



Background Paper

Committee: World Food Programme

Topic B: Responding to Food Insecurity in Syria

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Food insecurity refers to a lack of access to enough good, healthy, and culturally appropriate food. The difference between food insecurity and hunger is that hunger is a physical sensation, while food insecurity is a socio-economic condition in which there is not enough food to feed a family. However, we could say that hunger is one potential consequence of food insecurity, but food insecurity does not always result in hunger. Today, more than 108 million people in the world suffer from food insecurity. The United Nations have shown their interest towards this topic by starting to rethink how food is shared, grown and consumed. By this they have started to think how to organize agriculture, forestry and fisheries that can provide nutritious food for all and generate decent incomes, while supporting people-centered rural development and protecting the environment. As well, as planning a way to stop degradation of soils, freshwater, oceans, forests, biodiversity, and climate change since they all put even more pressure on the resources people depend on and increasing the risk of natural disasters.

The countries that require massive levels of assistance because of widespread food insecurity are Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Malawi and Zimbabwe, as well as three countries being at risk of famine: South Sudan, Somalia, and northeast Nigeria. This also includes households that can cope with their minimum food needs only by depleting seeds, livestock and agricultural assets needed to produce food in the future. Apart from food insecurity, people in these countries are constantly affected by extreme weather conditions such drought and erratic rainfall caused by “El Niño”. Sadly, the cost in human and resource terms has only been increasing due to the deterioration of this situation. As of right now, to solve the problem, the United Nations has decided to get involved with three projects in mind. UN PROJECTS Either way, in the absence of a full-term solution to this problem, the food security situation in these countries will just continue to worsen.

The Syrian crisis over food has not shown any improvement since the last 5 years; more than 6.5 million civilians continue to be food insecure, while they suffer from attacks which causes thousands of injuries and death. More than half of Syria's population has been displaced, additionally its economy is on danger of collapse due to the unemployment on the country. The crisis on Syria has progressively deteriorated the country from seven years on; at the present time the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has risen since the crisis started. Humanitarian assistance seems to be inefficient since millions of people are still at risk of food insecurity and had not been assisted adequately. Furthermore, the collapse of economy and the decline of food production have led to food insecurity in Syria.

With food insecurity rising every day all around the world, the WFP devotion to this problem has been the highest it has ever been. Women and men in the affected countries, such as Iraq and Syria, cannot continue to migrate to other cities in search of opportunities for the rest of their lives, which is why a solution is required immediately. Also, food in has affected millions of children to suffer severe malnutrition. The WFP firmly believes that a profound change of the global food and agriculture system is needed to reduce food insecurity and prevent any more diseases or deaths from this indole to keep happening in the near future.

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