



75th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations
Global Network Against Food Crises's Side event on

Food Crises and COVID-19: Emerging evidence and implications for action

WHEN

15 September 2020
08:30 – 10:00 am
(US Eastern Time)

FORMAT

Virtual conference
and webcast

ORGANIZERS

Global Network
Against Food Crises
founding partners:
The European Union,
FAO and WFP

BACKGROUND

On 21 April 2020, the Global Network's partners released the latest edition of the Global Report on Food Crises, highlighting that at the end of 2019 around 135 million people across 55 countries were experiencing crisis level acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). In addition, over 183 million people were in stressed food acute insecurity conditions, at high risk of sliding into crisis level acute food insecurity if confronted by additional shocks – a particular concern in light of the anticipated evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, 17 million children in these 55 countries and territories suffered from wasting due to acute malnutrition, and as many as 75 million had stunted growth due to chronic malnutrition.

The 2020 Global Report portrayed an already dire picture of global acute food insecurity and malnutrition – even before COVID-19 began to impact food systems. Alongside the report, the Global Network's partners carried out a **campaign on "Food Crises and COVID-19"** to signal their commitment to addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic identify priority actions to both prevent a deterioration of existing food and protect and strengthen food systems in the post-pandemic world.

As a result, the Global Network is re-orienting its key priorities within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, with emphasis on enhancing the generation and sharing of evidence-based information and analysis on food crises and COVID-19 effects.

Against this backdrop, key partners of the Global Network will hold a side event at the 75th session of the General Assembly of United Nations to update Members and concerned stakeholders on the latest evidence from countries affected by food crises under the COVID-19 pandemic and trigger discussion on actions Members can take to address food crises in a coordinated manner.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

This event will enable delegates from Members to receive the latest data and information emerging from monitoring of food crises taking place in the context of the pandemic and will provide an opportunity for resource partners and bilateral actors to discuss emerging priorities, financing and programming implications in light of COVID-19.

The event will include a technical presentation on the latest acute food insecurity figures in selected high-risk countries and COVID-19 implications for livelihoods and value chains, along with a review of the current policy and programming measures in place in hot-spot food crisis countries.

Information on the
Global Network Against
Food Crises and the event
can be found at:

 www.fightfoodcrises.net

Follow on Twitter:

 @fightfoodcrises

Event's hashtag:

#fightfoodcrises

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Welcome and opening

08:30 – 08:35 **Introduction**
Moderator, Chief Executive of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

08:35 – 08:50 **Welcome and opening statements**
EU Commissioner for Crisis Management
UK's Special Envoy for Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Affairs (tbc)
USAID Assistant Administrator (tbc)
CILSS Executive Secretary

08:50 – 09:00 **Partners statements**
FAO Director-General
OCHA Under-Secretary-General
WFP Executive Director

09:00 – 09:05 **Keynote intervention on “Reshaping of priorities in the framework of COVID-19”**
Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee

Emerging Evidence: Global overview and country-level situation

09:05 – 09:15 **Latest acute food insecurity figures in selected high-risk countries and COVID-19 impacts, related policies, programming and responses**
Technical Coordinator, Global Network's Technical Support Unit

Interventions and Q&A

09:15 – 09:55 **Interventions from Members and other Key Partners**
Moderator, Chief Executive of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Conclusions

09:55 – 10:00 **Main takeaways and closure of the event**
Moderator, Chief Executive of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

PARTICIPATION AND INTERVENTIONS

All Members, Regional Bodies, Global Network's partners and other interested parties are invited to attend the event. The event will benefit from the overall facilitation of the Chief Executive of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). Members, Regional Bodies, Global Network's partners and other interested parties will have the opportunity to make statements 'from the floor', and are encouraged to indicate this intention during the registration process.

FRAMING PRODUCTS

The event interventions and discussions will be informed by the following technical products:

- **Global Network's analysis of acute food insecurity and agri-food systems during the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Note on bilateral actors' emerging priorities, short- and long-term financing and programming implications in light of COVID-19 developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).**

The products will be made available the day of the event at:
<http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/unga-side-event/en/>

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**Global Network
Against Food Crises**

The European Union, FAO and WFP founded the Global Network Against Food Crises at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit to step up joint efforts to address food crises along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and continue to raise global awareness and commitment from all relevant actors. The Global Network offers a coherent coordination framework to promote collective efforts in analysis and strategic programming for a more efficient use of resources to prevent, prepare for and respond to food crisis and, ultimately, support collective outcomes related to SDG 2 for lasting solutions to food crises. Through its work, the Global Network facilitates a fundamental transformation in the way international and local actors interact to holistically address food crises worldwide.