

WFP Annual  
Partnership  
Consultation

30 | 31 October 2023



# APC 2023 Report

# Welcome to the Annual Partnership Consultation 2023 Report

The APC 2023 brought together leaders from hundreds of WFP's Cooperating Partners who engaged in lively and productive discussions on 30-31 October 2023. This comprehensive report features the highlights, reports and key takeaways of the five sessions. The verbatim notes and presentations are available at the end of each section.

At the following links you can find the [photos from day one](#), the [photos from day two](#), the [session recording from day one](#), and [session recording from day two](#).

The agenda, shaped collaboratively, had a main theme of optimizing partnerships in the face of rising global needs and shrinking resources. This was explored in the the five thematic sessions, emphasising localisation as a common thread. APC 2023 aimed to address pressing issues and build on successes, enabling meaningful dialogue and collective contributions over the two days.

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***We must work together to find creative solutions that will help us navigate this challenging new landscape. If we collaborate as partners, all of us as one united team, I know that we can, and we will, succeed.***

————— ” —

Cindy McCain, Executive Director, WFP

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## Strategic Roundtable on the Looming Food Crises

The opening session outlined the reality the humanitarian sector is facing, of escalating global needs and dwindling resources. Participants engaged in a dynamic discussion, responding to the question posed by WFP Chief Economist Arif Husain: *How can we use the power of our partnerships to address the crises we are facing?*

### Background to the session:

In a world of rising needs and shrinking resources, optimizing our partnerships to be more efficient and effective is not an end in itself. It is the only way we can continue to keep the promises we have made to those we serve.

Business as usual is not an option. A new approach is needed for removing the boundaries between the emergency, humanitarian, development, resilience and nexus sectors. This will enable us to share as many resources as possible while complementing each other's strengths and avoiding duplication.

Each conflict or emergency is unique and there are an increasing number of long-term conflicts. Our engagement should be optimised with the guiding principle of exiting as soon as possible. We need to invest more in training and resilience building to help break the dependency cycle. With ever-changing realities we need to continually re-examine and optimise our partnership models to ensure we are always achieving our aims in the most effective and efficient way possible.

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***In these turbulent times, we need to look at how we can work better together. today and tomorrow in the Annual Partnership Consultation, it is a chance for us to step back and look strategically at how we work together to shoulder the risks that we face, that the people who we serve face, so that they do not have to shoulder these risks on their own.***

— ” —

Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, WFP



## **Panel Presentations:**

### **Arif Husain, Chief Economist and Director, Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division, WFP**

Dr. Husain's opening presentation set the scene on the critical state of global food security, outlining three main challenges: conflict, economic shocks, and climate crises. He emphasized the compounding impact of these issues, affecting 69 percent of people in crisis situations. Addressing economic shocks, he highlighted soaring international prices for essential items and alarming inflation rates in numerous countries. The conflict aspect revealed a significant increase in conflicts over the past decade, with 55 ongoing, contributing to the crisis for 345 million people. The climate crisis, with a rising number of shocks, internal displacements, and unprecedented events like glacial lake outbursts, added further strain. The presentation illustrated the sharp increase in people facing food insecurity post-COVID-19 and the challenges in meeting growing needs.

Despite setting records in assistance, the collective ability to address needs is shrinking due to a 60 percent funding gap. Dr. Husain underscored the urgent need for discussions on how to address these issues globally, regionally, and locally, emphasizing the alarming consequences of decreased assistance. He concluded by urging consideration of the disparity in funding allocated to refugees versus those in crisis situations and highlighting the direct correlation between aid cuts and increased hunger emergencies. The overarching message was the urgent need for coordinated efforts to tackle high needs amid diminishing resources. Following his presentation on the critical state of global food security, Dr. Husain gave the floor to the panelists for a strategic discussion, asking:

***How can we use the power of our partnerships to address the crises we are facing?***

### **Cindy McCain, Executive Director, WFP**

Ms. McCain underscored the crucial role of partnerships in addressing global hunger. She expressed gratitude to the diverse network of over 1,000 NGOs, emphasizing their role in reaching the most vulnerable populations. Highlighting the challenges faced in 2022, she noted the surge in hunger due to conflict, COVID-19, and climate crises, coupled with soaring operating costs. Ms. McCain acknowledged the pivotal role of NGOs in delivering over USD 3 billion in assistance and emphasized the pressing need for continued collaboration.

Addressing the unprecedented funding shortfall of 60 percent, the highest in WFP's history, Ms. McCain detailed the impact on operations, with nearly half of country operations cutting programs.

## **Panel Presentations:**

Despite the challenging environment, she emphasized WFP's commitment to efficiency, effectiveness, and protecting frontline operations. She urged collective action, stressing the importance of pooling resources, skills, and knowledge to navigate the evolving landscape. Recognizing the potential difficulties ahead, she expressed determination to mobilize resources for life-saving work and called for united efforts to advocate for increased investment in addressing the root causes of hunger. She concluded by affirming WFP's support for its partners, underscoring the shared responsibility and collaborative spirit needed to overcome the challenges and succeed together.

### **Mirela Shuteriqi, Executive Director ad interim, International Council of Voluntary Agencies**

Ms. Shuteriqi expressed gratitude to NGO colleagues for their dedication and emphasized the importance of enhancing the partnership between WFP and NGOs. Acknowledging the complex and protracted nature of crises alongside a funding shortfall, she highlighted the need for internal efficiency improvements and a comprehensive action plan for partnership enhancement. Commending WFP's efforts, she cited the positive impact of the independent study on Field-Level Agreements (FLAs) in 2022, noting extended budget flexibility as a result.

Ms. Shuteriqi urged further improvements, emphasizing the need to view national and local NGOs as equal partners and advocating for increased funding accessibility. Ms. Shuteriqi called for a concrete action plan with time-bound goals, focusing on enhancing partnerships with national and local NGOs. Emphasizing equal collaboration, she urged increased funding accessibility, aligning with the Grand Bargain commitment. She stressed the importance of timely communication and joint strategic planning to mitigate operational risks and build trust with affected communities. Lastly, she called for collaboration with development actors, including FAO, climate actors, and financial institutions, to address challenges collectively.

### **Cissy Kagaba, Director, South Sudan NGO Forum**

Ms. Kagaba underscored the importance of home-grown solutions in the face of anticipated funding reductions. She emphasised the need to strategically partner with local communities, particularly engaging religious and cultural leaders, and women, who wield significant influence in their communities. Ms. Kagaba highlighted the legitimacy and localization benefits of working within local solutions, advocating to empower and strengthen the skills and capacities of the locals to drive initiatives themselves.

## **Panel Presentations:**

She called for the inclusion of governments in the localization agenda, noting that many governments tend to relinquish their funding responsibilities to international organisations. She emphasized the importance of holding leaders accountable and ensuring they fulfill their social contract to provide for the populations. Ms. Kagaba raised concerns about budget prioritisation in governments, particularly the minimal allocation towards famine and hunger issues. She called for a shift in perspective, urging the inclusion of governments in the localisation agenda and emphasizing the role of strategic partnerships to break the cycle of dependence and promote self-sufficiency.

## **Highlights of the discussions, outcomes, and key takeaways**

In an era of rising global needs and shrinking resources, the following points were raised in response to the question: *How can we use the power of our partnerships to address the crises we are facing?*

### **WORKING BETTER TOGETHER**

In troubling times across the humanitarian sector, optimising our partnerships to be more efficient and effective is not an end in itself. It is the only way we can continue to keep the promises we have made to those we serve.

With ever changing realities we need to continually re-examine and optimise the partnership models to ensure we are always achieving our mutual goals in the most effective and efficient way possible.

We continually need to be open to and look for innovations and new ways of working that will help cut costs. Whether it's a local solution or an outside perspective, we need to consistently consider what is the right tool for the right job.

### **BUILDING RESILIENCE AND REDUCING NEEDS**

Business as usual is not an option. A new approach is needed that removes the boundaries between the emergency, humanitarian, development, resilience and climate sectors. This will enable us to share as many resources as possible while complementing each other's strengths and avoiding duplication.

We need to work together to address the desperate humanitarian need as well as the core issues facing the humanitarian sector, including conflict, economic shocks and climate crises. Strengthening systems and building resilient communities should be a central topic we work on together to avoid dependencies.



## **Highlights of the discussions, outcomes, and key takeaways**

Each conflict or emergency is unique and there are an increasing number of long-term conflicts. Our engagement should be optimised with the guiding principle of exiting as soon as possible. We need to invest more in training and resilience building to help break the dependency cycle as soon as possible.

### **THE RESOURCE GAP**

The numbers provided inevitably mean there will be cuts coming. It is essential that such cuts be communicated in advance so that partners have time to adjust and mitigate the risk. If not trust will be lost with the communities we serve.

Where cuts are needed, local governments should be informed as they may be able to step in and take over.

WFP can be an enabler by encouraging communities such as faith organizations to work together and jointly leverage resources.

### **LOCALIZATION**

The quality of the partnerships with local and national NGOs is fundamental. In every step of the project lifecycle, they should be included as equal partners.

There are often home-grown solutions that should be used. Religious, cultural, women and youth groups bring valuable local expertise. In many disasters it is often local NGOs who are the first responders.

Similarly, local governments should help co-design programmes. They will know how best to use local resources and can rethink design to link different needs into one programme.

Local leaders need to be engaged to hold their own governments to account and help break the dependency cycle. If the local leadership is involved, they can be held to account.

We need to engage the local private sector going beyond transportation and agriculture to engage retailers.

To be equal partners, flexible long-term funding is needed, so partners can build their capacity and participate from the programme design stage, through to operational delivery and monitoring.

## Highlights of the discussions, outcomes, and key takeaways

### RISK SHARING

When we have diversions there is an erosion of trust in the entire sector. We need to share risk with our donors and partners and work together to mitigate where possible so that it is not the people we serve ultimately shouldering the risks

WFP and INGOs sometimes agree to conditions the locals cannot meet. There needs to be a collective understanding in complex contexts on what we need to be able to deliver to the hard to reach.

If local NGOs are not properly resourced they cannot be expected to equally share and mitigate risks.

### ADVOCACY

It is becoming increasingly difficult to get media attention. We need to jointly advocate at the global, regional and national levels using the same messages and same data.

As partners we should not shy away from addressing impunity for human rights violations, including of the right to food, given that under international law, ensuring respect, protection and promotion of rights is the responsibility of the state.

We need to find new ways to interact with our constituencies, our public and our taxpayers. Also, to increase communication with politicians and the public in the countries where we are working.

### Resources

The full verbatim notes of the session [can be accessed via this link](#), and Arif Husain's presentation is available here: [Global Food Security Situation Report](#).



## Humanitarian Response in Complex Emergencies

This session made a compelling case for the importance of collaboration and partnerships between WFP, CPs, and other humanitarian stakeholders to address the risks of operating in complex, conflict affected, contexts, including the politicization of aid. Real-world examples and good practices of how WFP and partners navigate these complex dynamics were presented in order to build consensus and a re-commitment to humanitarian principles, conflict sensitivity, and protection.

### Background to the session:

21st century conflicts are characterized by unpredictable violence, the proliferation of non-state armed actors, obstructed humanitarian access and the manipulation and politicization of aid. Humanitarian organizations like WFP and its local and international cooperating partners face a fundamental challenge: How to stay and deliver principled life-saving food assistance to all those who need it.

Today, two billion people are living in conflict-affected areas. A record 108 million people are currently living in forced displacement. The rising toll of hunger means that the world's most vulnerable people living in conflict and fragile settings will continue to face barriers in meeting their food and nutrition needs.

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***We have a moral imperative, in my view, to do our best to understand ways that aid can fuel conflict.***

— ” —

Fiona Terry, Head of the Centre for Operational Research and Experience at ICRC



## **Background to the session:**

Bringing together colleagues from WFP, local and international CPs, relevant experts and voices from the field, this session focused on the realities of field-level humanitarian operations in complex emergencies where challenges proliferate. Issues that were covered in the session included:

- The Politicisation of aid;
- Proliferation of Non-State Armed Groups;
- Challenges around working with de facto authorities;
- Challenges around working with assertive host states and donor governments;
- Challenges around working with assertive donor governments;
- Increasing manipulation/diversion of aid;
- Ensuring respect for IHL;
- Humanitarian protection (including child protection)
- Trade-offs between the humanitarian principles;

To address these challenges, the session underlined the critical importance of context analysis, conflict sensitivity, the humanitarian principles, protection, unified approaches to sustainable access and humanitarian diplomacy. This session made a compelling case for the importance of collaboration and partnerships between WFP, CPs, and other humanitarian stakeholders to address the risks of operating in complex, conflict affected, contexts, including the politicization of aid. Real-world examples and good practices of how WFP and its CPs navigate these complex dynamics were presented in order to build consensus and a re-commitment to humanitarian principles, conflict sensitivity, and protection.

There was agreement that WFP and partners will collaborate to conduct and share conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity risk assessments, as well as to share trainings materials, tools and resources. Participants also discussed the growing challenges associated with adhering to the Humanitarian Principles in 21st century conflict, the important of humanitarian protection (including child protection) in complex emergencies and the pros and cons of the “localisation” agenda within the humanitarian sector.

## **Panel Presentations:**

### **Fiona Terry, Director of ICRC’s Centre for Operational Research and Experience (CORE)**

Ms Terry’s presentation focused on operational complexities, stressing the moral imperative to understand how aid can inadvertently fuel conflict. She pointed out the short-term focus of humanitarian organizations when applying the “do no harm” principle, citing the 1992 Somalia case where the humanitarian imperative overshadowed the humanitarian sector’s contribution to the economy of war.

## **Panel Presentations:**

She also highlighted how “do no harm” is both unrealistic and can even itself cause harm by instigating paralysis. Rather than vainly attempting to do no harm, humanitarian should focus on minimizing the inevitable negative consequences of humanitarian action. Ms Terry outlined three interconnected challenges: the proliferation of non-state armed groups, the weakening of the multilateral system and normative order, and the ongoing debate on the suitability and applicability of the humanitarian principles in today's complex emergencies.

Emphasizing the need to understand how to promote restraint from parties to conflicts to allow for humanitarian space, she noted that Governments as well as non-state armed groups tend to adhere to humanitarian norms when seeking legitimacy. She expressed concerns about humanitarian repercussions if they no longer seek legitimacy from the United Nations. Terry also addressed some of the reoccurring questions around humanitarian principles, specifically highlighting that there is nothing inherently moral or good about neutrality. Rather it is a political posture that, when applied consistently, provides a means to an end – access in order to save lives.

### **Valerie Guarnieri, WFP Assistant Executive Director, Policy and Programme Development Department**

Ms Guarnieri highlighted the increasing challenges faced in delivering assistance, particularly in conflict contexts where manipulation and diversion pose real risks. The complexities of these environments make operational tasks exceptionally difficult, with constraints on humanitarian space and scrutiny from various stakeholders. WFP addresses these challenges through a three-pronged approach, known as “the three Cs”:

The first C - context analysis - focuses on understanding the operational environment, including the root causes of conflicts and key influencers. This understanding is crucial for both the security of personnel and the effectiveness of operations.

The second C – conflict sensitive programming and operations - recognizes that aid inevitably becomes embedded in the context in which it operates, having both inadvertent positive and negative impacts on political, military, social and economic dynamics. Ms Guarnieri emphasized the crucial importance of all four humanitarian principles, and stressed the necessity of adopting a conflict-sensitive approach in all functional areas, such as procurement and partnerships, and not just in programme design. This is consolidated in the 2023 WFP Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Strategy.

## **Panel Presentations:**

The third C – communication - is essential at various levels. This includes establishing community feedback mechanisms to communicate with affected populations and to provide them with the means to communicate their challenges to us. It also includes fostering open dialogue within the humanitarian community to address challenges, and engaging in outward communication to influence humanitarian diplomacy on critical issues like safe and principled access to services for populations in need.

### **Olivier Longué, CEO ACF Spain**

Mr Longué's intervention focused on better managing humanitarian agencies' relationships with donors in sensitive contexts. He emphasized the essential role of context analysis, acknowledging the challenge of ensuring donors have a realistic understanding of working conditions faced by the agencies that they support. Mr. Longué stressed the need to engage donors proactively to increase their awareness of conflict sensitivity risks in different contexts. This is critical in programme design, particularly when designing anticipatory actions, to ensure flexibility, context-specificity and preparedness to adjust to changing contexts at regional and local levels. He advocated for a systematic and disciplined approach within the humanitarian community to report and document on findings and challenges, mentioning Action Against Hunger's call to report on the UN Security Council Resolution 24/17 on hunger and conflict. Highlighting the importance of partnerships for humanitarian access, he pointed out that 40 percent of Action Against Hunger's operations are done through partners, with great support from WFP in logistics and transport. A conflict sensitivity approach was underlined as key to design urgent responses, together with local partners. Such a collaborative approach between partners and including donors, will help to minimise the transfer of risk down the chain.

### **Nimo Hassan, Director of Somali NGO Consortium**

Ms. Hassan congratulated WFP for mainstreaming the conflict sensitivity strategy, emphasizing its crucial role in having a clear understanding of local contexts and power dynamics. She mentioned that particularly in Somalia, clans play an important role in political dynamics and humanitarian access. Those from smaller, marginalized clans are more vulnerable and are most difficult to reach. Being aware of those challenges are key to support these populations.

On the localization agenda, she highlighted the importance of strategic partnerships with organizations that are best placed to address specific issues and serve the communities that are often overlooked – so that no one is left behind.



## **Panel Presentations:**

Ms Hassan advocated for a cultural shift towards strengthening partnerships, encouraging collective implementation and mutual synergy. She stressed that the United Nations, and WFP in particular, can play a bigger role in supporting local partners in protecting the humanitarian space and supporting partners in overcoming bureaucratic impediments.

## **Highlights of the discussions**

Co-organisers of the session, Plan International, along with World Vision International and CARE International, pointed out the importance of gender sensitivity in complex emergencies. Women often play very significant roles in conflict prevention and resolution at local levels – but it is often very underground, not necessarily visible because of obvious risks they face. It is the responsibility of WFP and partners to ensure gender is a key part of conflict analysis moving forward.

Plan International also pointed out that as the next generation of leaders and decision makers, it is crucial to involve children and adolescents, especially those from marginalized and conflict-affected communities, in designing, implementing, and monitoring humanitarian programmes in complex emergencies. Listening to and incorporating their ideas and perspectives, which stem from their direct experiences, leads to much more effective and relevant decision-making when it comes to programmes and policies that directly impact them.

Several representatives also echoed calls from the panellists for an open, honest and frank debate on the applicability of each of humanitarian principles in complex emergencies. This was mirrored in calls from participants for more and closer collaboration, cooperation and unity in conflict contexts. Such unity will lead to improved outcomes, including on context analyses and awareness, conflict sensitivity, access negotiations and humanitarian diplomacy. Whether through local actors, INGOs, NGOs or the UNs, addressing escalating humanitarian needs together through localized solutions will be key in ensuring a people-centred approach.

Finally, as pointed out by Foundation for Rural Development, CGIAR, CARITAS International and others, research also shows that climate is exacerbating root causes of conflict and fragility, and therefore contributing directly and indirectly to humanitarian emergencies. Addressing the root causes of conflict, including climate change, will more effectively reduce future needs. WFP and partners committed to conducting and sharing context analyses and conflict sensitivity risk assessments in complex emergencies, including on the identity/links to conflicts of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, as well as of partners, suppliers, vendors etc. Such analysis will provide insights into when, how and why aid is diverted/manipulated by parties to conflicts.

## Outcomes and key takeaways

In this way, WFP and partners will better recognise risks that food assistance can cause both inadvertent good and harm in complex emergencies. The results of such analysis will feed into decision-making and the navigation of ethical dilemmas. WFP and partners also committed to share any relevant tools, guidance and trainings to build capacities on critical issues associated with delivering in complex emergencies, including: dilemmas in adhering to the humanitarian principles; conflict sensitivity; sustainable humanitarian access; and protection (including child protection).

WFP and partners acknowledged the need to foster open and frank discussions, including with donors, on the complexities in adhering to the humanitarian principles in contexts where they are often set against each other. Both humanitarians and key interlocutors must understand that the principles are not an end in themselves but rather a means to save lives. Neutrality, for example, is not a moral position, but rather an operational posture that facilitates access to vulnerable people on both sides of a front-line. Dilemmas which set neutrality against humanity; or impartiality against operational independence must be openly discussed with all relevant stakeholders. WFP, partners and donors, must avoid “passing down” such ethical risks to each other as well as to beneficiaries.

WFP and partners also spoke about both the positive and negative implications of the “localization” agenda, taking account of the reality that many local partners are limited by their political and social realities and may gravitate to helping their own communities, regardless of actual needs. The localization of humanitarian action can therefore clash with both the principle of impartiality, as well as with conflict sensitivity. Similarly, the numerous benefits of localization must not be overlooked. A delicate balance must be struck and adjusted as contexts evolve. An informed understanding of the complex contexts in which food assistance is delivered is therefore critical.

## Resources

The full verbatim notes of the session [can be accessed via this link.](#)



## Accelerating climate action in fragile and vulnerable contexts

Panelists discussed localizing climate action in fragile and shock-prone contexts, focusing on disaster risk reduction efforts and local solutions to avert, minimize and address loss & damage from climate change. Taking place in the final month before CoP28, the session also aimed to connect and reinforce advocacy efforts between WFP and its partners to highlight the humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis, spotlight local solutions, and ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard.

### Background to the session:

Panelists from Tanzania Red Cross, Oxfam, Foundation for Rural Development (FRD) [Pakistan] and WFP discussed localizing climate action in fragile and shock-prone contexts, focusing on DRR efforts and local solutions to avert, minimize and address loss & damage from climate change.

Taking place in the final month before CoP28, the session also aimed to connect and reinforce advocacy efforts between WFP and its partners to highlight the humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis, spotlight local solutions, and ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard.

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***We simply can no longer afford a system that has this level of inequality where countries and companies amass billions of dollars and poor states are forced into debt cycles to keep borrowing, to pay for a climate crisis that they did not cause.***

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Matthew Truscott, Head, Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy, Oxfam

## Panelist presentations

### **David Kaatrud, Director, Programme Humanitarian & Development, WFP Session Moderator**

Mr. Kaatrud emphasized the urgency of the climate crisis. Over the past decade, some 1.7 billion people have been affected by extreme weather events and climate-related disasters. Communities who have contributed the least are those bearing the brunt of the impacts of the climate crisis, and yet have limited resources to cope – climate shocks affect three times as many people annually in fragile and vulnerable settings compared to other countries. As the world continues to breach the critical 1.5°C degrees limit of global warming, it is imperative that that climate action in fragile contexts is accelerated to ensure that those most vulnerable are protected.

He highlighted that the upcoming CoP28 will be the first to shine a spotlight on fragility - not only through a dedicated thematic day but also through a Relief, Recovery and Peace Declaration with a corresponding package of technical and financial solutions. CoP28 presents a critical opportunity for partners to amplify each other's voices in a strong and unified call for action to scale up solutions which help communities avert, minimize and address loss and damage from climate change

Underlining the need for climate finance to be more localized to be accessed by the most vulnerable communities, he further stressed that food systems transformation as one of the most effective entry points for climate action.

### **Mathew Truscott, Head of Humanitarian Policy & Advocacy, Oxfam**

Mr. Truscott presented key findings from the recent Oxfam research paper – [Leaving no one behind: A green bargain for people and planet](#) - highlighting how, over the past decade, despite humanitarian appeals only securing 59% of required funds on average, the number of people in need had risen from 76 million to over 400 million. Funding requirements for UN humanitarian appeals linked to extreme weather events are now eight times higher than 20 years ago.

He underscored the urgent need for climate and humanitarian financing to be better linked, lamenting the persistent difference in approach leading to siloed response. The need to guide these discussions to ensure their practical application on the ground was also emphasized.

He flagged ICVA member's discussions on the 4 As of climate finance: access, adequacy, additionality, and accountability. On funding being additional, he cited Oxfam's recent paper's findings that contributors claimed to have mobilised \$83.3 billion in 2020, the real value of their spending was only \$24.5 billion because the estimates include projects where the climate objective had been overstated or where loans had been cited at their face value.

He noted the type of financing for fragile states as especially critical – concessional loans will merely create a debt spiral which will only be further exacerbated with the imminent rise in extreme weather events.

### **Gernot Laganda, Director, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Service, WFP**

Mr. Laganda's intervention focused on the significance of the Loss & Damage (L&D) agenda. He summarised WFP's approach to L&D through "four lines of defense", noting the first as mitigation. There is a brief and rapidly closing window to reduce global emissions and accelerate the transformative action required to keep global heating within the 1.5°C degrees limit of the Paris Agreement. With increased mitigation, there will be fewer climate impacts, fewer adaptation interventions will be necessary, and more losses and damages can be avoided.

The second line of defense is adaptation. He underlined that investment in adaptation projects had been inadequate and frequently delayed. Global climate funding targets, set at US\$ 100 billion per year by 2020, have not been achieved. Additionally, he reiterated Mr. Truscott's point that funding has often been provided in the form of loans, imposing a devastating burden on many developing countries.

The pressing need for a third line of defense with a more immediate protective function was captured in the protection and disaster risk reduction line. These investments can be implemented to safeguard communities in the future, including emergency preparedness, early warning systems, climate risk insurance, and bolstering social protection systems.

He stressed three key priorities for CoP28 and beyond: to scale up projects that have short-term protective benefits; strengthen partnerships at the nexus of development and humanitarian climate action; and harness a strong solutions-focused approach to tackling these challenges. Going into CoP28, WFP aims to ensure that the conversation on climate action can shift to supporting concrete solutions e.g., disaster preparedness, early warning, anticipatory action, community-based disaster risk reduction.



## **Azmat Khan, CEO, Foundation for Rural Development (FRD) Pakistan**

Mr. Khan emphasized the importance of community involvement climate action. Giving his perspective of leading a local NGO, he highlighted that this often also means being part of the community itself and seeing at first-hand how the impacts of climate change directly affect families and their livelihoods. This reinforces their desire to call for real, tangible change.

He stressed the comparative advantages of local organisations, as local actors are better equipped to understand and address the community's needs. Together with WFP, the Foundation for Rural Development has developed activities to help build community resilience for IDP communities affected by floods in Pakistan.

Mr. Khan spoke to the challenges of dealing with drought and flooding in Pakistan, affecting the availability of groundwater and generating conflict over access to water. Illustrating some key interventions of FRD, he emphasised the effectiveness of cash grants to support soil and water conservation. FRD has also been promoting livelihood transformation to stimulate adaptation - such as through deforestation to reforestation - involving communities in relevant projects to boost income and enhance resilience.

He underscored the role of humanitarian actors as laying the ground for development organisations, urging for the breaking of silos and a more collaborative approach. He stressed that climate that solutions – including funding - must be context-specific and that affected communities must be part of project design.

## **Lucia Pande, Secretary General, Red Cross Tanzania**

Ms. Pande also underscored the crucial significance of localisation and the great contribution of local communities for effective programming. She presented an overview of the work implemented by Red Cross Tanzania (RCT), emphasizing the criticality of community-based risk assessment and preventive action.

The Red Cross, as a local partner, works to bring solutions on the ground: it is a strategic point since risk assessment mapping can be realized through the community itself. The mapping of floods, for example - which are very frequent in Tanzania – had been designed by RCT studying previous disasters. Community involvement is promoted in all assessments.

The Red Cross also works to disseminate early warning dissemination systems, seeking to share information directly from the country's technical-meteorological department. She highlighted the work being done with communities, operating with more traditional practices, to facilitate the use of these more technical tools.

She flagged some of the key interventions of the RCT, namely activities to reduce flooding or drought, ecosystem restoration, tree planting, and activities in schools to help students understand the impact of climate change.

The RCT is also involved in capacity building, working with local government, and advocacy, trying to spread awareness of the impacts of climate change through championing inspiring local success stories. She called for improved early warning systems and a wider, more practical application of local knowledge in climate-relevant programmes.

## **Highlights of the Q&A Discussions**

There remains a lack of tangible solutions and adequate funding mechanisms implemented by international organizations, have failed to have a substantial impact on local communities. There is a need for global leaders to challenge the status quo (Somalia NGO Consortium).

Fragile states need to be able to access climate finance and to surge to meet these needs the sectors require a “nexus on steroids” (Canadian Food Grains Bank). There were also calls for a full system overhaul (World Humanitarian Action Forum).

There is an urgent need to strengthen partnerships and adopt a purposeful approach, especially in addressing urgent issues such as climate migration (HIAS).

Questions were asked about funding of the potential Loss and Damage Fund, emphasizing that the issue is not so distinct from humanitarian action (also dealing with uninsured losses of communities) and the need for partners to position themselves on this issue at CoP28 and beyond (Caritas International).

Some organizations stressed the need to reimagine climate action as a tool for conflict prevention and peace (CGIAR). The crucial need to strengthen the involvement of local communities in identifying solutions was emphasised (Muslim Hands - UK). Women-led organizations, which play a pivotal role in agriculture, food systems, and climate adaptation, yet often faced marginalization in climate financing, must be included in all these critical conversations.

## **Outcomes and key takeaways**

Collaboration between humanitarian and development actors is essential to tackling the climate crisis, and localised approaches and solutions are often the most effective in the long term.

Localisation can effectively advance the protection and adaptation of affected communities and accelerating climate financing in fragile contexts is imperative. People living in fragile and conflict-affected settings need to be first in line to access services for climate prediction and protection.

Humanitarian organizations must position themselves firmly on climate justice. These issues will be at the forefront of the CoP28 discussions. It is essential to integrate women-led organizations into decision-making processes, as they are often more grounded and attentive to the actual needs of communities.

It is crucial to acknowledge the significance of drawing upon positive examples, successes, and improvements that have been achieved. Despite the challenges, there is still hope, but it is imperative to accelerate climate action.

At CoP28, partners have an opportunity to amplify each other's voices in a strong and unified call for action to scale up solutions which help communities avert, minimize and address loss and damage from climate change.

## **Resources**

The full verbatim notes of the session [can be accessed via this link](#). The session presentations are also available, including **WFP's Scene Setter** and **Oxfam's Green Bargain**.



## The power of partnerships in preventing sexual exploitation and abuse

This session underscored the need to continue working closely with partners to build a strong shared culture, where abuse is not tolerated. Panellists discussed what is needed to successfully drive change in our partnerships, and what has been the impact so far of strengthened policies and practices. The discussions also highlighted the significant importance to engage and involve women and girls in all their diversity across programming on SEA prevention and reporting as WFP takes over the IASC PSEA championship. WFP Executive Board members were invited to join this session and participate in the discussion.

### Background to the session:

This year's PSEA session theme derived from the ongoing work and efforts put at Interagency level with the support of the Office of Special Coordinator on UN response to SEA and the IASC to develop and adopt a common approach when addressing PSEA in partnerships.

WFP has been building on its longstanding experience in engaging and managing partners coupled with its technical PSEA capacity to support partners with establishing proper safeguards and organizational capacities to prevent, mitigate and address risks of SEA in WFP operations.

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***I want everyone to feel empowered to speak out when they see, or experience, something that is not right, and I know you do as well. Let us step up our efforts to stamp out abuse and exploitation. Let us step up our collaboration to protect the safety and dignity of the people we serve. And, most of all, let us hold ourselves to a higher standard.***  
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Cindy McCain, Executive Director, WFP

The PSEA session entitled The Power of Partnerships in Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse highlighted the elements of positive partnerships such as creating a clear common vision, defining common values, and setting clear standards that best serve the communities. The session handled the topic in a panel setting that brought to the table key stakeholders that have major contributions and experience – both organizational and operational – handling PSEA in partnerships. Panelists in the discussion were Wendy Cue, IASC Secretariat (Session moderator), WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain, Andrew Morley, World Vision International President & CEO & Chair of Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) and IASC Champion on PSEA, Magdaline Ndi Nkweta, CEO of WARDA association in Cameroon and Alina Potts, Research Scientist in Gender, Violence and Humanitarian Assistance, and “Empowered Aid” lead from The Global Women's Institute (GWI) at the George Washington University.

Panelists discussed the impact of the positive culture change in partnerships on fostering the commitment towards PSEA based on contextual and field level exchange. The discussions also highlighted the significant importance to engage and involve women and girls in all their diversity across programming on SEA prevention and reporting.

## **Panelist presentations**

### **Cindy McCain, Executive Director, WFP**

Acknowledging Andrew Morley's personal commitment as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Champion for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Ms. McCain expressed pride and humility in taking over this role from January 2024. The objective is to continue and enhance the collective efforts of the championship to establish a humanitarian and development system free from sexual misconduct. Emphasising the shared commitment of all participants to protect those they serve, Ms. McCain underscored the obligation to fortify policies and systems. Recognising the shared responsibility with NGO partners, especially those working in remote areas, the Executive Director highlighted the need for a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, encouraging reporting of any concerns.

Beyond procedural measures, Ms. McCain stressed the importance of fostering a culture intolerant of abuse. WFP pledged full commitment to building collective capacity on this issue, offering expertise and resources to establish robust safeguards. While acknowledging the absence of an easy solution, she emphasised the importance of sharing knowledge and best practices for collaborative progress. Ms. McCain concluded by urging everyone to feel empowered to speak out against any wrongdoing and called for intensified efforts and collaboration to eradicate abuse and exploitation, ensuring the safety and dignity of those we serve.



## **Andrew Morley, World Vision International President**

As IASC PSEAH Champion, WVI/SCHR has been supporting the development of a culture of zero tolerance to inaction and a culture that has repeatedly and proudly spoken as well as acted against abuse and for victims. As a sector we have made great strides in creating policies, systems and developing capacity to prevent and respond to SEA. We must now collectively move from a focus on compliance to culture.

WVI/SCHR also highlighted how important it is to work from the assumption that due to power imbalances and vulnerability, SEA is a collective risk. We must shift from assuming that no reports of SEA are a positive indicator. Lack of reporting should draw leadership attention and action to understand why complaints are not being received. As leaders it's critical to adopt the tone that increased reporting is a sign that systems are working and reward it when it happens. As leaders and partners, WVI calls to continue setting the tone at the top and create opportunities for transparency and sharing of organizational challenges with partners.

## **Magdaline Ndi Nkweta, CEO of Women Access to Relief and Development Actions (WARDA).**

Many barriers such as victims' fear of stigmatization, lack of awareness and education on PSEA, protection of families' honor and reputational risks rooted in traditional and cultural practices hinder the reporting of SEA allegations. Experience from Cameroon illustrates how female SEA victims are often persecuted by their families and communities and deprived from seeking adequate services. Several good practices from the field reveal that engaging communities in conversations on PSEA contribute to greater impact in preventing its occurrence. For example, engaging community leaders, youth groups and women committees in sensitization sessions and in discussions around the causes and consequences of SEA lead to better community awareness and peer support to report incidents. Using innovative channels such as radio broadcasts and talk shows have proven to be efficient in spreading information on PSEA. As humanitarian actors, strengthening organizational capacities on PSEA using existent tools to complement sensitization efforts is a responsibility that all actors must take on seriously and commit to further develop.

## **Alina Potts, Researcher and Principal Investigator, Empowered Aid Project**

The "Empowered Aid" initiative is grounded in rigorous research in Lebanon and Uganda, which documented various SEA risks related to aid distributions across multiple sectors, including food, WASH, shelter, cash and voucher assistance, and fuel and firewood. This participatory research was conducted with refugee women and girls as co-researchers and included their observations as well as consultations with more than 200 stakeholders.

In addition to identifying SEA risks, refugee women and girls were consulted on potential solutions to address them, and these recommendations were then tested in actual aid distributions with international and local NGO partners including IRC, CARE, URDA (a Lebanese NGO), and World Vision. Examples from the northwest of Uganda showed that simple modifications such as establishing sex segregated lines, appointing female security guards and increasing the proportion of female aid workers at food distribution points had a measurable impact on rendering food distributions safer. Empowered Aid demonstrates the importance of recognizing diverse women and girls as PSEA experts and engaging them throughout the project cycle—from needs assessment and design through implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The three P's of Participation, Power and Prevention must constitute the core principles of every action. Starting with oneself, each aid actor should reflect on how they (as an individual, and their organization) share power meaningfully with women, girls and other community groups in making decisions related to aid delivery. This approach to prevention maintains the responsibility on aid actors to do better, while recognizing the value of women and girls' knowledge on "contextual safeguarding" to make aid contexts safer for those most at risk.

**Wendy Cue, Senior Coordinator PSEAH, IASC secretariat, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**

Protection from SEA is an issue where harmonised and common approaches are the most effective approach, especially in communities where we are working together. Tone for the top is very important – as is having a buzz from the bottom and mood in the middle – momentum is needed across all levels of our organisations. The high turnover of humanitarian workers means that organisations need to set clear standards, communicating that these standards are critical to quality, effective humanitarian programmes, and ethical standards and compliance are baked into job descriptions. Finally, partnerships aren't free of charge. Good partnerships take time and cost money. Good partnerships can also help leverage accountability measures. The IASC has the policy framework in place, meaningful and effective partnerships will help us apply it.

**Highlights of the discussions**

Each of us has a role in advocating for PSEA. Today, more than ever, we need to join efforts to collectively prioritize PSEA approaches and accountability by building partnerships to increase collaboration and coordination, including at the inter-agency level. We should also – collectively – call for demonstrated leadership actions, as well as for donors' support to provide funding for multi-year agency and system-wide PSEA and accountability commitments.

Sexual exploitation and abuse are a form of gender-based violence, where humanitarian workers are the perpetrators and should be held accountable. In response, aid actors and donors have primarily focused on enhancing reporting mechanisms and punitive actions against perpetrators of such acts. A focus on prevention would be preferable to having to respond to known cases, however, effective investigations and accountability are important deterrents and will encourage reporting.

WFP reaffirms its commitments along with the IASC to collectively strengthen the humanitarian sector approach to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (PSEAH). WFP is working closely with World Vision International (WVI) and Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) to build on the previous Championships' efforts and to reinforce the culture change so that the sector actively evidences a zero-tolerance approach for inaction on SEAH.

### **Outcomes and key takeaways**

WFP works with partners to ensure that all segments of affected populations, especially women and girls in all their diversity, are empowered to interact with WFP and partners and influence each stage of the project cycle. To maximize the impact of its programmes, WFP is committed to including and empowering beneficiaries by providing assistance in a safe, appropriate, and dignified manner.

This commitment to Accountability to Affected Populations is at the core of WFP PSEA work. It is committed to doing this over the long-term, recognizing that one-off community engagement exercises do not serve to shift power. Women, girls, and other community members must be continuously engaged, through mechanisms such as Refugee Advisory Boards or community based PSEA Champions.

Moving beyond one-off forms of community engagement and linking to opening pathways for women and girls to provide feedback is crucial as it enhances both accountability and trust-building, which in turn will support help-seeking and reporting.

Shifting power, resources and ownership to local partners constitutes a key area of interest and action for WFP through supporting several initiatives to make localization a reality. Treating cooperating partners as long-term strategic partners instead of implementing partners to achieve shared goals including upholding PSEA commitments is at the top of the agency's priorities.

This culture change in partnerships will also place greater value on developing local context-specific knowledge of culture, politics and practices that would inform the provision of tailored capacity building and support to partners to help strengthen PSEA organizational capacities and address efficiently barriers to achieving safer programming.

Including local communities and women-led organizations in the development of PSEA related initiatives and promoting accountability across WFP and partners work will contribute to shifting power imbalances and empowering the most marginalized groups to have an active role in preventing and reporting SEA. Ensuring GBV response services are funded and available is also a key element to prevention efforts.

## **Resources**

The full verbatim notes of the session [can be accessed via this link.](#)



## Advocating as one to mitigate and prevent food crises

Recalling the Famine Mitigation and Prevention Compact's shared vision and joint commitment to scale up collective advocacy action to prevent and mitigate famine and starvation, the advocacy session underlined an unwavering commitment to addressing not only the consequences of hunger but also its underlying causes.

### Background to the session:

The session aimed to instigate collective advocacy and a cultural shift in partnerships, creating a collective voice resonating with governments, donors, and communities. Priorities include involving local communities and women-led organizations in PSEA initiatives, promoting accountability, ensuring funded GBV response services, and advocating for an enabling environment to mobilize flexible, unearmarked, and front-loaded financial commitments.

The panellists underscored the need for unity during crises and advocated for local-level efforts in Afghanistan. Islamic Relief's Waseem Ahmad and WFP's Valerie Guarneri highlighted the challenge of rising needs amid shrinking resources and emphasized prioritization. Stephen Tangun of Star Trust Organization, South Sudan, outlined local challenges in addressing food insecurity, emphasizing the impact of resource constraints on successful programs. Mathias Mogge of Welthungerhilfe and WFP's Caroline Den Dulk stressed the importance of united advocacy, emphasizing a collective approach.

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***“We need to unite more than ever to face this ever-increasing challenge. And we cannot do this as one partner or one WFP. We need to come together, we need to advocate together, we need to have one voice.”***

— ” —

Waseem Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer, Islamic Relief



## **Panelist presentations**

### **Waseem Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer, Islamic Relief**

Mr. Ahmad began by reminding colleagues of the Compact from 2021 and its shared commitment to prevent famine and starvation. He emphasized the need for partners to unite during the various crises and funding shortfall. Reflecting on his recent visit to Afghanistan, he shared the inspiring efforts of women's groups tackling food security issues and livelihoods. These groups, supported by Islamic Relief and other agencies, are doing advocacy at a local level, and have initiated livelihood skills centres to address challenges locally.

Mr. Ahmad stressed the importance of mitigating the consequences of famine but also of preventing its occurrence. Acknowledging the challenges outlined by WFP's Arif Husain, he called for collective action, emphasizing the need for unity and advocacy. He highlighted the increasing interference by governments in the space of charities and UN agencies, underscoring the challenging operating environment. Addressing root causes of hunger and pooling intelligence were identified as urgent needs. Introducing the panel, he posed the question: How are WFP and its partners responding to this global food security crisis, and what are the main challenges that are still there that you feel we need to overcome?

### **Valerie Guarnieri, WFP Assistant Executive Director, Policy and Programme Development Department**

Ms. Guarnieri acknowledged the challenging moment with rising needs and shrinking resources, emphasizing the staggering acute hunger statistics. She highlighted the difficulty of reducing assistance without compromising quality. With 50% reductions in assistance translating to 24 million more people at risk, she emphasised that we are facing the largest scale-down in WFP's history and prioritization is crucial. Yet we need to reduce assistance without compromising on quality.

Ms. Guarnieri outlined three areas of focus. Firstly, prioritizing the most vulnerable by moving from broad-based to targeted programs. Secondly, investing in resilience-building and climate-smart initiatives for populations at risk of recurring shocks. Finally, enhancing safeguards and assurances in programs to maintain quality, especially in preventing sexual exploitation and optimizing the use of data and analytics for program improvement. Prioritizing quality over quantity is the central challenge, requiring a careful balance to ensure effective assistance while confronting the complexities of the situation.

## **Stephen Tangun, Executive Director, Star Trust Organization, South Sudan**

Mr. Tangun highlighted the challenges faced in addressing food insecurity in South Sudan. Despite the country being one of the most in need, the limited resources pose difficulties in meeting high demands. He emphasized the impact of deprioritizing programs, exemplified by the discontinuation of the "food for asset", or "asset creation and livelihoods" initiative due to funding cuts. Stopping successful models prematurely, as in the case of the smallholder agricultural market support, can hinder scaling up. Additionally, Mr. Tangun discussed the frustration in communities when projects are halted before completion, particularly in areas affected by conflict and climate change. These challenges underscore the struggle to sustain and expand impactful programs in the face of resource constraints.

## **Mathias Mogge, Secretary General, Welthungerhilfe:**

Mr. Mogge conveyed the concerning trend of shrinking budgets, exemplifying Germany's humanitarian aid budget dropping by 40% in 2024 after a significant increase in the previous decade. He emphasized the serious impact on organizations like WFP and, more importantly, on the people they aim to assist. Mr. Mogge highlighted a shift in narrative, with a growing focus on domestic and military concerns, potentially undermining international aid efforts. He expressed concern about the quality of funding, urging for longer-term, nexus funding, and emphasizing the need for funds to drive sector development, innovation, preparedness, localization, resilience, and digitalization. Mr. Mogge expressed fear of a regression instead of progress in these crucial areas.

## **Ms Caroline Den Dulk, Director, Communications, Advocacy and Marketing Division, WFP**

Ms. Den Dulk acknowledged the challenging reality of the situation, emphasizing the urgent need for united and effective advocacy. She stressed the importance of "connecting the dots" in advocacy efforts, understanding the broader context influencing decision-making. Ms. Den Dulk highlighted the need for a collective approach, with diverse organizations using their strengths to influence budget discussions, resource mobilization, and policy changes. She encouraged a unified message, likening it to singing from one song sheet with many diverse voices, recognizing the unique strengths each organization brings to the table. Furthermore, she advised leveraging evidence and solutions collectively to generate public demand for change and secure the necessary policy support and resources. She underscored the importance of putting people at the center of advocacy efforts, ensuring that the impact on their lives remains the focal point.

## Highlights of the discussion

Panellists stressed the need for a comprehensive, multisectoral approach, involving both public and private sectors. Mr. Tangun emphasized the vital role of local partners, urging continued engagement and the exploration of local solutions to address specific challenges and root causes. The emphasis was on amplifying success stories and working models, drawing attention to them for potential support.

Recognizing governments as a crucial audience, there was a consensus to set a high political tone for advocacy messages based on the discussions over the last two days. Additionally, a strategic focus on corporates was proposed, suggesting a separate document or statement tailored to the corporate sector. Plan International proposed a joint statement, which was supported by World Vision, Oxfam and other NGOs. The discussion reflected a collective effort to strengthen and tailor advocacy approaches to effectively address the current challenges.

## Key Takeaways

We aspire to unite in a common cause, one characterized by impactful, strategic advocacy. This culture change in partnerships will also place greater value on developing local context-specific knowledge of culture, politics and practices that would inform the provision of tailored capacity building and support to partners to help strengthen PSEA organizational capacities and address efficiently barriers to achieving safer programming.

Reiterating the importance of empowering local communities, as we advocate for change, voices and aspirations of local communities remain central to our efforts, and we will strive to better understand their unique needs and perspectives and ensure that they are active participants. Underlining that there is an urgent need for more funding to reach local and national organisations responding at the frontlines of the crisis, we will continue to advocate for the creation of an enabling environment to mobilise financial commitments that are flexible, unearmarked and front-loaded to facilitate action and avert catastrophe.

## Resources

The full verbatim notes of the session [can be accessed via this link](#).

## Collective Advocacy Outcomes

We, the leaders of local, national, and international Non-Governmental Organisations and the World Food Programme (WFP) note with serious concern the growing humanitarian needs driven by conflicts, economic shocks and climate change are stretching global resources, as well as our ability to respond, to a breaking point.

In our pursuit to prevent famines and improve food and nutritional security around the world and to protect the lives and livelihoods of the most affected and vulnerable populations, we affirm to strengthen our partnerships and collective efforts to achieve more significant positive outcomes for the people we serve.

### Our Commitments:

#### Resource shortfalls:

- 1. Flexible and Longer-Term Funding:** We call for adequate flexible, and longer-term funding for humanitarian actors, particularly at the national and local levels, to ensure effective humanitarian responses. We will continue to work together, to raise our voices urging donors to provide resources that adequately cover the growing humanitarian needs without comprising on the quality of our programmes.
- 2. Mitigating the Impact of Funding Cuts:** We recognise the impacts of funding cuts on on the lives of the people we serve. We are committed to strengthen our work together to minimize the impacts. We commit to transparent communication and early notification when program reductions are necessary, empowering partners to mitigate and relay information to affected communities. We reiterate our call to international community to help us meet the funding requirement to avoid further reduction in our operations to save lives.

## Collective Advocacy:

**3. Robust Advocacy and Systems-Level Thinking:** We are committed to evidence-based advocacy, and systems-level thinking to address complex challenges. We will build compelling cases to engage governments, the public, and donors urging them to create conditions necessary to eradicate hunger. We will advocate for inclusive and gender sensitive approaches in addressing hunger, ensuring women and girls, who often bear the harshest consequences, are at the centre of our approach.

**4. Advocating for Anticipatory Action and Hunger Hotspots Commitment:** We acknowledge the significance of anticipatory action in disaster-prone areas and commit to raising awareness, building capabilities, and reducing dependency through engagement with constituencies, the public, and policymakers. Furthermore, we emphasize our unwavering commitment to addressing crises in hunger hotspots, ensuring that relief and support reach those in dire need in a timely manner.

## Addressing Climate Crisis:

**5. Building Resilience, Enhancing Food Security, and Addressing the Climate Crisis:** We recognize the need for enhanced collaboration with the public and private sector to advance climate-smart approaches. Leveraging climate finance and ensuring its alignment with humanitarian needs is a central priority. We commit to investing in resilience-building, climate-smart programs, and strengthening national food systems to reduce dependency over time, particularly in the face of climate-related challenges. This underscores the importance of a longer-term and more coordinated approach that extends beyond reacting to isolated events, emphasizing sustainable solutions for climate-related issues, and the strengthening of food security.



## Operational Improvement:

**6. Evidence-Based Context Analysis and Conflict Sensitivity:** We emphasize the importance of context analysis to ensure neutrality and impartiality in our operations. In our commitment to enhancing anticipatory action, we work to strengthen conflict-sensitive programming and engage with donors for early adaptation to changing contexts while upholding humanitarian principles within complex systems.

**7. Risk Management and Quality Assurance:** Recognizing the importance of high-level safeguarding standards and quality assurance, we commit to engage in open dialogues, ensuring mutual accountability, fostering trust and delivering timely solutions in all our operations.

**8. Fostering Localisation and Empowering Local Leadership:** Localisation goes beyond duplicating programs with different actors. It necessitates shared responsibility, effective risk management, and the development of systems to prevent misconduct. Placing local communities at the forefront as first responders means understanding local dynamics, partnering with local and faith leaders and empowering local organizations to take charge of their responses.

**9. Partnering with Local Faith Actors and Community Leaders:** We acknowledge the significance of faith actors and community leaders in local contexts and commit to engaging with them to ensure culturally appropriate and faith sensitive solutions. By harnessing homegrown approaches and empowering local leadership, we can build trust and legitimacy within communities.

**10. Embracing Collaboration with Development Actors:** Recognizing the complex nature of current crises, we emphasize the need for closer collaboration with development actors, including climate organizations, international financial institutions, and multilateral development banks. By working together, we can enhance our collective impact and resilience.



## APC 2023 Marketplace - Useful Links

**WFP Digital  
Transformation Roadmap:  
UNPP  
Partner Connect**

**IP Protocol for PSEA**

**Monitoring Foundations  
e-learning course for  
external partners**

**WFP Risk Management  
Resources**

Coming soon...

**People-Centred Approach  
toolkit**

**Emergency E-Learning**