



SRMUN CHARLOTTE 2021
Unity: Coming Together to Address A Changing World
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Virtual SRMUN Charlotte 2021 and the World Food Programme Executive Board (WFP-EB)! My name is Lucie Willis and I am incredibly excited to be serving as your Director for the WFP-EB. My last SRMUN conference was SRMUN Atlanta 2015, where I served as the Deputy-Director General, but I have also directed the United Nations Populations Fund at SRMUN Charlotte 2014 and the League of Arab States in Atlanta the same year, and have been participating in Model UN conferences as a delegate since 2007. I am an alumna of Western Carolina University where I earned a Bachelor of Science in both history and political science. My Assistant Director for this committee will be Daniel Felberg. Daniel served as the Assistant Director of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization for SRMUN Atlanta 2020. He is double majoring in Political Science and International Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

It is under the leadership, supervision, and support of the WFP-EB that the World Food Programme (WFP) continues progressing towards ending global hunger and food insecurity. The WFP-EB is responsible for overseeing operations and approving budgets for the WFP. The WFP Executive Board was created when the Food and Agriculture Organization proposed the reorganization of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes into an oversight body for the WFP. The Executive Board is the governing body of the World Food Programme, handling the decision making, priority setting, budgeting, and auditing of the WFP.

By focusing on the WFP-EB's mission and the SRMUN Charlotte 2021 theme of "*Unity: Coming Together to Address a Changing World*" we have developed the following topics for delegates to discuss at this year's conference:

- I. Strengthening Partnerships to Improve the World Food Programme's Emergency Response in Times of Global Crises
- II. Expanding Food Security for Socially Excluded and Marginalized Groups

This background guide provides an introduction to the committee and the topics that will be debated at SRMUN Charlotte 2021 and should be used as a basis for a delegate's research. While we have attempted to provide an overarching analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the only source of research for delegates. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and analyze the topics for themselves. Position papers for the committee should reflect the multifaceted complexities of the topics from each Member State's perspective. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for an extensive discussion at the conference.

Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Sunday, March 7, 2021, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website in order to be eligible for Outstanding Position Paper Awards.**

Daniel and I are very excited to be serving as your dais for the WFP-EB. We wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to working with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact Deputy Director-General Chantel Hover, Daniel, or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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History of the World Food Programme – Executive Board

Since its establishment in 1961, the World Food Programme (WFP) has been one of the key humanitarian organizations committed to providing aid in times of crisis.¹ Specifically, the World Food Program’s primary goal is to ensure food assistance and security during emergencies across the globe with a focus on “emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development aid and special operations.”² Although other agencies also specialize in food security, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the WFP is often the first to respond when global emergencies occur.³ The WFP provides food assistance in various types of crises worldwide, such as assisting the victims of war and civil conflict, as well environmental disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and droughts, and other crises such as crop failures.⁴ The WFP’s long-term strategy is devoted to rebuilding communities that have been affected by such emergencies, and ensuring those communities’ resilience against food insecurity is strengthened going forward.⁵

The idea behind the WFP was first conceived by United States of America President Dwight Eisenhower, who sought to create an organization that could provide food aid in emergencies through the United Nations (UN) system.⁶ After a devastating earthquake struck Northern Iran in September 1962 and killed over 12,000 people, the WFP was deployed for the first time in history.⁷ The WFP managed to send survivors 1,500 metric tons of wheat, 270 tons of sugar, and 27 tons of tea.⁸ After some success managing emergency response, the WFP began to develop more long-term goals, with its first development program being launched in Sudan in 1963.⁹ As the 20th century progressed, so too did the scale of the WFP’s operations, thanks to technological innovations that allowed for better access to remote areas.¹⁰ In 1984, the WFP was able to deliver two million tons of food to Ethiopia as a famine ravaged the country.¹¹ Throughout the 1990s, conflicts such as the Rwandan Genocide and the Yugoslav Wars forced the organization to shift back and forth between emergency interventions and development programs.¹²

The WFP’s focus changed once more with the turn of the new century and the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals.¹³ For the first time, climate change was seen as a crucial factor contributing towards food insecurity across the world.¹⁴ Over the past decade, around half of the WFP’s emergency and recovery operations have been dedicated towards climate-related disasters.¹⁵ Additionally, with the Millennium Development Goals, issues surrounding poverty, illness, and hunger were given more attention from the international community.¹⁶ In more recent history, the WFP also provided aid to Haiti during the earthquake in 2010, as well the one in Nepal in 2015.¹⁷ The latter particularly showcased the WFP’s overarching skill and ability to provide logistical support, which was greatly improved by digital innovation and telecommunications.¹⁸ Nowadays, the World Food Programme is described as the “world’s largest humanitarian agency saving lives and changing lives,” further illustrating its key role in responding to food emergencies.¹⁹

¹ “History,” World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/history> (Accessed June 18, 2020).

² “Overview,” World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/overview> (Accessed June 18, 2020).

³ “Overview,” World Food Programme.

⁴ “Overview,” World Food Programme.

⁵ “Overview,” World Food Programme.

⁶ “History,” World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/history> (Accessed June 18, 2020).

⁷ “History,” World Food Programme.

⁸ “History,” World Food Programme.

⁹ “History,” World Food Programme.

¹⁰ “History,” World Food Programme.

¹¹ “History,” World Food Programme.

¹² “History,” World Food Programme.

¹³ “History,” World Food Programme.

¹⁴ “History,” World Food Programme.

¹⁵ “Climate action,” World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/climate-action> (Accessed July 18, 2020).

¹⁶ “History,” World Food Programme.

¹⁷ “History,” World Food Programme.

¹⁸ “History,” World Food Programme.

¹⁹ “History,” World Food Programme.

Presently, the WFP's headquarters is located in Rome, Italy, which is where the Executive Board meets.²⁰ The FAO, which is also based in Rome, often works alongside the WFP to alleviate food security and eliminate its root causes.²¹ Most recently, both organizations have collaborated towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, key among them Goal 2: "Zero Hunger."²² In 2018, the WFP and FAO, along with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding to leverage their collective strengths, and maximize their contributions to Agenda 2030.²³

The WFP's funding comes from voluntary contributions, most of which are made by the governments of Member States, along with private sector and individual donations.²⁴ All financial contributions are then directed to the "WFP Fund," which is operated and administered by the Executive Director, who is also responsible for submitting annual WFP budgets, as well as any supplementary budgets should there be any need.²⁵ The budget is then presented to the Executive Board, who may also consult the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions prior to the budget's submission for any necessary consultations.²⁶

The Executive Board is the leading body of the WFP and "provides intergovernmental support, direction, and supervision of WFP's activities."²⁷ After the adoption of the FAO Conference Resolution 9/95 in October of 1995, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) officially established the Executive Board to replace the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes through A/RES/50/8.^{28,29} These resolutions not only created the Executive Board as it currently exists, but also laid out the organizational structure of the committee and process by which each Member State is elected. The board consists of 36 rotating Member States that are chosen from a fixed seat distribution chart, which was last approved by the UNGA and the FAO Conference in 2011, and went into effect in 2012.³⁰ The seat distribution allocates Member States by level of development, and has five separate groupings: List A, List B (Groups I & II), List C, List D, and List E.³¹ Lists A through C are considered "Developing Countries," whereas Lists D and E fall under the "Economically Developed Countries" category.³² Of the Board's members, eight are chosen from List A, seven from List B, five from List C, twelve from List D, three from List E, and an additional rotating member from Lists A, B, or C.³³ In addition, 18 members are elected by the Economic and Social Council, and the remaining 18 by the FAO Council.³⁴ Once Member States are voted onto the Executive Board, they serve a three-year term, with the possibility for re-election.³⁵

²⁰ *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.* World Food Programme.

²¹ "UN agencies and international institutions," World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/un-agencies-and-international-institutions> (Accessed July 18, 2020).

²² "UN Food Agencies commit to deeper collaboration to achieve Zero Hunger," World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/news/un-food-agencies-commit-deeper-collaboration-achieve-zero-hunger> (Accessed July 18, 2020).

²³ "UN Food Agencies commit to deeper collaboration to achieve Zero Hunger," World Food Programme.

²⁴ "Governance and leadership," World Food Programme.

²⁵ *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.* World Food Programme.

²⁶ *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.* World Food Programme.

²⁷ "Governance and leadership," World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/governance-and-leadership> (Accessed June 18, 2020).

²⁸ Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Resolution 9/95, *Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme and reconstitution of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme*, October 31, 1995, <http://www.fao.org/3/x5585E/x5585e08.htm>.

²⁹ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 8, *Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme and reconstitution of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme*, A/RES/50/8, December 7, 1995, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/50/8>.

³⁰ "State Members and distribution of seats," World Food Programme, <https://executiveboard.wfp.org/state-members-and-distribution-seats> (Accessed June 18, 2020).

³¹ "State Members and distribution of seats," World Food Programme.

³² "State Members and distribution of seats," World Food Programme.

³³ "State Members and distribution of seats," World Food Programme.

³⁴ "Members of the Board," World Food Programme, <https://executiveboard.wfp.org/members-board> (Accessed June 18, 2020).

³⁵ "Members of the Board," World Food Programme.

Alongside the Executive Board is also the Executive Director of the WFP, who oversees the administrative and organizational aspects of the organization, as well as the implementation of its projects.³⁶ The position, currently held by David Beasley, is appointed for a fixed five-year term, and is selected jointly by both the UN Secretary-General, and the Director-General of the FAO.³⁷ The Executive Director also works with the WFP Deputy Executive Director and three Assistant Executive Directors, each of whom are designated their own specific topics on which to brief the committee.³⁸ Altogether, these executive officers make up the Secretariat of the WFP, along with any staff working on their behalf.³⁹

³⁶ “Governance and leadership,” World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/governance-and-leadership>.

³⁷ “Governance and leadership,” World Food Programme.

³⁸ “Governance and leadership,” World Food Programme.

³⁹ *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*. World Food Programme, 2019.

I: Strengthening Partnerships to Improve the World Food Programme's Emergency Response in Times of Global Crises

Introduction

Since its infancy, The World Food Programme (WFP) has been a key source of humanitarian aid and relief in emergencies and crises alike, from natural disasters to epidemics. When global catastrophes occur, the WFP is amongst the first to arrive on the scene to meet the needs of the people most affected by these crises. From gathering supplies to provide vulnerable and devastated people the nutrition they need, to organizing transportation and delivery of these supplies, the WFP's role in providing humanitarian relief is paramount in rebuilding communities and creating sustainable development.⁴⁰

The 21st century has brought and will continue to bring about unprecedented challenges for the international community and international organizations in terms of maintaining food security and providing emergency relief. The further into the 21st century they get, Member States across the globe will begin to see the tangible effects of climate change. New diseases may emerge that the international community as a whole needs to learn to combat and contain. With these new challenges in mind, the WFP's mission to provide emergency relief will also have to evolve.

In times of global emergency, the WFP has historically both learned from the situation and created innovative solutions to overcome it, proclaiming that "catastrophe spurs resourcefulness."⁴¹ It is under the leadership of the Executive Board that the WFP responds to these global emergencies. Issues such as widespread food insecurity from a lack of farmable land due to climate change, and providing food aid while combating diseases that are rapidly spread through international trade (and then to some extent, those trade mechanisms being shut down or slowed when affected by quarantine mandates), will continue to challenge the WFP. It is imperative, now more than ever, that the WFP and its leadership increase its ability to properly respond to global emergencies as they arise. However, it is important to bear in mind that this is a load that the WFP cannot bear alone; it is only through global partnerships that the WFP will be able to reach its goals and create a zero-hunger world even as global emergencies threaten its resources.

History

Even in the days before the United Nations (UN), the international community recognized that humanitarian relief in the form of food was a crucial element in responding to widespread and multinational crises, and the framework for meeting this need has evolved over time.⁴² The aftermath of World War II across Europe created a "special stress" in terms of food insecurity and destruction of farmland, and global leaders realized that while hunger is a tale older than man, it can be combated by an international collaborative effort.⁴³

The earliest framework of this kind was within the League of Nations under the Secretariat's Health Section.⁴⁴ The Secretariat's Health Section was established when it became clear that emergency relief provided during a typhus outbreak in Eastern Europe in the 1930s had to include nutrition to be comprehensive in its relief.⁴⁵ This evolved into The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), created in October 1945 shortly after the

⁴⁰ "History," The World Food Programme, 2020, <https://www.wfp.org/history>.

⁴¹ "History," The World Food Programme, 2020.

⁴² D. John Shaw, *The UN World Food Programme and the Development of Food Aid*, Palgrave, 2001, xix, <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/bfm%3A978-1-4039-0543-7%2F1.pdf>.

⁴³ Ralph W. Phillips, *FAO: its origins, formation, and evolution 1945-1981*, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, 1981, 2, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-p4228e.pdf>.

⁴⁴ Ralph W. Phillips, *FAO: its origins, formation, and evolution 1945-1981*, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, 1981, 5.

⁴⁵ Ralph W. Phillips, *FAO: its origins, formation, and evolution 1945-1981*, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, 1981, 5..

UN was chartered.⁴⁶ As the UN gained traction in the international community, it quickly realized the consistent need for emergency food relief.

In 1960, President of the United States of America (USA) Dwight D. Eisenhower suggested a “workable scheme... for providing aid in the UN system” to the UN General Assembly.⁴⁷ The WFP was born from this idea in 1961, following the Food and Agricultural Organization Conference in 1960 which focused on managing food surpluses in certain Member States while also dealing with food scarcity in others.⁴⁸ The WFP was first called into action in September 1962 when a catastrophic earthquake rocked the Buin Zahra region of northern Iran.⁴⁹ The earthquake registered as a 7.1 on the Richter scale and destroyed over 20,000 homes, creating a dire need for humanitarian relief for the thousands of people living around Buin Zahra.⁵⁰ The WFP had only existed a mere 10 months when this earthquake hit Iran, yet the fledgling organization mobilized to provide relief to the devastated Iranians left in its wake.⁵¹

What began as a three-year experiment to, in the words of Dwight D. Eisenhower, “provide food aid through the UN system,” the WFP emerged as a key contributor to the UN’s emergency and relief missions.⁵² By the time it became a “full-fledged UN programme,” the WFP had responded to a typhoon outbreak in Thailand and feeding repatriated refugees in the recently war-torn and newly independent Algeria.⁵³

In November 1996, leaders of the international community were invited to Rome to take part in the World Food Summit, hosted by FAO.⁵⁴ Two key documents that reaffirmed the global commitment to food security were adopted on the very first day of the four day conference: The World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Roman Declaration on World Food Security.⁵⁵ In the Roman Declaration, the international community made several commitments to ensuring access to food for people across the globe. They highlighted the fact that the “multifaceted character of food security necessitates [...] effective international efforts” in realizing “the fundamental right that everyone be free from hunger.”⁵⁶ The Roman Declaration made clear that only through “international cooperation and solidarity” could world hunger be eradicated. Further, the Member States at this summit made a commitment to “endeavour to prevent and be prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies”.⁵⁷

The World Food Summit Plan of Action was created as a roadmap for how the ideas in the Roman Declaration would be realized.⁵⁸ The Roman Declaration outlined seven different commitments that Member States at the conference were making towards progress on “the multifaceted character of food security [that] necessitates concerted national action, and effective international action.”⁵⁹ The fifth commitment of the World Food Summit Plan of Action expanded upon the Roman Declaration’s dedication to international group efforts to emergency preparedness.⁶⁰ The Plan of Action outlined objectives for each of the seven commitments in the Roman Declaration. Out of the seven commitments, the fifth commitment’s second objective sought for cooperative action between Member States and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to establish emergency response and

⁴⁶ D. John Shaw, *The UN World Food Programme and the Development of Food Aid*, Palgrave, 2001, xix, <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/bfm%3A978-1-4039-0543-7%2F1.pdf>.

⁴⁷ “FAO 70th Anniversary, 1955-1965”, Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN, <http://www.fao.org/70/1955-65/en/>.

⁴⁸ Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO Thirteenth Session, C. World food program*, 1965, <http://www.fao.org/3/46140E/46140e06.htm>.

⁴⁹ “History,” The World Food Programme, 2020, <https://www.wfp.org/history>.

⁵⁰ “Earthquakes with 1,000 or More Deaths since 1900,” United States Geological Survey, January 29, 2009, archived on June 14, 2009.

⁵¹ “History,” The World Food Programme, 2020, <https://www.wfp.org/history>.

⁵² “History,” The World Food Programme, 2020.

⁵³ “History,” The World Food Programme, 2020.

⁵⁴ Food and Agricultural Organization, “World Food Summit: Rome Declaration on Food Security”, 1996, <http://www.fao.org/3/w3613e/w3613e00.htm>.

⁵⁵ “The Rome Declaration on World Food Security,” *Population and Development Review*, 22(4), 1996, pg. 807.

⁵⁶ Food and Agricultural Organization, “World Food Summit: Rome Declaration on Food Security”, 1996, <http://www.fao.org/3/w3613e/w3613e00.htm>.

⁵⁷ Food and Agricultural Organization, “World Food Summit: Rome Declaration on Food Security”, 1996.

⁵⁸ Food and Agricultural Organization, “World Food Summit: Rome Declaration on Food Security”, 1996.

⁵⁹ Food and Agricultural Organization, “World Food Summit: Rome Declaration on Food Security”, 1996.

⁶⁰ Food and Agricultural Organization, “World Food Summit: World Food Summit Plan of Action, 1996.

preparedness strategies to ensure vulnerable populations have their needs met when crises arise.⁶¹ Though the international community was just beginning to understand how climate change was going to alter the global landscape, the Summit Plan already recognized that climate forecasting, as well as early-warning systems for natural disasters, was going to be crucial in responding to future emergencies.⁶²

In meeting their objective of establishing emergency response and preparedness strategies, one of the three strategies declared by the World Summit Plan of Action included improving emergency response at all levels of governance.⁶³ The Plan of Action said in no uncertain terms that to properly respond to global catastrophes, both natural and man-made, the international community would need to “strengthen the coordination and efficiency of international emergency assistance to ensure rapid, coordinated, and appropriate response.”⁶⁴ Finally, the fourth goal of this commitment was to “strengthen linkages between relief operations and development programmes with determining activities as necessary, so that they are mutually supportive and facilitate the transition from relief to development.”⁶⁵

Since the creation of the World Action Plan, the UN and its subsidiaries have heeded the notion that global partnerships will be a key factor in combating food insecurity and other obstacles to sustainable development. In 2000, the United Nations developed a fifteen-year plan known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).⁶⁶ The seventh goal outlined in this eight-part plan was to “develop a global partnership for sustainable development.”⁶⁷ When the timeframe to implement the MDGs ended in 2015, the MDGs were replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁶⁸ The SDGs make up the UN’s current outline of initiatives towards creating a more free world before 2030.⁶⁹ These goals are intertwined and progress towards all of them is required to meet each goal. The three goals that the WFP will find crucial to improving emergency responses are Goal 2: Zero Hunger, Goal 13: Climate Action, and especially Goal 17: Partnerships.⁷⁰

The SDGs make it clear that only through global partnerships can zero hunger and climate action be realized. While the WFP is the UN organization that primarily focuses on food security, and climate change is beginning to affect the world’s food supply, the SDGs set a framework that the WFP will not, and cannot, handle those issues alone. The UN proclaims that “the SDGs can only be realized with strong global partnerships and international cooperation.”⁷¹ Climate change is likely to become a larger issue as we march deeper into the 21st century, and is and will continue to be a catalyst for many global crises. Climate change will ultimately have a negative effect on Member States’ access to food and nutrition and it is clear through the goals set forth in the SDGs that meaningful, multinational partnerships are all intertwined.

Current Initiatives

⁶¹ Food and Agricultural Organization, “World Food Summit: World Food Summit Plan of Action, 1996, <http://www.fao.org/3/w3613e/w3613e00.htm>.

⁶² Food and Agricultural Organization, “World Food Summit: World Food Summit Plan of Action, 1996.

⁶³ Food and Agricultural Organization, “World Food Summit: Rome Declaration on Food Security”, 1996, <http://www.fao.org/3/w3613e/w3613e00.htm>.

⁶⁴ Food and Agricultural Organization, “World Food Summit: World Food Summit Plan of Action, 1996, <http://www.fao.org/3/w3613e/w3613e00.htm>.

⁶⁵ Food and Agricultural Organization, “World Food Summit: World Food Summit Plan of Action, 1996.

⁶⁶ “Millennium Development Goals,” United Nations Development Programme, https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sdgoverview/mdg_goals.html.

⁶⁷ “Millennium Development Goals,” United Nations Development Programme.

⁶⁸ “Millennium Development Goals,” United Nations Development Programme.

⁶⁹ “About the Sustainable Development Goals,” United Nations, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.

⁷⁰ “About the Sustainable Development Goals,” United Nations.

⁷¹ “Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development,” United Nations, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/>.

A collective that will “play a pivotal role in supporting Member States” towards meeting the SDGs is the UN Rome-based Agencies (RBAs).⁷² WFP is one of three organizations that make up the RBAs, the other two organizations being FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).⁷³ Together, these organizations, named for the location of all three headquarters in Rome, Italy, “offer a vast range of knowledge, financial and technical expertise, and internationally recognized forums for discussing policy issues related to food security, agriculture, and nutrition.”⁷⁴ In 2016, the RBAs worked together on a joint paper that would outline “a common vision, guiding principles for enhanced collaboration” and “how the agencies will work together based on particular contexts, and strengthened coordinated efforts” at all levels of governance.⁷⁵ This paper included a commitment to present reports to the WFP-EB, and other governing bodies of the RBAs, with “annual updates on how the agencies are working together.”⁷⁶ In the most recent update to the WFPEB, the RBAs are behind in their progress towards zero hunger by 2030.⁷⁷ Progress towards reaching the goal of zero hunger is going to “require holistic approaches, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and innovative investment in transformative initiatives that focus on addressing the root causes of hunger and malnutrition which span across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.”⁷⁸

In 2017, the WFP adopted The Strategic Plan, which outlined how the organization planned to achieve its ultimate goal of “a zero hunger world.”⁷⁹ The Strategic Plan explains how the WFP sets a framework for how their missions on the ground, a “common, people centered, needs driven approach that is guided by the humanitarian principles,” and a “humanitarian-development joint needs assessments, and combined data analysis, and planning and programming processes to deliver better outcomes” are key in the WFP’s role in meeting the SDGs.⁸⁰ But meeting the SDGs and the WFP’s ultimate goal of eradicating world hunger, the WFP says, “will require not just WFP but the world.”⁸¹

Case Study: WFP’s Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020 gave the UN and all of its affiliated organizations the very new challenge of a “global health crisis unlike any other in the 75-year history” of the organization: COVID-19.⁸² Member States the world over were devastated by this pandemic. The World Health Organization began tracking and early research on the virus in December 2019, but in March 2020 the rate of infection began to rise exponentially and gave the international community a crisis like

⁷² World Food Programme Executive Board, “Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda,” Second Regular Session, Rome, Italy, November 14-18, 2016, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000037188/download/>.

⁷³ “Rome based agencies,” World Food Programme, 2020, <https://www.wfp.org/rome-based-agencies#:~:text=Together%2C%20three%20United%20Nations%20Rome,and%20internationally%20recognized%20forums%20for.>

⁷⁴ “Rome based agencies,” World Food Programme, 2020.

⁷⁵ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda,” Second Regular Session, Rome, Italy, November 14-18, 2016, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000037188/download/>.

⁷⁶ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies”, Second Regular Session, Rome, Italy, November 18-21, 2019, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000108554/download/>.

⁷⁷ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies”, Second Regular Session, Rome, Italy, November 18-21, 2019.

⁷⁸ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies”, Second Regular Session, Rome, Italy, November 18-21, 2019.

⁷⁹ “WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)”, World Food Programme, July 2017, https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000019573/download/?_ga=2.229039132.1810485183.1592066108-1745824443.1591221704.

⁸⁰ “WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)”, World Food Programme, July 2017.

⁸¹ “WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)”, World Food Programme, July 2017.

⁸² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Global Humanitarian Response Plan,” United Nations Coordinated Appeal, March 2020, <https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Global-Humanitarian-Response-Plan-COVID-19.pdf>.

it had never dealt with before.⁸³ The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says that 216 states have dealt with the devastating effects of COVID-19 as of December 2020.⁸⁴

In March 2020, the UN began to implement its Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), a USD 2 billion program dedicated to aiding non-governmental organizations (NGOs)'s direct response to preventing the spread and minimizing the global effects of COVID-19.⁸⁵ The GHRP was a coordinated effort to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 by NGOs such as the WHO, WFP, FAO, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population's Fund, and UN-Habitat.⁸⁶ This plan was revised first in May and again in July as WHO and other organizations learned more about the virus and the global community suffered its impact.⁸⁷ As the plans were revised, the increase in the amount of funding needed to provide the proper support for the "most fragile" Member States increased.⁸⁸ The July revision sought USD 10.3 billion to alleviate the suffering caused by COVID-19, with plans to help "the most vulnerable and low income" Member States outlined in its annexes.⁸⁹

In the July revision to the GHRP, Mark Lowcock, the emergency relief coordinator of the USA, warned that "the pandemic and associated global recession are about to wreak havoc in fragile and low income countries. Unless we act now, we should be prepared for a series of human tragedies more brutal and destructive than any direct health impacts of the virus."⁹⁰ Lowcock warned of the other effects that COVID-19 would have on the global community: economic recession, a decline in unemployment, a diversion of resources from other health research and school closures that will have a long-term effect on education. More alarmingly, Lowcock warned that the combination of several of these factors ("economic downturn, rising unemployment, and reduced school attendance") could increase the rate of civil conflicts and violence in Member States which in turn lead to food insecurity.⁹¹ "Without action, we'll see... 270 million people facing starvation by the end of the year," Lowcock estimated. COVID-19, if unmitigated, stands to create a "global food emergency" that will not only create food insecurity for Member States that are anything short of middle-income, but will also create a crisis of malnutrition, especially for vulnerable populations, particularly children.⁹² The GHRP explicitly states the need for "adequate funding for famine prevention" as a means of fighting the broad-reaching effects of COVID-19.⁹³

There is a very real chance that the COVID-19 pandemic will have a lasting impact on food security. As Member States institute lockdown procedures to help prevent the spread of the disease, supply chains and transportation of food and goods have been disrupted.⁹⁴ These lockdowns will also affect agriculture as farmers have fallen behind in production this year and farm workers globally have found themselves unemployed.⁹⁵ Further, reduced access to markets as Member States enforce "stay at home" orders has contributed and will continue to contribute to food

⁸³World Health Organization, "Timeline of WHO's Response to COVID-19," September 9, 2020, <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-06-2020-covidtimeline>.

⁸⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "OCHA and COVID-19," 2020, <https://www.unocha.org/covid19>.

⁸⁵ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "OCHA and COVID-19," 2020.

⁸⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Press Release: COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan," 2020, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2020/March/covid-19-global-humanitarian-response-plan.html>.

⁸⁷ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "OCHA and COVID-19," 2020, <https://www.unocha.org/covid19>.

⁸⁸ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "OCHA and COVID-19," 2020.

⁸⁹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "OCHA and COVID-19," 2020.

⁹⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19: GHRP July Update," July 16, 2020, https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHRP-COVID19_July_update.pdf.

⁹¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19: GHRP July Update," July 16, 2020.

⁹² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19: GHRP July Update," July 16, 2020.

⁹³ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19: GHRP July Update," July 16, 2020.

⁹⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19: GHRP July Update," July 16, 2020.

⁹⁵ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19: GHRP July Update," July 16, 2020.

insecurity.⁹⁶ Executive Director of WFP David Beasley warns that “the socio-economic impact of the pandemic is more devastating than the disease itself [...] hunger rates are sky-rocketing around the world.”⁹⁷

In WFP’s External Situation Report to the WFP-EB in September 2020, the WFP stated that “resourcing still remains the primary impediment challenging WFP’s ability to scale up and wage a global response” to COVID-19.⁹⁸ WFP has had to reduce food and monetary aid for over 2.7 million people in vulnerable Member States due to a lack of funding, and it is expected that this number will increase as COVID-19 rages on.⁹⁹ These cash transfers were one of WFP’s largest responses to COVID-19. In fact, “over half of WFP’s global response to COVID-19 plan will be delivered in cash and vouchers,” which also helps monetary distribution in local economies.¹⁰⁰ WFP has also helped provide transportation to humanitarian and healthcare workers to 65 different Member States in need on the frontlines of COVID-19.¹⁰¹

As recently as July 2020, the WFP was uncertain how it was going to be able to continue providing long-term aid to the multitude of Member States suffering from the outbreak of COVID-19.¹⁰² In a report to the Executive Board that month, the WFP admitted it “only [had] enough funding to sustain the cargo and passenger services” that are required to transport nutrition to disease-ravaged areas for a mere few weeks.¹⁰³ As of December 2020, the GHRP had only received USD 1.64 billion of the USD 10.3 billion that it needs to fund the efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰⁴

A Need for Stronger Partnerships

The WFP tries to address both food insecurity and emergency response in times of crises, but it cannot finance these solutions alone and it will take cooperation on a global scale to continue to fund the emergency responses that are required to properly meet the needs of global citizens. “Humanitarian crises brought on by conflict or natural disasters continue to demand more financial aid and resources,” according to the UN Development Programme.¹⁰⁵

However, according to the UN, the level of aid that it, and the organizations that perform outreach and aid, rely on to push further towards the SDGs is declining.¹⁰⁶ Not only is the UN not on track to meet the SDGs, but this decrease in funding has also affected the ability of UN programmes to provide sustainable and comprehensive aid where it is needed. The UN fears that while the ability to fund the SDGs is in jeopardy, it may also struggle to combat the ever-

⁹⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19: GHRP July Update,” July 16, 2020.

⁹⁷ World Food Programme, “Coronavirus could push migrant workers and their families into hunger, UN agency warns,” November 11, 2020, <https://insight.wfp.org/coronavirus-pandemic-could-push-migrant-workers-and-their-families-into-hunger-un-agencies-warn-df828aaa2f88>.

⁹⁸ World Food Programme Executive Board, “WFP COVID Situation Report,” September 3, 2020, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000118795/download/>.

⁹⁹ World Food Programme Executive Board, “WFP COVID Situation Report,” September 3, 2020.

¹⁰⁰ World Food Programme Executive Board, “WFP COVID Situation Report,” September 3, 2020.

¹⁰¹ World Food Programme Executive Board, “WFP COVID Situation Report,” September 3, 2020.

¹⁰² World Food Programme Executive Board, “Presentation of the Firth oral update on WFP’s Response to COVID-19,” July 27, 2020, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/a8ab5557bb9f4e15aa7991ad3a3305b8/download/>

¹⁰³ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Presentation of the Firth oral update on WFP’s Response to COVID-19,” July 27, 2020.

¹⁰⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19: GHRP July Update,” July 16, 2020, https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHRP-COVID19_July_update.pdf.

¹⁰⁵ “Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals,” United Nations Development Programme, 2020, <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-17-partnerships-for-the-goals.html>.

¹⁰⁶ United Nations General Assembly, Declining Aid, Rising Debt Thwart World’s Ability to Fund Sustainable Development, Speakers Warn at General Assembly High-Level Dialogue, GA/12191, September, 26, 2019, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12191.doc.htm>.

increasing “negative impacts of climate change.”¹⁰⁷ Achieving the SDGs alone will cost around USD 2.5 trillion, which does not even begin to scratch the surface of the aid required to properly respond to a widespread crisis.¹⁰⁸

An “unfolding” global recession has been a large part of the recent decline in funding from Member States to the UN and its many programmes.¹⁰⁹ Even prior to 2020, the world’s economy saw incomes per capita become stagnant, but the 2020 COVID-19 global pandemic had an incredibly detrimental effect on Member State’s economies and therefore their ability to contribute to aid and development projects.¹¹⁰ As of November 2020, WFP anticipates that lower contributions from Member States could have as great an impact as “an additional 33 million people at risk across the world.”¹¹¹ Migrant workers will be the most disproportionately affected by the decrease in aid from WFP.¹¹²

The WFP “has no independent source of funds” and therefore gets its funding from three sources: governments, corporations, and individuals.¹¹³ The primary source of funding is often Member States, as WFP partners with them the most for initiatives.¹¹⁴ The economic effects of COVID-19 on the global economy have not yet fully been realized, and it is possible that Member States will have even less to contribute to WFP’s mission, making it even more imperative to improve partnerships (and increase donations) with its corporate and individual donors.

In the private sector, WFP partners with several corporations and foundations to “find lasting solutions to end hunger.”¹¹⁵ WFP’s partners in the private sector are strategic, and “combine technical assistance and knowledge transfer with financial contributions”.¹¹⁶ In 2020, the WFP began its private sector partnerships and fundraising (PSPF) strategy; a plan for “cooperation with the private sector, foundations, and individuals for the achievement of zero hunger.”¹¹⁷ The PSPF established three pillars upon which WFP partnerships with private sector entities should rest their foundations: impact, income, and innovation.¹¹⁸ Further, the PSPF “situates WFP’s effort to expand partnerships and engagement within the broader context of collaboration within the UN system.”¹¹⁹ Private sector donations made up USD 65 million for the first half of 2020.¹²⁰ Unfortunately, the WFP only raised USD 84 million of its USD 128 million goal overall.¹²¹ The report to the WPFEB in October 2020 suggested that while individual

¹⁰⁷ United Nations General Assembly, Declining Aid, Rising Debt Thwart World’s Ability to Fund Sustainable Development, Speakers Warn at General Assembly High-Level Dialogue, GA/12191, September, 26, 2019.

¹⁰⁸ United Nations General Assembly, Declining Aid, Rising Debt Thwart World’s Ability to Fund Sustainable Development, Speakers Warn at General Assembly High-Level Dialogue, GA/12191, September, 26, 2019

¹⁰⁹ “Press Release: Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2020,” United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, 2020, <https://developmentfinance.un.org/press-release-financing-sustainable-development-report-2020>

¹¹⁰ “Press Release: Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2020,” United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, 2020

¹¹¹ World Food Programme, “Coronavirus could push migrant workers and their families into hunger, UN agency warns,” November 11, 2020, <https://insight.wfp.org/coronavirus-pandemic-could-push-migrant-workers-and-their-families-into-hunger-un-agencies-warn-df828aaa2f88>.

¹¹² World Food Programme, “Coronavirus could push migrant workers and their families into hunger, UN agency warns,” November 11, 2020

¹¹³ World Food Programme, “Funding and donors”, <https://www.wfp.org/funding-and-donors>.

¹¹⁴ World Food Programme, “Governments,” <https://www.wfp.org/governments>.

¹¹⁵ World Food Programme, “Private sector,” <https://www.wfp.org/private-sector>.

¹¹⁶ World Food Programme, “Private sector.”

¹¹⁷ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Private-sector partnerships and fundraising strategy,” Second regular session, November 18-21, 2019, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000108549/download/>.

¹¹⁸ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Private-sector partnerships and fundraising strategy,” Second regular session, November 18-21, 2019.

¹¹⁹ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Private-sector partnerships and fundraising strategy,” Second regular session, November 18-21, 2019.

¹²⁰ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Quarterly report on private sector partnerships and fundraising strategy for the Executive Board,” information consultation, October 27, 2020, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000118859/download/>.

¹²¹ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Quarterly report on private sector partnerships and fundraising strategy for the Executive Board,” information consultation, October 27, 2020.

fundraising has not been greatly impacted by COVID-19, this may change “when financial support is removed for workers in some of the countries of origin of WFP supporters.”¹²²

Prior to COVID-19, “almost half of the World Food Programme’s emergency and recovery operations have been in response to climate-related disasters.”¹²³ Climate change can be linked to 90 percent of these disasters, such as “intense floods, droughts, and storms.”¹²⁴ These climate-related disasters are happening more frequently, and more intensely, than the world has ever previously seen.¹²⁵ As the effects of climate change become more severe, climate change will “negatively affect people’s ability to produce and consume food,” particularly in rural areas and “female-headed households.”¹²⁶ Unfortunately, even as recent as 2017, WFP knew that the research on how climate change will ultimately affect food security is still limited.¹²⁷ The WFP has been working in cooperation with other NGOs and other partners “to improve the evidence base of the impacts of climate change on all aspects of food security,” and trying to analyze and map which Member States will be the most vulnerable to food insecurity caused by climate change.¹²⁸

Climate change and COVID-19 are not the only challenges that WFP currently faces. Yemen is currently “on the countdown right now to catastrophe,” warns Executive Director Beasley.¹²⁹ More alarmingly, Executive Director Beasley explicitly warned that the WFP is “running out of money now. And come January, [the WFP is] going to have to cut rations additionally for six million people and will completely run out by March.”¹³⁰ Beasley told the UN Security Council that to only mitigate the effects of the famine in Yemen, the WFP would need USD 1.9 billion, and called upon all of WFP’s partners to increase funding towards providing aid, as many other Member States, such as South Sudan, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria are also facing devastating famines which require even more funding than has already been requested.¹³¹

Conclusion

In a November 2020 update to the WFP-EB, the committee “highlight[ed] the acute importance of RBA collaboration” in addressing the challenges introduced by COVID-19.¹³² The update also emphasized the following objectives for partnerships amongst the RBAs: “partnerships are an integral part of the mandates of the three agencies” and “partnership is not an end in itself; rather, a means for greater synergy, effectiveness, and efficiency”.¹³³

¹²²World Food Programme Executive Board, “Quarterly report on private sector partnerships and fundraising strategy for the Executive Board,” information consultation, October 27, 2020.

¹²³ World Food Programme, “Climate action,” 2020, <https://www.wfp.org/climate-action#:~:text=With%20the%20vast%20majority%20of,to%2020%20percent%20by%202050>.

¹²⁴ World Food Programme, “Climate action,” 2020.

¹²⁵ World Food Programme, “How Climate Drives Hunger: Food Security Climate Analyses, Methodology & Lessons 2010-2016,” October 2017, https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000023293/download/?_ga=2.21700219.115709141.1605471547-1745824443.1591221704.

¹²⁶ World Food Programme, “Climate action,” 2020, <https://www.wfp.org/climate-action#:~:text=With%20the%20vast%20majority%20of,to%2020%20percent%20by%202050>.

¹²⁷ World Food Programme, “How Climate Drives Hunger: Food Security Climate Analyses, Methodology & Lessons 2010-2016,” October 2017, https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000023293/download/?_ga=2.21700219.115709141.1605471547-1745824443.1591221704.

¹²⁸ World Food Programme, “How Climate Drives Hunger: Food Security Climate Analyses, Methodology & Lessons 2010-2016,” October 2017.

¹²⁹ World Food Programme, “WFP Chief warns of looming famine as Yemen faces countdown to catastrophe,” transcript of speech to the UN Security Council, November 11, 2020, <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-chief-warns-looming-famine-yemen-faces-countdown-catastrophe>.

¹³⁰ World Food Programme, “WFP Chief warns of looming famine as Yemen faces countdown to catastrophe,” transcript of speech to the UN Security Council, November 11, 2020.

¹³¹ World Food Programme, “Risk of famine in four countries, warns UN agencies’ report,” November 6, 2020, <https://insight.wfp.org/risk-of-famine-in-four-countries-warns-un-agencies-report-d411a03b0600>.

¹³² World Food Programme Executive Board, “Update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies,” Second regular session, November 16-20, 2020, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000119398/download/>.

¹³³ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies,” Second regular session, November 16-20, 2020.

WFP's budget is stretched to its absolute limits, and by its own admission it is running out of funds to continue to provide aid and emergency relief. As the world continues to feel the effects of COVID-19, both at the individual and international economic levels, and as the stark realities of climate change become more prevalent, the WFP must find ways to strengthen the partnerships that already exist, and create new ones, to properly respond to global emergencies as they come.

The most recent report on the PSPF highlights the need “to innovate and join forces with sister United Nations agencies” and its private sector partnerships in order to properly respond to COVID-19 and the extraordinary crises the pandemic has created.¹³⁴ Challenges for the WFP are only going to grow larger, and it is likely that it will continue to see a decline in donations. It is crucial, now more than ever, that the WFP-EB take action to strengthen the partnerships with Member States and the private sector, and build new partnerships and innovative solutions to continue to properly respond when crises like COVID-19 and the devastating environmental effects of climate change arise. “It is impossible to know at this stage the medium and long-term impacts of the global pandemic on WFP's engagement” and the WFP needs to innovate to continue to provide the emergency response that it has come to be known for.¹³⁵

Committee Directive

It is clear that COVID-19 has proven to be a massive undertaking, one that the WFP-EB cannot possibly handle alone. COVID-19 is not the only crisis that the international community faces in 2020 and it is imperative that now, more than ever, the WFP is prepared to address these crises as they come in order to minimize food insecurity. Delegates should research the partnerships that the WFP already has in both the public and private sector. Delegates should also research the PSPF strategy and where these partnerships can be strengthened. Delegates should come up with innovative solutions to funding COVID-19 relief efforts, as the largest contributors to funding (Member States) may decrease their donations as an economic downturn affects their ability to help with international programs. How can the WFP-EB overcome a decrease in donations from Member States? Where is there room to collaborate more with other NGOs and corporations, alleviating some of the financial burden for the WFP? What frameworks and strategies are already in place that could be improved in order to best respond to global crises as they come?

¹³⁴ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Quarterly report on private sector partnerships and fundraising strategy for the Executive Board,” Informal consultation, October 27, 2020, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000118859/download/>.

¹³⁵ World Food Programme Executive Board, “Quarterly report on private sector partnerships and fundraising strategy for the Executive Board,” Informal consultation, October 27, 2020.

II: Expanding Food Security for Socially Marginalized Groups

Introduction

The World Food Programme (WFP) defines food insecurity as “the lack of secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal human growth and development and an active and healthy life.”¹³⁶ Among the many causes of food insecurity, some key causes include conflict, extreme weather, and economic shocks.¹³⁷ These catalysts are especially impactful for those affected by social exclusion, which is “a dynamic process embedded in unequal power relationships that operate across economic, political, social, and cultural dimensions.”¹³⁸ More specifically, “the economic dimension is defined by access to and distribution of material resources necessary to sustain life. The political dimension relates to power dynamics and unequal patterns of both formal rights and the conditions in which rights are exercised, including access to services.”¹³⁹

Bearing in mind these definitions, it is important to note that socially excluded and marginalized groups, including ethnic, religious, and indigenous groups, as well as individuals with disabilities, are just some of the people most impacted by food insecurities.¹⁴⁰ To that end, it is the duty of the World Food Programme’s Executive Board (WFPEB) to ensure that these social inequalities are diminished, particularly during extreme and stressful circumstances.

Socially marginalized groups, particularly those in precarious economic situations, are among the most likely to suffer from food insecurity.¹⁴¹ From 2011 to 2017, out of 77 Member States that reported an increase in hunger, 65 of those had also experienced an economic slowdown or downturn of some sort.¹⁴² These economic shocks become significant secondary and tertiary drivers that “prolong and worsen the severity of food crises, especially in countries experiencing acute food insecurity requiring urgent humanitarian assistance.”¹⁴³ Given the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, these statistics become increasingly concerning, especially considering the effects it has wrought on individuals and the global community.¹⁴⁴

History

In 1943, representatives from 44 Member States met in Hot Springs, Virginia, in the United States of America (USA) for the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture (in the title, the term “United Nations” is used to describe the states present, and not the organization the United Nations).¹⁴⁵ Numerous topics were discussed, the key among them being the need to establish a permanent organization to oversee food and agriculture internationally, and recommended improvements for the diets of vulnerable groups, and more broadly, for dietary standards overall.¹⁴⁶ The decisions reached at this conference would go on to become the foundation for establishing the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as well as notable food policies that Member States would implement.¹⁴⁷

¹³⁶ “2020 Global Report on Food Crises: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions.” Food Security Information Network, https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000114546/download/?_ga=2.260819081.520389335.1597431745-156966948.1594532070 (Accessed September 12, 2020).

¹³⁷ “2020 Global Report on Food Crises: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions.” Food Security Information Network.

¹³⁸ “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000106760/download/?_ga=2.44593708.961270368.1596242179-1864130193.1591668773 (Accessed September 12, 2020).

¹³⁹ “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁴⁰ “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁴¹ “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁴² “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁴³ “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁴⁴ “COVID-19 pandemic.” World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/covid-19-pandemic> (Accessed November 9, 2020).

¹⁴⁵ “The Founding of FAO.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, <http://www.fao.org/3/p4228e/P4228E04.htm> (Accessed September 12, 2020).

¹⁴⁶ “The Founding of FAO.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁴⁷ “The Founding of FAO.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

After the creation of the United Nations (UN), the General Assembly (UNGA) gathered in Paris in 1948 to proclaim the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.¹⁴⁸ It set out “for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.”¹⁴⁹ Though it covers a wide range of subjects, including freedom, justice, and equality, it also targets more specific rights, as seen through Article 25(1):

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”¹⁵⁰

Several agreements were made subsequently, including the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, where it recognized:

“the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger [...] Taking into account the problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries, to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need.”¹⁵¹

As Member States began focusing specifically on the equitable distribution of food, their attention shifted towards ensuring that the so-called “less-industrialized” world was also receiving its fair share.¹⁵² It was during this time that research began to develop on the term “social exclusion.”¹⁵³

The term “social exclusion” first began to originate as a term in the mid-1980s as more and more Member States governments began to recognize it as a global problem.¹⁵⁴ In the context of the European Union (EU) specifically, it originated as a less stigmatized alternative to terms such as “poverty” and “deprivation,” while also being a more holistic term that allows different issues to be analyzed in conjunction.¹⁵⁵ That being said, the term is still extremely contested, and is used to refer to a wide range of phenomena, categories of excluded people, and places of exclusion.¹⁵⁶ Though some Member States have also created clear differences between “social exclusion” and “social marginalization,” others use the terms interchangeably, often using other variants of the term as well.¹⁵⁷ With that, it’s important to keep in mind that the degree to which certain groups are marginalized can vary greatly, and often there are “layers” to social marginalization. In Bangladesh, for instance, cultural norms in households dictate that women are allocated less food, on average, compared to men, meaning they are therefore more likely to be malnourished and suffer from food insecurity.¹⁵⁸ This is compounded by other cultural exclusionary processes that occur in Bangladesh, such as women having less mobility than men and having lower priority when seeking health, thus further delaying any help or treatment they might seek.¹⁵⁹

Actions Taken by the United Nations

¹⁴⁸ “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/> (Accessed September 12, 2020).

¹⁴⁹ “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” United Nations.

¹⁵⁰ “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” United Nations.

¹⁵¹ “International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.” Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx> (Accessed September 12, 2020).

¹⁵² Robin Peace, “Social exclusion: A concept in need of definition?” *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand* (2001), pp.17-36. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/253921414_Social_exclusion_A_concept_in_need_of_definition.

¹⁵³ Peace, “Social exclusion: A concept in need of definition?” (2001).

¹⁵⁴ Peace, “Social exclusion: A concept in need of definition?” (2001).

¹⁵⁵ Peace, “Social exclusion: A concept in need of definition?” (2001).

¹⁵⁶ Peace, “Social exclusion: A concept in need of definition?” (2001).

¹⁵⁷ Peace, “Social exclusion: A concept in need of definition?” (2001).

¹⁵⁸ “Social Exclusion: Meaning, measurement and experience and links to health inequalities.” World Health Organization, https://www.who.int/social_determinants/media/sekn_meaning_measurement_experience_2008.pdf (Accessed November 9, 2020).

¹⁵⁹ “Social Exclusion: Meaning, measurement and experience and links to health inequalities.” World Health Organization.

On December 17, 1973, the UNGA passed A/RES/3180 (XXVIII), convening the World Food Conference, which would be held in Rome the following year.¹⁶⁰ The ultimate goal envisioned for this conference was for the international community to take specific action “to resolve the world food problem within the broader context of development and international economic co-operation.”¹⁶¹ There, Member States adopted the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, which recognized important causes and consequences of food insecurity, including, but not limited to:

“historical circumstances, especially social inequalities, including in many cases alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation, racial discrimination, apartheid and neo-colonialism in all its forms, which continue to be among the greatest obstacles to the full emancipation and progress of the developing countries and all the peoples involved.”¹⁶²

In addition to making landmark acknowledgements, this declaration also gave special attention to food production in developing Member States, “in particular in the least developed and most seriously affected among them,” so that other, more developed states who are in a position to do so can take “urgent and effective international action [...] with sustained additional technical and financial assistance on favorable terms.”¹⁶³ After its adoption by the World Food Conference, the declaration was then endorsed by UNGA on December 17, 1974, as per resolution 3348.¹⁶⁴

In more recent years, UN Member States unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹⁶⁵ More specifically “Goal 2: Zero Hunger” aims to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.”¹⁶⁶ Furthermore, target 2.1 of this SDG also focuses on ensuring access to food, especially for “the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants.”¹⁶⁷ A key indicator for this target is based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), which is utilized by the FAO to monitor the prevalence of food insecurity around the world.¹⁶⁸ With that, target 2.3 also gives special considerations to “small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers.”¹⁶⁹ One of the indicators behind this target is the “average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status.”¹⁷⁰ In developing regions, these small-scale food producers make-up between 40 to 80 percent of all food producers, but they have also been the ones hardest hit by the Covid-19 crisis.¹⁷¹

Current Situation

¹⁶⁰ “Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition.” Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/eradicationofhungerandmalnutrition.aspx> (Accessed October 9, 2020).

¹⁶¹ “Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition.” Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

¹⁶² “Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition.” Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

¹⁶³ “Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition.” Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

¹⁶⁴ “United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 3348, *World Food Conference, A/RES/3348*, December 17, 1974, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f1c434.html>.

¹⁶⁵ “The 17 Goals.” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> (Accessed October 9, 2020).

¹⁶⁶ “Goal 2.” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal2> (Accessed October 9, 2020).

¹⁶⁷ “Goal 2.” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

¹⁶⁸ “Goal 2.” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

¹⁶⁹ “Goal 2.” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

¹⁷⁰ “Goal 2.” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

¹⁷¹ “Goal 2.” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Since 2015, the number of undernourished individuals worldwide has increased by about 36.2 million.¹⁷² In addition, current estimates show that approximately 2 billion people worldwide experience some form of food insecurity.¹⁷³ This number includes those who suffer from moderate food insecurity where they “may not necessarily suffer from hunger, but they lack regular access to nutritious and sufficient food, putting them at greater risk of various forms of malnutrition and poor health.”¹⁷⁴

Furthermore, the FAO highlights that poor and politically marginalized individuals are disproportionately affected by crises.¹⁷⁵ According to the 2015 Global Humanitarian Assistance Report, in 2013 93 percent of people living in extreme poverty were “living in politically fragile and/or environmentally vulnerable contexts.”¹⁷⁶ The report goes on to point out that “limited assets and/or an absence of protection mechanisms can lead households and communities to resort to negative coping mechanisms that increase their vulnerability to risks and crises.”¹⁷⁷ The report concludes that social protections are often necessary, as they can help break the “vicious cycle of social and economic deprivation,” by:¹⁷⁸

- *“protecting households from the negative impacts of shocks and corresponding negative coping strategies;*
- *helping to build the capacity of households and communities to withstand and overcome shocks and stresses through social transfers that allow families to increase and diversify their asset base and increase their savings;*
- *addressing some of the underlying causes of crises [...] and thus serving as a key component of peace-building strategies;*
- *progressing towards a lesser state of vulnerability by providing economic and productive interventions that help families go beyond their status quo.”*¹⁷⁹

A key criticism also pointed out by the FAO is that many social protection interventions do not take nutrition into account, which is “particularly relevant in contexts where high levels of malnutrition are closely linked with poverty and marginalization.”¹⁸⁰ And though some do, they often do not have clearly defined parameters for nutritional outcomes or indicators of progress.¹⁸¹

Currently, there are a number of Member States that have implemented policies towards addressing food insecurity for socially marginalized groups. The USA released its first Food Stamp Program in 1939, and its current iteration, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), was last expanded in 2014 and continues to provide food assistance to millions of Americans.¹⁸² Studies have also shown that SNAP benefits reduce food insecurity by 20 to 35 percent, and that sexual minority women (SMW) are also 30 to 70 percent more likely to receive SNAP benefits

¹⁷² “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁷³ “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁷⁴ “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁷⁵ “FAO Social Protection Framework: Promoting Rural Development for All.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7016e.pdf>.

¹⁷⁶ “FAO Social Protection Framework: Promoting Rural Development for All.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁷⁷ “FAO Social Protection Framework: Promoting Rural Development for All.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁷⁸ “FAO Social Protection Framework: Promoting Rural Development for All.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁷⁹ “FAO Social Protection Framework: Promoting Rural Development for All.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁸⁰ “FAO Social Protection Framework: Promoting Rural Development for All.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁸¹ “FAO Social Protection Framework: Promoting Rural Development for All.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

¹⁸² “A Short History of SNAP.” U.S. Department of Agriculture, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/short-history-snap> - 2014 (Accessed December 14, 2020).

than heterosexual women.¹⁸³ Overall, “SNAP is effective in reducing food insecurity because benefits can be rapidly implemented to reach individuals and families most in-need.”¹⁸⁴

Case Study: Palestine

In the West Bank, the Israeli occupation has taken its toll on Palestinian citizens: many face frequent dispossession and displacement, lack of effective law enforcement, and obstacles that prevent them from accessing markets and essential services, including health services.¹⁸⁵ These problems, altogether, create a constant state of frustration and sense of helplessness among Palestinians, which also contributes towards other problems, mainly psychological and others relating to food insecurity.¹⁸⁶

Youth groups in Palestine have also been identified as a major demographic impacted by social marginalization in the region.¹⁸⁷ According to some estimates, a large proportion of youth and adolescents in Palestine are “likely to be at risk of vulnerability, marginalization, exclusion and deprivation of rights and services.”¹⁸⁸ In addition, they face a lack of job opportunities, with the unemployment rate among those aged 15-29 being as high as 39 percent in 2016.¹⁸⁹ With limited access to jobs and a steady income, young Palestinians are then more likely to suffer from food insecurity, thus worsening the other problems they are facing.¹⁹⁰

In 2012, the WFPEB approved a budget increase of USD \$47.9 million to support “Destitute and Marginalized Groups [...] in the West Bank.”¹⁹¹ This need for a higher budget was a result of higher prices in commodities at the local level, meaning that these commodities had become less accessible to the more economically vulnerable groups in the region.¹⁹² By 2018, the WFP was able to identify and assist 350,000 Palestinians who were considered to be among the “poorest and most food-insecure [...] communities across Gaza and the West Bank.”¹⁹³ With that, food consumption improved, with individuals with poor food consumption decreasing by six percent (from 12 to six percent), and individuals consuming acceptable amounts of food increasing by 14 percent (from 64 to 78 percent).¹⁹⁴

Case Study: Republic of the Congo

The Republic of the Congo (Congo) has numerous existing challenges even before taking into account its socially marginalized groups, with 47 percent of its people living below the national poverty line.¹⁹⁵ Though the WFP considers the Congo to have the potential to reach SDG 2: Zero Hunger by 2030, it recognizes that the Member

¹⁸³ Patterson, Joanne G., Jennifer Russomanno, Andreas A. Teferra, and Jennifer M. Jabson Tree.

“Disparities in Food Insecurity at the Intersection of Race and Sexual Orientation: A Population-Based Study of Adult Women in the United States.” *SSM - Population Health* 12 (August 22, 2020): 100655.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2020.100655>.

¹⁸⁴ Patterson, et al., “Disparities in Food Insecurity at the Intersection of Race and Sexual Orientation: A Population-Based Study of Adult Women in the United States” (2020).

¹⁸⁵ “Health in the West Bank.” United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, <https://www.unrwa.org/activity/health-west-bank> (Accessed November 9, 2020).

¹⁸⁶ “Health in the West Bank.” United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

¹⁸⁷ “Analytical Study: Status of Vulnerable and Marginalized Youth Groups in Palestine.” United Nations Population Fund, https://palestine.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/YVS_Report_-_En.pdf (Accessed November 9, 2020).

¹⁸⁸ “Analytical Study: Status of Vulnerable and Marginalized Youth Groups in Palestine.” United Nations Population Fund.

¹⁸⁹ “Analytical Study: Status of Vulnerable and Marginalized Youth Groups in Palestine.” United Nations Population Fund.

¹⁹⁰ “Analytical Study: Status of Vulnerable and Marginalized Youth Groups in Palestine.” United Nations Population Fund.

¹⁹¹ “Verification of the Adopted Decisions and Recommendations: Agenda Item 14.” World Food Programme Executive Board, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000024996/download/> (Accessed September 12, 2020).

¹⁹² “Projects for Executive Board Approval.” World Food Programme Executive Board, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000025007/download/> (Accessed September 12, 2020).

¹⁹³ “2018 WFP Palestine – Achievements.” World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/publications/2018-wfp-palestine-achievements> (Accessed October 9, 2020).

¹⁹⁴ “2018 WFP Palestine – Achievements.” World Food Programme.

¹⁹⁵ “Congo.” World Food Programme, <https://www.wfp.org/countries/congo> (Accessed July 30, 2020).

State continues to face “high levels of poverty and inequality, recurring localized conflict, regional insecurity, macroeconomic instability and high rates of malnutrition and food insecurity.”¹⁹⁶ In addition, it is estimated that approximately 15 percent of households report “poor or limited food consumption,” with rural areas peaking at 30 percent.¹⁹⁷ It should also be noted that, particularly in the Congo’s case, “gender inequalities and disability status have a direct impact on poverty, food security and nutrition – as does ethnicity.”¹⁹⁸

For indigenous people in the Congo, their traditional livelihoods are especially affected by “climate change-related deforestation, [and] experience difficulties in accessing resources and social services.”¹⁹⁹ With temperatures rising every year, rain patterns have become more erratic, causing dry spells to alternate with extreme rain at different periods.²⁰⁰ Communities that have traditionally relied on fishing, wild honey, and even caterpillars are affected, putting complex food systems and their livelihoods at risk.²⁰¹ The WFP has been supporting indigenous communities in the Congo by looking at long-term solutions, including sustainable fishing practices, beekeeping, and mushroom farming.²⁰² The WFP has also worked to ensure that hot, nutritious meals are delivered in 60 schools across the Member State, thus ensuring that attendance improves, and that pressure on families to have enough food for their children is somewhat relieved.²⁰³ To that end, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), around 65 percent of indigenous children are not in school in the Congo.²⁰⁴ As the WFP and FAO point out, there are quantifiable and direct consequences felt by socially marginalized groups not enrolled in education, which can further worsen the vicious cycle of hunger and malnutrition.²⁰⁵

Conclusion

Member States have come together on numerous occasions to pass extraordinary international agreements, the most recent being the 2030 Agenda. However, both the UN and its subsidiary organs, mainly the FAO and WFP, agree that more work must be done when it comes to ensuring that socially marginalized groups have their nutritional needs met, and are given protections that guarantee their right to food year-round. Member States must remember that access to safe and nutritious food is a right guaranteed by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other documents, and in so doing, must consider new approaches to considering social marginalization when tackling issues of hunger, both domestically and abroad. Through innovation and perseverance, the WFPEB believes that SDG 2: Zero Hunger is certainly within reach by 2030, meaning those that struggle the most to find sustainable sources of food, would have their needs met in some way.

Committee Directive

As they are conducting their research, delegates should focus on how socially marginalized groups are more susceptible to food insecurity, how this insecurity disproportionately affects education and the daily life of these affected peoples, and what possible solutions may be introduced or expanded in specific regions. Delegates should also take the following questions into consideration: how does your Member State specifically define “social marginalization,” if at all, and does that definition impact how the specific goals and processes addressed in its solution are considered? Are there significant emphases on certain groups over others? What are some of the broader, systematic issues contributing towards social marginalization? What are the more specific problems contributing to it in different places around the world? Overall, what are the major areas of agreement among Member States that would allow for greater protections of socially marginalized groups from food insecurity?

¹⁹⁶ “Congo.” World Food Programme.

¹⁹⁷ “Congo.” World Food Programme.

¹⁹⁸ “Congo.” World Food Programme.

¹⁹⁹ “Congo.” World Food Programme.

²⁰⁰ “Indigenous Peoples Day: on the path to Zero Hunger.” World Food Programme Insight, <https://insight.wfp.org/indigenous-peoples-on-the-road-to-zero-hunger-123584415fcc> (Accessed November 9, 2020).

²⁰¹ “Indigenous Peoples Day: on the path to Zero Hunger.” World Food Programme Insight.

²⁰² “Indigenous Peoples Day: on the path to Zero Hunger.” World Food Programme Insight.

²⁰³ “Indigenous Peoples Day: on the path to Zero Hunger.” World Food Programme Insight.

²⁰⁴ “Congo.” World Food Programme.

²⁰⁵ “FAO Social Protection Framework: Promoting Rural Development for All.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7016e.pdf> (Accessed October 9, 2020).

Annotated Bibliography

I. Strengthening Partnerships to Improve the World Food Programme's Emergency Response in Times of Global Crises

The United Nations. “*Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.*” Accessed July 19, 2020. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/>

This webpage highlights Sustainable Development Goal 17, which focuses on revitalizing global partnerships. COVID-19 revealed the need, now more than ever, for global cooperation towards sustainable development. Pursuing these partnerships to strengthen emergency preparedness and response is going to be crucial to sustainable development. This web entry provides information about the importance of these partnerships, also covering how they have enhanced emergency response, especially to the recent pandemic.

The World Food Programme. “*Responding to the development emergency caused by COVID-19.*” June 2020. Accessed July 25, 2020. https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000117124/download/?_ga=2.21653435.1403363609.1595889760-1745824443.1591221704

This document outlines the framework created by the WFP for medium-term solutions for alleviating food insecurity during COVID-19. It also includes a lot of information about what kind of partnerships the WFP needs to properly respond to that crisis. This framework is continually evolving as COVID-19 presents different challenges.

The World Food Programme. “*WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021)*”. Accessed 20 July 2020. https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000019573/download/?_ga=2.88318619.1403363609.1595889760-1745824443.1591221704

The Strategic Plan is a framework for the WFP's role in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. It highlights how the WFP “affirms and deepens” its commitment to the 2030 agenda and how effective partnerships are crucial to achieving the goals set by the United Nations (UN).

The World Food Programme. “*Strategy for partnership and engagement with non-governmental entities (2020-2025): Cooperation with the business sector, foundations and individuals to achieve zero hunger.*” Informal consultation with the World Food Programme Executive Board, Rome, Italy, September 5, 2019. Accessed July 22, 2020. <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000107505/download/>

This document thoroughly outlines the WFP's current strategies for strengthening partnerships with the private sector, NGOs, and individuals. It also provides details for what is currently lacking in partnership building and where the WFP has “room to grow” in developing partnerships outside of the public sector. Most importantly, it outlines the priorities that WFP had put in place for creating these partnerships, which is even more crucial in a post-COVID-19 world.

The World Food Programme Executive Board. “*Capabilities Partnership Programme.*” Informal Session of the Executive Board, Rome, Italy, February 1, 2013. Accessed July 23, 2020. <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/374c9a72-3b5f-407a-b424-7ca6cb8b0229/download/>

This is a PowerPoint presentation used to brief the Executive Board on the WFP's Capabilities Partnership Programme (CAPRO). It is a primer on the goals of CAPRO, which includes strengthening national response to crises, as well as lays out the framework for the program. It has visuals, including how CAPRO fits into the broader scope of emergency response and preparedness with the WFP, internally and externally. The PowerPoint lists several policies in which CAPRO has become involved.

The World Food Programme Executive Board. “*Fifth oral update on WFP’s Response to COVID-19.*” Presentation to the World Food Programme Executive Board, Rome, Italy, July 27, 2020. Accessed July 27, 2020. <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/a8ab5557bb9f4e15aa7991ad3a3305b8/download/>

This is a PowerPoint presentation from the July 2020 meeting of the WFP- EB on the WFP’s COVID-19 response. It highlights the shortcomings of WFP’s ability to respond to crises, as well as gives an overview of the financial undertaking that COVID-19 has been for the organization, particularly highlighting where funding is lacking and the affects the lack of funds will have.

II. Expanding Food Security for Socially Excluded and Marginalized Groups

“The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019.” *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, 2019, https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000106760/download/?_ga=2.44593708.961270368.1596242179-1864130193.1591668773.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) annually releases a report detailing specific statistics about how the world, and specific regions, are progressing towards ending hunger worldwide. The most recent publication reaffirms the need to reduce those suffering from severe food insecurity, which has continued to rise since 2015. It also addresses the need to do so amidst economic slowdowns and downturns. Consequently, it addresses how socially excluded and marginalized groups are most affected by these economic trends, and what measures can be taken to safeguard them.

“Goal 2: Zero Hunger.” *United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>.

Goal 2 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically addresses ending hunger globally. More specifically, it notes that special attention is required for ethnic minorities, and other socially excluded and marginalized groups. Indigenous groups and women in particular are just a few identified in targets 2.2 and 2.3, among others. This source introduces how the UN has gone about eliminating hunger since the 2030 Agenda was introduced, and how far it has come since then.

“Food Insecurity, Inequality and COVID-19.” *Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*, <https://theforum.sph.harvard.edu/events/food-insecurity-inequality-and-covid-19/>.

This source provides a deeper understanding of how existing inequalities, particularly in the United States, have contributed towards unequal food insecurity, and moreover, how the Covid-19 pandemic will then affect marginalized groups already suffering from severe food insecurity. Additionally, it relates a lot of the ongoing protests following the death of George Floyd to the Coronavirus itself and goes on to explain how different regions around the world, especially Asia and Africa, will be affected by the pandemic.