

## **Moderated Panel Discussion**

### **Introduction**

- Joint support to the CFS is one of the shared priorities among the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) and a visible manifestation of successful RBA collaboration.
- This is crucial at this current point in time where recurrent, frequent and protracted crises and deteriorating food security and nutrition trends require humanitarian, development and peace actors to work more coherently together to ensure that all our actions help to reduce and end hunger, build self-reliance and prevent the recurrence of crises over time.
- WFP currently provides critical assistance to close to 100 million people in over 80 countries, many of which are in a state of protracted crisis.

### **The CFS-FFA**

- CFS policy work has the legitimacy and value-added of being consensus and evidence based.
- The relevance of a forward-looking policy document like the *CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)* - approved in 2015 with the strong involvement and technical support of WFP - has been acknowledged by its inclusion in WFP Strategic Plan 2017-2021.
- The Strategic Plan states: "WFP has unique strengths and capacities for responding to affected populations in protracted crises, and for acting on the principles set out by the CFS-FFA".
- The CFS-FFA's 11 principles cut across relevant themes and WFP's areas of work, such as: emergency, resilience, access, protection, gender, country capacity strengthening, disaster risk reduction, climate action, resource mobilization, Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM), nutrition and peacebuilding.
- While the CFS-FFA is voluntary and non-binding, in July 2020, WFP adhered to the OECD-DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus.
- The 11 'principles' set out in the DAC Recommendation commit WFP to a more profound shift in approaches to address the underlying causes of vulnerability, by focusing on 'prevention always, development wherever possible, humanitarian action when necessary', with a specific focus on fragile settings.
- This means that WFP's multi-year country strategies must aspire not only to address humanitarian need, but to reduce need over time, including facilitating handover to national authorities in a sustainable manner.
- As such, it not only echoes the principles of the CFS-FFA, but provides a concrete framework to operationalise many of them, including principles 9-11 on 'contributing to resolving underlying causes of food insecurity and undernutrition in protracted crises'.

### **What has happened since 2015?**

- In September 2016, WFP, together with FAO, IFAD and the CFS Secretariat, took the lead in organizing a CFS outreach [workshop](#) in Nairobi to raise awareness on the CFS-FFA.

- In July 2017, WFP, alongside FAO, IFAD and the CFS Secretariat, co-led a joint CFS-RBA [side event](#) on 'protracted crises and the CFS-FFA' at the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York.
- In March 2018, WFP actively engaged in a "Regional Multi-stakeholder Meeting on Addressing the Implications of Protracted Crises on Food Security and Nutrition in the Middle East Region" in Beirut, Lebanon.
- The meeting aimed to sensitize stakeholders on the CFS-FFA and explore ways for its use and application on the policy and field levels.
- In May 2018, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passed resolution 2417, which highlights the two-way relationship between food insecurity and conflict, outlines actions to address food security-related violations of International Humanitarian Law, including starvation of civilians, and condemns the use of food as a weapon of war.
- The resolution represents a major breakthrough in establishing the international policy and legal framework for addressing conflict-related food insecurity, to which WFP, partners and supportive Governments contributed through constant advocacy.
- Since its adoption, WFP has seen Member States' inclusion of stronger hunger-related language in other resolutions, e.g. resolution 2018/11 of ECOSOC.
- In 2019, WFP embarked on a comprehensive overhaul of its school feeding activities, including extensive consultations with internal and external partners, which resulted in WFP's first 10-year school feeding strategy (2020-2030).
- This strategy provides an important opportunity to advance the use and application of the CFS-FFA, in particular principles 2 and 5.
- Importantly, as mentioned earlier, in July 2020, WFP adhered to the OECD-DAC Recommendation on the HDP Nexus, which reinforces the Principles of the CFS-FFA.
- In November 2020, WFP Executive Board approved the new WFP Protection and Accountability Policy, which acknowledges that WFP must prevent and respond to protection risks associated with hunger – and as such echoes principle 4 of the CFS-FFA.
- The policy update also acknowledges that accountability to affected populations is a necessary condition for attaining SDG 2.

#### **WFP's use and application of the CFS-FFA**

- In January 2020, the two calls for inputs launched by the CFS on the use and application of the CFS-FFA have been shared widely in WFP, both with relevant Headquarters Divisions as well as Regional Bureaus and Country Offices.
- From January-April 2020, eleven WFP Country Offices (Bangladesh, Iraq, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Chad, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Somalia, DRC, Niger, and Nigeria) have been engaged and

provided with support and guidance in view of their potential contributions to these calls and/or discussion of the CFS-FFA with partners at country level.

- This endeavour also helped further raising awareness of the CFS-FFA with WFP COs.
- In this context, a mapping exercise of WFP Country Offices' work relevant and linked to the CFS-FFA has been undertaken.
- A simple yet focused questionnaire has been developed and shared with Country Offices to guide this exercise and shape the narrative.
- Overall, contributions clearly underlined that all the eleven principles of the CFS-FFA are highly relevant to WFP's work in the field.
- WFP's Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) focus on interrelated and interconnected Strategic Outcomes (SOs) that contribute towards supporting governments in achieving SDG 2 and SDG 17 targets.
- Country Offices highlighted that the CSPs' SOs, and related activities, are closely linked to and aligned with different principles of the CFS-FFA.
- Country Offices also emphasized that the CFS-FFA can prove to be a useful guidance tool in the implementation of the various activities pursued in the context of WFP CSPs.
- The respondent Country Offices, however, informed that they were not aware of events organized at country level to discuss specifically the CFS-FFA nor they were involved in convenings where the CFS-FFA was mentioned.
- Furthermore, contributions showed that - while many of the CFS-FFA principles are *de facto* being applied across WFP's policies, strategies and operations - there is a need for greater sensitization, practical guidance and tools to maximize WFP's potential use and application of the Framework in a deliberate, coherent and systemized manner.
- Both WFP field staff and partners (including line Ministries) would require more training and awareness raising.
- Country Offices are closely engaged with host governments in a number of technical and policy dialogues related to food security and nutrition, nonetheless, because of lack of awareness and training, the CFS-FFA does not appear to be a well-known policy guidance tool at country level and is not necessarily referred to during these discussions.

### **Way forward**

- Going forward, resolving the underlying causes of food insecurity and undernutrition in protracted crises (principles 9-11 of the CFS-FFA) requires significant investment in terms of stepped-up context and conflict analysis, an increased focus on prevention, operational partnerships and programmes that support peace outcomes.
- It also requires a review of how WFP relates to donor organizations and financing, with the goal to build long-term and reliable funding streams necessary to conduct effective peace and development interventions.

- WFP's adherence to the OECD DAC Recommendation, as well as the fact that WFP was honoured with the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize provide an opportunity to operationalise principles 9-11 of the CFS-FFA, and to be more ambitious on this agenda in the future.
- WFP has already started to increasingly invest in (i) strengthening its internal capacity & toolbox and developing new partnerships to deliver conflict sensitive programmes; (ii) building evidence around its contribution to peace; and (iii) developing a system to measure WFP's contribution to peace.
- Reflection on how principles 3-8 of the CFS-FFA ('adapting to specific challenges') were applied by WFP and other organisations to respond to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is warranted.
- The dissemination of the CFS-FFA to the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNFC) could represent an opportunity for further use and application of the CFS-FFA at country level.