

**Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2024  
Inputs from functional commissions of ECOSOC, other intergovernmental bodies and  
forums to the 2024 HLPF**

**1.Entity/ Intergovernmental body or forum  
The World Food Programme**

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**4.Impacts of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 from the  
vantage point of your intergovernmental body.**

- Acute and chronic food insecurity has risen for the past three years and is now well above pre-pandemic levels. Food crises are becoming increasingly protracted. According to the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises, in 2022, 258 million people in 58 countries or territories faced crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity corresponding to categories IPC/CH Phase 3 or above. The alarming trends in acute food insecurity are the result of multiple, compounding drivers: from conflict and insecurity to environmental and climate crises, economic upheaval and public health crisis. Combined with rural poverty and inequality, marginalization, population growth and fragile food systems, these drivers erode the foundations of people's livelihoods and undermine the resilience of both communities and states, posing serious challenges to the implementation of SDGs.
- Conflicts and political instability represent the major destabilizing factors, exacerbating existing crises and fragilities. Their impact ultimately undermines countries and regions' ability to eradicate poverty and hunger, mitigate the negative consequences of the climate crisis, and enable strategic alliances to sustain peace and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- The increase in both frequency and magnitude of extreme global weather events and climate change negatively impacts all four pillars of food security (availability, access, utilization and stability). In 2020, weather-related disasters triggered 30 million new internal displacements, the highest number in a decade. The World Bank estimates that their number will grow to 216 million across six world regions by 2050 unless early and concerted action is taken. The impacts of climate change on food security

also have strong gender and equity implications where poverty, along with socioeconomic and political marginalization are multipliers of vulnerability.

- The ongoing debt crisis in almost half of food crisis countries produces limited room for fiscal policy to invest in sectors that are key to reverting ongoing socio-economic crises. At the same time, currency devaluation against the main currencies and volatile export prices puts those same countries at increasing risk. These rising costs are also affecting WFP's work. Inflation, supply chain disruption and other factors increased WFP's food-procurement costs by 39 percent between 2019 and 2022, hampering our ability to assist people at a time when they need it most.
- Inequality is growing and changing in nature. While the world has made strides towards eradicating extreme deprivations, large differences in human development remain. This is particularly true for disparities in access to high-quality education at all levels and present-day technology, which are key to thriving in a knowledge economy and facing the challenges that lie ahead, including the climate crisis.
- Poverty reduction through inclusive economic growth is one of the most effective means for improving food security and nutrition. However, evidence suggests that poverty reduction alone will not end hunger. Specifically, poverty reduction may not improve the lives of the one billion hungry poor, nor the two billion people that suffer from micronutrient deficiencies.
- Other immediate risks are looming and further compromise the attainment of SDGs. These include: the current El Niño event interacting with climate change-induced global warming; macroeconomic shocks affecting several countries experiencing food crisis; decreased resilience to external stressors after grappling with COVID-19; the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine on the global economy and commodity markets; and the cost-of-living crisis.

**5. Three key areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2024, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets**

- 1. INTEGRATED INTERVENTIONS TO BUILD RESILIENCE AND REDUCE NEED:** Integrated resilience interventions have shown significant results in diminishing humanitarian needs overtime, contributing to the advancement of SDG targets. WFP's integrated and multi-year package of sequenced, resilience-based interventions in Niger has successfully improved food security levels of targeted vulnerable groups. Although in 2022 the country faced its worst food security crisis in a decade, villages participating in the WFP resilience-building programme coped better than neighbouring villages. Among the 848 resilience villages located in municipalities classified as extremely vulnerable, 80 percent were not classified as extremely vulnerable. As a result, half a million people did not need humanitarian assistance in 2022 thanks to multiyear

investments and reduced vulnerabilities. With impacts ranging from improved access to natural resources, increased agropastoral production, more diversified livelihood opportunities, strengthened social cohesion, reduced natural resource-based conflicts and improved diets, integrated programming represents a key enabler to attain SDG2 and contribute to the achievements of all other goals. Conditions allowing for the scale up and support to such programmes, including the requisite partnership platforms and funding, must be a priority.

- 2. SUPPLY CHAIN INNOVATION AND SUPPORT TO LOCAL ECONOMIES AND FOOD SYSTEMS:** Ensuring the prioritisation of local sources of procurement across the system represents a key means to support local economies and food systems. Recognizing the catalytic power of its global procurement footprint, WFP prioritizes purchases from local and regional markets to support local farmers and producers, injecting cash into local economies. In 2023, of US\$1,87 billion spent on food procurement, 60 percent was sourced from local and regional markets. Pro-smallholder farmers' purchases have steadily increased in percentage over global food purchases over years, and in 2023, have reached 3.1 percent in value terms and 3.8 percent in volume terms over global food numbers. Additionally, innovation and technology are significant enablers of WFP's work across the humanitarian supply chain. The organization is currently overhauling its track and trace systems, using technology to improve exception reporting, analysis and risk management. In the artificial intelligence domain, development on virtual assistant bots, predictive analytics and exception reporting is underway to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of WFP's operations. Continued efforts to expand local and regional procurement and leverage digitally enabled solutions are key to increasing efficiency and amplify impacts towards achieving SDGs.
- 3. SOCIAL PROTECTION** Social protection systems or social protection floors are central instruments for fulfilment of the sustainable development goals. Public and private social protection interventions provide income or consumption transfers to the poor, protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks, and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalised, fostering inclusive economic growth, promoting sustainable food systems, and accelerating progress towards achieving SDGs. WFP supports a total of 83 countries to build and strengthen nationally led social protection systems, including 30 through cash transfer programmes and 27 through school feeding programmes.

On average, social protection programmes tend to increase a household's food expenditure by approximately 13%, allowing people to respond to food insecurity and malnutrition, protect themselves against climate and economic risk and shocks, and strengthening their resilience. Cash transfers empower individuals to meet their essential needs and address their food and nutrition requirements. Children who participate in school-feeding programmes have shown significant improvement in their micronutrient status, a reduction in anemia, and better growth outcomes.

Social protection schemes supporting public works and labor market programmes—especially those providing employment opportunities for women—have reduced hunger and increased women’s empowerment.

**6. Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs.**

- **FAMINE PREVENTION & ARTICULATING / ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES:** Prioritizing the prevention of recurrent and protracted food crises is a critical lever to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Food crisis drivers encompass poverty, conflict, environmental and climate hazards, and economic shocks. By articulating and addressing the root causes of hunger, not only do we make strides towards achieving SDG2, but we also contribute to the attainment of all other goals. Particularly, conflict remains the primary driver of hunger, with 70 percent of the world's hungry people living in areas afflicted by war and violence. For this reason, WFP calls upon the international community to fully operationalize UN Security Council Resolution 2417 on Conflict and Hunger and to collectively condemn the use of hunger as a weapon of war in the world’s conflicts as well as violations to international humanitarian law including depriving civilians of object indispensable to their survival. Conflict prevention and adherence to IHL are essential priorities to ensure immediate needs can be met while longer-term investments can be leveraged to create an enabling environment for sustainable development in partnership with UN partners, governments, local actors and civil society.
- **RESOURCING AND DEBT RELIEF:** Development allocations to countries facing food crises are significantly larger than humanitarian assistance, with an average of only 3 percent (USD 6.4 billion) of development funding in these contexts going to food sectors, compared to 32 percent (USD 9.9 billion) of humanitarian assistance. As such, the financing flows into fragile countries must be carefully reconsidered through a stronger dialogue between the multilateral and bilateral community, and with close engagement of International Financial Institutions in the operational discussions and planning of national actors. A further consideration is the impact of the large increase in public and private external debt across developing countries over the past decade, which has led to a rise in debt distress and debt sustainability. As the international community looks to support a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery, WFP advocates for increase in the use of debt relief measures such as debt swaps.
- **INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PARTNERSHIP:** Coordinated and integrated response to food crises is a prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The momentum to address food crises is growing, as signified by the many initiatives emerging at all levels. An effective response and integrated actions for lasting solutions to food crises require coordination across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. To ensure investments in collective action are sustainable and impactful, it is essential that established, long-term platforms are built on and

effectively leveraged. Longer-term partnerships platforms, such as the Global Network Against Food Crises, are critical to convene bilateral and multilateral actors across the HDP spectrum and create coherence and synergies among time-bound initiatives to effectively translate global commitments into local impact.

#### **7. Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit.**

- WFP fully supports the priorities set out in the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit including the need to deepen international commitments for the fight against hunger, the promotion of the right to food as well as investment in nationally owned and climate sensitive food systems. WFP also supports landing the six transition areas emerging from the SDG Summit on country-level as envisioned by the UN Sustainable Development Group.
- **INVESTMENT IN EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEMS:** As articulated by WFP's Strategic Plan 2022-2025, WFP is investing to support national governments to build and strengthen healthy, sustainable and equitable food systems – specifically designed to address the underlying causes of malnutrition. In many low- and middle-income countries, national food systems must be reconstructed, repaired and strengthened if sustainable solutions to hunger and malnutrition and the reduction of humanitarian need are to be achieved. WFP will partner with and support governments, the private sector and NGOs to identify market opportunities for smallholders as well as complementary programming and capacity strengthening across the value chain, particularly in the areas of aggregation, post-harvest handling, international food safety and quality standards and market information. WFP will leverage its advantages in supply chains and in local procurement to complement FAO's strengths in supporting national agricultural policies and expertise on food production and IFAD's role in financing.
- **INVESTMENT IN INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS:** In support of the implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit and its calls for strengthened multilateralism and new ways of working together (paragraph 39), as well as commitment to international cooperation and partnership cooperation (paragraph 10), WFP invests significant capacity in the leadership of, and engagement in, innovative partnerships contributing to food crisis prevention and response. These partnerships bring together both bilateral and multilateral actors working across the humanitarian, development and peace spheres, including international financial institutions, to set common goals and leverage their respective added value to achieve sustainable collective momentum and impact. They include, but are not limited to, multi-stakeholder coalitions emerging from the Food Systems Summit, the Global Network Against Food Crises, the OECD-DAC / UN Dialogue on the HDP Nexus, and others.

#### **8. Recommendations and key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF.**

- **POLITICAL SOLUTIONS TO, AND INVESTMENT IN, ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES:** WFP appeals for political solutions to the world's protracted and recent sudden-onset conflicts, including an investment in tackling root causes of conflicts. Without sustained peace, we will not only fail to achieve SDG 2, but already achieved progress will be lost. WFP advocates for an enhanced approach to humanitarian diplomacy and expanded international support to allow quick and appropriate humanitarian response guided by international humanitarian law, humanitarian principles, and UN Security Council Resolution 2417, to ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. With rising numbers of hungry and diminishing resources to 'meet urgent needs' WFP also advocates for the urgent articulations of the root causes of hunger as the foundational step towards sustainably preventing famine and for a global benchmark to prevent famine and its reoccurrence.
  
- **SUPPORTING LOCALISATION AND THOSE FURTHEST BEHIND:** WFP recommends that the international community invests in local civil society, youth, women and other groups that could – if empowered – contribute to new solutions to hunger, poverty, exclusion and inequity. Further, more investment is needed to stem systemic issues fuelling inequalities – as such, the provision of multi-year funding and investment in country pooled funds are instrumental for UNCTs and HCTs to promote the role of local NGOs and to use their comparative advantages in partnership and joint deliveries.
  
- **STRENGTHENING FOOD SYSTEMS IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS:** Food systems are complex, interconnected and adaptive systems comprising every person and every process involved in a set of activities ranging from production to consumption and disposal of food. Donor governments and governments in conflict-affected countries can enhance the efficiency and impact of their support and intervention if they base them on conflict analysis that explores contextual dynamics and processes through a wider food systems lens. This includes efforts seeking to both address immediate food needs and—in pockets of relative peace and stability—build longer-term capacities around agricultural production and market participation to avoid a collapse of food systems and food security in collaboration with WFP, the Rome-based agencies and local partners.