



World Food Programme's Statement at the 2017 High Commissioner Dialogue on Protection

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The World Food Programme (WFP) wishes to contribute to the Dialogue from a food and nutrition security angle.

Studies, including a recent study undertaken by WFP entitled “At the Root of Exodus: Food security, conflict and international migration” found a distinct link between hunger and forced migration. There is evidence that countries with increasing food insecurity, coupled with armed conflict, have the highest outward migration of refugees.

A one percent rise in hunger means an extra 200 people out of 10,000 will leave their country. And for each additional year of conflict, an extra 40 people out of 10,000 will flee their country.

As Aya's story tells us, people often move several times before settling. That has costs – both human / personal and economic to host countries.

Clearly, self-reliance in food and nutrition security of both refugee and host populations plays an important role in protection and in prevention of further outward migration.

We find that both the CRRF and the WFP-UNHCR Joint Strategy on Enhancing Self-Reliance in Food Security and Nutrition provide innovative and useful platforms for this engagement.

Activities implemented in relation to these approaches are a clear example of humanitarian-development nexus in practice.

They leave no doubt that there is a need to combine humanitarian assistance with longer term livelihoods, self-reliance-promoting activities.

Because of their inherent vulnerability, the humanitarian food assistance for refugees needs to continue to be supported. But even in these situations, when market conditions were favourable, food assistance through cash-based transfers for example, has injected billions of US dollars into local economies, fostering agreements with local bakeries, supermarkets or grocery store owners or millers, while linking refugees to markets.

For example, working with CRRF partners, WFP in Uganda assists both 1.2 million refugees through life saving assistance, including cash, and some 19,000 farmers, both refugees (70% of them) and local, host community farmers, through the Agriculture and Market Support (AMS)

programme which builds their capabilities in post-harvest loss management, crop quality handling and access to markets. To further the gains already achieved, we also aim to scale-up livelihood activities for the next five years as part of WFP's Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022).

Let me conclude with some reflections on WFP's side on how to expand the practical implementation of CRRFs:

- From our agency side, it has been important to have the related activities included in our Country Strategic Plans, which are agreed with the Governments;
- Food security and nutrition-related solutions must include host communities and seek linkages with government social protection programmes, which allows for scaling up and sustainability of actions;
- On the financing side, we not only need greater burden sharing, but also longer-term, multi-year, adequate and additional funding – investing in durable solutions is better return on investment than dealing with migration of refugees.

We look forward to the formal launch the Global Compact for Refugees in September 2018 and to expanding our partnership with host governments, UNHCR and other stakeholders to support all those in need of international protection, assistance and durable solutions.

Thank you.

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