

Draft Official Statement to the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
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Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen, Colleagues & Friends,

It is the vision of The World Food Programme to eradicate hunger in our lifetime, a bold aim that is central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This means prioritizing the needs of those most vulnerable, including the 821 million hungry people in the world today.

80 per cent of the world's hungry live in countries that are prone to disasters and face high levels of environmental degradation. Disasters drive hunger and malnutrition through the destruction of land, livestock, crops and essential food supplies. At the same time, hungry people are more vulnerable to disaster risk, and recurrent disasters create a cycle that traps them in chronic hunger and poverty. Increasingly, the forced displacement of people after disasters is a key concern that needs to be addressed through targeted interventions. In the past 10 years, we have seen that an average of 26 million people each year have been forced from their homes by disasters; over 80% of these were climate related.

Disaster risk reduction is a prerequisite for sustainable development and for eliminating hunger. Meeting the Sendai Framework targets and delivering on the SDGs requires catalyzing large-scale actions that build the capacities of the most vulnerable people and countries. WFP is committed to saving lives when disasters occur, but the increase in the number of extreme weather events and resulting disasters is happening so fast that humanitarian aid alone cannot keep up. That's why it is vital to put more effort into climate and disaster risk management.

We see an urgent need for decisive action at a number of levels: First we need to strengthen support to governments to prepare **disaster risk reduction plans** that integrate food security and nutrition. Advanced **food security monitoring systems** are necessary to track emerging risks to food security and nutrition and, inform disaster risk management strategies in the agriculture sector. Lastly, we need to **strengthen institutional systems, processes and capacities** to better forecast the onset of natural hazards and implement early, anticipatory actions that mitigate the severity of their impacts.

Given its long-standing capacities in emergency preparedness, logistics and engineering, the World Food Programme will continue to provide crisis alert and **early warning services** as well as disaster **preparedness, response and recovery capacity** —always ensuring the reduction of risk throughout its activities.

The World Food Programme works to address the specific challenges of countries which are affected by the **twin challenges of climate extremes and conflict**. More predictable and longer-term funding is necessary for humanitarian organizations to help these countries move from recurrent patterns of crisis response to a more forward-looking practice of disaster risk management.

Under our commitment to a world with Zero Hunger, the World Food Programme reiterates its support to achieving the Sendai targets in support of the SDGs. WFP has committed to support the **UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience** for a risk-informed 2030 Agenda and system-wide coherence and seeks to operationalize this plan with other partners within the UN System.

We must foster wider and deeper institutional partnerships and make full use of all global financial and policy instruments to ring in a new era of investment for disaster risk reduction. Without more decisive action, we will not stand a chance of stemming the tide against hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

Thank you