# Workshop Proceedings: Global Hunger Index 2021 Launching Workshop

Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and Alliance 2015









Prepared by: Kab Consulting +251930033039 / kab.consulting.training@gmail.com
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#### **ACRONYMS**

A2015 Alliance 2015

CSO Civic-Society Organizaitons

EFS Ethiopia Food System

FPDU Federal Program Delivery Unit

FS Food System

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GHI Global Hunger Index

GO Government Organization

H.E His/her Excellency

NGO Non-Government Organization

SD FPDU Seqota Declaration, Federal Program Delivery Unit

SDG Sustainable Development Goal

SNNP South Nations, Nationalities and People

SUN Scaling Up Nutrition

SWR Stichting Wageningen Research

UN United Nations

UNFSS The United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards

USAID United States Agency for International Development



#### I. Introduction

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a peer-reviewed annual report, jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. It is designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels, and the report aims to trigger action to reduce hunger around the world.

The 2021 report is the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the GHI and was launched globally in October 2021. In Ethiopia, the report was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and Alliance2015, which also comprises the co-publishers Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. Alliance2015 is a strategic and operational network of seven European non-government organisations (ACTED (France), Ayuda en Acción (Spain), Cesvi (Italy), Concern Worldwide (Ireland), HELVETAS (Switzerland), People in Need (Czech Republic) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany)) engaged in humanitarian and development action, working together for 20 years towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2021 GHI launching event in Ethiopia was held on April 5, 2022 at Elilly International Hotel, Addis Ababa. The event brought together more than 98 participants including State Ministers and directors of relevant government Ministries as well as representatives of member organizations of the Alliance2015, research institutions, non-government organizations, donor organizations including UN and USAID, academia, consulting firms, and media.

Speaking on the occasion, Barbara White, Country Director of Concern Worldwide and host of the event, mentioned that the aim of the GHI report is to raise awareness for the global hunger situation and call attention to those areas of the world where hunger levels are highest and additional efforts are needed. It aims to provide incentives to act and improve the international ranking. The report is presented and discussed in many countries around the world to start a conversation on food and nutrition security with diverse stakeholders.

The launching event was marked by high-level remarks by government officials from Ministries of Agriculture and Health as well as a panel discussion facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) through participation of panellists drawn from government, development partners, and non-governmental organizations. This report aims to document the launching event and summarize key recommendations drawn from the panel discussion.

## II. Background

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) indicates that the level of hunger and undernutrition worldwide is *moderate*, at a value of 17.9. GHI scores are based on the value of four component indicators: undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality. Based on their values, the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale that shows the severity of hunger from *low* to *extremely alarming*; where 0 is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. An increase in a country's GHI score indicates that the hunger situation is worsening, while a decrease in the score indicates improvement in the country's hunger situation.

The GHI uses the most up-to-date data available for each of the GHI indicators, meaning the scores are only as current as the data. For the calculation of the 2021 GHI scores, undernourishment data are from



2018–2020; child stunting and child wasting data are from 2016–2020, with the most current data from that range used for each country; and child mortality data are from 2019. In 2021, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the values of some of the GHI component indicators, and in turn the GHI scores, are likely to worsen, but any changes that occur in 2021 are not yet reflected in the data and scores in this year's report.

This year, 19 countries did not have sufficient data to calculate GHI scores. Often, this concerns countries with conflicts or political instability – strong predictors for food insecurity and undernutrition. The countries with missing data may often be those facing the greatest hunger and effort was made to provisionally categorize as many of those countries as possible based on available data.

For the GHI 2021, data were assessed for 135 countries; for 116 countries, GHI scores could be calculated as data for all four indicators where available; 12 countries were provisionally designated; 7 countries could not be designated at all. Looking at the world on the basis of the severity scale, in almost 50 countries hunger remains a severe issue; in 1 of them hunger is *extremely alarming* (Somalia); in 9 of them, the situation is *alarming*, in 37 *serious*.

It is reported that the four Cs (conflict, climate, covid19, and cost) threaten to wipe out any progress that has been made against hunger and undernutrition in recent years:

- Violent conflicts are increasing, they are becoming more severe and protracted and are destructive to every aspect of food systems.
- Climate change is already increasing food insecurity through higher temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events
- The COVID-19 pandemic is worsening food security, with the full scope of the impacts still not fully known. The pandemic is increasing food insecurity in various ways, including through lost income caused by infection, quarantine, or government-imposed lockdowns or movement restrictions, disruptions to food systems or food supplies, and increases in food prices caused by these disruptions. The pandemic is worsening malnutrition not only through food insecurity but also through reductions in health care use, immunization, treatment of malnutrition, and antenatal care
- The cost of food has skyrocketed and is set to increase even further with the war in Ukraine limiting supplies of wheat and putting pressure on fuel supplies.

The 2021 Global Hunger Index points to a dire situation in a world coping with multiple crises. Progress toward Zero Hunger by 2030, already far too slow, is showing signs of stagnating or even being reversed. Although GHI scores show that global hunger has been on the decline since 2000, progress is slowing, while the GHI score for the world fell 4.7 points between 2006 and 2012, it has fallen just 2.5 points since 2012. After decades of decline, the global prevalence of undernourishment — one of the four indicators used to calculate GHI scores—is increasing. Based on current GHI projections, the world as a whole—and 47 countries in particular— will not even achieve a low level of hunger by 2030 (as measured by the GHI). The war in Ukraine is likely to have a severe impact not only on food and fuel prices but instability causing potential more conflict.



According to the 2021 GHI report, Ethiopia ranks 90<sup>th</sup> out of the 116 countries with sufficient data to calculate GHI scores. The slowing trend is reflected in all four underlying GHI indicators.

- Ethiopia's Undernourishment rate is considered medium: Although the value had been steadily decreasing since the first reference period 2000-2002, it has increased again in recent years. This is a worrying trend reflected also on the global level and may be a harbinger of reversals in other measures of hunger.
- The Child wasting rate is considered medium in terms of public health significance and decreasing since 2006 with an uptick in 2016.
- The Child stunting rate is considered very high. It has been steadily decreasing, but progress is slowing and Ethiopia has the 15th highest child stunting rate in the 2021 GHI.
- The Child mortality rate is considered medium and decreasing.

Violent conflict is a primary driver of hunger. In Ethiopia other key drivers include locust infestations, climatic shocks such as floods and drought and inflation affecting rising food prices and those of other goods.

Significant progress has been made in the last decades in Ethiopia to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition. Since 2000, the GHI score of Ethiopia has decreased by 29.4, which represents a percentage decrease of 55 %. This is in line with the high levels of economic growth, increase in per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and extended life expectancy. Despite the great progress, with a score of 24.1, Ethiopia has a level of global hunger index that is designated as *serious* requiring redoubling of efforts to address food security issues and get back on track to achieve Agenda 2030. The 2021 GHI score of 24.1 puts Ethiopia below the average for the Africa South of the Sahara region of 27.1, but still above the global average of 17.9.

## III. Workshop Proceedings

Dr. Sisay Sinamo, Senior Program Manager of Seqota Declaration, FPDU and SUN Focal point at the Ministry of Health, served as facilitator for the GHI 2021 report launching workshop. He welcomed all participants after acknowledgment of Head of State Ministers from Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health and heads/members of Alliance 2015 organizations. Ahead of opening the workshop, Dr. Sisay asked for a minute of silence for remembrance of the late Dr. Ferew Lemma who has greatly contributed to addressing malnutrition issues and enhancing food security in Ethiopia. He then invited Dr. Meseret Zelalem, from Ministry of Health, to deliver welcoming speech and invite key note speakers.





## 3.1 Workshop Opening

Her Excellency Dr. Meseret, who is Director of Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Directorate of the Ministry of Health and Chair of the National Food and Nutrition Technical Committee, expressed her gratitude to participants of the GHI 2021 report launching workshop on behalf of Alliance2015 members. She addressed that in the last sixteen years, since it's first publication, the GHI report has been measuring and tracking key indicators at national and regional level to create awareness on chronic food insecurity



and malnutrition and helping to compare the levels between countries and regions and highlighting where the levels of hunger are higher requiring additional efforts. She noted that the launching of the GHI 2021 report is timely and highly important as it provides an opportunity to reflect on how to tackle nutrition and food insecurity issues in Ethiopia and facilitate a journey towards sustainable food systems. Her Excellency Dr. Meseret emphasized the relevance and timeliness of the report to the current context of Ethiopia as it describes the effects of conflict, COVID 19

and climate change which were obstacles for the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition. She recalled that the Ethiopian government was progressing well since the year 2000, but the hindrances mentioned have negatively affected the progress in the recent years. She said 'this year's GHI report aims to provide evidence, key examples and recommendations which support the government, civic society organizations (CSOs) and development partners to share approaches and create conducive condition for food systems and transformation in a conflict setting'. After her opening speech, Her Excellency Dr. Meseret invited Excellency Dr. Fikru Regassa and Dereje Dhuguma, State Ministers of Agriculture and Health, respectively, for their key note addresses and opening speech.

His Excellency Dr. Melese Mekonnen, State Minister of Agriculture, expressed his appreciation of the GHI 2021 report as comprehensive measuring food security status of nations and regions despite the complexity of measurement of hunger. He also appreciated his country's performance as admirable citing to the fact that Ethiopia's hunger index has decreased by 29.4 points, which is a decline of 55%, since 2000. On the other hand, he expressed his discontent that the fight against malnutrition and hunger as a country has been challenged by conflicts (in Northern part of Ethiopia), desert locust, climate changes (floods and droughts in parts of Oromia, Somali and Southern part), COVID 19 pandemic, decline in financial supports and national



trade shortfall which caused high inflation. 'Ethiopia's progress towards zero hunger in 2030 is far too slow and with the conflict leaving more than a million people facing severe food insecurity in Tigray, Afar and Amhara, are signs of the plans being reversed' he said. His Excellency Dr. Melese noted in his speech



that the government of Ethiopia launched the country's food system process in November 2020, organized by his excellency Mr. Oumer Hussien, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and her excellency Dr. Lia Tadesse, Minister, Ministry of Health to fight food insecurity. The system is developed around the 5 UN food system summit action tracks which aim to ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all, shift to sustainable consumption patterns, boost nature-positive production, advance equitable livelihoods, and build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

His Excellency Dr. Melese concluded his speech notifying that the Ethiopia food systems proposes 22 game changing solutions under six clusters which mainly includes ensuring availability and accessibility of safe and nutritious foods sustainably, integrated policy for agricultural transformation, digital technologies and innovations, access to markets and information, mainstreaming and managing risks. He concluded his speech by ensuring that MoA is committed to working in consortia with all stakeholders to fight food insecurity and malnutrition.

In his opening speech, Dr. Dereje Dhuguma, State Minister of Health, elaborated on the various polices and strategies the Ethiopian government is implementing to attain food security to all citizens. He mentioned that efforts made so far have resulted in positive outcomes including economic growth, increases in per capita income and life expectancy, decline in people living under the poverty line, malnutrition of children under 5 and maternal mortality and stunting rates. He also emphasized the 'home-grown' economic reform and a tenyear development design plan introduced by the new



government to speed up the economic growth and ensure food security. The government recognizes that food and nutrition security is citizens' right and it is working with partners to ensure the same both in emergency and non-emergency contexts.

In addition to the challenges mentioned earlier, His Excellency Dr. Dereje added that the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is likely to exacerbation of the severe malnutrition and food insecurity in Ethiopia. The established Ethiopian food system transformation pathway recognizes that food system is about people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. He added 'integrating a peace building lens in creation of resilient food systems, as well as the food nutrition security lens in to peace building can help advance both sustainable and equitable food and nutrition security and durable peace in Ethiopia and beyond.' His Excellency Dr. Dereje concluded his speech by bringing the evidence from this report to our serious attention and action. Based on this report, Ethiopia ranks 90th out of the 116 countries measured by the four underlying GHI indicators namely undernourishment, child wasting, stunting and child mortality. This is an alarming figure that requires all stakeholders' interventions. In this regard, the launching of the 2021 GHI Report and the Ethiopia brief will be an opportunity to bring all stakeholders together, reflect on the current situation and come-up with practical recommendations. This will inform the government and development partners to strengthen the partnership in improving the food system broadly and more specifically in conflict settings and develop a resilient food system and sustainable peace in Ethiopia.



# 3.2 Presentations and plenary discussion: GHI 2021 and Ethiopia Food System Road Map



Barbara White, Concern Worldwide Country Director and host of the launching event, and Dr. Mulgeta Terfa, Senior Adviser for Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture at the Ministry of Agriculture gave presentations on Global Hunger Index and the Ethiopian Food System, respectively.

In her presentation, Ms. White provided a brief overview of the Alliance2015<sup>1</sup>, which is the organizing body for the GHI report launching in Ethiopia. She discussed that this year's report focuses on how to break the destructive links between food insecurity and conflict, one of the

most powerful and toxic forces driving hunger, and three major thematic/strategic goals of the members. These goals are related to timely and effective emergency interventions linked with rehabilitation and development to disaster prone communities, attainment of gender transformative resilience, and food systems that are fair, inclusive and sustainable. She mentioned that collaborating on joint strategic initiatives to achieve thematic goals, building on synergistic strengths, transforming systems by contributing to and facilitating local and national level dialogue based on evidence generated from individual and joint programming and shared learning and resources for improved efficiency and impact has greatly contributed to achieving the goals.

Ms. White emphasized the sad and stark reality that the war in Ukraine is going to have a devastating effect on FNS over the coming weeks, months and years to come. She underscored that this reality makes the current theme, analysis – and policy recommendations – even more important and timely. This is a call – to all of us – to dig into the research in this report and take heed of the policy recommendations which are evidence-based.'

Ms. White also covered in the presentation how the Global Hunger Index measures the state of hunger using three dimensions; namely, inadequate food supply, which is a lead indicator for international hunger targets, including the SDGs; child undernutrition as children are particularly vulnerable to nutritional deficiencies; and child mortality as wasting and stunting only partially capture the mortality risk of



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See description of the Alliance2015 under Introduction section of this report.

undernutrition. A bleak statistic is that almost half of the children who die before they reach their fifth birthday, die because of malnutrition thus the importance of focusing on children under five.

The presentation also covered the positive and negative trends from findings of the GHI 2021 report. The positive trend, on a global level, is that hunger has decreased over the past 20 years and many countries have made substantial progress; 14 countries have achieved significant improvements in hunger, with a reduction of 25 percent or more between their 2012 and 2021 GHI scores (for example Bangladesh). On the other hand, the negative finding is that the progress toward Zero Hunger by 2030 is slowing or reversing.

Finally, Ms. White covered the following five recommendations from the report;

- 1. Addressing conflict ultimately requires political solutions and societal change. Apart from diplomatic conflict resolution, one avenue is to strengthen social cohesion initiative, promoting livelihoods and systems that benefits different communities that live side by side.
- 2. All actors must work to enhance the resilience of food systems to simultaneously address the impacts of conflict and climate change and to ensure food and nutrition security. Integrating a peace-building lens into the creation of resilient food systems and a food security lens into peace building can help advance both sustainable food and nutrition security and durable peace. The GoE has developed a comprehensive road map to include GCS to address MN and FS.
- 3. All actors must base actions on a thorough understanding of the context, and strengthen inclusive, locally led initiatives. They must address the need for transparency, accountability, and inclusive participation of those who are most vulnerable.
- 4. Donors, UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and local actors should commit to flexible, need-based, cross-sectoral, and multiyear planning and financing. They should strive to build and maintain cross-sectoral and long-term relationships.
- 5. Governments and donors must actively follow up on the UN Food Systems Summit by addressing the structural challenges embedded in our food systems—including inequities, market failures, health risks, and environmental and climate threats. Governments must use upcoming opportunities, including the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference and the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, to reinforce their commitments to achieving Zero Hunger.



Dr. Mulgeta Terfa, Senior Adviser for Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture at the Ministry of Agriculture spoke on the Ethiopian food system focusing on the context, processes, and current state. He described food system as a complex web of activities involving the production, processing, transportation, and consumption of food. It also involves the governance and economics of food production, its sustainability, levels of food loss and wastage, how food production affects the natural environment, and the impact of food on individual and national nutrition and health.



Dr. Mulgeta explained in his presentation that the UNFSS and EFS aim to transform food systems to support and accelerate implementation of the SDGs with four key objectives; i.e. generating action to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, raising awareness on the importance of improving food systems, developing principles to guide governments and other stakeholders to transform food systems and developing a system of follow-up and review to ensure the SDGs are achieved.

Speaking of the challenges, Dr. Mulgeta mentioned the problems of low availability and affordability of nutrient—dense foods, lack of food safety management infrastructure, lack of food fortification, processing and packaging, low dietary diversity, especially among infants, children, and mothers, shift towards unhealthy diets (especially in urban areas), limited dietary guidelines and education, lack of access to agricultural inputs and technologies, lack of access to agricultural and rural financial services, soil depletion, lack of adoption of agro-ecological practices, weak land ownership management infrastructure, weak market linkages, and limited value addition and processing capacity, high post-harvest losses, weak institutional support, limited climate adaptation and resilience. He emphasized the need for integrated risk and crisis management and the need for universal food access, especially in vulnerable areas. He explained that fourteen action areas have been identified to address these challenges and these also align closely to the UNFSS Global Action Tracks:

- Ensure food security & end hunger (AT1)
- Improve access to nutritious food(AT1)
- Make food safe(AT1)
- Enable, inspire and motivate people to enjoy healthy and sustainable options(AT2)
- Slash food loss and waste (AT2)
- Conserve and restore degraded natural eco-systems(AT3)
- Manage existing & transformed food system and sustain positive changes (AT3)
- Balance agencies within food systems(AT3)
- Eliminate worker exploitation and ensure decent work in food systems(AT4)
- Ensure a localized food system(AT4)
- Increase investment in technologies for smallholder farmers & promote sustainable agriculture (AT4)



- Ensure food Systems resilience(AT5)
- Provide universal food access and universal social protection(AT5)
- Build effective and an economy-wide risk reduction arrangement(AT5)

Dr. Mulgeta described that EFS has gone through a process of identifying, selecting and finalizing of socalled 'game changer solutions'. Accordingly, 86 game changers were submitted to the EFS Portal which were later on filtered and reduced to 22 game changer solutions. The prioritization of game changers was conducted by more than 120 participants from a broad range of government offices, NGOs, CSOs & private sector organizations, with a leadership from the EFS team. These solutions are categorized in to six clusters depending on their thematic focuses, as described below;

#### Cluster 1 Ensure availability and accessibility of safe and nutrient dense foods:

- GC 1: Strengthen the national food safety management and control systems of Ethiopia
- GC 2: Support diversified food production to increase the supply of nutrient dense foods (animal sourced and plant-based foods) through promoting smallholder, greenhouse and garden level production
- GC 3: Promote and enhance the production and consumption of fortified nutrient dense staple foods through using industrial food fortification and bio fortification
- GC 4: Rural electrification to promote environmentally friendly and climate smart technologies, including solar-powered community refrigerators and irrigation
- GC 6: Strengthen climate smart livestock value chains
- GC 8: Strengthen innovative strategies/ mechanisms of supply chain management and handling systems particularly for nutrient dense crops (fruit, vegetables and animal sourced foods)
- GC 19: Modernize and upscale indigenous food production and processing for consumption by the general population

## Cluster 2 - Sustainable and equitable consumption of healthy, safe and nutrient-dense diets throughout the life cycle

- GC 5: Improve young children's, adolescents' and mothers' nutrition and dietary diversity through a systematic analysis and a systems approach;
- GC 7: Promote innovations, government commitment and local ownership, as expressed in the Segota Declaration;
- GC 9: Sustained awareness creation and food and nutrition literacy to change consumer's behavior on the consumption of nutrient-dense and safe food through women empowerment and leadership in food systems;
- GC 10: National food based Dietary Guidelines to provide dietary recommendations for the Ethiopian population two years and older for increased diet quality and safety including dietary diversity and food safety for optimal health;

#### Cluster 3 - Integrated policy and system to promote Agricultural transformation



- GC 11: Implement land reform and land administration that will ensure the right to lease, and use it for collateral to facilitate land consolidation, adoption of innovation, and reduce environmental degradation
- GC 12: Introduce land use planning; resource planning, integrated landscape & watershed management
- GC 13: Address deforestation and environmental degradation through implementing the Green Legacy, the massive tree planting initiatives
- GC 14: Establish a finance system for farmers to access credit, get insurance services and offer farmers financial literacy to help enhance rural and agricultural investment

#### Cluster 4 - Enhanced digital technology and innovation throughout the food system

- GC 15: Selection and timely supply of agricultural inputs and technologies to boost Production and productivity using digital technology and innovation
- GC 16: Advanced forecasting system for valuables affecting agriculture-based activities on geospatial temporal weather models in Ethiopia

#### Cluster 5 - Access to markets, market information, infrastructure and specialization

- GC 17: Upgrading and strengthening national market information systems and related digital approaches for mapping to strengthen evidence-based agricultural development planning
- GC 18: Promote and facilitate the implementation of the Agricultural Commercialization through creating specific specialization corridor and/or production for nutrient dense commodities and strengthening market linkages (e.g. agro-industrial park)

#### Cluster 6 - Managing and mainstreaming risk and protecting the poor

- GC 20: Index based crop and livestock insurance as disaster risk mitigation measures
- GC 21: Inclusive & sustainable social protection transfer including home grown school feeding program and the use of digital fresh food vouchers among PSNP households with pregnant and lactating women & children under 2 years of age in *woredas* with the highest prevalence of stunting
- GC 22: Strengthen system for timely and effective shock response including the prevention and treatment of all forms of malnutrition wasting, micronutrient deficiencies and stunting

Dr. Mulgeta discussed on the need for socializing the EFS from political and operational buy-in perspective. He addressed the need for taking the EFS to regions as it should be according to the local context and the need to refine, harmonize, and strategize the implementation sequencing of game changing solutions. He also addressed a vast need of financing options of core capacities at Federal and Regional levels including repurposing existing funds, raising new money, etc. In addition, he discussed the need for briefing the EFS to government entities including agricultural and health advisory teams, National Economic Council, donors, private sector actors, philanthropists, coalitions, and media.

Finally, Dr. Mulgeta discussed on the developed coordination framework for the overall approach for EFS implementation. At federal level, the coordination will be led by the inter-ministerial policy body which



will have a secretariat, a multi-sectoral technical core team, and a cluster technical working group. The coordination will also be at regional, cluster and woreda levels including partners and all concerned stakeholders.

Following the two presentations, Dr. Sisay, the event facilitator, opened the floor for questions and reflections.

The first question was by Dawit Alem from Stichting Wageningen Research (SWR) Ethiopia to unpack the operationalization of the food system roadmap and coordination between sectors, which can be challenging, and how the 'game changing solutions' are implemented. Dr. Mulgeta noted that there is detailed operation system on how to go about the FS at least for one year. There will also be regional action plans for eight years, until the year 2030, which includes details and that will feed into federal level action plan and coordination between sectors. He added that all evidence is collected at small scale levels and there aren't other reliable sources. When it comes to national level, in addition to the small scale evidence, different sectors including academia, public and private sectors, and other partners are invited to measure impacts and scalability of the game changing solutions.

In response to the question related to chemicals that are harmful to health, Dr. Mulugeta acknowledged that the food management system in Ethiopia remains poor and emphasized the need for accelerating the controlling mechanisms of FS in the country to tackle the problem. He also highlighted that the use of chemical fertilizers is affecting not only the farmers and consumers, but also export of food items. He noted that this is actually added as one of the game changing solutions.

Dr. Namukolo Covic, Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), asked if it would be possible to consider preparation of sub-national data that can be compiled on the indicators for the GHI. Ms. White responded that this would be desirable, but is dependent on the availability of data at sub-national level that can be taken on board.



Still another question was related to resourcing of the specified action plan and plans in terms of engaging small entities in the game changing solutions. In response, Dr. Mulgeta highlighted that resource requirement is being costed and the costing plan will include all responsible sectors and it is anticipated that partners will provide assistance in areas of providing needed resources. He added that the costing needed for the coming five years will be revealed in short while.

## 3.3 Panel Discussion

The event facilitator, Dr. Sisay Sinamo, introduced and called up on Dr. Namukolo Covic, Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), who moderated the panel discussion. Dr. Covic



introduced the five panellists drawn from government, multilateral agencies and development partners as well as local Non-Governmental Organizations namely:

- H.E Dr. Mandefro Nigussie | CEO, Agricultural Transformation Institute
- H.E Dr Meseret Zelalem | Director, Maternal & Child Health and Nutrition Directorate and Chair for National Food and Nutrition Technical Committee
- Dr. Filippo Dibari | Nutrition Team Leader Program Unit, WFP, Ethiopia Country Office
- Mr. Mark Henderson | Deputy Chief, Economic Growth & Transformation Office, USAID/Ethiopia
- Ms. Valerie Browning | Program Manager, Afar Pastoralist Development



Dr. Namukolo started the panel by mentioning that panelists are expected to clearly specify efforts and policy changes required for improving results of the Global Hunger Index (GHI). She mentioned that the current 2021 report clearly shows two-way street between food security and conflict which affected the system from production to consumption. Before going to the panelists, she underscored that community level interventions should consider the current situations and urged the panelists to make policy suggestions.

The first question to the panelists focused on how the food system in Ethiopia addresses issues of communities affected by conflict and recommendations to stakeholders on how to respond to food insecurity and malnutrition in conflict and post-conflict situations. In response, His Excellency Dr. Madefro emphasized how conflict situation complicates when it is combined with violence but also other dynamics including climate change, COVID19 and pest which has been the case for Ethiopia. He elaborated on how the food system involved inclusive process that leaves no one behind and focuses on the most vulnerable groups including conflict affected areas. He mentioned that it is not just about giving food, but building mind-set of the most affected communities.

One of Excellency Dr. Madefro's recommendations focused on shifting from humanitarian intervention to building the resilience capacity of the people. He acknowledged that this is not an easy matter and requires partnerships at local and international levels as conflicts always has a ripple effect and does not end where it started. The other recommendation is related to resources mobilization and deployment to respond to the needs of conflict affected communities. This includes breaking the silence and looking for funding mechanisms to build their capacities and build a food system where farmers are drivers of the process.

The panel discussion also focused on the health sector's contribution to address malnutrition caused by conflict, the Ministry of Health's recommendation for food and nutrition insecurity issue, and its support to implementing sectors and development partners working to improve food security.



Her Excellency Dr. Meseret from Ministry of Health (MoH) responded that the Ministry works to contribute to the wellbeing of the nation focusing on humanitarian as well as development interventions.



Coordination of resources and strategies of government and other development actors has been at the core of the Ministry's engagement. She emphasized the significance of allocating existing resources where it is needed and mobilizing additional/new resources to help address the issue. Regarding delivery of service, she underscored the need for using different modality for conflict affected areas in a manner

that psychological needs of traumatized community members are addressed. Dr. Mesert also elaborated how the situation was further complicated by the displacement of health work forces and volunteers and the resulting disruption of the health systems due to the conflict.

As part of her recommendations, Her Excellency Dr. Mesert reminded participants that there is brand new, national food and nutrition policy and a 10-year strategy which includes a national development plan and underscored the need for implementing the policy and strategy efficiently down at the grassroots level. The second recommendation is related to increasing efficiency. It was emphasized that every stakeholder should be efficient in their supports for government efforts and avoid duplication of efforts to reach those in need. It was noted that 2.5 billion USD is needed for its implementation, which is 50% of the overall budget required is secured, and that stakeholders are anticipated to raise the remaining funds. The third recommendation is related to efficiency in coordination which is key in mobilization and use of resources for food security which will have a major role in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The third question for the panel discussion focused on the role of UN agencies to strengthen the current efforts and ensure sustainable food system in Ethiopia to prevent the effect of food insecurity and malnutrition for communities in conflict areas.

In response, Dr. Filippo Dibari elaborated that World Food Program (WFP) has been closely working with Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI). He noted that three out of four (75%) of the citizens cannot afford a nutritious and healthy diet and how this worsens in a conflict situation. He added that the WFP, in collaboration with EPHI, is closely monitoring the cost of nutrition in conflict-affected areas and population demographics that are highly affected. It was discussed that the agency follows up on affordability of nutrition and responds in three ways of support. Where the market is not functioning, food provision is made in kind; where the market is functioning, digital vouchers are provided; and where digital technologies are not in place, paper cash is provided to address the issue of food security.

In response to the question related to the role of development partners to address food insecurity and malnutrition in conflict affected areas, the panelist from USAID mentioned that even with the current partial foreign assistance freeze, the US government is providing more than 900 million USD to Ethiopia in various forms including humanitarian assistance, health support, education, food systems, etc. Mr. Henderson shared his recommendations to the donor communities on how to support the government



and development partners in their efforts towards sustainability in rehabilitating the communities affected by conflict to reduce future vulnerabilities to food insecurity and malnutrition. He noted the need for caution against significant shift from existing methodologies but maintaining stable methodology and argued for fine-tuning approaches for crises like conflict, drought, desert locust, etc.. In addition, he cautioned that large donors, including USAID, should resist the temptation to provide free handouts, especially where market is available, as this may affect others whose livelihoods depend on selling their products. Mr. Henderson noted that going forward it would be good to assume more disruptions and underscored the need for contingencies to contracts and awards with flexibility of considering changes without major modifications.

Speaking of the role of local development partners to effectively respond to food insecurity and malnutrition in conflict affected areas, Ms. Browning from Afar Pastoralist Development shared her insights.

She reported that the people of Afar are in the direst situation. Four hundred thousand Afar people do not have access to food, health, electricity, and connectivity. The situation is exacerbated by lack of veterinary services, vaccinations, animal feed in the dry season and proper marketing even though they are pastoralists and their livelihoods depend on their animals. Currently, more than 95% of Afar people need humanitarian assistance and there are more than three hundred thousand people living under trees. She also reported that her organization has physically counted more than 7,000 destroyed houses due to the conflict.

Ms. Browning's recommendations focused on the need for cessation of hostility in the region since the conflict has continued in the region threating the lives and livelihoods of the people of Afar. She also emphasized that markets and other basic service providing sectors should immediately be opened. She added that most people lack basic cooking utensils and urged for provision of easily consumable food items.

## IV. Summary of key recommendations

- 1. LINK HUMANITARIAN, DEVELOPMENT, AND PEACE WORK, USING FLEXIBLE APPROACHES AND FUNDING MECHANISMS, TO BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND ENSURE THAT HUMANITARIAN NEEDS ARE MET ANDTRANSITIONS ARE MADE EFFICIENTLY.
- The government and donor organizations should support development programmes that can pivot to humanitarian responses as needed. Long-term livelihood development supports the resilience of vulnerable communities to shocks and stresses, but now more than ever, a conflict-sensitive approach and built-in peace-building aspects are crucial to contribute to preventing conflict from breaking out. Mechanisms such as early warning/ early action or crisis modifiers can help programmes not only prevent conflict-affected communities from sliding further into poverty and vulnerability but also transition efficiently from humanitarian assistance to development while building peace. Include contingency budgets in programmes given the high probability of disruption in settings prone to conflict and shocks. More broadly, use flexible funding to build resilient food systems where smallholder farmers can play a more active role in



decision-making processes and are better integrated into the food value chain. Caution needs to be taken against significant shift from existing methodologies but maintaining stable methodology and fine-tuning approaches while responding to crises.

# 2. ENSURE COORDINATION BETWEEN SECTORS AND BETWEENHUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ACTORS SO THAT RESOURCES ARE USED EFFECTIVELY TO BUILD INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE.

A multisectoral, multistakeholder approach can help ensure that all stakeholders are pulling in the same direction to achieve thefull scope of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and tomeet priorities set in relevant national plans and strategies. To ensure efficient implementation at all levels—particularly at the local level—government and development actors should work jointly on implementing the new 10-year national food and nutritionstrategy, for which a total of US\$2.5 billion is needed (50 percent of the overall budget is secured). The strategy provides a policy framework for effective multisectoral coordination and requires synergy and complementarity between humanitarian and development interventions to increase people's resilience. Better coordination among stakeholders will help address funding gaps and prevent duplication of effort.

## 3. STRENGTHEN LOCAL MARKETS AND LOCALLY LED INITIATIVES TO MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN CONFLICT SETTINGS

Local markets are vital for sustaining communities affected by shocks and can help ensure the food and nutrition security of communities affected by conflict. Even in humanitarian emergencies, assistance can be offered in a way that supports markets while addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. Where markets are functioning, avoid handouts that can harm the livelihoods of those who depend on selling their goods in markets. Instead, provide cash or digital vouchers that recipients can use to purchase food in markets. Where markets are not functioning, work towards market functionality while providing food in kind that is appropriate to the local community as a temporary measure.

## 4. BASE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE ACTIONS ON A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE LOCAL CONTEXT.

In each setting, it is critical to understand conflict dynamics, available markets, and community preferences, while striving to reduce dependency and contribute to local economic development. This will help ensure that interventions are flexible, prioritized, need-based, and sustainable so they address the challenges faced by members of the whole community, many of whom are not part of conflicts, but victims. Provision of food items must be appropriate to the specific context of the targeted beneficiaries. For example, when handing out grain, provide milled grain or ensure that conflict-affected communities have the financial resources to mill the grain. In conflict settings where people lack basic cooking equipment, provide easily consumable and nonperishable food items. Although the national-level GHI reportshows the current status of the country as a whole, subnational-level data for the GHI indicators and other complementary indicators, where available, can help expand the evidence base onlocal successes and challenges.



### 1. Workshop Closing

In his closing remark, Mr. Abdul Menaf, Country Director of People in Need, which is also one of the Alliance2015 member organizations, expressed his satisfaction of the GHI 2021 report launching workshop, which he described as very interesting and informative. He also used the opportunity to emphasize that there are huge expectations both from the government and development partners to ensuring effective implementation of the game changing solutions. He highlighted that the A2015 has been able to contribute to the Ethiopia Food System (EFS) through close collaboration with relevant Ministries. However, despite the several interventions from the government and other development actors, malnutrition remains to be an enormous



challenge in Ethiopia due to inflation, conflict, COVID 19 and drought. He called up on development actors and donors to collaborate with the government and emphasized the need for multi-stakeholder financing.

In conclusion, Mr. Manaf thanked all participants of the workshop and extended special appreciation to the MoA and MoH for taking ownership of the agenda and providing adequate leadership. He also thanked Dr. Sisay Sinamo, Dr Mulugeta Teamer and Ms. Sara Worku for the key role they played in organizing the event and BMZ for financing the event.

#### 2. Annexes

# Annex 1: Presentations on GHI 2021 and Ethiopia Food System Road Map







### **Annex 2. Workshop Schedule**







## **Annex 3. List of Participants**





Launch of Global Hunger Index 2021 in Ethiopia April 05, 2021 Venue: Ellily Hotel

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Global Hunger Index 2019 Launching Conference December 17, 2019

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### Annex 4. Links to media coverages of the event

Online workshop recording link:

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https://youtu.be/eKkQk6Z2i2s Etv Amharic news (the national TV)

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https://t.me/tikvahethiopia/69223 (Tikvah Ethiopia over 1.2 million follower's online media)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGGZud9pOoM (EBS TV )

https://press.et/herald/?p=52165 (Ethiopian Herald-Daily English News Paper)