



NOW from NORTH AMERICA



In 2019, Yemen is still the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

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“It is clear from the Global Report [on Food Crises] that despite a slight drop in 2018 in the number of people experiencing acute food insecurity - the most extreme form of hunger - the figure is still far too high. We must act at scale across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to build the resilience of affected and vulnerable populations. To save lives, we also have to save livelihoods.”

José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General

Global Report on Food Crises

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

*The sun's light caress
Opens the cherry blossoms
And lets us all in.
— A Haiku by Chris Anne*

Dear Readers,

Cherry Blossoms heralded the Spring in Washington, DC, but for us it was tinged with grief and sadness at the untimely departure of our UN colleagues in the unfortunate airline crash. Our condolences and prayers are with all the victims and their loved ones.

With a heavy heart, but more determined, FAO North America held a variety of activities with our partners as in previous months. In March, we co-hosted a roundtable discussion on combatting food fraud related to Geographical Indications with the World Food Law Institute. I had the opportunity to speak at the University Fighting World Hunger Summit in Maine, which attracted over 500 students and faculty from universities across the United States. I also provided remarks at the MIT Sloan School of Management, emphasizing the need for effective business models to make agriculture remunerative and attractive to youth.

The 2019 Global Report on Food Crises, launched in Brussels on 2 April, once again projects a very gloomy picture about the 113 million people suffering from acute hunger in 53 countries. Through a series of briefings at IFPRI, CSIS, and on Capitol Hill, we aim to raise awareness on the key findings of the report with Dominique Burgeon, Director of FAO's Emergency and Resilience Division, and Arif Husain, World Food Programme's Chief Economist.

April will also feature a roundtable discussion with key experts on building sustainable urban food systems highlighting case studies from a new study produced in partnership with the University of Buffalo.

Thank you for your continued interest in our work.

Vimlendra Sharan
Director, FAO Liaison Office for North America

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA

Geographical Indications: combatting food fraud with controls, certifications and law

6 March 2019, Washington, DC - FAO North America and the World Food Law Institute co-hosted an informative discussion about Geographical Indications (GIs) for food. The participants considered how certifications, controls, and legal systems are used to address the growing and costly problem of fraud, usurpation of names, and consumer deception regarding GIs.

After welcoming remarks by Professor Marsha Echols, Director of the World Food Law Institute and opening remarks by Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America, the discussion began with background information from Florence Tartanac, Senior FAO Officer at the Market Linkages and Value Chains Group, and Emilie Vandecandelaere, Technical Unit Officer in the Nutrition & Food Systems Division at FAO. Tartanac explained how food fraud undermines possibilities for local development and prevents public awareness of the true characteristics of products bearing Geographical Indications, among other negative results. Vandecandelaere described FAO's extensive experience with certifications, controls, legal systems, and the institutional structures that include certification, controls, and legal structures used to address and prevent the harm that fraud causes to GI holders and local development.

The FAO remarks were followed by two attorneys who shared their legal experience with controls and certifications. The experience with law and legal structures in the EU and Italy in particular were explained by Elio De Tullio, Partner of De Tullio Law Firm based in Rome. The U.S. use of controls and other legal instruments at federal and state levels was described by Robert Schramm of Schramm, Williams and Associates, Inc., Washington, DC. A lively discussion and Q&A session followed the presentations. Professor Echols concluded the roundtable, noting that the event enriched appreciation of "Geographical Indications (GIs) and Local Development," the theme for this year's roundtable series.



MIT Business perspectives and solutions to end hunger



18 March 2019, Cambridge, MA - Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America, participated in the MIT Sloan School of Management's annual Enterprise Management Track Hackathon.

The 2019 Business Challenge explored how intelligent technologies such as low-cost sensors, artificial intelligence, blockchain, and data analytics can be applied in the food chain to develop innovative and data driven business concepts.

Sharan participated in the "Thought Leaders" panel and provided insights into FAO's work on the Sustainable Development Goals, and the global context in which the business models must succeed. Also on the panel were Rajiv Singh, CEO of Rabo Bank, and Dennis McLaughlin, Professor of Hydrology at MIT.

Universities commit to advance food and nutrition security



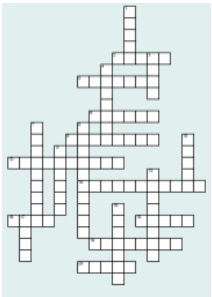
13 March 2019, Portland, ME - The Presidents United to Stop Hunger (PUSH) Summit convened leaders from the private sector, government, foundations, and international organizations at the University of Southern Maine to share best practices and identify new opportunities for collaborative work and funding partnerships in the fight against hunger.

Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America, participated in a session called "How the UN is Working to Achieve a Zero Hunger World," in a panel featuring David Austin of the World Food Programme (WFP) and Alainna Lynch of the United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN).

Following the PUSH Summit, Sharan had the opportunity to attend the Universities Fighting World Hunger (UFWH) Food Waste and Hunger Summit, which focused on further defining the role of universities and students in march towards food security. The theme for the summit was, "Fighting hunger in a world of plenty: shifting power and taking action." Sharan participated in a panel that looked at global challenges in addressing hunger with Chicago Council's Roger Thurow, and Eric Holt Gimenez, Executive Director of Food First.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA

Test Your Knowledge: Zero Hunger Crossword



Which is the most produced vegetable in the world? Which countries have submitted candidates for the FAO Director-General post? Test your knowledge about FAO, food security, and food waste in our new crossword. Complete it [here](#)!

[Here are the answers](#) for the previous edition of the crossword.

World Food Day Poetry Contest - Honorable Mention

Ode to the Body in the Duman River

By Meg Eden (Severn, Maryland)

after The Tollund Man

Ode to the Body in the Duman River after The Tollund Man February 11, 2008, Tumen, China: The dead body of what appears to be a North Korean refugee is found in the middle of the Duman River. It lies in the frozen shallows perhaps 20 yards from Chinese border and 10 from that of N. Korea.—Chosun Media

Pieces of you
continue to remain
unclaimed: frozen hair bun,
mud-caked skirt
hiding Bible pages,
feet bare, shoes stolen.
From a distance you are
indistinguishable
from river stones.
Ten-thousand river,
how many more bodies
live here, undocumented?
So short: the distance
between hunger & living.
In my car, I can drive
through three states in one day,
my worst complaint: the tolls.
My McDonald's bags,
crumpled on the floor.
If only something of
your urgency
should come to me
in this warm full house
where you are a window
I can choose to open
or close. Do not leave me
peaceful tonight. Out here
in suburbia, I forget
how lost I am
in all these good things.

Judges' Comments — The sharp staccato pacing and the mix of contemporary words with timeless nature images made this poem unexpected and striking. It stayed with me even as I read other pieces. This poem moves with its juxtaposition of haves and have nots. "So short: the distance/between hunger and living" anchoring the middle of the poem is the turning point to action. If only... says it all.

Judges: Carla Christopher and Kim Baker

In 2018, FAO North America in partnership with Poetry X Hunger hosted the first of its kind World Food Day Poetry Contest. [Learn more about the poetry contest.](#)

Partner Corner: Society for International Development (SID)

In this section, FAO's Liaison Office for North America invites a different partner organization each month to comment on how the partnership has benefitted both organizations.

Over the past five years, FAO North America has partnered with SID-Washington, a membership-driven organization that aims to bring diverse constituencies together to debate critical ideas, innovations, policies, and practices in international development. As a neutral convener, SID-Washington represents over 160 institutional members and hundreds of individuals around the world.

FAO has been an integral part of the SID-Washington community. As a SID-Washington member, FAO has led SID-Washington's Food Security and Agriculture workgroup and served as a thought leader on most pressing issues in food security and agriculture. Their leadership was instrumental in shaping the conversation and debate among food security and agriculture experts in the SID-Washington network. In addition to shepherding the workgroup, FAO presented and participated in numerous events with leading experts in the international development community.

More recently, the partnership has focused on raising the visibility of initiatives and programming that is of interest to our respective constituents. As we look to the future, SID-Washington and FAO are exploring how we can evolve the partnership and take advantage of the expertise among our staff and larger network. We look forward to continued partnership in the years to come.

Website: <https://sidw.org/>

Twitter: [@sidwashington](#)

Facebook: [SIDWashingtonChapter](#)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS

What	When	Where	Register
Earth Day Reception	Monday, 22 April 2019	FAO Liaison Office for North America, 2121 K St. NW, Suite 800-B, Washington, DC	By invitation only. For more information, email: fao-washington-news@fao.org
Urban Food Governance: ensuring safe and nutritious food for everyone, everywhere	Thursday, 25 April 2019 9:00—11:00 AM EST	FAO Liaison Office for North America, 2121 K St. NW, Suite 800-B, Washington, DC	Register
Technical Discussion on the 2019 Global Report on Food Crises	Friday, 26 April 2019	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 1201 Eye St, NW Washington, DC	Please check fao.org/north-America for updates
Capitol Hill Briefing on the 2019 Global Report on Food Crises	Thursday, 25 April 2019	Room TBD - Senate Office Buildings, Washington, DC	Please check fao.org/north-America for updates

TAX CORNER

This section provides important updates from the tax unit located at the FAO Liaison Office for North America, which processes tax reimbursement requests by FAO, World Food Programme (WFP), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) staff members.

The FAO Tax Unit fields dozens of inquiries as to how to pay the IRS (and state tax authorities) electronically in a secure way. The Tax Unit suggests that our overseas-based colleagues pay online to avoid delays per international postal services.

Taxpayers should visit the “Pay” tab on www.irs.gov website to see their payment options. Most tax software products give taxpayers various payment options, including the option to withdraw the funds from a bank account. These include:

- [IRS Direct Pay](#) offers taxpayers a free, fast, secure and easy way to make an electronic payment from their bank account to the U.S. Treasury.
- Use an approved payment processor to pay by credit or debit card for a fee.
- Mail checks or money orders made out to the U.S. Treasury (if the address used is a PO Box, only the U.S. Postal Service can deliver it; private delivery companies must have a physical address).

Taxpayer may make monthly or quarterly tax payments using [IRS Direct Pay](#) or through the [Electronic Federal Tax Payment System](#) (EFTPS). Note the using the EFTPS requires the taxpayer to set up a secured profile in order to process payments.

Taxpayers may also view their account via the www.irs.gov website by using the [View Your Account](#) tool to see their tax account. Information such as a payoff amount, the balance for each tax year for which they owe, up to 24 months of their payment history and key information from their current tax year return as originally filed. Each state has its own website – and particularly a section on state income tax. Colleagues are advised to look up their own state to obtain information on payments and account information.

Note however, that colleagues who are based overseas might have trouble accessing their account information this way, per the IRS website’s security measures regarding access from overseas IP addresses.

For more details, please email low-ustax-settlement@fao.org.

FAO GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Candidates for FAO Director-General post announced, elections in June



4 March 2019, Rome – Four candidates have been presented by FAO Member Countries for the post of FAO Director-General to be elected in June of this year. Election for the agency's top leadership post with a four-year term of office starting on August 2019 will take place at the 41st Session of FAO's Conference, the highest governing body of the Organization, taking place in Rome from June 22 to 29. The four candidates, each nominated by their government, include: Qu Dongyu (China), Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (France), Davit Kirvalidze (Georgia) and Ramesh Chand (India).

FAO and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition scale up efforts targeting healthy diets



8 March 2019, Rome - FAO and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) have agreed to join forces to increase the availability and affordability of nutritious food for all in developing countries. The partnership aims to enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems, focusing on new approaches which engage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to promote market-based solutions as a key tool for improved nutrition. FAO and GAIN will also work to make urban food systems more nutrition-sensitive, through support to GAIN's Urban Governance for Nutrition Program and FAO's Urban Food Agenda.

"The private sector has a key role to play here - without them, we cannot move ahead with this agenda," said FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva. The partnership between FAO and GAIN envisages support for policy at the country level, and increased engagement of the private sector in improving food systems by supporting SMEs in bringing more nutritious foods to market.

Urgent action in urban areas, key to achieving Zero Hunger and healthy diets for all



7 March 2019, Rome – Incorporating food and improved nutrition as important components of urban planning is key to achieving sustainable development, including Zero Hunger and healthy diets for all, Graziano da Silva said at the launch of [FAO's Framework for the Urban Food Agenda: A holistic approach to ensuring sustainable development](#). At least 55% of the world's population already lives in urban areas – a proportion expected to increase to at least 65% by 2050 – and with nearly 80% of all food produced globally now consumed in urban areas. Urbanization is creating unprecedented challenges to ensuring that everyone has accessible, affordable food, while keeping a healthy diet, and preserving natural resources and biodiversity.

Cyclone Idai: Immediate help for Mozambique's livestock and fisheries sectors



29 March 2019, Rome/Maputo - The lives and livelihoods of farmers and fishers in the three Southern African countries hit by Tropical Cyclone Idai are under severe threat, with communities in Mozambique

bearing a particularly heavy burden. For a country where 80% of the population depends on agriculture, keeping animals alive, rehabilitating damaged land and rebooting food production will be critical as the waters recede. FAO's emergency livestock response will include evacuating animals and assuring veterinary services and feed availability: the typical cost of saving one cow from starvation and disease is just around USD \$50, while buying a replacement animal can add up to USD \$600. Also in need of immediate assistance and protection are fishers, their assets and infrastructure.

FAO at the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference



25-29 March 2019, Washington, DC - The World Bank Land and Poverty conference presented the latest research and innovations in policies and good practice on land governance around the world. The conference, one of the largest international events on land governance, attracted over 1,500 participants from governments, academics, civil society, and the private sector. During the proceeding, the [FAO delegation shared FAO's experience](#) in providing support to countries from different regions to improve their tenure governance in line with the [Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security](#) towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

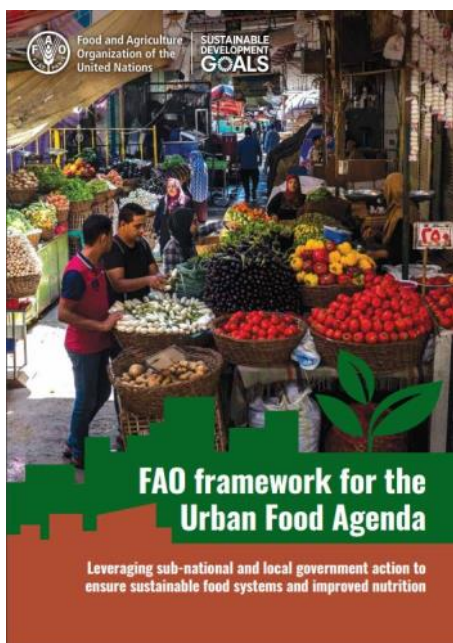
LATEST PUBLICATIONS

THE 2019 GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

This year's Global Report on Food Crises highlights the plight of millions of people who must fight every day against acute hunger and malnutrition. More than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) in 2018. The worst food crises in 2018, in order of severity, were: Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, South Sudan and northern Nigeria. These eight countries accounted for two thirds of the total number of people facing acute food insecurity – amounting to nearly 72 million people.



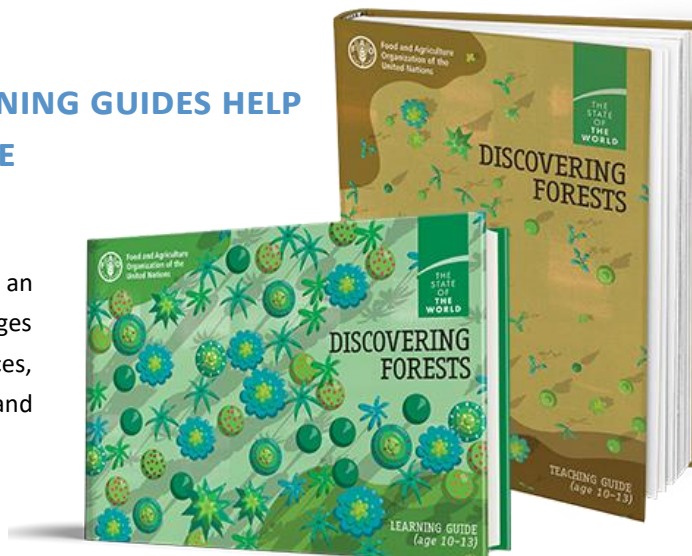
FAO FRAMEWORK FOR THE URBAN FOOD AGENDA



At least 55% of the world's population already lives in urban areas – a proportion expected to increase to at least 65% by 2050 – and with nearly 80% of all food produced globally now consumed in urban areas. Urbanization is creating unprecedented challenges to ensuring that everyone has accessible, affordable food, while keeping a healthy diet, and preserving natural resources and biodiversity. Aimed at supporting decision makers at different levels, the [Framework](#) presents ideas on how cities around the world can implement actions to generate employment, strengthen local food value chains; and reduce and manage the worrisome levels of food waste found in many cities.

FORESTS AS CLASSROOMS – HANDS-ON LEARNING GUIDES HELP YOUNG PEOPLE BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

FAO's Discovering Forests [teaching](#) and [learning](#) guides are part of an exciting new initiative to inspire and engage youth between the ages of 10 and 13 in preserving the earth's natural resources, complementing this year's [International Day of Forests](#) on "forests and education."



FAO AND THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has deep roots in North America. The Organization was conceptualized in the United States during a meeting in Hot Springs, Virginia in 1943, and its first headquarters was located in Washington, DC. In 1945, FAO was formally established as a specialized agency by the newly created United Nations during its very first session, which was held in Quebec City, Canada. FAO's headquarters was permanently moved to Rome, Italy in 1951. The FAO Liaison Office for North America, based in Washington, DC, continues to strengthen the Organization's partnership with Canada and the United States.

FAO shares with Canada and the United States a vision of how to achieve a world without hunger and poverty. Both member states have been working closely with FAO since its inception more than 70 years ago. Canada and the United States both play critically important leadership roles within FAO and they are also among the Organization's largest financial supporters.

FAO's Liaison Office for North America works to support and implement FAO policies and programs through strategic partnerships with governments and other key stakeholders based in Canada and the United States, including civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, research centers and think tanks, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, and the media.

Read more about FAO and [Canada](#) and the [United States](#).

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