

**Input for the 2025 High-level Political Forum
World Food Programme (WFP)**

Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.

- The world faces an escalating convergence of crises driving humanitarian needs to unprecedented levels. Conflict, climate shocks and economic instability are disrupting food systems displacing millions and eroding resilience. As a result, 343 million people face acute hunger, significantly undermining SDGs progress. Nearly 3 billion cannot afford a healthy diet and previous declines in malnutrition have stagnated and is increasing in crisis affected places.
- The convergence of these crises deepens inequalities and reverse hard-won development gains. Addressing immediate needs is not enough—there is an urgent need to tackle the structural drivers of hunger and malnutrition.
- Vulnerable populations, especially women and girls (SDG 5), bear the brunt of food insecurity and climate shocks (SDG 14). Health outcomes (SDG 3) are worsening as malnutrition drives disease and death, while economic growth (SDG 8) is jeopardized, particularly in fragile contexts. These challenges demand integrated responses and global partnerships (SDG 17).
- The interconnected nature of these crises demands equally holistic solutions. Efforts to advance SDG 2 have ripple effects across the SDGs. For example, improving nutritious food access not only addresses hunger but also enhances health outcomes (SDG 3), boosts economic productivity (SDG 8), supports gender equality by empowering women farmers (SDG 5), and protects natural ecosystems through sustainable agricultural practices (SDG 14).
- Ultimately, these crises require a paradigm shift toward better coordination across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts. Equitable economic governance, investment in early warning systems, transforming food systems and resilience-building are essential to reducing vulnerabilities and mitigating future crises. By fostering collaborative, multi-sectoral solutions, the international community can create a pathway to sustainable development.

Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

- Addressing child wasting (SDG 3) is vital, as children with severe wasting are 11 times more likely to die than healthy peers. In 2024, UNICEF and WFP launched a three-year plan (2024–2026) in 15 high-burden countries to integrate prevention and treatment. By coupling early detection and therapeutic feeding with maternal support, this initiative ensures vulnerable populations are

reached with life-saving nutrition interventions, reducing mortality and supporting long-term health outcomes in fragile contexts.

- The Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment exemplifies inclusive approaches to sustainable development (SDGs 1, 2, 5, and 10). This initiative equips women with entrepreneurial skills, promotes sustainable agricultural practices, and amplifies their roles in decision-making, thus fostering economic autonomy and social inclusion. Through collaboration with FAO, IFAD, and UN Women, the programme addresses interlinked dimensions of poverty, hunger, and gender inequality, ultimately strengthening food systems and rural economies.
- Finally, the Sahel Integrated Resilience Programme (SDGs 2, 13, and 15) showcases evidencebased resilience-building. Operational since 2018, it has restored over 300,000 hectares of degraded land across five countries, ensuring food security and reducing humanitarian needs despite severe droughts. By integrating ecosystem restoration, social cohesion, and sustainable resource management, the programme transforms vulnerable communities into self-reliant ones, demonstrating cost-effectiveness and scalability.
- These initiatives highlight the importance of collaborative, multi-dimensional approaches to achieving sustainable development while ensuring no one is left behind. By addressing systemic challenges through integrated efforts, they provide scalable and sustainable solutions, fostering resilience and progress across the SDGs.

Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through wellcoordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.

- Achieving cohesive progress towards the SDGs requires well-coordinated actions that leverage interlinkages between Goals. Three examples illustrate how such approaches can accelerate progress: sustainable school meal programmes, empowering smallholder farmers, and working across the HDP nexus.
- The School Meals Coalition exemplifies a multisectoral effort to enhance food systems, education, and social protection. Since its launch in 2021, the Coalition has inspired over 130 partners to integrate school meals into broader strategies, ensuring every child has access to nutritious meals. By mobilizing support across agriculture, education, health, and finance sectors, it drives public commitments and national ownership, making programmes more sustainable and effective in improving children's nutrition, education, and community well-being.
- Supporting smallholder farmers in Upper Egypt highlights the importance of sustainable farming for food systems and climate resilience. Through partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture, 600,000 farmers have adopted techniques like integrated water management, land consolidation,

and solarpowered irrigation. These measures boosted productivity, reduced costs, and enhanced climate adaptation. Small-scale agro-processing initiatives, often led by women, diversify incomes and create economic opportunities, showing how sustainable practices empower communities while addressing food security challenges.

- Finally, coordinated action through the HDP nexus ensures humanitarian needs are addressed and reduced. In the Sahel, a joint UNICEF-WFP social protection programme strengthens national systems while directly reaching underserved areas. By aligning humanitarian responses with development, the initiative reduces vulnerabilities and ensures social protection systems are inclusive and shock responsive.

Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

N/A

Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.

- Food Security situation - With 343 million people facing acute food insecurity, hunger has reached worrisome levels, with 1.9 million people are facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity. Global humanitarian needs are skyrocketing, fuelled by the growing number of devastating conflicts, more frequent climate disasters, and extensive economic turmoil.
- School Meals:
- Over 100 million schoolchildren in low- and lower-middle-income countries are going hungry. Without sufficient nutrition, children struggle to concentrate in class and miss school more often, or even drop out altogether. School meals provide vital nutrition and a path to education. More years of schooling translate into higher earnings and the growth of a skilled workforce that can contribute efficiently to national development.
- In times of crisis, a meal provided in school will often be the only nutritious daily meal a child will receive making it vital support that can limit the negative impact that conflict and other shocks have on children.
- School meal programmes are cost-effective—they are a high-impact investment with high economic returns: For every \$1 invested, they generate between \$7 and \$35 in economic benefits.
- School meal programmes play a long-term role in strengthening national stability and food security by providing a consistent, government-led service that families can rely on.