

**FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC)
Thirty-fourth Session
Rome, Italy, 7-11 May 2018**

***A High-Level Side Event on “Challenges to Zero Hunger in Conflict/Crisis
Areas in NENA Region with Highlights on Somalia and Yemen”***

10 May 2018, 13:00 hrs (Sheikh Zayed Centre)

Background

Conflict is a major driver of hunger and undernutrition in the NENA region. The countries with the worst food security and nutrition situation are countries affected by conflict. The region is currently home to the largest number of conflicts in the world, leading to widespread food insecurity and massive displacement.

Achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 in countries affected by conflicts and protracted crises is challenging. Some of such challenges include¹: i) ensuring respect for the human right to adequate food and for International Humanitarian Law (in accordance with the Article 1, Geneva Convention); ii) challenges in accessing affected populations; iii) building effective coordination amongst all stakeholders; iv) developing and adapting effective financing mechanisms; v) integrating emergency interventions and medium-, long-term policies to promote resilience

Objectives

Eliminating hunger is a United Nations (UN) system-wide priority and a centrepiece of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It is a central goal for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO's approach to eliminating hunger, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture in conflict and crisis settings rests largely on building resilience of households, communities, countries and ecosystems to shocks and conflict, through evidence-based policies and scalable interventions that also contribute to sustaining peace and conflict prevention.

With particular focus on achieving Zero Hunger in Somalia, Yemen and other countries affected by conflicts in the NENA region, the High Level Side Event of the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East is expected to:

- foster a shared understanding of the impact of conflicts on food security and nutrition;
- update audiences on FAO's work and future plans in countries affected by conflicts in the NENA region; and
- develop recommendations for strengthening collective action, regional cooperation and international support towards achieving Zero Hunger in conflict contexts.

¹ The Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), October 2015

Agenda

The High Level Side Event will discuss the following tentative topics:

The big picture: The global and FAO commitments to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030:

- provide an overview of SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture);
- update on global developments related to achieving SDG 2; and
- present FAO's role, work and plans to support member countries in achieving SDG 2.

Leaving no one behind: Challenges of achieving Zero Hunger in countries affected by conflict and protracted crises:

- present evidence of the link between hunger and conflict (including the Global Report on Food Crises 2017 and the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World [SOFI] 2017);
- share experiences from FAO's work in countries affected by conflicts and protracted crises (with particular focus on Somalia and Yemen) focusing on the key areas of work, challenges (e.g. humanitarian access, aid politicization and deviation, security, rapid changes of the contexts, operational challenges, etc.), learning and best practices; and
- present experiences of two member countries affected by conflicts in addressing food and nutrition insecurity.

What needs to be done to achieve Zero Hunger in conflict contexts? This topic will help in formulating recommendations and will:

- Share key evidence to support suggested strategic options.

Participants	Time (minutes)
José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO	7
His Excellency Ghazi Zeaiter, Chairperson of NERC, Minister for Agriculture, the Lebanese Republic	7
His Excellency Said Hussein Iid, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, the Federal Republic of Somalia	7
His Excellency Othman Hussein Faid Mujli, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, the Republic of Yemen	7
Mr David Beasley, Executive Director, World Food Programme	7
Mr Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President, World Bank	7
Mr Neven Mimica, Commissioner, European Union	7
Ms Darine El-Khatib, FAO's Special Goodwill Ambassador for Zero Hunger in NENA - intervention	5
Ministerial Discussion, Interventions and Q&A	56
Wrap-up and the way forward	10

- Key points to be discussed will be presented in a power point presentation.

- Mr Daniel Gustafson, Deputy Director-General of Programmes will moderate the contributions of the participants.