

GUIDELINES FAO



MUN DES LYCÉENS

9e édition - 2024



FAO Guidelines

Summary

Topic 1 : How to achieve sustainable agriculture to reach the objective of Zero Hunger?

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Introduction | 3 |
| 2. Hunger: the global situation | 4 |
| 3. Factors and potential threats of global hunger | 8 |
| 4. Brief overview of global agricultural production | 12 |
| 5. Keys to reaching sustainable agriculture | 13 |
| 6. Objectives of international cooperation | 17 |
| 7. Bibliography | 19 |

Topic 2: Tackling Food Insecurity in Conflict Zones.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Introduction | 21 |
| 2. What causes food insecurity during conflicts? | 23 |
| 3. Examples of conflicts: Syria, Yemen, Sudan, and South Sudan | 26 |
| 4. How to protect food security in conflict zones? | 32 |
| 5. Objectives of international cooperation | 36 |
| 6. Bibliography | 39 |

FAO Guidelines

Presentation of the committee

The **Food and Alimentation Organization** is the United Nations committee tackling global food security, agriculture, and rural development challenges. This committee is a specialized agency that works in more than 130 countries, with the objective of **“Helping to build a world free from hunger”**. It comprises 197 members: 194 nations, one organization (the European Union itself is a committee member), and two associate members (the Faroe Islands and Tokelau). Founded in Quebec in 1945, it has been working since to address issues related to food and agriculture on a global scale. Its mission is to ensure that people worldwide have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food and that agriculture practices are sustainable and contribute to the well-being of present and future generations.

The FAO works towards **achieving food security and promoting sustainable agriculture** by providing policy advice, technical assistance, and capacity-building to its member countries. It collaborates with governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to develop and implement projects and initiatives that improve agricultural practices, enhance rural livelihoods, and boost food production.

Key areas of focus for the FAO include promoting sustainable agricultural practices, addressing hunger and malnutrition, managing natural resources responsibly, and supporting rural development. The organization also plays a crucial role in monitoring global food and agriculture trends, conducting research, and providing a platform for international cooperation and dialogue on issues related to food and agriculture. Its work encompasses a wide range of activities, including emergency response to food crises, development of agricultural policies, promotion of biodiversity, and dissemination of knowledge and best practices in food and agriculture.

Topic 1 : How to achieve sustainable agriculture to reach the objective of Zero Hunger?

Introduction

Sustainable agriculture stands at the forefront of efforts to achieve the ambitious goal of Zero Hunger, a key component of the United Nations' **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) adopted in 2015. Integrating environmentally friendly and socially equitable practices in agriculture is essential for ensuring food security for all. This need for sustainable agriculture also emerges in the context of global alimentation discrepancies and inequalities, as today more than **735 M people in the world are currently living with insufficient food consumption** (which represents approximately 9.2% of the global population), and **2.4 Billion people are living facing moderate to severe food insecurity**. These figures will likely increase in the next years, as the world population continues to grow and is expected to reach 10 Billion inhabitants in 2050. The challenge is therefore plural: being able to feed the world and respect the Zero Hunger goal, which is about creating a world free of hunger by 2030 while developing a sustainable agriculture capable of anticipating increasing needs in the next thirty years.

Sustainable agriculture involves the adoption of practices that balance the **need for increased food production with the preservation of ecosystems, social well-being, and economic viability**. This approach seeks to minimize the environmental impact of farming, promote biodiversity, and enhance resilience to climate change while ensuring the livelihoods of farmers and addressing the nutritional needs of communities.

FAO Guidelines

The call for sustainable agriculture has gained momentum as the global population burgeoned and environmental concerns deepened. The Green Revolution of the mid-20th century, while boosting agricultural productivity, also highlighted the potential pitfalls of intensive farming, such as soil degradation and water depletion. This model of agricultural production has become even less sustainable in the context of raising awareness about climate change issues since the 1970s, which made the countries search for new sustainable ways of production. **This led to a paradigm shift towards more sustainable and holistic farming practices.**

The purpose of this guideline is to help you understand several aspects of the topic: the current situation in the world in terms of alimentation and hunger, the potential threats that could worsen it to help you measure the challenge and the need for sustainable agriculture, the difficulties linked with sustainable agriculture and the potential solutions and agreements. Also, keep in mind that the FAO is an agency of the United Nations, which means that the committee has the power of action to establish programs targeted at needed countries (technology sharing, assistance, food assistance in partnership with the World Food Program, etc.). But the committee can also praise for actions and write recommendations directly from states or other UN committees. The scope of your resolutions should therefore respect these several modes of action.

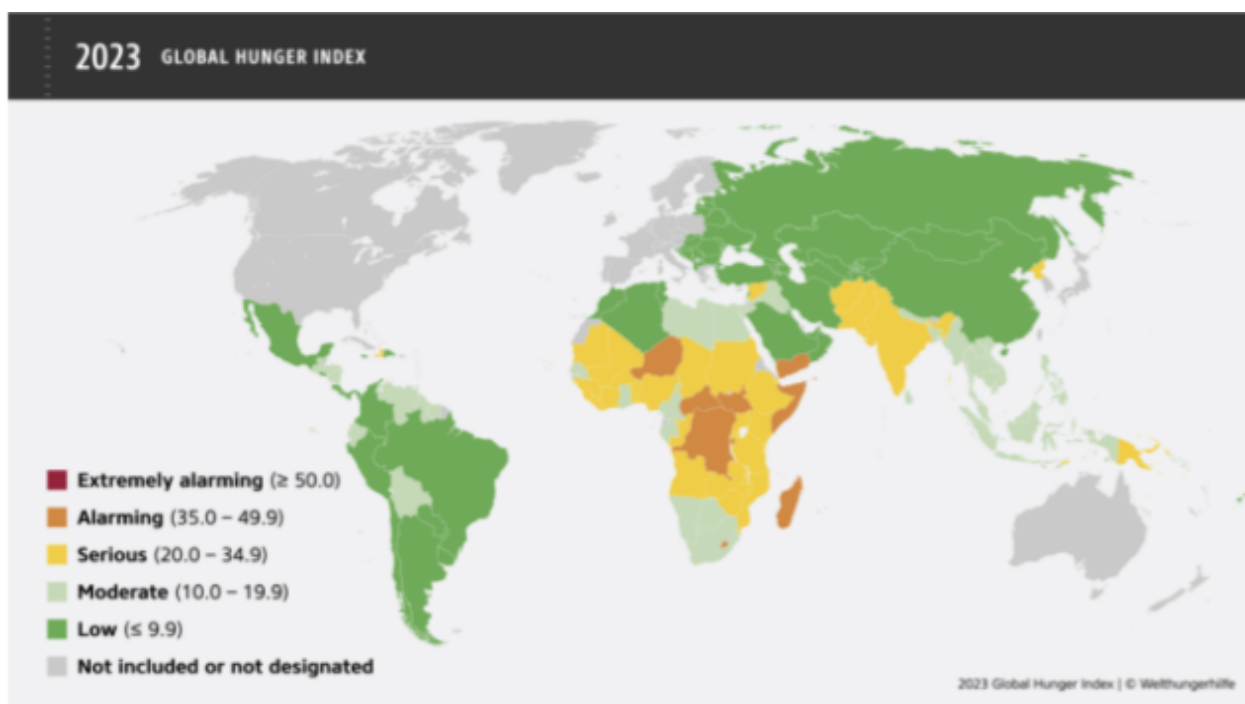
Hunger : the Global Situation

The Current Situation

To evaluate the current global situation of hunger, the most accurate indicator is the Global Hunger Index: The Global Hunger Index (GHI) serves as a tool designed by European NGOs, including Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, aiming to gauge and monitor hunger on a global, regional, and national scale

FAO Guidelines

This index is recalculated annually with data from the FAO. GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming. That being said, a map is established to show the global situation of hunger :



The 2023 Global Hunger Index shows a dramatic hunger situation worldwide. Global progress in ending Hunger is at a near standstill. The main drivers of hunger are conflicts, the climate crisis, and the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. These drivers come on top of underlying factors such as poverty, inequality, and inadequate governance. The situation is expected to worsen in the face of overlapping global crises. Without fundamental changes, the goal of Zero Hunger by 2030 will not be achieved.

Key terms: Hunger and Food Security

To understand the situation in a country, it is important to distinguish the different levels of malnutrition defined by the FAO. There are several of them, but the most two important concepts are hunger and food security.

- **Hunger** is an uncomfortable or painful physical sensation caused by insufficient consumption of dietary energy. It becomes chronic when the person does not consume a sufficient amount of calories (dietary energy) regularly to lead a normal, active, and healthy life. For decades, FAO has used the Prevalence of Undernourishment indicator to estimate the extent of hunger in the world, thus “hunger” may also be referred to as undernourishment. It represents in 2023 735 million people.
- A person is in **food insecurity** when they lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. This may be due to unavailability of food and/or lack of resources to obtain food. It represents 2.4 Billion people in 2023. Food insecurity can be experienced at different levels of severity. FAO measures food insecurity using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).

FOOD INSECURITY BASED ON THE FIES: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



FAO Guidelines

These two concepts are of course closely related: when a person is in severe food insecurity, he is likely to experience hunger. Hunger is therefore the consequence of an insecure food situation. Sustainable and regular access to food is the key topic to fighting global hunger.

Focus on several countries :

The GHI map presents a global idea of the challenge global hunger represents today. As it is shown, the main areas of concern are **Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East**, regions of the world in which food insecurity and hunger remain very critical issues to solve. These locations are places facing poverty, conflicts, or other environmental factors explaining the insufficient food consumption in these areas. The two following maps give you pieces of information about several countries that are the most vulnerable to food insecurity and several causes;



<https://plan-international.org/hungriest-places-on-earth/#:~:text=Across%20the%20globe%2C%20in%20countries,dramatic%20escalation%20in%20food%20insecurity>

FAO Guidelines



<https://twitter.com/trtworld/status/1663495475670990849>

Factors and potential threats of global hunger

Conflicts

Ongoing armed conflicts disrupt agricultural activities, displacing farmers and rendering vast areas unsuitable for cultivation. The direct impact on food production and distribution exacerbates hunger, leading to acute food crises in conflict-ridden regions. For example, **the conflicts in Yemen and South Sudan have resulted in severe food shortages, with millions facing starvation** due to the destruction of infrastructure, disrupted supply chains, and the displacement of agricultural communities. **The invasion of Ukraine by Russia also plays an important role in today's destabilization of the agricultural supply chain**, as the two countries are massive agricultural powers and especially cereals suppliers. The lack of Ukrainian production and the sanction against Russia led to prices rising to unexpected levels, which affected the capacity of hundreds of millions to feed themselves.

Climate Crisis

The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires, pose significant threats to global food systems. Unpredictable weather patterns disrupt planting and harvesting seasons, leading to crop failures and reduced yields. **Recent heatwaves in Europe and wildfires in Australia have adversely affected crop yields,** contributing to increased food prices and food insecurity. In Western African countries, especially those in the Sahel, **the expansion of the Saharian Desert and the aridification of the soils are massively threatening traditional agricultural exploitations,** as the soil becomes less and less fertile and will not be exploitable in the future.

Economic Consequences of COVID-19:

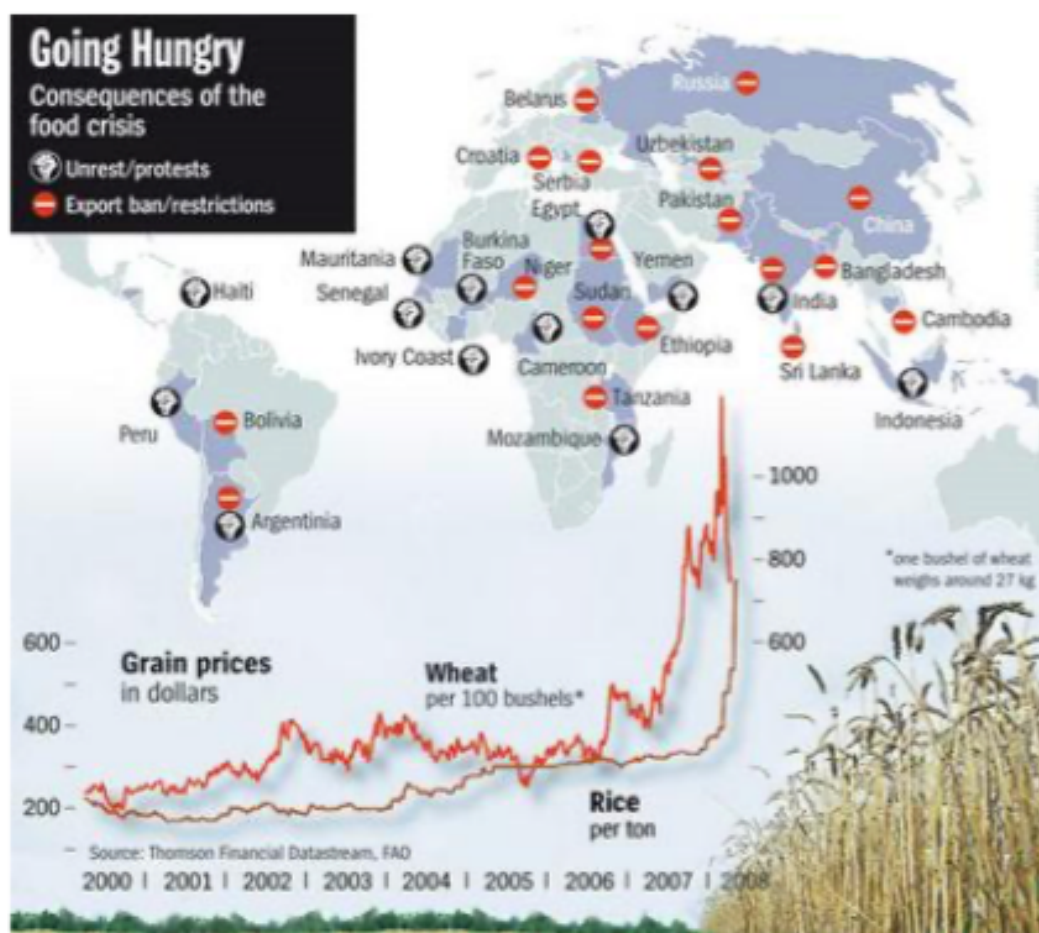
The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed economic shocks worldwide, impacting both the demand and supply sides of the food system. Disruptions in transportation, trade restrictions, and labor shortages have disrupted the production, distribution, and affordability of food. Lockdowns and movement restrictions have hindered the mobility of agricultural laborers and disrupted supply chains, leading to increased food prices and decreased access to nutritious food, especially for vulnerable populations.

Inequality and Poverty:

Persistent poverty and inequality exacerbate food insecurity, limiting access to nutritious food for large segments of the population. Marginalized communities, particularly in developing countries, face challenges in breaking the cycle of poverty and achieving food security. For example, subsistence farmers in low-income countries often lack access to modern agricultural technologies, credit, and markets, perpetuating their vulnerability to hunger and malnutrition.

FAO Guidelines

This poverty also exposes the population to price fluctuations and crises that raise the prices of alimentation and threaten the food security of the poorest people. An example of this is **the food riots of 2007-2008** when prices of crucial foodstuffs such as milk and cereals rose sharply (by almost 37% in 2007 and 58% in 2008 for imports from the poorest countries) due to lack of production and insatiable financial context, that resulted in many countries banning exportations of their production. The FAO evaluated that **37 countries** (like Senegal, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Mexico, Pakistan, etc.) were affected and "requiring external assistance". Riots broke out in some countries and political destabilization ensued. The WFP had to intervene to stabilize international prices and offer emergency aid plans to populations in need.



<https://libcom.org/article/bread-riots-down-supply-chains-cairo-longview>

Inadequate Governance

Weak governance, corruption, and inadequate agricultural policies contribute to food insecurity. Poorly managed land distribution, lack of infrastructure, and inefficient agricultural practices hinder the development of sustainable food systems. Countries facing governance challenges may experience mismanagement of agricultural resources, hindering the implementation of effective policies and programs to alleviate hunger.

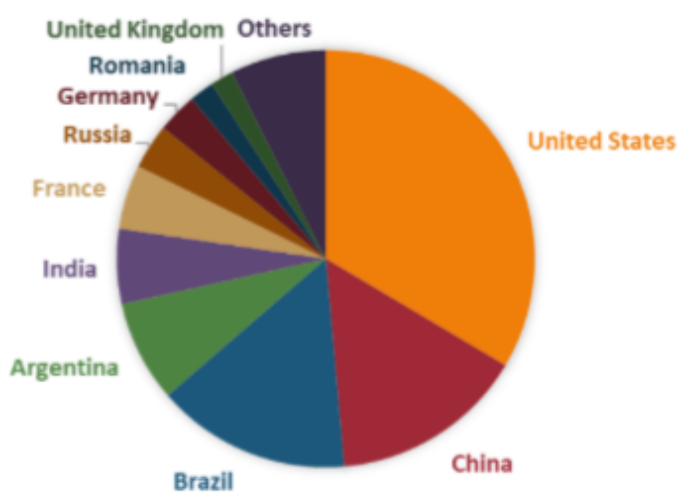
Demographic pressure

Demographic pressure poses a significant threat to food security as the world's population continues to grow. With an ever-increasing number of mouths to feed, the demand for food surges, placing immense stress on agricultural systems and natural resources. Rapid population growth often leads to the expansion of urban areas, resulting in the conversion of arable land into non-agricultural uses. This urbanization, combined with changing dietary patterns and increased affluence, further intensifies the demand for food, particularly for resource-intensive products like meat. As a consequence, there is heightened pressure on water resources, soil fertility, and biodiversity, leading to unsustainable agricultural practices and potential environmental degradation. To give you some key figures about demographic pressure, the world population is expected to reach **9,7 Billion people by 2050**. This growth will be mostly driven by countries that already face strong food insecurity issues: for example, Subsaharian countries will see their population double by 2050, and countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania or Nigeria, but also India, Pakistan, the Philippines or Egypt will be the driver of demographic growth. Most of these countries already face today the challenge of hunger.

Brief overview of global agricultural production

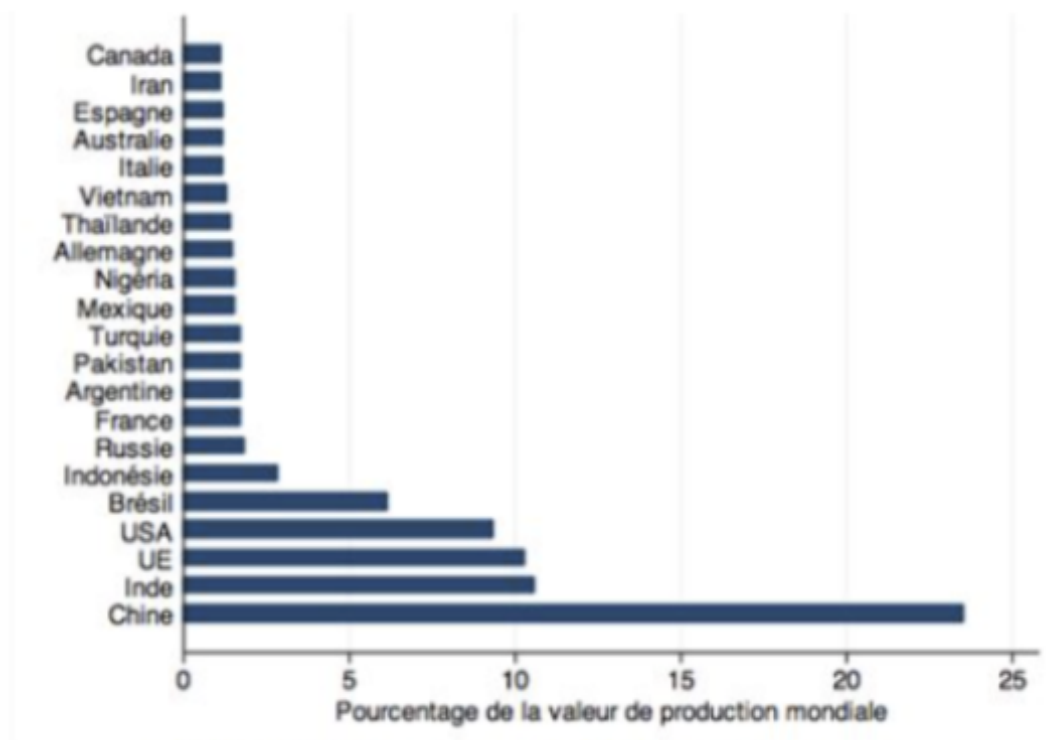
As we assess how to end global hunger sustainably, it is also important to know how the agricultural international system is structured. It helps you to understand which countries achieved productive agricultural systems, and are currently in a position to share knowledge, resources, or aid for countries in need. However, productivity does not mean sustainability: current agricultural productive systems in Europe, North America, or Asia are systems that generate pollution and can not be considered durable. It means that in a global effort to build a sustainable agricultural system, **these countries also have a role to play in transforming their agricultural systems into durable and sustainable systems.** Therefore, the most productive and developed countries have a double role to play: assisting countries in need, and making their agricultural systems evolve. That being said, here is information about the most productive agricultural countries in the world.

TOP AGRICULTURAL PRODUCING COUNTRIES
MILLION METRIC TONNES



<https://earthdailyagro.com/how-are-you-monitoring-the-top-20-agricultural-producing-countries/>

FAO Guidelines



<https://www.bsi-economics.org/408-agriculture-francaise-europeenne-dans-le-monde>

Keys to reaching sustainable agriculture

So far in this guideline, we have assessed the challenge that represents global hunger, and we have taken a look at international agricultural production to give you crucial knowledge on the global situation. As you understand, the agricultural challenge of our century is to be able to pass through these issues to solve them and allow everyone access to food. It means that the world has to build a global food system that can feed growing needs, adapt to climate change issues, and be capable of solving current increasing inequalities. The answer to this goal is sustainable agriculture. Being able to build sustainable, safe, and resilient agricultural systems in countries currently facing food insecurity, but also in very agricultural productive countries that currently have an agricultural system polluting and destroying resources will be the key to the global hunger issue.

FAO Guidelines

Sustainable agriculture means building a durable agricultural system, that allows every country or region to feed its needs and not be exposed to too unstable external dependence or too vulnerable to the climate crisis and catastrophes. Also, keep in mind that sustainable agriculture is considered by several agreements as a pillar to solve climate change issues. **The Paris Agreement (2015)** goals have very crucial meanings for agriculture, as sustainable agricultural practices are considered important for both mitigating and adapting to climate change. In this part, we will go through different keys for sustainable agriculture.

Agroecological Practices

Encourage the adoption of **agroecological practices that promote biodiversity, reduce the use of synthetic inputs, and enhance ecosystem resilience**. Techniques such as organic farming, crop rotation, and agroforestry contribute to soil health and minimize environmental impact. For example, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) involves using natural predators, crop rotation, and resistant crop varieties to control pests without the excessive use of chemical pesticides. This approach minimizes environmental impact and promotes a balanced ecosystem within agricultural landscapes. This kind of agricultural technique also joins **the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, adopted in Rio in 1992. This agreement promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. This includes biodiversity in agricultural systems, as diverse ecosystems can contribute to more resilient and sustainable food production.

Water Management

Implement sustainable water management practices, including precision irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and water recycling.

Drip irrigation systems precisely deliver water to plant roots, minimizing wastage and ensuring efficient water use. Additionally, rainwater harvesting systems collect and store rainwater for agricultural purposes, reducing dependence on freshwater sources and promoting sustainable water management.

Soil Health Enhancement

Prioritize soil health through practices such as cover cropping, minimal tillage, and the use of organic amendments. Healthy soils contribute to increased crop yields, nutrient retention, and climate resilience. As an example, Cover cropping involves planting specific crops during fallow periods to protect and improve soil health. Leguminous cover crops, such as clover, not only prevent soil erosion but also enrich the soil with nitrogen through biological nitrogen fixation. The FAO already participated strongly in regulating the way soil can be used, with for example the **Global Soil Partnership (GSP)**, established in 2012. This initiative is a globally recognized mechanism established in 2012 with the mission to position soils in the Global Agenda and to promote sustainable soil management. It works to improve soil governance to guarantee productive soils towards food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development for all.

Precision Agriculture and Technology

Embrace precision agriculture technologies, including data analytics, sensor-based monitoring, and satellite imagery. These tools enable farmers to optimize resource use, reduce environmental impact, and enhance overall farm efficiency. GPS-guided tractors and drones equipped with sensors enable farmers to precisely apply fertilizers and pesticides only where needed. This targeted approach minimizes the overuse of inputs, reduces environmental pollution, and enhances overall farm efficiency.

However, these kinds of solutions require technological knowledge that is not available in every country and funding that must be given to developing country's farmers.

Climate-Smart Agriculture

Implement **climate-smart agriculture strategies that enhance resilience to climate change**. This includes using climate-resistant crop varieties, adaptive farming techniques, and developing early-warning systems for extreme weather events. The adoption of drought-resistant crop varieties, such as drought-tolerant maize, helps farmers cope with changing climate conditions. These varieties have been bred to withstand water scarcity, contributing to food security in drought-prone regions.

Community Engagement and Empowerment

Engage local communities in decision-making processes and empower smallholder farmers through education and access to resources.

Inclusive, community-driven initiatives promote social equity and foster sustainable agricultural practices. **Community-supported agriculture (CSA) models** involve direct partnerships between consumers and local farmers. This fosters a sense of community, provides farmers with a steady market, and allows consumers to support sustainable farming practices.

Policy Support

Advocate for and implement policies that **incentivize sustainable agricultural practices**. This may involve **subsidies for eco-friendly farming, tax incentives, and financial support for farmers** transitioning to sustainable methods. Subsidies and financial incentives for farmers transitioning to organic farming or adopting agroecological practices. These policies encourage the adoption of sustainable methods and support farmers in the initial stages of transitioning away from conventional practices.

Research and Knowledge Sharing

Promote ongoing research on sustainable agricultural practices and facilitate the dissemination of knowledge. Collaboration between research institutions, farmers, and policymakers ensures continuous improvement in sustainable farming techniques. Participatory research projects where farmers collaborate with scientists to develop and test sustainable farming methods. This approach ensures that research aligns with practical, on-the-ground needs, and fosters the exchange of knowledge between researchers and farmers.

Objectives of international cooperation

In the pursuit of Zero Hunger, forging international cooperation is imperative to guide concerted efforts toward sustainable agriculture. As we assessed in this guideline, this goal means both handling food insecurity that is currently threatening hundreds of millions and also developing or changing agricultural systems to make them durable and respectful of the issues related to climate change. This goal requires cooperation between countries, and international agreements to promote and facilitate the use of sustainable agriculture. Therefore, there are several points you could look forward to integrating into your thoughts with the other countries involved, to create efficient cooperation:

Policy Advocacy and Implementation

Effective policy advocacy and implementation stand as cornerstones of success. Policy advocacy calls for governments and international organizations to incentivize sustainable agricultural practices through financial support and aid. However, the translation of these policies into tangible outcomes needs robust implementation. **Successful implementation demands continuous monitoring, adaptability, and collaboration between diverse stakeholders.**

FAO Guidelines

It is truly necessary to have both well-crafted policies and effective implementation to develop sustainable agriculture.

Resource Constraints

Dealing with resource constraints is a critical challenge in the journey to reach sustainable agriculture and the realization of Zero Hunger. Limited financial, technological, or natural resources pose hurdles to the adoption of sustainable practices. Financial constraints could threaten farmers' ability to invest in eco-friendly technologies or transition to more sustainable methods. Additionally, the availability of advanced agricultural technologies and inputs may be very difficult in certain regions. Overcoming resource constraints requires targeted efforts, including financial support, technology transfer, and capacity-building initiatives, to ensure that farmers, particularly those in resource-limited settings, can benefit from sustainable agricultural approaches. Addressing these constraints is crucial for creating a durable agricultural system capable of meeting global food demands while preserving natural resources for future generations.

Global Coordination

Reaching sustainable agriculture demands **collaborative efforts on an international scale**. These issues meet sovereignty questions of countries, economic benefits, and climate change adaptation. The intricate web formed by these interconnected challenges creates a situation in which coordination is a necessity. **Countries must design a framework for knowledge and technology sharing, technological innovations, research, and support for countries in need.**

FAO Guidelines

Essential questions you must answer to be ready

- Assess how much your country is affected by food insecurity and what are its need
- Assess your country's agricultural production: is your country self-sufficient or dependent on export?
- Which initiative on global hunger is your country committed to?
- Does your country take part in the actions developed by the FAO (for example the GSP or the CBD)?
- Is your country's agricultural system sustainable?
- Which efforts make your country achieve sustainable agriculture?

Bibliography

Here is a list of useful resources to use for your research

- The website of the FAO. You will find information about the history of the agency and its actions that could be useful for you to know :

[Hunger | FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

- Here is the database of the FAO, with statistics about every topic of this guideline. If you want to use specific statistics related to your country, it could be a useful tool : <https://www.fao.org/faostat/fr/#home>
- An interactive map of the FAO to evaluate food insecurity in your country/region. <https://www.fao.org/interactive/hunger-map-2023-embed-dark/en/>
- Another interactive map, that links food insecurity with Hazards, conflicts, or rainfall. Useful to assess the global context of your country or region. <https://hungermap.wfp.org/>
- To know more about the food riot of 2007-2008. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007%E2%80%932008_world_food_price_crisis

FAO Guidelines

- To understand the Zero Hunger goal in depth.
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>
- A report established by the FAO assessing the global food security situation in 2023. I recommend you only to read the brief, and look for interesting figures about your country or regions.
<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cc3017en>
- To go into detail about sustainable agriculture. _
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_agriculture

Topic 2 : Tackling Food Insecurity in Conflict Zones

Introduction

Ending hunger and extreme food insecurity is one of the main objectives of the United Nations, as it features among the **UN's Sustainable Development Goals**, adopted in 2015. Worldwide, the number of hungry and undernourished people had declined for at least two decades but began rising after 2015. Experts believe conflicts, wars, and weather events associated with climate change are the main reasons for this setback. As a matter of fact, **conflictual context is one of the major explanations of hunger in a geographical region. Among the 815 million people suffering from chronic malnutrition; around 60 percent lived in areas affected by armed conflict.** Wars are inherently violent and harmful, but the destruction of resources can sometimes create more catastrophic consequences than it does with bombs and bullets. Combats may plunder an enemy's food supply, deliberately destroying farms, livestock, and other civilian infrastructure. Conflict can cause food shortages and the severe disruption of economic activities, threatening the means of survival of entire populations, whether it is voluntary destruction as a war tactic or consequences of the combats. The history of warfare is filled with examples of military tactics deliberately used with the intent of starving enemy armies or civilian populations. Additionally, wars commonly trigger the displacement of huge numbers of people, cutting them off from their food supplies and livelihoods. Refugees are often vulnerable to acute food insecurity as well as disease. Many conflict zones need humanitarian aid, but increasingly, one or both parties in a conflict may block relief operations from reaching starving populations or even carry out attacks against humanitarian organizations.

FAO Guidelines

Lastly, keep in mind that food insecurity could also be a factor that precipitates violent conflict: resolving these issues also participates in resolving the conflicts.

On May 24, 2018, the **United Nations (UN) Security Council unanimously passed a resolution (Resolution 2417)** condemning the use of food insecurity and starvation as a tactic of war. It was the first time the Council had ever addressed the issue, **acknowledging a threat to the lives of tens of millions of people**. Aimed at countries currently engaged in international or civil wars, the resolution implores all parties to leave food stocks, farms, markets, and other distribution mechanisms intact. It demands parties in conflict permit humanitarian aid workers unimpeded access to populations in dire need and states that “using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare may constitute a war crime.” Therefore, to use of starvation as a war tactic is prohibited. However, even though the resolution was a necessary first step, its consequences are not tangible in the current conflicts. In countries like South Sudan, Syria, or Yemen for example, conflicts continue to severely threaten the food security of millions of people and create desperate needs for the local population. Countries such as Yemen depend almost exclusively on international and humanitarian help for their alimentation **(in Yemen, 90% of the food consumed is brought through international help)**. There is still a lot of progress to do to tackle food security in current conflicts. The purpose of this guideline is to help you understand the main information and concept of this topic: how conflicts and food insecurity are related, give you several examples of current food crises caused by military conflicts, and to understand what keys and objectives must be assessed to support food security in these areas.

Concerning this topic, the FAO has the power to propose actions within the power of the committee to solve these issues (through direct intervention, financial and humanitarian help, or through establishing standards and participation in humanitarian help) for countries. But as this topic is also related to Security Council issues, you can also propose solutions and recommendations more related to its concerns that the Security Council should adopt.

What causes food insecurity during conflicts?

As conflicts disorganize the countries where they take place and the communities that live in these countries, it becomes very difficult for the local populations to secure access to sustainable access to sufficient and nutritious food. These conflicted situations create instability and make people vulnerable to hunger risks, moreover when they take place in countries where food insecurity is already an issue (linked to lack of development or climate change consequences). To assess how to deal with food insecurity in conflict zones, it is important to look deep into the factors that explain the correlation between conflicts and food insecurity.

Disruption of Agriculture and Food Production

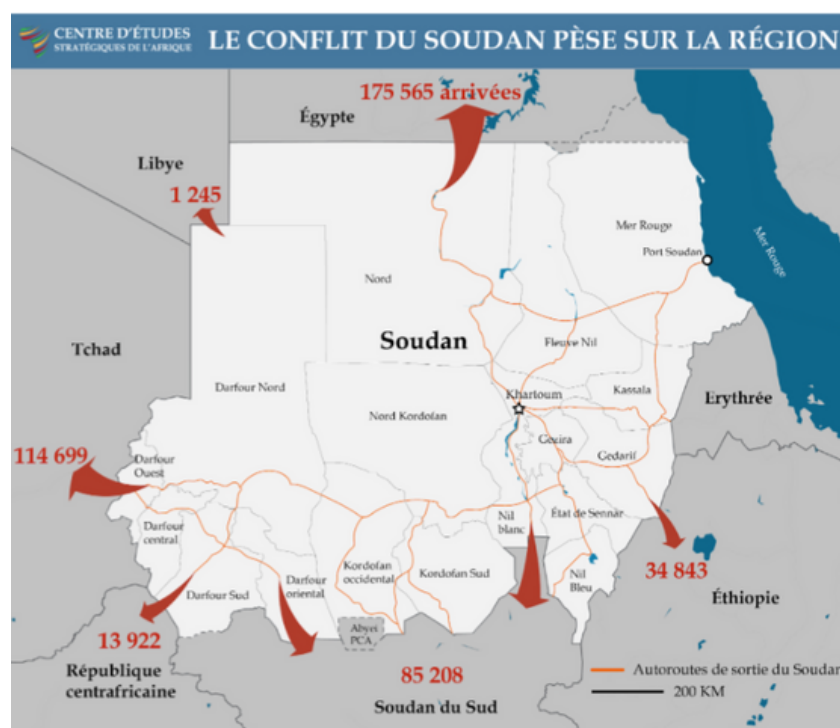
The disruption of agriculture and food production in conflict zones is a challenge caused by the physical destruction of essential infrastructure, displacement of farming communities, and the breakdown of established agricultural practices. For example, **the Syrian conflict has seen extensive damage to farmlands, irrigation systems, and livestock, causing a substantial decline in agricultural output.** The forced migration of farmers reinforces the issue, resulting in reduced crop yields and food shortages.

FAO Guidelines

The destruction of critical farming infrastructure not only threatens immediate access to food but also the long-term food security of affected communities. **This disruption forms a critical element of the vicious cycle between conflicts and food insecurity.**

Forced Displacement and Refugees

Forced displacement and the ensuing refugee crisis significantly contribute to food insecurity. When conflict starts, populations have to flee their homes, abandoning not only their homes but also their traditional means of sustenance, including agricultural lands. The resulting influx of refugees puts pressure on the countries they arrive and overwhelms existing resources, leading to increased dependence on humanitarian aid for food. This precarious situation highlights the relationship between forced displacement and food insecurity, as migrations due to conflicts intensify the demand for immediate help while disrupting the self-sufficiency of affected populations. To give you an example, here are the figures on the number of displaced people in Sudan after the conflict started in April 2023:



<https://africacenter.org/fr/spotlight/le-conflit-au-soudan-fragilise-ses-voisins/>

Economic instability and Price Volatility

As conflict also participates in economic instability and economic factors are related to food insecurity, conflicts amplify the challenge of food security from an economic point of view. In conflict zones, disruptions to trade, commerce, and overall economic stability contribute to highly increasing inflation rates. For instance, in the ongoing conflict **in Yemen, the depreciation of the local currency and the disruption of economic activities have led to soaring food prices**, rendering necessities unaffordable for many. This economic turbulence also intensifies the unpredictability of food prices, making it difficult for vulnerable populations to secure a stable and affordable food supply.

Destruction of Infrastructure

The destruction of infrastructure in conflict areas, including transportation networks, storage facilities, and agricultural assets, exacerbates food insecurity by restricting the distribution and accessibility of essential resources. In regions in a war like Syria, the damage to critical infrastructure has not only impacted the flow of food supplies but also the transportation of humanitarian aid. Roads and bridges have been rendered impassable, delaying the response to urgent needs. Additionally, the destruction of storage facilities jeopardizes the capacity to store and preserve food, leading to spoilage and further shortages. The ability to maintain infrastructure is key to keeping an efficient supply chain and therefore limiting the impact of conflicts on the food security of the local population.

Lack of Access to Humanitarian Aid

The lack of access to humanitarian aid in conflict zones emerges as a critical factor intensifying food insecurity. In regions like Yemen, even though the country is excessively dependent on humanitarian aid, ongoing hostilities, and security concerns pose significant obstacles to its delivery

FAO Guidelines

Humanitarian organizations face challenges in reaching communities in need due to restrictions on movement, damaged infrastructure, and a volatile security environment. The limited access not only impedes the timely delivery of food supplies but also restricts the implementation of crucial interventions such as nutrition programs and medical assistance. The resulting difficulties in bringing aid exacerbate the vulnerability of affected populations, reinforcing the imperative for concerted efforts to overcome logistical and security barriers to ensure the effective delivery of humanitarian support in conflicted areas.

Exploitation of Food as a Weapon

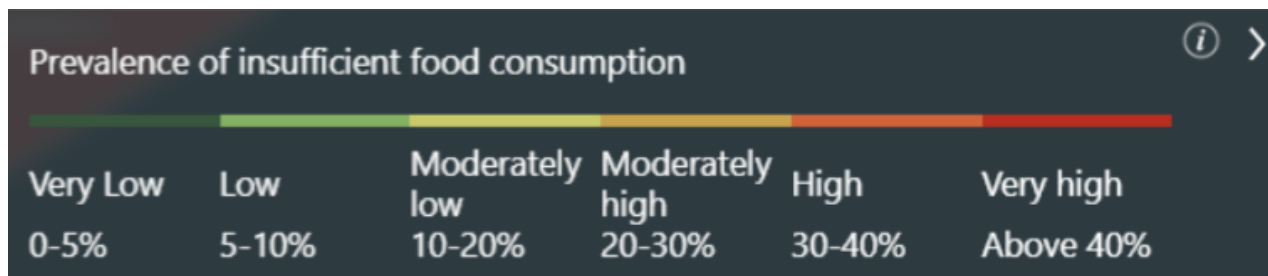
The deliberate exploitation of food as a weapon in conflict zones represents a tactic employed by some armed groups to exert control and manipulate vulnerable populations. In the context of the Syrian conflict, certain factions have strategically used control over food resources. By restricting access to food, these groups seek to assert dominance, instill fear, and manipulate the behavior of communities. This reprehensible and illegal strategy not only exacerbates food insecurity but also reinforces a cycle of dependence and vulnerability among the affected population. Even if these tactics are prohibited and condemned by the Security Council, **they are still used by military groups or powers.**

Examples of conflicts: Syria, Yemen, Sudan, and South Sudan

In this part, I want to show you how concretely conflicts affect food security in several countries currently facing severe food crises. Keep in mind that the list I am going to explore is not exhaustive. I chose these cases because they expose several crucial factors, but please search the factors and the local situation for every country you will be interested in looking at.

FAO Guidelines

To indicate the food insecurity situation, I use the interactive map designed by the World Food Program (WFP), using real-time data. I advise you to use it when assessing the situation of your country. This map evaluates the insufficiency of food consumption, with the following legend scaling the degree of insufficiency:



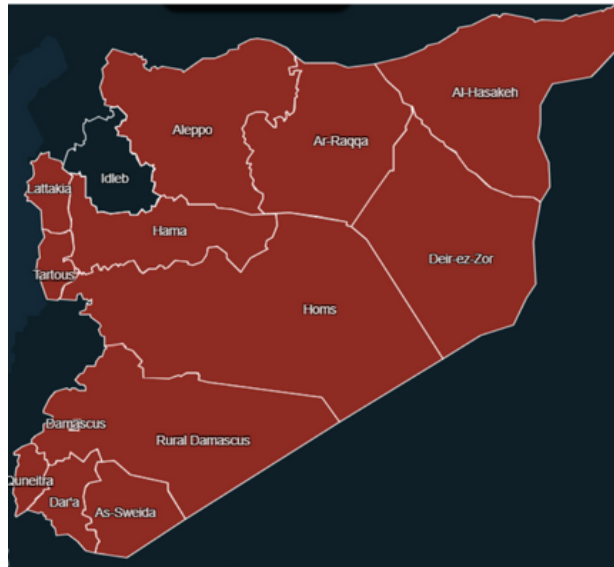
<https://hungermap.wfp.org>

Syria

Syria has been facing since 2011 a very serious food crisis, as an aftermath of the civil war that began that year and is still going on. The Syrian Civil War is an incredibly complex conflict, started in 2011 during the Arab Spring and turned into a civil war, with multiple factions opposing each other, implying Syria but also bigger powers such as Turkey or Russia, or the terrorist group Islamic State. Its consequences on the Syrian population have been absolutely disastrous and deadly. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a United Kingdom-based war monitor, estimates the total death toll to be about **610,000**. Part of its consequences for the population is also a terrible food crisis, as food security is impossible to assure in the country anymore. Currently, more than half of the Syrian population lives with insufficient food consumption (**12.2M** people among 20.4 M Syrians), and **2.6M** more people are at risk of becoming food insecure. The war has destroyed the majority of food infrastructures in the country and forced around 10 million people to leave their homes (or the country) and become refugees, destroying the capacity of the country to produce its food consumption.

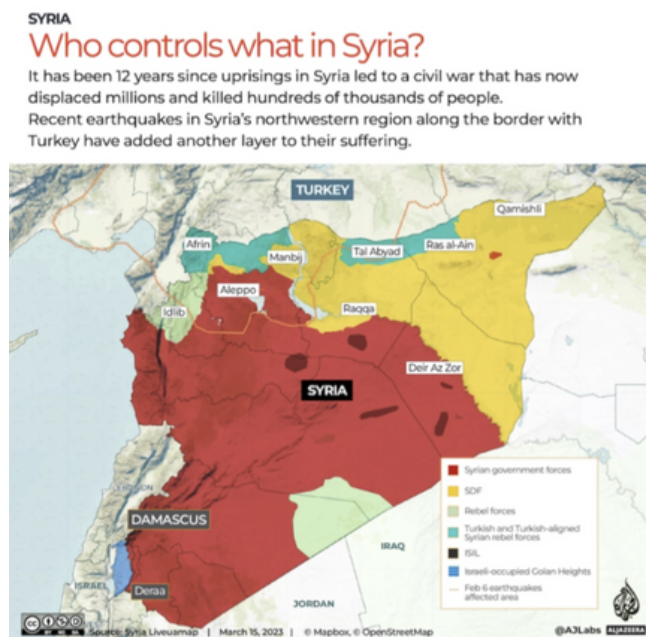
FAO Guidelines

Therefore, Syria depends on humanitarian help to feed its needs, but it is currently insufficient to meet the country's increasing needs. Long-standing issues such as widespread destruction, the collapse of national safety nets, and the shortage of resources require urgent attention and interventions that can prevent a worsening of the situation.



<https://hungermap.wfp.org>

A map for you to understand the complexity of the conflict today



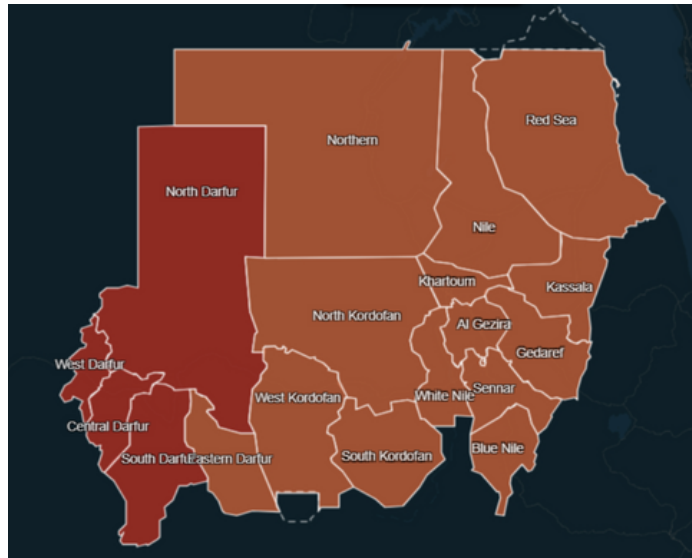
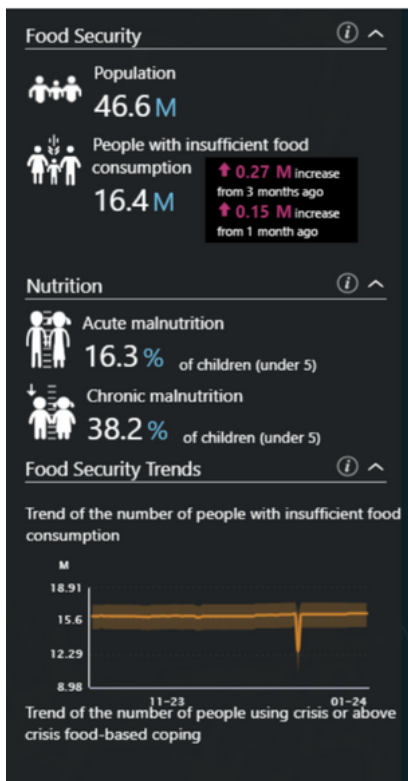
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/15/twelve-years-on-from-the-beginning-of-syrias-war>

Sudan

Sudan has been facing cycling internal conflict since its independence in 1956: there have been four civil wars in the country: 1955-72, 1983-2005, 2003-2020, and the current one started in April 2023. Therefore, constant instability has hindered the development of the country, today one of the poorest in the world and one in which food insecurity has always been an issue. However, the recent context and the civil war currently going on have increased the risk of hunger in the country dramatically. The conflict is principally focused on the Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan regions.

Since 2019, the number of people facing acute food insecurity has more than tripled from **5.8 million to nearly 17 million**. Nearly **5 million** of these are in **emergency levels of hunger**. Sudan faces the worst displacement crisis in the world, as the conflict continues to force millions of people from their homes. This influx of displaced people puts severe pressure on already scarce resources, threatening to destabilize the entire region unless urgent action is taken to prevent the crisis from spiraling out of control. Moreover, the food crisis has been further compounded by economic mismanagement that has led to 400 percent inflation in the country. In the Darfur region (the most impacted of Sudan), the United Nations fears **“a catastrophic famine”** in the next months due to the incapacity of humanitarian aid to reach the population in need.

FAO Guidelines

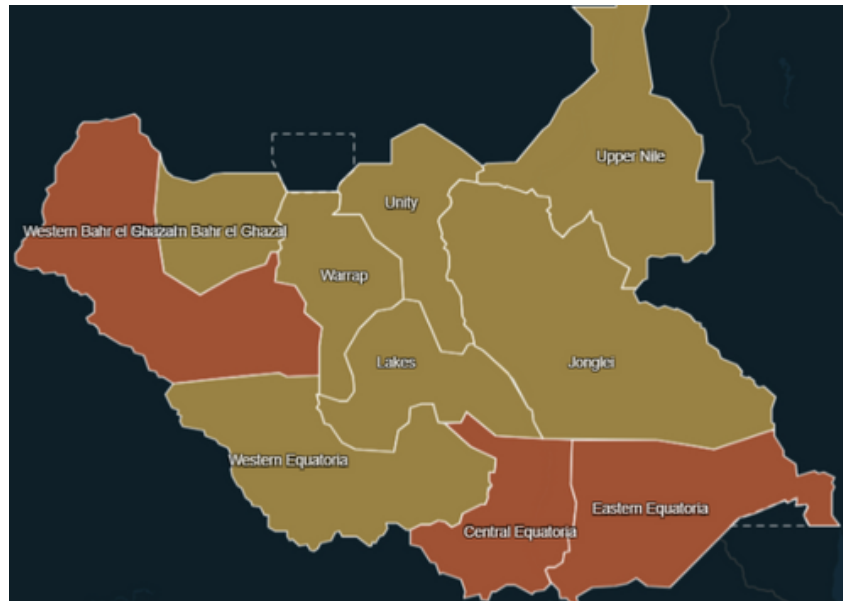


<https://hungermap.wfp.org>

South Sudan

Since its independence in 2011, South Sudan has been facing an internal crisis and has not been able to reach political stability and global security. Due to a civil war that has dragged on for a decade (between 2011 and 2020), South Sudan has had a persistently high number of people experiencing food crises despite being one of the most fertile and land-abundant countries on the continent.

This led the country to a current difficult position in terms of food insecurity: almost one third of the population is living with insufficient food consumption (**3.3 Million** for 11.0 M inhabitants), with a specific issue of chronic malnutrition for children under 5 years of age (**31.3%**). This figure is also explained by difficulties for the local population to find necessities at a price they can afford since poverty is also an impactful issue in the country (it is the seventh poorest country in the world) However, the situation tends to be better through the years with the end of the civil war, even if the stability is not fully assured. In 2018, it was approximately **7 Million South Sudanese were suffering from food insecurity**.



<https://hungermap.wfp.org>

How to protect food security in conflict zones?

Ceasefire and Conflict Resolution

Ceasefires and conflict resolutions play a crucial role in limiting the impact of armed conflicts on food security and humanitarian conditions. A ceasefire involves a temporary cessation of hostilities, providing a window of opportunity for diplomatic negotiations and peacebuilding efforts; but also a relief and the possibility for humanitarian support to act in the country. An example is the **Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)** signed in 2005 between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), ending a decades-long civil war. The CPA not only included a ceasefire but also outlined provisions for power-sharing, wealth distribution, and the eventual secession of South Sudan.

This landmark agreement created a foundation for conflict resolution, fostering an environment where humanitarian actors could address the issue of food security situation in the region. Ceasefires, when accompanied by comprehensive peace agreements, enable the establishment of stability, allowing for the delivery of aid, resumption of agricultural activities, and the initiation of long-term development projects. This is the necessary first step for every conflict resolution

Humanitarian Access and Safety

Humanitarian access and safety are fundamental aspects of addressing food insecurity in conflict zones. Ensuring unimpeded access for humanitarian organizations to deliver aid is essential for supporting vulnerable populations. The **Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols** serve as international agreements that outline the rights and protections of civilians and humanitarian workers in conflict situations. For instance, the Fourth Geneva Convention emphasizes the protection of civilians in times of war, including providing humanitarian assistance. However, challenges to humanitarian access persist in conflict zones due to security concerns and restrictions imposed by conflicting parties. **The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** and other humanitarian organizations engage in negotiations with conflicting parties to secure safe passage for aid delivery. NGOs like the Red Cross are currently crucial actors in maintaining food security in these countries. Therefore, their action must be protected by the international community. Assessing how to facilitate the action of humanitarian support was also the topic of the **World Humanitarian Summit** (2016), which led to a series of measures to facilitate their access.

Establishing secure humanitarian corridors and adhering to international humanitarian law principles are critical for ensuring the safety of aid workers and facilitating the timely delivery of food and essential supplies to those in need, thereby addressing the immediate food security concerns in conflict-affected areas.

Early Warning Systems

Early warning systems are crucial tools in addressing food insecurity in conflict zones by providing timely information to anticipate and respond to emerging crises. **The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015**, was adopted by the United Nations and endorsed by 168 governments. While not exclusively focused on conflict zones, this framework emphasizes the need for risk reduction and the establishment of early warning systems to enhance community resilience in the face of disasters, including those induced or exacerbated by conflict. In conflict-affected areas, early warning systems may involve monitoring indicators such as conflict dynamics, displacement patterns, and market disruptions. The data collected helps identify potential food security threats, allowing humanitarian organizations and governments to implement timely interventions. Collaborative efforts involving international organizations, NGOs, and local communities are essential to developing and maintaining effective early warning systems that contribute to a proactive and coordinated response to food insecurity in the context of armed conflict.

Protection of Agricultural Infrastructure

The protection of agricultural infrastructure is a critical component in addressing food insecurity in conflict zones. International agreements, such as the **Hague Convention of 1907 and the Additional Protocol I**, specifically outline protections for civilian objects, including agricultural facilities, during armed conflicts.

FAO Guidelines

These agreements emphasize the importance of protecting essential infrastructure to ensure the continuity of food production and prevent further disruption caused by conflict. The protection of irrigation systems, farmland, storage facilities, and agricultural machinery is crucial to maintaining the livelihoods of local communities. **The Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Humanitarian Initiative** is an example of an international effort that addresses the protection of infrastructure in conflict zones. SAFE promotes the safe and sustainable provision of energy, including for agricultural activities, in humanitarian settings. Protecting agricultural infrastructure not only helps preserve local food production but also supports the overall resilience of communities by enabling them to recover and rebuild their lives amid conflict-related challenges.

Long-Term Development Planning

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), emphasize the importance of building peaceful and inclusive societies. Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 1 (No Poverty) are directly relevant to addressing food security and poverty in post-conflict settings. **The New Deal for Engagement in the Fragile States** is an international framework that promotes country-led, context-specific development strategies in fragile and conflict-affected situations. . It encourages the integration of peacebuilding and development efforts to address the root causes of conflict and improve food security over the long term. Sustainable development planning involves rebuilding infrastructure and revitalizing agriculture. It also necessitates the active involvement of local communities, capacity-building, and the creation of economic opportunities to promote self-reliance.

FAO Guidelines

By incorporating food security considerations into long-term development plans, the international community can foster resilience, stability, and sustainable growth, ultimately reducing the risk of hunger.

Objectives of international cooperation

Policy Advocacy and Coordination

Policy advocacy and coordination are fundamental elements of international cooperation in addressing food insecurity in conflict zones. Collaborative efforts involve advocating for **policies and strategies that prioritize the needs of affected populations**, promote adherence to international humanitarian law, and ensure efficient and principled responses. Coordination mechanisms, often facilitated by international bodies, help streamline efforts, minimize duplication, and enhance the overall effectiveness of interventions. Advocating for policies that prioritize the protection of civilians, facilitate humanitarian access, and address the structural issues contributing to food insecurity is a mandatory aspect of the work of the international community.

Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance is a critical aspect of international cooperation in addressing food insecurity in conflict zones. **Support humanitarian assistance means that countries establish an efficient framework of action for every international organization or NGO that is bringing help to the affected population.** The primary objective is to alleviate immediate human suffering, ensure the survival of vulnerable communities, and address urgent needs in a timely and efficient manner. Collaborative humanitarian assistance endeavors, often guided by international humanitarian law and principles, strive to reach those in need regardless of political or military considerations.

By collecting resources and expertise, the international community aims to provide effective and timely relief to conflict-affected areas, mitigating the impact of crises on food security and saving lives.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation constitute vital aspects of international collaboration in tackling food insecurity in conflict zones. It is crucial to assess whether the policies implemented are efficient, and if they succeed in reducing the risk of food insecurity in targeted regions. Collective efforts involve the establishment of efficient mechanisms to systematically track and assess the impact of interventions: it means collecting and analyzing data, ensuring that aid and development initiatives meet their objectives and respond effectively to the changing needs of conflict-affected populations. It is necessary to know in the future what kind of interventions are efficient depending on the context and the specificities of a region.

Capacity Building

Capacity building is a crucial element of international collaboration in addressing food insecurity in conflict zones. Collaborative efforts focus on sharing knowledge, expertise, and best practices to enhance the skills and capabilities of local communities, governments, and organizations. Coordination in capacity building facilitates the transfer of skills in areas such as agriculture, healthcare, and governance, contributing to long-term resilience. This collaborative approach supports local efforts to address the root causes of food insecurity and strengthens the ability of communities to navigate challenges in conflict-affected regions.

FAO Guidelines

Essential questions you must answer to be ready

- Is your country currently experiencing conflicting situations that threaten its stability? Or is it involved in a conflict in another region ?
- Assess food insecurity in your country: is it an existing threat to solve?
- Is your country currently participating in a support program to bring humanitarian help to countries affected by conflicts?
- Has your country agreed to international agreements on the topic?
- What are your country's actions on an international scale to help countries or regions in need of support?
- Does your country approve of the several agreements on food security (for example the SAFE initiative)

Bibliography

Here is a list of useful resources to use for your research

- To know more about Resolution 2417 of the Security Council about starvation as a war tactic. <https://press.un.org/en/2018/sc13354.doc.htm>
- Website that repertories strategic issues on the African continent and gives you an analysis of food insecurity in the continent. <https://africacenter.org>
- The website of the WFP (World Food Programme), another international organization working to solve food security problems. You can find detailed information on each country regarding this context. <https://www.wfp.org/>
- This interactive map is also very useful for this topic, as it underlines the impact of conflict on a region. You can get detailed information about every country in a situation of food insecurity. <https://hungermap.wfp.org/>
- It is a page of the Red Cross. It helps you to understand how NGO helps to solve these crises and what could be useful for them to act efficiently. [Food Security and Armed Conflict: Policy Brief | ICRC](#)

FAO Guidelines


- An article from the Red Cross that explains how international law protects humanitarian work. [Food security in times of armed conflict: What you need to know | ICRC](#)
- The website of the FAO. You will find information about the history of the agency and its actions that could be useful for you to know. [Hunger | FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)
- Here is the database of the FAO. It could be useful for you with this topic if you want to see how food production and food prices evolved in your country in a specific period of time (related to a conflict). <https://www.fao.org/faostat/fr/#home>


fao.munl2024@edhecnationsunies.com




EDHEC Nations Unies
24 Avenue Gustave-Delory
CS 50411
59057 Roubaix Cedex 1
France

 www.edhecnationsunies.com

 EDHEC Nations Unies

 edhec_enu

 [EDHEC Nations Unies](https://www.facebook.com/EDHEC Nations Unies)