needed.²⁸² The main strategic objectives of the plan are to “prepare for and respond to shocks, restore and rebuild lives and livelihoods, reduce vulnerability and build lasting resilience,” while also reducing undernutrition and breaking the intergenerational cycle of hunger.²⁸³

Consequences and Costs of Food Aid

Economic Impacts

The demand on global food aid has steadily risen and brought to question the security of food supplies.²⁸⁴ There is a direct connection between the occurrences of shocks and the progress made towards reducing the number of undernourished people.²⁸⁵ Shocks such as natural disasters, conflicts, and displacement of individuals have led to pressure placed on food aid and infrastructures surrounding it.²⁸⁶ The fluctuations of global food aid can be traced to the intersection of three factors: “(i) world market prices for food grains, (ii) the global pattern of humanitarian emergencies, and (iii) donor decisions relating to assessments of need.”²⁸⁷ There is also a growing concern about the erosion of an already limited supply capacity of food-insecure households to manage and withstand these shocks.²⁸⁸ Moreover, there are a number of financial issues outside of the costs of importing food, such as transportation and logistics, costs of shipping, and insurance measures that need to be addressed.²⁸⁹

Although there has been a shift towards the ideal of un-tied aid, progress has been slow outside of emergency aid, with global foreign assistance too fragile and showing very little signs of expanding.²⁹⁰ Donor country experiences of untying aid has proved quite positive, though, with countries such as Norway, Denmark, Canada and Australia favoring the need to improve effectiveness and efficiency of aid.²⁹¹ Within these governments, the untying of aid has been seen as increasing partnerships between donor and partner, a strengthening of ownership among the recipient

²⁷⁴ Connolly, *Civil society in poverty alleviation: perspectives from Tanzania, Ethiopia and Central America*, 2007.

²⁷⁵ Ibid.

²⁷⁶ Ibid.

²⁷⁷ Ibid.

²⁷⁸ Ibid.

²⁷⁹ UN WFP, *Annual Evaluation Report 2014*, 2015, p. 19.

²⁸⁰ UN WFP, *Food Aid Information System*, 2015.

²⁸¹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013.

²⁸² Ibid.

²⁸³ Ibid.

²⁸⁴ Shaw, *Reform and Renewal: Future Directions*, 2001.

²⁸⁵ UN HLTf, *Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action*, 2010.

²⁸⁶ Ibid.

²⁸⁷ Barrett & Maxwell, *Towards a Global food aid compact*, 2006.

²⁸⁸ Shaw, *Reform and Renewal: Future Directions*, 2001.

²⁸⁹ Clay, *Untying aid, is it working? Thematic Study on the Developmental Effectiveness of Untied Aid: Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration and of the 2001 DAC Recommendation of Untying ODA to the LDCs, Synthesis Report*, 2009.

²⁹⁰ OECD, *Revised DAC Recommendation on untying ODA to the least developed countries and heavily indebted poor countries*, 2014.

²⁹¹ Ibid.

country, and a greater value for money.²⁹² According to the OECD, untying aid cuts down significantly on transaction costs and improves the ability of the recipient country to be independent and set their own course, both socially and economically.²⁹³ In contrast, it is found that the tying of aid is likely to result in welfare losses for recipient economies compared with the alternative of unrestricted aid.²⁹⁴ In 2001, the OECD-DAC recommended untying aid especially for least developed countries (LDCs).²⁹⁵ This is because there is significant proof showing the benefit of “a substantial increase in the scale and relative importance of local and regional purchases (LRPs) of food aid, notably in East and Southern Africa.”²⁹⁶ Evidence-based research by the WFP, FAO and other UN counterparts has shown LRPs gains, which “result directly from actual domestic and import parity prices of commodities sourced locally (40%) and within the region being typically 30% below delivered cost of foodstuffs procured on donor markets.”²⁹⁷ The key reason of connecting aid is to “favor suppliers in the donor economy relative to the rest of the world;” thus, displacing “commercial exports that would have occurred without the aid transaction.”²⁹⁸ However, as the review of the Paris Declaration found, a framework design for the best way to proceed with untying aid seems to be lacking.²⁹⁹

Health Impacts

A further implication of food aid is its unintended use as a principle source of sustenance.³⁰⁰ While many programs look to pay attention to “the short-run vulnerabilities of individuals and households, some instruments (such as dietary diversification and food fortification) are intended to provide support in the long-term.”³⁰¹ In particular, this relates to the issue of micronutrients.³⁰² Micronutrients have forced relief agencies to not only consider the immediate effects of food as aid, but also the long-term ramifications of food aid such as undernutrition.³⁰³ It is important to understand how food functions as a source of aid rather than monetary aid; agencies must consider that eating food poor in nutrients often can cause issues such as beriberi, exophthalmia, and scurvy.³⁰⁴ Consistent malnutrition “costs lives and livelihoods and leaves a lasting legacy of lost productivity and limited opportunity.”³⁰⁵ Reducing chronic undernutrition as well as breaking the intergenerational cycle of hunger has now become an underlying goal when implementing food aid supply strategies.³⁰⁶

Addressing malnutrition and proper implementation infrastructures for food aid is also an important element to helping agencies deploy the right tool at the right time.³⁰⁷ There are three main tools of implementation, which the WFP currently adheres to: operational services, technical assistance, and transfers.³⁰⁸ Transfers refers to general and targeted distribution of foods, including fortified goods, school food programs and specialized nutritional products, community and public works as well as nutritional programs.³⁰⁹ Operational service refers to “vulnerability analysis and mapping, early warning products and tools” such as safety net systems, gender analysis, logistics and

²⁹² Clay, *Untying aid, is it working? Thematic Study on the Developmental Effectiveness of Untied Aid: Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration and of the 2001 DAC Recommendation of Untying ODA to the LDCs, Synthesis Report*, 2009.

²⁹³ OECD, *Revised DAC Recommendation on untying ODA to the least developed countries and heavily indebted poor countries*, 2014.

²⁹⁴ Shaw, *Reform and Renewal: Future Directions*, 2001.

²⁹⁵ Clay, *Untying aid, is it working? Thematic Study on the Developmental Effectiveness of Untied Aid: Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration and of the 2001 DAC Recommendation of Untying ODA to the LDCs, Synthesis Report*, 2009.

²⁹⁶ UN WFP, *Livelihoods, Early Assessment and Protection (LEAP)*, 2006.

²⁹⁷ Clay, *Untying aid, is it working? Thematic Study on the Developmental Effectiveness of Untied Aid: Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration and of the 2001 DAC Recommendation of Untying ODA to the LDCs, Synthesis Report*, 2009.

²⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁰ UN HLTf, *Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action*, 2010.

³⁰¹ *Ibid.*

³⁰² *Ibid.*

³⁰³ Schneider, *Food Aid for Development*, 2005.

³⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013.

³⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

procurement of food stocks.³¹⁰ Technical assistance, partnership and advocacy refer to “policy and programmatic advice, transition strategies, south-south triangular cooperation, [and] partnerships” with civil society partners, international organizations, and local government.³¹¹ Each of these tools assist the WFP to achieve its Strategic Plan.

Reducing Risk and Enabling Communities

Today’s global food economy is uncertain and fragile.³¹² Impoverished global citizens have significantly less and less methods available for addressing circumstances from food prices, disasters, climate change, and other situations that affect their personal sources of nourishment and protect against the causes of food insecurity.³¹³ Without the ability to resources that would help in these situations, they become heavily reliant on food aid structures.³¹⁴ This is reflected in the Zero Hunger Challenge of the UN.³¹⁵ The Zero Hunger Challenge is based around five elements, which taken together eliminate the worst forms of hunger and help in addressing daily emergencies.³¹⁶ These five elements are: reducing the number of stunted children, giving complete access to food at all times of year, ensuring sustainable food systems, increasing by 100% the income and success of smallholders, and eliminating food waste.³¹⁷ Members States hope that this partnership project will lead to a “generation of zero hunger.”³¹⁸

The international community endeavors to support people and communities not only in food assistance but also nutritional assistance.³¹⁹ According to the HLTF, recognizing the need for “long-term food and nutrition security policies need to recognize that smallholder farmers who are currently food insecure, are likely to be hard hit by climate change and environmental shocks,” indicates how much attention needs to be given to safety net systems for vulnerable and food insecure populations.³²⁰ By the WFP “leveraging purchasing power to connect smallholder farmers to markets,” they decreases losses that occur after harvest incurred from natural disaster and conflict, and support economic empowerment of women and men.³²¹ This is a transformative approach to food assistance, going from one of just aid to investing in communities.³²² The WFP realizes the power that small holder farmers can have over the food productivity of one community, as many are a critical source of staple commodities; however, they can “lack reliable access to markets, storage,” and credit.³²³ Under its new strategy plan, the WFP works in partnerships to reduce “losses and promote economic opportunity and agricultural productivity.”³²⁴ By encouraging the production of specific goods, the long-term reliance a community may have on the supply of food aid can be diminished.³²⁵ This allows countries to begin working towards a system of “effective food security and nutrition institutions, infrastructure, and safety net systems.”³²⁶

To curtail reliance, the WFP has reiterated in its Strategic Plan (2014-2017), its dedication not only to food assistance, but also to advocacy for better frameworks for funding at the government level as well as improvement and introduction of educational programs.³²⁷ The WFP aids in building “national and local capacity to establish, manage, and scale up effective and equitable safety net systems.”³²⁸ A safety net system is a national social protection system, which provides predictable, multi-year assistance to millions of chronically food-insecure rural households.³²⁹ An example of a safety net system is the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), run by the

³¹⁰ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013.

³¹¹ *Ibid.*

³¹² *Ibid.*

³¹³ UN HLTF, *Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action*, 2010.

³¹⁴ *Ibid.*

³¹⁵ UN DPI, *Zero Hunger Challenge*, 2015.

³¹⁶ *Ibid.*

³¹⁷ *Ibid.*

³¹⁸ *Ibid.*

³¹⁹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013.

³²⁰ UN HLTF, *Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action*, 2010.

³²¹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013.

³²² *Ibid.*

³²³ *Ibid.*

³²⁴ *Ibid.*

³²⁵ *Ibid.*

³²⁶ Schneider, *Food Aid for Development*, 2005.

³²⁷ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013.

³²⁸ Shaw, *Reform and Renewal: Future Directions*, 2001.

³²⁹ UN HLTF, *Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action*, 2010.

WFP.³³⁰ Another recent example of a safety net system adopted at a local level is the livelihoods, early assessment and protection project system, developed in 2008 by the government of Ethiopia in cooperation with the WFP, which integrated the PSNP into the national disaster risk management framework.³³¹ Embedding local systems and infrastructure for the supply of food aid lessens reliance on the WFP's infrastructures and in turn encourages economic and social development.³³²

Education

In order to ensure that all can access education, school food programs are significant.³³³ Education contributes to improving food access and the health of children and their respective family members, in turn reducing the reliance on food aid long-term.³³⁴ To alter the focus from just the supply of food aid, the WFP has pledged to “leverage its deep field presence and expertise in the design and delivery of food assistance programmes and partner with the UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank and regional organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières and the Red Cross.”³³⁵ This link between education and food is highlighted by the Food for Education programs (FFE) provided by the WFP.³³⁶ The WFP hopes to signal a renewed effort to engage local educational institutions in the process of promoting food sustainability and assistance through FFE programs in schools.³³⁷ By utilizing food aid programs in schools, the WFP helps ameliorate situations regarding nutrition and food, while also working towards gender equality and addressing poverty, as well as development.³³⁸ Through this initiative, the WFP will buy food locally for use in schools and other community programs for children.³³⁹

A case study carried out in Uganda proved the link between improved school attendance and nutrition of children and adolescence.³⁴⁰ An independent assessment of these programs reports that 88% of goals have been achieved.³⁴¹ The school food program has also improved gender equality in primary education, promoted an increase in school attendance, lowered the price of boarding school costs, and contributed to an overall better school environment.³⁴²

From Food Aid to Food Assistance

Today, the international community is moving away from the term “food aid” to that of “food assistance.” A key explanation for this change “is to include the provision of cash-for-food” programs in how food assistance is described.³⁴³ This raises some important practical and conceptual issues, particularly for donors with separate food assistance budget lines.³⁴⁴ The WFP and INTERFAIS, a database which shows interactions between donor governments, international organizations, NGOs, recipient countries, and WFP field offices, track internationally funded concessional food commodities.³⁴⁵ Findings show that the “possible misuse of food aid – with associated trade and production displacement – arises almost exclusively with respect to tied, non-emergency food aid flows.”³⁴⁶ The Berlin Statement on Food Aid for Sustainable Food Security tabled a discussion in 2003 on a new Global Food Aid Compact, which would take a new approach to food aid supply management, encouraging an inclusiveness, the increase of physical volume commitments of food from donor countries, as well as implying monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.³⁴⁷ Therefore, when approaching food aid or food assistance programs and

³³⁰ UN WFP, *Livelihoods, Early Assessment and Protection*, 2009.

³³¹ *Ibid.*

³³² UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013.

³³³ Global Child Nutrition Forum, *School Feeding in Uganda*, 2006.

³³⁴ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013.

³³⁵ *Ibid.*

³³⁶ *Ibid.*

³³⁷ *Ibid.*

³³⁸ *Ibid.*

³³⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁰ Alderman et al., *The Impact of Food for Education Programs on School Participation in Northern Uganda*, 2010.

³⁴¹ Global Child Nutrition Forum, *School Feeding in Uganda*, 2006.

³⁴² *Ibid.*

³⁴³ Harvey et al., *Food aid and food assistance in emergency and transitional contexts: A review of current thinking*, 2010.

³⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁵ UN WFP, *Food Aid Information System*, 2015.

³⁴⁶ Barrett & Maxwell, *Towards a Global food aid compact*, 2006.

³⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

developing supply frameworks, due diligence is required of all actors engaged.³⁴⁸ Additionally, it is important that those managing the distribution of food aid only do so in situations where this is appropriate and in connection to the different partnerships present and related targets.³⁴⁹

Conclusion

While there have been many discussions over the years among Member States at summits, and decisions through conventions such as the Food Convention about meeting the needs of the hungry, there is limited international agreement on how this should be accomplished. It is clear from the work of international organizations and the international community to date that there is no single best practice regarding food aid. Discussions today center largely around whether or not, and how, to shift from food aid categorized as short-term emergency relief to a source of long-term aid that also does not cause unsustainable reliance by recipient communities on said aid. While food aid, as a means to respond to emergencies is not under scrutiny, the question remains around food aid becoming a long-term development resource for regions. This is because increasingly, food aid is no longer seen as an ‘additional resource’ sought by countries and regions in a time of emergency or need. Rather, it now frequently acts as a competitive resource infiltrating in a fragile systems plagued with scarce funding, underdevelopment, and populations in desperate need of basic necessities. Therefore, it is clear that the international community has a to improving the mechanism, frameworks, and supply of food aid in order to meet the 2030 goal of elimination of extreme poverty and hunger, and improving the lives of billions.

Further Research

Going forward, there is an opportunity to better demonstrate a link within the WFP policy priorities on food assistance and development. Delegates should consider the following: What improvements should be made to existing frameworks for the supply of food aid? How can the needs of short-term emergency food aid be balanced with the growing need of long term assistance? How will the shift from food aid to food assistance affect developing countries? What incentives can be given to encourage the untying of aid? How can education programs be further emphasized in current food aid policies? What kind of approaches would incorporate positive benefits for both the health and economics of recipient countries?

³⁴⁸ Harvey et al., *Food aid and food assistance in emergency and transitional contexts: A review of current thinking*, 2010.

³⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

Annotated Bibliography

Food Aid Committee Secretariat. (2014). *Food Aid Convention: Contributing to world food security* [Website]. Retrieved Friday 17 July 2015 from: <http://www.foodaidconvention.org/en/Default.aspx>

This is the main website for summaries of operations and activities related to the Food Aid Convention, as well as annual reports. The main purpose behind the Food Aid Convention is to make the international community better able to respond to emergency food situations. Most recent operations are available, as well as details of products supplied, who donated, as well as the tonnage shipped. These documents introduce what has occurred to date with food aid supply, providing a useful history on the topic and how the concept of food aid has changed over time.

Jere, P. (2007). The Impact of food aid on food markets and food security. *EQUINET Discussion Paper Number 45. Regional Network for Equity in Health in Southern Africa (EQUINET)*. Retrieved 17 July 2015 from: <http://www.equinet africa.org/bibl/docs/DIS45nutJERE.pdf>

This is a highly useful document for delegates as it offers a perspective on the volatile nature of food aid. It helps the reader understand the issues by providing delegates with some examples on existing food security and nutrition programs. For example, the case of Malawi is presented. This case study is useful in understanding key elements of the topic at hand.

Shaw, D. J. (2001). *The UN World Food Programme and the Development of Food Aid*. New York, NY: Palgrave Publications. Retrieved 17 July 2015 from:

<http://www.palgraveconnect.com/pc/doi/finder/view/10.1057/9781403905437>

This book offers an excellent overview of the WFP and its work in relation to the development of food aid. Some particular sections of this book for delegates to review are: Chapter 2: The Birth of WFP: One Man's Inspiration, Chapter 7: Managing Food Aid Resources, and Chapter 9: Reform and Renewal: Future directions, which all offer delegates insights into the future possibilities for the WFP food aid programs. The author highlights the importance of the WFP and how it not only establishes a policy framework for the dispersion of food aid but also a policy framework for development making it vital to understand what is possible in relation to recommendations that the WFP can make in this regard.

The Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project. (2015). *FANTA III: Food and Nutritional Technical Assistance* [Website]. United States Agency for International Development. Retrieved 17 July 2015 from:

<http://www.fantaproject.org/>

Founded over 15 years ago, FANTA works to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals, families, and communities in developing countries by strengthening food security and nutrition policies, programs, and systems. The website provides delegates with useful tools and resources to deepen their knowledge on food aid supply. It introduces key concepts surrounding food aid, taking a practical approach to research and learning using toolkits.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015). *Zero Hunger Challenge* [Website]. Retrieved 17 July 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/en/zerohunger/challenge.shtml>

The Zero Hunger Challenge is a comprehensive campaign by the United Nations to help end hunger worldwide. A brief outline of the challenge of Zero Hunger Challenge is as follows: zero stunted children less than two years old; 100% access to adequate food all year round; all food systems are sustainable; 100% increase in smallholder productivity and income; and Zero loss or waste of food. This website acts as a large resource bank for delegates as it outlines and documents the latest press releases, research, and policy documents produced related to this challenge. It is useful for delegates as it sets hunger in a modern context and allows delegates to see the challenges facing this initiative, as well as what has been achieved to date.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2010). *Executive Board Second Regular Session, World Food Programme Anti Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy* [Policy Brief]. Retrieved 17 July, 2015 from:

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp225100.pdf>

Different approaches to the supply of food aid are evaluated in this policy brief, showing that there has been a significantly shift over the past years around how food aid is viewed. The

document notes how WFP eschews corrupt efforts, and highlights how many governments need to pay greater attention food aid agreements they are entering into. This source also recognizes the adverse effects that some systems can have on activities and operations in the supply of food aid and commits the WFP to preventing them and taking robust action where corruption and fraud is detected.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2013). *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*. Retrieved 16 July 2015 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfpdoc062522.pdf>

This comprehensive document helps mend the policy gaps in food aid supply. As a policy document of the WFP Executive Board, it outlines the main challenges facing the WFP to date, and gives examples of operations with both state and non-state actors. Challenges introduced include the need for collaboration and crisis preparation for WFP operations in volatile and fragile environments. This is a useful resource for delegates as the strategy plan indicates the challenges which have faced the WFP to date, and provides recommendations for the WFP moving forward into the post-2015 development era.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2015). *Mission Statement* [Website]. Retrieved 17 July 2015 from: <http://www.wfp.org/about/mission-statement>

This website gives the mission statement of the WFP. It provides delegates a basis of understanding of what the high-level goals, obligations, and parameters of work are for the WFP. In particular, the core policies and mandate of the WFP are outlined in the mission statement, including the commitment to food security. This comprehensive website addresses the multifaceted issue of hunger and food aid supply, and details what has been achieved by the WFP. It will help delegates understand that hunger and the supply of food aid, as well as the policies surrounding it is not simply an issue of developing countries but a cross-cutting global issue.

Wahlberg, K. (2008). *Food Aid for the Hungry*. Retrieved 16 July 2015 from: <https://www.globalpolicy.org/world-hunger/46251-food-aid-for-the-hungry.html>

This document outlines the devastation of world hunger and how numbers have spiraled in recent years. It also outlines the challenges to global food aid and considers the following issues: insufficient food supplies for those suffering from food impoverishment, distribution challenges, domestic production and shipping, the volatile nature of food aid, and issues relating to global food governance. It also answers the questions: who is in receipt of food aid and are supplies targeting the people most in need? The report is a great guideline for delegates to use in relation to shaping their research as it provides a basic background of the situation to date, as well as underscoring how imperative it is to address the frameworks for the supply of food aid globally. Thus, this overview should be a first stop for delegates' research.

Webb, P. (2003). *Food as Aid: Trends, Needs and Challenges in the 21st Century*. United Nations, World Food Programme: Occasional Papers No. 14. Retrieved 17 July 2015 from:

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp217073.pdf>

This document acts as a comprehensive fact sheet for delegates. It details the trends, needs, and challenges of viewing food as a source of aid. It provides a detailed historical account of food aid supply, graphs and statistics to illustrate the matter, and emerging issues facing the supply of food aid. In particular, the author highlights that there has been an increase in both economic and agricultural growth globally, and assesses that aid can be connected significantly within these sectors. Food aid saves countless lives in emergencies but also sustains developing regions in prolonged times of need, thus it is a means to address the global hunger dilemma making it a highly visible resource with a high impact. The document, thus, is vital to begin research on this subject and further, contains a number of useful resources that elaborate on the context of food insecurity to help guide delegates towards more in-depth research.

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III. Responding to Food Insecurity in Yemen

“[F]ood insecurity, especially when caused by higher food prices, heightens the risk of democratic breakdown, civil conflict, protest, rioting, and communal conflict.”³⁵⁰

Introduction

Yemen faces its biggest crisis in decades in the deteriorating Aden governorate, and in July 2015, the United Nations (UN) declared the situation in Yemen a humanitarian emergency that is more complex than those in Iraq, South Sudan, and Syria.³⁵¹ A Saudi-led coalition began launching an air campaign to reinstate Yemen’s internationally recognized government after the Houthis, a Zaydi Shia movement backed by Iran, captured the capital of Sana’a.³⁵² In March 2015, they advanced towards the Gulf of Aden.³⁵³ Amidst this uprising against the long-term president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, developments to derail the new political transition mounted while Al-Qaida continued to increase havoc during factional fighting by franchising new opportunities to capture territory.³⁵⁴

Yemen is considered the Arab world’s poorest state with a poverty rate of more than 50%.³⁵⁵ A person is considered “food secure when they have available access at all times to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.”³⁵⁶ The UN has estimated that nearly 13 million Yemenis do not have consistent access to adequate food.³⁵⁷ Moreover, the country faces food and fuel shortages, relying on imports for both; consequently it imports more than 80% of its food, including 90% of staples such as wheat and 100% its rice.³⁵⁸ Yet, those who urgently need food assistance are inaccessible because of the lack of immediate routes and access points.³⁵⁹ Such inaccessibility is increasing the possibility of famine and the population is suffering as a result, particularly women and children as well as marginalized groups like internally displaced persons and unskilled laborers.³⁶⁰ The scarcity of staple foods and essential commodities is also greatly affecting the Yemeni population.³⁶¹ Extremely volatile food prices worsen the condition of developing countries as they are unable to combat poverty and hunger, especially those in the midst of a conflict.³⁶² During this intensified conflict, trickle down effects are being witnessed where violence, fuel shortage, and infrastructure damages are preventing day to day commerce and disrupting livelihoods; the markets, agricultural sector, fisheries, imports and exports businesses, are all commercial activities deeply affected.³⁶³ Consequently, incomes are lowering and food insecurity is increasing.³⁶⁴

Since the beginning of the conflict, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) has reached nearly 2.5 million people.³⁶⁵ Now the goal is to reach 6 million people by mid-2016.³⁶⁶ Before falling into a deeper crisis, humanitarian organizations are seeking to move freely and safely to provide assistance to reach all those in need.³⁶⁷ To briefly facilitate relief supply delivery, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a pause in hostilities.³⁶⁸ But as the conflict continues, deterioration is likely to endure unless immediate humanitarian assistance, and in particular food assistance, is provided to the population with more being done to sustain food supplies and the means necessary to access them.³⁶⁹

³⁵⁰ Notaras, *Food Insecurity and the Conflict Trap*, 2011.

³⁵¹ Laub, *Yemen in Crisis*, 2015.

³⁵² *Ibid.*

³⁵³ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁵ The World Bank, *Yemen Overview*, 2015.

³⁵⁶ UN WFP, *Food Security Analysis*, 2015.

³⁵⁷ Laub, *Yemen in Crisis*, 2015.

³⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁹ UN DPI, *Amid rising death toll in Yemen, UN urges humanitarian access, respect for international law*, 2015.

³⁶⁰ UN DPI, *Yemen facing serious food insecurity as conflict deteriorates, new UN study finds*, 2015.

³⁶¹ *Ibid.*

³⁶² UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/RES/68/233)*, 2013.

³⁶³ UN DPI, *Yemen facing serious food insecurity as conflict deteriorates, new UN study finds*, 2015.

³⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁶⁵ UN WFP, *Yemen Emergency*, 2015.

³⁶⁶ UN WFP, *Yemen – Current issues and what the World Food Programme is doing*, 2015.

³⁶⁷ UN DPI, *Amid rising death toll in Yemen, UN urges humanitarian access, respect for international law*, 2015.

³⁶⁸ Laub, *Yemen in Crisis*, 2015.

³⁶⁹ UN DPI, *Yemen facing serious food insecurity as conflict deteriorates, new UN study finds*, 2015.

International and Regional Framework

In April 2008, the UN System High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF) was established.³⁷⁰ The first *Comprehensive Framework for Action* (CFA) was developed in July 2008 to resolve the world's escalating food prices and its solution to increased hunger.³⁷¹ The CFA designed the 'twin-track approach' which concentrates on food price crises and actions that respond efficiently towards vulnerable populations leading to longer-term resilience.³⁷² After the CFA release, the outcomes aligned with the actions taken for consensus on sustained improvement in food and nutrition security policies and investments.³⁷³ The updated CFA reiterates comprehensive food and nutrition security but focuses specifically on accessibility, utilization, and availability of food for extended sustainability.³⁷⁴ Immediacy is an important factor for populations suffering as those are in Yemen, so the member organizations of the HLTF developed a way to efficiently redistribute the allocated food aid into conflict areas and ensure that the aid goes directly to regions in extreme need while also meeting long term needs.³⁷⁵ This is called the "twin-track approach."³⁷⁶ The approach consists of developing a program which entails a greater understanding of food insecurity scaled and shared at the global, regional, and national levels to meet short term needs and long term goals.³⁷⁷

In order to better respond to the crisis in Yemen with an integrated manner and anticipated transition, the *Joint United Nations Framework to Support the Transition in Yemen 2012-2014* was also expanded upon.³⁷⁸ The Framework provides the needed support and utilities to Yemen during its political transition such as the Secretary-General's offices, as well as the agencies, programs, funds of the UN.³⁷⁹ Aimed at complimenting the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2012, as well as bridging the gap between it and the UN Development Assistance for Yemen, the Framework serves to maximize efficiency and effectiveness during the political transition.³⁸⁰ Serving as a basis for mobilizing resources, the Framework utilizes the capacities, expertise, and the position of the UN agencies to engender a peaceful and inclusive transition.³⁸¹

The "continuing deterioration of the security situation and escalation of violence in Yemen poses an increasing and serious threat to neighbouring Member States."³⁸² Thus, the Security Council adopted resolution 2216 (2015), which recalls "that arbitrary denial of humanitarian access and depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival, including wilfully impeding relief supply and access, may constitute a violation of international humanitarian law."³⁸³ Additionally, General Assembly resolution 68/233 of 2013 stresses the importance of agriculture development, food security, and nutrition.³⁸⁴ Member States agree that response on multiple levels from multiple partners is required to fight the root causes of food insecurity, namely poverty and inequity.³⁸⁵ The WFP can always benefit from additional assistance as the funding often falls short, prompting reductions in WFP operations; partners, therefore are a vital resource.³⁸⁶

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a plan for the next 15 years for eradicating all forms of extreme poverty in all dimensions.³⁸⁷ Goal 2, "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture," aligns directly with the WFP's framework.³⁸⁸ Targets under this goal require ending hunger

³⁷⁰ UN HLTF on the Global Food Security Crisis, *Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action*, 2010.

³⁷¹ *Ibid.*

³⁷² *Ibid.*

³⁷³ *Ibid.*

³⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁷⁶ UN General Assembly, *The right to food (A/RES/68/177)*, 2013.

³⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁷⁸ UNDP, *Joint United Nations Framework to Support the Transition in Yemen 2012-2014*, 2012.

³⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

³⁸¹ *Ibid.*

³⁸² UN Security Council, *Middle East (Yemen) (S/RES/2216 (2015))*, 2015.

³⁸³ *Ibid.*

³⁸⁴ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/RES/68/233)*, 2013.

³⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁸⁶ UN General Assembly, *The right to food (A/RES/68/177)*, 2013.

³⁸⁷ UN DESA, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2015.

³⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

by the year 2030, ensuring accessibility to food for all people including the poor, in unsafe situations, to infants and the provision of nutritious food to people while increasing sufficiency.³⁸⁹ Other targets under this goal address malnutrition, doubling the agricultural productivity, securing access to land and other productive resources, maintaining sustainable food production systems and genetic diversity of seeds, increasing investment for rural infrastructure, correcting and preventing trade restrictions and distortions and adopting methods for making sure food commodities work correctly.³⁹⁰ Thus, the SDGs are a pivotal framework to motivate the international community towards achieving food security for both the Yemeni and global populations.³⁹¹

Role of the International System

WFP works with UN agencies, other organizations, civil society partners such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector partners to support communities with food.³⁹² The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), for example, is attempting to help nourishment creation through sharecropping, supplying uprooted and host group ranchers with quality grain and vegetable seeds, composts, apparatuses, and specialized exhortation to enhance water-gathering and stockpiling.³⁹³ Moreover, FAO is restocking families' creature populaces and giving veterinary supplies, supplementary encourage, sanctuary and preparing creature wellbeing administration to avert future animals' misfortune.³⁹⁴ The Updated CFA also involves 22 diverse member organizations of the HLTF working towards greater food security, including in Yemen, such as the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).³⁹⁵

As access to food lowers and undernourishment and malnutrition flourish, the World Health Organization (WHO) has become a vital partnership of the WFP.³⁹⁶ It also plays an immense role in the general Yemen relief efforts.³⁹⁷ Similar to the struggles that WFP faces in providing services due to fuel shortages, 183 health facilities are partially functional and 190 are non-functional according to all the electricity and fuel shortages.³⁹⁸ Thus, the growing health needs of a food insecure population cannot be met.³⁹⁹ The funding situation for WHO and the Health Cluster remain a huge limitation to a successful humanitarian response as needs have immensely grown in the last 3 months.⁴⁰⁰ The health sector now requires \$152 million of which WHO seeks \$70 million under the revised Humanitarian Response Plan.⁴⁰¹ WHO also plays an important role in improving accessibility in Yemen and is vital partner for food deliveries and overall on-the-ground support due to its commitment to the improving the lives of Yemen's population.⁴⁰²

Civil Society

Along with the work of the WFP and other UN organizations, a comprehensive approach to addressing food insecurity in Yemen includes NGOs. Mercy Corps is a non-profit organization whose "mission is to alleviate suffering, poverty, and oppression by helping people build secure, productive, and just communities."⁴⁰³ Mercy Corps has worked in Yemen since 2010.⁴⁰⁴ CARE International provides Yemen with tools for sustainable change and people that are most vulnerable to hunger, violence, and disease.⁴⁰⁵ Mercy Corps and CARE's current activities include saving lives, reducing suffering, and promotion recovery and resilience by providing food assistance.⁴⁰⁶ This

³⁸⁹ UN DESA, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2015.

³⁹⁰ Ibid.

³⁹¹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

³⁹² UN WFP, *About: Strategic Plan*, 2015.

³⁹³ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, 2015.

³⁹⁴ Ibid.

³⁹⁵ UN HLTF on the Global Food Security Crisis, *Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action*, 2010.

³⁹⁶ WHO, *Technical support and collaboration with UN partners and NGOs in emergencies*, 2015.

³⁹⁷ WHO, *Crisis in Yemen designated "Level 3" emergency*, 2015.

³⁹⁸ Ibid.

³⁹⁹ WHO, *Food Security*, 2015.

⁴⁰⁰ WHO, *Crisis in Yemen designated "Level 3" emergency*, 2015.

⁴⁰¹ Ibid.

⁴⁰² WHO, *Technical support and collaboration with UN partners and NGOs in emergencies*, 2015.

⁴⁰³ Mercy Corps, *Our mission*, 2015.

⁴⁰⁴ Mercy Corps, *Yemen*, 2015.

⁴⁰⁵ CARE, *Our Work*, 2013.

⁴⁰⁶ InterAction, *Food Security and Resilience Building Program*, 2014.

includes increasing capacities to improve government institutions in hopes of providing further services and communal assets that reduce vulnerabilities.⁴⁰⁷ These NGOs are also providing food vouchers to improve food security and nutrition in the regions of Sana'a, Taiz, and Lahai.⁴⁰⁸ They are teaming up with USAID-funded Community Livelihoods Project to build on current programs for these regions to further implement a three-year Food Security and Resilience Building Program in Sana'a, Lahai, and Taiz.⁴⁰⁹ "The consortium will also build upon Mercy Corps' and CARE's current United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) - and European Community Humanitarian Office-funded nutrition, health and hygiene programs in the targeted districts."⁴¹⁰ The receipt of vouchers will become conditional on participation in Food for Assets activities, especially under both Vouchers for work and Vouchers for Training programs.⁴¹¹ Family members will be able to improve household nutrition practices, and protect their health because building and rehabilitating key community assets will improve long-term livelihoods and resiliency.⁴¹²

Challenges in Yemen

Access and Violence

Along the coasts of Yemen, in search of safety and economic opportunity, new arrivals of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance and protection from abduction, extortion, trafficking, and immigration detention, which they face in the midst of an intense civil war.⁴¹³ Fighting is continuing in the southern governorates; civilians are at risk targets from violence between warring factions, air raids, shootings and more.⁴¹⁴ In the early months of 2015, violence escalated in Yemen and there were reports of air strikes causing civilian casualties.⁴¹⁵ The conflict has also blockaded people within their homes for shelter making access to basic means of survival such as food extremely difficult.⁴¹⁶ Yemen's residents are not the only civilians at risk; humanitarian and aid workers are especially prone to danger due to the locations in which they work.⁴¹⁷ On 17 October 2015, an aid worker from the United Arab Emirates was shot and killed in Yemen in Aden in the south. Particularly, concerning, on 2 September 2015, two Red Cross aid workers were shot in the north of Yemen despite their vehicles being "clearly" marked with the Red Cross emblem." Responding to such violence, the International Committee for the Red Cross has previously suspended operations in places such as Aden.⁴¹⁸ The ability to providing the needed food assistance to address the growing food insecurity in Yemen, thus, is in significant decline.⁴¹⁹

Humanitarian needs are also severely exacerbated due to drastic reductions in commercial imports that are driven by external restrictions and ongoing conflict.⁴²⁰ This escalation makes it more difficult for the WFP and humanitarian workers to access routes and reach the 13 million Yemenis that are food insecure.⁴²¹ WFP Representative and Yemen Country Director, Purnima Kashyap said, "[w]e appeal to all warring parties to the conflict to allow us to replenish our food and fuel stocks to save lives."⁴²² Fortunately, through chartered vessels, the WFP is able to send life-saving food supplies to Yemen's port of Aden.⁴²³ In March 2015, an operation to this effect was considered a great success as the first shipload of humanitarian supplies to reach Aden since the conflict erupted arrived via these

⁴⁰⁷ InterAction, *Food Security and Resilience Building Program*, 2014.

⁴⁰⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁰⁹ Ibid.

⁴¹⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹¹ Ibid.

⁴¹² Ibid.

⁴¹³ UN OCHA, *2015 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan Revision*, 2015.

⁴¹⁴ UN DPI, *Amid rising death toll in Yemen, UN urges humanitarian access, respect for international law*, 2015.

⁴¹⁵ International Committee for the Red Cross, *Yemen: ICRC concerned at civilian casualties amid escalating violence*, 2015.

⁴¹⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Warns Of Food Crisis In Yemen Amid Challenges In Reaching People And Shortage Of Funding*, 2015.

⁴¹⁷ *United Arab Emirates soldier, aid worker killed in Yemen*, Reuters, 2015.

⁴¹⁸ *Red Cross workers shot dead in northern Yemen*, Al Jazeera, 2015.

⁴¹⁹ *United Arab Emirates soldier, aid worker killed in Yemen*, Reuters, 2015; *Red Cross workers shot dead in northern Yemen*, Al Jazeera, 2015.

⁴²⁰ UN OCHA, *2015 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan Revision*, 2015.

⁴²¹ UN WFP, *WFP Distributes Food In Aden But Warns of Challenges of Reaching Hungry People in Yemen*, 2015.

⁴²² Ibid.

⁴²³ UN WFP, *Yemen Emergency*, 2015.

vessels.⁴²⁴ The supplies helped not only the local Yemeni population but also helped much of the IDPs.⁴²⁵ Another delivery option in providing crucial food assistance and humanitarian supplies is the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), which operates three flights a week to Sana'a for humanitarian workers and their goods and services from its location in Djibouti in Africa.⁴²⁶ Yet, humanitarian workers face difficulties in reaching these communities; roads in some areas can be inaccessible, or may be completely closed.⁴²⁷

Fuel, Food Prices, and Food Supplies

Fuel shortages and fluctuating prices are affecting daily activities such as growing food and buying food supplies.⁴²⁸ Further, the price of fuel, as of August 2015, was 120% higher than before the conflict began.⁴²⁹ In addition to inaccessible roads, the supply of food and other essentials is halted as trucks cannot make deliveries because of the lack of fuel.⁴³⁰ In many parts of the country there is also a lack of cooking gas because of the fuel shortages and there is danger around or inability to leave their homes to retrieve what supplies exist.⁴³¹ Thus, maintaining proper sustenance has become a significant issue.⁴³²

Food prices have also skyrocketed because quantities are limited.⁴³³ Wheat flour prices have risen by an average of 43%, with localized increases exceeding 50% in Sa'ada, 75% in Aden, and 90% in Al-Dhale'e.⁴³⁴ Along with this, increased food prices have made purchases difficult for the Yemeni populace.⁴³⁵ Families are unable to provide food as they have lost their sources of income from their shops, especially food shops that have been forced to close, and they have lost the ability to leave their homes for work as violence has made it difficult or impossible.⁴³⁶ Imports have also seen a reduction because of the conflict; access to basic food supplies is also now sporadic and reliant of food assistance.⁴³⁷ This can relate to the conflict and a lack of fuel for transportation making it difficult to reach the insecure markets.⁴³⁸

Recent improvements in availability and supply have allowed commodity prices to drop some in most of Yemen's governorates.⁴³⁹ However, the price of wheat flour, for example, is still 15% higher than the pre-crisis level.⁴⁴⁰ With these fluctuations of both rising and falling prices at both local and national levels, it is difficult to stabilize the market and food prices to sustain Yemen's food security.⁴⁴¹ These issues are all interconnected and affect one another – market closures and lack of transport affect commercial distribution and cause difficulty in accessing cooking gas, all of which lead to further increased food insecurity, hunger, and prolonged conflict and an exacerbated humanitarian crisis.⁴⁴²

World Food Programme Response

The WFP has three main goals under its Yemen response: “1) [t]o deliver food to people affected by conflict, malnourished children, and pregnant women and nursing mothers; 2) [t]o provide emergency food assistance, and; 3) [t]o help the humanitarian aid community by transporting fuel into the country.”⁴⁴³

⁴²⁴ Ibid.

⁴²⁵ UN WFP, *Yemen Emergency*, 2015.

⁴²⁶ Ibid.

⁴²⁷ Ibid.

⁴²⁸ UN WFP, *WFP Distributes Food In Aden But Warns of Challenges of Reaching Hungry People in Yemen*, 2015.

⁴²⁹ UN WFP, *Yemen Weekly Market Situation Update Weeks 1 & 2: August 2015*, 2015.

⁴³⁰ UN WFP, *WFP Distributes Food In Aden But Warns of Challenges of Reaching Hungry People in Yemen*, 2015.

⁴³¹ UN WFP, *WFP Warns Of Food Crisis In Yemen Amid Challenges In Reaching People And Shortage Of Funding*, 2015.

⁴³² Ibid.

⁴³³ UN OCHA, *2015 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan Revision*, 2015.

⁴³⁴ Ibid.

⁴³⁵ UN WFP, *WFP Distributes Food In Aden But Warns of Challenges of Reaching Hungry People in Yemen*, 2015.

⁴³⁶ UN OCHA, *2015 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan Revision*, 2015.

⁴³⁷ Ibid.

⁴³⁸ Ibid.

⁴³⁹ UN WFP, *Yemen Weekly Market Situation Update Weeks 1 & 2: August 2015*, 2015.

⁴⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴⁴² UN OCHA, *2015 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan Revision*, 2015.

⁴⁴³ UN WFP, *Yemen Emergency*, 2015.

WFP's work towards zero hunger begins from its foundational framework, the Strategic Plan (2014-2017).⁴⁴⁴ While maintaining WFP's emphasis on food assistance for those most in need, the Strategic Plan guides action by WFP from 2014 -2017.⁴⁴⁵ This Plan gives four objectives: "1. Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies; 2. Support food security and nutrition and (re)build livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies; 3. Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs; 4. Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger."⁴⁴⁶ WFP purchases food previous to when it is required, and looks to purchase food on the local level, in order to better shorten delivery times and lower costs.⁴⁴⁷ This includes market opportunities for smallholder farmers, which are provided through forward purchase and programs.⁴⁴⁸

In efforts to promote food and nutrition security, the operation of the WFP in Yemen is shifting to recovery and resilience rather than simple 'relief assistance'.⁴⁴⁹ A Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) is the WFP's main operation that seeks to help 6 million people between mid-2014 to mid-2016.⁴⁵⁰ The WFP assists by providing households with unconditional food and cash distributions, conditional participatory food assistance activities, nutritional support for the treatment and prevention of acute and chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.⁴⁵¹ Moreover, the WFP delivers meals and take-home rations to schools for improving attendance rates, nutrition, and learning.⁴⁵² Around 370,000 tons of food and \$74.5 million in vouchers and money will be distributed, resulting in a cost of about \$491 million.⁴⁵³ In partnership with other government ministries, UN agencies, the World Bank, NGOs, and other donors, the operation has been well-planned.⁴⁵⁴ The donors, in accordance with the Joint UN Framework to Support the Transition in Yemen as well as the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, are also key contributors to this operation as financial resources are imperative to keeping any food assistance and relief program running.⁴⁵⁵ Growing support for this program helps enable food insecure households and also stabilize communities that are suffering and recovery from the effects of conflict and food insecurity.⁴⁵⁶

Conclusion

Yemen is considered the poorest and most food insecure country in the Arab world, which has drastically affected many lives for the Yemeni population.⁴⁵⁷ Conflict has been both a major cause for the high rates of poverty and food insecurity today but also an exasperator to pre-existing root causes of food insecurity.⁴⁵⁸ One of the major issues that needs to be addressed today is the continuous increase in food and commodities prices that are deteriorating in the already difficult situation the Yemeni population has to endure. Food security and nutrition plans are supported by the WFP nationally, locally and regionally throughout Yemen.⁴⁵⁹ But it is not the sole partner; the WFP partners with other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure the needed food and food assistance reaches the entire populace, especially those in hard-to-reach areas.⁴⁶⁰ Therefore, in pursuing ways to improve the situation, analyzing the issue areas – risk and violence towards humanitarian workers, access routes and blockades, fuel and food shortages, and volatile economic conditions – is vital as it helps to determine where programs and policies are failing and where there is opportunities for action.

⁴⁴⁴ UN WFP, *About: Strategic Plan*, 2015.

⁴⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴⁷ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014–2017)*, 2013.

⁴⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴⁹ UN WFP, *Yemen – Current issues and what the World Food Programme is doing*, 2015.

⁴⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵² *Ibid.*

⁴⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵⁷ Al-Khamiri, *Yemen World Food Programme: Its Mission, Activities and Future Plans*, 2014.

⁴⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵⁹ UN WFP, *About: Strategic Plan*, 2015.

⁴⁶⁰ *Ibid.*



Further Research

As delegates look to further research on their own Member States' policies in the ongoing crisis in Yemen they should answer the following questions: how can accessibility to transportation routes be improved to help manage the flow of staple foods throughout the country? How can insecurity, large-scale displacement, a breakdown of social services, and poverty help resolve food insecurity within Yemen? Delegates should also consider the components of the PRRO, such as food for education and training, extended relief, relief for refugees and food for recovery, and how it can be improved. Where are loopholes in providing food for the Yemeni population? How could a comprehensive approach look like? What more can be done to protect humanitarian workers and the entirety of humanitarian relief goods and services that are vital to survival for many of the residents in Yemen? What partnerships can be improved and capacity increased for those working across Yemen to address food insecurity and its root causes?

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United Nations, World Food Programme. (2012). *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in Yemen* [Report]. Retrieved 18 July 2015 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp247833.pdf>

This report provides a summary and overview of the 2012 Comprehensive Food Security Survey, which highlights the portion of the population that is food insecure. It is important to understand the backdrop of a country's recent years in regards to food needs. This survey also establishes a clear definition of the term, "food insecurity" and how Yemen is considered food impoverished. Statistics are provided for various ages, livelihoods, and even governorates. This survey also shows how different shocks affect Yemen's economy. This resource can help delegates with their research as it discusses the basis and foundation of problems such as "Who are the food insecure?"

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2013). *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*. Retrieved 21 July 2015 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfpdoc062522.pdf>

This document outlines operations for the WFP and its mission to achieve zero hunger in the world. It guides the WFP to providing food assistance for the most vulnerable and poorest of Member States. The Strategic Plan breaks the cycle of violent shocks and risks that contribute to food insecurities within regions. The WFP aligns its Strategic Objectives to international goals such as the MDGs. Delegates should refer to this link as it can help them pursue objectives that are in line to international humanitarian law and its core principles as well as understand the underlying importance of such strategic plans to things like the MDGs and SDGs.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2015). *2015 Third Quarterly Operational Briefing*. Retrieved 26 September 2015 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/resources/wfp276364.pdf>

This situational update shows information about the security situation, framework of interventions, operational priorities, and critical risks for the staff. While it is important to analyze what is occurring, it is just as pertinent to assess how functional the operations currently are so improvements can be made. The last map shows a 'Yemen Dashboard' food insecurity by governorates and their respective population. It also shows how funding is allocated and what are the WFP fuel stocks. This resource is a helpful publication for learning about focus areas and the implementation of programs based on regional approaches.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2015). *Conflict and Food Insecurity in Yemen* [Website]. Retrieved 18 July 2015 from: <https://www.wfp.org/stories/conflict-and-food-insecurity-yemen>

An overview of conflict and food insecurity in Yemen is provided with this resource. Delegates can gain access to recent news releases and situation updates. While discussing Yemen's current position in the crisis, this link provides numerical figures of the affected population. This includes other factors driving food insecurity and deteriorating living conditions within the country such as displaced persons and refugees. Furthermore, delegates can access facts, stories, and operations currently present in Yemen from the WFP itself.

World Health Organization. (2015, July 1). *Yemen: Crisis in Yemen designated "Level 3" emergency* [News Article]. Retrieved 28 August 2015 from: <http://www.emro.who.int/yem/yemen-news/crisis-in-yemen-designated-level-3-emergency.html>

WHO is accustomed to helping people in need during relief events. This resource shows the WHO's efforts but examines the Yemen crisis at a "Level 3" emergency, the health system failure, food insecurity, disease outbreaks, and health sector funding. This resource helps assess the similarities in goal objectives in relation to the WFP. It gives daily news links of WHO's presence in Yemen but also lists the major donors and partners for funding – a core aspect of running any relief program. Understanding the full range of issues affecting Yemen, from health to food, and their interconnectivity is vital for delegates to review as they negotiate comprehensive solutions to the food insecurity problem.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2015). *Yemen Emergency* [Website]. Retrieved 21 July 2015 from: <http://www.wfp.org/emergencies/yemen/>

This website is necessary for understanding how the WFP organization responds to the situation in Yemen, where a large portion of the population is in dire need. Among listing its goals for the Yemen response, this source gives a brief overview of food assistance, logistics, and impact. Logistically, it discusses how food is delivered and what types of food is given. The WFP funds include more than \$140 million in food aid to meet the escalating conflict in Yemen. Delegates can benefit from the direct WFP website in order to find accurate information about the overall Yemen situation.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2015). *Yemen – Monthly Market Watch, 2015* [Website]. Retrieved 21 July 2015 from: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/yemen/publications/market-analysis>

This resource highlights the monthly market analysis of Yemen, which is essential to studying food prices, commodity flows, and the status of different markets within each governorate. The duration of a conflict creates constant change, therefore keeping track of the current market is helpful to assess how food aid is actually helping the Member State. Since there is information collected from each month, delegates are encouraged to view the market trends since the beginning of the conflict to view the drastic changes and trends that have developed. These trends can show how people's lives were affected at the brink of crisis until now. This link also lists the reasons for why the market is being affected.

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *Joint United Nations Framework to Support the Transition in Yemen 2012-2014*. Retrieved 21 July 2015 from:

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/yemen/Leadership/Docs/Joint%20UN%20Framework%20Yemen.pdf>

The Joint United Nations Framework to Support the Transition in Yemen 2012-2014 aimed to focus on the transition from 2012-2014 by maximizing the effectiveness of UN assistance. In Yemen there are a wide spectrum of programmatic areas, from emergency and humanitarian assistance to capacity building and development, which are run by UN agencies, funds and programs operating in Yemen. This source shows how the previous Framework can serve as a model for development partners that are interested in mobilizing resources and further support Yemen during this time of conflict and continued transition.

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2015). *2015 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan Revision* [Report]. Retrieved 24 September 2015 from:

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/yem_hrp_190615_final.pdf

This report helps outline recent humanitarian response plans in relation to the Yemen conflict. It further discusses food insecurity in Yemen and how humanitarian action is planned and executed based on the situation. Humanitarian access and operational capacity is discussed and analyzes how this information can help yield the correct and strategic response to helping those that are displaced, hungry, and out of resources. This link also shows funding allocation and provides a breakdown of figures in relation to food and shelter items.

Yemen Food Security Information System Development Programme. (2015). *Yemen Food Security Update* [Briefing Document]. Retrieved 21 July 2015 from: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/rne/docs/Yemen-FS-Update-March-2015.pdf

The Yemen Food Security Information Systems Development Programme is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Food Security Technical Secretariat of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. This 31 March 2015 update discusses increased conflict, civil insecurity, and political instability, which are further aggravating an already precarious food security situation. Predicted food insecurity trends, food imports, and availability are discussed. The Yemeni population also struggles with agriculture, local food production and markets, heavy reliance on oil and gas revenues. This resource can help delegates find proposed actions and recommendations.

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