

Team Up with African Agripreneurs

Context document

There is more than enough food produced in the world to feed everyone, yet 815 million people go hungry. As reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2), one of the greatest challenges the world faces is how to ensure that a growing global population - projected to rise to around 10 billion by 2050 – has enough food to meet their nutritional needs (State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, FAO 2017). To feed another two billion people in 2050, food production will need to increase by 50 percent globally. Food security is a complex condition requiring a holistic approach to all forms of malnutrition, the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, resilience of food production systems and the sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources.

The contrast in the world couldn't be bigger. Today we are wasting more than one third of our produced food. It is a sobering fact of modern life that while in some countries food is scarce, others collectively waste food with a total value of about US\$1 trillion (€ 735 billion). It is the size of China's land area that is wasted every year. It consumes one-quarter of all water used by agriculture every year. To put it in perspective, if food loss and waste were a country, it would be the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter on the planet (after US and China).

World hunger on the rise

After steadily declining for over a decade, global hunger appears to be on the rise, affecting 11 percent of the global population. The estimated number of undernourished people increased from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. In addition to an increase in the proportion of the world's population that suffers from chronic hunger (prevalence of undernourishment), the number of undernourished people on the planet has also increased to 815 million, up from 777 million in 2015. This sobering news comes in a year in which famine struck in parts of South Sudan for several months in 2017 and food insecurity situations at risk of turning into famines were identified in other conflict-affected countries, namely Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen.

This constitutes a severe setback for the United Nations' goal of eliminating global hunger by 2030 (SDG 2). It is even more devastating than we think. The human suffering underlying data show that almost one in four children under 5 years of age, 155 million worldwide, have stunted growth and even more severe risks of cognitive damage and susceptibility to infection and other diseases. Another 52 million of children are considered "wasting", weighing too little for their height, for lack of food.

The food security situation visibly worsened in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, South Eastern and Western Asia. This was most notable in situations of conflict, in particular where the food security impacts of conflict were compounded by droughts or floods, linked in part to El Niño phenomenon and climate-related shocks.

Over the past ten years, the number of violent conflicts around the world has increased significantly, in particular in countries already facing food insecurity, hitting rural communities the hardest and having a negative impact on food production and availability. The situation has also deteriorated in some peaceful settings, particularly those affected by economic slowdowns. A number of countries heavily dependent on commodity exports have experienced dramatically reduced export and fiscal revenues in recent years. Thus food availability has been affected through reduced import capacity while access to

food has deteriorated in part due to reduced fiscal potential to protect poor households against rising domestic food prices.

The number of people undernourished in the world has been on the rise since 2014, reaching an estimated 815 million in 2016. Contemporary conflicts often trigger or exacerbate hunger, in a variety of ways. In many of today's humanitarian crises, food insecurity and malnutrition are among the key concerns, with a disproportionate impact on women and children. Violence, displacement, and the destruction of basic infrastructure disrupt or destroy livelihoods and often make it difficult or even impossible for people to access food. Moreover, in many contexts, parties to armed conflict cannot or do not live up to their internationally recognized legal responsibilities to ensure civilian populations' access to basic services and goods, including food, and the production of food. Further, humanitarian organizations are not always enabled or even allowed to deliver much-needed relief. At the same time, there is growing evidence that food insecurity and undernutrition, if combined with other political, social or economic factors, can trigger or exacerbate conflict and forced migration. In this context, it is important to focus also on promoting resilient agricultural and food systems: if these are weak, under stress and underdeveloped in ordinary times, they will be much less likely to cope with conflicts, violence and instability. Working towards sustainable, resilient agricultural systems is therefore essentially an investment in peacebuilding.

Distress migration on the rise

Migration has been part of the human experience throughout history, and we recognize that it can be a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development in our globalized world. The majority of the more than a quarter billion migrants around the world today travel, live and work in a safe, orderly and regular manner. But migration undeniably affects our countries in very different and sometimes unpredictable ways. Conflicts and climate change have severe consequences for distress migration. WFP has shown that refugee outflows increase by almost 2 percent for each percentage increase of food insecurity. This means that 800.00 people will migrate probably to Europe in the coming years.

Measures are needed such as:

- Invest in sustainable development in all regions allowing people to improve their lives and meet their aspirations, by combining development efforts with economic links, such as private and foreign direct investment and trade preferences, to boost economic activity in ways that support inclusive growth, opportunities, prosperity, decent work, and job creation for local populations
- Promote entrepreneurship, vocational training and skills development programmes, in line with labour market needs and in cooperation with the private sector, with a view to reducing youth unemployment and compensating brain drain in countries of origin
- Strengthen collaboration between humanitarian and development actors, including by promoting joint analysis, multi-donor approaches and multi-year funding cycles, in order to develop long-term responses that increase protection, resilience and coping capacities of populations, as well as economic and social self-reliance, and by ensuring these efforts include migration considerations.

More food crises than ever due to conflicts and climate change

The main global challenge is the food crises arising from conflicts and climate change. Of the 30 million people living in South Sudan, Somalia, Northeast Nigeria and Yemen 20 million people are facing famine. Their lives are at risk! So, drought because of climate change and conflict taking its

unbelievable toll..

Causes are multifold, but there is one common denominator: conflict and climate change..

These crises are manmade. The 4 famines are example of how conflict leads to hunger. Displacement, violence, and the destruction of basic infrastructure disrupt and destroy lives and livelihoods. The entire food system is affected, from production to consumption. Rural people hit the hardest. Being farmers, they can no longer produce food, no longer sell it, no longer buy it.

Slowly but surely their reserves are depleted, for some up to the point of famine.

People are already suffering from hunger well before famine is declared. In this respect, famine is an outcome, the culmination of a much longer period of increasing food insecurity. In conflicts around the world, hunger is still a fact. From Syria, to the Central African Republic to Iraq and many others. In fact, 9 out of the 10 current biggest humanitarian crises are conflict driven.

Hunger can also cause conflict. This causal relationship is less know and less understood, but there are some powerful examples. The Arab Spring is a good example. The global food-price crisis of 2008 played an important role in the revolts in over 40 countries and the fall of several governments. As reminding us that that food security underpins wider societal and institutional stability.

Climate change is causing more and longer droughts

Of course drought has always been there, still is and will be in Europe, in the US, in Asia, but especially in Africa. Drought is a devastating natural disaster, which affects millions of life's and livelihoods, especially those living in semi-arid and arid regions. But because of climate change drought is getting worse than ever. Director-General Graziano you said at the launch of the Global Water Framework: we cannot avoid drought but we can stop the becoming a famine. Droughts are not only costing millions of life's. Also the loss in agricultural production due to droughts comes at high economic costs. More than 80% of the damages and losses caused by droughts are to the agricultural sector. The more a countries economy depends on agriculture, the more vulnerable it is for drought. Inefficient water management, rural poverty, soil degradation, a lack of coordination of mitigation policies and a lack of funds for drought management multiply drought impacts. The ones that are hit the most are small-scale producers and the poorest members of rural societies.

The pattern is well known: drought causes crop failure and livestock deaths, which reduces farm production, increases food prices, decreases farm income, increases unemployment, urbanization and migration and in the worst-case scenario ends in famine. But we can prepare and overcome droughts. The traditional response to droughts is short-term provision of humanitarian assistance in the form of food, livestock feed, cash, and health and nutrition support. While humanitarian assistance is critical to ensure lives are saved in the immediate term, we need to tackle the root cause of this problem. We need to move from a reactive, crisis-led, drought management to a proactive drought management. We know all too well that early response to drought saves lives – and is much cheaper: prevention is better than cure.

In October 2015, it was estimated that a late response to the El Niño drought in Ethiopia would cost \$1.7 billion whereas an early response would cost only \$720 million. We have no shortage of knowledge, technologies, resources and good practices for addressing the drought and improving agricultural rural development. Technology is on our side. New technologies like satellite data - which can be used to map water consumption and crop growth over very large areas - are available for farmers. The challenge is

how we ensure that the knowledge, technologies and best practices are available for the farmers, especially in Africa.

Next steps

In 2017, The Netherlands co-organized a successful seminar on “drought, the forgotten story’ and series of seminars on this issue of Conflict & Hunger in New York, Geneva and Rome. The series culminated in the publication of the report ‘Conflict and Hunger: Breaking the Vicious Cycle’ in December 2017. The report of the conflict seminar outlines key pathways to address the issue of conflict & hunger. During its membership of the Security Council, addressing the issue of Conflict and Hunger is high on The Netherlands’s agenda. In the spring of 2018, the new Global Report on Food Crises is expected to show a further increase of the number of hungry people worldwide living in conflict situations. Against this background, The Netherlands will organize an event to launch the report and its findings and discuss develop durable and sustainable approaches to ending the vicious cycle of conflict and hunger. This event will not only follow-up on the original seminar series, but can also be the kick-off for a specific trajectory in Rome with FAO, WFP and IFAD in order to develop concrete, field-level multistakeholder approaches for inclusive rural development in (post-) conflict settings. This trajectory should lead to a concrete proposal/presentation of a pilot activity during World Food Day 2018.

In Rome, the overarching recommendation of the seminar was that food security and nutrition, as well as inclusive rural development, should become key components of the global political debate around peace and security issues. Conflict is indeed a significant challenge to achieving the SDG’s and a world without hunger and malnutrition by 2030. Innovative approaches are needed, and multisector humanitarian, development, political and peace strategies addressing immediate needs and investing in longer-term resilience are required.

More specific message were:

- *Exclusion, poverty and inequalities* are co-determinants of food insecurity and conflict. There is a need to link social capital with value chains, rebuilding local communities and trust in a way that incorporates disadvantaged groups and builds partnerships with civil society, in order to underpin stability. Attention should be given to cross-border approaches while understanding local dynamics.
- *Livelihood recovery* is neither automatic nor linear, and investments supporting livelihoods can effectively be made during all phases on the conflict cycle, not just post-conflict, and may be required for many years.
- *To consolidate peace and stability*, sustainable, resilient, risk-sensitive and inclusive food systems should be part of post-conflict planning, recovery and reconstruction. This also requires recognising and strengthening the crucial roles of the private sector and civil society in both recovery and longer-term development.
- *Critical elements in reconstructing sustainable food systems* include financial and social inclusion, risk management and insurance instruments, social protection, climate-smart agriculture, natural resource management and access to land and water.
- *Joint efforts and major investments* are needed of all stakeholders involved, including governments, international organisations, private sector and civil society. Silos between humanitarian aid and development should be broken down and new arrangements for collaboration should be developed.

Way forward

The crises are manmade, so we can solve these as well. Fortunately, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) give the global community a strong framework for action. The multiple challenges the world is facing in terms of food security, climate change, land degradation, depletion of ecosystems and economic and socially inclusive development require integrated responses and a transition to a sustainable, inclusive and resource-efficient path. David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Program, stated: “we cannot accept and we cannot afford to keep saving the same lives again and again.”

We have to do more than humanitarian help and building refugees camps. We need to make the move from saving lives to changing lives. We need to build robust, resilient and just food systems, recovery is undermined before it has begun. The millions of dollars invested in humanitarian assistance, must therefore also lay the foundations for a development framework. Investing in rural development and building stable and resilient food systems are an indispensable aspect of such a framework.

Matching private investments and sector

Major investments in rural development and agriculture should be made an integral part of rebuilding efforts. Investments in resilience are needed, especially in youth, with a focus on employment, in women, with a focus on access to land and credit and in (re)building value chains with a focus on private sectors.

Although the SDG underline the need for partnerships, especially with the private sector, the UN is not capable yet to get these of the ground. They have a traditional approach in which they focus on financing possibilities of their problems for which there is no real appetite in the private community. At the same time we see a huge interest of companies for social corporate investments. An excellent example is the newly formed coalition of Food and Land Use Coalition. This coalition has been formed to coordinate efforts to tackle the “huge opportunities and challenges” in how land is used to generate food. The coalition, chaired by Unilever CEO Paul Polman, aims to define, coordinate and accelerate the “transformation” of food and land-use systems in order to “regenerate” bio-physical resources, provide the world’s 9bn-plus population with “healthy, nutritious food” and offer 500m smallholder families a “decent livelihood” by 2050. The Food and Land-Use Coalition is a collaboration between private sector, governmental, institutional, philanthropic, academic and civil society groups.

Responsible investments in rural and agricultural economy, value chains and integrated markets have a crucial role for fostering economic growth, job creation and sustainable development. It can address problems of youth employment and offer new opportunities for smallholder, agribusiness and SME’s. Private investments, innovative finance solutions and public-private partnerships are essential for agriculture worldwide to meet its potential, as the public sector alone cannot stimulate the necessary agricultural transformation. More than incentive, farmers and agribusiness need an enabling business environment with the right regulatory framework. They need policies to encourage private sector investments, need access to agricultural finances and need to increase trade and value adding for key commodities.

Major investments and matching of private sectors should be focusing on:

- *Food waste and losses:* Within the SDG framework the group of Champions 12.3 focusing on implementing the UN SDG 12.3: halving waste and losses by 2030, brought for the first time in UN history a coalition with leaders from every sector, governments and international organizations mobilizing action to achieve success. Leading companies in the coalition are making fast progress in

reducing food waste in their companies and influencing the consumers in the last 2 years. As said a lot remains to be done. We see a considerable making progress in developed countries, but this is not the case in developing countries, especially in Africa. More than 75% of food is lost in production, handling and processing in Sub-Sahara Africa. Urgent action is needed there. As food waste and food losses are two side of the same coin, so should be the cooperation between the public and private sector. The champions formed an Agribusiness Alliance. With them it will be feasible to develop joint programs for post-harvest losses in several countries worldwide. The reduction of post-harvest crop losses increases the amount of food available for household consumption and as a result directly increases household income. Proven solutions to reduce post-harvest losses, in particular hermetic (airtight) storage, have been applied in Latin America with great success. However, this experience and knowledge has not been replicated at scale in Africa and Asia, where significant food losses continue.

- *Investing in employment, especially for youth:* only in Africa there is already the need for creating job opportunities for 30% of the youth, in agricultural value chains with support from public and private sector. Agribusiness incubation provide great opportunity to Africa, and investing in improved skills and competencies in agribusiness will create the needed expertise and workforce required for transformation of the African agribusiness landscape. With Africa's population projected to double from 1.2 billion in 2016 to 2.4 billion people by 2050 demand for food will increase. Currently Africa has the youngest population in the world, with 364 million Africans, of which most are not employed and are migrating to the cities. Africa is annually spending US\$ 35 billion to import food to feed its people, which means Africa is exporting its jobs to those it imports food from, while Africa has the highest concentration of arable land, ideal for crop production. Partnership for dealing with a range of topics such as animal and plant health, and Disaster Risk Reduction are needed, especially working with all relevant stakeholders through renewed partnerships and multi-stakeholders

- *Urbanisation and rural transformation:* urban growth increases food demand and spurs dietary changes in urban areas. New demand can create opportunities for rural producers to increase their livelihoods. 364 million Africans, of which most are not employed and are migrating to the cities. Africa is annually spending US\$ 35 billion to import food to feed its people, which means Africa is exporting its jobs to those it imports food from, while Africa has the highest concentration of arable land, ideal for crop production. Broken value chains and poor coordination weaken rural-urban links. Need to invest in rural urban linkages that benefit both smallholders and other rural residents, need to leverage small and medium-sized towns to link rural and urban areas, invest in policies and programs on social protection which can improve household-level resilience in rural and urban areas, need to support efficient and inclusive rural-urban value chains