

## WFP Remarks on Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition Committee on World Food Security 47<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session

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### WFP Nutrition Director, Allison Oman Lawi

- WFP concurs with the statement made by UN Nutrition and stands ready to support Member States in implementing the Guidelines, by providing capacity building, programme and technical support in collaboration with other UN agencies.
- The Voluntary Guidelines are an important milestone towards ensuring food systems deliver healthy diets for all people within planetary boundaries – which is relevant in the lead up to this year’s Food Systems Summit and critical for achieving Agenda 2030. However, the Guidelines need to be complemented by science and evidence-based normative guidance and policy recommendations and implemented with great ambition and speed if they are to deliver the changes we urgently need.
- WFP would like to commend the Voluntary Guidelines for highlighting the importance of sustainable food systems that are resilient to shocks – a critical factor in ensuring good nutrition for everyone, especially in humanitarian contexts.
- Even before the current global crisis, our food systems were failing to deliver healthy diets for billions of people. The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the fragility of current food systems. In the countries where WFP operates, the number of acutely food insecure people could increase by 80% – from 149 million to 270 million and counting – largely due to the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent estimates show that, without urgent action, COVID-19 could result in an additional 9.3 million wasted children and 2.6 million stunted children by 2022.<sup>1</sup>
- These Guidelines can support governments and shape the humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic and “build back better” by promoting the application of a nutrition lens to food systems. WFP supports the emphasis on strengthening the continuum of humanitarian and development efforts, and calls on all stakeholders to further scale up action across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus to ensure good nutrition for all, especially those living in fragile and conflict-affected settings and humanitarian emergencies.
- Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> From 47 million and 144 million in 2019 respectively as per [SOFI 2020](#). Estimates from [The potential impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on maternal and child undernutrition in low and middle income countries | Research Square](#)