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## World Food Programme Background Guide 2020

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# NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2020 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the World Food Programme (WFP). This year's staff is: Directors Samantha Hall (Conference A) and Marielisa Figuera Saggese (Conference B). Samantha Hall holds an MA in International Affairs from American University, and a BA in International Studies from Wright State University. She works in the international development field as a consultant promoting data-driven development and self-reliant development initiatives. Marielisa is from Venezuela and holds a BA in International Relations and Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She currently works for a non-profit web design agency in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The topics under discussion for the World Food Programme are:

1. Smallholder Agriculture Market Support to Achieve Zero Hunger
2. Improving Food Assistance for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency working to resolve hunger worldwide. WFP is responsible for delivering food to victims of war, civil conflict, and natural disasters. The agency also plays a role in the community rebuilding process post-disaster. WFP has four major types of operations: emergency operations to provide immediate assistance, relief and rehabilitation operations for after an emergency, development operations to improve food security for communities, and special operations to develop the infrastructure needed for emergency operations. The agency reports its activities annually to the Economic and Social Council and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

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 2020 in accordance with the guidelines in the [Position Paper Guide](#) and the [NMUN•NY Position Papers](#) website.

Two resources, available 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, Tobias Dietrich (Conference A) and Estefani Morales (Conference B), at [usg.hr\\_ha@nmun.org](mailto:usg.hr_ha@nmun.org).

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

Sincerely,

**Conference A**  
Samantha Hall, *Director*

**Conference B**  
Marielisa Figuera Saggese, *Director*



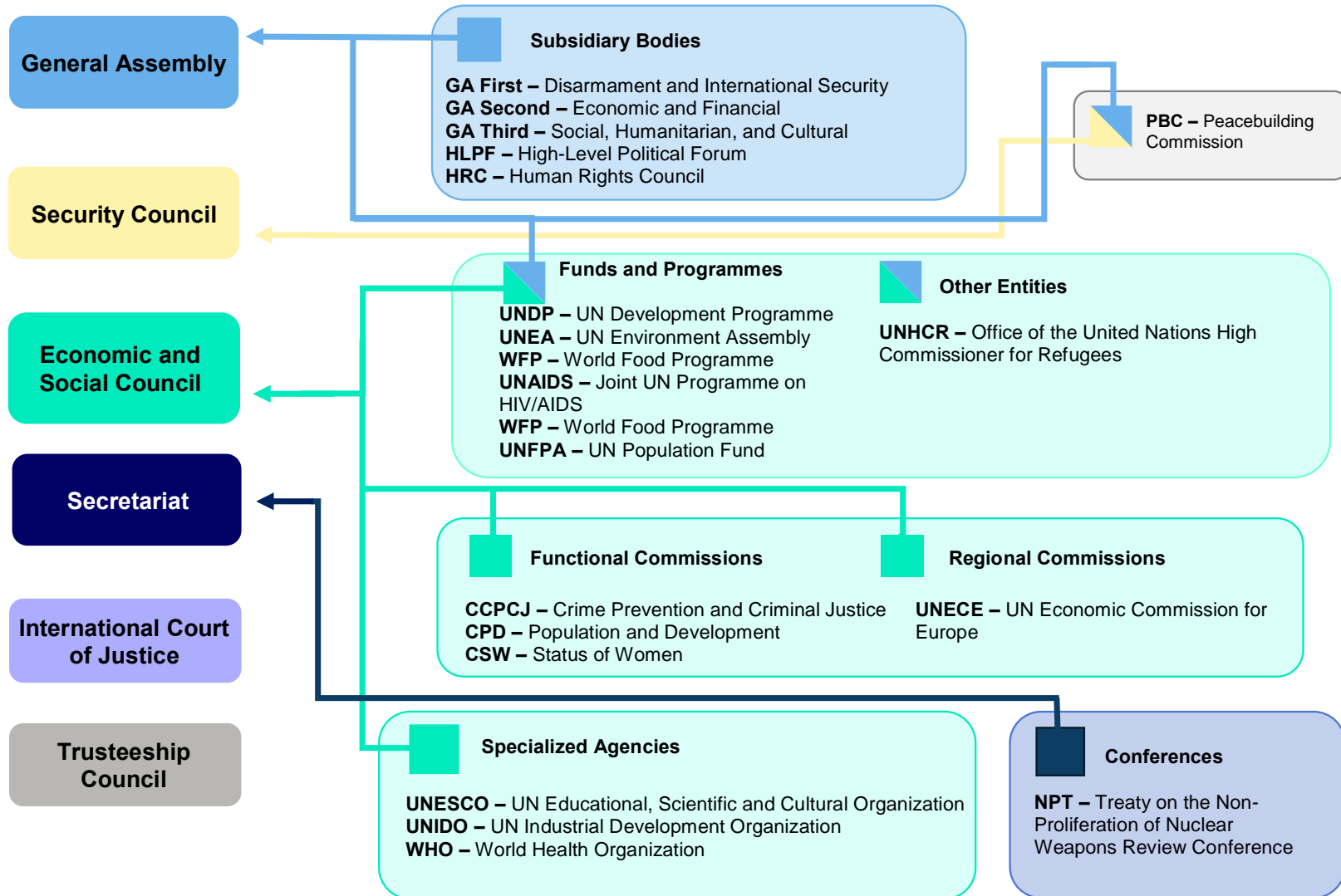


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## United Nations System at NMUN•NY

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.



## 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.<sup>1</sup> WFP has committed to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda), specifically Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 to end hunger and achieve food security by 2030.<sup>2</sup> The agency focuses on emergency assistance, delivering humanitarian aid, and supporting food security programs in least-developed countries and low-income countries for individuals affected by natural disasters, food shortages, poverty, and conflict.<sup>3</sup> Each year, WFP assists 80 million people on average in more than 80 countries.<sup>4</sup> The latest figures in 2018 saw 821 million hungry people in the world, with 86.7 million being assisted by WFP with food or money.<sup>5</sup> Of this, 52% were women and girls.<sup>6</sup> In 2018, for example, WFP provided school meals to 16.4 million children, yet 159 million children under five are stunted.<sup>7</sup> In 2018, WFP mobilized 5,600 trucks, 20 ships and 92 planes to support the daily delivery and distribution of food assistance and aid.<sup>8</sup>

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

WFP is an “autonomous joint subsidiary program of the UN and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).”<sup>9</sup> It is one of the three Rome-based UN agencies and international institutions, along with FAO and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), which work towards the common goal of eradicating hunger, each of them with a different mandate for achieving this vision.<sup>10</sup> IFAD mobilizes and offers financial resources on concession terms for agricultural and rural development projects.<sup>11</sup> FAO focuses on the overall initiative of food security on a global level, developing programs and strategies to raise nutrition levels and increase sustainable agriculture activities.<sup>12</sup> The three agencies work together to find solutions on emergencies by setting collective targets and goals, cooperating on food aid projects, and collaborating on the distribution of information and press releases.<sup>13</sup>

At NMUN•NY 2020, 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 2020, 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.<sup>14</sup> Seven months later, the FAO Conference adopted resolution 1/61

<sup>1</sup> UN WFP, *Overview*, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> UN WFP, *The Year in Review: 2018*, 2019.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*; UNICEF, *Malnutrition*, 2019.

<sup>8</sup> UN WFP, *Overview*, 2019.

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

<sup>10</sup> UN WFP, *UN Agencies and International Institutions*, 2019.

<sup>11</sup> IFAD, *Our approach*.

<sup>12</sup> FAO, *What we do*, 2019.

<sup>13</sup> UN WFP, *UN Agencies and International Institutions*, 2019.

<sup>14</sup> UN WFP, *History*, 2019.

(1961), and the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 1714 (1961), which established WFP on a three-year pilot basis.<sup>15</sup> Food aid services started in 1962 to respond to an earthquake in Northern Iran, a typhoon causing landfall in Thailand, and the resettlement of five million Algerian refugees.<sup>16</sup> 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."<sup>17</sup> 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.<sup>18</sup> On 1 January 1996, the CFA was reconstituted from a 42-member body to the current 36-member Executive Board.<sup>19</sup>

### **Governance, Structure, and Membership**

WFP is comprised of two entities: the Executive Board and the Secretariat.<sup>20</sup>

#### *Executive Board*

WFP's Executive Board supervises all programs and initiatives.<sup>21</sup> The 36-member body meets three times per year in Rome, Italy, at the WFP Headquarters.<sup>22</sup> All decisions of the Executive Board are reached by consensus.<sup>23</sup> 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.<sup>24</sup> 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.<sup>25</sup> The Executive Board reports annually to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and FAO regarding its decisions and policy recommendations, budget, organizational administration, strategic outlook, and the development of global statistics regarding food and nutrition.<sup>26</sup> WFP reports on its decisions and recommendations during its Executive Board sessions to the General Assembly, as outlined in the WFP General Regulations.<sup>27</sup> Members are elected by both ECOSOC and FAO, with each body electing 18 members for a three-year term.<sup>28</sup>

#### *Secretariat*

The Executive Director heads the Secretariat of WFP.<sup>29</sup> The Secretariat and the Executive Director are accountable to the Executive Board for the administration and implementation of WFP programs, projects, and other activities.<sup>30</sup> The UN Secretary-General and the 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.<sup>31</sup> The Executive Director represents WFP in all matters, including as a liaison to Member

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<sup>15</sup> FAO, *Utilization of food surpluses – World Food Program (FAO/1/61)*, 1961; UN General Assembly, *World Food Programme (A/RES/1714 (XVI))*, 1961.

<sup>16</sup> UN WFP, *History*, 2019.

<sup>17</sup> UN General Assembly, *Continuation of the World Food Programme (A/RES/2095(XX))*, 1965, p. 32; UN WFP, *History*, 2019.

<sup>18</sup> UN WFP, *Executive Board*, 2019.

<sup>19</sup> New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 267.

<sup>20</sup> UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 7.

<sup>21</sup> New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 267; UN WFP, *Members of the Board*, 2019.

<sup>22</sup> New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 267.

<sup>23</sup> UN WFP, *Executive Board*, 2019.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, pp. 8-9.

<sup>26</sup> New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017, p. 267.

<sup>27</sup> UN WFP, *Decisions and Recommendations of the 2018 Annual Session of the Executive Board*, 2019.

<sup>28</sup> UN WFP, *Members of the Board*, 2019.

<sup>29</sup> UN WFP, *Executive Board Secretariat*, 2019.

<sup>30</sup> UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, p. 11.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., p. 11.

States.<sup>32</sup> David Beasley has served as Executive Director since 2017.<sup>33</sup> In the foreword of the *2018 Annual Performance Report*, Mr. Beasley noted how although 2018 had been one of the most challenging years in WFP history due to the increase of hungry people around the world, the agency continued tackling key issues such as responding to crises and saving lives.<sup>34</sup> He also highlighted the importance for WFP as well as its partners to “collectively address the development for the future in a reformed and revitalized United Nations.”<sup>35</sup>

### *Funding*

Predictable funding is paramount for the effective work of the WFP. The voluntary contributions by Member States is the single principal source of funding followed by corporations and individuals.<sup>36</sup> In addition, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund also supports WFP programs; WFP was its largest recipient in 2018, receiving \$123.8 million.<sup>37</sup> These funds were allocated 80% to food and 20% to nutrition programs, and small amounts to the multisector and common services.<sup>38</sup> In 2017, WFP received record levels of funding of \$6.8 billion, with the largest donations coming from the United States, the European Commission, Germany, United Kingdom, and Canada.<sup>39</sup> With the launch of the *WFP Strategic Plan* in 2017, WFP has established a new financial framework to enhance transparency and accountability in resource management, demonstrate value for money, and improve decision making.<sup>40</sup> As part of the new framework, a country portfolio budget (CPB) approach facilitates the implementation of country strategic plans (CSP), which means that funds are allocated per country’s need and each country is given an action plan to facilitate sustainable solutions that are specific to each region.<sup>41</sup> The CPB approach formalizes and better aligns WFP activities with other UN agencies supporting the achievement of joint performance, planning, and resource mobilization.<sup>42</sup> The budget is based on the calendar year, and linked to the SDGs targets and results.<sup>43</sup>

In times of emergency, WFP, FAO, and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) may issue joint appeals for donations due to a shortage in funds for humanitarian assistance.<sup>44</sup> WFP has periodically been forced to cut assistance, as received funds regularly fall below the appeals made, such as in Syria, where the organization received 78% of the funds sought.<sup>45</sup> However, the new financial framework aims to increase alignment between resources and results, enhancing the CSPs to strengthen the financial links of short and long-term operational goals.<sup>46</sup> 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.<sup>47</sup>

### ***Mandate, Functions, and Powers***

Established by the CFA in December 1994 during its 38<sup>th</sup> 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

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid., p. 13.

<sup>33</sup> UN WFP, *Governance and leadership*, 2019.

<sup>34</sup> UN WFP, *2018 Annual Performance Report*, 2019.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

<sup>36</sup> UN, WFP, *Funding and donors*, 2019.

<sup>37</sup> UN CERF, *2019 Allocations by Agency*, 2019.

<sup>38</sup> UN CERF, *Cerf Results, As Reported by CERF Recipients in 2017*, 2018.

<sup>39</sup> UN WFP, *Contributions to WFP in 2017*, 2019.

<sup>40</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017, pp. 44-45.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., pp. 44-45.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., pp. 44-45.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., pp. 44-45.

<sup>44</sup> UN WFP, *Race Against Time to Save Millions of Lives in Yemen*, 2017.

<sup>45</sup> UN WFP, *Annual performance report for 2018*, 2018; UN WFP, *WFP Forced to Make Deeper Cuts in Food Assistance for Syrian Refugees Due to Lack of Funding (For the Media)*, 2016.

<sup>46</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017, pp. 44-45.

<sup>47</sup> UN WFP, *Executive Board*, 2018; UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, pp. 9, 12.

security in accordance with the recommendations of the UN and FAO.<sup>48</sup> 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.<sup>49</sup> WFP’s Strategic Plan is a conceptual framework for an innovated operational and planning structure and cooperation with other organizations.<sup>50</sup> It aims at increasing WFP’s effectiveness by focusing on its core strengths: intervention in cases of disruption, structural poverty, and/or transitions/recovery.<sup>51</sup>

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 food needs ... (d) to provide services to bilateral donors, [UN] agencies and non-governmental organizations for operations which are consistent with the purposes of WFP and which complement WFP’s operations.”<sup>52</sup>

WFP selects which projects to support either upon request of the UN Secretary-General or through Member State reports.<sup>53</sup> 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.<sup>54</sup>

When responding to humanitarian emergencies, WFP operates within the Cluster Approach, which coordinates key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners, such as WFP, UNICEF, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.<sup>55</sup> The approach was developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the UN’s emergency response mechanism, and is managed through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).<sup>56</sup> 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.<sup>57</sup> WFP leads the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication Clusters and co-leads the Food Security Cluster with FAO.<sup>58</sup>

In addition to handling emergencies and development programs, WFP provides protracted relief and recovery for regions emerging from disaster.<sup>59</sup> 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.<sup>60</sup> WFP also works with the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), which gives air support for over 700 humanitarian organizations around the world.<sup>61</sup> For example, UNHAS provides transportation in places where air travel is the only means to reach populations in need of humanitarian assistance, such as Chad

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

<sup>49</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

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

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., p. 14.

<sup>54</sup> UN WFP, *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, 2014, pp. 18-19.

<sup>55</sup> Phillips, *FAO: its origins, formation, and evolution. 1945-1981*, 1981, p. 169.

<sup>56</sup> UN OCHA, *OCHA on Message: The Cluster Approach*, 2012; Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *IASC*.

<sup>57</sup> UN OCHA, *OCHA on Message: The Cluster Approach*, 2012.

<sup>58</sup> UN WFP, *Food Security Cluster*, 2019.

<sup>59</sup> UN WFP, *Protracted Relief and Recovery*, 2015.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> UN WFP, *Supply Chain*, 2019.



and the islands in the Caribbean after the recent hurricanes.<sup>62</sup> This is particularly important when peacekeeping missions finish their mandates, but aid is still required.<sup>63</sup>

Adopted in 2015, the 2030 Agenda the SDGs constitute a new horizon for action.<sup>64</sup> WFP is committed to the 2030 Agenda, specifically, SDG 2 (end hunger and achieve food security by 2030), and SDG 17 (promote partnership for the goals through capacity building and services to humanitarian sector).<sup>65</sup> Adopted in July 2017, the *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)* provides a new operational framework for the organization, leveraging WFP's primary strengths and capacities in humanitarian response, and aims to align the strategies and objectives of WFP with relevant SDGs.<sup>66</sup> The plan formulates two strategic goals, "support countries to achieve zero hunger" and "partner to support implementation of the SDGs."<sup>67</sup> These form the basis for five strategic objectives: ending hunger, improving nutrition, achieving food security, supporting SDG implementation, and partnering for SDG results.<sup>68</sup> The anticipated results of the objectives coincide with SDG targets, including SDG Target 2.1 and SDG Target 2.2.<sup>69</sup> This continues WFP's efforts to transition from being a food aid agency to becoming a food assistance agency.<sup>70</sup> Food assistance goes beyond aid by 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.<sup>71</sup> WFP's focus on SDG 17 can be seen in its close cooperation with the international community and civil society.<sup>72</sup> Partnerships with civil society play a key role in humanitarian aid delivery and food security, with approximately 75% of WFP's food and cash assistance is being distributed with the support of its local civil society partners.<sup>73</sup>

### **Recent Sessions and Current Priorities**

In the annual report of 2018, the Executive Director expressed the importance of acknowledging the intersection between hunger and conflict and the significance of addressing these crises in order to achieve long-term solutions.<sup>74</sup> The report also highlighted how through the motto of "The last resort, the first defence", the WFP is working to respond accordingly to various high-level food emergencies in Africa and the Middle East where the main priorities are addressing child malnutrition and severe hunger through increased funding and improvement of the logistics and infrastructure, as well as mobilizing resources to South American countries affected by migration from Venezuela.<sup>75</sup> Furthermore, the WFP contributed to a landmark study published by the World Bank titled *Re-Imagining School feeding: A High-Return Investment in Human Capital and Local Economies*.<sup>76</sup> This report emphasized the importance of children's health and nutrition in determining the future of a nation by developing its human capital.<sup>77</sup> This document also emphasizes how more investment is needed in programs which support children during their first years, especially in less developed and war-torn countries and how the WFP's extra work is

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<sup>62</sup> UN WFP, *UN Humanitarian Air Service*, 2019.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid., p. 4-5.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Omamo et al., *Innovations in food assistance: issues, lessons and implications*, 2010, pp. 3-4.

<sup>72</sup> UN WFP, *Update on WFP's Role in the Collective Humanitarian Response*, 2018.

<sup>73</sup> UN WFP, *Non-governmental Organizations*, 2018; UN WFP, *NGO Partnerships, Strengthening National Capacity*, 2019.

<sup>74</sup> UN WFP, *The Year in Review: 2018*, 2019.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Bundy et al, *Re-Imagining School Feeding: A High-Return Investment in Human Capital and Local Economies*, 2018.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

helping farmers through micro-insurance in case of crop failure, since climate change is greatly affecting the agency's focus and work.<sup>78</sup>

In the first session of the Executive Board for 2019 held in late February 2019, the Board discussed items such as WFP's role in the collective humanitarian response and updates on the WFP's implementation of General Assembly 72/279 resolution adopted in May 2018, and which addressed the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system.<sup>79</sup> The most recent session was held in mid-June and the WFP Board discussed the agency's work in terms of the Annual Performance report, where it was noted the various obstacles as well as achievements that the agency faced on 2018.<sup>80</sup> The meeting provided an update on the WFP's role in collective humanitarian response, they also provided more updates on various aspects previously discussed in the February meeting in terms of WFP's role in emergency assistance and optimizing the infrastructure and logistics for operations.<sup>81</sup> Moreover, the *WFP Management Plan (2019-2020)*, adopted during the Executive Board Second regular session in Rome, in November 2018, sets the core resource allocations in the program support and administrative budget, and establishes key areas where WFP needs to improve such as implementing the transformative programs that are incorporated in the Integrated Road Map framework as well as WFP's response to HIV and AIDS.<sup>82</sup>

As gender equality and women's empowerment are central to WFP's mandate, the *WFP Gender Policy (2015-2020)*, adopted in 2015, recognizes and aims to meet the differing food security and nutrition needs of women, girls, boys, and men.<sup>83</sup> Following its gender-transformative approach, WFP assisted 16.4 million schoolchildren, 51 percent girls, with meals, snacks and take-home rations in 2018.<sup>84</sup> WFP also published in 2019 a study titled "Gender and Cash", which analyzed how cash-based interventions can contribute to gender parity.<sup>85</sup> The study also reported that women's decision making in households had increased, however young women were perceived as having greater caring and domestic responsibilities and less capable of independent decision making.<sup>86</sup>

The last two years have been considered as some of the most challenging ones in the history of WFP and other organizations focused on alleviating food insecurity.<sup>87</sup> As a result, the agency has increased its efforts to provide food security to the populations most affected by the various high-level emergencies across the world in order to save more lives, reduce famine, and provide more humanitarian food assistance.<sup>88</sup> In August 2019, the WFP released the Hunger Map.<sup>89</sup> This map shows the most up-to-date data in terms of hunger around the world as well as the percentage of people undernourished per country.<sup>90</sup> Among the most important statistics offered in this map include that 821 million people, which represent more than 1 in 9 of the world population, do not get enough to eat.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>78</sup> Bundy et al, *Re-Imagining School Feeding: A High-Return Investment in Human Capital and Local Economies*, 2018.

<sup>79</sup> UN WFP, *Decisions and recommendations of the 2019 first regular session of the Executive Board (WFP/EB.1/2019/13)*, 2019.

<sup>80</sup> UN WFP, *2018 Annual Performance Report*, 2019.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> UN WFP, *Decisions and recommendations of the 2019 annual session of the Executive Board (WFP/EB.A/2019/13)*, 2019; UN WFP, *WFP Management Plan (2019-2021)*, 2019.

<sup>83</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Gender Policy (2015-2020)*, 2015, pp. 3-4.

<sup>84</sup> UN WFP, *2018 Annual Performance Report*, 2019.

<sup>85</sup> UN WFP, *Gender and cash*, 2019.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.; UN WFP, *Gender Equality*, 2019.

<sup>87</sup> UN WFP, *2018 Annual Performance Report*, 2019.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> UN WFP, *2019 Hunger Map*, 2019.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

As WFP continues being at the forefront of providing food and humanitarian assistance, the agency is focused on working towards promoting Zero Hunger by 2030 as part of a commitment by various agencies within the UN system to achieve the SDGs.<sup>92</sup> Among the most pressing situations that the agency is facing are the partial suspension of food assistance in rebel-controlled areas in Yemen due to individuals attempting to make a profit from food assistance which diverts resources and food from the most vulnerable.<sup>93</sup> Another recent crisis that the agency has focused its efforts on what has been the largest population outflow of Venezuelans leaving the country to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and other Latin American countries.<sup>94</sup> The main drivers for migration are the lack of access to food, employment, medicine and functioning health services.<sup>95</sup>

### **Conclusion**

WFP is an organization in transition from providing food aid to food assistance.<sup>96</sup> WFP tasks range from emergency relief and development assistance to providing support as communities rebuild themselves after natural disasters and conflicts.<sup>97</sup> WFP's work is a coordinated effort with other UN bodies, non-governmental organizations, private stakeholders, and governments to eradicate hunger and provide assistance to the most vulnerable populations.<sup>98</sup> WFP's work is action-oriented and very closely aligned to the 2030 Agenda.<sup>99</sup> The Strategic Plan, builds on the activities of WFP to date and policies of the Executive Board and further align them in the context of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>100</sup>

### **Annotated Bibliography**

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 18 July 2019 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

*The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs are a set of 17 overarching global goals with 169 targets between them that were approved by the Member States in order to set the work of the United Nations from 2015 to 2030. As a result, it impacts the work of WFP moving forward, and how 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 SDGs 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*. Retrieved 13 August 2019 from: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/govman/wfp244037.pdf>

*This document is a comprehensive overview of how the Executive Board of WFP is structured and its operational procedures, as well as its 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 educate themselves further on the mandate, functions, and powers of WFP. Additionally, it provides insightful information of the organizations segments and how it operates.*

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2015, June 11). *Protracted Relief and Recovery*. Retrieved 13 August 2019 from: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/protracted-relief-and-recovery-operation-1>

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<sup>92</sup> UN WFP, *2018 Annual Performance Report*, 2019.

<sup>93</sup> UN WFP, *World Food Programme begins partial suspension of aid in Yemen*, 2019.

<sup>94</sup> UN WFP, *Multi Country LEO for Latin American Countries impacted by the situation in Venezuela*, 2019.

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>96</sup> UN WFP, *Mid-Term Review of the WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017)*, 2016, p. 3.

<sup>97</sup> UN WFP, *The Year in Review: 2018*, 2019.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>100</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

*Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRROs) are long-term programs run by WFP which help sustain communities affected by disaster. 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. For more detailed information on PRROs and the components which can be included, 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. (2017). *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*. Retrieved 13 July 2019 from: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000019573/download/>

*The aim of the strategic plan is to align WFP's operations with the 2030 Agenda, with a particular focus on achieving zero hunger by 2030 (SDG 2). It sets out WFP's principles and vision in light of the framework provided by the SDGs. It clarifies the priorities of WFP for the coming period, and focuses on the operational and policy role 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. (2019). *Annual Session of the Executive Board*. Retrieved 19 July 2019 from: <https://executiveboard.wfp.org/meeting/492>

*The Annual Session of the Executive Board is a great resource that includes all of the most recent updates of the body from 2017. During this session, the Executive Board discussed annual reports including the annual performance report. Additionally, they covered policy issues, resources, financial, and budgetary matters, evaluation reports, operational, organizational and procedural matters, and administrative and managerial issues. Therefore, this resource will be extremely insightful for delegates to review during their independent research regarding the overall work of the body.*

United Nations, World Food Programme. (2019). *The Year in Review: 2018*. Retrieved 13 August 2019 from: <https://publications.wfp.org/2018/en/annual-report/index.html>

*This document provides delegates with an overview of the work of WFP in 2018, especially in relation to SDG 2 (zero hunger). The review also provides a comprehensive overview of all the programs provided by 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 WFP programs are carried out by Member States.*

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## I. Smallholder Agriculture Market Support to Achieve Zero Hunger

### **Introduction**

In 2017, 815 million people suffered from hunger and the prevalence of malnutrition.<sup>101</sup> 80% of the world's food supply is sourced from smallholder farmers, and 80% of the extreme poor live in rural areas and work in the agriculture sector.<sup>102</sup> While there is no rigid definition of smallholder farmers, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) consider smallholder farmers to be “small-scale farmers, pastoralists, forest keepers, [or] fishers who manage areas varying from less than one hectare to 10 hectares.”<sup>103</sup> Smallholder farmers are also considered to be “family-farmers,” as they are motivated by family-focused goals such as “the stability of the farm household system, using mainly family labour for production and using part of the produce for family consumption.”<sup>104</sup> Many smallholder farmers do not have access to formal markets where “sellers can publicly advertise their prices and locations to attract buyers,” inhibiting their ability to increase their income security.<sup>105</sup> Additionally, many smallholder farmers face a range of challenges including lack of adequate storage, natural disasters, financial turmoil without safety nets, and lack of services to improve and protect their business.<sup>106</sup> In order to promote food security on a local and global level, especially in rural areas, WFP seeks to support smallholder farms in providing access to formal markets, encourages schools and households to grow their own gardens, and works with civil society to promote resilience in smallholder farming.<sup>107</sup>

### **International and Regional Framework**

In 2017, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted resolution 72/239 on the “United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019 - 2028)” to highlight the important contributions of smallholder farmers towards achieving food security around the world.<sup>108</sup> Within the resolution, the General Assembly stresses the importance of implementing a “universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system” that promotes family farming and rural development, and is implemented in national, regional, and international strategies that include smallholder farmers in various markets at all levels.<sup>109</sup> The following year, the General Assembly passed resolution 73/165 on the “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas” which links the rights of those in rural and indigenous areas to the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948), and specifies how the international community should acknowledge and protect their rights.<sup>110</sup> The declaration notes the contributions smallholder farmers in rural and indigenous areas have made in development and conservation of biodiversity, which are key factors in achieving food security.<sup>111</sup> Furthermore, the UDHR emphasizes the challenges smallholder farmers face due to climate change, environmental degradation, poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.<sup>112</sup> The Secretary-General's report, “Challenges and Opportunities in achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls” (E/CN.6/2018/3) also

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<sup>101</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) (A/RES/72/239)*, 2017, p. 2.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>103</sup> FAO, *Smallholders and Family Farmers*, 2012.

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>105</sup> Anbarci et al., *Formal and Informal Markets: A Strategic and Evolutionary Perspective*, 2013, p. 1; UN WFP, *Smallholder Market Support*, 2019.

<sup>106</sup> UN WFP, *Taking Farmers From Seed to Market: Farm to Market Alliance*, 2018.

<sup>107</sup> UN WFP, *Smallholder Market Support*, 2019.

<sup>108</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) (A/RES/72/239)*, 2017.

<sup>109</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>110</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (A/RES/73/165)*, 2018.

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

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*



highlights how rural women and young girls can be smallholder farmers, and that providing market support to women farmers is one of the many ways Member States can empower them in rural areas.<sup>113</sup>

In 2015, during the Expo 2015 held in Milan, Italy, a ministerial meeting held by the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), adopted the *2015 Milan Declaration on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States* (Milan Declaration).<sup>114</sup> The Milan Declaration emphasized the need for a multilateral trading system that includes agriculture and fisheries, and called for “small, vulnerable economies” and “net food-importing developing countries” to be included in the creation of the trading system.<sup>115</sup> Within the same year, the UN General Assembly also passed resolution 70/1, “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” that not only launched the 2030 Agenda, but also contains the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>116</sup> The SDGs are goalposts for international actors to strive towards within their work on promoting sustainable development in the world.<sup>117</sup> The 2030 Agenda has several goals that target the drivers to empowering smallholder farmers, such as SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure).<sup>118</sup>

### **Role of the International System**

WFP plays a vital role in combatting hunger and strengthening food security through a number of programs.<sup>119</sup> WFP, in collaboration with several UN bodies that focus on food security and human development, releases an annual report, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, on the progress being made towards achieving global food security and nutritional goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda.<sup>120</sup> The 2018 report outlines various solutions the international community can utilize to combat the rising rate of hunger, such as implementing policies and investments into agriculture and food systems, supporting displaced persons with social support, and encouraging the creation of policies that strengthen and build resilience to prevent shocks and stressors during times of conflict and natural disasters.<sup>121</sup> WFP’s *Strategic Plan (2017-2021)* outlines how WFP aligns its activities to the 2030 Agenda with a particular focus on ending hunger and strengthening global collaboration on implementing the SDGs.<sup>122</sup> Throughout the Strategic Plan, WFP notes the importance of promoting access to markets in order to increase people’s access to land, crops, livestock, and other food supplies as a means to achieving zero hunger and alleviating poverty.<sup>123</sup>

WFP’s Purchase for Progress initiative encourages national governments and the private sector to buy from smallholder farmers while WFP works with farmers’ organizations to provide trainings and facilitates access to financial services and markets.<sup>124</sup> The trainings and access to financial services and markets that WFP provides to smallholder farmers aim to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and resources to build resilience against financial turmoil and grow their business through expanding their access to financial markets.<sup>125</sup> The Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) is a public-private sector consortium comprised of WFP and five other private sector and civil society organizations that provide smallholder farmers

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<sup>113</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2018/3)*, 2017.

<sup>114</sup> Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, *Milan Declaration on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States, in the Framework of the SAMOA Pathway*, 2015.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

<sup>120</sup> FAO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, 2018.

<sup>121</sup> Ibid., pp. 2-4.

<sup>122</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>124</sup> UN WFP, *Purchase for Progress*, 2019.

<sup>125</sup> Ibid.

access to “predictable markets, affordable financing, technologies and quality inputs, and handling and storage solutions” as a means of empowerment.<sup>126</sup> FtMA’s work has helped 167,500 farmers, 530 crop aggregators, and 162 farmer organizations in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia grow their business by providing trainings on farming practices, improving access to technology and inputs, and connecting financial services between farmers and financial institutions.<sup>127</sup> In collaboration with Oxfam America, WFP created the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative to increase food and income security of farmers by managing climate-related risks.<sup>128</sup> This is done by improving their resource management through asset creation, insurance, livelihood diversification and microcredit, and savings strategies.<sup>129</sup> As of 2018, the initiative has helped over 300,000 people in Ethiopia, Senegal, Malawi, Zambia, and Kenya through the various growth opportunities offered by the initiative.<sup>130</sup>

Other international actors collaborate with WFP on a number of initiatives that focus on promoting market support for smallholder farmers and achieving zero hunger.<sup>131</sup> FAO held the High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets in 2015 to allow stakeholders to share policy recommendations and lessons learned, and identify challenges and opportunities in promoting market support to smallholders.<sup>132</sup> FAO also contributes to the annual *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report, co-funds the Committee on World Food Security, and oversees the committee alongside WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).<sup>133</sup> IFAD is another UN body that promotes rural development, food security, improved livelihoods, and resilience in rural areas.<sup>134</sup> IFAD’s Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme channels climate and environmental finance to smallholder farmers to empower women, promote private sector engagement with smallholders, provide climate risk assessment, and strengthen smallholders’ participation in the decision-making process for natural resource management and governance.<sup>135</sup> The World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund also collaborate with WFP, FAO, and IFAD on the annual State of Food Security report and a number of different initiatives focusing on nutrition and food security in rural areas.<sup>136</sup>

Civil society and the private sector are key stakeholders in achieving zero hunger and often provide market support, trainings, and financial support to smallholders through various programs.<sup>137</sup> Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Bayer Crop Science AG, Syngenta Crop Protection AG, Rabobank, and Yara International ASA are the other five members that comprise the FtMA consortium alongside WFP to provide financial support to smallholder farmers.<sup>138</sup> FtMA focuses on four “pathways” when supporting smallholder farmers: predictable markets, affordable finance, technologies and quality inputs, and handling and storage solutions.<sup>139</sup> Using this model, FtMA empowers smallholder farmers to become reliable and resilient against natural disasters and financial turmoil in order to enhance their success within formal markets.<sup>140</sup> FtMA categorizes themselves as a “neutral broker” when assisting smallholder farmers to allow them to increase their profits while not competing against the farmers receiving their assistance.<sup>141</sup> FtMA also created a network of service delivery centers that allow smallholder farmers to obtain the products and services they need for their farms and to become more competitive in formal

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<sup>126</sup> UN WFP, *Taking Farmers from Seed to Market: Farm to Market Alliance*, 2018.

<sup>127</sup> Farm to Market Alliance, *Where We Work*, 2019.

<sup>128</sup> UN WFP, *The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative*, 2019.

<sup>129</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>130</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>131</sup> UN WFP, *Taking Farmers from Seed to Market: Farm to Market Alliance*, 2018.

<sup>132</sup> FAO, *CFS High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets*, 2019.

<sup>133</sup> Committee on World Food Security, *CFS Structure*.

<sup>134</sup> IFAD, *About Us*.

<sup>135</sup> IFAD, *Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme*.

<sup>136</sup> FAO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, 2018.

<sup>137</sup> UN WFP, *Taking Farmers from Seed to Market: Farm to Market Alliance*, 2018.

<sup>138</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>139</sup> Farm to Market Alliance, *About PATH*, 2019.

<sup>140</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>141</sup> *Ibid.*

markets.<sup>142</sup> The model FtMA uses also builds trust and confidence with other stakeholders, such as buyers, financiers, and suppliers.<sup>143</sup>

The Global Agricultural and Food Security Program (GAFSP) focuses entirely on promoting sustainable agriculture through the empowerment of smallholder farmers, with a particular emphasis on women and youth.<sup>144</sup> GAFSP is comprised of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UN Member States (Canada, Germany, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States), and representatives from Africa, Asia, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and Middle East and North Africa as voting members; the World Bank and International Finance Cooperation as administrative units; UN bodies (WFP, IFAD, and FAO) and development banks (African Development Bank and Asia Development Bank) as supervising entities; and three civil society organizations (ActionAid, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, and Réseau des Organisations Paysannes & de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) as the steering committee.<sup>145</sup> Through this multilateral program, stakeholders are able to work simultaneously in the public and private sector while providing direct support to smallholder farmers and their organizations in strengthening capacity in value chains, increasing market support for smallholder farmers, and providing economic services to smallholder farmers through mobile platforms.<sup>146</sup> One of GAFSP's successful projects was the Small Farmer Agriculture Technology Transfer Project (PTTA) in Haiti, which reached 164,091 people by providing agricultural inputs like fertilizers that increased crop yield for farmers.<sup>147</sup> The technology that was provided in PTTA was adopted by 27,930 farmers and led to an income increase of 63% for farmers that focused on agroforestry.<sup>148</sup> Not only were smallholder farmers directly benefiting from this project, but GAFSP was able to take the lessons learned from the project to improve on other projects they created in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia.<sup>149</sup>

### **Post-Harvest Challenges**

A common challenge smallholder farmers face after harvesting their crops, fish, and animal byproducts is accessing adequate storage.<sup>150</sup> Many smallholder farmers do not have adequate storage resources and practices, which can lead to a loss of revenue when goods rot or are eaten by pest.<sup>151</sup> In order to prevent loss from rot and pests, smallholder farmers will flood markets with their goods, meaning that they try to sell everything right away, leading to depressed prices due to oversupply of goods immediately following harvest.<sup>152</sup> This is often the cause of income insecurity for smallholder farmers, and can easily be resolved if smallholder farmers have adequate storage.<sup>153</sup> Innovative storage solutions for smallholder farmers include air/water-tight storage containers in place of storage units that would require electricity.<sup>154</sup> WFP sells airtight crop bags to national governments to supply to smallholder farmers as a way to store grains and other crops without rot setting and pests being able to gain access to the food.<sup>155</sup>

Another challenge smallholder farmers face is when there is a "bad harvest year" due to conflicts and/or natural disasters.<sup>156</sup> Droughts, flooding, and other natural disasters can create shocks for smallholder

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<sup>142</sup> Farm to Market Alliance, *About PATH*, 2019.

<sup>143</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>144</sup> Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, *About Us*, 2018.

<sup>145</sup> Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, *GAFSP Steering Committee*, 2018.

<sup>146</sup> Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, *Missing Middle Initiative*, 2018.

<sup>147</sup> Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, *Small Farmer Agriculture Technology Transfer Project (PTTA)*, 2018.

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

<sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>150</sup> *Food Sustainability and the Role of Smallholder Farmers*, Food Sustainability Index, 2017.

<sup>151</sup> World Bank Group, *A Year in the Lives of Smallholder Farmers*, 2016.

<sup>152</sup> Oluwatayo, *Towards Assuring Food Security in South Africa: Smallholder Farmers as Drivers*, 2019.

<sup>153</sup> *Food Sustainability and the Role of Smallholder Farmers*, Food Sustainability Index, 2017.

<sup>154</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>155</sup> WFP USA, *Policy Roundtable: Food Loss*, 2019.

<sup>156</sup> Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, *Protecting Farmers from Weather-Based Risk*, 2016.

farmers through the loss of crops, fish stock, and livestock, which can lead to a domino effect that affects the supply-chain.<sup>157</sup> If smallholder farmers are not able to harvest enough, they lose revenue, which can lead to food insecurity for their families.<sup>158</sup> Along the supply-chain, if multiple smallholders are unable to meet the demand for food and agricultural products, local communities can experience food insecurity and malnutrition until the food supply is restocked following a good harvest year.<sup>159</sup> In order to prevent these shocks, WFP recommends national governments work with the international community and smallholder farmers to provide risk-management practices and social support systems, as well as innovative solutions to build resilience for local communities, such as adopting climate adaptation and mitigation farming practices.<sup>160</sup> Smallholder farmers can also utilize different insurance policies, such as Crop Loss Insurance and Weather Index Insurance, to protect themselves from significant profit loss due to bad harvest years.<sup>161</sup> However, WFP notes that smallholder farmers often lack access to insurance and other financial services that can help with risk management.<sup>162</sup> Access to credits and insurance can also provide risk-management options for smallholder farmers as a means to allow smallholder farmers to finance their farms and protect their crops from natural disasters that insurance can cover.<sup>163</sup>

### ***Expanding Market Support for Smallholders***

Expanding market support for smallholder farmers requires a multi-faceted approach in the form of policies, partnerships, and practices.<sup>164</sup> Smallholders need access to markets to sell their crops, fish, livestock, and other agricultural goods, but in order to increase supply-chains, there needs to be facilitation actors and infrastructure that connect smallholders to global markets.<sup>165</sup> Supply-chains are needed in every market in order for businesses to make a profit from their agricultural goods, but also supply buyers with food and other agricultural products needed and desired by the local and global markets.<sup>166</sup> WFP is often one of the largest facilitators that brings smallholder farmers, civil society, Member States, and the private sector together to coordinate the linking of smallholders to markets through mobile networks, farmers' organizations, or private sector entities.<sup>167</sup> As a majority of smallholder farmers live in rural areas, infrastructure is needed to transport agricultural goods from smallholder farms to nearby markets.<sup>168</sup> Policies that expand economic zones, which are special areas where a country's trade laws are different than outside the zone, can be used to encourage more entrepreneurship and trade.<sup>169</sup> Thereby, they can be another key element needed to promote economic growth and increase income security for smallholder farmers.<sup>170</sup> Best practices, such as diversification of crops and business prospects, are ways that smallholder farmers can utilize to increase income and food security, to manage risks, and to protect themselves from shocks caused by economic factors related to conflict and natural disasters.<sup>171</sup>

In order to meet the demand for food and agricultural products, WFP has recommended national governments and the private sector to source these products at local institutions via smallholder farmers.<sup>172</sup> A key example of this approach is how the WFP has worked with national governments to

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<sup>157</sup> Ibid.

<sup>158</sup> Ibid.

<sup>159</sup> *Food Sustainability and the Role of Smallholder Farmers*, Food Sustainability Index, 2017.

<sup>160</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*, 2017, p. 10.

<sup>161</sup> Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, *Protecting Farmers from Weather-Based Risk*, 2016.

<sup>162</sup> UN WFP, *Smallholder Market Support*, 2019.

<sup>163</sup> UN WFP, *Taking Farmers from Seed to Market: Farm to Market Alliance*, 2019.

<sup>164</sup> UN WFP, *Smallholder Market Support*, 2019.

<sup>165</sup> Ibid.

<sup>166</sup> Ibid.

<sup>167</sup> Ibid.

<sup>168</sup> *Food Sustainability and the Role of Smallholder Farmers*, Food Sustainability Index, 2017.

<sup>169</sup> Ibid.

<sup>170</sup> Ibid.

<sup>171</sup> UN WFP, *The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative*, 2019.

<sup>172</sup> UN WFP, *Taking Farmers from Seed to Market: Farm to Market Alliance*, 2019.



develop national strategies and policies for Home Grown School Feeding programs.<sup>173</sup> These programs encourage schools to source their food from local smallholder farmers as a way to promote food security and nutrition for school children while providing economic opportunities for smallholder farmers.<sup>174</sup> While these programs are operating in 46 countries, WFP continues to urge other Member States to adopt similar approaches in order to address food insecurity in rural areas.<sup>175</sup> FtMA utilizes technology to assist smallholder farmers in selling their products in formal markets through digital ordering processing services between smallholder farmers and private sector entities, digital receipts for credit history, input order forms, and quality planting inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, and crop protection packages.<sup>176</sup> In Zambia, FtMA introduced handling and storage technologies to smallholder farmers, connected smallholder farmers to local microfinance institutions, and expanded smallholder farmers' crop diversification to complement the government's call for crop diversification and climate smart agriculture initiative.<sup>177</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Smallholder farmers contribute greatly to achieving zero hunger in rural areas and also worldwide, but need access to markets in order to strengthen income and food security on a local level.<sup>178</sup> WFP works closely with a wide range of international actors to promote market support for smallholder farmers, and continuously encourages international partnerships to be forged in order to achieve zero hunger through increasing supply-chains sourced from smallholder farmers.<sup>179</sup> Lack of storage and storage resources are a major challenge for smallholder farmers post-harvest, and there is a need to build resilience for smallholder farmers to recover quickly from natural and man-made shocks.<sup>180</sup> Providing technology and financial services to smallholder farmers is another key element that can support smallholder farmers as they grow and connect their business to formal markets by reducing risk from financial turmoil and natural disasters.<sup>181</sup> Expanding market support for smallholder farmers requires policies, practices, and partnerships to be implemented at the local, national, regional, and international level to increase supply-chains and promote food security.<sup>182</sup>

### **Further Research**

Delegates should consider the following questions to assist them in their research: What can WFP do to promote market support to smallholder farmers? What can Member States do in collaboration with other UN entities and civil society to empower smallholder farmers and spur economic growth? How can technology be used to further WFP's programs and initiatives to promote market support to smallholder farmers? How can WFP empower women who are smallholder farmers? What role does the private sector play in promoting access to smallholder farmers?

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<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/8537MilanDeclaration.pdf>

*The Milan Declaration outlines how SIDS are impacted by the effects of climate change and food insecurity, and outlines recommendations that Member States can take to*

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<sup>173</sup> UN WFP, *Home Grown School Feeding*, 2019.

<sup>174</sup> Ibid.

<sup>175</sup> Ibid.

<sup>176</sup> Farm to Market Alliance, *Handling and Storage Solutions*, 2019; Farm to Market Alliance, *Technologies and Quality Inputs*, 2019.

<sup>177</sup> Farm to Market Alliance, *Zambia*, 2019.

<sup>178</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) (A/RES/72/239)*, 2017, pp. 2-3.

<sup>179</sup> UN WFP, *Taking Farmers from Seed to Market: Farm to Market Alliance*, 2019.

<sup>180</sup> *Food Sustainability and the Role of Smallholder Farmers*, Food Sustainability Index, 2017.

<sup>181</sup> UN WFP, *Smallholder Market Support*, 2019.

<sup>182</sup> Ibid.

*address these issues in multiple ways. Within the declaration, several of the recommendations call upon empowering smallholder and family-farmers through trade and agricultural practices. Delegates can read this declaration and use it as an example of how Member States can collaborate to find joint programming and activities to achieve food security.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2017). *Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls: Report of the Secretary-General* (E/CN.6/2018/3). Retrieved 15 July 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2018/3>

*This report by the Secretary-General notes the challenges and opportunities that rural women and girls face, and how Member States can work towards achieving gender equality. The report outlines how rural women and girls can also be smallholders and family-farmers, and how they can contribute to the SDGs through empowerment in the agricultural sector. Delegates can read this report to understand the recommendations made by the Secretary-General and devise solutions to the challenges raised in the background guide.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2018). *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*. Retrieved 29 September 2019 from: [www.fao.org/3/i9553en/i9553en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/i9553en/i9553en.pdf)

*The 2018 State of Food Security report highlights the progress that has been made in the last year in addressing food insecurity and other food and health related issues. The report discusses how smallholders and small-scale farming have made impacts on food security goals, and how these individuals make up a sizeable portion of the world's food supply. Delegates can read this report to have a better understanding of how WFP, FAO, and other UN entities collaborate to monitor and evaluate food security issues around the world.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028) (A/RES/72/239)*. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/426). Retrieved 15 July 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/72/239>

*This resolution declares 2019-2028 the Decade of Family Farming, thus highlighting the importance and the contributions family-farmers make towards sustainable development. Furthermore, the decade encourages Member States and UN entities to improve and/or develop practices and policies that promote family farming programming and activities. Delegates can use this resolution to understand how impactful family farming is towards achieving food security goals and the other SDGs.*

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*This declaration outlines the rights of peasants, rural workers, and indigenous people and acknowledges their contribution to sustainable development. As peasants and other people working in rural areas are often considered smallholders and family-farmers, this declaration directly relates to their rights to adequate food and water, gender equality, and other rights shared with those outside rural areas. Delegates can use this declaration to gain a better understanding of the importance of empowering smallholders and achieving the goals in the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative.*

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## II. Improving Food Assistance for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

*“WFP assistance has been critical in preventing the country from descending into a full-blown famine, but, in the face of growing obstacles and risks, we are now reaching the limit.”<sup>183</sup>*

### **Introduction**

An estimated 2 billion people, or 26.4% of the world’s population, have experienced moderate to severe levels of food insecurity.<sup>184</sup> Food security is a condition in which there is adequate food for people to maintain a healthy lifestyle and is made up of three components: food availability, food access, and food utilization.<sup>185</sup> The World Food Programme (WFP) is responsible for providing food assistance to vulnerable groups such as refugees and IDPs in emergency situations ranging from conflict situations to natural disasters.<sup>186</sup> There are currently 25.9 million refugees and 41.3 IDPs worldwide.<sup>187</sup> The United Nations (UN) defines refugees as people who are outside their country of origin for reasons such as persecution, conflict, violence, or other circumstances which have made it unsafe that international protection is required.<sup>188</sup> According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), IDPs are classified as people who have been forced to leave their homes, especially as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of: armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or disasters, but who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.<sup>189</sup>

In collaboration with other UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and Member States, WFP assisted 86.7 million people through its operations in 83 countries in 2018, particularly in seriously afflicted areas such as Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, the Sahel, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.<sup>190</sup> WFP’s operations focus on ending hunger in the world through emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development aid, and special operations.<sup>191</sup> Food aid is a traditional approach which provides food items, and increases the food supply without tailoring to specific needs and demographics.<sup>192</sup> In contrast, food assistance focuses on long-term nutritional needs and goes beyond in-kind food aid in the form of food items.<sup>193</sup> Food assistance includes cash assistance and vouchers to empower people to choose suitable food items for their diets.<sup>194</sup> As part of its efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (zero hunger) and shift towards food assistance, WFP is improving access to food for refugees and IDPs through innovative solutions such as blockchain technology, food fortification, educational or work initiatives, and information communication technology.<sup>195</sup> Furthermore, adequate funding and collaboration with partner organizations and civil society bolsters WFP’s efforts to provide for refugees and IDPs, particularly in improving safety and access to food.<sup>196</sup>

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<sup>183</sup> UN WFP, *Statement from David Beasley, WFP Executive Director: WFP Chief Urges All Sides in Yemen to End Conflict and Support Peace*, 2018.

<sup>184</sup> FAO & UN WFP, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI): Safeguarding against Economic Slowdowns and Downturns*, 2019.

<sup>185</sup> Committee on World Food Security, *Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition*, 2017.

<sup>186</sup> UN WFP, *History*, 2018.

<sup>187</sup> UNHCR, *Figures at a Glance*, 2019.

<sup>188</sup> UNHCR, *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, 1951.

<sup>189</sup> IOM, *Key Migration Terms*, 2019.

<sup>190</sup> UN WFP, *Year in Review 2018*, 2019.

<sup>191</sup> UN WFP, *Overview*, 2019.

<sup>192</sup> FAO, *The Right to Food Guidelines: Information Papers and Case Studies*, 2006.

<sup>193</sup> UN WFP, *Food Assistance: Cash and In-Kind*, 2019.

<sup>194</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>195</sup> UN WFP, *WFP’s Contribution to the SDGs*, 2018; WFP, *Food Fortification*, 2018.

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## ***International and Regional Framework***

Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) first outlines food as a “crucial factor for ensuring an adequate standard of living for all peoples.”<sup>197</sup> The *Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees* (1951) is a landmark document that enshrines protections for refugees and displaced peoples.<sup>198</sup> Article 23 of this treaty specifies that refugees have the right to public relief, including food assistance.<sup>199</sup> The rights of IDPs are further outlined in the *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954).<sup>200</sup> Principle 3 states that authorities are responsible for providing humanitarian aid to IDPs and IDPs have the right to request such assistance.<sup>201</sup> Principle 18 specifically outlines the right of IDPs to attain an adequate standard of living, including safe access to food.<sup>202</sup> General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) from 1967 and titled *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR) details people’s economic, social, and cultural rights.<sup>203</sup> Article 11 of the ICESCR directly recognizes the right to food and the State’s responsibility to realize this right.<sup>204</sup> The first World Food Conference (1974) adopted the *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition*, which formally recognizes that all men, women, and children have the right to food for mental and physical growth.<sup>205</sup> Subsequent guidelines include the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security* (1996) which established seven commitments to achieve food sustainability.<sup>206</sup> The corresponding *World Food Summit Plan of Action* (1996) outlined how to implement the *Rome Declaration* and further cemented the importance of achieving food security for all peoples.<sup>207</sup>

More recently, General Assembly resolution 63/117 emphasizes international obligations to fulfil ICESCR, including the right to food.<sup>208</sup> Commitments by Members States to the *Food Assistance Convention* (2012) involve a minimum level of food assistance and sharing of best practices and information.<sup>209</sup> Since the inception of the SDGs in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, WFP has been an instrumental player in working towards achieving SDG 2.<sup>210</sup> Targets 2.1 and 2.2 specifically call to end hunger and ensure adequate access to food by all people and to end all forms of malnutrition, especially for vulnerable populations such as children by 2030.<sup>211</sup> Its work complements other SDGs including SDG 1 (no poverty) since the poor are most at risk for hunger; SDG 3 (good health and well-being) since food insecurity affects people’s health; and SDG 5 (gender equality) since gender mainstreaming, or integrating gender in policies, is key to addressing hunger of women and girls.<sup>212</sup> Recognizing the importance of nutrition to global well-being, General Assembly resolution 70/259 on “United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016– 2025)” directs efforts towards achieving zero hunger in 2016.<sup>213</sup> Security Council resolution 2417 (2018) on “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” directly linked armed

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<sup>197</sup> UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A(III))*, 1948.

<sup>198</sup> UN Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, 1951.

<sup>199</sup> Ibid.

<sup>200</sup> UNHCR, *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*, 1954.

<sup>201</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>203</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 1967.

<sup>204</sup> Ibid.

<sup>205</sup> UN General Assembly, *Report of the World Food Conference*, 1974.

<sup>206</sup> FAO, *Rome Declaration on World Food Security*, 1996; FAO, *Rome Declaration on World Food Security*, 1996.

<sup>207</sup> Ibid.

<sup>208</sup> UN General Assembly, *Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 2008.

<sup>209</sup> Food Assistance Convention, *About*, 2018.

<sup>210</sup> UN DESA, *Goal 2: Zero Hunger*, 2019.

<sup>211</sup> Ibid.

<sup>212</sup> Ibid.

<sup>213</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)*, 2016.

conflict to food insecurity.<sup>214</sup> The resolution urges for safe delivery of humanitarian aid and protection of food systems.<sup>215</sup>

Regionally, the European Union (EU) is guided by the *European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid* to maximize the effectiveness of EU's food aid during humanitarian crises.<sup>216</sup> The EU complements WFP and global efforts in a gender-mainstreamed, resilience building approach.<sup>217</sup> The African Union (AU) adopted in 1969 the *Organization of African Unity (OAU) Refugee Convention*, the world's first regional refugee protection instrument guides its approach towards refugees.<sup>218</sup> The *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child* (1990) highlights the right of children to sufficient nutrition in Article 15 and refugee children's right to protection in Article 23.<sup>219</sup> The AU adopted the *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa* in 2003, which emphasizes the rights of women refugees and IDPs to safety in Article 10 and enshrines women's right to food security in Article 15.<sup>220</sup>

Adopted in 1988, the Organization of American States (OAS)'s *Protocol of San Salvador* Article 12 cements the right of all people to adequate nutrition.<sup>221</sup> OAS' *Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework* (MIRPS) in 2017 serve as a regional response to the refugee and displacement issues in its Member States.<sup>222</sup> The MIRPS is the foundation for best practices on assistance, including humanitarian services such as food, to refugees and displaced peoples since it is the first concrete example of the application of the Global Compact on Refugees.<sup>223</sup>

### **Role of the International System**

WFP is at the forefront of providing food assistance in emergencies and two-thirds of their work is in conflict-affected countries.<sup>224</sup> It is the authority on mobilizing food and transportation for extensive refugee-feeding operations in emergency situations to alleviate humanitarian needs.<sup>225</sup> WFP leads, and is a part of, numerous clusters and multi-stakeholder partnerships coordinating emergency responses in relation to areas of food, logistics, and telecommunications.<sup>226</sup> WFP is the base of, and co-leads the Food Security Cluster with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to address food security in humanitarian emergencies.<sup>227</sup> WFP also hosts and leads the Logistics Cluster, a group of humanitarian actors, responsible for arranging coordination, information management, and logistics services in humanitarian emergencies.<sup>228</sup> As head of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, WFP provides reliable telecommunications to humanitarians responding to crises.<sup>229</sup> WFP's *Strategic Plan 2017–2021* positions it to address SDG 2 while integrating other SDGs such as SDG 5, with its work on gender equality with female-focused policies and SDG 4, through its school meals programs.<sup>230</sup> As one of the

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<sup>214</sup> UN Security Council, *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/RES/2417)*, 2018.

<sup>215</sup> Ibid.

<sup>216</sup> European Commission, *Humanitarian Food Assistance*, 2013.

<sup>217</sup> Ibid.

<sup>218</sup> AU, *OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa*, 1969; UNHCR, *1969 OAU Refugee Convention Fact Sheet*, 2019.

<sup>219</sup> AU, *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, 2019.

<sup>220</sup> AU, *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*, 2019.

<sup>221</sup> OAS, *Protocol of San Salvador*, 2015; OAS, Department of Law, *Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights "Protocol of San Salvador"*, 2019.

<sup>222</sup> MIRPS Country Teams, the OAS and UNHCR, *Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework Annual Report 2017–2018*, 2018.

<sup>223</sup> Ibid.

<sup>224</sup> UN WFP, *Overview*, 2019.

<sup>225</sup> UN DGC, *Deliver Humanitarian Aid*, 2019.

<sup>226</sup> UN WFP, *Humanitarian Support and Services*, 2019.

<sup>227</sup> Food Security Cluster, *About Food Security Cluster*, 2019.

<sup>228</sup> UN WFP, *Logistics Cluster*, 2019.

<sup>229</sup> UN WFP, *Emergency Telecommunications Cluster*, 2019.

<sup>230</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Strategic Plan (2017–2021)*, 2017.

Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), WFP works closely with the FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for SDG implementation.<sup>231</sup> FAO's work is more aligned with agriculture and food production for efficient, resilient food systems.<sup>232</sup> IFAD funds agricultural projects and primarily invests in rural populations of developing countries.<sup>233</sup> The RBAs signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2018 to further enhance their efforts to address the implementation of SDGs, particularly to achieve Zero Hunger.<sup>234</sup> In collaboration with FAO and IFAD, WFP is supporting regional efforts tackling food insecurity that could lead to conflict in the vulnerable Sahel region.<sup>235</sup>

The UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) advocates for the welfare and rights of refugees.<sup>236</sup> Through the *UNHCR-WFP Joint Principles on Targeting Assistance to Meet Food and Other Basic Needs*, both UN agencies collaborate on best practices to assist refugees.<sup>237</sup> Per the MOU from 1997, WFP works with UNHCR to conduct food assessments, distribute food rations, and establish planning figures around the number of beneficiaries since WFP provides food in crises with at least 5,000 beneficiaries.<sup>238</sup> Cash-based assistance is aligned with WFP's shift in providing increased food assistance than food aid and has a multiplier effect on the economy.<sup>239</sup> Their joint agreement in 2017 commits the two agencies to provide cash-based assistance to refugees.<sup>240</sup> The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) of the UN Secretariat coordinates with WFP to feed the hungry in crises and it manages the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) that helps fund WFP's work.<sup>241</sup> CERF serves as the global emergency response fund that allows country teams to coordinate responses to emerging crises more quickly and effectively.<sup>242</sup>

The EU is one of the world's major donors in emergency food assistance and nearly one-third, or 336 million euros, of its 2018 humanitarian budget funded such assistance.<sup>243</sup> Its funding is vital to alleviating hunger of refugees and IDPs like its 2 million euro funding to the WFP for its emergency operation supporting Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.<sup>244</sup> The EU partnered with other organizations such as OCHA and WFP to produce the 2019 *Global Report on Food Crises*, which guides EU humanitarian funding and the work of integral actors on addressing food crises.<sup>245</sup> The EU has also initiated programs such as the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey to help pay for Syrian refugees' basic needs like food.<sup>246</sup> With the theme of the 32<sup>nd</sup> AU summit as the "Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa", the AU is prioritizing refugees by organizing events, such as trainings and capacity building activities to engage partners like the Pan-African Parliament and UN agencies on displacement in Africa.<sup>247</sup> Through its adoption of *Humanitarian*

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<sup>231</sup> UN WFP, *Rome-Based Agencies*, 2019.

<sup>232</sup> FAO, *About Us*, 2019.

<sup>233</sup> IFAD, *About Us*, 2019.

<sup>234</sup> UN WFP, *UN Food Agencies Commit to Deeper Collaboration to Achieve Zero Hunger*, 2018.

<sup>235</sup> IFAD, *As Millions Experience Increased Food Insecurity in the Sahel, UN Food Agency Chiefs Pledge to Redouble Efforts to Reduce Poverty and Hunger*, 2018.

<sup>236</sup> UNHCR, *What We Do*, 2019.

<sup>237</sup> UNHCR, *UNHCR-WFP Joint Principles on Targeting Assistance to Meet Food and Other Basic Needs*, 2017.

<sup>238</sup> UNHCR, *World Food Programme*, 2019.

<sup>239</sup> UN WFP, *Cash Transfers*, 2019.

<sup>240</sup> UNHCR, *UNHCR, WFP Agreement Creates Combined Efficiencies to Benefit Refugees*, 2017.

<sup>241</sup> UN DGC, *Deliver Humanitarian Aid*, 2019.

<sup>242</sup> UN Central Emergency Response Fund, *Who We Are*, 2019.

<sup>243</sup> European Commission, *Food Assistance*, 2019.

<sup>244</sup> UN WFP, *New EU Funding Helps WFP Provide Food Assistance to Rohingya Refugees and Ensure Their Safety through the Monsoon Season*, 2019.

<sup>245</sup> European Commission, *Global Report on Food Crises: Acute Hunger Still Affecting over 100 Million People Worldwide*, 2019.

<sup>246</sup> European Commission, *Facility for Refugees in Turkey: €127 Million to Boost EU's Largest Ever Humanitarian Programme*, 2019.

<sup>247</sup> UNHCR, *The African Union's Theme for 2019*, 2019.

*Assistance in Venezuela* resolution in 2019, the OAS encourages its members and the international community to continue providing support, such as food, to the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.<sup>248</sup>

Civil society is also a critical partner in improving food assistance and WFP partners with over 1,000 national and international NGOs in the countries it serves.<sup>249</sup> 75% of WFP's food assistance is delivered with their help.<sup>250</sup> For example, in Syria where the war displaced 6.6 million people and created over 5.6 million refugees, the WFP worked with 22 NGOs like the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and 2 IGOs like the Aga Khan Foundation to get people the food they needed.<sup>251</sup> The value of civil society partnerships is highlighted in WFP's Annual Partnership Consultations which started in 1995, and have become an important forum for WFP and current as well as potential partners to collaborate and strategize.<sup>252</sup> Academia and think tanks such as the International Food Policy Research Institute provide WFP with the research needed to formulate policy decisions in tackling humanitarian crises.<sup>253</sup> The WFP cultivates partnerships in the private sector to fund and further food operations in helping refugees and IDPs.<sup>254</sup> An example is the designer brand Balenciaga, which raises funds and global awareness through the sale of WFP-branded clothing.<sup>255</sup> Through its partnership with WFP, Balenciaga has donated \$250,000 and 10% of WFP-branded product sales are donated.<sup>256</sup>

### ***Innovations in Food Assistance***

Historically, WFP has employed in-kind assistance, or food aid, to alleviate hunger, which provided people with food to eat without taking their needs in consideration.<sup>257</sup> WFP deploys a variety of instruments for food assistance depending on the ideal fit for the recipients such as in-kind food transfers, vouchers, cash transfers (digital and physical), cash vouchers (digital and physical), and food purchases.<sup>258</sup> WFP continues to use alternatively, jointly, and/or singly, cash and in-kind assistance as tools in its fight against hunger in vulnerable populations.<sup>259</sup> For example, since 2012, WFP has provided refugees in Lebanon with food assistance ranging from food parcels to paper vouchers and e-cards which gives the families agency to decide their meals and boosts the Lebanese economy.<sup>260</sup>

#### ***In-Kind versus Cash-Based Assistance***

WFP defines cash assistance as physical bank notes, e-money, mobile money, through debit cards or value vouchers which are redeemable at locally-contracted shops.<sup>261</sup> It is a cost-effective, flexible approach that empowers refugees and IDPs to purchase food suitable to their needs at local markets and has a multiplier effect on local economies.<sup>262</sup> Cash assistance is increasingly becoming a bigger portion of how WFP distributes aid because in-kind food assistance incurs expensive transportation costs and can skew food prices in local markets.<sup>263</sup> However, in-kind food assistance is more effective in emergency situations where the basic market infrastructure is not functioning.<sup>264</sup> In 2018, WFP provided 24.5 people with cash assistance and cash assistance constituted \$1.76 billion, or 35% of its total food assistance

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<sup>248</sup> OAS, *OAS Permanent Council Adopts Resolution on Humanitarian Assistance in Venezuela*, 2019.

<sup>249</sup> UN WFP, *Non-governmental Organizations*, 2019.

<sup>250</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>251</sup> *Ibid.*; UNHCR, *Syria Emergency*, 2019.

<sup>252</sup> UN WFP, *Non-governmental Organizations*, 2019.

<sup>253</sup> UN WFP, *Academia and Think Tanks*, 2019.

<sup>254</sup> UN WFP, *Private Sector*, 2019.

<sup>255</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>256</sup> Balenciaga, *World Food Programme*, 2019.

<sup>257</sup> UN WFP, *Food Assistance: Cash and In-kind*, 2019.

<sup>258</sup> UN WFP, *World Food Assistance 2017*, 2017.

<sup>259</sup> UN WFP, *Food Assistance: Cash and In-kind*, 2019.

<sup>260</sup> UN WFP, *Food Assistance for Refugees in Lebanon*, 2019.

<sup>261</sup> UN WFP, *Food Assistance: Cash and In-kind*, 2019.

<sup>262</sup> UN WFP, *Cash-based Transfers for Delivering Food Assistance*, 2016.

<sup>263</sup> ITU, *How the World Food Programme Uses Blockchain to Better Serve Refugees*, 2019.

<sup>264</sup> UN WFP, *Cash-based Transfers for Delivering Food Assistance*, 2016.

portfolio.<sup>265</sup> WFP has employed cash assistance in a variety of ways such as giving IDPs in the countries around the Lake Chad basin a mix of traditional banknotes and mobile money to buy food at their local marketplaces.<sup>266</sup> Partnerships with other agencies and organizations are important in promoting different forms of food assistance and WFP has partnered with UNHCR to roll out the innovative iris scan payment system in Jordan's Zaatari refugee camp.<sup>267</sup> WFP works with UNHCR biometric registration data of refugees, Iris Guard's iris scan, Jordan Ahli Bank, and Middle East Payment Services to administer this form of payment which scans irises to match up with corresponding bank accounts before confirming the purchases of goods.<sup>268</sup> In Jordan, WFP has also partnered with Mastercard to provide electronic cards to Syrian refugee families to buy food.<sup>269</sup> Electronic cards known as SCOPE cards have also proven integral in facilitating food assistance for displaced Iraqis and Syrian refugees in Iraq.<sup>270</sup> The SCOPE cards require people to register with their personal information and fingerprints so they can access their card to buy food from local vendors or pick up food from WFP distribution points.<sup>271</sup> Another tool helping refugees and IDPs with their food purchases is the Dalili smartphone application; it allows them to compare food prices and boosts competition among shops.<sup>272</sup> First piloted in November 2017 in Lebanon, Dalili's success nationwide in helping 11,900 users a month compare 250 items across 385 shops has led to its expansion into Jordan and Kenya.<sup>273</sup>

### *The use of blockchain technology*

The WFP Innovation Accelerator, started in 2016 to fulfil the SDGs, further supports new technologies and ideas to strengthen its humanitarian operations.<sup>274</sup> It fosters the use of new technologies such as blockchain and artificial intelligence in WFP's work and its impact in scaling innovations reached over 763,000 people in 2018.<sup>275</sup> Partnering with other international agencies such as United States Agency for International Development, educational institutions such as Singularity University, start-ups, foundations such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and corporations such as Cargill, the Accelerator has spearheaded many projects to improve food aid assistance.<sup>276</sup> Blockchain technology makes cash transfers more effective, reliable, and transparent which helps WFP distribute food assistance more easily and its flexibility gives recipients more freedom with their food options.<sup>277</sup> One successful project involving blockchain technology is Building Blocks.<sup>278</sup> Building Blocks harnesses the distributed ledger technology to protect beneficiary data and reduce costs for cash transfers.<sup>279</sup> The transactions use blockchain and UNHCR's biometric identity management system to create a virtual wallet and virtual bank account that beneficiaries can use to securely purchase goods at markets.<sup>280</sup> It has since been deployed to deliver food aid to about 106,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan and WFP distributed cash transfers adding up to \$1.76 billion in 2018.<sup>281</sup> While using blockchain technology has seen success in improving food assistance through cash transfers, some of the challenges with its use is in the lack of security within financial institutions to provide the cash transfer in the countries where refugees and IDPs reside.<sup>282</sup>

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<sup>265</sup> UN WFP, *Cash Transfers*, 2019.

<sup>266</sup> UN WFP, *Cash-based Transfers for Delivering Food Assistance*, 2016.

<sup>267</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Introduces Iris Scan Technology To Provide Food Assistance To Syrian Refugees In Zaatari*, 2016.

<sup>268</sup> Ibid.

<sup>269</sup> UN WFP, USA, *Vouchers and E-Cards*, 2019.

<sup>270</sup> UN News, *Digital Cards Improve Food Assistance to Displaced Families and Syrian Refugees in Iraq—UN Agency*, 2016.

<sup>271</sup> Ibid.

<sup>272</sup> UN WFP, *Dalili*, 2019.

<sup>273</sup> Ibid.

<sup>274</sup> UN WFP, *World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator 2018*; UN WFP, *Year in Review*, 2018.

<sup>275</sup> Ibid.

<sup>276</sup> Ibid.

<sup>277</sup> UN WFP, *Blockchain for Zero Hunger Building Blocks*, 2019.

<sup>278</sup> Ibid.

<sup>279</sup> Ibid.

<sup>280</sup> ITU, *How the World Food Programme Uses Blockchain to Better Serve Refugees*, 2019.

<sup>281</sup> UN WFP, *Blockchain for Zero Hunger Building Blocks*, 2019.

<sup>282</sup> UN WFP, *Blockchain for Zero Hunger*, 2018.



Additionally, refugees and IDPs sometimes face challenges in gaining access to financial institutions because of restrictions in being able to open their own bank accounts.<sup>283</sup>

### *Food fortification*

First used in North American and European countries in the 1920s, food fortification is a cost-effective method to increase nutritional intake since people do not need to change their diets to benefit and it can be easily integrated into existing food programs.<sup>284</sup> Food fortification involves adding micronutrients, such as vitamins and minerals, to staple foods and condiments.<sup>285</sup> A form of malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies can lead to brain damage (iodine deficiency) and death during childbirth (iron deficiency) and are an obstacle to achieving zero hunger and healthy living for refugees and IDPs.<sup>286</sup> Rice has been a neglected global staple and WFP is scaling up its rice fortification efforts in West African countries.<sup>287</sup> Spurred by the WFP Innovation Accelerator and in line with SDG 2.2 to end malnutrition, WFP has a pilot program in Mali to develop a rice fortification model for WFP to improve nutritional status of vulnerable populations in West Africa and globally since rice is increasingly becoming a food staple in the region.<sup>288</sup> Rice, for example, is a staple food in many countries that can be made to meet the nutritional needs of many if fortified, however, rice is largely cultivated domestically or locally, which makes access to the rice that is provided to the population, difficult.<sup>289</sup>

### **Safety and Accessibility to Food Assistance**

Humanitarian organizations, including WFP, need to access to people in need, secure sites for work to be accomplished, and to ensure the safety of aid workers, particularly in conflict-stricken areas, so they can provide food assistance to refugees and IDPs.<sup>290</sup> Aid workers face detention by military groups and even death in conflict prone areas that need assistance, which can interrupt food aid and assistance delivery.<sup>291</sup> One method in promoting security of food assistance is by engaging in frontline negotiations.<sup>292</sup> WFP is part of the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation, an initiative that facilitates peer learning to improve on negotiations, successful negotiations with hostile parties can be the difference in allowing for aid to reach those in need.<sup>293</sup> Another key factor is the location of food distribution facilities which is vital to maximizing the efficiency of food aid, and camp settings should have at least one distribution point for every 20,000 people.<sup>294</sup> UNHCR's Emergency Handbook provides a framework to coordinate humanitarian assistance in a safe manner.<sup>295</sup> The handbook details best practices and steps necessary to safely set up food distribution in refugee camps.<sup>296</sup> Principle 4 of the *Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises* further emphasizes the need to ensure protection and calls on all stakeholders in the conflict to allow secure access for aid.<sup>297</sup>

Safety of aid workers also continues to be a challenge, since their well-being is tied to the effectiveness of the assistance they provide, and attacks on humanitarian facilities have increased since 2013, especially

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<sup>283</sup> Ibid.

<sup>284</sup> UN WFP, *Food Fortification*, 2018.

<sup>285</sup> Ibid.

<sup>286</sup> Ibid.

<sup>287</sup> UN WFP, *Rice Fortification*, 2017.

<sup>288</sup> UN WFP, *Rice Fortification*, 2017; FAO & WFP, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI): Safeguarding against Economic Slowdowns and Downturns*, 2019.

<sup>289</sup> UN WFP, *Fortification of Rice*, 2019.

<sup>290</sup> UN WFP, *Evaluation of WFP Policies on Humanitarian Principles and Access in Humanitarian Contexts*, 2018; Phiri, *Against all the odds: Getting through to people in need in South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>291</sup> Phiri, *Against all the odds: Getting through to people in need in South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>292</sup> Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation, *Frontline Negotiations: What We Do*, 2019.

<sup>293</sup> Ibid.; Phiri, *Against all odds: Getting through to people in need in South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>294</sup> UNHCR, *Emergency Handbook Food Security in Camps*, 2018.

<sup>295</sup> Ibid.

<sup>296</sup> Ibid.

<sup>297</sup> FAO, *Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises*, 2018.

in Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.<sup>298</sup> In South Sudan, a separate unit called the Access Unit, made up of WFP staff, was created to try to tackle the issue of access and security of sites for food distribution.<sup>299</sup> The Access Unit played a pivotal role in securing access to remote locations by remaining in constant dialogue with all stakeholders on the ground in South Sudan, building relationships, and maintaining them, proved key in achieving access to remote areas of South Sudan which had not been receiving the amount of aid necessary for the people in those areas.<sup>300</sup>

Measures to mitigate risk such as the UN Security Management System (UNSMS)'s UN Programme Criticality Framework have been implemented to determine levels of acceptable security risk for programs and food aid workers.<sup>301</sup> Acknowledging that local aid agencies are best equipped to respond to crises, the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit led to the creation of the Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR).<sup>302</sup> NEAR is composed of local and national NGOs from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America and aims to designate a more centralized role to local aid agencies since they are more knowledgeable about the area, thus they can more safely address the humanitarian crisis at hand.<sup>303</sup> NGOs such as ActionAid demonstrate commitment to achieve NEAR's goals and ActionAid has since worked on a mechanism to monitor the humanitarian funding, collaborated with NGO Christian Aid's project "Accelerating Localisation through Partnerships" to analyze challenges, and built the Strategic Humanitarian Assessment and Participatory Empowerment Framework guiding local organizations through a self-assessment process in responding to humanitarian responses.<sup>304</sup> UN Chief Executives Board has also endorsed Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environment (SSAFE) training, signifying a shift towards acceptable risk instead of risk aversion to approaching humanitarian fieldwork.<sup>305</sup> The SSAFE training teaches humanitarian personnel serving in dangerous areas to be more aware of threats and equip them with the knowledge and skills required to prevent and respond to security incidents.<sup>306</sup>

### *Reliable Funding*

Adequate funding for WFP is also pivotal to its ability to provide food assistance in a safe and accessible manner, since WFP does not have an independent source of funds.<sup>307</sup> It is completely reliant on donations, which mainly come from governments, and corporate support through cash, product, or services.<sup>308</sup> The lack of steady funding adversely impacts WFP operations to assist refugees and IDPs; shortfalls in funding were recently seen in January 2019, which affected WFP's operations in Palestine by ending benefits for about 27,000 people while the rest of the population served received 80% of its monthly entitlement.<sup>309</sup> To address funding shortfalls, WFP appeals to the international community as seen in its 2019 funding appeal of \$57 million and its awareness-raising video campaign on Gaza.<sup>310</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Nearly 72 million people suffer from food insecurity and many of these people are considered refugees or IDPs.<sup>311</sup> It is crucial for the WFP to abide by its humanitarian principles and provide safe, accessible food relief to these vulnerable populations.<sup>312</sup> WFP continues to shift towards food assistance to refugees and

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<sup>298</sup> UN WFP, *Evaluation of WFP Policies on Humanitarian Principles and Access in Humanitarian Contexts*, 2018.

<sup>299</sup> Phiri, *Against all odds: Getting through to people in need in South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>300</sup> Ibid.

<sup>301</sup> UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, *Programme Criticality Framework*, 2019.

<sup>302</sup> OCHA, *Agenda for Humanity, NEAR-Network for Empowered Aid Response*, 2016.

<sup>303</sup> Ibid.

<sup>304</sup> OCHA, *Agenda for Humanity, ActionAid Self-Report 2019*, 2019.

<sup>305</sup> UN WFP, *World Food Assistance 2017: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead*, 2017.

<sup>306</sup> Ibid.

<sup>307</sup> UN WFP, *Funding and Donors*, 2019.

<sup>308</sup> Ibid.

<sup>309</sup> UN WFP, *Funding Crunch Forces WFP to Reduce Food Assistance in Palestine Despite Rising Need*, 2018.

<sup>310</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Palestine Country Brief January 2019*, 2019.

<sup>311</sup> Food Security Information Network, *Global Report on Food Crises 2019*, 2019.

<sup>312</sup> UN WFP, *Evaluation of WFP Policies on Humanitarian Principles and Access in Humanitarian Contexts*, 2018.

IDPs by providing them with cash, vouchers, and electronic cards instead of traditional food aid so they are more empowered in their dietary decisions.<sup>313</sup> Innovative new technologies such as blockchain and mobile applications may be the future of food assistance, facilitating humanitarian efforts more effectively and efficiently than ever before.<sup>314</sup> Improvements in food such as food fortification are key in increasing the nutrient content of food for refugees and IDPs, ensuring that they get the proper nutrients in food that they already consume.<sup>315</sup> Safety of aid workers, refugees, and IDPs need to be improved so food assistance can be distributed without harm.<sup>316</sup> While many innovations are being utilized in enhancing food assistance programs, challenges remain.<sup>317</sup> Technological innovations can face hurdles in the lack of infrastructure needed to be use affectively by those it seeks to help, access to areas in need and the safety of aid workers continues to be a struggle, and insufficient funding remains a major issue affecting WFP programming as a reliable source of funds needs to be identified for WFP to fulfil its mission in feeding the hungry.<sup>318</sup>

### **Further Research**

What are ways that WFP can help refugees and IDPs become more food secure? How can new technological advances be utilized to assist WFP's work? What challenges may arise in implementing new technology such as blockchain in providing food assistance? How can international actors coordinate humanitarian responses in a safer way to protect both aid workers and targeted beneficiaries? Given that WFP is funded entirely by voluntary donations, how can WFP mitigate effects on its food assistance programs in funding shortfalls or secure a reliable source of funding? Although not explored in the background guide, school and work programs are also vital in facilitating WFP's work so how can these programs be better integrated with the new technologies that WFP is utilizing?

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*This is a short but important document that provides a broad framework that can be used by all stakeholders who may have a role in improving or impacting food security and nutrition in protracted crises. It identifies the 11 key principles necessary in addressing the food insecurity during humanitarian emergencies such as conflict or natural disaster-stricken areas. Delegates should read through this document to understand what a successful response to a food crisis entails.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Food Programme. (2019). *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI): Safeguarding against Economic Slowdowns and Downturns*. Retrieved 14 July 2019 from: <https://www1.wfp.org/publications/2019-state-food-security-and-nutrition-world-sofi-safeguarding-against-economic>

*WFP's annual flagship report provides updates on the progress towards ending world hunger and achieving food security. It also provides an in-depth analysis about the challenges in context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This report confirms that world hunger has risen particularly in Africa and western Asia mainly driven by conflict, climate change and economic marginalization. This report is useful for delegates since it provides an informative overview of the current state of hunger in the world.*

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<sup>313</sup> WFP, *Food Assistance: Cash and In-kind*, 2019.

<sup>314</sup> UN WFP, *World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator 2018 Year in Review*, 2018.

<sup>315</sup> UN WFP, *Food Fortification*, 2018.

<sup>316</sup> UN WFP, *Evaluation of WFP Policies on Humanitarian Principles and Access in Humanitarian Contexts*, 2018.

<sup>317</sup> Phiri, *Against all odds: Getting through to people in need in South Sudan*, 2019; UN WFP, *World Food Assistance 2017: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead*, 2017; UN WFP, *Blockchain for Zero Hunger*, 2018.

<sup>318</sup> UN WFP, *Funding and Donors*, 2019.

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*The third annual report on food crises is a compilation of data, analyses, knowledge and expertise regarding food insecurity and malnutrition in countries facing crisis from development and humanitarian agencies. It provides in-depth information about food crises in the world that have resulted in countless people becoming food insecure along with expected trends in 2019. By identifying which countries are likely to experience improvements in food security and which countries where the situation is likely to remain static or further deteriorate, this report helps identify and predict needs so resources can be channeled appropriately. The report gives delegates a deeper understanding of current food crises and what the international community is planning to do.*

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*The Strategic Plan (2017–2021) aligns WFP with the 2030 Agenda, focusing on ending hunger and leveraging global partnerships to implement the SDGs. It sets up WFP's vision to lift the most vulnerable populations out of hunger by identifying WFP's goals and strategies to achieve such goals. The plan also details how the WFP plans to monitor its work and the financial framework in place to fund itself. Delegates will find this helpful in understanding WFP's objectives and base their research on how to achieve these objectives.*

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*Utilizing a mixture of data-gathering tools and methods, this evaluation assesses the quality of the policies and WFP's progress on humanitarian principles by examining its work in the time period 2012-2017. WFP's policies on humanitarian principles and access continue to be very relevant at a time where the number of protracted emergencies has grown and aid has become increasingly politicized. It provides recommendations for WFP to increase investment in and prioritize humanitarian principles in its work to ensure that people in dire access to food assistance can be better reached. Delegates will gain a better perspective on past WFP policies and programs in providing humanitarian aid and what changes can be implemented for more effective humanitarian food assistance in the future.*

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