14-18 April 2019

Documentation of the Work of the World Food Programme

Conference B
World Food Programme

Committee Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Lindsey Velde</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Jessica Villegas</td>
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Agenda

I. Improving Emergency Response Capacities to Safeguard Food Security
II. Improving Frameworks for the Supply of Food Aid
III. Responding to Food Insecurity in Syria

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>WFP/1/1</td>
<td>Improving Emergency Response Capacities to Safeguard Food Security</td>
<td>25 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 0 abstentions</td>
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<tr>
<td>WFP/3/1</td>
<td>Responding to Food Insecurity in Syria</td>
<td>Adopted without a vote</td>
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Summary Report for the World Food Programme

The World Food Programme held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

I. Improving Emergency Response Capacities to Safeguard Food Security
II. Responding to Food Insecurity in Syria
III. Improving Frameworks for the Supply of Food Aid

The session was attended by representatives of 25 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Improving Emergency Response Capacities to Safeguard Food Security.” By Monday evening, the Dais received a total of 2 proposals which later merged covering a wide range of sub-topics: community training and education, innovation of technology in rural areas and agricultural sectors, and micro-financing programs.

On Tuesday, 1 draft resolution had been approved by the Dais. The resolution was adopted with unanimous support by the body. The resolution commits to working with global civil society to improve agricultural resilience. On Tuesday evening, the Dias received a total of 3 proposals on the topic of “Responding to Food Insecurity in Syria” strengthening emergency programs together with NGOs.

On Wednesday, 1 draft resolution had been approved by the Dais, which was adopted by unanimous support. The resolution represented a wide range of issues, including emergency response, agricultural resilience and the protection of vulnerable people. Overall, the committee was very productive and passionate about the work produced by the body.
The World Food Programme,

Deeply appreciative of Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which establishes health and well-being as a fundamental right to every individual,

Keeping in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically Sustainable Development Goal 2, which seeks to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030,

Firmly convinced that cooperation of the entire global community is essential to combat the issue of food insecurity in times of emergency,

Recognizing that many areas affected by food insecurity are not under full control of national governments, which makes populations difficult to reach as well as to develop long term food assistance projects in,

Acknowledges the inter-agency collaboration of the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization in combating food insecurity and providing food assistance,

Alarmed by the challenges faced specifically by vulnerable populations, including stateless populations, internally displaced people, impoverished populations, youth, and women, in terms of food security,

Cognizant of General Assembly Resolution 72/215 on “Agricultural Technology for Sustainable Development” promoting agricultural technology for sustainable development, which has the potential to increase food security,

Seriously concerned with the adverse effects of climate change on food production in light of the push to transform WFP from food aid to food assistance,

Noting with appreciation the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development elaborated by the United Nation Conference on Trade and Development in 2015 and the Principles for Responsible Investment initiative in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, Finance Initiative and the UN Global Compact that promote policies to guide responsible investments,

Recognizing the WFP initiative Purchase and Progress Programme which encourages national governments and the private sector to buy food in ways that will benefit smallholder farmers,

Regretting the lack of micro-finance, sustainable development, and agricultural education across particularly susceptible populations,

Deploring WFP’s financial deficit of more than 3 billion over the last two years and deeply conscious of the need to develop alternative means of funding in order to improve the efficiency of the food supply framework,

Alarmed by the lack of updated corporate policies and guidelines on asset management as stated in the WFP Internal Audit Report (AR/18/12) of November 2018 by the Office of the Inspector General,
Acknowledging WFP’s transition from food aid toward food assistance, especially through cash-based transfer initiatives,

Recalling the Doha Round of Trade Talks, a multilateral trade agreement between members of the World Trade Organization, which proposes to reduce subsidies in the efforts that the agreement’s purpose was to boost the economic growth of developing Member States,

1. **Recommends** building local and national capacities and resilience with a clear, efficient strategy to deliver food aid during emergencies:
   a. Member States identifying key individuals and organizations at a local and regional level, with whom WFP can collaborate in order to reach remote areas and guarantee access to food assistance;
   b. Member States creating an investment council for rural areas lead by the relevant ministries to help small and medium businesses in these areas grow;
   c. Member States creating a promotion agency to attract foreign investments for rural regions inspired by the Hungarian Investment Agency;
   d. Creating a national conference in order to connect local actors with investors in order to further promote growth and food production;
   e. Encouraging public and private partnerships in rural regions through either tax incentives and by connecting actors through the conference;

2. **Suggests** that funding for these capacities to be drawn from the Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ Country Based Pooled Funds, as these endeavors are generally local and regional to each Member State;

3. **Encourages** the integration of advanced information and technologies in aiding food insecure zones to respond to extreme weather by:
   a. The implementation of early warning systems that monitor indicators of food insecurity crises, due to threats such as incoming weather disturbances, through the employment of seismographs, hurricane tracking, crop monitoring, and drought monitoring;
   b. Increasing use of satellite technology by:
      i. Creating regional links between Member States with advanced space exploration programs, and promoting their ability to map and survey for global use;
      ii. Encouraging the use of satellite imagery in order to monitor the implementation of new technologies;
   c. Mapping patterns of extreme weather to better recommend methods of improving harvest yield considering unexpected weather;

4. **Reaffirms** that multilateral and multisectoral cooperation shall remain a fundamental component of the international community effective upstream response, and further expand the cluster-approach through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which will avoid project overlaps between different UN organs;

5. **Draws attention** to the Doha Round of Trade Talks in order to:
   a. Encourage trade between all Member States including Least Developed;
b. Avoid giving subsidies only to Developed Member States;

6. *Recommends* further utilizing the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, which allows remote areas to be reached quickly in case of food emergency;

7. *Promotes* the continuation and expansion of food assistance in the form of cash-based transfer (CBT) programs in emergency situations, through:
   a. Increasing support for SCOPE identification card initiatives by doing preliminary research on scope analysis;
   b. Expanding the Building Blocks pilot program in Pakistan and Jordan to promote the use of blockchain technology in CBTs;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the establishment of training programs to set up Rapid Response Expert Team among local actors of disaster-prone regions, with a specific emphasis on aiding vulnerable populations, which would train local populations to become experts that:
   a. Would apply to the FAO guidelines in food crisis and natural disaster planning;
   b. Will then take these skills to assist their respective regions with disaster planning and preparations, as well as enacting these plans when disaster strikes;
   c. Will save monetary funds and other valuable resources, such as, time, by ensuring all local communities have assistants on the ground that are prepared to act before a disaster occurs;

9. *Encourages* Member States to implement a similar framework such as the Purchase for Progress Programme and the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative which focus on improving the resilience on farmers through climate disasters and instability, including:
   a. The education of farmers on sustainable methods of fertilization, pesticides, and irrigation, coupled with, training in post-harvest handling, equipment and storage facilities, and methods of resisting climate change;
   b. Promoting biodiversity to maintain native crops, improve crop quality, and to ensure that micronutrient deficiencies can be avoided;
   c. Addressing gender equality which plays a huge role in reducing hunger and mitigating food crisis by encouraging women to take part in decision-making and benefit economically;
   d. Introducing farmers from neighboring Member States to share methods of sustainable agriculture;
   e. Improving methods of food storage, so perishable food will not be wasted due to inadequate preservation;

10. *Considers* the multi-year buying contracts between farmers and governmental buy-back programs in order to establish minimum market-based prices in advance and ultimately allow small holder families to plan beyond the farm gate by:
   a. Ensuring that farmers can confidently plan, grow, store and sell their crops and maximize their productivity, profitability and resilience over the long term;
   b. Building confidence of agri-market players in doing business with smallholders;
   c. Micro-financing primarily by public-private companies to farmers in time of crises;
11. **Recommends** the establishment of a team of experts from the private sector, financial sector and environmental sector suggested and voted by Member States responsible for creating WFP’s own version of the Responsible Investment Guidelines that would look into:

   a. The development of an investment policy that promotes:
      
      i. Investments in private or national responsible existing funds;
      
      ii. Investments in funds that remain easy to liquidate in order to be injected into WFP emergency response activities;

   b. The creation of WFP’s own green funds that invest into private sectors taking into consideration:
      
      i. The carbon footprint produced by the industries in which money from the fund is invested to ensure that the businesses invested in are sustainable and do not negatively contribute to climate change related to the fund;
      
      ii. The respect expressed by industries regarding international environmental norms;

12. **Emphasizes** the need for each Member State to develop a personalized Country Specific Plan pertinent to their own capabilities, needs, and resources, with the help of any regional allies, state or non-state actors, in order to address ongoing mechanisms to proactively respond to emergencies that threaten food security, which includes:

   a. The universal adoption of food security monitoring systems, which track changes in people’s food securities, through surveying the users of food aid;

   b. Increasing food security before and after a catastrophe by providing emergency response training and equipment to local government units;

   c. Providing farmers with the resources needed, such as agricultural resilience training, management skills and income diversification, and community engagement response training;

   d. The implementation of dignified labor incentives where rural villagers receives food aid in exchange for their construction of sustainable infrastructure;

13. **Encourages** Members States as well as intergovernmental or public and private organizations that voluntarily contribute to WFP financing (hereafter “WFP funders”) to bring forward their donation through responsible investments funds that respect the **Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)** defined by the UN Global Compact in the sense that they:

   a. Integrate environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) issue into investment analysis and decision-making processes;

   b. Seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which they invest;

   c. Report on their activities and progress toward implementing the PRI;

14. **Reaffirms** the importance of school meals for children across the globe, with the goal of:

   a. Encouraging to send children to school;

   b. Providing school meals vouchers to vulnerable families;
c. Providing family’s with micronutrient supplements nutrition information, education and
counseling;

d. Linking local production and local consumption to create a stable and predictable market for
local farmers;

15. **Implores** Member States to address the lack of infrastructure in rural regions and invest in building
these infrastructures by:

a. Encouraging all Member States to improve their road systems by modernizing roads as well
as constructing new ones, which would permit better access to remote communities, thus
connecting farmers to markets in order to connect producers and consumers;

b. Requesting that Member States provides funding within their own budget for modernizing
agricultural equipment in order to notify WFP with the seriousness of their states issue;

c. Proposing the creation of a partnership with Engineers without Borders and other non-
governmental organizations (NGOs) who have resources to support us in building
infrastructures;

d. Requesting water infrastructure by modernizing irrigation canals, valves and infrastructures
taking care of wastewater;

16. **Urges** partnerships between Member States and NGOs like the Global Child Nutrition Foundation,
UNICEF and FAO to actively fight against food insecurity:

a. Teaching families how to cook nutritious meals;

b. Providing cash and e-cards to empower people to purchase their own food;

c. Engaging with local supply chains and providing employment;

d. Improving market access through better biosecurity and food security system.
The World Food Programme,

Affirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), in particular Article 25, which articulates the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing, including access to nutritious food,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which created the Sustainable Development Goal 2 on Zero Hunger,

Deeply concerned that 6.5 million Syrian people have minimal to no access to a consistent, reliable food source, with a total of 13.5 million Syrian civilians affected, with an emphasis on the disproportionate effect on women and children,

Noting with appreciation the Special fund for Emergency Rehabilitation, which is specifically focused on the improvement of food security and drought-affected families in Syria, and the need for long-term solutions in allowing Syrians to become self-sufficient,

Expressing its grave concern over the study by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), that 4.8 million Syrians have fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq, and 6.6 million are internally displaced within Syria,

Further recalling the 2014 Rome Declaration on Nutrition, which encourages Member States to improve food systems through investments in smallholder agriculture to enhance levels of nutrition,

Reiterating the Security Council resolution 2401 (2018) on “The situation in the Middle East”, demanding safe, unimpeded and sustained delivery of humanitarian aid in Syria, and access to humanitarian operators in conflict zone,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 69/189 of 2015 on “Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic”, which condemns the use of starvation as a war tactic,

Remembering the Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Syrian Refugee Resilience Plan (2018-2019), which emphasizes agricultural training for Syrians within and outside Syria’s borders and encourages actors to resolve the ongoing food insecurity in Syria through reviving agriculture,

Appreciating the development of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s ETC 2020 Strategy, which facilitates technology and communication support in emergency situations,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 49/139 (1994) titled “Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations” which established the White Helmets as an organization focused on voluntary humanitarian aid assistance,

Acknowledging the importance of the Vulnerability and Analysis Mapping system and its ability to provide vital information to both the World Food Programme (WFP) and individual Member States,

Having considered the WFP’s Logistic Cluster Concept of Operations for Syria, and its recommendations concerning logistical support,

Recalling, Member States’ support of WFP’s Fast Information Technology Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) to provide short-term solutions in providing food to Syrians,
50  **Affirms** that the School Snack Program improves interaction between producers of food materials, deliverers, and the workers of food packing facilities,

52  *Evoking attention* towards the Fifth rounds of talks in Astana, Kazakhstan 2018 for converting war zones into safe and humanitarian aid zones,

54  **Deeply concerned** with the threats to the sustenance of the local citizens due to conflict zones, a result of the civil war and the necessity to provide Syrian families with the highest possible degree of independence from international aid,

56  *Calling attention* to the existing program Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), that provides food assistance through cash-based transfers using e-vouchers available on mobile phones and recognizing that this program could be established in Syria,

58  **Concerned** of the safety of humanitarian aid workers due to reported incidents by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs,

60  **Approving** past and current effective partnerships between WFP and non-governmental organizations and private for-profit as well as non-profit enterprises in addressing the food security crisis in Syria by contributing to sustainability and relief efforts,

62  **Inspired** by WFP resolution 1/1 of 2019 that commits to working with global civil society to improve agricultural resilience,

64  1. **Recommends** the conversion of de-escalation zones of Idlib, Ar Rastan, Talbiseh, and Eastern Ghouta into humanitarian zones by implementing the following measures, which include:

66  a. Cross-organizational processes and initiatives like creating multiple communication channels, common revolving fund and inventory management between FAO;

68  b. Implementing the Four Lenses Strategic Framework would:

70  i. Introduce social enterprise performance of WFP operations in Syria;

72  ii. Define attainable and measurable goals in order to frame performance between the different WFP organizations;

74  iii. Identify universal performance criteria within the personnel working with WFP in Syria;

76  iv. Apply the performance criteria by evaluating the personnel through a social enterprise methodology mentality;

78  2. **Requests** additional support be given to cost-awareness practices within WFP, with a specific emphasis on automatic purchasing and real time reporting in order to:

80  a. Simplify purchasing;

82  b. Streamline inventory cycle counting;

84  c. Minimize data entry errors;

86  3. **Encourages** the implementation of a cash-based transfer fund program, modeled after the existing program ESSN, which fights poverty, supports the economic access of food, and reinforces local markets in Syria by:

88  a. Providing smart cards, mobile application vouchers, and blockchain technology to distribute these cash transfers;
b. Eliminating added costs of food delivery, transportation, and personnel associated with traditional food aid deliveries;

c. Respecting dietary cultural, religious, or health concerns through avoiding the distribution of regionally unfamiliar foods;

4. *Reiterates* its recommended support of the private sector to share the cost burden for providing food assistance to those most at risk within Syria based on the following tenants:

   a. The maximization of innovation and technology through private-public partnerships in order to:

      i. Establish new forms of innovation;
      ii. Develop a more comprehensive platform for research and development;
      iii. Ensure a level playing field for free trade and competition;

   b. Assist in the stabilization of the Syrian economy through micro-loans, allowing for the following:

      i. Encouraging entrepreneurship;
      ii. Providing low start-up costs for businesses;
      iii. Incentivizing economic growth;

   c. Help develop housing for internally displaced individuals;

5. *Urges* continued integration of local businesses in order to increase the autonomy of Syrian families away from international aid supplies, specifically supporting the expansion of current WFP initiatives, such as:

   a. The Aleppo bread project, which provides Bread Cards to families to be used in local bakeries;

   b. The beekeeping livelihoods project, which provides resources for the creation of small beekeeping businesses;

   c. Kitchen garden projects, which should be expanded to deliver crops and information leaflets;

   d. Other vocational training, such as sewing, tailoring, carpentry, and plumbing;

   e. The rebuilding of damaged business structures;

6. *Recommends* the expansion of already existing projects aiming to prevent children from suffering from malnutrition and stunting, such as:

   a. Fresh school meals, which have thus far provided around 10,000 children with nutritious food;

   b. Voucher Support for Out-of-School Children, which provides economic incentives to Syrian families to send their children to school, further promoting gender equality and healthy nutrition;

   c. Improvement of the School Snack Program by opening new storages and by allocating more resources to this program, which would permit:

      i. Increasing the number of Syrian children that Members States are able to help in crisis situations;
ii. Assisting families' economies by easing the burden of possible malnutrition of the children;

7. **Encourages** the increased participation of UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, in order to assign rapporteurs to investigate existing frameworks within WFP which are employed in Syria, and to address the following:

   a. Structural inadequacies in frameworks which encompass food and water access and supply to Syria;
   
   b. Public health risks regarding overall malnutrition in Syria, as well as diseases produced by malnutrition in Syrian communities;

8. **Recommends** that WFP provide and distribute nutritious food, as well as information which encompass the subjects of nutrition, hydration, opportunities for access to food and water resources, and the lack thereof through:

   a. The use of underground and/or abandoned tunnels which connect to conflicted zones or besieged areas which would serve to:
      
      i. Protect humanitarian aid workers exposed to danger while delivering food;
      
      ii. Reduce the cost of food delivery using delivery trucks;
      
   b. The use of local media, such as informational pamphlets, newspapers, social media, the facilitation of workshops, and other venues to:
      
      i. Raise awareness of food access;
      
      ii. Bring attention to public health risks and malnutrition;

9. **Recommends** fostering collaboration with humanitarian actors and other United Nations agencies, including:

   a. The White Helmet Commission to provide agri-food restoration organizations, as well as provide comprehensive risk management and resilience;
   
   b. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent in order to widen access to food network;
   
   c. UNHCR and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to reach vulnerable populations such as internally displaced people and children;
   
   d. The International Committee of the Red Crescent in order to gain access to remote areas and areas under the control of military actors;

10. **Promotes** the fact that the best way to provide emergency food aid is:

    a. Partnering with other countries and organizations who share the same goals as WFP;
    
    b. Using WFP Strategic Plan, which emphasizes global partnerships that would result in developing the strategies to combat food insecurity and to increase food supply in developing countries such as Syria;

11. **Proposes** the implementation of agricultural resilience capacities by:

    a. Developing innovative insurance schemes like low-premium microinsurance policies and low-interest credit facilities in order to prevent farmers from crop and livestock failures;
b. Promoting highly adaptive and productive crop varieties and livestock, including stimulating agricultural diversification and improved post-harvest handling, storage, and value addition;

c. Providing Syrians with the agricultural knowledge, ability, and training to rebuild their land;

d. Granting business assistance and profit opportunities for smallholder farmers;

e. Building new storage facilities to ensure availability of food and the creation of jobs in the area;

12. Improves the current framework to provide humanitarian assistance such as food handout, fuel distribution, and water resources by further collaborating with other UN agencies such as the United Nation Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) and United Nation Humanitarian Air Service and therefore:

a. Suggests to the UNHRD to consider furthering our cooperation by establishing temporary depot in each part of the country controlled by the different actors in Syria:

   i. Encouraging that each temporary site would be managed by WFP for distribution of resource handout;
   ii. Recommends that the UNHRD to manage the logistics of the operation such as transport and storing of products;

b. Advocates for the expansion and improvement of the already established Humanitarian Corridors in Syria’s neighboring countries such as Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, and Iraq in order to grant civilians with the adequate humanitarian assistance;

13. Encourages Member States to focus on rebuilding non-affected war regions in Syria by implementing new technologies and starting the reconstruction of agricultural infrastructure by:

a. Implementing the Sprinkler Irrigation System technologies as it permits farmer to manage water more efficiently and permits farmer to grow enhanced crops;

b. Starting the rebuilding of infrastructure such as irrigation canals, silos and road for remote areas permitting the flow of water, the stocking of grain in silos, and connecting farmer with local markets;

c. Enforcing the FITTEST program’s technological services to provide emergency food assistance to Syria and responding when disaster strikes;

d. Adopting satellites to predict natural disasters and the state of soil moisture to ensure successful crop seasons.