

Draft Terms of Reference for CFS Policy Convergence Work on Nutrition

WFP's inputs and feed back

1. Would you agree with the proposed approach which uses food environments as the entry point for policy interventions?

WFP, as member of the Technical Task Team, recognizes the importance of using food environments as an entry point for the development of guidelines on Nutrition and Food Systems.

We, however, believe that this approach should not entail the exclusion of any other dimension of food systems: food environments should be in fact used as lens to look at different elements of food systems.

We would therefore like to highlight the need for holistic approach in the development of the guidelines. This proposed approach would adopt food environments as an entry point while including other aspects of food systems, namely food supply chains and consumer behaviour.

This position aligns with recommendations: 1a), 1b), 2a) and 2b) of the HLPE report as follows:

- Recommendations 1a) and 1b): National governments should:
 - 1a) Recognize the diversity of food systems (traditional, mixed, modern) and design context-specific policies and programmes that support the co-existence of diverse food systems and diets.
 - 1b) Integrate a nutrition-focused food system approach into national development, health and economic plans.

- Recommendations 2a) and 2b): National governments and inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) should:
 - 2a) Increase the share of official development assistance (ODA) to support more sustainable food systems, to address all forms of malnutrition, and to prevent diet-related non-communicable diseases

2b) Avert devastating, costly famines, by strengthening local food systems and longer-term development support, and by investing in humanitarian aid that supports communities' capacities and resilience

- Recommendation 7b): National governments, IGOs, the private sector, academic institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) should:
7b) Promote nutrition-focused, policy-relevant research on food systems and food demand, using an interdisciplinary systems approach, to understand the drivers and determinants of food environments and food choices as well as the gaps in evidence on such decisions.

In addition, many recent reports highlight the need for a holistic approach and radical transformation of agriculture and food systems to tackle the multiple burdens of malnutrition and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda (WoFA 2017; Whitmee et al., 2015; HLPE, 2016; IPES-Food, 2016; GloPan, 2016a; Haddad et al., 2016;).

2. If not, would you support expanding the focus of the ToRs looking at Food Systems in their entirety considering the time and cost implication among other factors?

WFP would like to recommend the guidelines be a flexible tool to be adapted to the varying country contexts and needs. The guidelines could provide a framework for action and could gather all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc,) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes.

3. Would you agree with proposed policy-relevant areas? Do you suggest any additions or amendments?

We would recommend some flexibility being built in the draft ToR to ensure that other food system dimensions are also covered. Among them, supply chains and consumer behaviours. Entire networks are needed to produce food, transform it, and ensure it reaches consumers. Improving

the performance of the whole food systems is vital to achieving SDG2 and the broader Agenda 2030.

➤ Supply chains.

Supply chains are a point of leverage for agriculture to improve nutrition, particularly through traditional production systems focused on micronutrient-rich foods. Supply chains impact how foods are processed, distributed and marketed – activities that can all affect the nutritional quality of foods accessible in food environments. Nutrition awareness among actors along the supply chain can also motivate them to maximize nutrition entering the chain.

- Consumer Behaviours: Regulation, information and education can orient consumers towards healthier and more sustainable food choices. Mass media campaigns, social and behaviour change communication, social protection programmes and food-based dietary guidelines all serve to increase awareness and influence consumer behaviour. Consumers face many barriers to healthy eating, and the way that they interact with food is affected not only by their own beliefs and decisions but also by the people in their lives, their community and environment and the culture in which they live.

Finally, we believe the guidelines should also serve as a tool to bridge the humanitarian-development-peace divide. Recommendation 2b in the HLPE 12 states that to strengthen global cooperation to end hunger and malnutrition, national governments and IGOs should- “avert devastating, costly famines, by strengthening local food systems and longer-term development support, and by investing in humanitarian aid that supports communities’ capacities and resilience”. (HLPE 12, pg17). Sixty percent of the world’s hungry live in war zones. This means 489 million people are suffering man-made, preventable hunger. This data can’t be neglected in the preparation of the ToR. The guidelines could help countries strengthening food systems’ resilience while linking emergency relief interventions with longer term strategies for sustainable development. Within this framework, food assistance plays a key role in bridging humanitarian actions and longer term, hunger reduction strategies, if done in a way it addresses problems at their roots and aims to improve food system performance.