



NEW YORK CITY, NY, USA
18 - 22 March (Conf. A) / 25 - 29 March (Conf. B)



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME BACKGROUND GUIDE 2018

Written by: Danielle Erica Curtis, Director; Martina Vetrovcova, Director;
Mia Saint Clair, Assistant Director; Alejandro Briones Sosa, Assistant Director



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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2018 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to welcome you to the World Food Programme (WFP). This year's staff are: Directors Danielle Erica Curtis (Conference A) and Martina Vetrovcova (Conference B), and Assistant Directors Alejandro Briones Sosa (Conference A) and Mia Saint Clair (Conference B). Danielle completed her B.A. in Politics, International Relations, Sociology and Social Justice and is pursuing a Masters in Common Law at University College Dublin with the aim to qualify as a Barrister at Law. Martina received her B.A. from the University of Economics, Prague and her M.A in Political Science from the University of Heidelberg, where she is pursuing her PhD in International Relations. Alejandro is pursuing a MSc. in Public Policy at University College London, and works on the editorial committee of the International Public Policy Review (IPPR). Mia is pursuing a B.S. in Computer Science Engineering at Irvine Valley College, California.

The topics under discussion for the World Food Programme are:

1. Alleviating Hunger through the Strengthening of Global Partnership
2. Empowering Women to Combat Food Insecurity
3. Utilizing Technology and Innovation to Combat Hunger

WFP is a very pertinent and action-oriented body within the UN framework. WFP's work has a direct and significant impact, assisting 80 million people in approximately 80 countries each year. WFP is the leading humanitarian organization fighting hunger worldwide. It is closely linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17. Another item which delegates should consider when preparing for the conference is the new chapter that WFP has entered into with the implementation of the *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2020)*, providing WFP with new planning and operational frameworks. The plan does not expand upon WFP's mandate; however, it leverages WFP's primary strengths to work towards achieving the SDG's.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a [Position Paper](#) by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 1 March 2018 in accordance with the guidelines in the [NMUN Position Paper Guide](#).

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

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

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Department, Dieyun Song (Conference A) and Dominika Ziemczonek (Conference B), at usg.hr_ha@nmun.org.

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

Conference A

Danielle Erica Curtis, Director

Alejandro Briones Sosa, Assistant Director

Conference B

Martina Vetrovcova, Director

Mia Saint Clair, Assistant Director



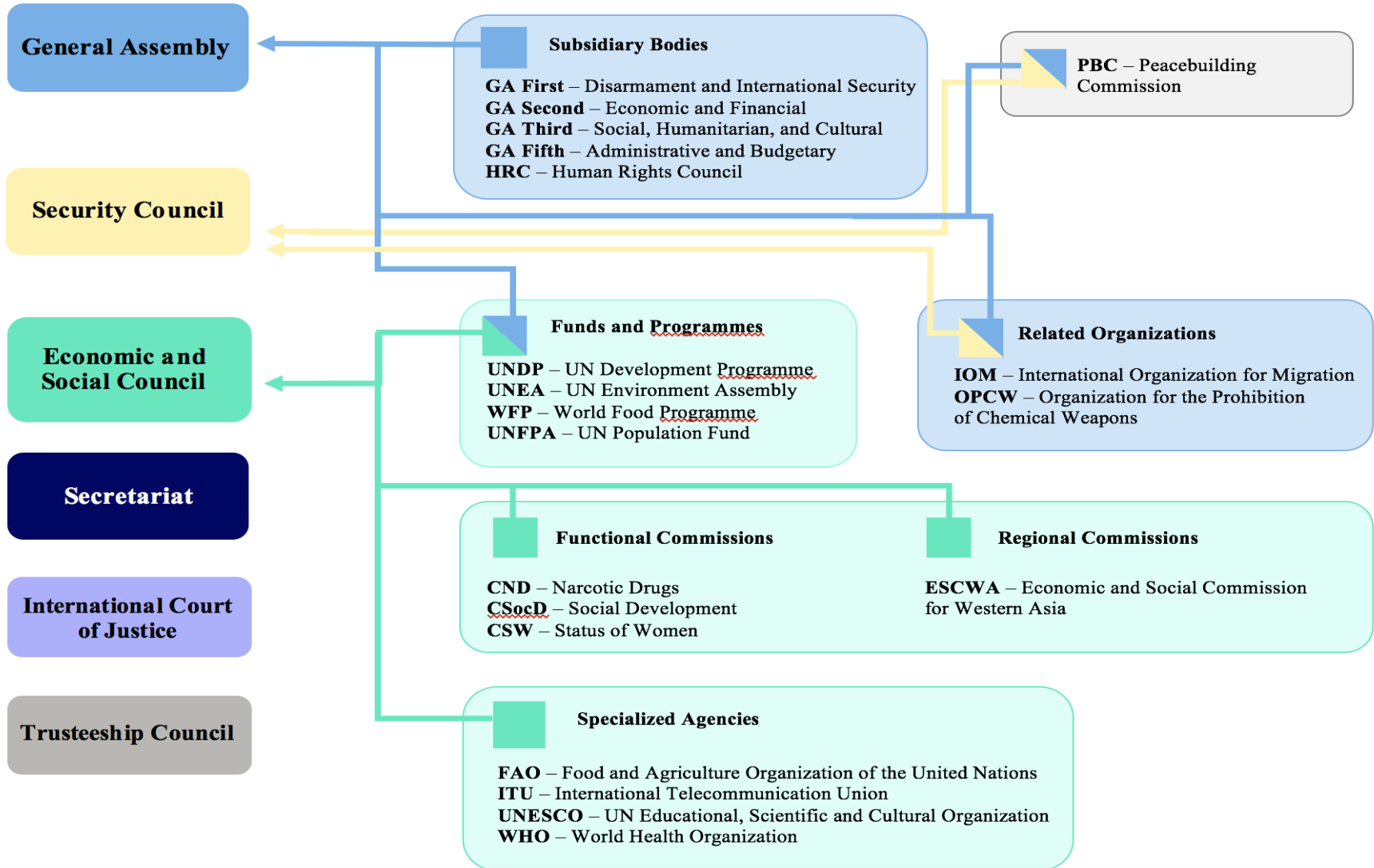
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United Nations System at NMUN•NY

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





Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AU	African Union
BUCODED	Bureau for Sustainable Development
CBT	Cash-based transfer
CEDAW	<i>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</i>
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CFA	Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CPB	Country Portfolio Budgets
CPS	Corporate Partnership Strategy
CRF	Corporate Results Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSIN	Food Security Information Network
GAFFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
HLTF	High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis
HRC	Human Rights Council
IANWGE	Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IRM	Integrated Road Map
LDC	Least-developed country
LIC	Low-income country
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OEV	Office of Evaluation
P4P	Purchase for Progress
PGG	Government Partnership Division
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations
R4	Rural Resilience Initiative
RBA	Rome-Based Agency
RWEE	Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women
SBN	SUN Business Network
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHF	Smallholder farmer
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
UCFA	Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action
UDHR	<i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i>
UN	United Nations



UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



Committee Overview

Introduction

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the United Nations (UN) agency in charge of providing and coordinating food aid and is the leading international organization fighting hunger worldwide.¹ WFP has committed to end hunger and achieve food security by 2030.² The agency focuses on emergency assistance, delivering humanitarian aid, and supporting food security programs in least-developed countries (LDCs) and low-income countries (LICs) for individuals affected by many different circumstances, natural disasters, food shortages, climate-related concerns, poverty, and conflict.³ Each year, on average, the WFP assists 80 million people in approximately 80 countries.⁴ 2016 saw 795 million hungry people in the world with 82.2 million of these individuals assisted by WFP with food or cash.⁵ Of this 82.2 million, 79% were women and children, 6.4 million were refugees, and 15.1 million were internally displaced people.⁶ Among these were 16.4 million children who received school meals; nine million under-fives who benefited from malnutrition treatment or prevention; and 4 million women who were offered special nutritious food during pregnancy and breastfeeding.⁷ Since 2016, WFP has focused its efforts on the last mile, which is a dedication to ensure that each person and family assisted by WFP has food on the table.⁸

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

WFP is an “autonomous joint subsidiary program of the UN and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).”⁹ It is one of the three Rome-based agencies, along with FAO and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), which focus on food security.¹⁰ WFP reports yearly to ECOSOC and FAO Council regarding its use of funds, organizational administration, strategic outlook, and the development of global statistics regarding food and nutrition.¹¹ WFP reports on its decisions and recommendations during its Executive Board sessions to the General Assembly, as outlined in the WFP General Regulations.¹²

At NMUN•NY 2018, we are simulating the Executive Board of WFP in terms of composition and size; however, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Executive Board during the conference. For the purposes of NMUN•NY 2018, and corresponding with the educational mission of the conference, the committee has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues within the mandate of WFP in line with the overall function of the organization.

In 1961, George McGovern, Director of “Food for Peace” in the United States, proposed a program for the delivery of multilateral food aid.¹³ Seven months later, the FAO Conference adopted resolution 1/61 of 24 November 1961, and the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 1714 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, which established the WFP on a three-year pilot basis.¹⁴ Although the program was expected to launch in 1963, food aid services started in 1962 to respond to an earthquake in the area of Buin Zara, Northern Iran, a typhoon creating landfall in Thailand, and the

¹ UN WFP, *Mission Statement*, 2017.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ UN WFP, *WFP, A Year in Review: 2016*, 2017.

⁶ UN WFP, *The World Food Programme: Gender Balance. Number of people directly assisted by WFP in 2016*, 2017

⁷ UN WFP, *Working for Zero Hunger*, 2017.

⁸ UN WFP, *WFP, A Year in Review: 2016*, 2017.

⁹ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 13.

¹⁰ UN WFP, *Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs)*, 2017.

¹¹ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2016-17*, 2016, p. 269.

¹² UN WFP, *Decisions and Recommendations of the Annual Session of the Executive Board*, 2017.

¹³ UN WFP, *History*, 2017.

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

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

Governance, Structure, and Membership

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

Executive Board

The Executive Board of WFP supervises all programs and initiatives.²⁰ The 36-member body meets three times per year in Rome, Italy, at the WFP Headquarter.²¹ All decisions of the Executive Board are reached by consensus.²² The substantive function of the Board is to make immediate decisions on funding and operational needs, as well as to establish long-term policy goals.²³ The Board's administrative and management functions include approving program proposals submitted by the Executive Director and reviewing the administration and execution of these programs.²⁴ The Executive Board reports annually to ECOSOC and FAO regarding its decisions and policy recommendations.²⁵ Members are elected to the Executive Board by both ECOSOC and FAO, with each body electing 18 members for three-year terms.²⁶

Secretariat

The Executive Director heads the Secretariat of WFP.²⁷ The Secretariat and the Executive Director are accountable to the Executive Board for the administration and implementation of WFP programs, projects, and other activities.²⁸ The UN Secretary-General and Director-General of FAO appoint the Executive Director in consultation with the Executive Board members for a five-year term and up to one reappointment.²⁹ The Executive Director represents WFP in all matters, including as a liaison to Member States.³⁰ Since 2017, David Beasley has served as Executive Director.³¹ In his closing remarks of the most recent Annual Session of the Executive Board, Mr. Beasley commented on his will to "redevelop and redesign nations in such a way that hunger is at zero in 2030," and noted that his objective during his term will not be to promote the WFP, but to promote ending of world hunger.³²

Funding

Predictable funding is paramount for effective work by WFP, which is funded through the support of states, corporations, and individuals.³³ In addition, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) also supports WFP programs; WFP was its largest recipient in 2016, receiving \$159 million.³⁴ In 2016, WFP received record levels of funding of \$5.8 billion, with the largest donations coming from the United States, United Kingdom, Germany,

¹⁵ UN WFP, *History*, 2017.

¹⁶ UN General Assembly, *Continuation of the World Food Programme*, 1965; UN WFP, *History*, 2017.

¹⁷ UN WFP, *Executive Board*, 2017.

¹⁸ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2016-17*, 2016, p. 269.

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

²⁰ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2016-17*, 2016, p. 269; UN WFP, *Executive Board*, 2016.

²¹ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2016-17*, 2016, p. 269.

²² UN WFP, *Executive Board*, 2017.

²³ *Ibid.*

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

²⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10.

²⁶ UN WFP, *Members of the Board*, 2017.

²⁷ UN WFP, *Organization Chart of the WFP Executive Board Secretariat*, 2017.

²⁸ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 11.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 13.

³¹ UN WFP, *Executive Director*, 2017.

³² World Food Programme Insight, *Closing remarks to Annual Session of the Executive Board*, 2017.

³³ UN WFP, *Funding*, 2017.

³⁴ UN CERF, *Cerf Results, As Reported by CERF Recipients in 2016*, 2017

Canada, and the European Commission.³⁵ Since the launch of the WFP Strategic Plan in 2017, WFP has established a new financial framework with a view to enhancing transparency and accountability in resource management, demonstrating value for money, and improving decision-making.³⁶ As part of the new framework, a country portfolio budget (CPB) approach will facilitate the implementation of country strategic plans (CSP).³⁷ The CPB approach will formalize and better align WFP activities with other UN agencies supporting the achievement of joint performance, planning and resource mobilization.³⁸ The budget will be based on the calendar year, and linked to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets and results.³⁹ The CPB structure is expected to begin in 2018 following approval of amendments to the General Rules, Financial Regulations, and Executive Director delegations of authority at the Executive Board meeting on the 17 November 2017.⁴⁰

In times of emergency, WFP, FAO, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) may issue joint appeals for donations due to a shortage in international funds for humanitarian assistance.⁴¹ WFP has periodically been forced to cut assistance, as funds received regularly fall below the appeals made, for instance in Syria.⁴² However, the new financial framework aims to increase alignment between resources and results.⁴³ Its general funding gap between monetary needs and available funds is projected to remain above 40% for 2017.⁴⁴ It was reported in May 2017 that the FAO and WFP faced a funding gap of \$182 billion for the next six months and will struggle to raise funds to meet the spiraling number of crises worldwide.⁴⁵ The Executive Director is responsible for referring programs, projects, and activities to the Executive Board, where Member States review and approve the allocation of funds.⁴⁶ It is hoped that the new funding model will maximize WFP’s ability to respond to efficiently to these crises.⁴⁷

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

Established by CFA in December 1994 during its 38th session, WFP’s mission statement outlines the operational priorities of the agency as: “(1) to use food aid to support economic and social development; (2) to meet refugee and other emergency and protracted relief food needs; and (3) to promote world food security in accordance with the recommendations of the UN and FAO.”⁴⁸ The new “WFP Core Values,” a list of seven policy-guiding categories, underline these priorities by formulating ethical guidelines concerning inclusiveness, integrity, action-orientation, accountability, and transparency.⁴⁹ WFP’s Strategic Plan is a conceptual framework for an innovated operational and planning structure and cooperation with other organizations.⁵⁰ It aims at increasing WFP’s effectiveness by focusing on its core strengths: intervention in cases of disruption, structural poverty, and/or transitions/recovery.⁵¹

WFP’s functions are to:

“(a) [...] aid in economic and social development, concentrating its efforts and resources on the neediest people and countries; (b) to assist in the continuum from emergency relief to development by giving priority to supporting disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation and post-disaster rehabilitation activities; (c) to assist in meeting refugee and other emergency and protracted relief

³⁵ UN WFP, *WFP, A Year in Review: 2016*, 2017.

³⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021)*, 2017, pp. 44-45.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ UN WFP, *Financial Framework Review*, 2016.

⁴¹ UN WFP, *Race Against Time to Save Millions of Lives in Yemen*, 2017.

⁴² UN WFP, *Resource Situation Summary. 15 Aug 2016*, 2016; UN WFP, *WFP Forced to Make Deeper Cuts in Food Assistance for Syrian Refugees Due to Lack of Funding (For the Media)*, 2016.

⁴³ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021)*, 2017, pp. 44-45.

⁴⁴ UN WFP, *Key Extracts of the Draft Management Plan (2017-2019)*, 2016, p. 8.

⁴⁵ UN WFP, *Heads of UN Food Agencies Visit Famine-Stricken South Sudan*, 2017.

⁴⁶ UN WFP, *Executive Board*, 2016; UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, pp. 9, 12.

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

⁴⁸ UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 5.

⁴⁹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021)*, 2017.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

food needs, using this assistance to the extent possible to serve both relief and development purposes; (d) to provide services to bilateral donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations for operations which are consistent with the purposes of WFP and which complement WFP's operations."⁵²

WFP selects which projects to support either by requesting of the UN Secretary-General or through Member State reports.⁵³ Assistance agreements are put in place with national governments, which are expected to give full support to WFP in the monitoring and implementation of programs.⁵⁴ From 2017, WFP's project categories will be replaced by CSPs, which will be all encompassing and include policy and programmatic activities alongside supply chain other non-programmatic assistance.

The UN's international emergency response mechanism, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), is managed through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which developed the Cluster Approach to improve humanitarian response.⁵⁵ The Cluster Approach coordinates key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners, such as WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRC), in response to humanitarian emergencies.⁵⁶ Cluster leads are responsible for technical knowledge of one particular aspect of humanitarian response; they coordinate aid delivery and serve as the central point of contact for governments and regional centers.⁵⁷ WFP is the designated lead for the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication Clusters, and it also co-leads the Food Security Cluster with FAO.⁵⁸

In addition to handling emergencies and development programs, WFP provides protracted relief and recovery for regions emerging from disaster.⁵⁹ This includes food for education and training programs, relief for refugees, and providing food for people in the wake of damage to infrastructure or crops.⁶⁰ WFP also works with the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), which gives air support for over 700 humanitarian organizations around the world.⁶¹ For example, UNHAS provides transportation in Chad, where air travel is the only means to reach populations in need of humanitarian assistance.⁶² This is particularly important when peacekeeping missions, such as the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, finish their mandates, but aid is still required.⁶³

WFP works with the other Rome-based agencies towards the common goal of eradicating hunger; each of these organizations has different mandates for achieving this vision.⁶⁴ Whereas WFP provides food aid, addresses food security, and supports development, FAO develops programs and strategies to raise nutrition levels and increase sustainable agriculture activities.⁶⁵ IFAD mobilizes and offers financial resources on concession terms for agricultural and rural development projects.⁶⁶ The three agencies work together to find solutions on emergencies and development by setting collective targets and goals, cooperating on food aid projects, and collaborating on the distribution of information and press releases.⁶⁷

⁵² UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, pp. 5-6.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 18-19.

⁵⁵ UN OCHA, *Cluster Coordination*, 2017.

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

⁵⁷ UN OCHA, *The cluster approach*, 2017.

⁵⁸ Hall, *Food, Trucks and Radios: WFP's Role in The 'Cluster System'*, 2013.

⁵⁹ UN WFP, *Protracted Relief and Recovery*, 2017.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ UN WFP, *UNHAS Current Operations*, 2017.

⁶² UN WFP, *Chad*, 2017.

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ IFAD, *FAO/IFAD/WFP: Working together to fight hunger and poverty*.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷ UN WFP, *Rome-Based Agencies*, 2017.

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

WFP's mission to end global hunger correlates with the SDGs, particularly Goal 2 on "Zero Hunger."⁶⁸ Adopted in 2015, the SDGs constitute a new horizon for action, and the WFP focuses on SDGs 2 and 17 while addressing other SDGs depending on national contexts and priorities.⁶⁹ The WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021) aims to align the Strategic Plan and objectives of the WFP with relevant SDGs, while prioritizing emergency, life-saving and development work that benefits those on the margins of society.⁷⁰ Goal 17 formulates the aspiration to increase international, regional, and organizational cooperation; capacity building; and improved funding of development.⁷¹ WFP's focus on Goal 17 manifests in its close cooperation with the international community and civil society, the importance of which was highlighted by the first World Humanitarian Summit which was held in 2016, at a time when the world faced profound global challenges.⁷² Partnerships with civil society play a key role in achieving humanitarian aid delivery and food security program objectives; significantly, 75% of WFP's food is distributed with the assistance of its local civil society partners.⁷³ Other SDGs coinciding with WFP's priorities include Goal 1 to end poverty in all its forms; Goal 3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and Goal 12 to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.⁷⁴

The WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021) intends to provide a new operational framework for the organization; it does not extend WFP's mandate but will leverage WFP's primary strengths and capacities in humanitarian response.⁷⁵ Based on WFP's focus, the Strategic Plan formulates two strategic goals, "support countries to achieve zero hunger" and "partner to support implementation of the SDGs."⁷⁶ These form the basis for five strategic objectives: ending hunger, improving nutrition, achieving food security, supporting SDG implementation, and partnering for SDG results.⁷⁷ The anticipated results of the strategic objectives coincide with SDG targets, including "everyone has access to food" (SDG Target 2.1) and "no one suffers from malnutrition" (SDG Target 2.2), in order to frame WFP's policies via a needs-based approach.⁷⁸ This continues the efforts to consolidate the transition of WFP from being a food aid agency to becoming a food assistance agency.⁷⁹ Food assistance goes beyond aid by aiming at delivering holistic "hunger solutions," such as providing access to food through vouchers or cash transfers, to guarantee the provision of a given quantity, quality, or value of food.⁸⁰ It is recognized that it is crucial for WFP to leverage and strengthen innovation efforts.⁸¹ Recently in July 2017, WFP celebrated the one year anniversary since the Innovation Accelerator opened its doors in Munich, Germany.⁸²

2016 continued to be a challenging year for the WFP, illustrated by the number of severe emergencies. WFP worked on six Level Three emergencies, which is its highest emergency category.⁸³ This remains the highest number of emergencies in its history and continues to test WFP's capacity limits.⁸⁴ Currently, there are still six Level Three emergencies in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Southern Africa.⁸⁵ Additionally, several major contextual factors have affected WFP's work and planning: the global community facing record numbers of refugees and displaced people; potential and ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, Sudan, West Africa and other areas;

⁶⁸ UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017.

⁶⁹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021)*, 2017.

⁷⁰ UN WFP, *The Integrated Road Map*, 2017.

⁷¹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, pp. 26-27.

⁷² UN WFP, *Update on WFP's Role in the Collective Humanitarian Response*, 2017.

⁷³ UN WFP, *Non-governmental Organizations*, 2017; UN WFP, *NGO Partnerships, Strengthening National Capacity*, 2017.

⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

⁷⁵ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ Omamo et al., *Innovations in food assistance: issues, lessons and implications*, 2010, pp. 3-4.

⁸¹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

⁸² UN WFP, *WFP's Innovation Accelerator - One Year On*, 2017.

⁸³ UN WFP, *Mid-Term Review of the WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2016, p. 4.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ UN WFP, *Saving Lives in Emergencies, 2016, A Year in Review*, 2017.

climate change and natural disasters in both Malawi and Ecuador; the El Niño and La Niña phenomena; and continuing economic depressions worldwide.⁸⁶ 2016 also saw the WFP face one of its most challenging emergency operations in Syria. WFP had 3,000 trucks and two planes supporting the delivery of 800,000 boxes of food to feed four million people every month.⁸⁷ In order to access people most in need who were located in areas under siege, WFP had to adopt different solutions, including cross-line, inter-agency convoys, cross-border shipments, high-altitude airdrops and airlifts which were facilitated by the Logistics Cluster.⁸⁸ The focus on large-scale emergencies has been found to divert awareness and resources from lower-profile cases, this is something the WFP hopes to address under the new Strategic Plan.⁸⁹ In addition to this, funding shortfalls have been threatening WFP operations in Syria and most recently in Yemen.⁹⁰

The *WFP Gender Policy (2015-2020)* aims to recognize and meet the differing food security and nutrition needs of women, girls, boys, and men, as gender equality and women's empowerment are central to WFP's mandate.⁹¹ This action is closely linked to removing structural deficits.⁹² Progress was seen in 2016, with 17.6 million women and 14.5 million men being directly assisted by the WFP.⁹³ WFP operations in 2016 also reported that women's decision-making in households had also increased, including some of the lowest ranked countries for gender equality.⁹⁴

In June 2017, the Annual Session of the Executive Board of the WFP took place.⁹⁵ The Executive Board looked at items such as the Annual Performance Report for 2016, and took an in depth look at several ongoing policy issues such as the Integrated Road Map, WFP's Collective Humanitarian Response, WFP's Gender Policy and the implementation of WFP's Nutrition Policy.⁹⁶ Besides, the Executive Board also heard reports on country portfolios.⁹⁷ One of the main outcomes from the meeting was the Executives Board decision to allow increased flexibility for the implementation of the Integrated Road Map, including the Strategic Plan (2017-2021) and WFP's Financial Framework which is scheduled to be fully approved and finalized at the Executive Board meeting in November 2017.⁹⁸

Conclusion

WFP is an organization in transition from providing food aid to food assistance.⁹⁹ The implementation of the Integrated Road Map is the largest transformation for the WFP in the past 20 years.¹⁰⁰ WFP tasks range from emergency relief and development to providing support as communities rebuild themselves after natural disasters and conflicts.¹⁰¹ WFP's work is a coordinated effort with other UN bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private stakeholders, and governments to eradicate hunger and provide assistance to the most vulnerable populations, especially in times of disaster.¹⁰² In fact, 94% of its project work was implemented with partners in 2016.¹⁰³ WFP's work is especially action-oriented, which distinguishes it from many other UN entities: its operations have direct and significant global impact, especially in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹⁰⁴ The Strategic Plan, set to be delivered by 2019, builds on the activities of the WFP to date and

⁸⁶ UN WFP, *WFP, A Year in Review: 2016*, 2017.

⁸⁷ UN WFP, *Reporting success stories: Six highlights from WFP's programmes in 2016*, 2017.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

⁹⁰ UN WFP, *Race Against Time To Save Millions Of Lives In Yemen*, 2017.

⁹¹ UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy (2015-2020)*, 2015, pp. 3-4.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ UN WFP, *The World Food Programme, Gender Balance*, 2017.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ UN WFP, *Decisions and Recommendations of the Annual Session of the Executive Board 2017*, 2017.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ UN WFP, *Mid-Term Review of the WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2016, p. 3.

¹⁰⁰ UN WFP, *Update on the Integrated Road Map*, 2017.

¹⁰¹ UN WFP, *WFP, A Year in Review: 2016*, 2017.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

policies of the Executive Board and align them in the context of the 2030 Agenda.¹⁰⁵ The Executive Board have allowed for increased flexibility for the implementation of the Integrated Road Map framework timelines, however, the Board still maintain a commitment that the transition will be fully completed by 1 January 2019.¹⁰⁶

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth Session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/71/1)*. Retrieved 17 July 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, redefines the work of the UN system. The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 overarching global goals with 169 targets between them. This has a subsequent effect on the work of the WFP moving forward, and the manner in which its operations work and will be utilized within the international system. All of WFP's operations have a direct or indirect relation with the SDGs. Further research will be required by delegates to identify the SDG's which are directly correlated with the topics on the agenda.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2014). *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board [Governing Regulations]*. Retrieved 17 July 2017 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/govman/wfp244037.pdf>

This document provides the structure of how the WFP operates. It gives delegates a comprehensive overview of how the program is structured and its operational procedures, as well as funding. It demonstrates how programs are defined, categorized, supervised and administered. Furthermore, it highlights the monitoring mechanisms for these programs. Delegates should utilize this document to education themselves more on the mandate, function, and powers. It provides an insight into the organization segments of the WFP and how they operate.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2016). *Protracted Relief and Recovery (PRROs)* [Website]. Retrieved 26 August 2016 from: <https://www.wfp.org/operations/relief>

Protracted relief and recovery is one of the key activities conducted by WFP. Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRROs) are long-term programs run by WFP which help sustain disaster-hit communities. A PRRO is drawn up when a period of 24 months assistance has been provided under an Emergency Operation and it is clear that more assistance will be needed beyond this period. This extended relief can appear in many forms, for example, the agency can support the education of children in food insecure areas by providing nutritious meals for schools in the area. For more detailed information on PRROs and the components which can be included in a PRRO, delegates should refer to this website. Reviewing this program will also provide delegates an understanding of how WFP allocates funds for emergency relief and protracted recovery efforts.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2016). *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*. Retrieved 16 July 2017 from: http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp286743.pdf?_ga=2.222738459.1436195137.1500546712-1051487756.1500546712

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

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2017). *Biennial Programme of Work of the Executive Board (2017-2018)* [Report]. Retrieved 17 July 2017 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp289390.pdf>

¹⁰⁵ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

¹⁰⁶ UN WFP, *Decisions and Recommendations of the Annual Session of the Executive Board*, 2017.

This document gives a comprehensive overview of the work carried out and the intended work of the Executive committee of the WFP. It highlights the most recent policy issues which have been addressed by the board and includes a timeline of upcoming policy issues which will be address either through operations or the production of a report. The program provides an extensive overview of the operational, organizational and procedural matters which will come before the board throughout the rest of 2017 and into 2018. This document is an excellent starting point for delegates as it refers to a number of policy and operational items which are scheduled for the WFP.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2017). *Funding* [Website]. Retrieved 16 July 2017 from: <http://www.wfp.org/funding>

Funding for WFP is predominantly provided by donors, including Member States and donors. WFP has no independent source of funds. These sources of funding are highly important for WFP as they are vital to allow for successful execution of operations and provision of funds to millions globally. As funding is often a complex issue within the UN system, given how pertinent funding is for the WFP, this source will provide delegates a better understanding to the sources of funding. It is advised that delegates view this document in hand with the General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board to gain an insight into how funding is procured, governed and distributed.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2017). *WFP, A Year in Review: 2016* [Report]. Retrieved 17 July 2017 from: https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000019183/download/?_ga=2.185529513.1436195137.1500546712-1051487756.1500546712

This document provides delegates with an overview of the work of WFP in 2016. 2016 marked the largest sum of funding to date from donors – amounting to \$6 billion. The review overview provides us with an analysis on WFP progress towards zero hunger. 2016 saw 795 million hungry people in the world with 82.2 million of these individuals assisted by WFP with food or cash. The report highlights WFP's dedication to supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is clear the WFP recognizes that achieving this agenda by 2030 will not just require the WFP, but the global community. 2016 saw WFP dedicating itself to the last mile, ensuring that all families assisted has food on the table. The review also provides a comprehensive overview of all the programs provided by the WFP and how they were implemented in countries and regions affected. This is an excellent resource for delegates as both an introduction to the work of WFP and an insight in how this work and WFP programs are carried out in Member States.

United Nations, World Food Programme, Office of Evaluation. (n.d). *WFP's Evaluation Policy 2016-2021* [Report] Retrieved 16 July 2017 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/reports/wfp279331.pdf>

This document sums up the new evaluation system the WFP intends to implement in line with the findings of the policy paper, which was released in early 2016. The policy reaffirms the WFP commitment to international evaluation principles, norms, and standards. It will assist the WFP in identifying best practices and improving the impact of their programs. The evaluation overview provides delegates with a comprehensive understanding on how the policy will be applied. As WFP is one of the UN entities which is most directly involved in immediate action and reliant on a funding from a number of donors, it is important to understand the benchmarks it has to meet when operating in the field and how these operations can be improved to achieve long-term sustainability and resilience on a local level. This policy offers an insight into the work of the WFP and how it might be improved.

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I. Alleviating Hunger Through the Strengthening of Global Partnership

Introduction

According to the *State of Food Insecurity in the World*, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2015, protracted food crises remain one of the conditions that perpetuate conflicts in developing countries.¹⁰⁷ In 2016, despite the efforts of the international community to reduce hunger, food crises still affected 108 million people, which was an 80 million increase compared to 2015.¹⁰⁸ The United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP) has been committed to reducing hunger and malnutrition through partnership frameworks since 1992.¹⁰⁹ It was not until the creation of the *Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014-2017)* (CPS) that the term “partnership” was clearly defined for network, knowledge, governance, advocacy, and capability partners.¹¹⁰ Such distinction allowed WFP to better integrate its partnership schemes to its different strategic goals and objectives.¹¹¹ The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 elevated the need to establish a stronger global partnership framework with more accountability measures, and a systematization of WFP’s technical and financial operations.¹¹² WFP aims to assist countries in ending hunger through stronger partnerships with public and private, national and international actors, and integrate its technical assessment and support in country-led plans against hunger.¹¹³ In 2015, WFP systematically incorporated a two-level partnership strategy for assisting developing countries into its plans: South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.¹¹⁴ The former refers to a direct exchange of knowledge, resources, and expertise between developing countries; the latter, to the integration of a third partner to facilitate these cooperative interactions.¹¹⁵

Through WFP’s growing partnership frameworks, WFP achieved an overall funding trust of \$5.8 billion in 2016 for its protracted relief and emergency operations.¹¹⁶ WFP has also partnered with governments to provide training for policymakers, deliver food aid more efficiently, and strengthen capacity building in local communities in a wide range of goals, such as education, gender equality, and nutrition.¹¹⁷ Nevertheless, the absence of systematization of partnerships at an institutional level hinders current WFP efforts to meet its goals.¹¹⁸ A new partnership strategy to alleviate these difficulties is expected to be delivered by the end of 2017.¹¹⁹ As a means to achieve SDG 2 on achieving zero hunger worldwide by 2030, WFP requires a substantive reassessment of its current partnership mechanisms, as endorsed by SDG 17, on partnerships.¹²⁰

International and Regional Framework

WFP’s efforts to eradicate hunger stem from the principles of all individuals’ rights to enjoy fair living conditions, as stated in Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) and Article 11 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966).¹²¹ In light of the growing challenges to effectively deliver food aid worldwide, the World Food Conference adopted the *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition* (1974) with an aim to improve existing international cooperation mechanisms for food availability and distribution, food security, and agricultural development.¹²² During the 1970s, the World Food

¹⁰⁷ FAO et al, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, 2015.

¹⁰⁸ UN FSIN, *Global Report on Food Crises 2017*, 2017, p. 15.

¹⁰⁹ UN WFP, *Partnership with NGOs (WFP/EB.1/99/3-A)*, 1998.

¹¹⁰ UN WFP, *Policy Evaluation - WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014-2017) (OEV/2016/010)*, 2017, p. v.

¹¹¹ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021) (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-A/1/Rev.2)*, 2016.

¹¹² UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

¹¹³ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021) (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-A/1/Rev.2)*, 2016, p. 2.

¹¹⁴ UN WFP, *Fast Facts: WFP’s approach towards South-South and triangular cooperation*, 2017, p. 1.

¹¹⁵ UN WFP, *Fast Facts: WFP’s Policy for South-South and triangular cooperation*, 2017, pp. 1, 2.

¹¹⁶ UN ECOSOC, *Annual performance report of the World Food Programme for 2016*, 2017, p. 2.

¹¹⁷ UN WFP, *NGOs Partnerships - Strengthening National Capacity*, 2016, pp. 2-4.

¹¹⁸ UN WFP, *Summary Evaluation Report of the Corporate Partnership Strategy (WFP/EB.A/2017/7-B)*, 2017, p. 2.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ UN WFP, *Evaluation Policy (2016-2021) (WFP/EB.2/2015/4-A/Rev.1)*, 2015; UN WFP, *Evaluation of the Corporate Strategy (2014-2017)*, 2017.

¹²¹ UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217A (III))*, 1948; UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966, p. 50.

¹²² UN World Food Conference, *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition*, 1974.

Conference modified WFP's executive organization, and entrusted WFP to conduct UN food aid programs and partner with relevant stakeholders to alleviate hunger globally.¹²³ Later on, through Objectives 3.3 and 3.5, the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* (1996) set the pathways to guarantee food security through an integral cooperation between governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and international organizations, for an effective exchange of good practices and capacity-building efforts.¹²⁴

General Assembly resolution 58/186 of 2003 on "The right to food" emphasized global partnerships to promote sustainable food aid systems, integrate supply chains, and generate rural farming development, among other aspects.¹²⁵ This resolution also constituted the first official UN benchmark to integrate WFP, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and FAO in a pivotal partnership to propel food availability as a right for all.¹²⁶ In 2016, the General Assembly designated the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) in resolution 70/259 of 15 April 2016, which called for more comprehensive cooperation between WFP, FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF), and provided a new framework to achieve zero hunger.¹²⁷ Additionally, UN Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 34/12 of 2017, entitled "Right to food," calls upon international organizations to encourage fundraising and to collaborate with local governments to attend to agricultural needs, such as crop reduction, land desertification, and other threats that may reduce food production.¹²⁸

The *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)* (2016) focuses on promoting a more comprehensive connection among partners to ensure food security, provide protracted relief, invest in food supply chains and rural farming capacities, among other mechanisms to reduce hunger worldwide.¹²⁹ After the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1 *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), WFP's responsibility to bolster partnerships for the eradication of hunger became a constituent goal of the WFP Strategic Plan.¹³⁰ Upon the establishment of the 17 SDGs, WFP's strategic goals were founded on a substantive interconnection between SDG 2 and SDG 17.¹³¹ Likewise, with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/224 in 2016 on the topic of "global partnerships," the international community emphasized the promotion of partnerships with a deeper involvement of the private sector to meet the SDGs.¹³² WFP also drafted its *South-South and Triangular Cooperation Policy* (2015) to integrate governments from around the world in providing technical assistance, knowledge exchange, and country-capacity improvement for food security and nutrition in developing countries.¹³³

With the *WFP Corporate Results Framework (2017-2021)* (CRF) (2016), WFP aims to broaden its integration with public and private stakeholders for risk-management and emergency preparedness.¹³⁴ In order to effectively implement and monitor WFP's aid programs at the regional level, the *WFP Evaluation Policy (2016-2021)* (2015) sets the normative framework to measure the progress towards SDG 2 and SDG 17, and the fulfilment of all objectives defined in the WFP Strategic Plan.¹³⁵ Specifically, in Strategic Goal two of the Strategic Plan, WFP commits itself to meet SDG 2 through partnership strengthening with different UN bodies for more action-driven results.¹³⁶ In order to achieve all of its goals, WFP has developed an *Integrated Road Map* (IRM) (2016), which encompasses the Strategic Plan and CRF, to prioritize WFP's agenda to alleviate hunger globally.¹³⁷ The *Summary*

¹²³ UN General Assembly, *Reconstitution of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme as a Committee on Food Aid and Policies and Programmes*, 1975.

¹²⁴ FAO, *Rome Declaration on Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action*, 1996.

¹²⁵ Ibid.; UN General Assembly, *The right to food (A/RES/58/186)*, 2003.

¹²⁶ UN General Assembly, *The right to food (A/RES/58/186)*, 2003.

¹²⁷ WHO, *United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)*, 2017.

¹²⁸ UN HRC, *Right to food (A/HRC/RES/34/12)*, 2017, p. 6.

¹²⁹ FAO et al, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, 2015, pp. 34-36.

¹³⁰ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)* (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-A/1/Rev.2), 2016.

¹³¹ Ibid.; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

¹³² UN General Assembly, *Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners (A/RES/70/224)*, 2016.

¹³³ UN WFP, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation Policy (WFP/EB.A/2015/5-D)*, 2015, pp. 5-7.

¹³⁴ UN WFP, *Corporate Results Framework (2017-2021)* (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-B/1/Rev.1), 2016.

¹³⁵ UN WFP, *Evaluation Policy (2016-2021)* (WFP/EB.2/2015/4-A/Rev.1), 2015; WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)* (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-A/1/Rev.2), 2016.

¹³⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)* (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-A/1/Rev.2), 2016.

¹³⁷ UN ECOSOC, *Annual performance report of the World Food Programme for 2016 (E/2017/14)*, 2017, p. 10.

Evaluation Report of the Corporate Partnership Strategy (2017) propels WFP to raise its partnership portfolio with new corporate and financial cooperation schemes above the 2,951 partners registered by the end of 2016.¹³⁸ WFP considers that the wide spectrum of partnerships with the private and public sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international organizations, will ease the path to integrate WFP's goals in every national plan on food security and adequate nutrition for all.¹³⁹

Role of the International System

As the largest humanitarian organization tasked with assisting countries in reducing malnutrition, under-nutrition, and addressing famine, WFP plays a fundamental role in setting the international agenda towards achieving zero hunger and strengthening partnerships to meet all SDGs.¹⁴⁰ Through the 2011 UN Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action (UCFA), WFP developed a new partnership framework with the other Rome-based agencies (RBAs) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), an intergovernmental panel on food security issues.¹⁴¹ This partnership was aimed at reinforcing food distribution, investments, knowledge exchange between developing countries, technical assistance with NGOs, and capacity building in agricultural production.¹⁴² In 2016, as a follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, RBAs aligned their partnership capacities and designed a multidimensional plan to provide effective emergency response to food scarcity, climate change, and post-conflict recovery, among other issues.¹⁴³ Through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), WFP and CFS joined their efforts to integrate regional frameworks of cooperation and investment for food security with the private sector and civil society.¹⁴⁴ By 2017, GAFSP's funding was set up by contributions from 11 donors including private partners and national governments.¹⁴⁵ Through the enhancement of investments strategies, members of GAFSP have been able to deploy \$1 billion for grants in more than 30 developing countries, allocate \$217 million in 36 projects for agriculture and food production, and reach around 5 million people overall.¹⁴⁶

WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRROs) also depend on partnerships with the private and public sector for their effective implementation.¹⁴⁷ Through these operations, WFP helps governments to promptly address food emergencies, foster national capacities for food security, propel economic development through food market integration, among other lines of action.¹⁴⁸ WFP has included in its PRROs the expansion of cash-based transfers (CBTs) for rapidly reducing food scarcity in post-conflict regions.¹⁴⁹ Through CBTs, people in areas of conflict can use vouchers to purchase food directly from smallholder farmers (SHFs) and local markets.¹⁵⁰ PRROs have also propelled the WFP Purchase for Progress (P4P) project, which seeks to improve SHFs' participation in food markets to scale food supply and reduce food prices.¹⁵¹ With the integration of governmental partners and NGOs in PRRO strategies, WFP has been able to mobilize 156,000 tons of food in 2013 through community-led food markets.¹⁵² Similarly, the successful implementation of CBTs has allowed WFP to assist more than 46 million people in countries in emergency between 2014 and 2015.¹⁵³ Even though PRROs are more efficient in implementing

¹³⁸ UN WFP, *Summary Evaluation Report of the Corporate Partnership Strategy (WFP/EB.A/2017/7-B)*, 2017, p. 8.

¹³⁹ UN ECOSOC, *Annual performance report of the World Food Programme for 2016 (E/2017/14)*, 2017, p. 5; UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021) (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-A/1/Rev.2)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

¹⁴⁰ UN WFP, *Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-D/Rev.1)*, 2016, p. 4.

¹⁴¹ FAO, CFS, *Global Strategic Framework for Food Security & Nutrition (GSF)*, 2017, pp. 2-3.

¹⁴² *Ibid.*, pp. 3, 24-25.

¹⁴³ UN WFP, *Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-D/Rev.1)*, 2016, pp. 10-14.

¹⁴⁴ FAO, CFS, *Global Strategic Framework for Food Security & Nutrition (GSF)*, 2013, p. 46.

¹⁴⁵ Dyer, *Global Agriculture and Food Security Program*, 2017, p. 2.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

¹⁴⁷ UN WFP, *Protracted Relief and Recovery - Operations*, 2017.

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁹ UN WFP, *Compendium of policies relating to the Strategic Plan*, 2017, p. 9.

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

¹⁵¹ UN WFP, *P4P Purchase for Progress Reflections on the Pilot, Summary Report*, 2015, p. 3.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*, pp. 10-11.

¹⁵³ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017, p. 9.

protracted relief mechanisms, refugee relief and recovery operations have been more dependent on partnership aid due to the limitations that post-conflict conditions represent in finding sufficient financial and operative resources.¹⁵⁴

In 2009, HLTF drafted a national and regional partnership roadmap to alleviate hunger through initiatives on agricultural research, civil society integration, and multilateral project funding.¹⁵⁵ The HLTF-WFP partnership received a \$1 billion contribution increase from public and private donors, aimed at supporting small farmers' sustainable agricultural techniques and knowledge.¹⁵⁶ The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement has also partnered with WFP through the SUN Business Network (SBN) to tackle hunger deficiencies in early age children.¹⁵⁷ SUN looks to engage partners and civil society actors via the *SUN Movement Strategy and Roadmap (2016-2020)*, which prioritizes nutrition through multi-sectorial engagement and coordination towards global food procurement.¹⁵⁸

Partnership Opportunities With the Private Sector

From 2009 to 2011, private corporations and independent foundations represented 56% of WFP's private funding sources.¹⁵⁹ However, these contributions could only fund three percent of WFP's projects due to an absent global management structure that could trace transactions with private partners.¹⁶⁰ Therefore, WFP's CPS encouraged the creation of an enhanced partnership framework to fund its projects under cost-effective, properly-resourced, and priority-led incentives.¹⁶¹ In 2017, WFP identified three prevalent issues in the application of the CPS: lack of funding management, absent consensus on the meaning of corporate partnerships, and limited knowledge of WFP's strategic partnership goals among WFP's staff members.¹⁶² The *WFP Management Plan (2017-2019)* (2016) aims to develop a more attractive financial-led partnership structure to meet the \$9 billion cap for funding its projects towards zero hunger globally.¹⁶³ Current corporate partnerships schemes will only allow a \$5.4 billion fund for all WFP programs, and it is therefore crucial to enhance WFP's partnership framework for further fundraising.¹⁶⁴

WFP's engagement with the private sector has not only involved financial-driven partnerships, but also an active participation in projects for food availability and distribution.¹⁶⁵ Through the P4P project, WFP has propelled 27 new partnerships with private companies and financial institutions to provide investments and credit services for SHFs.¹⁶⁶ After the P4P implementation in 2008 across 20 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, more than one million farmers increased their joint food supply chain value to more than \$60 million.¹⁶⁷ Overall, from 2008 to 2013, P4P positioned SHFs as the main food suppliers in their respective countries with 53% of the whole purchase market share.¹⁶⁸ WFP is also a member of the Farm to Market Alliance, an African project to further increase SHFs' influence in regional food markets, guarantee food security, and develop more competitive production skills in local communities.¹⁶⁹ WFP allocated a \$4.9 million fund to foster 1.5 million farmers' contributions to food markets in 25

¹⁵⁴ Shaw, *A Global Partnership Program to End World Hunger*, 2014.

¹⁵⁵ UN HLTF, *Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action*, 2010.

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ UN HLTF, *Advisory Notes by the HLTF Working Groups to Respond to the 5 "Zero Hunger Challenge" Elements*, 2015, p. 11.

¹⁵⁸ Government of Nepal National Planning Commission, *Multi-sector Nutrition Plan For Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Child Under-nutrition in Nepal 2013-2017(2023)*, 2012, p. 16; SUN, *SUN Movement Strategy and Roadmap (2016-2020)*, 2016.

¹⁵⁹ UN WFP, *Summary Evaluation Report of WFP's Private-Sector Partnership and Fundraising Strategy (WFP/EB.2/2012/6-A)*, 2012, p. 11.

¹⁶⁰ UN WFP, *WFP's Private Sector Partnership and Fundraising Strategy: An Evaluation, Vol. I - Full Report (OE/2012/010)*, 2012, p. v. 50.

¹⁶¹ UN WFP, *Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014-2017)*, 2014, pp. 12-15.

¹⁶² UN WFP, *Summary Evaluation Report of the Corporate Partnership Strategy (WFP/EB.A/2017/7-B)*, 2017, pp. 3-4; UN WFP, *Policy Evaluation - WFP Partnership Strategy (2014-2017), Evaluation Report (OEV/2016/010)*, 2017, p. 18.

¹⁶³ UN WFP, *WFP Management Plan (2017-2019)*, 2016, p. 3.

¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

¹⁶⁵ UN WFP, *Compendium of policies relating to the Strategic Plan (WFP/EB.2/2017/4-E)*, 2017, pp. 9-11.

¹⁶⁶ UN WFP, *P4P Purchase for Progress Reflections on the Pilot, Summary Report*, 2015, pp. 10, 21.

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 51.

¹⁶⁸ UN WFP, *Compendium of policies relating to the Strategic Plan (WFP/EB.2/2017/4-E)*, 2017, p. 10.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

countries.¹⁷⁰ In cooperation with private stakeholders such as Unilever, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Bayer, Yara, Rabobank, among others, WFP expects to generate more than \$750 million extra annual revenues from purchases to SHFs food outputs.¹⁷¹ These projects are also helping WFP to incorporate SHFs in private partnership frameworks to eradicate child malnutrition, promote women’s inclusion in farming markets, and prevent hunger in countries such as Bangladesh and Indonesia.¹⁷²

Despite a successful collaboration with the private sector, WFP’s evaluation and monitoring systems to measure its partnership impacts are very limited or non-existent.¹⁷³ As a result, the WFP evaluation report of CPS recommended to better integrate private partnership goals with the IRM guidelines, and develop adequate data systems to monitor and measure partnership impacts.¹⁷⁴ With CPS, WFP expects to implement a redesigned software platform that can foster ownership of partnering transactions between governments, the private sector and WFP by 2019.¹⁷⁵ Its implementation will not only create better partnerships between WFP and private stakeholders, but will also increase and diversify the one percent share that currently represent WFP’s private partners.¹⁷⁶ The development of partnerships with the private sector as a strategic approach to SDG 17 is particularly relevant for solving WFP’s financial gaps, and ensure the adequate distribution of funding across WFP’s projects.¹⁷⁷

Fostering Partnerships With Civil Society and NGOs

Partnering with NGOs has played a fundamental role in fulfilling WFP’s mandate, especially pertaining to emergency response and protracted relief.¹⁷⁸ In 1995, WFP engaged non-governmental partners in discussions about the eradication of hunger and malnutrition during its Annual Partnership Consultations.¹⁷⁹ Cooperation with NGOs has been further developed and strengthened through the WFP Strategic Plan.¹⁸⁰ By 2017, WFP has been able to assist communities in hunger-endangered regions by partnering with more than 1,000 NGOs at both national and international levels.¹⁸¹ Through this cooperation, WFP has delivered 75% of its overall food assistance and has met community needs faster.¹⁸² In 2001, WFP considered that its WFP-NGO partnership framework should be delivered in tandem with government-led programs.¹⁸³ As a result, WFP engaged with different NGOs experienced in local communities to advocate for food security through more participatory programs.¹⁸⁴ WFP has also developed its *Policy on Country Strategic Plans* (2016) to strategically review partnership initiatives with civil society, NGOs, and governments, towards achieving SDG 2.¹⁸⁵ For instance, the *Cameroon Country Strategic Plan* (2018-2021) takes advantage of partnerships with NGOs to reach rural communities and provide smallholder farmers with technical education, financial support, and better crop facilities.¹⁸⁶

These partnerships with NGOs also provide technical expertise, monitoring infrastructure, and assistance to strengthen food supply chains and food delivery.¹⁸⁷ The P4P in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a clear example of WFP’s partnership approach with NGOs.¹⁸⁸ In cooperation with Oxfam International and the Advising Bureau for Sustainable Development (BUCODED) in the DRC, WFP has been able to integrate education and

¹⁷⁰ FoodTrade ESA, *Farm to Market Alliance – “Small Holder Aggregation Center Model Concept”*, 2015.

¹⁷¹ UN WFP, *IFC And WFP Collaborate To Finance Smallholder Farmers In Rwanda And Tanzania*, 2017.

¹⁷² UN WFP, *Private Partnerships. Hunger is the world’s most solvable problem. Be part of it*, 2012.

¹⁷³ UN WFP, *Policy Evaluation - WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014-2017), Evaluation Report (OEV/2016/010)*, 2017, pp. 45-53.

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 57-61.

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 53-54, 58.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 50.

¹⁷⁷ UN WFP, *Update on the Integrated Road Map - Informal Consultation*, 2017, p. 8.

¹⁷⁸ UN WFP, *Partnership with NGOs (WFP/EB.1/99/3-A)*, 1998.

¹⁷⁹ UN WFP, *Annual Partnership Consultations: Non-governmental organizations*, 2017.

¹⁸⁰ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021) (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-A/1/Rev.2)*, 2016.

¹⁸¹ UN WFP, *Working for Zero Hunger*, 2017.

¹⁸² UN WFP, *NGO Partnerships – Strengthening National Capacity*, 2016.

¹⁸³ UN WFP, *WFP Working with NGOs: A Framework for Partnership (WFP/EB.A/2001/4-B)*, 2001, p. 10.

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 11-12.

¹⁸⁵ UN WFP, *Policy on Country Strategic Plans (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-C/1/Rev.1)*, 2016.

¹⁸⁶ UN WFP, *Cameroon Country Strategic Plan (2017-2020) (WFP/EB.A/2017/8-A/1)*, 2017.

¹⁸⁷ UN WFP, *Policy on Country Strategic Plans (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-C/1/Rev.1)*, 2016.

¹⁸⁸ UN WFP, *Purchase for Progress – P4P Democratic Republic of Congo*, 2014.

sanitation traineeships for women farmers and children, educate communities on family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention, and promote agricultural development in rural areas for food security and nutrition.¹⁸⁹ Additionally, the Bangladesh REACH program has demonstrated the prominent role of WFP-NGO collaboration in empowering civil society to implement better agricultural and nutritional techniques.¹⁹⁰ To do so, the Bangladeshi government conducted research updates to include communities in participatory nutrition programs in cooperation with WHO, FAO, and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF).¹⁹¹ This allowed Bangladesh to use REACH as a transversal mechanism to scale up nutrition, and meet other SDGs such as SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 4 on quality education, and SDG 5 on gender equality.¹⁹²

WFP country offices are expected to develop country strategies through enhanced partnerships with NGOs.¹⁹³ One of the main goals of the WFP Strategic Plan is to diversify WFP’s partnerships with NGOs so that they are not strictly limited to a contractual basis.¹⁹⁴ In order to meet this and the CPS goals, WFP would need to work with complementary partners, that is, NGOs not entitled to partner with WFP for transactional purposes but rather for non-profit purposes.¹⁹⁵ As partners with transactional interests will expect a minimum revenue in return for its partnership share, this target will allow WFP to stream more budget to fund its projects.¹⁹⁶ As a means to reinforce partnerships with civil society actors, WFP will discuss a new roadmap for such partnerships in November 2017, in tandem with the strategies to fulfil the IRM and its overall goal to achieve zero hunger worldwide.¹⁹⁷

Partnership Strategies With National and Regional Actors

WFP’s approach to improving national and regional capacities to achieve zero hunger is streamlined through two main instruments: the Evaluation Policy, and the *Policy on Country Strategic Plans* (2016).¹⁹⁸ With the former, WFP coordinates its monitoring and evaluation policies with its country offices supported by the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG), the UN Development Group (UNDG), and the WFP Office of Evaluation (OEV).¹⁹⁹ As WFP seeks to promote decentralized and coordinated action among all actors towards zero hunger, OEV conducts periodical evaluations of the implementation and integration of WFP’s plans into governmental strategies.²⁰⁰ Through this mechanism, WFP is able to provide technical assessment, systematic collection of data, and programmatic reinforcement to governmental capacities to foster food security and nutrition.²⁰¹ The Evaluation Policy outcomes are crucial for WFP’s institutional management as they set the scope of action under which WFP can provide its assistance while ensuring a decentralized coordination with governments.²⁰²

WFP designs its CSPs with country-specific guidelines to foster bilateral cooperation with national governments, improve resilience in vulnerable communities, develop protracted relief, and guarantee food security.²⁰³ Through CSPs, WFP not only aims to ensure faster and more effective emergency response to food crises, but also to empower local governments as the main actors in decision-making and planning processes.²⁰⁴ CSPs’ results-oriented approach firmly integrates SDG 17 in the fight against hunger by defining: WFP’s framework of action in a given country, budget capabilities, available resources for training and technical cooperation, and activities and expected

¹⁸⁹ UN WFP, *Policy on Country Strategic Plans (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-C/1/Rev.1)*, 2016; UN WFP, *WFP Management Plan (2017-2019) (WFP/EB.2/2016/5-A/1/Rev.2)*, 2016, p. 30.

¹⁹⁰ UN WFP, *REACH Bangladesh*, 2015.

¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹² *Ibid.*

¹⁹³ UN WFP, *WFP Management Plan (2017-2019) WFP/EB.2/2016/5-A/1/Rev.2)*, 2016, p. 55.

¹⁹⁴ UN WFP, *Summary Evaluation Report of the Corporate Partnership Strategy, (WFP/EB.A/2017/7-B)*, 2017, pp. 8-11.

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.* p. 9.

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

¹⁹⁷ UN WFP, *Annual Performance Report for 2016 (WFP/EB.A/2017/4)*, 2017.

¹⁹⁸ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017, p. 31.

¹⁹⁹ UN WFP, *Evaluation Policy (2016-2021) (WFP/EB.2/2015/4-A/Rev.1)*, 2015, p. 13.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁰¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 6, 10.

²⁰² UN WFP, *Policy on Country Strategic Plans (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-C/1/Rev.1)*, 2016, pp. 12-14.

²⁰³ UN WFP, *Cameroon Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020) (WFP/EB.A/2017/8-A/1)*, 2017, pp. 5-10.

²⁰⁴ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017, pp. 31, 32; UN WFP, *Policy on Country Strategic Plans (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-C/1/Rev.1)*, 2016, p. 8.

outcomes after their implementation.²⁰⁵ As a means to build solid financial infrastructures at a local level, WFP included specific lines of action to elaborate CSPs in tandem with more integrated regional financial capabilities in its IRM.²⁰⁶ Through the *Financial Framework Review* also included in the IRM, WFP aims to provide better funding and budgeting planning to its country offices as a pilot project starting in 2018.²⁰⁷ For this, WFP implemented specific Country Portfolio Budgets (CPB) as a linkage between effectively action-driven results and structured financial management of its operations at the country level.²⁰⁸

The WFP CRF also seeks to strengthen technical assistance to national governments to meet the SDGs, particularly SDG 2, through enhanced systems to monitor, evaluate, report, and distribute resources efficiently.²⁰⁹ By embedding this framework in its *South-South and Triangular Cooperation Policy*, WFP developed the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil.²¹⁰ Initially, this center was built upon a bilateral agreement between WFP and the government of Brazil to promote livelihoods support, food security, and exchange of good practices, among other objectives.²¹¹ After its successful implementation in providing school meals for undernourished children in Brazil, the center's methodology was replicated in 24 developing countries by 2015.²¹² WFP used this multi-sectorial platform to deliver workshops for decision-makers and civil society, provide training, and execute evaluations to governmental policies.²¹³ In 2016, various African countries developed school meal programs inspired in the Brazilian success.²¹⁴ For instance, the Purchase from Africans for Africa program pioneered a school meal intervention for 79 schools in Malawi.²¹⁵ In cooperation with the local government, WFP channeled its assistance to diversify food procurement through a more active participation of SHFs for school meal distribution.²¹⁶ As a result, more than 133 governmental and civil society actors bolstered their contribution to achieving zero hunger, systematized food supply chains, among other targeted goals.²¹⁷

WFP also partners with UNEG to provide technical support to governments that have limited political conditions to guarantee food resources to end hunger at the country level.²¹⁸ One of the key concerns to effectively meet WFP's partnership goals with governments is the lack of standardized measures to monitor and evaluate governmental partnership impacts on CSP implementation.²¹⁹ Therefore, WFP needs to create more precise data systems to better evaluate and design projects, quantify its direct influence in governmental strategies against hunger, and support its Government Partnerships Division (PGG) as well as its country offices for enhanced partnership strategies.²²⁰ Through this, WFP can develop more attractive scenarios for cooperation with governments, assisting them with knowledge and expertise, and adapting food security initiatives to a given country environment.²²¹

²⁰⁵ UN WFP, *Policy on Country Strategic Plans (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-C/1/Rev.1)*, 2016, p. 8.

²⁰⁶ UN WFP, *Integrated Road Map: Positioning WFP for a Changing World - Informal Consultation*, 2016, p. 4.

²⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10; UN WFP, *Financial Framework Review (WFP/EB.2/2016/5-B/1/Rev.1)*, 2016, pp. 4-6.

²⁰⁸ UN WFP, *Financial Framework Review (WFP/EB.2/2016/5-B/1/Rev.1)*, 2016, pp. 7, 8.

²⁰⁹ UN WFP, *Corporate Results Framework (2017–2021) (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-B/1/Rev.1)*, 2016.

²¹⁰ UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, 2016, p. 11.

²¹¹ UN WFP, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation for food security and nutrition: Snapshot of WFP practices in facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation to promote progress towards Zero Hunger (SDG 2)*, 2016, p. 4.

²¹² UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, 2016, p. 11.

²¹³ UN WFP, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation for food security and nutrition: Snapshot of WFP practices in facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation to promote progress towards Zero Hunger (SDG 2)*, 2016, pp. 4-5.

²¹⁴ UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, 2016, p. 11.

²¹⁵ UN WFP, *South-South and Triangular Cooperation for food security and nutrition: Snapshot of WFP practices in facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation to promote progress towards Zero Hunger (SDG 2)*, 2016, p. 18.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 17,18.

²¹⁸ UN WFP, *Evaluation Policy (2016-2021) (WFP/EB.2/2015/4-A/Rev.1)*, 2015, pp. 5-9.

²¹⁹ UN WFP, *Policy Evaluation - WFP Partnership Strategy (2014-2017), Evaluation Report (OEV/2016/010)*, 2017, p. 10.

²²⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 10-11.

²²¹ UN WFP, *Fast Facts: WFP's Policy for South-South and triangular cooperation*, 2017, p. 2.

Conclusion

WFP's efforts to develop partnerships for achieving zero hunger worldwide have been established since 1992, but have been further propelled through the WFP Strategic Plan.²²² Therefore, promoting the necessary frameworks of cooperation, as well as global and regional integration, is substantially important.²²³ The WFP-SUN partnership focuses its efforts in supporting Member States to better coordinate programs with international stakeholders, NGOs and UN agencies.²²⁴ Such integration resembles WFP's goal to integrate partners in its South-South and triangular cooperation strategy, to empower communities and develop resilience skills for improved food supply markets.²²⁵ Although WFP received \$72.2 million of corporate contributions in 2016, this was not enough to reach the SDG benchmark required to effectively meet yearly goals.²²⁶ The absence of adequate frameworks for capacity-strengthening and monitoring of WFP's contributions through global partnerships have represented a setback in efficiently addressing SDG 17.²²⁷ Fostering partnerships with the private sector, NGOs, governments, and international organizations, should be key goals as means to reduce the funding gap in WFP's operations, and to enable a proper deployment of its assistance worldwide.²²⁸

Further Research

The overall scope of the WFP Strategic Plan provides a comprehensive overview on the future of WFP's programs in order to effectively achieve zero hunger worldwide.²²⁹ In this sense, delegates should question whether WFP's objectives could effectively foster partnerships at all levels in coordination with UN agencies and other regional stakeholders. Delegates should consider: What partnership strategies have worked efficiently and could serve as a template? How could WFP better promote cooperation between local and regional governments with international organizations, NGOs and local communities? Upon the recommendations of the Evaluation Policy, how can WFP prioritize its partnership contributions without overlapping particular main goals? How can WFP foster its support to local communities and governments to move into country-led strategies for food procurement?

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. (2010). *Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action* [Report]. Retrieved 8 August 2017 from: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ISFP/UCFA_Final.pdf

This report provides practical guidance to achieve hunger relief and adequate nutrition globally under the context of the First Comprehensive Framework for Action of the United Nations High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF). The overall scope of this document is to promote food security through coordinated action with all relevant actors. Section C of this document focuses on different strategies to promote and enhance partnerships at the country, regional, and global levels. It also provides WFP's guidelines to promote technical cooperation with private and public stakeholders, convergent regional plans for hunger alleviation, regional food security policies, supply chain integration, and other forms of protracted relief. Overall, this framework constitutes an imperative resource for delegates to learn how to broaden partnership strategies between governments, civil society, and private stakeholders for WFP's strategic objectives.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2012). *WFP's Private Sector Partnership and Fundraising Strategy: An Evaluation, Vol. I - Full Report (OE/2012/010)*. Retrieved 29 September 2017 from:

²²² UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021) (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-A/1/Rev.2)*, 2016; WFP, *Report of the External Auditor on Decentralization (WFP/EB.A/2017/6-G/)*, 2017, p. 13.

²²³ UN WFP, *Report of the External Auditor on Decentralization (WFP/EB.A/2017/6-G/)*, 2017, p. 12.

²²⁴ WHO, *Improving nutrition outcomes with better water, sanitation and hygiene – practical solutions for policy and programmes*, 2015, p. 9.

²²⁵ UN WFP, *Corporate Results Framework (2017–2021) (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-B/1/Rev.1)*, 2016.

²²⁶ UN WFP, *Annual Performance Report for 2016 (WFP/EB.A/2017/4)*, 2017.

²²⁷ UN WFP, *Annual Evaluation Report, 2016 (WFP/EB.A/2017/7-A/Rev.1)*, 2017, p. 10.

²²⁸ UN WFP, *Annual Performance Report for 2016 (WFP/EB.A/2017/4)*, 2017.

²²⁹ UN WFP, *Integrated Road Map Positioning WFP for a Changing World: Informal Consultation*, 2016, p. 3.

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/reports/wfp251868.pdf?_ga=2.194843950.2078658080.1507283394-1508635261.1497488090

Considering WFP's prevalent challenge in finding enough budget for its operations and projects, this report provides a financial-based assessment to the Corporate Partnership Strategy existing prior 2012. This document served as a background document to design the 2014 CPS. As a new Corporate Partnership Strategy is expected to be drafted by the end of 2017, this report can provide a concrete approach to expected evaluation targets on WFP's partnership frameworks. The data in this document provides an overview of different financial sources, their mobilization towards WFP's funding, and their monitoring. This report can be useful for delegates to integrate its findings with other WFP financial assessments within the IRM and the WFP Strategic Plan. It can also provide an objective valuation on the policy implementation issues on partnership management, and its impacts on future WFP partnership frameworks.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2016). *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021) (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-A/1/Rev.2)*. Retrieved 16 June 2017 from:

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp286743.pdf?_ga=2.248190791.197551744.1497488090-1508635261.1497488090

As WFP's guiding document, this plan sets the principles for accomplishing WFP's strategic objectives for the 2017-2021 period. In this sense, Strategic Goal two provides the guidelines for developing and strengthening partnerships globally to achieve food security and adequate nutrition, among other focus areas. This goal aims to provide the principles and guidelines to support and develop partnerships for the achievement of SDG 17. Therefore, this is an essential source for delegates while defining future WFP actions to address hunger in partnership with others. Likewise, the plan not only evaluates relevant findings from the implementation of the previous WFP Strategic Plan, but also makes technical and action-oriented recommendations to effectively address systemic challenges on the fight against hunger. This Strategic Plan promotes global partnerships as the main strategy to effectively address all goals in the 2030 Agenda, embedded in the WFP Strategic Plan.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2017). *Policy Evaluation - WFP Partnership Strategy (2014-2017), Evaluation Report (OEV/2016/010)*. Retrieved 1 October 2017 from: https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000015489/download/?_ga=2.166007101.2078658080.1507283394-1508635261.1497488090

This document provides an essential evaluation of the WFP Partnership Strategy (2014-2017). The report includes substantive data on WFP's partners for the first time, as no partnership mapping was executed prior to 2016. This is the first report that provides quantitative evidence on the amount of partnerships WFP has, their contributions to WFP's budget, among other technical and financial findings. This document also provides an exhaustive evaluation of WFP's corporate partnerships in terms of: strategy enforcement, advocacy, engagement with other actors, technical assistance, and capacity assessment for program implementation. This report draws relevant recommendations for the future Corporate Partnership Strategy, and outlines the priorities that should define WFP's approach for more efficient partnership frameworks at all levels.

United Nations, World Food Programme, Executive Board. (2015). *Evaluation Policy (2016-2021) (WFP/EB.2/2015/4-A/Rev.1)*. Retrieved 19 July 2017 from:

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp277482.pdf?_ga=2.82240018.546238895.1500510290-1508635261.1497488090

This policy provides information on WFP's goals to enhance Member State and civil society participation, as well as stakeholder contributions to WFP's plans. Particularly, the WFP theory of change described in this document can be an effective guide for delegates to design plans based on WFP's existing purposes and future expectations on improving food security worldwide. Specifically, section VI of this document identifies objectives and mechanisms that WFP can use to strengthen regional, inter-regional and global partnerships for achieving its strategic goals.

United Nations, World Food Programme, Executive Board. (2015). *South-South and Triangular Cooperation Policy (WFP/EB.A/2015/5-D)*. Retrieved 14 June 2017 from:

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfpdoc063835.pdf?_ga=2.82240018.546238895.1500510290-1508635261.1497488090

With a special focus on the most hunger-affected regions of the world, the WFP Executive Board designed this strategic policy to bolster strong cooperative links on the fight against hunger in developing countries. This policy is a useful guide for delegates to outline cooperation strategies at the regional level based on national innovations, good practices, and shared knowledge, and in accordance to WFP's objectives on food security and nutrition. This policy will also help delegates design feasible proposals towards more efficient partnerships with governments, NGOs, and international organizations. As a constituent instrument for future WFP plans and policies, it provides the general framework under which South-South and triangular cooperation is foreseen by WFP.

United Nations, World Food Programme, Executive Board. (2016). *Corporate Results Framework (2017–2021) (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-B/1/Rev.1)* [Report]. Retrieved 17 August 2017 from:

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp286745.pdf>

In line with the WFP Strategic Plan, this document provides a comprehensive framework to direct WFP's partnership goals to achieve zero hunger worldwide. It sets the strategic outcomes expected upon the implementation of plans during the 2017-2021 period at three main levels: individual development, community empowerment, and partnership enhancement. This framework determines the dimensions under which WFP can integrate NGOs, governments, and private partners in its corporate strategy. Particularly, this document is useful for delegates as it demonstrates the overall expected outputs after the implementation of the WFP Strategic Plan. With special attention to each SDG, this framework outlines specific indicators to evaluate policy proposals to effectively meet the SDGs. Regarding the implementation of SDG 17 towards SDG 2, this framework provides recommendations under three main guidelines: investment evaluation, integration of knowledge and expertise exchange, and resilience-enhancement and risk management improvement.

United Nations, World Food Programme, Executive Board. (2016). *Policy on Country Strategic Plans (WFP/EB.2/2016/4-C/1/Rev.1)*. Retrieved 10 August 2017 from:

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp286746.pdf?_ga=2.230751839.1135433644.1500413787-1508635261.1497488090

Although this document is specifically focused on the design of CSPs, it provides relevant guidelines for WFP to arrange partnerships at a country level. This policy also outlines failures in current CSP frameworks of action, such as the lack of an agreed definition of “partnerships” that could impair or even stall the overall WFP country partnership strategy. In line with the WFP Strategic Plan, this policy seeks to foster partnerships with governments to reduce operative costs and increase program implementation. Through the policy, WFP delineates the conditions upon which specific CSPs should be drafted. This document provides the framework for CSP work as means to effectively promote a decentralized action towards zero hunger.

United Nations, World Food Programme, Executive Board. (2017). *Compendium of policies relating to the Strategic Plan (WFP/EB.2/2017/4-E)* [Report]. Retrieved 2 October 2017 from:

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp293109.pdf>

This document includes a summary of WFP's policies currently in effect that are relevant to the WFP Strategic Plan. As future WFP actions are defined by the IRM, this compendium offers a legal background on actions taken to improve livelihoods in emergencies, provide immediate food aid, foster food security and capacity development, among other goals. It also emphasizes specific WFP roles in meeting the WFP Strategic Plan and particular SDGs on gender equality, food procurement, education, and partnership development. Finally, this document mentions all policies that could be considered in new partnership frameworks with the private sector, NGOs, governments, and UN agencies, and briefly foresees some partnership challenges.

United Nations, World Food Programme, Executive Board. (2017). *Summary Evaluation Report of the Corporate Partnership Strategy (WFP/EB.A/2017/7-B)*. Retrieved 17 July 2017 from:

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp291655.pdf>

Upon request by the WFP Executive Board to its Office of Evaluation, this report aims to evaluate the achievements, challenges, and gaps after the implementation of the 2014-2017 Corporate Partnership Strategy. It includes estimations on financial requirements to effectively overcome current budgeting challenges. Such figures will allow delegates to better justify their proposals on the current WFP financial situation. For the period 2017-2021, promoting new and innovative partnership strategies are core objectives of WFP's Strategic Plan (2017-2021) and the Integrated Road Map. This report also provides a timeline on how WFP's partnership strategies have evolved, and WFP's expectations for the future. This detailed analysis of partnership strategies is useful for taking concrete actions within WFP's mandate, with special focus on the conditions that influence the creation of long-lasting and cost-effective partnerships (SDG 17) for food aid and the eradication of hunger (SDG 2).

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II. Empowering Women to Combat Food Insecurity

“Women are the secret weapon to fight hunger.”²³⁰

Introduction

Food security is defined as a condition when “all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”²³¹ Accordingly, when people lack access to a sufficient quantity of safe and nutritious food, they can be considered food insecure.²³² According to the latest calculations, 815 million people worldwide suffer from hunger.²³³ The *Global Report on Food Crises 2017*, released by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), found that approximately 108 million people in the world faced severe food insecurity in 2016.²³⁴ There is broad consensus that women account for a large percentage of those who are food insecure, constituting 60% of the world’s chronically hungry.²³⁵ Women are not only more likely to be malnourished due to their specific physiological nutritional needs, but they also often face various cultural, social, and economic challenges that exacerbate food insecurity.²³⁶ Despite women’s role in food preparation for household consumption, women eat last during mealtimes in some cultures.²³⁷ Gender inequalities also constrain women’s access to education and job opportunities, which only further exacerbates their existing vulnerability to food insecurity.²³⁸ Last but not least, women are discriminated against as economic actors: they are often precluded from landholding, property ownership, and access to credit.²³⁹ These inherent gender inequalities are particularly exacerbated in times of crisis, since emergencies place an additional burden on women, who are responsible for providing food for their households.²⁴⁰

Gender equality and upholding the rights of women and girls are goals in their own right.²⁴¹ More importantly, women can, to a great extent, contribute to combatting food insecurity as mothers and teachers, but also as farmers and entrepreneurs.²⁴² Therefore, according to the World Food Programme (WFP), women’s empowerment and gender equality is “a prerequisite for a world of zero hunger.”²⁴³ Eliminating inequalities between male and female farmers would considerably increase agricultural production and reduce the number of people experiencing hunger by up to 150 million.²⁴⁴ The following sections will highlight particular challenges women face, how their empowerment can contribute to food security, and why it is of utmost importance to consider gender dynamics in both immediate reactions to emergency situations and long-term solutions to structural food insecurity.²⁴⁵

International and Regional Framework

Women’s rights, the empowerment of women, and the pursuit of gender equality, are firmly embedded in international human rights law.²⁴⁶ The preamble of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) guarantees the equal rights of men and women, and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) further states that all

²³⁰ Howard, “Women Are The Secret Weapon To Fight Hunger”, *United Nations, World Food Programme*, 2009.

²³¹ FAO, *Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action*, 1996.

²³² FAO et al., *The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World 2017*, 2017; UN WFP, *What is food security?*, 2017.

²³³ FAO et al., *The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World 2017*, 2017.

²³⁴ UN FSIN, *Global Report on Food Crises 2017*, 2017.

²³⁵ UN-Women, *Facts & Figures*; World Hunger Education Service, *2016 World Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics*, 2016.

²³⁶ FAO, *Nutritional status and vulnerability*; Merckel, *Women and Hunger Facts*, 2016.

²³⁷ Wainaina, *Gender Inequality as a Contributing Factor to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Maasai Community*, *African Population and Health Research Center*, 2017.

²³⁸ Asian Development Bank, *Gender equality and food security - women’s empowerment as a tool against hunger*, 2013.

²³⁹ FAO et al., *The State of Food Insecurity in the World. Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress*, 2015.

²⁴⁰ Mustalampi, *Gender, food security and nutrition in protracted crises*, 2016.

²⁴¹ FAO, *FAO Policy on Gender Equality*, 2013, p. 1; UN WFP, *Women and WFP: Helping Women Help Themselves*, 2011, p. 6.

²⁴² UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/RES/71/245)*, 2016.

²⁴³ UN WFP, *Gender equality*, 2017; UN WFP, *Zero Hunger*, 2017.

²⁴⁴ UN WFP, *Gender equality*, 2017.

²⁴⁵ Sida, *Gender Tool Box – Women and Food Security*, 2015.

²⁴⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy 2015–2020*, 2015, p. 4.

human beings “are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”²⁴⁷ The two international covenants adopted in 1966 link women’s rights with the right to food.²⁴⁸ The *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966) provides for “the right to an adequate standard of living,” reiterating that the right to food is a fundamental right of everyone.²⁴⁹ Similarly, the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966) prohibits discrimination on any grounds, including gender.²⁵⁰ The *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) (1979) and its *Optional Protocol* (1999) are among the most important foundational documents addressing the rights of women.²⁵¹ While drawing attention to the problem of discrimination and gender inequality, the convention calls for effective measures to eliminate negative stereotyping of gender roles, which often leads to the uneven and disadvantageous position of women in many areas, including food security.²⁵²

Likewise, by recognizing that “women’s rights are human rights,” the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*, adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, initiated the process of integrating gender-based issues into human rights theory and practice.²⁵³ Two years later, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995) presented a comprehensive blueprint for gender equality and the promotion of human rights of women, acknowledging their vital role in ensuring food security, and calling for the elimination of discrimination against women in food allocation.²⁵⁴ In 2015, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General issued a comprehensive 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration, which identified remaining challenges that continue to affect the achievement of women’s empowerment; the report also set the year 2030 as the date to achieve gender equality.²⁵⁵ The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, acknowledged that achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment are important as goals in themselves and also as an essential means of attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²⁵⁶ SDG 5 on “gender equality and empower[ing] all women and girls” is fundamental to achieving a world free of hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition by 2030, as explicitly envisioned in SDG 2.²⁵⁷ SDG 1, on ending poverty, is also linked with eradicating hunger and realizing gender equality.²⁵⁸

Women’s rights, including the right to food, are reinforced in numerous Human Rights Council (HRC) and General Assembly resolutions.²⁵⁹ General Assembly resolution 71/245 of 2016 on “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition” reiterated the essential contributions of women, especially rural women, to ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition.²⁶⁰ The resolution also calls for strengthened efforts to empower women and to address the gender gap in accessing productive resources and services.²⁶¹ General Assembly resolutions 70/219 of 2015 on “Women in development” as well as 70/132 of 2015 on the “Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas” also emphasized the critical role of rural women, including smallholders and women farmers, in

²⁴⁷ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948, art. 1.

²⁴⁸ UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966; UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966.

²⁴⁹ UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966, art. 11.

²⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966, art. 2.

²⁵¹ UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979; UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: Optional Protocol (A/RES/54/4)*, 1999.

²⁵² UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.

²⁵³ UN World Conference on Human Rights, *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*, 1993.

²⁵⁴ UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

²⁵⁵ UN CSW, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2015/3)*, 2015.

²⁵⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan 2017–2021*, 2017.

²⁵⁷ UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*.

²⁵⁸ UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere*.

²⁵⁹ UN HRC, *Report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter: Women’s rights and the right to food (A/HRC/22/50)*, 2012, p. 14; UN HRC, *The right to food (A/HRC/34/L.21)*, 2017.

²⁶⁰ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/RES/71/245)*, 2016.

²⁶¹ *Ibid.*

achieving food security.²⁶² The resolutions emphasize that gender equality should be addressed in both short-term policies and long-term strategies on food security.²⁶³ The General Assembly adopted the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (DRR) in 2015, which stresses the indispensable role of women in strengthening resilience and enhancing food security in their communities.²⁶⁴

In recent years, WFP has advocated for a gender-transformative approach to food assistance, which is reflected in its gender policies of 2009 and 2015.²⁶⁵ WFP's 2009 gender policy introduced a change from a women-centered approach to a more holistic one that stresses the equally important role of men and women in promoting and achieving gender equality.²⁶⁶ The newest *WFP Gender Policy 2015–2020* (2015) also confirms the vital role of men in the design and implementation of gender-transformative programs and policies, and calls for a gender-focused rather than a women-focused approach.²⁶⁷ This new strategic vision should enable WFP to integrate the goals of women's empowerment and gender equality into its daily work and all related activities.²⁶⁸

Role of the International System

Gender equality and the empowerment of women are central to all of WFP's activities, as indicated in the *WFP Gender Policy 2015–2020* and the newly released *WFP Strategic Plan 2017–2021* (2017).²⁶⁹ WFP strives to ensure that women and men participate equally in the design and execution of its policies and activities, and that women are involved in decision-making regarding food security and nutrition.²⁷⁰ WFP operates "food for work programs," granting food rations to women in return for work that brings benefits to their communities.²⁷¹ A similar initiative called Food for Training rewards women for learning useful skills, such as running a small business or gaining nutritional education.²⁷² WFP believes that investing in women "is an investment in food security that will pay dividends for generations to come."²⁷³ WFP also attaches great importance to building and maintaining strong partnerships.²⁷⁴ In order to mobilize complementary resources and boost the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of its operations, WFP works with partners at all levels, including other UN agencies; international, regional, and local organizations; host and donor governments; non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, and the private sector, including women-led businesses.²⁷⁵

In addressing gender issues and the empowerment of women, WFP collaborates closely with the other Rome-based agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).²⁷⁶ Emphasizing women's diverse roles in food and agricultural production, FAO strives to accelerate women's economic empowerment by providing them with equal access to productive resources for agricultural development, as well as securing their equal participation in rural institutions, and increasing their voice in decision-making at all levels.²⁷⁷ In 2013, FAO adopted its new *Policy on Gender Equality*, which provides a framework to ensure that the principles of women's empowerment and gender equality are incorporated into all of FAO's policies.²⁷⁸ Combatting gender inequality is an fundamental aspect of IFAD's work to reduce poverty and food insecurity.²⁷⁹ In line with its *Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment* (2012), it sponsors rural

²⁶² UN General Assembly, *Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas (A/RES/70/132)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Women in development (A/RES/70/219)*, 2015.

²⁶³ Ibid.

²⁶⁴ UNISDR, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030*, 2015.

²⁶⁵ UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy*, 2009; UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy 2015–2020*, 2015.

²⁶⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy*, 2009, p. 4.

²⁶⁷ UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy 2015–2020*, 2015, p. 6.

²⁶⁸ Ibid.

²⁶⁹ Ibid.; UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan 2017–2021*, 2017.

²⁷⁰ UN WFP, *Gender equality*, 2017.

²⁷¹ UN WFP, *Women and WFP: Helping Women Help Themselves*, 2011, p. 7.

²⁷² Ibid.

²⁷³ UN WFP, *Women's Empowerment Fund - Investing in Women to Fight Hunger Worldwide*, 2011, p. 2.

²⁷⁴ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2013, p. 7.

²⁷⁵ UN WFP, *WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014-2017)*, 2014; UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy 2015–2020*, 2015, p. 8.

²⁷⁶ UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy 2015–2020*, 2015, p. 19.

²⁷⁷ FAO, *FAO's Strategic Framework: FAO's work on gender equality and women's empowerment*, 2014.

²⁷⁸ FAO, *FAO Policy on Gender Equality*, 2013.

²⁷⁹ IFAD, *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; IFAD, IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025*, 2016.

development projects aimed at fostering women’s empowerment in poor rural areas.²⁸⁰ The supported initiatives must follow three strategic objectives: promoting the economic independence of women, giving them greater voice and influence in agricultural institutions, and achieving a fair balance in workloads between women and men, together with a more equal distribution of benefits.²⁸¹

In 2012, Olivier De Schutter, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, submitted a report to HRC titled *Women’s rights and the right to food*, in which he discusses various forms of discrimination women face regarding the right to food, and provides numerous recommendations on how to empower women to overcome this “cycle of discrimination.”²⁸² Also in 2012, building upon the outcomes of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, WFP, FAO, IFAD, and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) created a five-year joint program: Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (RWEE), which assists poor women farmers in seven selected countries.²⁸³ By bringing together their distinct mandates, knowledge, resources, and experiences, the four entities have been able to advance rural women’s economic empowerment.²⁸⁴ RWEE has so far benefited over 30,000 rural women, strengthening their decision-making power and enhancing their food security.²⁸⁵ UN-Women represents a valuable partner for WFP, contributing its technical expertise in gender equality and women’s empowerment to its programs.²⁸⁶ Through its Fund for Gender Equality, UN-Women supports initiatives that, among other things, empower women to acquire farmland and productive resources and participate in shaping laws and policies, including those related to food security.²⁸⁷

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) strives to mainstream a gender perspective into all UN policies by adopting agreed conclusions on priority themes discussed at its annual sessions.²⁸⁸ The 56th session of CSW in 2012 was centered around “the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication;” however, Member States failed to adopt an agreement on this topic.²⁸⁹ The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) also plays an essential role in facilitating coordination for the advancement of gender equality throughout the UN system.²⁹⁰ IANWGE, which gathers over 25 UN entities, including WFP, establishes task forces to address current challenges and priority issues for gender equality, including food security.²⁹¹

In order to maximize the impact of its gender-related activities, WFP works closely with CSOs, the majority of which are local NGOs and women’s groups.²⁹² They provide complementary expertise, skills, and capacities needed to advance the empowerment of women in diverse contexts.²⁹³ One example of an NGO that partners with WFP is Helen Keller International, which provides underprivileged women in Africa and Asia with resources to grow nutritious food, as well as to gain entrepreneurial skills.²⁹⁴ Similarly, regional organizations and regional development banks play an increasingly important role in empowering women to enhance food security.²⁹⁵ One of the strongest actors in this regard is the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which not only offers cash transfers and loans to women, but also integrates gender issues in all its activities.²⁹⁶ The African Union (AU) has also made

²⁸⁰ IFAD, *Gender equality and women’s empowerment: Policy*, 2012, p. 20.

²⁸¹ *Ibid.*

²⁸² UN HRC, *Report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter: Women’s rights and the right to food (A/HRC/22/50)*, 2012.

²⁸³ UN General Assembly, *The Future We Want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012; UN WFP, *UN Women, FAO, IFAD And WFP: Empowerment Of Women In Rural Areas Is Pre-Requisite For Global Food Security*, 2012.

²⁸⁴ UN WFP et al., *Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women*.

²⁸⁵ Empower Women, *Enhancing Opportunities for Rural Women’s Employment: Lessons from the Joint Programme on Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment*, 2017.

²⁸⁶ UN-Women, *About UN Women*; UN-Women, *In Focus: International Day of Rural Women*.

²⁸⁷ UN-Women, *Fund for Gender Equality*.

²⁸⁸ UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*.

²⁸⁹ UN CSW, *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2012/3)*, 2012.

²⁹⁰ IANWGE, *UN Interagency Collaboration*.

²⁹¹ UN-Women, *Partnerships for gender mainstreaming within the UN system*.

²⁹² UN WFP, *WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014-2017)*, 2014, p. 18.

²⁹³ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

²⁹⁴ Helen Keller International, *Our Work*, 2014.

²⁹⁵ UN WFP, *WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014-2017)*, 2014, p. 17.

²⁹⁶ Asian Development Bank, *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Operational Plan, 2013–2020*, 2013.

significant commitments towards women's empowerment.²⁹⁷ Recognizing that women constitute 75% of the agricultural workforce and are responsible for over 60% of food production on the African continent, the AU declared 2015 to be the Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063.²⁹⁸

Overcoming Structural and Societal Challenges Faced by (Rural) Women

Since gender gaps are particularly visible in agriculture, and rural women account for nearly 50% of the world's food production, their empowerment is imperative to ensuring food security for all.²⁹⁹ Despite their critical role in food production, cultural barriers and unequal gender roles in some societies prevent women from accessing land, resources such as improved seeds and fertilizers, and financial services required for rural livelihoods.³⁰⁰ Owing to the same reasons, women also have less access than men to local, regional, and global markets, which undermines their economic competitiveness and in turn contributes to their food insecurity.³⁰¹ In *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11* (2011), FAO reported that crop yields for women farmers are 20-30% lower than for men, primarily due to inequalities in accessing productive resources, such as land or livestock.³⁰² Giving women farmers more resources would mean a significant increase in the total agricultural output in developing countries and a reduction in the number of hungry people in the world.³⁰³ A successful example of the empowerment of female farmers and entrepreneurs is the WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, which advocates for purchasing most of the staple food for distribution from smallholders in developing countries.³⁰⁴ P4P not only gives these farmers access to formal markets, but also serves as an incentive to improve their agricultural production, which in turn leads to increased resilience and sustainability of their farming practices.³⁰⁵ A five-year evaluation of P4P projects has offered several suggestions for furthering the empowerment of women farmers, including adopting context- and culturally-specific strategies, and involving men in gender sensitization campaigns.³⁰⁶

Rural women in developing countries often have limited access to education and lack basic literacy skills that underpin other skills necessary for combatting food insecurity.³⁰⁷ WFP thus offers literacy trainings, as it regards reading and writing skills as a necessary step towards empowering women.³⁰⁸ In addition, various UN organizations, including WFP and UN-Women, offer rural women entrepreneurs trainings in modern farming techniques, book-keeping, marketing, and business plan preparation, in order to help them enhance their entrepreneurial skills, improve their agricultural production, and increase their incomes.³⁰⁹ In some countries, persistent societal perceptions of gender roles lead to a gendered division of labor between men and women, often to the disadvantage of women.³¹⁰ It is therefore imperative that programs for the empowerment of women take into account specific socio-cultural contexts.³¹¹ Moreover, women should be involved in decision-making for these programs and participate in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of food-related policies; yet, there is also a growing need for more gender-sensitive approaches targeted towards men.³¹² These should focus on increasing men's understanding of women's essential role in food security, and helping to reshape existing gender stereotypes.³¹³

²⁹⁷ African Union Commission, *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*, 2015.

²⁹⁸ African Union Commission, *Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063*, 2015.

²⁹⁹ FAO, *FAO Policy on Gender Equality*, 2013, p. 3; Merkel, *Women and Hunger Facts*, 2016.

³⁰⁰ Sida, *Gender Tool Box – Women and Food Security*, 2015, p. 2.

³⁰¹ FAO et al., *The State of Food Insecurity in the World. Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress*, 2015, p. 34.

³⁰² FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11: Women in Agriculture - Closing the gender gap for development*, 2011.

³⁰³ UN WFP, *Women and WFP: Helping Women Help Themselves*, 2011, p. 8.

³⁰⁴ UN WFP, *Purchase for Progress*, 2017.

³⁰⁵ Davies, *Beyond beneficiary numbers: Unlocking the potential of women farmers*, 2014.

³⁰⁶ UN WFP, *P4P's Women's Empowerment Pathways: Roadblocks and Successes*, 2014.

³⁰⁷ Asian Development Bank, *Gender equality and food security - women's empowerment as a tool against hunger*, 2013.

³⁰⁸ UN WFP, *Empowering women farmers through literacy training*, 2014.

³⁰⁹ UN WFP, *Four Ways To Empower Women*, 2010; UN-Women, *Women entrepreneurs in Ethiopia lead the way from poverty to empowerment*, 2017.

³¹⁰ Asian Development Bank, *Gender equality and food security - women's empowerment as a tool against hunger*, 2013.

³¹¹ UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy 2015–2020*, 2015.

³¹² *Ibid.*

³¹³ *Ibid.*

Legal and Financial Empowerment of Women

Landholding is an important means of women's empowerment because it provides them with greater economic independence.³¹⁴ However, gender-discriminatory legislation often restricts women's land and property ownership.³¹⁵ In many developing countries, women gain access to land through their husbands, fathers, or other male relatives.³¹⁶ As a consequence, legal provisions discriminate against women with regard to land that is acquired during marriage or through inheritance.³¹⁷ Furthermore, challenges regarding the control over territory affect, above all, single, widowed, and divorced women.³¹⁸ In some cultures, single and divorced women are shunned in society, while in others, biased inheritance rights preclude widows from keeping the land they work on, bestowing it instead to their male relatives.³¹⁹ Due to such persistent legal and cultural barriers, coupled with poor access to legal aid services, women are often prevented from claiming their rights.³²⁰

Female farmers and entrepreneurs also face regular obstacles in accessing credit, which is key for the expansion of small and medium businesses.³²¹ Lower literacy rates among women, and some countries' customary laws prohibiting women from interacting with non-relative men, prevent them from acquiring vital information regarding financial services.³²² In addition, women commonly gain access to capital through their husbands.³²³ If financial programs were to consider women's specific legal and socio-economic status, allowing them direct access to funding without requiring the participation of their husbands, this would support the empowerment and independence of women.³²⁴ Microfinance programs have proven to be a powerful self-help tool for women smallholder farmers.³²⁵ Global microfinance organizations, such as the Grameen Foundation and Kenya Women Microfinance Bank, provide affordable loans and access to other financial resources to women smallholder farmers.³²⁶ Women farmers who are not land owners can also make use of savings and loans groups.³²⁷ These groups are formed by women who collect their savings in a common pool from which any of the members can take a loan, invest in their business, and repay the credit within the next few months.³²⁸

Enhancing the Resilience of Women in Emergencies

Emergencies, including conflict and political instability, as well as natural hazards, almost always aggravate food insecurity and amplify pre-existing inequalities for women, making them particularly prone to malnourishment.³²⁹ Since women, especially rural women in developing countries, have generally limited access to productive resources and information, they are even more vulnerable in times of disaster.³³⁰ Additionally, women's specific nutrient requirements, which increase when they are pregnant or lactating, account for their increased vulnerability during emergencies.³³¹ Although women's vulnerability is frequently highlighted, their contribution to supporting disaster resilience has often been overlooked, and they are rarely included in disaster response mechanisms.³³² Nevertheless,

³¹⁴ UN HRC, *Report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter: Women's rights and the right to food (A/HRC/22/50)*, 2012, p. 15.

³¹⁵ UN-Women, "Changes are on the way for women farmers" – Executive Director, 2016.

³¹⁶ UN OHCHR & UN-Women, *Realizing Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resources*, 2013, p. 22.

³¹⁷ UN WFP, *Women and Hunger: 10 Facts*, 2017.

³¹⁸ UN OHCHR & UN-Women, *Realizing Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resources*, 2013, p. 20.

³¹⁹ UN WFP, *Women and Hunger: 10 Facts*, 2017.

³²⁰ BRAC, *Flourishing Legal and Human Rights Education*, 2016; UN WFP, *P4P supporting women in their struggle for access to land*, 2013.

³²¹ UN HRC, *Report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter: Women's rights and the right to food (A/HRC/22/50)*, 2012, p. 15.

³²² Flentschner & Kenney, *Rural women's access to financial services: credit, savings and insurance*, 2011.

³²³ UN OHCHR & UN-Women, *Realizing Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resources*, 2013, p. 22.

³²⁴ Flentschner & Kenney, *Rural women's access to financial services: credit, savings and insurance*, 2011, p. 3.

³²⁵ UN WFP, *Empowering smallholders with innovative purchasing models*, 2016.

³²⁶ Grameen Foundation, *What We Do – Financial Services*; Kenya Women Microfinance Bank, *Who We Are*, 2017.

³²⁷ UN-Women, *In Benin, small savings and loans groups drive rural women's empowerment*, 2017.

³²⁸ *Ibid.*

³²⁹ UN WFP, *Disaster risk reduction*, 2017; UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy 2015–2020*, 2015, p. 7.

³³⁰ FAO, *A gender-responsive approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) planning in the agriculture sector*, 2016, pp. 2-3.

³³¹ UN WFP, *WFP Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management*, 2011, p. 11.

³³² UNISDR, *Women's Leadership in Risk-Resilient Development: Good Practices and Lessons Learned*, 2015.

evidence suggests that empowering women to tackle the threats of natural and human-induced disasters is a fundamental aspect of enhanced community resilience.³³³ Women participating in disaster response and recovery processes are able to contribute their specific perspectives, skills, and knowledge, thereby contributing to greater food security.³³⁴

With millions of people suffering from food insecurity because of crop failures, natural disasters, and conflict situations, and with South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and northeast Nigeria on the brink of famine, resilience building is more vital than ever.³³⁵ In line with the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, enhancing the participation and leadership of women in food security-related DRR and resilience building is of utmost importance.³³⁶ Women can be empowered in all stages of the process, ranging from early warning and disaster preparedness systems to emergency-related food security planning and decision-making.³³⁷ Furthermore, using cash and voucher transfers during emergencies has the potential to empower women because it enables them to control cash and exercise household decision-making on food consumption.³³⁸ By directly receiving cash or vouchers, women can decide independently about the food that needs to be purchased and they can feed their families more nutritionally, which leads to the overall improvement of the food security of families.³³⁹

In addition to empowering women during sudden natural disasters and conflicts, building women's long-term resilience to climate change and slow-onset hazards, such as land degradation and crop failures, is important for improving food security.³⁴⁰ The Rural Resilience Initiative (R4), a partnership between WFP and Oxfam America, is a comprehensive risk management approach to strengthen women's resilience to climate variability.³⁴¹ R4 helps women cope with climate change and climate risks through various risk management strategies, including the creation of small-scale saving groups, which serve as a buffer against unexpected environmental fluctuations.³⁴² It also offers crop insurance, which participants of the R4 initiative can pay for with their own labor.³⁴³ The R4 initiative, which has so far been implemented in Ethiopia, Malawi, Senegal, and Zambia, and which was piloted in Kenya and Zimbabwe, has received positive feedback from rural women, who felt empowered by the program.³⁴⁴

Conclusion

Women often carry the main responsibility for household food security and nutrition, and assume critical roles in world food production.³⁴⁵ Despite this fact, women worldwide struggle with gender-discriminatory practices, often encoded in legal provisions, which hinder their access to land, finance, and other productive resources, as well as to education and employment opportunities.³⁴⁶ Even though Member States sometimes remove discriminatory elements from laws, discriminatory views may remain embedded in social and cultural norms and practices, which are much harder to change.³⁴⁷ Consequently, in addition to adopting policies and legal provisions that promote women's empowerment, it is important to challenge the existing stereotypes about gender roles.³⁴⁸ Moreover, all policies and programs should be adapted to each specific context in order to be effective.³⁴⁹ The empowerment of women should always be at the center of food security strategies because "women are the secret weapon to fight hunger."³⁵⁰

³³³ Fowler, Empower women to reduce disaster risk, *United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

³³⁴ Thevathasan, *Building Resilience, Transforming the Future: The Role of Women in Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2015.

³³⁵ UN WFP, *108 Million People In The World Face Severe Food Insecurity – Situation Worsening*, 2017.

³³⁶ UNISDR, *Women's Leadership in Risk-Resilient Development: Good Practices and Lessons Learned*, 2015.

³³⁷ Fowler, Empower women to reduce disaster risk, *United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2017.

³³⁸ Berg et al., *Examining Protection and Gender in Cash and Voucher Transfers*, 2013.

³³⁹ Ibid.

³⁴⁰ UNISDR, *Women's Leadership in Risk-Resilient Development: Good Practices and Lessons Learned*, 2015.

³⁴¹ UN WFP, *The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative*, 2017.

³⁴² Massimino, Rural Resilience Initiative: Making A Difference To Women's Lives, *United Nations, World Food Programme*, 2015.

³⁴³ Ibid.

³⁴⁴ UN WFP, *The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative*, 2017.

³⁴⁵ UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy 2015–2020*, 2015, p. 6.

³⁴⁶ UN OHCHR & UN-Women, *Realizing Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resources*, p. 22.

³⁴⁷ Berg et al., *Examining Protection and Gender in Cash and Voucher Transfers*, 2013, p. 33.

³⁴⁸ Sida, *Gender Tool Box – Women and Food Security*, 2015, p. 3.

³⁴⁹ Cotula, *Gender and Law: Women's Rights in Agriculture*, 2007.

³⁵⁰ Howard, "Women Are The Secret Weapon To Fight Hunger", *United Nations, World Food Programme*, 2009.

Further Research

There is broad agreement that women can, to a great extent, contribute to combatting food insecurity, but only if they enjoy equal rights.³⁵¹ Bearing this in mind while conducting research, delegates should consider questions such as: What options does the international community have to persuade individual Member States to repeal their gender-discriminatory legislation? How can persistent discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes be challenged? What are the most effective current CSO initiatives on empowering women to combat food security, and what can the international community learn from them? Are existing initiatives on empowering women to combat food insecurity successful and sustainable, or are there any aspects that can still be improved? Finally, delegates should closely follow recent as well as upcoming events, in order to remain updated on how the nexus between women's empowerment and their role in combatting hunger is addressed on national, regional, and international levels.

Annotated Bibliography

African Union Commission. (2015). *Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063*. Retrieved 20 August 2017 from: https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/31358-doc-au_echo_january_2015.pdf

This edition of the African Union Commission's yearly newsletter focuses on development and the empowerment of women. The document provides valuable insights into the basic elements of gender equality, as well as the key factors influencing it. A substantial part of the newsletter is dedicated to innovative strategies for maximizing the economic empowerment of women on the African continent, in order to achieve gender parity by or before 2063, as set out in the Agenda 2063 framework. It specifically focuses on women smallholder farmers and the various challenges and opportunities for women's empowerment in Africa. Accordingly, delegates can benefit from reading this source as it provides a basic theoretical understanding of the topic, as well as numerous insights from the experience in Africa.

Asian Development Bank. (2013). *Gender equality and food security - women's empowerment as a tool against hunger*. Retrieved 16 July 2017 from: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/30315/gender-equality-and-food-security.pdf>

This report, prepared by the Asian Development Bank and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and which was written by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, explores how gender equality can contribute to food security. Although the main focus of the publication is on gender equality and women's empowerment in Asia and the Pacific, the situation in other regions is also mentioned. After elaborating on the specific challenges for gender equality in the Asia-Pacific region and presenting the "cycle of gender discrimination," the report presents a wide range of options for empowering women. Delegates should read this document to first, evaluate the work of a regional organization very active on issues related to women's empowerment, and second, to gain a better understanding of concrete projects aimed at advancing women's role in fighting hunger.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations et al. (2017). *The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World 2017* [Report]. Retrieved 12 August 2017 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-I7695e.pdf>

This report, written jointly by FAO, WFP, IFAD, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO), provides the first evaluation of the state of food security and nutrition in the world since the 2030 Agenda was adopted in 2015. The period evaluated in this year's edition also coincides with the first year of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025). The document is divided in two parts, with the first chapter focusing on the state of food security and nutrition around the world in 2017, and the second chapter highlighting the nexus between conflict, food security, and nutrition. Furthermore, the report contains useful

³⁵¹ FAO, *FAO Director-General urges countries to recognize the vital role of rural women in freeing the world from hunger and poverty*, 2017.

tables and data related to the recent trends in food insecurity and hunger, which delegates should review to assess the progress towards the global food security and nutrition targets.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (n.d.). *In Focus: International Day of Rural Women* [Website]. Retrieved 16 July 2017 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/rural-women-food-poverty>

From 15-17 October 2016, three events took place that underlined women's role in development and once again made clear that women's rights, food security, and poverty are closely interlinked: the International Day of Rural Women, World Food Day, and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This website presents successful stories of rural women and women smallholder farmers from all over the world. It is a great source that illustrates the real daily challenges that rural women face, depending on the specific regions and contexts. Through this source, delegates can also see how diverse programs and pilot projects implemented by UN-Women in cooperation with other entities can contribute to the successful implementation of the SDGs.

United Nations, Food Security Information Network. (2017). *Global Report on Food Crises 2017*. Retrieved 12 August 2017 from: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsroom/docs/20170328_Full%20Report_Global%20Report%20on%20Food%20Crises_v1.pdf

The Global Report on Food Crises 2017 is one of the most important documents for delegates to read, as it provides an overview of all current food crises. The report gathers findings from all major risk analysis and early warning systems, and provides a country-by-country analysis, focusing on major food crises in 2016. By reading this document, delegates will not only become aware of the most significant food crises in the world, but at the same time will learn about their causes. In chapter 4, the document lists main countries to watch in 2017 and thus helps delegates in conducting further research and deciding which key issues and regions to look at.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/RES/71/245)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/71/469). Retrieved 14 August 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/245>

This resolution, adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2016, discusses how to achieve sustainable agricultural development and ensure food security and nutrition for all. The preambular clauses reference important international as well as regional frameworks, initiatives, and actions taken to support rural development, food security, and nutrition. The first few paragraphs of the resolution will therefore provide delegates with a good starting point for further research. In addition, the resolution stresses the indispensable role of rural women in improving food security and enhancing agricultural development, and calls for their further empowerment. By reading this resolution, delegates can evaluate whether the proposed solutions to address the current challenges faced by women are sufficient or whether significant gaps remain.

United Nations, Human Rights Council, Twenty-second session. (2012). *Report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter: Women's rights and the right to food (A/HRC/22/50)*. Retrieved 15 July 2017 from: <http://www.undocs.org/A/HRC/22/50>

In this report, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, elaborates on the main threats to women's right to food, including insufficient social protection and women's restricted access to productive resources and employment. He offers several recommendations that Member States could follow in order to combat discrimination and achieve gender equality. These include: greater state investments in women; a redefinition of gender roles through a transformative approach to employment and social protection; the mainstreaming of gender into all laws, policies, and programs; and the monitoring of the achieved progress. This report not only provides a good overview of the challenges faced by women in access to, and control over food, but it also serves as a solid example of concrete recommendations on how to tackle and overcome these challenges. Although the report was published five years ago, many of the problems mentioned in it still persist.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2014). *P4P's Women's Empowerment Pathways: Roadblocks and Successes* [Report]. Retrieved 18 July 2017 from:

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/special_initiatives/wfp265434.pdf

This report evaluates the impact of gender mainstreaming actions adopted by WFP in its Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, aimed at the empowerment of smallholder women farmers. The analysis is centered around three inter-related themes of empowerment: social empowerment, economic empowerment, and empowerment through capacity building. After outlining the activities carried out over a five-year pilot period, the report assesses challenges encountered during implementation, followed by the presentation of achieved results and lessons learned. Although this pilot initiative has already ended, it is a highly relevant source for delegates to consider, since its outcomes indicate what challenges can be anticipated during the implementation of further gender-related projects, such as the new joint RWEI initiative.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2014). *WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014-2017)*. Retrieved 16 August 2017

from: http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp282072.pdf?_ga=2.101976518.698924296.1503035787-1199926320.1438087438

The WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy provides a comprehensive insight into WFP's vision for and approach to partnerships. It includes WFP's definition of partnerships, their approach to partner selection and maintenance, and reflections on WFP's current key partners. Building upon WFP's past achievements in working with others, the strategy addresses areas where improvements are still required to address persisting complex food and nutrition security challenges and meet WFP's strategic objectives. Delegates can use this resource as a means to understand how and with whom WFP builds partnerships and why it is better to "deliver together" than to work alone.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2015). *WFP Gender Policy 2015–2020*. Retrieved 16 July 2017 from:

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp276754.pdf?_ga=2.223267804.636066939.1500402874-1199926320.1438087438

This policy paper released in 2015 presents WFP's strategic vision on integrating aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment into its work through four concrete policy goals. First, food assistance must be adapted to the different needs of women, men, girls, and boys. Second, women and men need to be equally involved in the implementation of gender-transformative food security and nutrition programs and policies. Third, women and girls must be empowered in decision-making regarding food security and nutrition. And fourth, the safety, dignity, and integrity of women, men, girls, and boys cannot be harmed by food protection programs, and their rights must always be respected. This report shows delegates the strategic direction of WFP policies centered around women's empowerment and gender equality, and highlights not only the benefits but also the potential challenges of a gender-transformative approach.

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III. Utilizing Technology and Innovation to Combat Hunger

“Over the next 15 years, progress in science, technology and innovation will be key to delivering on all the SDGs- from poverty eradication to agriculture and food security”³⁵²

Introduction

The director of the United Nations (UN) Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) noted in May 2017 that technology and innovation are among the most powerful agents of change in addressing pressing issues such as poverty.³⁵³ Furthermore, Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 34/7 of 23 March 2017 on “The right to privacy in the digital age,” recognizes that technological development is rapidly increasing worldwide.³⁵⁴ Despite the growing technological advances available, especially those developed to increase agricultural productivity and enhance access to food, hunger remains a pressing global issue.³⁵⁵ The World Food Programme (WFP) notes that 815 million people, around one in nine, currently suffer from hunger; this represents an increase from 777 million in 2015.³⁵⁶ WFP focuses on providing assistance during short-term food emergencies as well as long-term food crises, while using technology and innovation to increase its efficiency in food distribution and provide adequate food supplies in areas with high rates of reported hunger.³⁵⁷

Natural disasters and conflicts increase the risk of hunger, characterized by chronic undernourishment over an extended period of time.³⁵⁸ Additionally, the effects of climate change and the related soil degradation and crop failures have created long-term food shortages leading to food insecurity, which is defined as people having limited access to a sufficient quantity of safe and nutritious food.³⁵⁹ These situations necessitate the ability of the affected communities to adopt risk management strategies that allow them to react and adapt to short-term or long-term food crises, and increase their resilience.³⁶⁰ One strategy used by WFP in order to build resilience and end world hunger is innovation, which is defined as new solutions to ongoing problems that are more effective than those previously employed.³⁶¹ Innovation is an essential component of the term “science, technology, and innovation” (STI) and is often highlighted within policy formulation as a key agent of development and poverty reduction.³⁶²

The use of technological innovations would allow the international community to better address current challenges in combatting hunger.³⁶³ There are several fundamental international and regional frameworks that guide the use of technology and innovation to fight hunger, employed by UN bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other entities in this regard.³⁶⁴ Technology and innovation can also contribute to combatting hunger in rural areas, which face unique challenges in meeting populations’ nutritional needs.³⁶⁵ Building on successes and proven best practices will allow entities engaged with this issue to operate with more confidence; examples from the Syrian refugee crisis illuminate successes and challenges in striving to implement technologies and innovative strategies.³⁶⁶

³⁵² UN DPI, *Benefits of Technology and innovation must be shared ‘with those who stand to gain most’ - Ban*, 2016.

³⁵³ UNCTAD, *UN highlights critical role of science, technology and innovation in achieving the SDGs*, 2017.

³⁵⁴ UN HRC, *The right to privacy in the digital age (A/HRC/RES/34/7)*, 2017, p. 2.

³⁵⁵ UN WFP, *WFP and the Zero Hunger Challenge*, 2017.

³⁵⁶ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World*, 2017.

³⁵⁷ FAO, *Utilization of food surpluses – World Food Program*, 1961, p. 1; UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security (A/RES/64/224)*, 2010, p. 5; UN General Assembly, *International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development (A/RES/66/227)*, 2011, p. 2.

³⁵⁸ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World*, 2017; UN WFP, *What is food security?*, 2017.

³⁵⁹ UNCTAD, *The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030 (UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2017/5)*, 2017; FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World*, 2017.

³⁶⁰ UNISDR, *Terminology*.

³⁶¹ UNDP, *Innovation*, 2017.

³⁶² UN ECOSOC, *Science, technology and innovation (STI) and culture for sustainable development and the MDGs*.

³⁶³ UN WFP, *WFP and the Zero Hunger Challenge*, 2017.

³⁶⁴ UN WFP, *Partner with us*, 2017.

³⁶⁵ UN WFP, *What Causes Hunger?*, 2013.

³⁶⁶ UN WFP, *Syrian Arab Republic*, 2017.

International and Regional Framework

One of the earliest mentions of technology related to humanitarian assistance, and food aid specifically, dates back to the 1960s.³⁶⁷ The *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights*, adopted on 16 December 1966, focused on the use of innovation to enhance the efficient and equitable distribution of food.³⁶⁸ The document identifies the utility of scientific and technical knowledge as a useful element in ensuring universal access to food when applied to nutrition and agricultural strategies.³⁶⁹ As STI initiatives advanced, the General Assembly recognized the importance of technology and research in increasing agricultural efficiency and combatting hunger in resolution 64/224 of 21 December 2009 on the topic of “Agriculture development and food security.”³⁷⁰ This was reinforced by General Assembly resolution 64/135 of 2009, an outcome document of the World Summit for Social Development, which emphasized the need to prioritize these efforts in rural areas where hunger is often higher.³⁷¹ The Third International Conference on Financing for Development of 2015 worked towards the implementation of such priorities.³⁷² The outcome document of the conference, the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (2015), establishes a clear intent of the international community to prioritize nutrition and agriculture in current development efforts.³⁷³ Furthermore, it stresses the importance of technology in supporting nutrition and food availability, and emphasizes the need for including STI initiatives in policies related to development and hunger eradication.³⁷⁴ The agenda calls for more efforts to implement technological advances that promote sustainable development, and highlights the indispensable role that financial institutions play in funding the dissemination of vital technologies.³⁷⁵

The UN has often acknowledged the relationship between hunger and human rights.³⁷⁶ In 1974, during an extensive worldwide food crisis in several regions across Asia and Africa, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) held the first World Food Conference.³⁷⁷ The outcome document of this conference, the *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition* (1974), emphasizes that malnutrition constitutes, and contributes to, the hindrance of basic human rights, setting a precedent for the UN to prioritize hunger eradication.³⁷⁸ The declaration stated that the goal of eradicating hunger was possible with the technology and innovative strategies that had been developed to that point, however, lack of resources prevented full implementation of these approaches.³⁷⁹ In a similar vein, HRC has also repeatedly addressed “the right to food,” for example in resolution 34/12 of 2017.³⁸⁰ The committee recognizes the importance of increasing food production and investing in development, in particular development related to technology that will increase the resilience of food insecure communities, and protect the most vulnerable populations from hunger.³⁸¹

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), included in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted in 2015, set a global agenda for action aimed at post-2015 development.³⁸² SDG 2 focuses on completely eradicating hunger through improved food security, nutrition, and agriculture.³⁸³ Several targets of SDG 2 can be accomplished with the use of technology and innovation, such as improving productivity, increasing access to markets, and implementing resilient agricultural practices.³⁸⁴ Other goals incorporate the importance of technology in capacity

³⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966.

³⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁷⁰ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security (A/RES/64/224)*, 2010, p. 5.

³⁷¹ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/RES/64/135)*, 2009, p. 7.

³⁷² UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015.

³⁷³ *Ibid.*

³⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁷⁶ UN HRC, *The right to food*, 2017.

³⁷⁷ UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition*, 1974.

³⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁸⁰ UN HRC, *The right to food*, 2017.

³⁸¹ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

³⁸² UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 15.

³⁸³ *Ibid.*

³⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

building, which can also support local food production systems, including SDG 9 on building resilient infrastructure through innovation strategies.³⁸⁵ Likewise, SDG 17, focused on strengthening global partnerships, also suggests the increase of STI capacity at regional and international levels, including the use of technology to increase food supply in local areas.³⁸⁶ By incorporating new technology and finding innovative strategies that can improve upon the work of the body, WFP can contribute to reaching these SDG targets.³⁸⁷

WFP adopted the *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)* in 2016 in order to measure the progress of its initiatives and prioritize its goals.³⁸⁸ This plan has two strategic goals with five strategic objectives to focus the work of WFP, and accomplish the purpose set out in its mandate: providing food assistance in short-term emergency situations as well as long-term food crises.³⁸⁹ One approach to reaching these goals is the spread of technology and knowledge, which is highlighted as an important element of building capacity to combat hunger and achieve food security.³⁹⁰ The plan mentions the assistance technology that has been provided thus far, such as food security assessments, mapping, and cash-based transfers (CBT).³⁹¹ The document also recommends an increase in global partnerships in order to support developing countries combat hunger by further increasing the availability of technology.³⁹²

Role of the International System

WFP devotes almost 80% of its resources to emergency situations, currently supporting 11 major emergencies with food assistance.³⁹³ The body has made emergency response a priority since its creation.³⁹⁴ WFP regularly encounters great obstacles during emergency situations, such as challenges in delivering and distributing food due to fallen rubble, flooded streets, or armed forces that block food assistance efforts.³⁹⁵ This has led WFP to adopting more innovative delivery techniques such as Operation Lifeline Sudan, which included an airdrop of over 1.5 million tons of food.³⁹⁶ WFP has also promoted long-term food security through building resilience of local communities and encouraging sustainable food practices.³⁹⁷ The innovative project “Farm from a Box” has created farms from shipping containers, supported with renewable energy and technological enhancements, including micro-drip irrigation and communication technology.³⁹⁸ Such projects allow communities in food insecure areas to earn income from the food they grow, while increasing food availability for vulnerable populations.³⁹⁹ Another impactful project of WFP has been the Share the Meal mobile application.⁴⁰⁰ This is a globally available application that allows users to feed a child for a day by donating fifty cents at the press of a button, which has thus far provided 15 million meals.⁴⁰¹ This application is part of a new initiative WFP has established called the Innovation Accelerator.⁴⁰² The accelerator, which is based in Munich, Germany, supports entrepreneurs and innovative thinkers by funding projects that work to combat hunger.⁴⁰³ The initiative also provides the participating entrepreneurs with contact with nutrition experts and WFP networks, as well as with access to WFP projects where they can implement their ideas and test

³⁸⁵ Ibid.p. 20.

³⁸⁶ Ibid., p. 26.

³⁸⁷ Ibid., pp. 15-26.

³⁸⁸ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2016.

³⁸⁹ UN FAO, *Utilization of food surpluses – World Food Program*, 1961, p. 1; UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2016, p. 2.

³⁹⁰ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2016, p. 24.

³⁹¹ Ibid., pp. 9, 18, 24.

³⁹² Ibid., p. 24.

³⁹³ UN WFP, *Emergency preparedness and response*, 2017.

³⁹⁴ UN WFP, *History*, 2017.

³⁹⁵ Ibid.

³⁹⁶ Ibid.

³⁹⁷ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2016.

³⁹⁸ UN WFP, *Farm from a Box*, 2017.

³⁹⁹ Ibid.; UN WFP, *Hydro Sahrawi - Algeria*, 2017.

⁴⁰⁰ UN WFP, *Share the Meal: About Us*.

⁴⁰¹ Ibid.

⁴⁰² UN WFP, *Innovation for #zerohunger*, 2017.

⁴⁰³ Ibid.

how well their projects address hunger.⁴⁰⁴ Thus far, this program has helped over 144,000 people through 25 different projects aimed at combatting hunger and increasing food security.⁴⁰⁵

WFP reports to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which has also recognized the efficacy of STI in increasing agricultural productivity, such as in its resolution 2011/17 on “Science and Technology for Development” adopted on 26 July 2011.⁴⁰⁶ The latest ECOSOC *Annual Performance Report of the WFP for 2016 (2017)* listed the innovative technological strategies WFP had implemented within the past year.⁴⁰⁷ Against this background, the report recommends that WFP use technology and innovative strategies to improve its activities in combatting hunger.⁴⁰⁸ The recommendations include strengthening food educational systems, improving and developing infrastructure, and implementing better sustainable practices to support food security measures.⁴⁰⁹

WFP often works with the other two Rome-based agencies (RBA), FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in order to achieve the common goal of fighting global hunger.⁴¹⁰ FAO has continually worked with WFP on reporting on malnutrition of young children and advocating for an increase in available agricultural technology to improve local food supply and combat hunger.⁴¹¹ WFP also relies on its partnerships with other UN entities, such as the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to carry out joint food assistance projects addressing emergency preparedness and hunger in refugee camps.⁴¹² WFP also collaborates closely with NGOs and local governments to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of its work.⁴¹³

Regional organizations have also utilized technological advances in order to combat hunger; as an example, in 2014, the African Union (AU) adopted the *Science Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024*.⁴¹⁴ The document recognizes the usefulness of STI in promoting food security by extending the availability of water, energy, and other resources, which could in turn increase the amount of food in regions experiencing chronic undernourishment.⁴¹⁵ The AU further recognizes the need to enhance investment funding for its STI initiatives in order to fully implement planned projects.⁴¹⁶ Lastly, civil society plays a significant role in the funding, development, and application of agricultural technologies.⁴¹⁷ The Bill and Melinda Gates foundation developed WeFarm, a social network mobile application that allows farmers to submit questions about specific crops or farming techniques and receive crowd-sourced answers from other farmers.⁴¹⁸ The application has been utilized by over 120,000 farmers thus far.⁴¹⁹ Several case studies have exhibited how the application helped individuals on their farms, leading to higher productivity and higher income, as well as greater food security for involved communities.⁴²⁰ Additionally, private sector projects, such as the Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative, work to develop and test agricultural technology, including rainwater harvesting equipment and mobile technologies, to help small-scale farmers in rural areas achieve greater yields.⁴²¹

⁴⁰⁴ UN WFP, *Innovation for #zerohunger*, 2017.

⁴⁰⁵ UN WFP, *2016: A Year in Review – The WFP Innovation Accelerator*, 2017.

⁴⁰⁶ UN ECOSOC, *Science and technology for development (E/RES/2011/17)*, 2011, p. 2.

⁴⁰⁷ UN ECOSOC, *Annual performance report of the WFP for 2016*, 2017.

⁴⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴¹⁰ UN WFP, *UN agencies and international institutions*, 2017.

⁴¹¹ *New FAO Report Reveals Serious Malnutrition Concerns in North Korea*, Asian Scientist Magazine, 2011.

⁴¹² UN WFP, *Partner with us*, 2017.

⁴¹³ *Ibid.*

⁴¹⁴ African Union Commission, *Science Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024*, 2014.

⁴¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

⁴¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

⁴¹⁷ FAO, *Civil Society*.

⁴¹⁸ Senthilingam, *The Tech Solutions to End Global Hunger*, CNN, 2017.

⁴¹⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴²⁰ WeFarm, *Case Studies*, 2017.

⁴²¹ Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative, *Mission: About*.

Increasing Efficiency in Emergency Preparedness and Response

Ensuring food security for vulnerable populations is a pillar of the first strategic objective in the *WFP Strategic Plan 2017-2021*.⁴²² Conflict, post-conflict, and disaster situations often leave many people suffering from hunger and with a lack of basic resources.⁴²³ In 2015, WFP directly assisted over 50 million people in emergency situations to get the food and supplies they needed.⁴²⁴ In an emergency, it is often difficult to determine the priority areas of delivery due to instability in the region and challenges in gathering data on the most vulnerable populations.⁴²⁵ Taking surveys by hand can take weeks, wasting valuable time that could be used to help those facing hunger.⁴²⁶ The need for faster data collection systems led to the creation of the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) system, which WFP uses to collect data and locate the areas in an emergency that require the greatest amount of assistance.⁴²⁷ The use of VAM has lowered the response time of WFP teams and increased the efficiency of food aid reaching those most in need.⁴²⁸ Emergency technology, however, faces several obstacles, such as volatile weather that blocks mapping technology, and a lack of Internet connectivity in emergency areas.⁴²⁹ WFP has used drone technology to improve their data collection and field mapping, however, this has raised concerns owing to the usual association of drones with military activities.⁴³⁰ Considering that drones do not have easily recognizable external identification, drones within an area could be associated with local security forces or foreign actors, which could make the local population and government concerned, leading to restrictions on further drone usage.⁴³¹ Even though WFP uses this technology for peaceful purposes, the lack of a regulatory framework to oversee drone technology has prevented its full implementation.⁴³²

WFP provides most of its emergency support to areas affected by natural disasters or conflicts, both of which can significantly weaken infrastructure, impede communications, and prevent access to certain regions.⁴³³ Given that constructing work spaces or delivering items in such areas is often difficult, WFP has worked to provide innovative strategies to adapt to any environment.⁴³⁴ The Box in a Box project from the Innovation Accelerator involves a delivery system that works to save loading and unloading time through efficient nesting storage containers.⁴³⁵ While this project is still in development, it promises to cut down delivery and unloading time by 20% and decrease the costs of emergency supply packaging.⁴³⁶ Even with such innovations, many people in emergency areas continue to suffer from low food availability due to funding shortages or a complete lack of assistance in besieged areas.⁴³⁷ Cost-effective projects such as Box in a Box work to overcome such obstacles, however, increased financial aid and unimpeded humanitarian access are essential to continuing the delivery of food assistance in critical areas.⁴³⁸

Combatting Hunger in Rural Areas Using Technology and Innovation

In the work of WFP, rural areas are considered extremely important, considering many developing countries rely on the agricultural output from small, isolated farms to provide food to other regions.⁴³⁹ However, there is still a gap in the amount of food that rural farms in developing countries are able to produce, as some of these regions have an

⁴²² UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2016.

⁴²³ UN WFP, *Emergency preparedness and response*, 2017.

⁴²⁴ Ibid.

⁴²⁵ UN WFP, *Using Technology to Leave No One Behind*, 2017.

⁴²⁶ Ibid.

⁴²⁷ Ibid.

⁴²⁸ Ibid.

⁴²⁹ Coyle & Meier, *New Technologies in Emergencies and Conflicts: the Role of Information and Social Networks*, p. 37.

⁴³⁰ Ibid.

⁴³¹ Ibid.

⁴³² Ibid.

⁴³³ UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2016.

⁴³⁴ UN WFP, *Box in a Box*, 2017.

⁴³⁵ Ibid.

⁴³⁶ Ibid.

⁴³⁷ *How Does World Food Programme Face Major Emergencies?*, Borgen Magazine, 2014.

⁴³⁸ UN WFP, *Logistics and delivery networks*, 2017; Food Assistance Committee, *Food Assistance Committee Members Respond to Famine Threat in Four Countries*, 2017.

⁴³⁹ Senthilingam, *The Tech Solutions to End Global Hunger*, CNN, 2017.

agricultural productivity level as low as one fifth of the production of more developed states.⁴⁴⁰ Natural disasters, drought, crop failure, and desertification are just a few of the setbacks faced by farmers in rural areas, which increase their susceptibility to food insecurity and subsequently, hunger.⁴⁴¹ WFP has therefore used technology and other innovative strategies to enhance food productivity in rural areas, which would increase local food supply and help farmers earn a stable income.⁴⁴² The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative from WFP helps farmers practice risk management to combat weather-related risks through strategies including payouts for farmers facing sudden climate shocks and an innovative crop insurance program.⁴⁴³ The initiative has so far reached over 43,000 farmers in rural areas by utilizing advanced technology, including irrigation systems powered by solar energy that can counteract drought.⁴⁴⁴ These programs have helped farmers during sudden shocks, however, those in prolonged crises face greater difficulty in rebuilding their farms after periods of instability or in long-term climate and weather disasters.⁴⁴⁵ NGOs, including the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, use biotechnology that strengthens certain crops' response to environmental and climate difficulties in an attempt to increase farmers' resilience during long-term climate crises.⁴⁴⁶ While this is effective, such initiatives have a limited reach due to lack of funding.⁴⁴⁷

Financing is a considerable blockage to providing proper food aid and increasing the availability of agricultural technology for rural farmers to enhance their food production and, in turn, the food security of their communities.⁴⁴⁸ One solution is micro-financing: monetary services such as loans for small businesses or individuals who are generally unable to access funds through conventional banks.⁴⁴⁹ Such loans allow these individuals to expand their farms and invest in technology that can increase their agricultural output.⁴⁵⁰ The strategy of micro-financing has assisted many farmers in countries such as Bangladesh and China to implement new farming technologies, including micro-drip irrigation, thereby increasing productivity; this not only enhances food security but also often lifts these individuals out of poverty.⁴⁵¹ Even after receiving funding and increasing productivity, rural farmers are often forced to sell their crops at unfair prices in international markets, leading to lower incomes and the inability to purchase other food.⁴⁵² Online merchant technology has worked to combat this by ensuring that farmers are given fair access to agricultural markets and can sell their food at fair prices.⁴⁵³ However, some farmers still do not have access to such technology due to lack of funding and sufficient telecommunications infrastructure.⁴⁵⁴ Lack of access to national markets prevents farmers from gaining fair profits and achieving greater economic stability, which further exacerbates the risk of hunger among these populations.⁴⁵⁵

Case Study: The Food Emergency Surrounding the Syrian Crisis

The Syrian conflict has led to a major food crisis for refugees as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a result of an extreme deficiency in food production and soaring food prices.⁴⁵⁶ Several towns and entire provinces in Syria have been sieged, preventing emergency aid from entering the area.⁴⁵⁷ In areas surrounded by hostile actors, planes delivering food aid are at risk of being shot.⁴⁵⁸ This has led WFP to the implementation of innovative delivery techniques such as high-altitude airdrops, a strategy that WFP describes as unprecedented.⁴⁵⁹ In areas reachable to

⁴⁴⁰ Senthilingam, The Tech Solutions to End Global Hunger, *CNN*, 2017.

⁴⁴¹ UN WFP, *The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative*, 2017; UN WFP, *What Causes Hunger?*, 2013.

⁴⁴² UN WFP, *Farmers in Liberia are transforming their communities to reach zero hunger*, 2016.

⁴⁴³ UN WFP, *The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative*, 2017.

⁴⁴⁴ *Ibid.*; Ekekwe, How Digital Technology is Changing Farming in Africa, *Harvard Business Review*, 2017.

⁴⁴⁵ UN WFP, *The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative*, 2017.

⁴⁴⁶ African Agricultural Technology Foundation, *About Us*, 2017.

⁴⁴⁷ African Agricultural Technology Foundation, *Our Investors*, 2017.

⁴⁴⁸ UN WFP, *Funding and donors*.

⁴⁴⁹ Kiva, *What is microfinance*, 2017.

⁴⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵¹ Njiraini, Microfinance: Good for the poor?, *UN Africa Renewal*, 2015.

⁴⁵² UN WFP, *What Causes Hunger?*, 2013.

⁴⁵³ Ekekwe, How Digital Technology is Changing Farming in Africa, *Harvard Business Review*, 2017.

⁴⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵⁵ UN WFP, *What Causes Hunger?*, 2013.

⁴⁵⁶ UN WFP, *Syrian Arab Republic*, 2017.

⁴⁵⁷ UN WFP, *Syria at six years – Responding to an unprecedented crisis*, 2017.

⁴⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

WFP, hunger among infants, along with other vulnerable populations, has been a great concern.⁴⁶⁰ One strategy to address this is the utilization of mapping technology and online databases in order to collect data on which areas are the most vulnerable, thereby allowing WFP to provide life-saving food assistance where it is needed most.⁴⁶¹ Finding strategies to expand the use of mapping to previously inaccessible areas is essential to providing aid to the nearly nine million people in the region who require food assistance.⁴⁶²

Nearly five million people who have fled and reside in refugee camps in neighboring countries, including Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, and Iraq, have also benefited from WFP aid.⁴⁶³ Multiple technological innovations have been developed to increase the food security of refugees, by allowing them to grow their own food or gain new skills to find decent work in order to purchase food.⁴⁶⁴ Computer controlled agricultural chambers use robotics to control the climate in these agricultural chambers, and grow food in regions with no arable land.⁴⁶⁵ The Tech for Food project from the WFP Innovation Accelerator aids refugees by hosting workshops on technological skills to empower them to find work in the new regions in which they reside.⁴⁶⁶ Finding jobs can assist these individuals in attaining a stable income and providing food for their families.⁴⁶⁷ In addition, multiple technological developments have worked to support the food purchasing systems of refugees.⁴⁶⁸ A payment system used at a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan uses an eye scan rather than any physical card or cash in order to lower theft and increase the efficiency of cash and in-kind food aid.⁴⁶⁹ All of these innovative strategies are currently implemented in very few refugee camps and could be expanded to maximize the reach of the WFP's aid to Syrian refugees.⁴⁷⁰ However, challenges in funding such expensive technologies and the time needed to train local populations in how to use these systems can slow down the implementation of these systems.⁴⁷¹

Conclusion

Innovation has always been a key factor in WFP's strategies, however, the changing nature of technology is constantly redefining the best means of implementing these strategies.⁴⁷² WFP balances its priorities and goals in providing ample short-term food assistance during emergencies while also building the capacity of regions to provide long-term solutions to combat hunger.⁴⁷³ WFP has utilized technology in emergency crises to increase the efficiency and reach of its work.⁴⁷⁴ Despite these efforts, there are still many populations that food aid does not reach owing to geographical difficulties, weather blockages, and lack of a stable Internet connection or communications infrastructure, among other challenges.⁴⁷⁵ Those in rural areas face unique obstacles to combatting hunger, including limited access to markets as well as crop failures due to poor weather conditions, leading to lower local food supply, lower profits for farmers, and an increasing incidence of hunger.⁴⁷⁶ Technology has proven its ability to assist WFP response teams in delivering food aid as well as empowering rural farmers and increasing local food supply.⁴⁷⁷ It is imperative to continue efforts to make food aid technology self-sustaining, resilient, and low in cost, in order to provide those in need with the best possible assistance and to combat hunger where it is most prevalent.⁴⁷⁸

⁴⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁴⁶¹ Ibid.

⁴⁶² UN WFP, *Syrian Arab Republic*, 2017.

⁴⁶³ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁴ UN WFP, *Food Computers*, 2017.

⁴⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁶ UN WFP, *Tech for Food*, 2017.

⁴⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁸ UN WFP, *WFP Introduces Iris Scan Technology To Provide Food Assistance To Syrian Refugees In Zaatari*, 2016.

⁴⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁷⁰ UN WFP, *Food Computers*, 2017.

⁴⁷¹ UN WFP, *WFP Introduces Iris Scan Technology To Provide Food Assistance To Syrian Refugees In Zaatari*, 2016.

⁴⁷² UNCTAD, *The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030 (UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2017/5)*, 2017.

⁴⁷³ FAO, *Utilization of food surpluses – World Food Program*, 1961, p. 1.

⁴⁷⁴ UN WFP, *Emergency preparedness and response*, 2017.

⁴⁷⁵ Coyle & Meier, *New Technologies in Emergencies and Conflicts: the Role of Information and Social Networks*, p. 37.

⁴⁷⁶ UN WFP, *Tech for Food*, 2017.

⁴⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁷⁸ UN WFP, *Innovation*.

Further Research

Some important aspects of the topic for delegates to keep in mind during research include: How can WFP work to increase aid in a sustainable way in regions that have volatile weather or lack Internet connectivity? How can WFP increase access to food technologies despite the lack of funding for technological initiatives? How can WFP foster innovative ideas that provide greater resilience and promote food productivity in rural farms? What technologies or innovative strategies can WFP develop to further assist those in emergency situations such as the one in Syria? Are there any unexplored technological strategies for reaching those in rural areas or conflict zones with closed borders?

Annotated Bibliography

African Union Commission. (2014). *Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024*. Retrieved 20 August 2017 from: https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/29957-doc-stisa-published_book.pdf

The African Union (AU) wrote this report to explore STI strategies that AU Member States can utilize to promote development and combat hunger. It recognizes the current difficulties in addressing food availability within the continent and looks to adopt strategies that will improve lives through greater food production, wealth creation, and infrastructure development that increases food security. The source identifies key areas of STI that can directly combat hunger, such as biotechnology innovation that increases crop resilience, and agricultural technologies that help farms output higher production. Delegates can use this as a good example of a regional initiative and consider ways the UN can work with regional organizations to combat hunger.

Coyle, D. & P. Meier. (2009). *New Technologies in Emergencies and Conflicts: The Role of Information and Social Networks*. United Nations Foundation. Retrieved 27 August 2017 from: http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions-files.org/pdf/UNF_tech/emergency_tech_report2009/Tech_EmergencyTechReport_full.pdf

This report written for the UN Foundation acknowledges the importance of technology in emergency situations, and provides mechanisms to implement life-saving technology. The report conducts a unique analysis of the dangers of inaccurate or untrustworthy information, and the effects it can have on emergency situations. While it is not a food aid-based document, the report includes several WFP initiatives and recognizes the need for humanitarian aid in emergency situations, also discussing the difficulties WFP and other involved organizations have faced in providing aid in emergency areas. Delegates should read this source to better understand the role of food technology in emergency situations and use the challenges mentioned as a guide for areas to improve upon.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2017). *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* [Report]. Retrieved 18 October 2017 from: <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>

FAO wrote this report along with other UN bodies, including WFP, to address recent trends in food security and malnutrition. The document provides informative statistics on the worsening issues of hunger in different regions, including sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia. The report highlights the issue of hunger in conflict-ridden areas, and focuses on regions that require conflict-sensitive actions in regards to humanitarian assistance. The report mentions diverse challenges in providing sufficient access to food, and presents numerous effects of chronic malnourishment on affected populations. While this document does not directly address the use of technology, it can be used by delegates to understand the challenges in addressing hunger and determine technologies or innovative strategies that could address such challenges.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2017). *The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030 (UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2017/5)* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2017 from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/dtlstict2017d5_en.pdf

This report from UNCTAD provides an extensive explanation of the issues surrounding hunger from a technical and legal standpoint. It describes several ways in which STI is used to drive progress, including increasing agricultural productivity, reacting to emergency situations, and aiding in nutrition. The report contains policy advice and elaborates on the challenges faced in implementing STI initiatives. It uses statistics and figures to illustrate the extent of the hunger problem and provides data to analyze the strategies and regions that have been most successful in combatting hunger. Delegates can use this report to gain a good understanding of the initiatives

and challenges faced by WFP when attempting to carry out STI initiatives, both in legal practices and implementation.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2011). *Science and technology for development (E/RES/2011/17)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 August 2017 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2011/res%202011_17.pdf

This ECOSOC resolution outlines the major areas that could benefit from the implementation of technology and innovation in order to eradicate hunger and improve agriculture-related development. Some areas highlighted in the resolution include information and communications technology, research, telecommunications, and STI that encourages sustainability in agricultural practices. The resolution makes recommendations for agricultural output, highlights the importance of online education for farmers, and presents investment opportunities. The source is directed towards national governments and other UN entities that could guide the work of WFP in this regard. Delegates should read this resolution in order to understand the priorities and suggestions from ECOSOC on this topic and to focus their further research.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Annual Performance Report of the World Food Programme for 2016 (E/2017/14)*. Retrieved 19 July 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/en/E/2017/14>

This performance report provides a good understanding of how the WFP Strategic Plan will be implemented and the solutions the committee may introduce to reach the set goals. Along with mentioning the successful programs implemented by WFP, the report acknowledges areas in which the Strategic Plan could be more effective, including building capacity to help farmers manage climate shocks and reduce under-nutrition. The report concludes that innovation is best accomplished by analyzing past successes and failures, and decides to continue to establish new, innovative strategies and technologies to help achieve the goals set out for the committee in the following year. Delegates are encouraged to read this report and reflect on the strategies used by WFP to maximize the body's effectiveness.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2015). *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 25 August 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/313>

This outcome document, adopted by consensus, covers a wide range of topics including the importance of STI in agriculture and sustainable development, as well as funding sources used to increase the availability of technology. The document also covers the importance of resilient infrastructure and environmental sustainability, a common theme in technological development among UN bodies and non-UN actors alike. Within this document, delegates can find a solid legal framework for STI in sustainable development, and understand the important role that financing plays in those endeavors.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/RES/71/245)* [Resolution]. Adopted on report of the Second Committee (A/71/469). Retrieved 22 August 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/245>

In this resolution, the General Assembly outlines the different innovative strategies often employed by the UN in order to increase food security. The importance of technology in advancing food productivity is stressed several times throughout the document. Delegates can use this resolution as a good starting point to learn about the system-wide actions the UN is taking to combat hunger, before delving deeper into the actions of individual UN bodies and other actors. The preambular clauses of this resolution also provide a good starting point for delegates to read about the previous actions taken on the issue; they can use the documents in those clauses as references for further research.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2016). *WFP Strategic Plan 2017-2021*. Retrieved 19 July 2017 from: http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp286743.pdf?_ga=2.151268603.374733493.1500390020-845026826.1497229617

WFP sets out a new plan of action for the committee every four years, agreeing on new and innovative strategies in order to address the enduring issue of hunger. The current Strategic Plan supports the implementation of several international initiatives such as the Zero Hunger initiative instituted by the Secretary-General. The report consistently discusses the vision and goals of WFP



in looking towards the fulfilment of the strategic objectives. Of particular relevance for this topic is strategic objective five, which promotes the spread of technology. Delegates can use this document to learn about the objectives WFP is looking towards in its future actions, and to think of the strategies each Member State could consider for their work in committee.

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2017). *Innovation for #zerohunger* [Website]. Retrieved 19 July 2017 from: <http://innovation.wfp.org/>

This website contains all of the projects accomplished by the WFP Innovation Accelerator, an initiative established by WFP to work in partnership with entrepreneurs and innovative thinkers to develop better technologies to combat hunger. It contains a hub for all of the projects WFP is currently working on, including information on how far each project has been developed. For example, it features a one-year-old project based in Munich, Germany, which has focused on techniques that will increase the capacity of local farmers to multiply their agricultural output. The website is a good resource for delegates to consider currently developing technological advances within the Innovation Accelerator, and to ascertain which projects have been most successful. Consequently, delegates can frame future committee initiatives with these previous ideas in mind.

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