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Beatrice Soler	
etaries-General	Update for the World Food Programme
A 11 C 14 C	

Committee Overview	
Recent Developments	4
I. Encouraging the Eradication of Hunger through Cooperation with the Farming Indust	cry6
Recent Developments Annotated Bibliography Bibliography	8
II. Improving Frameworks for the Supply of Food Aid	11
Recent Developments Annotated Bibliography Bibliography	13
III. Responding to Food Insecurity in Yemen	16
Recent Developments  Annotated Bibliography  Bibliography	18

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#### **Committee Overview**

#### **Recent Developments**

At the end of 2015 and into the start of 2016, the World Food Programme (WFP) engaged with many different actors on a variety of issues related to its main areas of work, predominately related to achieving zero hunger and focused on creating more robust partnerships and improving service delivery.

First, WFP was a participant at the 2016 World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland, from 20 to 23 January 2016.¹ WFP primarily attended to focus on building relationships with innovative companies in order to forge collaborative solutions, one of the three ways the organization plans to achieve zero hunger in 2016.² Important private sector partnerships emerged from conversations in Davos.³ In fact, WFP has recently announced a new initiative, the Patient Procurement Platform (PPP), which focuses on smallholder farmers in emerging economies.⁴ Farmers are able to plant and harvest their own high-quality crops in order to profit and then reinvest back into their economies by raising their income.⁵ WFP is growing these economies by also investing in them, purchasing crops from smallholder farmers to continue regional operations.⁶ Supported by WFP, these farmers gain access to larger, stable markets, thus creating a chain reaction for them to thrive in their own economies.⁶ WFP is also using partnerships to reach food insecure people to better understand forecasts.⁶ This fits into the work of WFP to provide better climate services in alignment with helping achieve Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁶ Climate services can help mitigate food assistance during disasters so families do not have to take desperate measures.¹⁰

Recent work by WFP also reflects the organization's routine service delivery. For instance, WFP's School Meals Programme begins during each academic school year in Guinea's verdant Forest Region and this year, there are 870 more schools benefiting. <sup>11</sup> At Koule II primary school, the mothers of the schoolchildren prepare meals for the children. <sup>12</sup> One of the focuses include maintaining a balanced diet. <sup>13</sup> They do this by retrieving local ingredients and cooking different foods with them. <sup>14</sup> Overall, the parents have noticed their children getting healthier and eating more diverse foods. <sup>15</sup> Previously, schools did not provide food; therefore, children were sent home for lunch where they would manage with whatever was around. <sup>16</sup> The partnership of the WFP and Koule II primary school entices students to attend and learn while providing sustenance on a daily basis. <sup>17</sup>

Additional services were delivered in Malawi. <sup>18</sup> Malawi suffers from unpredictable rains resulting in "destructive flooding" and "crop-ruining drought" throughout the year. <sup>19</sup> Consequently, Malawian farmers are being taught to use rain gauges to better adapt to climate change and its adverse effects. <sup>20</sup> In December 2015, WFP provided farmers in Balaka District with rain gauges as part of WFP's R4 Rural Resilience Initiative. <sup>21</sup> The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative is a comprehensive risk management program to achieve food stability amidst climate change

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. <sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> UN WFP, WFP And The World Economic Forum, 2016. <sup>2</sup> Ibid. <sup>3</sup> Ibid. <sup>4</sup> Ibid. <sup>5</sup> Ibid. <sup>6</sup> Ibid. <sup>7</sup> Ibid. <sup>8</sup> UN WFP, Climate Services, 2016. <sup>9</sup> Ibid. 10 Ibid. <sup>11</sup> Hilliard, A Snapshot Of WFP's School Meals Programme In Guinea, 2015. 12 Ibid. 13 Ibid. <sup>14</sup> Ibid. 15 Ibid. <sup>16</sup> Ibid. <sup>18</sup> Pemba, Early Learning With School Meals In Malawi, 2015. <sup>19</sup> Collins, Rain Gauges Helping With Climate Change In Malawi, 2015.



risks while providing income security.<sup>22</sup> The farmers were well-equipped with training by WFP and the Malawi Department for Climate Change and Meteorological Services prior to the installations of the rain gauges in order to properly utilize the instruments to their best benefits.<sup>23</sup> Hopefully, through projects like this, the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative will help 100,000 farmers by 2017.<sup>24</sup>

Finally, at a higher level, in November 2015, WFP presented its Management Plan of 2016. The 2016 – 2018 financial plan takes a "resourced-based approach," which allows for an efficient use and allocation of food assistance tools. <sup>25</sup> This approach will also help in gaining value for every dollar that is spent. <sup>26</sup> The budget is currently set at \$4.9 billion and is committed to SDG 2, to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture." <sup>27</sup> In coming months, WFP will continue its work to address hunger and food-related issues within the international community.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Collins, Rain Gauges Helping With Climate Change In Malawi, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Cousin, Opening Remarks by Executive Director Ertharin Cousin on the Occasion of the Second Regular Session, 2015, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Ibid.



Collins, E. (2015, December 11). Rain Gauges Helping With Climate Change In Malawi [Blog Post]. *World Food Programme*. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <a href="https://www.wfp.org/stories/rain-gauges-helping-build-resilience-climate-change-malawi">https://www.wfp.org/stories/rain-gauges-helping-build-resilience-climate-change-malawi</a>

This example provides an insight as to how modern technology can create resilience against climate change. The proper knowledge of tools can result in more food, which further increases food security throughout a given year. Training farmers in how they should market and sell their produce can also economically benefit a Member State. This training can be passed down to other farmers, who will help the overall population. This helps WFP promote food security that is long lasting.

Hilliard, A. (2015, December 9). A Snapshot Of WFP's School Meals Programme In Guinea [Blog Post]. *World Food Programme*. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <a href="https://www.wfp.org/stories/school-meals-guinea-rebuilding-communities">https://www.wfp.org/stories/school-meals-guinea-rebuilding-communities</a>

This particular story from December 2015 provides insight to how WFP's School Meals Programme can benefit many different areas through education and proper nutrition for children. This project helps increase health and nutrition for the next generation in Guinea. Students are able to focus on their education rather than worrying about whether or not they will eat on a given day. This also helps out the families as they are able to focus on work without involving their children on these matters.

Madjiangar, D. (2015, December 15). Afghanistan: Helping Women Farmers Grow More To Increase Income, Feed Their Families [Blog Post]. *World Food Programme*. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from:

https://www.wfp.org/stories/afghanistan-helping-women-farmers-improve-their-food-and-nutrition

This December 2015 program helps women become better farmers with their own land and it will help delegates understand the actualities of program implementation. The practices they learn are very essential to becoming self-sufficient traders in the market with their produce. WFP finds it important to train these skills for women as they will become the main working force of tomorrow. Doubling income can increase the prosperity for children, women and families altogether.

Pemba, P. (2015, December 21). Early Learning With School Meals In Malawi [Blog Post]. World Food Programme. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <a href="https://www.wfp.org/stories/early-learning-wfp-school-meals-malawi">https://www.wfp.org/stories/early-learning-wfp-school-meals-malawi</a> While providing food is the main goal for the WFP, a focus on children is clear as the WFP wants to ensure the workforce of tomorrow is healthy and well-equipped with the right tools. The Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres do just that by maintaining meal packages on a daily basis for children. The United States Department of Agriculture helps maintain the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Programme by providing the 'Super Cereal' for the porridge that children eat. Delegates should find this source useful to understand some of WFP's partnerships and to learn more about the on-the-ground work of WFP.

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

#### **Recent Developments**

In recent months, the international community has continued to debate, research, and collaborate on programs relating to the eradication of hunger.<sup>28</sup> Specifically, much has been highlighted on the role of rural women in the eradication of hunger. On the International Day of Rural Women, 15 October 2015, United Nations (UN) Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka noted how rural women are key actors in encouraging progress in the farming industry.<sup>29</sup> Many political leaders from Member States such as Angola, Colombia, Jordan, Paraguay, Senegal, and Vietnam have also stressed that intersecting forms of discrimination can be eradicated through cooperation with local farming industry.<sup>30</sup> This reiterates ideas that were published earlier in 2015 in the report Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016, Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights, which documents the progress of the world's women and highlights that the viability of livelihoods in rural developing Member States has been under immense pressure since the 1980s.<sup>31</sup> Furthermore, Member States note that the lack of investment in agriculture from local governments and development funds has left poor rural farmers particularly affected, which in turn hinders both economic and agricultural development.<sup>32</sup> To address this, emphasis should be placed on supporting small-scale farmers, which in many households are women.<sup>33</sup> Additionally, Mlambo-Ngcuka highlighted that where alternative sources of food are needed for families, women often rely heavily upon these safety nets.<sup>34</sup> Consequently, the World Food Progamme (WFP) has begun to develop nutrition-sensitive protection, targeting the most vulnerable households. 35 These social safety nets can aid in reducing vulnerability in income, crops, and assets. 36 Beyond the WFP, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted in September 2015, also recognize the role that rural women play both at a local and global level, the need to provide resources to developing rural areas as well as sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and the need to provide support to smallholder farmers, particularly in emerging economies.37

Also related to addressing the eradication of hunger, in December 2015, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) undertook a study, entitled "Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity," to increase the understanding of current vulnerability to food insecurity of mountain peoples living in developing Member States. Winder a collaborative effort from FAO, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) and Mountain Partnership (MP) realized the need to reassess the state of food insecurity for rural mountain peoples. The report notes how rural mountain areas rely heavily on agriculture, including husbandry and forestry, and that they remain isolated, lack support and proper infrastructure, and suffer from few trading opportunities. The report's conclusions are alarming: it found that 45% of rural mountain communities are food insecure, meaning one in three mountain peoples in developing countries are at risk of starvation, compared with an average of one in eight globally. Since the report was published, both FAO and WFP have called for increased political support and commitment, noting how effective efforts are necessary to combat this trend, which has been increasing since 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> UN DPI, Opening remarks at End-of-Year press conference, 2015; FAO et al, The State of Food Insecurity in the World, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> UN-Women, International Day of Rural Women Press release, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> UN-Women, Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights, 2015, p. 109.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Ibid., p. 110.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> UN WFP, Two minutes on Social Protection – Ending Hunger and Improving Nutrition, 2015.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; UN-Women, International Day of Rural Women Press release, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> FAO, Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Mountain Partnership, About, 2016; FAO, Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> FAO, Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity, 2015, p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Ibid., p. 30

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> FAO, Study Reveals disturbing hunger trends in worlds highland areas, 2015.



Moreover, FAO's 2015-2016 edition of the brief "The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets," presents a number of issues on the structure and pattern of trade differences globally and how this has pertinent implications for food security. <sup>43</sup> It notes how, over time, global trade in food and agricultural products has increased but has not been managed appropriately. <sup>44</sup> This is a contentious topic moving forward given the role the farming industry may play in the eradication of global hunger. <sup>45</sup> According to FAO, trade impacts the four dimensions of food security: Access to food, food availability, utilization, and food stability. <sup>46</sup> FAO finds that an increase in trade needs to be met with a transformation in agriculture worldwide, through investments and subsidies to drive extensive and effective farming forward. <sup>47</sup> This directly affects the work of WFP, as a large section of the organization's work in the international community revolves around emergency dispatches of food support.

Finally, most recently, since January 2016, WFP has provided a model example for local and direct help as the organization has established an on-site resource center in Sittwe, Myanmar.<sup>48</sup> The center aims to conduct surveys and studies to understand trends and patterns of hunger, as well as act as a local education source by providing community based workshops.<sup>49</sup> It is important for WFP to continue to discuss how to eradicate hunger, particularly through cooperation with the farming industry.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> FAO, The State of Agriculture Commodity Markets in brief – Trade and food security: Achieving a better balance between national priorities and the collective good, 2015.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> UN WFP, New Resource Centre to Provide Better Insight On Food Security, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Ibid.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2015). *Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity* [Report]. Retrieved 31 December 2015 from: <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5175e.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5175e.pdf</a>

This report provides tremendous insight into the vulnerability of agriculture systems within mountainous regions. It is a very underexplored area, and FAO, MPS, and MP recognize that there is very little data recorded to date. The detailed findings of this report in the form of pie charts, tables, and percentages and in-depth region-by-region analysis will aid delegates in seeing the vulnerabilities faced by these isolated citizens. This detailed information will be great guidance for delegates, as the findings show that rural mountain peoples are the most vulnerable and hungriest of global citizens, greatly lacking in food security. It is clear from this study that mountainous regions are in need of urgent attention, and the report also highlights the need to support family and smallholder farming.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2015). *The State of Agriculture Commodity Markets in brief – Trade and food security: achieving a better balance between national priorities and the collective good* [Briefing Paper]. Retrieved 31 December 2015 from: <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5090e.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5090e.pdf</a>

This briefing offers a concise look at how trade and food insecurity are interlinked within the global community. The diagram located on the third page provides insight into the four dimensions of food security and the short-, medium- and long-term effects that trade has upon these. This briefing is published biennially by FAO and provides awareness of the potential impacts that trade may incur in different Member States, environments, and families throughout the globe.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, et al. (2015). *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* [Report]. Retrieved 5 of January 2016 from: <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf</a>

This document produced by FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and WFP will guide delegates in their research on the eradication of hunger to date and where progress stands. The report is broken up into three main sections: Undernourishment around the world in 2015, progress in different Member States around the globe, and food security and nutrition as "drivers of change" in the fight against hunger. It not only provides an in-depth analysis of the year 2015, but it also takes stock of development progress to date, providing insight on what needs to be done. The report is pertinent for delegates as it provides revised official statistics for country profiles. It recognizes the reality that much work is still needed to eradicate hunger and achieve food security. It also provides a realistic outlook on remaining problems and what policies should take preference within the international community.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies and Realising Rights* [Report]. Retrieved 31 December 2015 from: <a href="http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/pdf/UNW">http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/pdf/UNW</a> progressreport.pdf

This report follows the progress of a number of Member States efforts in 2014 to provide updated reports on how they were able to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, an item adopted 20 years ago, setting targets to achieve gender equality globally. The report recognizes how women play a vital role in the fight against hunger, with many working twice as much as their male counterparts in both formal and informal employment. The report is quite arduous and detailed but each chapter opens with a briefing section to provide delegates with a snapshot of what is covered. There are many flow charts and diagrams throughout to illustrate the change in women's share of labor – dating from 2000 – 2015. The report also takes a look at many case studies throughout; of particular interest to this topic is the section on "Gender sensitive land titling and reform programmes" and the reform of marital property regimes. Within this area, it takes an indepth look at the impact of land dispossession on women in Indonesia, illustrating the impact of not only land dispossession but also the impact that climate change and the expansion of oil palm plantations has had on small-holder farmers.



United Nations, World Food Programme. (2016, January 22). *New Resource Centre To Provide Better Insight On Food Security* [News Article]. Retrieved 26 January 2016 from: <a href="https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/new-resource-centre-provide-better-insight-food-security-1">https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/new-resource-centre-provide-better-insight-food-security-1</a>

This news article focuses on how the strategic plan will be enacted to tackle the challenges of food security and access to food by collecting evidence-based data and information. It uses the establishment of a new resource center as a blueprint example. This new resource center is located in Sittwe, Myanmar, and was established in early 2016. The Sittwe center is the newest of nine facilities now in Myanmar and part of a network grouped around the center in Nay Pyi Taw. The centers are funded through a multitude of donations from the international community and nonprofit sector. Delegates will profit from this source as it draws attention to a mechanism that already works and can be used in other regions, too.

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# II. Improving Frameworks for the Supply of Food Aid

#### Recent Developments

On 13 January 2016, the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP) formally announced it would update its mission statement and goals to be aligned with those of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.<sup>50</sup> An encompassing document, the "Update on the Integrated Road Map for the Strategic Plan (2017-2021), the Country Strategic Planning Approach and the Financial Framework Review," was published in early January as an agenda item for the WFP Executive Board meeting that took place in Rome from 8 to 10 February 2016.<sup>51</sup> Through this updated document, WFP has officially aligned its agenda with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, formally known as "Zero Hunger."<sup>52</sup> WFP aims at establishing food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture on a global scale.<sup>53</sup> To ensure that these goals are met, WFP has formulated the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, based on three interrelated processes: the Country Strategic Planning Approach (CSP), the Corporate Results Framework (CRF), and the Financial Review Framework (FRF).<sup>54</sup> The three processes will allow WFP to effectively determine areas of need, and provide the appropriate assistance.<sup>55</sup> More specifically, the FRF will aim at increasing transparency in WFP's budget and fiscal decision-making, which will in turn help in the steady alignment between resources and results.<sup>56</sup> The CRF will work as the main structure for the planning, monitoring, and reporting of WFP's work at the national, regional, and global level.<sup>57</sup> All of this will be accomplished through the CSP, which will implement the strategic measures taken by WFP in achieving the global zero hunger targets.<sup>58</sup>

In December 2015, WFP cooperated with several UN organizations and the World Bank, in producing the joint document "Addressing Protracted Displacement: Framework for Development – Humanitarian Cooperation." The document focuses specifically on the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, noting that existing national laws and economic policies fail to meet the needs of these groups. Through this framework, WFP and its fellow organizations, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), express the need for a new financial architecture in order to ensure that IDPs and refugees have proper access to basic human rights, including food. Therefore, these organizations have endorsed a change in mentality in the way refugees are treated both in the long- and short-terms, with four main areas of focus: Establishing legal and regulatory protection for IDPs and refugees, providing the necessary funding for assistance, strengthening national response systems to food shortages and resource distribution, and establishing transparency in funding. Moreover, more localized humanitarian and development approaches need to be established by national governments, which would allow for effective distribution of aid to refugees and IDPs. MFP and its partners call for the establishment of local peacebuilding efforts that will oversee the protection of human rights and encourage the empowerment of women in areas affected by conflict.

In recent weeks, WFP has worked closely with the Syrian government and other UN organizations to provide food assistance to those affected by the conflict. 65 On 7 January 2016, OCHA released the "Joint Statement on hard-to-reach and besieged communities in Syria," which highlighted the difficulty in accessing over 15 besieged locations in the country, among them the city of Madaya. 66 Prevented from entering these areas, the UN was unable to deliver

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> UN WFP, Update on the Integrated Road Map for the Strategic Plan (2017-2021), the Country Strategic Planning Approach and the Financial Framework Review, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> WFP, Integrated Road Map: Positioning WFP for a Changing World, 2016.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> UN OCHA et al., Addressing Protracted Displacement: Framework for Development — Humanitarian Cooperation, 2015.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> UN OCHA, Joint Statement on hard-to-reach and besieged communities in Syria, 2016.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.



necessary food and humanitarian assistance to over 4.5 million Syrians.<sup>67</sup> Ultimately, the statement led to the approval by the Syrian government to allow aid agencies to enter Madaya.<sup>68</sup> On 8 January 2016, the Syrian government reportedly allowed eight convoys into Madaya to deliver food aid.<sup>69</sup> WFP was reported as one of the agencies that was able to provide aid to the inhabitants of Madaya and other cities affected by the conflict.<sup>70</sup> On 27 January 2016, during a debrief to the UN Security Council, WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin voiced concern for the deliberate ignorance of UN resolutions regarding the Syrian conflict.<sup>71</sup> Additionally, the Executive Director spoke of the obstacles WFP faces when attempting to provide food aid to affected cities, which range from checkpoints within Syria to the presence of security forces within warehouses.<sup>72</sup> Another alarming factor for WFP is the increase of prices in food in Syria.<sup>73</sup> Aside from limited humanitarian aid due to blocked entrances into besieged cities, victims of the conflict are also challenged by high prices for milk, sugar, and other basic food items.<sup>74</sup> In her concluding remarks to the Security Council, the Executive Director reiterated that WFP is committed to providing aid to innocent civilians affected by the conflict.<sup>75</sup>

WFP continues to serve as a humanitarian platform during economic, political, and social turmoil, and understands the importance of a sustainable agenda in order to implement food security worldwide and confront the many different challenges that WFP faces from Syria to South Sudan. WFP will hold its First Executive Board Regular Session late in February, where the new goals of the body will be officially adopted to align with the SDGs. In regards to the Syrian situation, as stated by the Executive Director on 27 January, WFP will continue to provide support for the victims of this conflict.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> UN OCHA, Joint Statement on hard-to-reach and besieged communities in Syria, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> Shah, Madaya: Syria allows aid to reach city facing starvation, says U.N., 2016.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Anthem, Action Needed to Prevent Starvation in Syria, Executive Director tells UN Security Council, 2016.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> Shah, Madaya: Syria allows aid to reach city facing starvation, says U.N., 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> Anthem, Action Needed to Prevent Starvation in Syria, Executive Director tells UN Security Council, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Esslemont, Syria to South Sudan: aid groups list their top humanitarian concerns for 2016, 2015; UN WFP, Update on the Integrated Road Map for the Strategic Plan (2017-2021), the Country Strategic Planning Approach and the Financial Framework Review, 2016.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Anthem, Action Needed to Prevent Starvation in Syria, Executive Director tells UN Security Council, 2016.



Esslemont, T. (2015, December 28). Syria to South Sudan: aid groups list their top humanitarian concerns for 2016. *Reuters*. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/global-humanitarian-crises-idUSL8N13Z3IU20151228">http://www.reuters.com/article/global-humanitarian-crises-idUSL8N13Z3IU20151228</a>

This article provides information on top humanitarian aid organizations worldwide and their goals for 2016. The agencies highlighted in this piece include the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Medical Corps (IMC), among others. Delegates will find similarities between the organizations' goals. By examining the priorities provided by these aid agencies, delegates can identify what works in establishing change and what needs to be improved in order to provide effective humanitarian aid, and ultimately establish successful solutions to conflict, hunger, and poverty. This article provides perspectives for the different type aid needed for each individual country, which will be particularly useful for identifying different areas of concern for WFP's work. For instance, countries like Syria face political turmoil; therefore, WFP faces difficulty entering besieged regions, whereas countries affected by natural disasters and climate change, such as Haiti and eastern and southern Africa, face different challenges and require different forms of humanitarian aid.

Shah, K. (2016, January 8). Madaya: Syria allows aid to reach city facing starvation, says U.N. CNN. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <a href="http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/07/middleeast/syria-madaya-starvation/">http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/07/middleeast/syria-madaya-starvation/</a>

This news article highlights WFP's efforts to deliver aid to the town of Madaya and other areas affected by the Syrian conflict. In addition, the reader will learn of the increase in food prices, which has made it even more difficult for Syrians to eat and have a healthy and nutritious lifestyle. The piece is useful for delegates to understand the wide-reaching consequences of the Syrian conflict for the supply of food aid, as well as the main difficulties that WFP faces when trying to operate in a conflict area.

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, et al. (2015). *Addressing Protracted Displacement: Framework for Development* — *Humanitarian Cooperation* [Report]. Retrieved 29 January 2016 from:

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/addressing\_protracted\_displacement\_a\_think\_piece\_dec\_2015.pdf

The suggestions given by WFP, UN OCHA and UNHCR in this joint report speak of the importance of enhancing national laws and policies to provide IDPs and refugees access to food and other basic human rights. Also, these suggestions take into consideration women's empowerment, as well as the prevention of violence against girls and women. Therefore, this framework strongly supports WFP's goals for the future, including the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan. This document was published in December 2015 to initiate the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and places special emphasis on encouraging financing of humanitarian instruments and SDG-aligned development work.

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2016). *Joint Statement on hard-to-reach and besieged communities in Syria*. Retrieved 29 January 2016 from: <a href="http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Joint%20Statement%20by%20Yacoub%20El%20Hillo%20and%20Kevin%20Kennedy\_english%20FINAL.pdf">http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Joint%20Statement%20by%20Yacoub%20El%20Hillo%20and%20Kevin%20Kennedy\_english%20FINAL.pdf</a>

Written in Damascus on 7 January 2016, this joint statement welcomes the approval from the Syrian government to enter the city of Madaya for the purposes of food aid and humanitarian assistance. Recognizing the difficulty in providing aid to besieged areas, OCHA expressed concern for the thousands of lives impacted by political oppression. Over 42,000 innocent civilians have been victims of hunger, malnutrition, and in worst cases, death, due to the lack of access to basic human rights, like the right to food. Lastly, the report reiterates that under international humanitarian law, both the targeting of civilians and the purposeful starvation of the population are completely prohibited. This statement outlines the dire situation of one of WFP's main areas of concern at the time, and stresses the importance of immediate aid.



United Nations, World Food Programme. (2016). *Update on the Integrated Road Map for the Strategic Plan* (2017-2021), the Country Strategic Planning Approach and the Financial Framework Review [Report]. Retrieved 29 January 2016 from: http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp279697.pdf

This update capitalizes on the need for a sustainable agenda within WFP's framework. Although previous efforts were aligned with the Millennium agenda, WFP calls for an updated framework focused on addressing the issues caused by climate change, increasing inequality, high levels of extreme poverty, and high levels of undernutrition. Taking into consideration the sustainable challenges in the world today, WFP is focused on devising a comprehensive framework that will allow the organization to effectively contribute to the successful establishment of SDG 2. The update provides a brief overview on the budgeting structure WFP will enact to ensure it meets the growing demands for food security and humanitarian aid in the world. More specifically, WFP informs that the Strategic Plan (2017-2021) will be supported by the new Corporate Results Framework (CRF). The update also brings to attention the budgetary changes that will be necessary to ensure the establishment an efficacy of WFP's new SDG-centered approach.

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http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Joint%20Statement%20by%20Yacoub%20El%20Hillo%20and%20Kevin%20Kennedy\_english%20FINAL.pdf

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## III. Responding to Food Insecurity in Yemen

#### **Recent Developments**

97 Ibid.98 Ibid.

The crisis in Yemen continues to negatively affect the country's population, with severe implications for food security. On 15 December 2015, peace negotiations began in Biel, Switzerland, between Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) officials, Al Houthi leadership, and other stakeholders. These negotiations were sponsored by the United Nations (UN) and were targeted toward identifying a framework for a comprehensive settlement. Factors of significance to involved parties included the release of prisoners, social services, and the access of humanitarian assistance for the Yemeni people, with a special focus given to the delivery of food. This round of peace talks concluded on 21 December 2015. Although the next round of negotiations was set to begin in January 2016, the talks have been indefinitely postponed by the UN due to continuing disagreements over the logistics of the negotiations.

With an estimated total population of 26 million, as of December 2015, Yemen has 21.2 million people (82%) in need of urgent humanitarian aid, 14.4 million people who are food insecure, and 7.6 million people in need of emergency food assistance. <sup>85</sup> This is a 17% increase since June 2015. <sup>86</sup> In 2015, the statistic for children aged five and younger having or being at risk of severe acute malnutrition tripled. <sup>87</sup> This constitutes one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world. <sup>88</sup> Even before the crisis began, Yemen relied heavily on importing foods and necessary commodities to address this problem. <sup>89</sup> Nearly 95% of the state's staple foods are currently imported. <sup>90</sup> As the World Food Programme (WFP) stressed in December 2015, the most notable obstacle for accessing food aid and other essential goods in Yemen continues to be in the delivery. <sup>91</sup> The most rural areas, which lack access to food and supply sources, are most in need of aid. <sup>92</sup>

To address specifically the needs of rural Yemeni people, in December 2015, representatives from WFP, the European Delegation to Yemen, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) agreed on a joint program called Enhancing Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY). <sup>93</sup> A new report explaining ERRY outlines the redirection of WFP's involvement in the country. <sup>94</sup> The program aims to promote the resilience and independence of rural communities by overcoming food resource obstacles. <sup>95</sup> ERRY will direct support towards stabilization and recovery, assisting local governance, and improving access to sustainable energy. <sup>96</sup> The program will work towards two outcomes: Empowering communities to manage local risks and shocks for social cohesion and economic self-reliance; and bolstering responsive institutions for delivering services, building social contracts, and meeting community-identified needs. <sup>97</sup> This initiative ultimately aims to change the way international partners approach assistance to Yemen, by shifting from external response to internal capacity building and recovery. <sup>98</sup>

<sup>79</sup> USAID, Yemen-Complex Emergency: Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, 2015.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid. 81 Ibid. 82 Ibid. 83 Ibid. 84 USAID, Yemen-Complex Emergency: Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, 2016. 85 UN OCHA, 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Yemen, 2015. <sup>86</sup> UN WFP, Yemen Emergency, 2016. 87 USAID, Yemen-Complex Emergency: Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, 2015. 88 UN WFP, Yemen Emergency, 2016. 89 USAID, Yemen-Complex Emergency: Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, 2015 <sup>90</sup> FAO, Escalating Conflict: Yemen, 2015. <sup>91</sup> UN WFP, WFP Appeals To All Parties To The Conflict In Yemen To Allow Food Distribution in Taiz, 2015. <sup>92</sup> UNDP, Enhancing resilience and self-reliance in crisis affected Yemeni communities, 2015. 93 Ibid. 94 Ibid. 95 Ibid. <sup>96</sup> Ibid.



Despite this shift, WFP still continues to provide external aid. In December alone, WFP dispatched 225 trucks carrying 6,600 metric tons of food to the Al Mudhafer, Al Qahira, Al Taizah, and Salah districts. 99 However, the urban areas of Yemen have continued to struggle considerably with the repercussions of the crisis, including food scarcity, fuel and energy scarcity, and the lack of water and sanitation. 100 For example, the city of Taiz currently has over 3 million people in need of assistance, with over 400,000 of them being internally displaced persons (IDPs). 101 In December 2015, WFP Regional Director, Muhannad Hadi, criticized the thwarting of WFP assistance efforts to the city. 102 Other Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) cluster partners have also attempted to deliver food, fuel, potable water, and medical supplies. 103 The continued blockades for supply routes have not only limited the delivery and accessibility of supply routes, but have also contributed to political discord within Yemen and between Yemen and other political leaders and representatives. 104 According to WFP estimates from September to December 2015, the delivery of food aid in Yemen did not reach 40% of the population's needs. 105 Looking forward to the restarting of negotiations, the WFP will be prepared to further assist the Yemeni population through the delivery of food and other services. 106

<sup>99</sup> UN WFP, WFP Appeals To All Parties To The Conflict In Yemen To Allow Food Distribution in Taiz, 2015.

<sup>100</sup> UN WFP, WFP Sends Convoys Into Yemen City of Taiz To Avert Looming Humanitarian Crisis, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> UN WFP, WFP Warns Of Deepening Hunger In Southern Yemen City Of Taiz, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> UN WFP, WFP Appeals To All Parties To The Conflict In Yemen To Allow Food Distribution in Taiz, 2015.
<sup>103</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> UN DPI, Yemen: UN rights chief urges government to reverse decision to expel envoy from country, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> USAID, Yemen-Complex Emergency: Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> Ibid.; WFP, Yemen Emergency, 2016.



United Nations Development Programme. (2015, December 15). *Enhancing resilience and self-reliance in crisis affected Yemeni communities* [Press Release]. Retrieved 3 January 2016 from:

http://www.ye.undp.org/content/yemen/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/12/14/enhancing-resilience-and-self-reliance-in-crisis-affected-yemeni-communities-.html

In this press release, the European Delegation to Yemen outlines the new joint program for empowering the rural communities of Yemen, along with its partners in the country: FAO, UNDP, the International Labour Organization, and the WFP. The press release identifies target areas for improvement, along with methods to be used for reaching the coalition's goal of improving resilience in Yemen. Information is also provided about obstacles to their program of work, along with suggestions for overcoming the logistical concerns for any potential humanitarian assistance program.

United Nations, Food and Agricultural Organization. (2015). *Executive Brief: Escalating Conflict – Yemen*. Retrieved 27 December 2015 from:

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/FAOExecutiveBrief\_Yemen\_271115.pdf

FAO continues to work alongside WFP in Yemen to address the needs of the local population. This situation brief explains the agricultural and rural challenges citizens face in the country. Additionally, the brief describes the progress made in delivering supplies, food, and other forms of assistance. It also provides detailed information about food insecurity in the country, including facts and percentages, which will be helpful when determining where FAO and other cluster partners must focus their efforts.

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2015). 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Yemen [Report]. Retrieved 2 January 2016 from:

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2016 HNO English %20FINAL.pdf

The report on humanitarian needs in Yemen is a comprehensive, updated document that explains the starting point and evolution of the Yemeni population's needs, as well as the evolution of humanitarian aid provided in the country. Statistics and graphics provide a better understanding of successes in the delivery of aid, in addition to the ongoing struggles of the population and the organizations that contribute to their stabilization and recovery. Special attention should be paid to the upcoming goals and plans for the coming year in reaching the Yemeni people with essential goods.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2015, December 31). WFP Appeals To All Parties To The Conflict In Yemen To Allow Food Distribution in Taiz [News Article]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <a href="https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-appeals-all-parties-conflict-yemen-allow-food-distributions-taiz">https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-appeals-all-parties-conflict-yemen-allow-food-distributions-taiz</a>

In several of the most recent news reports surrounding the crisis in Yemen, WFP has stressed the obstacles it has faced when trying to deliver food in governorates and cities, especially Taiz. This article provides an in-depth understanding of the struggles in the country, given its updated numerical and statistical data about the population in different regions, the access and delivery of food assistance, and the prognosis of stabilization and recovery. Information is also given about the political situation in the country and the ongoing areas of concern. Delegates can refer to this article as a source of updated information about the situation in Yemen, as well as WFP's main concerns within the country.

United States Agency for International Development. (2015). *Yemen-Complex Emergency: Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.* Retrieved 4 January 2016 from:

This fact sheet provides comprehensive information about the conflict in Yemen and the effect it continues to have on its population. These frequently updated fact sheets from USAID provide very detailed explanations of the situation on the ground in Yemen, the current political outlook, and the successes and the struggles of humanitarian assistance, including food aid. Additionally, USAID outlines its partners' contributions and relevant fiscal information for relief and recovery efforts in Yemen.



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