

**Web Annex 3:
Preventing and addressing acute food insecurity at its roots – the Global Network Against Food Crises and Emergency reaction**

1. Over the last five years, the number of people experiencing acute hunger and requiring urgent food, nutrition, and livelihood assistance has been consistently above 100 million, according to the annual Global Report on Food Crises. This year's edition indicates alarming increases in the number of people in the most severe phases of acute food insecurity, recording unprecedented levels of hunger worldwide. Furthermore, the ongoing war in Ukraine threatens to push even more people into hunger, especially in already food insecure and import-dependent countries.
2. Yet efforts to address acute food insecurity overwhelmingly focus on post-factum emergency food response rather than relatively more cost-effective interventions to immediately meet emerging needs, tackle the root causes of acute hunger, and reverse these trends. Conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic are driving both chronic and acute food insecurity and propelling us further away from achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger, especially for those left furthest behind in fragile contexts.
3. Agriculture, and the hundreds of millions of farmers who keep the world fed, are bearing the brunt of these drivers, and especially of climate impacts, more so than any other productive sector. Disasters take lives, but they also devastate rural livelihoods, destroy food, and drive-up hunger. Rural livelihoods – farming and livestock production – are key “centres of gravity”; if they fail, then there is a very real risk of total system collapse. When these systems collapse, when suddenly, large portions of a population cannot access food, significant deteriorations in food security can emerge rapidly.
4. Agriculture not only offers an immediate means to halt hunger but lays the pathway for resilience building and out of crisis. Yet, this is not reflected in our collective humanitarian response with just 8 percent of humanitarian resources in the food sector allocated to agricultural livelihoods, despite agriculture being the main source of survival for at least two-thirds of those experiencing acute food insecurity. Humanitarian efforts are absolutely critical and must include space for agriculture and livelihoods, but they alone cannot prevent famine in the long-run or reverse the rising trend of hunger. This requires investments in building long-term resilience of agrifood systems through better integration and increased levels of official development assistance (ODA), particularly where food crises are protracted and the context is fragile.
5. Against this background, the Global Network Against Food Crises, set up by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Union and the World Food Programme (WFP) and including other critical humanitarian, development agencies and resource partners (e.g. the United States Agency for International Development [USAID] and the World Bank), represents a critical partnership to tackle acute food insecurity and move us closer to our goal of achieving Zero Hunger.
6. The Global Network offers a platform for the international community to coordinate concerted and coherent actions to prevent food and nutrition crises, mitigate their impacts, and contribute to the transformation of agrifood systems. In 2022, in addition to providing key and widely-recognized global and country-specific analytical products on acute food insecurity, the Global Network is supporting key national and regional policy dialogues (including on ending food crises in the Sahel and playing a key role in supporting national pathways as part of the post-Food Systems Summit), with the goal of driving meaningful action and investment at country level to build equitable, resilient, inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems and end recurrent and protracted food crises.
7. The Global Network Against Food Crises vision is to prevent, prepare and respond to food crisis and support the collective outcome related to Ending Hunger (SDG 2); reducing needs, risks and

vulnerabilities associated with acute hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and food systems.

8. Moreover, a set of principles inspire the Global Network's effort:
 - a) the need to prevent, prepare, anticipate and respond at the local, regional and global levels, building on and strengthening local systems;
 - b) the centrality of resilient and sustainable food systems in preventing food crises, mitigating their impact and boosting recovery and rehabilitation for its transformation;
 - c) the need to inform policies and actions to fight food and nutrition insecurity with an evidence-based understanding of complex dynamics and drivers of risk and vulnerability; and
 - d) the need to align with and build on major existing initiatives and coordination mechanisms in order to deliver collective outcomes and meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

9. The Global Network operates at national, regional and global levels along three interlinked dimensions:

- a) generating evidence-based information and analysis;
- b) leveraging strategic investments to prepare, prevent and respond to food crises; and
- c) fostering political uptake and functional coordination across clusters/sectors to address other dimensions driving the food security crisis scenarios.

10. The work under the first dimension is to promote neutral and consensus-based information on food crises, as global public goods to timely support decision-making processes at all levels, as well as highlight and address possible data and information gaps. It builds on existing country mechanisms for food security and nutrition analysis as well as on the arrangement in place for global analysis and information on food crises. In addition, the Global Network promotes and increasingly benefits from the strategic linkages between other initiatives that aim to strengthen the predictive analysis of food crises to inform prevention and early responses. In particular, the Global Network supports the overall coordination and production of the global food crises analysis and information (including the Global Report on Food Crises and its Mid-Year Update, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Regional Report on Food Crises; the "Hunger Hotspots: FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity" report; the "Monitoring food security in countries with conflict situations" update for the United Nations Security Council, and the Report on Financing Flows and Food Crises), as well as the use and uptake of the information and evidence on food crises and nutrition in decision-making and policy processes.

11. The second dimension promotes strategic, evidence-based, and coherent investments in food security and nutrition that integrate simultaneous short-term humanitarian actions with medium to long-term development in countries facing or at risk of food crisis, as well as integrate resilience-building, prevention, preparedness and anticipatory or early action to reduce the impact of acute crisis and set the basis for recovery and reconstruction. In particular, at country level, the Global Network promotes multi-partner country processes by strengthening and/or creating linkages between established and relevant coordination structures for programming and investments in the humanitarian and development sectors.

12. Under the third dimension, the Global Network strengthens collaboration and coordination between agencies, institutions and networks to holistically address food crises. Addressing multiple facets of food crises requires multisector interventions: a combination of humanitarian, development, and peace efforts, and greater coherence across sectors. In this regard, the Global Network promotes functional linkages with relevant global initiatives and mechanisms to scale up food crises response and prevention initiatives as a global collective effort. In particular, the Global Network works closely with the Coalition "Fighting Food Crises along the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus", established during the UN Food Systems Summit with the objective of seeking a comprehensive and inclusive approach to food systems resilience in conflict-affected and displaced communities and to create the enabling environment to address challenges at national, regional, and global levels.