

Preliminary Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition

WFP's inputs to the document

- 1) WFP would like to commend the key role played by the CFS Secretariat in preparing the preliminary version of the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and thank its members for the continued support provided, throughout the process, to the Technical Task Team (TTT). As a member of the TTT, WFP would like to reiterate its sustained commitment in support of the preparation of the Guidelines.
- 2) We concur with the view presented by several Member States and stakeholders during the last OEWG Meeting focusing on the importance of strengthening the document's policy coherence. In the document, the various policy recommendations should be contributing to the same food system objectives, in a synergistic manner, and be presented as interconnected elements that form part of the same whole. It is also key to ensure that the patterns of interactions and relationships across the various elements are looked at and that the dynamicity underlying these interactions is taken into consideration across the document. At the same time, we would also like to emphasize the importance of delving into the 'how' of these policy recommendations and ensuring the guidelines are a tool to support countries and other stakeholders operationalize recommendations and translate them into actions, when deemed appropriate and relevant given the country context.
- 3) We deem essential to take into account critical exogenous and endogenous drivers that impact and are impacted by food systems. In that regard, we support para 13 of the Preliminary Version of the Zero Draft of the Guidelines, which states that political and economic drivers, among others, "will be taken into account" throughout the drafting of the document. We further endorse para 31 of the Preliminary Version, according to which: "[drivers of change] will be analysed in the development of the policy guidance with regards to the different elements of food systems and their subcomponents." Together with the TTT, we stand ready to continue offering our support and expertise to elaborate this section of the document.
- 4) Among these drivers, conflicts and natural disasters can have devastating effects on food systems' functioning and on their ability to deliver healthy and sustainable diets. Fragility and susceptibility to disaster risk poses a major global threat not only to the functioning of food systems but to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a whole. The current situation is alarming and can't be ignored. It is estimated that around 2 billion people live in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence¹, and 36 countries or territories are considered as being in fragile situations now². According to the World Bank, the share of extremely poor people living in conflict affected areas will rise to 50% by 2030³. Furthermore, we are witnessing a substantial growth in the global population of forcibly displaced people: over the last 10 years, figures have increased by over 50 per cent. Today 1 out of every 110 people in the world is displaced, compared with 1 in 157 a decade ago⁴. At the same time, it is estimated that around 201 million people across the world

¹ World Bank. Harmonized List of Fragile Situations. Available at: www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations

² World Bank. Fragility, conflict and violence. Available at: www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview

³ World Bank, 2017. Catalyzing progress toward the global nutrition targets: three potential financing packages. Available at: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/26069/3_intervention_pack_WEB.pdf?sequence=11

⁴ UNHCR, 2018. Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2017.

need humanitarian assistance⁵. At the same time, the effects of climate change on our ecosystems, agriculture and food security are already severe and widespread, which will make the challenge of ending hunger and malnutrition even more difficult.

- 5) Complex crises can not only lead to disrupted food systems, but can also have both immediate and long-term consequences on the nutritional status, in particular of vulnerable groups such as women and children.⁶ The 2018 Global Nutrition Report⁷ indicates that fragility, conflict and violence impact all forms of malnutrition and that there is a greater burden of both wasting and stunting coexisting in young children and pregnant women who are exposed to conflict. Increasing evidence is showing that high prevalence of stunting can manifest and increase in crises; country-level data shows how stunting is notably greater in countries affected by conflicts. Finally, we also know that children in countries affected by humanitarian emergencies account for nearly half of all under-five deaths.
- 6) The missed opportunity - of not addressing food systems and nutrition in humanitarian contexts - is far too high for us to ignore. WFP strongly believes that the humanitarian angle should feature more prominently in the document, starting from its scope. If we are to achieve a world without hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030, it is imperative that we promote systemic and comprehensive policies that aim to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems in response to climate-related shocks and humanitarian crises. WFP believes that the Guidelines constitute a unique opportunity to do this, and that failing to do so risks rendering them partial and weakening their contribution towards the SDGs.
- 7) In line with recommendation 2(b) of the HLPE Report, WFP calls for the inclusion in the Guidelines of a preventative and long-term approach that results in increased resilience to humanitarian crises.⁸ Disrupted and “broken” food systems – or food systems that are particularly vulnerable to shocks and disruption – can be strengthened or altogether rebuilt through the creation of resilient food supply chains and through improved foods environments. The Guidelines should serve as a tool to help countries strengthen food systems’ resilience, while linking emergency relief interventions with long-term strategies for sustainable development. In order to build resilience against food crises, food assistance must evolve to meet both short-term, humanitarian needs as well as strengthen food systems, addressing root causes of hunger and supporting broader development goals.
- 8) Finally, no single actor can singlehandedly reshape food systems to improve nutrition and enable healthy diets. As such – and in line with SDG 17 – we advocate for the building and strengthening of multistakeholder partnerships across multiple sectors to transform food systems and improve nutrition, particularly in humanitarian contexts. In this regard, stronger reference should be made in the document to partnerships and connections should be established with those platforms, such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, that are already galvanising multi-stakeholder efforts for improved nutrition at the country level. We would also like to reiterate the important role that the private sector needs to play to make food systems work for nutrition, and we stand

⁵ Development Initiatives, 2018. Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2018. Available at:

<http://devinit.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/GHA-Report-2018.pdf>

⁶ FSIN, Global Report on Food Crises 2018. Available here: https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000069227/download/?_ga=2.32463038.1472499292.1552920536-805255700.1547118517

⁷ Global Nutrition Report, 2018. Available at: <https://globalnutritionreport.org/reports/global-nutrition-report-2018/>

⁸ Recommendation 2(b) of the HLPE Report specifies that states and inter-governmental organizations (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.” Page 17 of the 12th HLPE Report. Available here <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7846e.pdf>

ready to share WFP's experience and expertise in this area of work, in particular, through its co-convening role of the SUN Business Network and work at local level with smallholder farmers and other initiatives involving the private sector.

We look forward to providing the CFS and our TTT partners with continued support throughout this important process.