

**Mr. David Kaatrud, WFP**

## **SDG-2 – ZERO HUNGER**

**I want to thank to the Organisers for the invitation and for persevering with the physical dimensions of this valuable annual gathering despite the challenges of the pandemic.**

**I would like to commend the DIHAD International Advisory Board for focusing attention on SDG17, which plays a pivotal role for fully realising the SDGs - as no single actor can do it alone.**

In terms of SDG2, as we have just seen graphically, we are falling behind in the race to achieve Zero Hunger to the point that tens of millions are teetering on the verge of famine with overall global needs for humanitarian food assistance on a sharp upward trend reaching unprecedented levels. The main drivers of the increased incidence of hunger are multi-faceted, including: the accelerating climate crisis, persistent and expanding conflict and, more recently, the socio-economic effects of COVID plus soon the global price and economic affects of the war in Ukraine. These multiple drivers are often interlinked and compound the severity of more frequent and intense food security shocks and stresses on vulnerable households and communities. The people most of affected by all these factors are the over 800 million people that go to bed hungry each night.

This scenario of compounded risk hinders the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 by pushing more people into poverty and hunger, and even reversing hard-earned development gains as the resilience of households and communities is steadily eroded. As we heard consistently in the opening session today, 2022 represents critical moment in which to mobilise collectively under the banner of SDG17 to meet the challenge of rising immediate needs with stagnating resources.

In order to mitigate the risks to sustainable development, we must see our humanitarian and development actions as complementary. In many of the fragile settings in which we work, development actions can exploit and build on the strong humanitarian foundations of **knowing** the needs of people who are the furthest behind and promoting **people-centred approaches**, which are highly inclusive and encourage participation, especially of women, youth, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

As humanitarian and development actors, we must align better with national governments' development priorities, providing more robust support in managing and mitigating risks to their development agenda, including anticipatory action, and assisting with clear transition strategies, which are more smoothly linked humanitarian relief efforts to recovery and longer-term development.

Echoing IFRC's call this morning, we must also pay greater attention to strengthening **local and national capacities**, particularly in the communities we serve, as well as

place our local frontline partners at the center of planning and delivering our collective responses.

WFP enjoys a multi-dimensional mandate spanning development and humanitarian work.

We have over six decades of experience restoring, sustaining and improving food security and food systems for the world's most vulnerable. We have developed a particular understanding of how best to address issues related to fragile, broken, or distorted food systems, which has formed the core of our work in more than 80 countries around the world.

In 2020, WFP activities focused on building long-term resilience and sustainable development accounted for almost USD 1.2 billion. Representing a nexus approach, these activities are often pursued in a layer approach of resilience-building prior to, during and after a shock-induced crisis.

Despite WFP's footprint and operational size, we are fully cognizant that we cannot tackle the risks to development alone and that to progress towards the SDGs, we must do it together in partnership. Therefore, aside from the focus on contributing to SDG2, SDG17 is enshrined in our recently updated Strategic Plan.

Conscious of need to increase the coherence between humanitarian and development action new humanitarian-development forums are emerging. WFP is actively participating and in many cases **driving** these emerging platforms – continually advocating for collective action. Two such examples are seen through our involvement in a new Humanitarian-Development-Peace Coalition arising from the Food Systems Summit, and the Global Network against Food Crises.

Recognizing that transforming our food systems is among the most powerful ways to change course and make progress towards the SDGs, the UN Secretary-General convened a **Food Systems Summit** in September last year.

The Summit shifted our thinking about food as not just a commodity but as a basic human requirement and therefore a foundational pillar to development.

The main legacies of the Foods Systems Summit is an array of new global Coalitions engaging in global advocacy and providing support to country level activities as framed by a growing set of National Pathways towards building sustainable food systems at the national level. One particular Coalition we are co-leading is "Fighting Food Crisis along the Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus".

This Coalition brings together over 50 members, including many fragile and conflict-affected countries, the G7+ as well as major donors, the World Bank, researchers and think tanks. We come together to illustrate the political will and commitment to prevent and reduce hunger.

This exciting new Coalition work is being supported by a longer-standing engagement in the **Global Network Against Food Crisis**. The Global Network grew out of the

World Humanitarian Summit and is an alliance of humanitarian and development actors steered by the European Union, FAO and WFP with the aim of preventing famine and promoting sustainable solutions. WFP sees the Global Network as a key mechanism bringing together humanitarian and development actors to create the enabling environment for joint action at field level.

Complementing this work is a more structured and intense discussion across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus with the OECD/DAC forum, which is a major body comprised of development donors who also have significant Humanitarian Assistance departments.

**Slide 6: FOCUS ON PARTNERSHIPS (WFP)**

In addition to the OECD/DAC, there are many other partnership forums that WFP drives and contributes to, such as the humanitarian community's Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). We also partner with global and local NGOs, that are WFP's main resource to operationalize our plans and implement our activities.

One of the latest trend in partnerships has been with International Financial Institutions, such as the World Bank and regional development banks. Aligning more closely with governments plans, WFP has been increasingly able to access IFI funds to support implementation of activities, particularly in the deep field in many fragile settings.

Another trend in our collaboration with partners, are our knowledge partnerships. WFP is working with think-tanks and academic institutions to keep building the evidence base to feed into our programming and policy.

For example: WFP's knowledge partnership with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute or "SIPRI", examines the nature of how WFP's operations contribute to peace, and includes expanding our understanding of key thematic areas of climate change, cash, gender, stabilization and how our work in these areas can best be measured.

**Slide 7: Thank you**

It is clear that humanitarian action to deliver life-saving assistance needs to continue but we must also find space to ensure we mitigate risks and prevent the food crises of the future.

We are increasingly taking to heart the mantra: "prevention always, development wherever possible, and humanitarian action when necessary".

In order to mitigate humanitarian risks and progress towards the SDGs , we must work together to align at the national, regional and global levels.

To the extent possible, in the full spirit of SDG17, we must adopt a "whole of society approach" driving collective action between UN agencies, civil society, NGOs, donors, the private sector and government partners – fully aware of and leveraging each actor's comparative advantages.

The road to 2030 is still a long one and to make this journey effectively we would do well to draw from an oft-quoted African proverb and remind ourselves that “if you want to travel far, you need to travel together”.

With that I thank you.