

## Committee Overview

### **Introduction**

The Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP) met in November 2014 for the year's Second Regular Session and will next meet in February for the First Regular Session of 2015.<sup>1</sup> In the final months of 2014, discussion of food security, peacebuilding, and humanitarian aid to crisis regions resulted in collaboration between WFP and other United Nations (UN) entities.<sup>2</sup> A major theme of recent work by WFP and correlative bodies is the optimization of global cooperation, as noted in discussions by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and others.<sup>3</sup> This update will review the activities of the WFP Executive Board at its most recent meetings and explore actions and policy outcomes in the developing process of the post-2015 development agenda. It will discuss the current themes and focuses of WFP initiatives, and review the powers and responsibilities of the food aid body.

### **Recent Activities**

The Executive Board met for its second and final Regular Session of the year from 10-13 November 2014.<sup>4</sup> This year-end meeting focused primarily on reviewing WFP policies and recent program evaluation reports.<sup>5</sup> The theme of enhancing inter-agency cooperation was discussed in the WFP update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies (RBAs), which acknowledged the recent enhanced communication and coordination in country-level operations, as well as with global initiatives for food security and the Zero Hunger Challenge, and recommended further mainstreaming of newer initiatives such as the “Zero Hunger Challenge” and “Purchase for Progress.”<sup>6</sup> The Summary Report of the FAO/WFP Joint Evaluation of Food Security Coordination in Humanitarian Action (2009-2014) was also reviewed during the meeting.<sup>7</sup> The food security cluster (FSC), the specific aid cluster headed by WFP and FAO that facilitates global coordination between many UN agencies, humanitarian organizations, and civil society, was evaluated for the effectiveness of its mechanisms for participating organizations.<sup>8</sup> The leading bodies asserted that while the FSC decreased the overlap and gaps of need in disaster response, the lack of activities for exchanging good practices and encouraging lesson learning would best be remedied by increasing coordination capacity by developing a stronger human resource strategy for food security coordinators and information managers.<sup>9</sup> In order to address conflict as a leading cause of hunger, and to extend WFP humanitarian assistance to promote peace, the policy entitled “WFP’s Role in Peacebuilding in Transition Settings” was established in late 2013 and evaluated after one year at the 2014 Second Regular Session.<sup>10</sup> The policy directions of “conducting risk analysis, using conflict-sensitive programming, and engaging with peacebuilding partners” will continue, but discussion determined that more effective outcomes require a deliberate focus with carefully executed investments of resources, staff training, and field programs.<sup>11</sup>

On 29-30 October 2014, WFP held its Annual WFP Partnership Consultations with nearly 60 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society partners in Rome with many senior WFP staff members, with discussion centering on ongoing emergency response, the future of humanitarian action and coordination, and WFP’s role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> WFP, *WFP Calendar 2015*, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> WFP, *Summary Report of the FAO/WFP Joint Evaluation of Food Security Cluster Coordination in Humanitarian Action (2009-2014)*, 2014; WFP, *Update on Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies*, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> ECOSOC, *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/RES/2014/2)*, 2014; ECOSOC, *Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (E/RES/2014/13)*, 2014; CFS, *Policy Roundtable on Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (E/CFS/2014/41/2)*, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> WFP, *WFP Calendar 2015*, 2015.

<sup>5</sup> WFP, *Board Documents*, 2015.

<sup>6</sup> WFP, *Update on Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies*, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> WFP, *Summary Report of the FAO/WFP Joint Evaluation of Food Security Cluster Coordination in Humanitarian Action (2009-2014)*, 2014.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> WFP, *Update on WFP Peacebuilding Policy*, 2014.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> WFP, *Annual WFP Partnership Consultations*, 2015.

Pertinent to WFP's focus, at the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) of FAO held 13-18 October 2014, CFS reported on the urgent and developing issues for food security and nutrition and discussed policy on food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems.<sup>13</sup> CFS produced recommendations for states, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society, and identified the overarching challenge to food security as protecting and advancing environmental and human health.<sup>14</sup>

Finally, as per procedure, 10 new members of the rotating 36-member WFP governing board were selected. Australia, Denmark, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Libya, and Poland were chosen by FAO, and Hungary, Japan, Panama, Swaziland, and the United Kingdom by ECOSOC.<sup>15</sup>

### ***Recent Policy Outcomes***

A severe epidemic of Ebola virus disease, which began in March 2014, has taken hold in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, with 20,206 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of the virus, leading to 7,905 reported deaths as of 31 December 2014.<sup>16</sup> Presently a food crisis has developed from the abruptly hindered agricultural work and the suspension of food markets in these most-affected countries, where WFP has delivered food aid to more than 1.7 million people since the outbreak.<sup>17</sup> WFP Special and Emergency Operations have attempted to mitigate the devastating effects of Ebola on health, economic, and food and agricultural sectors by supplying urgently needed food, facilities and equipment, and coordination and service staff, as well as coordinating efforts with the World Health Organization (WHO), national and local actors, and other UN and global partners.<sup>18</sup>

Many recent WFP outcome documents in the latter part of 2014 have addressed the theme of improving collaboration and improving current policies for streamlined humanitarian work and efficiency in light of the high number of emergency responses of the year. Universal goals of many outcomes were to: (1) develop partnerships with national and regional stakeholders; (2) share technical expertise and lessons learned with partner organizations; (3) integrate accountability mechanisms into all stages of WFP administration; and (4) develop consistency in cluster, partnership, and inter-agency communications and for clarifying roles and responsibilities.<sup>19</sup> Additionally, in response to system-wide gender mainstreaming in the UN and to the July 2014 ECOSOC resolution 2014/2 on "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system," WFP carefully reviewed the WFP Gender Policy, beginning discussions that in the coming months will result in a new gender policy for 2015–2020.<sup>20</sup> The first informal consultation on the new policy held on 9 December 2014 resulted in goals in line with the post-2015 agenda, primarily targeting the integration of men and boys, clearing the misconception that gender issues concern only women, and fully integrating the policy into all work of WFP.<sup>21</sup>

### ***Implementation of World Food Programme Outcomes***

WFP is a program under both ECOSOC and FAO, and the WFP Executive Board reports to both bodies annually.<sup>22</sup> As the food aid arm of the UN, WFP administers and mobilizes its own emergency operations, protracted relief and recovery operations, development operations, and special operations, each of which involves food procurement,

<sup>13</sup> CFS, *High Level Panel of Experts Note on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition (E/CFS/2014/41/9)*, 2014; WFP, *Summary Report of the FAO/WFP Joint Evaluation of Food Security Cluster Coordination in Humanitarian Action (2009-2014)*, 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> ECOSOC, *Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Economic and Social Council (E/2014/201/A)*, 2014; FAO, *Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board (E/CL/150/LIM/3)*, 2014; WFP, *Members of the Board*, 2015.

<sup>16</sup> WHO, *Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report*, 2014.

<sup>17</sup> WFP, *WFP's Response to Ebola Emergency*, 2015.

<sup>18</sup> WFP, *West Africa Ebola Outbreak - 2014 Fourth Quarterly Operational Briefing*, 2014.

<sup>19</sup> Steets et al., *FAO/WFP Joint Evaluation of Food Security Cluster Coordination in Humanitarian Action*, 2014; WFP, *Summary Report of the FAO/WFP Joint Evaluation of Food Security Cluster Coordination in Humanitarian Action (2009-2014)*, 2014; WFP, *Update on Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies*, 2014; WFP, *Update on the WFP Gender Policy*, 2014; WFP, *Update on WFP Peacebuilding Policy*, 2014.

<sup>20</sup> WFP, *Update on the WFP Gender Policy*, 2014.

<sup>21</sup> WFP, *Background Paper for the First Informal Consultation on the WFP Gender Policy (2015-2020)*, 2014.

<sup>22</sup> New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2014-15*, 2014.

the logistics of transport, and food security analysis.<sup>23</sup> The WFP Secretariat serves as the administration interface among WFP's internal components and between WFP and its external partners, facilitating information exchange as well as organizing field visits and implementing projects and programs.<sup>24</sup> The 80 WFP country offices worldwide oversee regional programs, and each country director coordinates local efforts with NGOs, donors, and other UN agencies, while facilitating dialogue with national authorities.<sup>25</sup>

WFP response also entails coordination with other entities using the Cluster Approach, according to which WFP is tasked with directing logistics and emergency telecommunications amongst responding UN and aid organizations under the leadership of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).<sup>26</sup> Often working in partnership with the RBAs, WFP brings technical expertise, resources, and decades of policy refinement into each operation, and integrates these strengths with the agricultural knowledge of FAO and the monetary focus of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). When working with NGOs, WFP provides funding for logistics expenses, trains staff as necessary, provides communications infrastructure, and updates information on the food security situation.<sup>27</sup> In return, NGOs provide staff, facilitate food transportation and distribution, and manage record keeping.<sup>28</sup>

### **Conclusion**

WFP is the body mandated with organizing food aid at the UN, although it collaborates with many other UN bodies and additionally puts significant focus on programs of a wider scope that deal with sustainability development, gender, and even peacekeeping.<sup>29</sup> Work within this body is continually evolving to improve the efficiency of current operations and to expand the potential impacts of new initiatives, through avenues such as the empowerment of women and girls, addressing the conflicts and humanitarian response in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, and the many components of disaster risk management during natural disasters.

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<sup>23</sup> WFP, *About*.

<sup>24</sup> WFP, *The Executive Board*.

<sup>25</sup> WFP, *How to Work with WFP: A Handbook for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)*, 2005.

<sup>26</sup> WFP, *Food, Trucks and Radios: WFP's Role in The 'Cluster System'*, 2013.

<sup>27</sup> WFP, *How to work with WFP: A Handbook for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)*, 2005.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>29</sup> WFP, *About*.

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Steets, J., J. Darcy, L. Weingärtner & P. Leguéné. (2014). *FAO/WFP Joint Evaluation of Food Security Cluster Coordination in Humanitarian Action* [Report]. Retrieved 27 December 2014 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/reports/wfp268621.pdf>

*This document evaluates cooperation in humanitarian action over the past year. The major theme of coordination of efforts and dialogue within the UN system and with partner organizations and stakeholders is demonstrated in this review. This is a key resource for delegates that presents the recommendations for both FAO and WFP on mechanisms for establishing accountability and supporting learning. This document investigates the potential of food security initiatives with improved efficiency of joint actions.*

United Nations, Committee on World Food Security, Forty-first session. (2014). *Policy Roundtable on Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (E/CFS/2014/41/2)* [Report]. Retrieved 30 December 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml265e.pdf>

*A major focus of WFP is to reduce food loss and waste primarily through protracted relief and recovery operations and development operations. This resource has guiding recommendations by CFS that have led to a response by ECOSOC and is highly relevant to the goals of WFP. Delegates can use this document to investigate ideas of CFS for UN bodies, civil society, and governments, and inform their understanding of the issues related to food loss and food waste. This discussion also returns to the theme of multifaceted cooperation and enhanced cooperation as a way forward with policy.*

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2014). *Update on Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies* [Report]. Retrieved 27 December 2014 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfpdoc063454.pdf>

*This document takes a more technical investigation of agency collaboration than the evaluation of the Cluster Approach. Concerning the three Rome-based Agencies—WFP, FAO, and IFAD—this update discusses committee finances and procedural updates to RBA functioning. Delegates will also use this resource to review improvements to country-based initiatives and in larger global initiatives such as the Zero Hunger Challenge and the post-2015 development agenda. The document discusses the way forward, again returning to the key theme of increased collaboration that will guide delegates' focus during committee discussions.*

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2014). *Update on the WFP Gender Policy* [Report]. Retrieved 27 December 2014 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfpdoc063452.pdf>

*The WFP Gender Policy has formed a central component of WFP's work for many years, and the update currently in progress will be the first since 2009. Following system-wide recommendations and calls to action for rejuvenating policies, 2015 will likely see a stronger, more rounded policy resulting from the initial dialogue that begins here. Delegates should use this update to investigate the changes that occurred from the pre- to post- 2010 policy, and explore current recommendations and areas noted for improvement in order to be prepared for the gender discussion that is relevant to all topics of WFP.*

United Nations, World Health Organization. (2014). *Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report*. Retrieved 2 January 2015 from: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/146763/1/roadmapsitre\\_31Dec14\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/146763/1/roadmapsitre_31Dec14_eng.pdf?ua=1)

*This situation report from WHO illustrates the most up-to-date information about the Ebola outbreak that is a current major concern of WFP. This report discusses the latest trends and the earliest projections of impact resulting from the increase or decline of the virus in various areas. Delegates will find information pertinent to WFP's work and can use this resource to inform them about a pressing current event that encompasses many agencies of the UN.*

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## I. Empowering Women and Girls in the Fight against Hunger

### *Introduction*

Gender inequality is a major cause of hunger and poverty, therefore achieving gender equality is a major component in achieving the poverty goals of the Millennium Declaration.<sup>30</sup> Further, estimates show that 60% of the world's chronically hungry people are women and girls.<sup>31</sup> Despite challenges related to HIV/AIDS, climate change, and high food prices, the World Food Programme's (WFP) work continues to focus on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women because women play a key role in household food security.<sup>32</sup>

On 16 October 2014, WFP commemorated World Food Day. Ertharin Cousin, WFP Executive Director, highlighted WFP's progress towards zero hunger.<sup>33</sup> In particular, she highlighted the 160,000 beneficiaries that are assisted each year in Guinea-Bissau under this initiative.<sup>34</sup> In addition, almost 86,000 school children are fed daily hot meals and 12,000 girls benefit from take home rations.<sup>35</sup> Thirty-six thousand women and children also receive nutritional product that prevent or treat malnutrition.<sup>36</sup> WFP also participated in the "16 Days of Campaign Against Gender-based violence" from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day).<sup>37</sup> WFP highlighted its role in supporting food assistance programs that contribute to the safety, dignity and integrity of crisis-affected people.<sup>38</sup> For example, in Nicaragua, WFP mitigates some of the challenges associated with women trying to access agricultural inputs through its "Purchase for Progress" initiative and facilitating discussion groups that explore the issue of gender roles in the family.<sup>39</sup> Women participants reported that these events help boost their self-esteem and they are more assertive in the farming organization and men who participate say they gain new perspectives that contribute to an improved household relationship.<sup>40</sup>

In October 2014, UN-Women released a report titled the "World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014: Gender Equality and Sustainable Development."<sup>41</sup> The report highlighted how gender inequality shapes access to resources needed for food production such as land and the increased uncertainty in the food production industry over the twenty-first century due to the volatile world market prices and constraints to production.<sup>42</sup> As a solution, it recommends investment for gender-responsive sustainable development, providing food subsidy and school feeding programs, eliminating discriminatory attitudes, drawing on the knowledge of women to increase agricultural and food system resilience, and improving statistical data on the role of women in food production.<sup>43</sup>

### *Recent Developments*

#### *Social and Economic Development Programs and Strategies*

WFP worked with UN-Women and, the Food and Agriculture (FAO), and the international Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to implement the "Accelerating Progress towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women" (RWEE) initiative in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, Kyrgyzstan, and Rwanda in October 2014.<sup>44</sup> The RWEE's main objectives are to increase income, improve food and nutrition security, and enhance decision making

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<sup>30</sup> WFP, *Policy Issues* 5, 2009.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> WFP, *On World Food Day, UN World Food Programme Highlights Progress Towards Zero Hunger Even as Multiple Emergencies Flare*, 2014.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> WFP, *Joint UN Initiative to empower rural women*, 2014.

<sup>36</sup> WFP, *On World Food Day, UN World Food Programme Highlights Progress Towards Zero Hunger Even as Multiple Emergencies Flare*, 2014.

<sup>37</sup> WFP, *Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls*, 2014.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> UN-Women, *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development in 2014: Gender Equality and Sustainable Development*, 2014.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> WFP, *Joint UN Initiative to empower rural women*, 2014.

for women.<sup>45</sup> This program follows the five-year “Partners for Prevention” (P4P) pilot program, which aims to prevent violence with a particular focus on gender-based violence.<sup>46</sup> The RWEE project supports women in food production on many levels, including direct monetary assistance or through the shaping of policies and programs that support the integration of lessons learnt and best practices stemming from the P4P project.<sup>47</sup> Unfortunately, although this project is heavily supported it faces funding shortages that impact its success.<sup>48</sup>

#### *Emergency Response and Funding Shortage*

As of December 2014, funding shortfalls continue to have a strong impact on various WFP humanitarian programs. For example, shortages in the take-home rice distribution for school children in Myanmar have affected 174,000 children and 522,000 family members, leading to periods of program suspension.<sup>49</sup> The suspension is likely to continue through early 2015 with breaks in other programs to happen in April 2015.<sup>50</sup> The program will need an additional \$22 million to continue with the school-feeding and other related programs.<sup>51</sup> In Syria, a food voucher program supporting 1.7 million Syrian refugees was also suspended in December when the program was unable to secure \$64 million, affecting refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt. These reductions in basic needs services spiral into protection based concerns, as women and girls look for alternative means of livelihood, including the increased risk of early marriages, sexual abuse, and child labor.<sup>52</sup>

#### *Post-2015 Development Goals and Priority Targets*

As part of the post-2015 development agenda discussion, ending hunger and achieving gender equality is a major priority in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>53</sup> In support of this trajectory, United Nations Development Program Administrator, Helen Clarke enforced this message through her recent emphasis on the economic benefits of empowered women in her speech to the Women’s International Forum.<sup>54</sup> She highlighted, that if women had the same access to resources as men on farms, they could increase yields by twenty to thirty percent.<sup>55</sup> In addition, during the Feeding the Planet event, UN-Women’s Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri highlighted the concerns of women and food security, stating that women and girls often eat last and least despite their essential roles in family nutrition, food production, storing, and cooking.<sup>56</sup> Furthermore, the 2014 Global Gender Gap Report, published in October 2014 put an emphasis on women’s equal employment as a key area to further public health, education and sustainable development.<sup>57</sup>

Further, the September 2014, Beijing +20 events, held to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Beijing Platform for Action* also fed into the post-2015 dialogue.<sup>58</sup> The *Platform for Action* calls for Member States to enhance women’s access to financial, technical, extension, and marketing services.<sup>59</sup> As part of the opening session of the sixty-ninth General Assembly, Italy, Ghana, WFP, International Development Law Organization, and UN-Women organized a high level event called “Feeding the Planet – Empowering Women: The Food and Nutrition Security Challenge.”<sup>60</sup> The purpose of the event was to discuss strategies to close the gender gap and discuss the main achievements since the initial Beijing conference in 1995.<sup>61</sup> At the event, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation noted the significant role of the “grassroots” as an important strategy bringing together grassroots organizations and local decision makers to empower women in agriculture and food

<sup>45</sup> WFP, *Joint UN Initiative to empower rural women*, 2014.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> WFP, *World Food Programme Myanmar: December 2014 Operational Report*, 2014.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> WFP, *WFP Syria Crisis Response: Funding Shortfalls*, 2014.

<sup>53</sup> UN General Assembly, *Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals* (A/68/970), 2014, p. 10.

<sup>54</sup> All Africa, *Africa: Helen Clarke 2015: Speech to Women’s International Forum, ‘An Important Year for Gender Development’*, 2014.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> UN-Women, *Post-2015 must advance food security for women – Lakshmi Puri*, 2014

<sup>57</sup> World Economic Forum, *2015: The Year of Gender Equality in the Workplace, Maybe*, 2014.

<sup>58</sup> UN-Women, *The Beijing Platform for Action Turns 20*, 2014.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> International Development Law Organization, *Feeding the Planet: Empowering Women*, 2014.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

production.<sup>62</sup> The event also discussed food security, women's empowerment and the empowerment of rural communities.<sup>63</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

WFP continues to work with its partners within the UN and with Member States to develop programs that reflect and promote gender equality. Member States have rallied over the last several months to discuss the ongoing issue of empowerment of women and girls and food especially in the context of the post-2015 agenda. However, despite the importance of WFP's work, WFP continues to struggle with funding constraints on programs. As a result, millions of people, and particularly women and girls, continue to face challenges related to food insecurity. In order to achieve the international community's goals of reducing hunger and promoting gender equality, there must be a greater focus on food security for women and girls. Moving forward, the international community will continue to discuss these issues especially in light of the post-2015 development agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, and the ongoing initiatives sparked in the Beijing +20 review.

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<sup>62</sup> Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, 2014.

<sup>63</sup> International Development Law Organization, *Feeding the Planet: Empowering Women*, 2014.

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*This source provides background information on how WFP's mandate relates to women empowerment and the Beijing+20 conference. Specifically, this source highlights the challenges faced by women living in rural areas and the challenge that women face in finding resources to support rural agriculture. Women play an integral part of rural agriculture and farming since they are better able to empower themselves if they have better access to food resources. Delegates will find this useful in better understanding how the international community can close the gender gap through rural farming and better access to food.*

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. (2014). *The Beijing Platform for Action Turns 20* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/about>

*This website provides information on the Beijing+20 and the history of The Platform for Action. Delegates will find this source useful on what progress has been made in the last 20 years regarding gender equality and the empowerment of all women. Delegates will gain a better understanding of how poverty and lack of access to food can impact the human rights of women and girls.*

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. (2014). *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development in 2014: Gender Equality and Sustainable Development* [Report]. Retrieved 1 January 2015 from: [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNWOMEN\\_surveyreport\\_ADVANCE\\_16Oct.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNWOMEN_surveyreport_ADVANCE_16Oct.pdf)

*This report highlights a number of changes over the last several years that has changed the relationship that people have with food. Specifically, the report explains new challenges faced by women as a result of globalization and the economic impacts. This report will help delegates understand various areas of improvement or actions that members of the international community should take to deal with the challenges.*

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2014). *Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls* [Report]. Retrieved 1 January 2015 from:

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp269911.pdf>

*This document highlights the unique role that WFP plays in ending violence against women and girls. Food is a valuable resource for women and girls at risk and the ability to distribute the resource to those in need can have a major impact on the well-being of these individual. This report outlines for delegates specific situations that food has been used to empower women and can be used as best practices for future initiatives and programming.*

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<https://www.wfp.org/sites/default/files/WFP%20Myanmar%20Operational%20Report%20-%20December%202014.pdf>

*This update addresses some of the funding issues faced by WFP and the programs that are being implemented by the organization. Even though funding shortages are not unique to Myanmar, this report provides a concrete example of how funding shortages can impact WFP's program delivery including 174,000 school children and 522,00 family members not having access to a take-home rice ration program. This source reinforces the impact that funding makes on the lives of those in need and how failure to meet commitments can have severe consequences for those in need. Delegates can use this as basis for developing strategies to increase funding for WFP programs.*

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## II. Humanitarian Assistance in the Central African Republic and South Sudan

### *Introduction*

Throughout the past several months, the situations in the Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan have evolved and changed considerably. Reports by the Secretary-General on the Abyei region and the CAR, in combination with reports from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on South Sudan and the CAR, highlight a delicate and fluid crisis that remains highly volatile despite ongoing efforts by United Nations (UN) agencies, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and individual Member States.<sup>64</sup> The United Nations Security Council, FAO, and the World Food Programme (WFP) have continued assessing and responding to the changing crisis, with WFP focusing primarily on providing guidance and developing programs for providing humanitarian assistance and relief to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees from both countries.<sup>65</sup> Conflict within the CAR and South Sudan presents a twofold challenge, first by further displacing persons and threatening IDP camps, particularly those with high populations of women and children, and secondly by disrupting and interfering with the work of UN and other relief organizations on addressing the humanitarian needs of IDPs.<sup>66</sup>

Security Council resolution 2179, adopted on 14 October 2014, addresses the ongoing instability in South Sudan.<sup>67</sup> Resolution 2179 examines the problems facing the Abyei region and the need to establish a “Safe Demilitarized Border Zone” (SDBZ) in an agreed-upon location in an effort to reduce and eliminate border violence in Abyei.<sup>68</sup> Further, resolution 2179 requests the Secretary-General to report the results of human rights monitoring in South Sudan and establish procedures to ensure the compliance of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) with the “United Nations zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuses.”<sup>69</sup> The report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei, released on 1 December 2014, details the progress of UNISFA.<sup>70</sup> Of particular concern for humanitarian assistance in the Abyei region, the Secretary-General’s report notes that the absence of law and order institutions and the presence of informal detention centers inhibit the safety and human rights of community members.<sup>71</sup> The report of the Secretary-General also highlights the success of WFP’s first food distribution program in the Abyei region since 2011, noting that the rapid assessment of food insecurity in June 2014 led to the distribution program that took place from 27 October to 3 November 2014, reaching 81,000 food-insecure individuals.<sup>72</sup> Finally, recognizing the severity of the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, the Security Council adopted resolution 2187, renewing the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) through May 2015 to protect civilians, monitor the human rights situation, create the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and support the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.<sup>73</sup>

The 28 November 2014 report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic illuminates the ongoing human rights concerns in the CAR, primarily the instability and strife derived from “internal leadership struggles” and a lack of central authority within and among anti-balaka and ex-Seleka factions.<sup>74</sup> The report profiles incidents of violence against members of both factions stemming from both internal strife and conflict between militant forces, which has resulted in additional IDPs and has further fueled the cycle of provocation between the country’s multiple tribal factions that continues to increase risk to civilians, particularly women and children.<sup>75</sup> The report determined that in November 2014, the CAR had 410,000 IDPs, and also described the results of the WFP

<sup>64</sup> UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei (S/2014/862)*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic, (S/2014/857)*, 2014; FAO, *South Sudan: Progress made, but food security remains fragile*, 2014; Food Security Cluster, *Central African Republic*, 2014.

<sup>65</sup> FAO, *Executive Brief: Central African Republic, 15 January 2015*, 2015; FAO, *Executive Brief: Republic of South Sudan, 31 October 2014*, 2014.

<sup>66</sup> UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei (S/2014/862)*, 2014; IOM, *CAR Crisis IOM Regional Response Situation Report 18 November-1 December 2014*, 2014.

<sup>67</sup> UN Security Council, *Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan (S/RES/2179 (2014))*, 2014.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei (S/2014/862)*, 2014.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic (S/2014/857)*, 2014.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

emergency food security assessment, which concluded that 28% of the population of the CAR is food insecure, showing an overall decrease in IDPs and in food-insecure individuals; however, serious humanitarian concerns remain.<sup>76</sup> The final report of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2127, published on 28 October 2014, notes that 2.5 million CAR citizens require humanitarian aid, but humanitarian aid delivery is challenged by security, logistical and funding concerns.<sup>77</sup> The report recommends the creation of mobile legal courts to begin addressing the lack of law and order institutions in the CAR and the resulting humanitarian violations.<sup>78</sup> The report also calls upon relevant stakeholders to “participate in the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism in the Central African Republic” with the goal of reporting humanitarian rights violations, in particular the issues of child soldiers and sexual and gender-based violence.<sup>79</sup>

FAO reported significant progress in South Sudan, and together, FAO, WFP, and NGOs, such as Mercy Corps, have reached more than 2 million people in South Sudan.<sup>80</sup> The result of this effort by these agencies included the change in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification from phase 4, an emergency, to phase 3, a crisis; this reversal is a positive step away from famine and food insecurity.<sup>81</sup> However, projections show that in early 2015, South Sudan’s food security will be affected by increased need resulting from the depletion of familial food stocks, the sales of assets, and the reliance on relatives for food security support.<sup>82</sup> The FAO response requires additional donations to support the increased burden; FAO has raised only 55% of the donations requested.<sup>83</sup>

The Food Security Cluster, led by WFP and FAO and which coordinates food security response amongst many aid agencies, also aggregates documents and data on the state of food security in the CAR.<sup>84</sup> It notes that several upcoming challenges in the CAR, including a negative trend in livestock and food production, will likely lead to a decrease in food security.<sup>85</sup> An effort that helps balance this need was the increased support to WFP from the United States government-based Office of Food for Peace (FFP) of \$42 million, or about 26,000 metric tons of food aid, to the WFP’s CAR aid efforts during 2014; however, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) notes that currently only one third of the requested funding for the CAR has been raised through the voluntary donation mechanism.<sup>86</sup>

The key documents that continue to underpin this topic include the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966), General Assembly resolutions 63/187 on “The right to food” and 63/235 on “Agriculture development and food security,” and the *Food Assistance Convention* (2012).<sup>87</sup>

## **Recent Developments**

### *Central African Republic*

WFP and FAO continue to alleviate the food crisis in the CAR through FAO’s supply of seeds and tools combined with WFP’s seed protection rations to prevent crop seeds from being used to meet immediate food needs; these efforts have increased in crop yield by 11% from 2013, highlighting the beginning success of interventions in the CAR.<sup>88</sup> However, overall food production remains 58% lower than pre-crisis levels, which creates a precarious

<sup>76</sup> UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic*, (S/2014/857), 2014.

<sup>77</sup> UN Security Council, *Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2127* (S/2014/762), 2014.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>80</sup> FAO, *South Sudan: Progress made, but food security remains fragile*, 2014.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> FAO, *Executive Brief: Republic of South Sudan, 31 October 2014*, 2014.

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<sup>84</sup> Food Security Cluster, *Central African Republic*, 2014.

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<sup>87</sup> UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 (III))*, 1948; UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966; UN General Assembly, *The right to food (A/RES/63/187)*, 2008; UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security (A/RES/63/235)*, 2008; *Food Assistance Convention*, 2012.

<sup>88</sup> WFP, *Central African Republic: Farming and Families Hit by Insecurity*, 2014.

situation as food reserves are not replenished as quickly as they are exhausted.<sup>89</sup> Despite the encouraging reduction in numbers of IDPs in Bangui by 1774, which brings the total to 59,740, high need still remains primarily for water, sanitation and hygiene, healthcare, non-food items, and educational provisions.<sup>90</sup> The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has initiated Rapid Response Missions, which target communities and children under 5 to inject much needed nutritional food aid into the most difficult areas to serve.<sup>91</sup> Interim president of the CAR, Catherine Samba-Panza, continues to work to achieve gains in law and order by working with the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), which assists with training new staff and providing international justices to work with remaining CAR judges in an attempt to restore legal institutions quickly and effectively.<sup>92</sup>

### *South Sudan*

WFP has continued working toward reducing immediate food need in South Sudan, and in December 2014, WFP welcomed the renewal of food aid delivered via barge on the Nile River.<sup>93</sup> While increased availability of food aid through the Nile River increases the tonnage that can be delivered to South Sudan, the overall situation in South Sudan remains incredibly delicate as food stockpiles have run out and the sale of family assets can no longer be relied upon to meet the food need of families in a volatile food marketplace.<sup>94</sup> The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) South Sudan country office situation report for 6-13 December 2014 noted that tensions remain high as the one-year anniversary of the conflict approached.<sup>95</sup> During the period of this report, heavy fighting continued in Nassir and Upper Nile state between government forces and armed youth.<sup>96</sup> Women and children continue to be among the most at risk in this situation; efforts to deliver aid and ensure safety and full human rights are hindered by a lack of protection in camps against armed male IDPs.<sup>97</sup>

Additionally, critical services for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers are under-resourced, and maternal deaths during home delivery continue throughout South Sudan; the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) emphasizes that South Sudan suffers from the highest maternal mortality rate worldwide.<sup>98</sup> UNDP highlights the lack of midwives in South Sudan; the availability of only one midwife per 30,000 people demonstrates the need to increase maternal health care capacity.<sup>99</sup> Progress by UNFPA includes fencing to restrict outside access to frequently used routes, particularly those used to access latrines and potable water, and to protect camps housing women and girls; a 16-day campaign against gender-based violence; and a 3-day workshop for 22 journalists from a variety of media on capacity building for interviewing and reporting gender-based violence.<sup>100</sup> Oxfam International, which focuses on the risk of these increased violence indicators, has reported that the violence in South Sudan has resulted in 1.5 million people suffering food insecurity, and warns that continued and increased conflict could leave an additional 1 million affected by March 2015.<sup>101</sup> FAO advises that the notable progress made is fragile, and that the problem continues to grow.<sup>102</sup> South Sudan, particularly in the Greater Upper Nile region, faces a short window of action; at current rates, nearly half of all household food stocks will be depleted before the end of 2015.<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>89</sup> FAO, *Central African Republic*, 2014.

<sup>90</sup> IOM, *CAR Crisis IOM Regional Response Situation Report 18 November-1 December 2014*, 2014.

<sup>91</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, *South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #49*, 2014.

<sup>92</sup> Deutsche Welle, *Samba-Panza: 'Peace dialogue delayed' in Central African Republic*, 2014.

<sup>93</sup> WFP, *WFP Hails Re-opening Of River Corridor to Supply Vital Food Assistance in South Sudan*, 2014.

<sup>94</sup> UNFPA, *South Sudan Country Office: Situation Report 52 – 06-13 December*, 2014.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>98</sup> UNFPA, *South Sudan Country Office: Situation Report 52 – 06-13 December*, 2014; United Nations Development Programme in South Sudan, *Improve Maternal Health*, 2015.

<sup>99</sup> United Nations Development Programme in South Sudan, *Improve Maternal Health*, 2015.

<sup>100</sup> UNFPA, *South Sudan Country Office: Situation Report 52 – 06-13 December*, 2014.

<sup>101</sup> Oxfam International, *Potential escalation of conflict in South Sudan threatens to push a million more into food crisis*, 2014.

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<sup>103</sup> Food Security Cluster, *South Sudan*, 2014.

## ***Conclusion***

The CAR and South Sudan continue to see mixed progress and challenges towards achieving stability and peace within their populations.<sup>104</sup> Critically, the dwindling food stockpiles in both South Sudan and the CAR now place an additional 2 to 3 million people at risk of becoming food insecure by the end of 2015.<sup>105</sup> Structurally, security and infrastructure remain the biggest obstacles to humanitarian relief.<sup>106</sup> Following the developments that have occurred in the past several months, major problems still prevent individuals in both South Sudan and the CAR from enjoying their human rights; among these, maternal and child health continues to be a central concern.<sup>107</sup> The Cluster Approach has proven to be an effective mechanism to focus a wide range of expertise on the varied and complex crises in South Sudan and the CAR; however, as noted by FAO and UNDP, funding mechanisms have not provided resources sufficient to meet rising demand in both countries.<sup>108</sup> The United Nations Secretary-General will be hosting the first World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.<sup>109</sup> Leading up to this global conference, several regional consultative meetings are being held, seeking input from “civil society organizations, NGOs, member states, volunteer networks, the private sector, and, most importantly, people affected by humanitarian crises” through online forms, research submissions, and physical attendance.<sup>110</sup> These consultative meetings combined with actions taken by WFP and FAO toward serving the humanitarian needs in South Sudan and the CAR will be critical during the 2016 World Humanitarian Conference, especially looking ahead to the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>111</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> FAO, *Central African Republic*, 2014.

<sup>105</sup> Oxfam International, *Potential escalation of conflict in South Sudan threatens to push a million more into food crisis*, 2014.

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>107</sup> United Nations Development Programme in South Sudan, *Improve Maternal Health*, 2015.

<sup>108</sup> FAO, *Executive Brief Republic of South Sudan, 31 October 2014*, 2014.

<sup>109</sup> World Humanitarian Summit, *World Humanitarian Summit 2016*, 2015.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

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*This update from the IOM is a useful source for delegates; the document examines the developments, challenges, and opportunities that have arisen in the CAR in recent months. This covers a wide range of issues primarily through the lens of migration and IDPs, a critical group that must be served by WFP in order to aid in stabilization. The document reports progress and a decrease in IDPs and also examines the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRROs) and relocation efforts from surrounding nations back to the CAR.*

Oxfam International. (2014). *Potential escalation of conflict in South Sudan threatens to push a million more into food crisis*. Retrieved 26 December 2014 from: [New Template.docxhttp://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2014-12-12/potential-escalation-conflict-south-sudan-threatens-push-million](http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2014-12-12/potential-escalation-conflict-south-sudan-threatens-push-million)

*The usefulness of this source stems from both its factual update to the existing problems and IDP numbers in South Sudan as well as the way in which Oxfam International addresses the issue. The concern expressed by this NGO provides delegates with a good starting point for continued current research on the problem as the document provides a high-level summary of the concerns of this major and highly relevant NGO with a similar mission to that of WFP.*

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2014). *Humanitarian Emergencies: An Innovative Funding Formula* [Website]. Retrieved 30 January 2015 from: <http://blog.unhcr.org/globalviews/humanitarian-emergencies-an-innovative-funding-formula/>

*This source presents a unique solution for delegates as they work towards solving funding concerns within humanitarian intervention in both South Sudan and the CAR. The document examines the current UN funding mechanism for food and humanitarian crises and proposes a novel solution to the lack of funding. In addition to the new funding mechanism, this report underscores the challenges faced by UN organizations that function on less than half of the amount of funding requested to accomplish the goals that have been tasked for them.*

United Nations Population Fund. (2014). *South Sudan Country Office: Situation Report 52 – 06-13 December 2014* [Report]. Retrieved 26 December 2014 from: <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/South%20Sudan%20Humanitarian%20Sitrep%2052%20.pdf>

*This resource is valuable to delegates on the WFP as it examines the current political atmosphere within South Sudan and considers upcoming challenges. Additionally, the document provides very up-to-date figures and data on the scope of IDPs and the issues facing children and women in South Sudan. The Situation Report establishes trends for delegates and provides a context for the overall direction of humanitarian intervention and gaps in humanitarian intervention in South Sudan.*

United Nations Security Council, 7314<sup>th</sup> meeting. (2014). *Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Abyei (S/2014/862)*. Retrieved 27 December 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2014/862](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2014/862)

*This report is necessary reading for delegates as it examines the problems in Abyei and the unique problems that are encountered there. The report assesses the security situation, political situation and most importantly the humanitarian situation. The problem is concisely stated; the report further notes the problem of IDPs combined with consistently low harvests. The situation in Abyei illustrates a larger, problematic trend: although food production is beginning to recover, it is not increasing at a rate fast enough to meet demand or restore exhausted food stockpiles.*

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### III. Disaster Risk Management and Food Security in Natural Disaster Situations

#### *Introduction*

Natural disasters are a leading cause of worldwide hunger due to the increased constraint on access to nutritional resources.<sup>112</sup> Additionally, those who are already food insecure are more likely to face a severe impact in the aftermath of a natural disaster.<sup>113</sup> Increasingly, evidence shows that investment in disaster risk reduction is cost effective, with every dollar invested, four dollars is saved in future relief and rehabilitation costs.<sup>114</sup> In this effort, WFP continues to support over 23 million people to improve access to nutrition and reduce risk and build resilience to the effects of natural disasters through soil and water conservation efforts and training members in disaster risk management and livelihood protection.<sup>115</sup>

At the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the international community discussed the Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction through resolution (A/69/364).<sup>116</sup> The body outlined the repercussions of drought on food prices, food security during an environmental crisis, and the need for greater integration and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in order to tackle issues related to climate change and food and nutrition.<sup>117</sup> Further, greater emphasis on regional coordination and ensuring the post-2015 framework for disaster risk management was placed to compliment priorities under the *Hyogo Framework*.<sup>118</sup> Finally, the GA established that the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction would be held in Japan in March 2015.

The 26 December 2014 marked the 10-year anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami that severely damaged 11 countries including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Maldives, and Somalia.<sup>119</sup> The tsunami killed 200,000 and remains the deadliest tsunami in history.<sup>120</sup> In response, WFP launched one of the most complex emergency operations ever by the agency, known as the WFP's Indian Ocean Tsunami Emergency Operations, the program provided relief to 910,000 people.<sup>121</sup> Margareta Wahlstrom, head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction highlighted key lessons learnt from the Indian Ocean Tsunami, included early warning systems, better evacuation processes and a broader understanding of the impacts that disasters have on communities are the best way to move forward in developing response mechanisms.<sup>122</sup> Since December 2004, the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System has been implemented which now provides alert through three regional watch centers in India, Indonesia and Australia and in 2012 it gave early warning to the Banda Aceh, Indonesia earthquake.<sup>123</sup> Furthermore, there is a greater recognition that urban development should be developed in a more sustainable and responsible way.<sup>124</sup>

#### *Recent Developments*

##### *Preparation and Response*

The Government of Peru launched, on 18 September 2014, the National Plan for Disaster Risk Management (PLANAGERD) 2014-2021.<sup>125</sup> This report took 15 years to complete and received special assistance from WFP Secretariat participation on the technical advisory group.<sup>126</sup> The aim of this plan is to “reduce the vulnerability of the population and their livelihood against risk of disaster.”<sup>127</sup> In other country specific support, WFP disaster preparedness officers conducted a simulation exercise with local Ugandan officials on readiness to respond to a

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<sup>112</sup> WFP, *Disaster Risk Reduction*, n.d.

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>116</sup> UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/69/364)*, 2014.

<sup>117</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>119</sup> WFP, *Indian Ocean Tsunami: 10 years on*, 2014.

<sup>120</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>121</sup> WFP, *WFP Logistics – Immediate Response to Tsunami in Sri Lanka*, 2014.

<sup>122</sup> UNISDR, *A decade after Indian Ocean Tsunami, lessons learned*, 2014.

<sup>123</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *Marking 10 years since Indian Ocean Tsunami, UN says world better prepared for natural disasters*, 2014.

<sup>124</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>125</sup> WFP, *Peru: Authorities Launch the National Plan for Disaster Risk Management for 2014-2021*, 2014.

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.*

crisis and to assisted in the development of national system to better manage natural disasters.<sup>128</sup> The simulation involved the Ugandan government, ten humanitarian agencies and over 75 people.<sup>129</sup> Many of the participants praised the practicality and usefulness of the exercise and the real life comes at a time when Uganda has seen an increase in mudslides, flooding and refugee influxes.<sup>130</sup>

#### *Climate Change*

In October 2014, the WFP began providing food assistance for 190,000 Sri Lankans affected by drought.<sup>131</sup> A total 770,000 people have been affected by drought and climate change with the loss of one-third of paddy harvests.<sup>132</sup> WFP's efforts include \$2.3 million worth of food and \$227,000 for families to buy their own food.<sup>133</sup> Several non-governmental organizations including Save the Children, World Vision, ChildFund, and Oxfam have partnered with WFP to support efforts to provide food and cash aid to the ten affected districts in Sri Lanka.<sup>134</sup>

Recently, WFP, the Helen Keller Institution, the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, and the Institute of Development Studies released the results of a new study that people struggle with food prices up to eight months after a flood or drought or climate-related shocks in Bangladesh.<sup>135</sup> The report highlights that this same problem can persist up to six months after a cyclone.<sup>136</sup> Furthermore, high levels of acute under nutrition among children also rise significantly.<sup>137</sup> The study suggests enhancing the protection of fish as a source of protein and micronutrients since fish tend to surface after a flood and can be easily caught.<sup>138</sup> The study suggests that enhancing the protection of fish and better integration of food and nutrition into climate change policies and programs is necessary to ensure that women and children do not face adverse impact in the aftermath of a natural disasters. In response to this report, WFP's emergency preparedness strategies are focusing more on sourcing food locally to increase sustainability, decrease the cost of aid and stimulate local agriculture production.<sup>139</sup>

#### *Post-2015 Development Agenda*

In December 2014, Member States met in Lima, Peru for 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 20) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is tied with the larger post-2015 development agenda.<sup>140</sup> At the conference, WFP Secretariat provided information to Member States on food insecurity and climate change.<sup>141</sup> Furthermore, WFP shared its work on climate change adaption and resilience building to encourage Member States to support innovative programs in adaption, loss and damage, climate finance, food security and agriculture to ensure that vulnerable populations are protected.<sup>142</sup> The committee adopted the Lima Call for Climate Action along with a draft of commitments for specific actions, which will be voted on in Paris in late 2015.<sup>143</sup> Further, Members States pledged over \$10 billion for the new Green Climate Fund, several industrialized countries submitted themselves to questioning regarding their emission levels, and governments were called to put climate change into their school curricula.<sup>144</sup>

The outcome of Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction is a crucial aspect of the post-2015 discussion, as the outcome document will replace the *Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015)*.<sup>145</sup> The United Nations General Assembly, through resolution 66/199 has requested the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

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<sup>128</sup> WFP, *Emergency Simulations Boosts Ugandan Disaster Preparedness and Response*, 2014.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

<sup>130</sup> Ibid.

<sup>131</sup> WFP, *WFP Assists Communities Affected by Drought in Sri Lanka*, 2014.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid.

<sup>135</sup> Floodlist, *Bangladesh Floods Increase Food Prices and Malnutrition*, 2014.

<sup>136</sup> WFP, *Families Face High Food Prices Up to Eight Months After Climate Shocks, Study Shows*, 2014.

<sup>137</sup> Ibid.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid.

<sup>139</sup> WFP, *Purchase for progress*, 2014.

<sup>140</sup> World Food Programme, *The World Food Programme at COP 20*, 2014.

<sup>141</sup> WFP, *Three Things WFP will be doing at COP 20*, 2014.

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

<sup>143</sup> UNFCCC, *Lima call for climate action puts world on track to Paris 2015*, 2014.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid.

<sup>145</sup> UNISDR, *Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2014.

(UNISDR) to facilitate a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.<sup>146</sup> Furthermore, the recent Sustainable Development Agenda outcome document *The Future We Want* has highlighted the significance of addressing disaster risk reduction and climate change in the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>147</sup> This new outcome document will provide overall guiding principles, standards and targets, and have legal support.<sup>148</sup> Several regional conferences have taken place including the Regional Office for Arab States in September 2014, which led to the *Sharm El Sheikh Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction*.<sup>149</sup> The declaration emphasized the importance of addressing water and food insecurity especially as a result of climate change and extreme climatic events.<sup>150</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Measures can be put in place to minimize the impacts of a natural disaster and specifically, in the context of the WFP, how food can be delivered to those in need and to minimize the risks associated with malnutrition.<sup>151</sup> With the recent study citing that food prices may be inflated for a period of six to eight months, it is particularly crucial for Member States to have a disaster risk management plan in place similar to the one presented by Peru. Furthermore, simulations, such as the Ugandan example, can assist local officials in developing the skills to better handle natural disasters. There are many upcoming opportunities for the international framework to establish some new policies surrounding disaster risk management and better food policies as discussion on the post-2015 agenda and the new Disaster Risk Reduction framework develops.

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<sup>146</sup> UNISDR, *Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2014.

<sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>148</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>149</sup> UNISDR, *Sharm El Sheikh Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2014.

<sup>150</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>151</sup> WFP, *Disaster Risk Reduction*, n.d.

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*The findings from the Bangladesh flood demonstrate that the impacts of a flood can continue for many years. In the context of risk reduction, this article demonstrates that food prices remains high for several years and it's important to have plans in place prior to a disaster in order to minimize impacts. This study will allow delegates to consider the long-term impacts of a crisis on food prices.*

United Nations, Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2014). *A decade after Indian Ocean Tsunami, lessons learned* [Article]. Retrieved 28 December 2014 from: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/41635>

*This article discusses a number of learned lessons that have come out of the Indian Ocean Tsunami. The article examines the opportunities that are available as discussions move forward in Sendai, Japan in March 2015 and how the discussions will impact the Hyogo Framework. Delegates will also find this article useful in regards to how private companies such as Starwood has recognized the issue of safety in its development plans.*

United Nations, World Food Programme. (n.d). *Disaster Risk Reduction*. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: <http://www.wfp.org/disaster-risk-reduction>

*This website discusses the role that WFP plays in reducing disaster risks. WFP has a Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management that was adopted in 2011. The overall objective of the plan is to build resilience and reduce risk. Delegates should review this source to determine what programs are already in place as it relates to risk management.*

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2014). *Indian Ocean Tsunami: 10 years on* [Website]. Retrieved 28 December 2014 from: <http://www.wfp.org/stories/tsunami-ten-years-after>

*This website highlights how WFP responded to the Tsunami 10 years ago. The link provides some of the challenges related to food crisis management after a disaster and the learned lessons that have been acquired as a result of the tsunami. Delegates should reference this source to understand the impacts that a natural disaster can have on the average civilian.*

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2014). *Three Things WFP will be doing at COP20* [Website]. Retrieved 2 January 2015 from: <https://www.wfp.org/stories/three-things-wfp-will-be-doing-cop-20>

*Climate change is a major issue in the food community and the impacts of climate change continues to provide challenges to food security. WFP attended the COP20 with several objectives and areas of expertise. This source provides delegates an opportunity to consider WFP's role in the context of climate change and its impacts.*

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