



World Food Programme
Statement at the 73rd session of the Executive Committee
Delivered by Ms. Annalisa Conte, Director, WFP Geneva Global Office

Chairperson, High Commissioner, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

[Introduction]

I am honoured to address the 73rd meeting of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Executive Committee and highlight WFP and UNHCR's long-standing and committed partnership. Before I begin, I would like to offer on behalf of the World Food Programme, our hearty congratulations to High Commissioner Grandi on the renewal of (his) (your) mandate.

[Statement]

This year, due to a dangerous combination of conflict, climate shocks, economic downturns, and soaring food prices, the magnitude and severity of food needs have reached unprecedented levels. As the number of acutely food insecure people continues to grow, millions are at risk of famine.

With as many as **345 million** people projected to be acutely food insecure in 2022 (across 82 countries with WFP presence), **refugees and forcibly displaced persons are among the most vulnerable.**

WFP works closely with UNHCR and other partners to ensure food security for these vulnerable populations.

Despite the generosity of donors, adequate resourcing is increasingly insufficient and not in step with needs. **WFP and UNHCR are extremely concerned of recent and expected future underfunding to refugee operations.**

In at least **19 out of 42 countries where WFP provides assistance to refugees**, due to humanitarian funding shortfalls, **food assistance has been cut and refugees receive less than the minimum standard to meet their food needs.**

Some refugees are receiving only 50 percent of their minimum food requirements.

While WFP joins UNHCR to advocate for increased funding to refugees and displaced persons, it is paramount that we carefully prioritize the limited assistance that is available.



I am pleased to share one example of how UNHCR and WFP are working together to address funding gaps in food and basic needs assistance.

Established in 2020, the **Joint UNHCR-WFP Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub**, leverages the expertise of both agencies to identify and assist the most vulnerable, while pooling resources and achieving efficiencies at scale. Some promising outcomes of the Hub can be seen, for example:

- In **Mauritania**, WFP, UNHCR, the World Bank and the Government started including Malian refugees in two national social protection programmes that provide cash transfers to vulnerable households. The eligibility criteria methodology developed by WFP and UNHCR will now be used by the government for refugees.
- In **Rwanda**, WFP and UNHCR have worked together to identify different levels of vulnerability among refugees to tailor responses to their specific food needs. Vulnerable refugee households receive a 'humanitarian focused transfer' of food and nutrition assistance, while others receive livelihood support to enable them to engage in market-based activities that will gradually reduce their reliance on humanitarian relief.

[Conclusion]

High Commissioner,

The global food crisis is not just about hunger, it is also exacerbating acute protection risks, especially for refugees and the forcibly displaced.

WFP will continue to work closely with UNHCR, underscoring the importance of partnerships, shared responsibility and burden sharing to reach immediate and lasting solutions.

In closing, please rest assured of WFP's commitment and support to working with UNHCR to meet the food assistance needs of refugees, displaced persons and the communities that host them. Let me also emphasize WFP's support to UNHCR in the lead up to the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

Thank you.