

LEARNING FROM THE 2018 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EU



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY:
A WOMAN WALKS TO COLLECT WATER
EARLY IN THE MORNING AT A CAMP
FOR IDPS IN BENTIU, SOUTH SUDAN.
WELTHUNGERHILFE/STEFANIE GLINSKI 2018

Leave no one hungry or malnourished

- **The world is not on track to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.** Hard won gains are threatened by violent conflict, political unrest and forced displacement. The impact of conflict on child mortality is starkly evident. The world's highest under-5 mortality rates are in Somalia (13.3%), Chad (12.7%) and Central African Republic (12.4%)¹. **The EU must strengthen policies towards preventing and ending conflict** and demonstrate political leadership at international level by addressing the double burden of hunger and forced displacement.
- Ensure the Multi-Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 reflects the EU's commitment to the principles of **leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first** by substantially increasing the level of funding for nutrition-sensitive interventions and ensuring budgetary control to reach the most vulnerable groups. Food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (FNSSA) funding must be increased and safeguarded as a key sector in EU programming.
- **Resource, re-align and update the EU's Action Plan on Nutrition** to reach those suffering the greatest burden of chronic and acute malnutrition. The action plan should be "fit for purpose" and focused on achieving Zero Hunger by 2030. Lessons from implementation of the Action Plan, and analyses of the impacts of forced displacement, should guide food and nutrition funding allocations, strengthen governance structures and support responsible private sector engagement in scaling up nutrition.

Implement long term solutions

- Strengthen the EU commitment to **build resilience at community level to sustain progress** in countries and contexts which are suffering the greatest burden of hunger and forced migration. The 2018 Global Hunger Index reports that there are 16 countries in which the hunger situation has either stagnated or worsened. Resilience building at community level is critical to the fight against hunger in these same countries.
- Ensure funding flexibility reflects the **multidimensional nature of poverty**, the **pathways out of it**, and the **need to strengthen resilience capacities**. Develop a more appropriate and comprehensive gendered approach to forced migration, recognising that 80 percent of the world's refugees have been displaced for ten years or more.
- Carefully manage and monitor implementation of the **EU External Investment Plan**, to measure impact and ensure sustainable development outcomes. Leaving no one behind requires coherent holistic approaches that adequately consider the economic, social and environmental stresses that result from protracted displacement on displaced people and host communities. Investments towards inclusive growth must meet human rights and other internationally agreed standards and promote sustainable agricultural practices, land tenure rights, access to markets, inclusive education, social protection to increase food and nutrition security.
- Building on its longstanding commitment to Aid Effectiveness, galvanised by the EU Consensus on Development, the EU must work towards **greater alignment of those instruments designed to tackle** hunger and forced migration, including EU Action Plan on Nutrition, the EU Action Plan on Resilience, the European External Investment Plan (EIP), the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), and the recently proposed Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). These policies – all critical in themselves - need also to translate into aligned, coordinated action on the ground.

Show solidarity, share responsibility

- Displacement is a coping strategy which people use to escape danger, whether political or hunger related. Drawing on its founding values, the EU needs to work at every level with greater determination to re-awaken a **sense of solidarity** with those who are forced to flee their homes. **Policy makers in the EU and across Member States** have a **responsibility** to use only **fact-based information on forced displacement**. **Policies** designed to assist refugees and IDPs should **strengthen** and not undermine the **resilience** of displaced people.
- The purpose of aid and its impact must **not be distorted by domestic policy interests** and must remain **in line with the poverty eradication objectives stated in the Lisbon Treaty** and the development effectiveness principle of **ownership**. Funds should be spent on supporting partner countries in developing safe, orderly and regular pathways for migrants across all skill-levels with a strong focus on the long term.
- Hunger and displacement are political problems. EU policy engagement on **displacement** must recognise the **root causes** and **drivers**, such as **hunger**, which link to European concerns on human rights, humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. In view of the **upcoming elections**, the European Parliament and Parliaments at member state level, as well as the EU Commission and national governments, should engage their European electorate in **holistic, fact-based understanding of, and debate on migration, displacement and refugees**.

For further information on the 2018 Global Hunger Index, please visit www.globalhungerindex.com

For further information on Alliance2015, please contact info@alliance2015.org