



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme



Reaching those left furthest behind

ADDRESSING HUNGER AND POVERTY IN PROTRACTED CRISES

A Side-event to the high level political forum 2017

SUMMARY REPORT

With 20 to 30 million people at immediate risk of famine in July 2017 in only four countries, the world is currently facing levels of food insecurity unprecedented since world war II. One of the main causes of this dramatic regression is protracted crises, often triggered by conflicts, climate shocks, or both; and their complexity makes successful interventions particularly challenging: *Zero hunger is an illusion in a world affected by protracted crises.*

In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's central pledge to leave no-one behind, of the review of progress on "Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture" (SDG2), as well as growing acknowledgement within the Security Council of the importance of the "hunger-conflict nexus", the intergovernmental and multistakeholder Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the UN Rome based agencies FAO, IFAD and WFP, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN, proposed a side-event to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017 "*Reaching those left furthest behind : Addressing Hunger And Poverty In Protracted Crises*".

This side-event, targeting members and stakeholders in New York and other national and global actors, linked the "New Way of Working" called for by Resolutions in New York, to efforts in Rome to bridge humanitarian assistance and long term development by working together to simultaneously address immediate food security and nutrition needs, and strengthen the resilience of agricultural systems and livelihoods. In this context, it presented the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA), an integrated framework negotiated by CFS members and stakeholders with the technical support of the three Rome based Agencies, and endorsed in October 2015. An interactive video and panel discussion comprised of CFS members and stakeholders, together with the audience, outlined guiding principles and issues of particular relevance to address today's crises.

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The panel opened with welcoming remarks by **Ambassador Lise Gregoire, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands' Mission to the United Nations in New York**, hosting the event. Ambassador Gregoire welcomed this joint CFS-RBA side-event in the HLPF 2017, stressing that food security in protracted crises is a key challenge of our time, and of high relevance to the work of the Security Council. Acknowledging that current crises are largely man-made, she called for man-made solutions supported by international humanitarian law, and for humanitarian assistance to lay the foundations of long-term development by focusing on building robust and resilient food systems. A holistic approach is needed, together with better coordination of multi-stakeholder interventions.

The **Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), H.E. Ambassador Amira Gornass**, called for particular and sustained attention to countries in protracted crises, in order for efforts to achieve the SDGs and “leave no one behind” to be successful. Stressing the current alarming levels of food insecurity worldwide, and in particular in Yemen, North-Eastern Nigeria, Somalia, South-Sudan, she recalled the difficulty of addressing hunger and poverty in protracted crises contexts, due to the complexity of root causes, where structural factors such as inequalities, weak governance and resource scarcity often demultiply the negative effects of conflicts or climate disasters. Ambassador Gornass presented the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) and its 11 principles, intended to guide the development of sectorial policies to improve food security and nutrition in protracted crises by addressing critical manifestations and building resilience. She called on all present in the room to accelerate efforts in promoting its use and application.

A short [video](#) presented individual stories of an urban household and a family of rural pastoralists affected by protracted crises and outlined the variety of food security and nutrition related challenges they face as refugees and IDPs, which can only be resolved by integrated sectorial approaches and joined efforts by several partners and stakeholders. To guide such efforts and successful interventions, the video introduced the CFS-FFA and its principles. **Stineke Oenema, Coordinator of UNSCN**, shared reflections from the video and introduced the moderated discussion.

Alexander Temitope Adeyemi Ajayi, Minister, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN, welcomed the side-event as very topical in the context of the security problem faced by Nigeria and the region, and stressed the importance of restoring people’s livelihoods, particularly of the displaced, to combat terrorism and rebuild peace. He presented a number of examples of government interventions aimed at supporting populations’ resilience. These include building strategic grain reserves before the crisis as food reservoirs for emergencies; government efforts to relocate IDPs, and nutrition-related schemes to restore livelihoods and empower people, such as for example the school feeding programmes currently reaching 24 million children. Beyond short-term efforts, he stressed the importance of long term strategic programs for sustainable development, such as ongoing efforts focused on food systems to restore the lake Chad basin and strengthen livelihoods related to the lake.

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Steven Were Omamo from the World Food Programme (WFP), speaking on behalf of all three Rome based Agencies FAO, IFAP and WFP, drew attention on the ongoing regression in hunger eradication, largely due to the effect on food systems of disruptions caused by protracted crises, and called *Zero hunger an illusion in a world affected by protracted crises*. He presented the collaboration between the RBAs (drawing from examples in DRC, Niger, Somalia or lake Chad basin), both to address the immediate needs during crises, and to find more durable political solutions in post-crisis situations, and welcomed the CFS-FFA as a powerful outline to address needs, adapt to specific challenges such as migration, and build longer term resilience for sustainability by focusing investments on resources, gender equality and women's empowerment, and market access.

Mariam Al-Jaajaa, from the CFS Civil Society Mechanism (CSM), drew attention on the importance of listening to the communities living in protracted crises themselves. She presented the negotiation process around the FFA, in which affected communities' voices were fully heard, and recalled that these communities continue to be affected by the delay in applying the FFA. Echoing previous speakers' calls to address underlying causes in order to prevent crises rather than respond to them, she stressed the importance of using a Human Rights' approach, as in the CFS-FFA, and advocated for food insecurity to be considered a violation of international humanitarian law, and called for stepped up efforts to improve accountability.

Jerry Kaminski, from the CFS Private Sector Mechanism (PSM), presented the efforts by the private sector (based on examples from Land O'Lakes International) to contribute to food security in countries affected by protracted crises and conflict, and in particular by supporting farmers to continue farming, through support to cooperatives, transportation of food, training for the dairy sector, and value chain focused interventions. However, more must be done: investments should concentrate on prevention, and data is still largely missing, particularly on inequalities within countries, likely to trigger conflicts. CFS is well suited to use its convening power to foster alliances and partnerships to combine efforts and find local solutions.

Interventions from the floor further emphasized elements of the discussion, related to:

- The importance of local solutions and combatting inequalities in the distribution of resources, supported by an example from Darfur (Sudanese grass-root organization);
- The importance of CFS' processes and work for the change required in development partners' approach to help communities find their own solutions and in finding ways to integrate other sectorial policies such as the VGGT (FIAN);
- The call coming from the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to look at the nexus between security and food security and nutrition and "un-silo" humanitarian assistance, and the importance for actors to take the lead and invite others to work together in applying the FFA (Scaling Up Nutrition Movement Coordinator);
- The positive impact of investing funding in promoting resilience (through mechanisms such as social protection) rather than wait until an emergency response is needed (UNDP).

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Conclusion: The moderator and panelists concluded by stressing the importance of country ownership and leadership, for better quality response, possibly supported by communities of practice at national and regional level, and multistakeholder platforms which promote policy coherence. The RBAs' ongoing work give an excellent example of successful efforts to bridge the humanitarian-development gap through policy integration, but more can still be done by including Geneva stakeholders (WHO, WTO) to the Rome-NY discussions. Panelists called for all members and stakeholders to step up efforts to mobilize national political leadership, and examine their strategies, policies and interventions towards better alignment with the CFS-FFA. Working across borders and silos is key, and efforts will have particular impact if they target building local sustainable food systems that nourish people, good governance and the rule of law, economic empowerment, and intercommunal dialogue. The protection of civilians in conflict and the destabilizing effects of conflicts on food security and nutrition were presented by the Netherlands as a future priority they will champion as members of the Security Council in the upcoming year.



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ANNEX 1: PROGRAMME

13:15 – 13:20

WELCOME BY THE HOST

Ambassador Lise Gregoire, Deputy Permanent representative, Netherlands

13:20 – 13:25

OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Ambassador Amira Gornass, Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Permanent Representative of the Sudan to FAO

13:25 – 13:35

WHY ARE PROTRACTED CRISES SUCH AN OBSTACLE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

An interactive presentation, introduced by **Stineke Oenema**, moderator

13:35 – 13:50

A NEW WAY OF WORKING:

A MULTI-ACTOR PERSPECTIVE ON THE CFS-FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

Alexander Temitope Adeyemi Ajayi, Minister, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN

Steven Were Omamo, Deputy Director, Policy and Programme Division, World Food Programme, on behalf of the UN Rome based agencies FAO, IFAD and WFP

Mariam Al Jaajaa, General Manager, Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, Civil Society Mechanism

Jerry Kaminski, Executive Vice President, Land O'Lakes International, CFS Private Sector Mechanism

13:50-14:10

Q&A

14:10-14:15

MODERATOR'S WRAP UP

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Annex 2: Speakers



H.E. Ambassador Lise Gregoire, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations in New York

Following higher education in Florence, Paris and Nijmegen, Ms Gregoire has had a career within the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with postings including Brussels and Paris. Before coming to New York she was the Head of the Political Affairs Department at the MFA in The Hague.



H.E. Ambassador Amira Gornass, Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Permanent Representative of the Sudan to FAO

H.E. Ambassador Gornass has been the Republic of the Sudan's Ambassador to Italy and the Permanent Representative to the Rome Based Agencies, since 2012. In October 2015 she was elected Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) for a two year term.



Stineke Oenema, Coordinator of the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN)

Stineke Oenema is nutritionist and agricultural economist. She has worked several years for FAO, UNICEF and civil society. Before joining UNSCN as Coordinator, she was part of the Civil Society Mechanism for CFS and member of the Independent Expert Group for the development of the Global Nutrition Report.

Alexander Temitope Adeyemi Ajayi, Minister, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN



Steven Were Omamo, Deputy Director, Policy and Programme Division, World Food Programme

Dr. Steven Were Omamo, an agricultural economist by training, has held numerous leadership positions at WFP since joining the organization in 2006. He previously worked in several international and research organization, including IFAD, IFPRI and ILRI.

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Mariam Al Jaajaa, General Manager of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, Civil Society Mechanism to the CFS

Mariam Al Jaajaa, economist, is the Coordinator of the CSM Working Group on Protracted Crises and took part in the drafting of the CFS-FFA. Previously she has worked with ILO on post conflict recovery and economic revival of Nahr Elbared refugee camp.



Jerry Kaminski, Executive Vice President, Land O'Lakes International, CFS Private Sector Mechanism

In his role of Executive Vice President of Land O'Lakes, Jerry Kaminski oversees Land O'Lakes' Global Dairy Ingredients business, as well as joint venture activity in Land O'Lakes' target international markets. Prior to his current role, he held various leadership positions in the retail and business-to business segments.





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Annex 3: Photo Gallery





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Annex 4: CFS and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. The Committee reports to the UN General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to FAO Conference.

Using a multi-stakeholder, inclusive approach, which also sees the participation of civil society and the private sector, CFS develops and endorses policy recommendations and guidance on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics. These are developed starting from scientific and evidence-based reports produced by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) and/or through work supported technically by FAO, IFAD, WFP and representatives of the CFS Advisory Group. CFS holds an annual Plenary session every October in FAO, Rome.

The CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) represents the first global consensus on how to mitigate the threat to food security and nutrition during protracted crises.

Developed, negotiated and endorsed in 2015 by the intergovernmental and multistakeholder Committee on World Food Security (CFS), supported by FAO, IFAD and WFP, it advocates for actors to work together and across silos, considering context specificities, in order to both meet immediate humanitarian needs and (re)build populations' resilience towards a more sustainable future. It recognizes that building resilience can boost capacity to absorb shocks and long-term stresses. Given the severity of undernutrition during protracted crises, nutritional needs require a special focus especially for at risk populations, the vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Implementation of the CFS-FFA will need many stakeholders to translate the political commitment to action on the ground. CFS stakeholders are both building awareness of the CFS-FFA among key stakeholders and also supporting countries in implementation.

In his statement for the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, former Secretary General Ban Ki-moon calls for all stakeholders to work together to improve the lives of those living under protracted crises.

The CFS-FFA clearly has a role to play.