

The Furthest Behind First (edited)

Input Paper into the First Draft of the inequalities policy development process.

By Mothers First

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Introduction

In our submission to the VO draft we applauded the priorities that have emerged from the inequalities work stream. In them we laid over the framework for reaching the most food insecure and so the furthest behind people in the world known as the humanitarian response plans. Over this we placed the CFS framework for action and the strategic framework of the World Food Program.

The Sustainable Development Goals is our overarching commitment not only to reach the furthest behind but reach them first. This commitment directly aligns with the mandate of the CFS and the corresponding mandate of MYPoW to reach the most food insecure and malnourished people.

Human Rights

Context specificity within the Human Rights Framework to reach the most food insecure people in the world requires us to understand need, the capacity and willingness of governments to act and the acknowledgment of the sharing of responsibility of the duty bearer to the rights holder.

The central concern that we have had with the inequalities report and now the draft of the policies is that it has not set the parameters for inequality. Inequality is not something that is subjective. We can and do measure inequality accurately. That is what data does for us. If we are to throw down the gauntlet to the pledge to leave no one behind then this and future reports must begin to define who they are within their individual mandates.

The pledge is to reach the furthest behind first and to end extreme poverty by 2030. The word first is important because it is real time. Staying within the food system extreme poverty has increased by over 290 million people to 360 million people in 56 countries since 2015.

The common denominator of extreme poverty is food insecurity. When you have lost the right to food to the measure of acute food insecurity you have lost everything. For those of us that have witnessed this and can speak about it there must be space for both quantitative and qualitative data that can direct us towards the furthest Behind.

This short submission centers on the premise that the furthest behind in the food system are those experiencing the severest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition.

On that assumption we align the furthest behind to the mandate of the CFS to reach the most food insecure and malnourished. As such holding to the mandate to reach the furthest behind first we call for the relevant policy submissions to add context specificity to where food insecurity and malnutrition are highest.

Defining equity within the food system

The Inequalities report is framed within the mandate of the CFS to reach the most food insecure and malnourished people yet the policy development process has still not isolated the data to tell us where they are and provide context specific solutions.

The data tells us where the most food insecure and malnourished are, who they are and what are the nutritional outcomes. According to IFAD 80% of extreme food insecurity occurs in farmers and workers within the broader food system. A focused narrative on reaching the furthest behind must begin here.

The implementation science demonstrated within the current Strategic Plan of the World Food Program and partner agencies framed within Humanitarian Response Plans gives us data central to reaching the furthest behind.

It tells us who they are, which actions are required to build back better, how much they cost and who are the duty bearers. An inequalities report that frames itself around the furthest behind first needs to frame its policies towards those most in need.

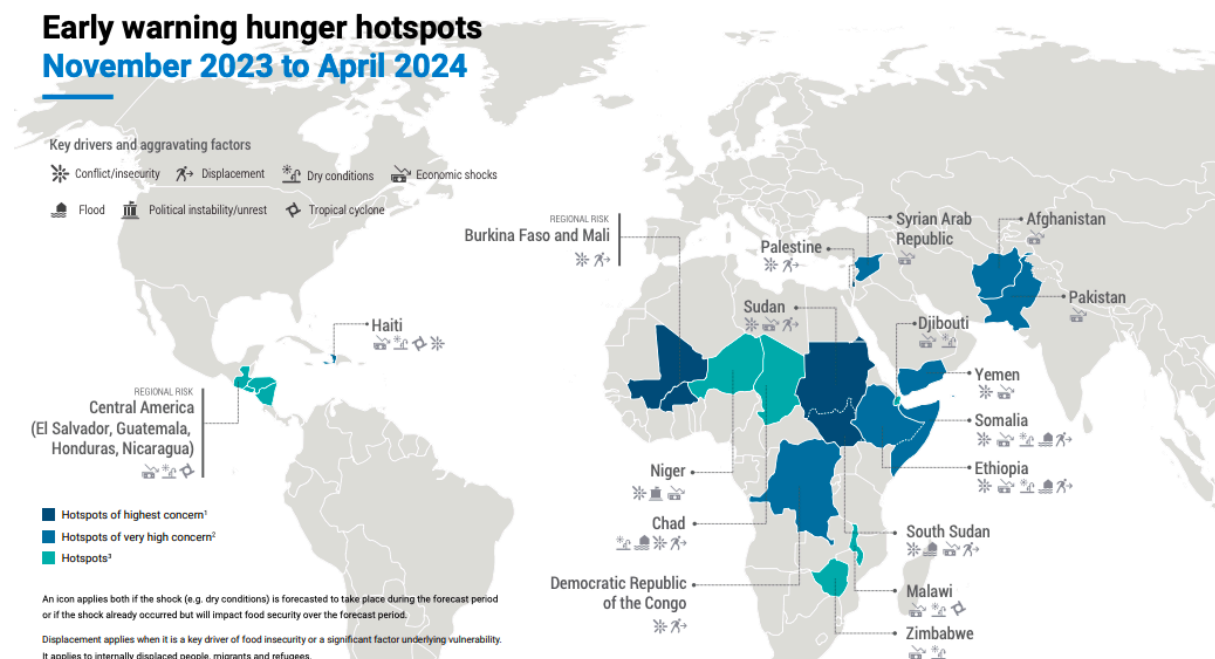
The participation of actors' reports and data that directly deal with the most food insecure people in the world are essential data for this report and the CFS to fulfill its mandate to the most food insecure and malnourished.

. Key reports include:

[Global food Crisis Report 2024](#)

[The Hunger Hotspot Report 2024](#)

[Global Humanitarian Overview 2024](#)



Inequity policy coherence to reach the furthest behind within the UN Framework

Mothers First undertook an analysis of the 49 policy solutions to understand how they intersected with the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the [CFS Framework for Action in Crisis](#) and the [World Food Program Strategic Plan \(2022–2025\)](#). We chose this framework as their policy alignment directly seeks to tackle extreme food insecurity within the UN.

Our findings

Remarkably we found that there was a clear and unequivocal alignment across the chosen framework. The high alignment of policies

Inequality Policy	Strategic plan WFP	Sustainable Development Goals Targets	CFS Framework for Action
49	47	71	68

The draft review is available [here](#) on the Mothers First website.

Recommendation

The high degree of alignment means that as a global community we know what actions are required to reach the furthest behind in each context. It tells of the universality of need.

In line with the mandate of the CFS and our pledge to reach the furthest behind first we are calling on the policies identified to add a layer of context specificity to reach the most food insecure people.

We firmly believe that adding a context specific element to those furthest behind who are experiencing acute food insecurity is well justified given the broad mandate within the UN to reach the Furthest Behind First.

A coherent data analysis centering around food insecurity and malnutrition allows us to accurately describe the furthest beyond those in “vulnerable situations and marginalized people”

Why do we need context specific solutions to reach the furthest behind?.

Leaving No One Behind, which is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A context specific approach will allow us to understand issues like the evolving nature of the duty bearer, the human rights obligations particularly as they pertain to the right to food as well nutrition outcomes for the furthest behind. The broad framing of the furthest behind

when framed within a setting of food security and nutrition means that the policies lack context specificity to reach the furthest behind.

Positions in the zero draft that we strongly align with

Human Rights

Micheal Fakri

Policy number 22. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Art. 11(b) stipulates that the right to food includes ensuring that international trade and international food markets are equitable.

“Incorporate an equity and right-to-food focus into trade, investment and debt governance related to food security and nutrition by addressing existing disparities of opportunity, wealth and decision-making power within food systems governance”

“Human rights and accountability Human rights should not just be a general reference or just particular paragraphs but should inform the substance and structure of the entire policy recommendation. To ensure the policy recommendations are effective and dynamic, there should be an explicit reference to the necessity of developing a legal framework that improves accountability of actors in food systems.”

Taken from Input paper into the Zero Draft

Russia

Policy Participation within the CFS and across the entire UN system is massively dominated by developed countries which house the UN headquarters. We very much support the call from Russia on the zero draft to “Promote the improvement of the global food and agriculture governance system, focusing on increasing the representation, voice and decision-making power of developing countries” (SDG 10.6 and SDG 16.7)

Taken from Input paper into the Zero Draft

We would add that this participation must be top down and bottom up to include field workers and government. Participation needs to be actively sought and we suggest the CFS may be an ideal platform to carry forth this endeavor given its highly diverse participatory work streams. It is clear however at a first step we must coherently understand barriers to participation.

India

Notwithstanding the fact that these recommendations are voluntary and non-binding in nature, since the endeavor is to reduce inequalities, perhaps it would be worthwhile to analyze the financial implications of implementation of these recommendations to the member countries and make few concrete recommendations in this regard.

Taken from Input paper into the Zero Draft

Humanitarian The convergence of conflict and violence in addition to other forms of inequalities only create further vulnerabilities in already marginalized communities. Conflict significantly affects and reduces peoples' agency. The policy recommendations must include a focus on those not only affected by chronic hunger but also those experiencing extreme and acute food insecurity in fragile settings, a number which is increasing significantly globally. The policy recommendations should include this nexus of humanitarian and FSN structural inequalities. Policy recommendations and solutions should recognize that humanitarian agencies have [long-standing commitments](#) to be accountable to affected populations and to transfer decision-making power and resources to local actors, who are best placed to lead in emergencies. Realizing these commitments means working with women-led collectives and organizations to provide the resources, space and solidarity they identify as being important in order to take an active role in humanitarian decision-making and action.

Taken from the 23rd of January [written input](#) into the working group

Conclusion

To fulfill the mandate of reaching the furthest behind first, policy development must integrate context-specific solutions targeting the most food-insecure and malnourished populations. This will ensure effective and dynamic policy recommendations, grounded in human rights and accountability.