



C/X/ESA-728-H

Rome, May 2017

Excellency,

The devastation and terrible suffering caused by the impending famines in northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen is a matter of great concern. As Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Committee within the UN that strives for a world free from hunger, I am writing to urge you to take adequate action to relieve the impending suffering and to prevent further damage to livelihoods. I simply cannot remain silent on this issue.

Food insecurity and malnutrition commonly result from a combination of factors such as conflict, man-made and natural disasters, climate change, poverty and inequality. In each of these four countries, the famines are largely induced by conflicts which are disrupting food systems and livelihoods. They are stopping aid and commodities getting through, driving food prices up and putting people's lives at risk.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance, coordinates emergency and relief responses that can meet immediate needs if adequately funded. Right now these mechanisms cannot meet the needs of the people affected. I urge all Members, Non-Members and stakeholders of CFS, the whole UN System and the international community at large, to do what they can to coordinate their efforts, to support the IASC coordination efforts and to mobilize the necessary resources to enable emergency and relief activities to continue.

In addition to meeting immediate needs through emergency responses, we need to plan now for medium and longer term assistance to support recovery and build resilience. CFS has developed several policy recommendations including the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) which sets out concrete policy approaches to improve the food security and nutrition of populations affected by, or at risk of, crises including famines.

./.

Due to the multi-stakeholder nature of CFS, the CFS-FFA has wide legitimacy and reflects a global consensus between governments, UN Agencies, civil society, private sector, academia and other stakeholders on improving food security and nutrition of people affected by protracted crises. The CFS-FFA sets out principles for addressing the critical manifestations of protracted crises, for building resilience and for contributing to addressing the underlying causes of crises and conflict.

I reiterate the calls for assistance from the UN Secretary-General and others and urge all stakeholders, public and private, to apply the principles and actions laid out in the CFS-FFA in the aforementioned four countries currently affected and wherever there is a protracted crisis that threatens food security and nutrition.

The affected populations of these four countries need our help now. We, as the international community, need to act urgently and come together with effective actions. I am counting on you to respond in a way that will ensure that short term relief is properly funded while medium and long-term measures are taken to build resilience and to eradicate hunger and malnutrition for good.

Sincerely,

Amira Gornass

Chairperson

Committee on World Food Security