

PARALLEL SESSION 5

Preventing food crises: towards a more structured and integrated governance system



Global hunger is remaining persistently high, as evidenced by the Global Report on Food Crises and the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World. In particular, conflict and insecurity, climate-related shocks and economic marginalization are driving high levels of acute food insecurity. Against this background, humanitarian, development and peace actors are working on prevention/preparedness and response to food crises. However, all efforts are not yet effectively aligned around collective outcomes nor backed up by implementation frameworks and guidance.

Sustainable solutions across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus are needed, with current humanitarian interventions fundamental in saving lives but not sufficient in addressing the root causes and underlying vulnerabilities within food crisis contexts. Significant long-term investments are needed to reduce these vulnerabilities, and prevent the subsequent escalation of acute food insecurity.

Background

Given the current trends in climate variability, population growth, and recurrent conflict, and the more protracted and complex nature of such crises, the number of countries at risk of food crises could escalate if long-term measures are not taken to transform and protect the resilience of agri-food systems, the mainstay of most vulnerable people. Greater coherence and collective efforts are needed.

The rationale of the Global Network Against Food Crises is to adopt a common vision among partners to promote synergies and coordination to sustainably address food crises by involving all relevant actors (humanitarian, development, peace, environmental, and civil society), and building on the key principles and related commitments defined by the New Way of Working.

Structure

The session consists of two panels.

Chair of the session and panels:

Dominique Burgeon, Director of Emergency and Resilience Division and Strategic Programme Leader-Resilience, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Panel 9: Operationalizing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

While there is widespread agreement on the need to collectively work along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, the current situation at both country and local level illustrates that concrete operationalization of the nexus remains constrained. Over the years, several mechanisms have been established to ensure coordinated efforts, both within the humanitarian community, e.g. cluster system, and within the development sector.

However, coordination between humanitarian and development actors often remains limited, largely owing to different planning timeframes, funding mechanisms and overall agendas. In addition, traditional coordination systems must engage with other actors relevant for food security, including climate and peace. Finally, there is an enormous, under-explored potential to engage and collaborate with civil society, the private sector, international financial institutions, foundations and others.

Evidence

124% ³ rise in humanitarian assistance since 2007

41% ³ rise in overall Official development assistance

90% ⁴ of humanitarian resources are absorbed by food crises

¹ Increase in number of protracted crises: **4 in 1990 Vs 19 in 2017**

² Increase of humanitarian requirements: **USD 25 billion – of which USD 15 billion received in 2018 up from USD 7.2 billion – of which USD 5.2 billion received in 2007**

¹ – HLEF, September 2012, *Food insecurity in protracted crises – an overview Vs 19 in 2017 (SOFI, 2017)*

² – OCHA Financial Tracking Service, (<https://fts.unocha.org/>)

³ – Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2018, (<http://devinit.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/GHA-Report-2018.pdf>)

⁴ – OCHA Financial Tracking Service, (<https://fts.unocha.org/>)

Against this background, the panel will revolve around the following issues:

- The challenges to enhanced coordination along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. In particular, how the different actors and interventions interact at country and regional levels.
- The main gaps and opportunities in the existing coordination mechanisms and how they can be improved through a more integrated governance system
- The incentives to an enhanced collaboration among international community actors to step up humanitarian-development and peace related efforts to promote food security in complex crises.
- Successful experiences of coordination along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus; sharing and reviewing these experiences and identifying solutions that can be scaled up.
- The role of national governments, regional organizations, civil society organizations in the coordination and prevention of food crises.
- The role of programming along the nexus in better tackling the root causes of food crises – such as conflict, vulnerability to climate and socio-economic shocks.

Panel 10: The Global Network Against Food Crises – a game changer?

A series of policy initiatives have been put forward to overcome the challenges faced by the international community, as well as regional and national institutions, in operationalizing the nexus. Against this background, the Global Network Against Food Crises, launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, appears to have the potential to promote collective food security and nutrition efforts across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, working at global, regional and country levels.

The Global Network aims to inform policy decisions and enhance the impact of future responses to food crises by regularly producing joint reports and real-time information based on key analyses of needs and response options across the nexus. The Network acknowledges the centrality of food-systems in preventing food crises, mitigating their impact, and boosting recovery and reconstruction.

Against this background, this panel will focus on opportunities and challenges in addressing food crises by linking the various drivers of risks and vulnerability, including security issues. In particular, the panel will revolve around the following issues:

- The challenges and opportunities (e.g. incentives) offered by the Global Network in promoting joint analysis, strategic programming along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, as well as promoting high-level advocacy and coordination between food security, nutrition and agriculture actors and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. peace, environment, etc.) and related interest of current and potential members.
- The issues pertinent to the prioritization of resources in the face of growing needs with a better balance between prevention and reacting to food crises.
- The promotion of famine prevention in fragile contexts, taking into account the specificity of operating at country, regional and global levels.

Panel 9: Operationalizing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

Presenter:

- **François Grunewald**

Executive Director, Groupe Urgence Réhabilitation Développement

Panelists:

- **Ali Bety**

High Commissioner of Les Nigériens nourissent les Nigériens, 3N - Initiative, Niger

- **Henk-Jan Brinkman**

Chief, Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnerships Branch, Peacebuilding Support Office

- **Martina Iannizzotto**

Cluster Coordinator, Food Security and Cluster - Whole of Syria, South Turkey Hub

- **Toby Lanzer**

United Nations Resident Coordinator, Afghanistan (video message)

- **Anne Leclerc**

Head of Sahel Cluster, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

- **Adolphine Muley**

Secretary General, Union Pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone

Panel 10: The Global Network Against Food Crises – a game changer?

Presenter:

- **Mi Nguyen**

Rome-based agencies Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada

Panelists:

- **Mario Arvelo**

Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security

- **Abdallah Boureima**

President of the West African Economic and Monetary Union

- **Trey Hicks**

Director Food for Peace, United States Agency for International Development

- **Mahboub Maalim**

Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Authority on Development

- **Matthew Wyatt**

Deputy Director and Head of Conflict Humanitarian and Security Department, United Kingdom's Department for International Development