

SAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2026

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)



BACKGROUND GUIDE

Agenda: *Combating Global Food Insecurity amid Armed Conflict, Climate Change and Economic Instability*

Date: 24th & 25th July 2026

Executive Board:

Chairperson – Mr. Rutajeet Karmarkar

Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Shreyas Puri

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

We welcome you to this simulation of the World Food Programme (WFP) at SAI International School Model United Nations 2026. From the off, we hope that you have begun your initial and most basic research into the agenda and related topics. On the outset, we must be aware of the Mandate of the Committee and understand that though general debate can happen on this agenda, the resolutions made during council cannot pertain to matters beyond the ambit of our mandate.

We hope that the following study guide can provide an insight into the nature and functionality of the committee. However, we must also warn you that this guide is merely an assistive document, and should by no means encompass the entire scope of your research into the agenda. The members of the Executive Board, do indeed expect the debate in committee to follow a certain direction that shall be made clear by this guide; however, we would highly appreciate delegates to find different viewpoints and angles to the issues put forward by the agenda. Your Executive Board is here to guide debate, and will be taking part in substantive debate only through the updates and questions to you. Regarding Rules of Procedure, we would ask you to be conversant in them but not regard them as strict and unbreakable. We urge you to use this background guide only as a starting point for your research. At no point are you supposed to rely completely on it. Only when you research beyond the guide can we ensure healthy debate. What this Executive Board expects is that you to express an analysis of the information you have, not to just read out that information. Never be afraid to suggest something out of the box, because it is going to be discussed by your peers if you can lobby. We expect the delegates to perform well by striking the right balance between Substantive and Procedural knowledge.

Lastly, we would request all the delegates to put sincere efforts in preparation and research for the simulation and work hard to make it a fruitful learning experience for all. Feel free to contact us if you have any queries or doubt.

Regards,

Executive Board | WFP

Use of Background Guide

Study Guides are, contradictory to popular belief, not supposed to contain all the information on a certain topic. A good study guide consists of information that a delegate can use to gain basic information on the issue at hand and the links for further research that they must use to prepare for the final conference. All the information given in this guide is from an unbiased perspective and we have refrained from making judgments as much as possible if none has been made by the United Nations.

This study guide is divided into sections to permit a delegate to comfortably understand the implications of various aspects of the issue. The first section is about the committee and most probably the most fundamental of all. The functions and powers of all councils and committees are outlined by their mandate, which also defines the scope of debate in council. **The mandate also defines what kind of actions can be taken by the committee and how it is separate from the actions taken by other councils.**

The second section is a very practical and integral aspect of being a delegate in this particular Council. It will also help you in future MUNs. It clearly marks out the sources that will be accepted as proof/evidence in Council. There are two important things to be kept in mind regarding this section. Firstly, that in situations where the Executive Board asks a delegate for proof/evidence to back up their statements, no other sources will be accepted as credible besides those mentioned here. Secondly, these are the only sources which will provide you with correct facts as they themselves follow strict monitoring and checking while reporting or collaborating data. **Research can be done from any source as such, but make sure you cross-check your statements and speeches with these sources to be on a safe side.**

1. Understanding of the UN and the Committee – Mandate, etc.
2. Research on the allotted country, especially with respect to the agenda, past policies or actions taken
3. Understanding the Foreign Policy of the allotted country by studying past actions, their causes and consequences
4. Reading the Study Guide
5. Researching further upon the agenda using the footnotes and links given in the guide
6. Prepare topics for moderated caucuses and their content
7. Assemble proof/evidence for any important piece of information/allegation you are going to use in committee
8. Keep your research updated using news websites given in the Proof section.

Evidence or Nature of Proof

1. News Sources:

a. **REUTERS** – Any Reuters article which clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council. (<http://www.reuters.com/>)

b. **State operated News Agencies** – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are: RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru/> / IRNA (Iran) <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm>

2. Government Reports:

These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Examples are,

i. **Government Websites** like the State Department of the United States of America <http://www.state.gov/index.htm> or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation <http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm>

ii. **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>), People's Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>), France (<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>), Russian Federation (http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/main_eng)

iii. **Permanent Representatives to the United Nations** Reports <http://www.un.org/en/members/> (Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative).

iv. **Multilateral Organizations** like the NATO (<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>), ASEAN (<http://www.aseansec.org/>), OPEC (http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/), etc.

3. UN Reports: All UN Reports are considered are credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of the Security Council.

i. **UN Bodies:** Like the SC (<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>), GA (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>), HRC (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx>) etc.

ii. **UN Affiliated bodies** like the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>), World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org/>), International Monetary Fund (<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>), International Committee of the Red Cross (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>), etc.

iii. **Treaty Based Bodies** like the Antarctic Treaty System (<http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>), the International Criminal Court (<http://www.icccpi.int/Menus/ICC>) Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org/>), Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org/>), Human Rights Watch (<http://www.hrw.org/>).

Introduction to the Committee

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and currently functions as the world's largest humanitarian organization dedicated to combating hunger and food insecurity. Established in 1961 by the United Nations General Assembly and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the WFP was initially envisioned as an experimental programme aimed at providing emergency food assistance during humanitarian crises. Over the decades, however, the organization evolved into one of the most significant pillars of the international humanitarian system, operating across more than 120 countries and territories and assisting millions of vulnerable individuals annually.

The relevance of the WFP has increased substantially during the twenty-first century due to the growing complexity of global humanitarian crises. Armed conflicts, environmental disasters, economic instability and displacement have collectively intensified food insecurity across multiple regions. Contemporary hunger crises are no longer solely caused by insufficient agricultural production; rather, they are increasingly driven by disrupted supply chains, political instability, climate-related disasters and unequal access to resources. Consequently, the work of the WFP now extends beyond emergency food distribution and includes long-term resilience-building initiatives involving nutrition, school feeding, agricultural support, climate adaptation and humanitarian logistics.

One of the defining characteristics of the World Food Programme is its operational scale. The organization manages one of the largest humanitarian logistics networks globally and frequently coordinates emergency aid delivery in conflict zones and disaster-affected regions where infrastructure has collapsed or governmental capacity remains limited. In addition to providing food assistance, the WFP also supports cash-transfer programmes, nutritional interventions for children and mothers, and community resilience projects aimed at strengthening local food systems.

The WFP works closely alongside other United Nations agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNICEF, UNDP and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The organization's work remains strongly aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger, which seeks to eliminate hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030.

The increasing connection between food insecurity and international peace and security has also expanded the political importance of the WFP. Humanitarian agencies and UN reports have repeatedly highlighted how hunger contributes toward displacement, migration, social instability and conflict escalation. In recognition of its contributions toward combating hunger and promoting stability within conflict-affected regions, the World Food Programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

Within the context of this committee, delegates are expected to understand that food insecurity is not merely a humanitarian issue but also a political, environmental and economic challenge with significant implications for global stability. Debate within the committee should therefore focus not only upon emergency humanitarian assistance, but also upon long-term structural solutions capable of addressing the root causes of hunger and vulnerability.

Mandate of the World Food Programme

The mandate of the World Food Programme is centered upon combating global hunger and ensuring food assistance reaches vulnerable populations affected by emergencies, conflicts and environmental disasters. The organization primarily functions as a humanitarian body responsible for providing emergency food relief, supporting nutritional programmes and strengthening food-system resilience in vulnerable communities.

One of the most important dimensions of the WFP's mandate involves emergency humanitarian assistance. During armed conflicts, natural disasters and famine situations, the organization coordinates rapid food distribution operations aimed at preventing widespread starvation and malnutrition. In conflict zones, the WFP frequently operates under highly dangerous conditions in order to deliver aid to displaced populations and communities facing severe food shortages.

In addition to emergency response, the organization also plays a significant role in combating malnutrition through nutritional interventions targeting children, pregnant women and vulnerable populations. School feeding programmes supported by the WFP have become particularly important in low-income and conflict-affected regions, as they not only improve child nutrition but also encourage educational participation and long-term community development.

The WFP has increasingly focused upon resilience-building and climate adaptation initiatives due to the growing impact of climate change upon agricultural systems. These initiatives include support for drought preparedness, sustainable irrigation systems, disaster-risk reduction and climate-resilient agricultural practices. The organization additionally assists governments in strengthening food-security mechanisms and humanitarian preparedness frameworks.

Another major responsibility of the WFP involves humanitarian logistics and coordination. The organization manages one of the largest humanitarian supply-chain systems in the world and frequently supports the transportation and delivery of relief materials on behalf of other humanitarian agencies during emergencies.

Combating Global Food Insecurity amid Armed Conflict, Climate Change and Economic Instability

Definitions and Legal-Humanitarian Framework

Understanding the agenda of “*Combating Global Food Insecurity amid Armed Conflict, Climate Change and Economic Instability*” requires delegates to first examine the conceptual and legal foundations surrounding food security and humanitarian response. Food insecurity today is not merely an agricultural or developmental concern; rather, it is increasingly recognized as a multidimensional humanitarian, economic and political challenge closely connected with international peace, human rights and sustainable development.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines **food security** as a condition in which “all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” This definition highlights four essential pillars of food security: availability, accessibility, utilization and stability. Food availability refers to the existence of sufficient food supplies within a region or state. Accessibility concerns whether populations possess the financial and physical ability to obtain food. Utilization relates to nutrition, sanitation and proper dietary intake, while stability refers to the consistent availability and accessibility of food over time without disruption caused by crises, conflict or economic shocks.

In contrast, **food insecurity** exists when individuals or communities lack reliable access to adequate food. Food insecurity may range from moderate levels, where households face uncertainty regarding future food access, to severe levels involving prolonged hunger, famine and malnutrition. The World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies additionally use the term **acute food insecurity** to describe situations in which populations face immediate threats to life and livelihoods due to food shortages or economic collapse.

Another significant concept relevant to this agenda is **malnutrition**, which refers to deficiencies or imbalances in nutritional intake. Malnutrition includes undernourishment, micronutrient deficiencies and wasting among children. According to UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO), prolonged malnutrition severely affects cognitive development, immunity, educational outcomes and economic productivity, especially among children and vulnerable populations.

The concept of **famine** represents the most extreme manifestation of food insecurity. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), an internationally recognized analytical framework, categorizes famine as a condition where at least twenty percent of households face severe food shortages, acute malnutrition levels exceed critical thresholds and mortality rates rise significantly due to starvation and disease. Modern famines are rarely caused solely by insufficient food production; instead, they are increasingly associated with armed conflict, displacement, governance failures and restricted humanitarian access.

From a legal perspective, food security and humanitarian assistance are closely linked with international human-rights law. The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)** recognizes under Article 25 that every individual has the right to an adequate standard of living, including food, health and well-being. Similarly, the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)** obligates states to recognize “the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger” and encourages international cooperation toward ensuring food security and adequate nutrition.

International humanitarian law additionally plays a critical role within the context of this agenda, particularly during armed conflicts. The **Geneva Conventions** and their Additional Protocols prohibit the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and require parties to conflicts to allow humanitarian assistance to reach civilian populations. International humanitarian law also protects objects indispensable to civilian survival, including agricultural areas, food supplies, livestock and water infrastructure.

One of the most important contemporary legal developments relating to this issue was the adoption of **United Nations Security Council Resolution 2417 (2018)**. The resolution formally recognized the direct relationship between armed conflict and food insecurity and condemned the use of starvation against civilians. It additionally called upon all parties involved in conflicts to facilitate safe and unhindered humanitarian access. Resolution 2417 represented a major shift in international understanding by framing hunger not only as a humanitarian issue but also as a matter of international peace and security.

The legal-humanitarian framework surrounding food insecurity is further strengthened through international development and environmental agreements. **Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger)** under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks to end hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. The goal emphasizes resilience-building, agricultural sustainability and equal access to nutritious food. Simultaneously, the **Paris Agreement** acknowledges the importance of climate adaptation and resilience within food-production systems, particularly in vulnerable developing regions heavily dependent upon agriculture.

Humanitarian responses to food crises are coordinated through multiple international institutions and mechanisms. The World Food Programme remains the primary UN agency responsible for emergency food assistance and humanitarian logistics. Alongside WFP, organizations such as the FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WHO and OCHA contribute toward broader food-security governance through nutrition programmes, agricultural support, refugee assistance and humanitarian coordination.

However, despite extensive legal frameworks and humanitarian mechanisms, implementation challenges remain significant. Armed conflicts frequently restrict humanitarian access, political instability limits state capacity and funding shortages continue to affect emergency-response operations. Climate change and economic instability further complicate humanitarian planning by increasing both the frequency and severity of food crises globally.

Armed Conflict and Hunger

Armed conflict remains the single largest driver of acute food insecurity in the contemporary international system. According to assessments conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Global Report on Food Crises, countries experiencing prolonged conflict consistently account for the highest levels of severe hunger and malnutrition globally. Modern warfare does not merely create humanitarian emergencies; it systematically dismantles food systems, destroys livelihoods and weakens the economic and institutional structures necessary for long-term food security.

The relationship between conflict and hunger is multidimensional. Armed violence disrupts agricultural production by forcing farmers away from their lands, destroying irrigation systems and damaging essential infrastructure such as roads, markets and storage facilities. In conflict zones, agricultural activity frequently becomes impossible due to insecurity, land mines, military occupation and displacement. Transportation systems collapse, making it difficult for food supplies to reach civilian populations. Consequently, even where food may exist within a country, populations are often unable to physically or economically access it.

One of the most concerning developments in recent years has been the increasing use of starvation and food deprivation as instruments of warfare. Siege tactics, blockades and restrictions upon humanitarian aid have intensified civilian suffering in several conflict zones. The United Nations Security Council formally acknowledged this relationship through Resolution 2417 adopted in 2018, which condemned the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and emphasized the importance of humanitarian access during armed conflicts. The resolution additionally recognized that conflict-induced food insecurity can itself contribute toward instability, displacement and further violence.

The conflict in Yemen remains one of the clearest examples of the relationship between armed conflict and hunger. Years of civil war devastated infrastructure, disrupted food imports and caused economic collapse. Yemen imports the majority of its food requirements, and disruptions to ports and transportation systems significantly intensified shortages. Inflation and declining purchasing power further worsened the humanitarian situation, leaving millions dependent upon international aid. Humanitarian agencies repeatedly warned of famine-like conditions in multiple regions of the country. Similar patterns can be observed in Sudan, Syria and South Sudan, where armed violence displaced agricultural communities and severely restricted humanitarian operations.

Conflict additionally produces long-term developmental consequences. Malnutrition during childhood significantly affects physical growth, cognitive development and educational outcomes. Generations exposed to prolonged food insecurity often face weakened economic productivity and increased vulnerability to disease. In this sense, conflict-driven hunger is not merely a short-term humanitarian issue but also a long-term developmental crisis.

Climate Change and Hunger

Climate change has emerged as one of the most significant long-term threats to global food security. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has repeatedly warned that rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns and increasing frequency of extreme weather events are expected to significantly disrupt agricultural systems worldwide. While climate change affects all regions to varying degrees, its consequences are particularly severe in developing economies where populations remain highly dependent upon agriculture and possess limited adaptive capacity.

Agriculture remains directly dependent upon environmental stability. Variations in rainfall, temperature and water availability significantly influence crop yields, livestock productivity and fisheries. Climate-related disasters such as droughts, floods, cyclones and heatwaves increasingly reduce agricultural output and threaten livelihoods across multiple regions. Vulnerable communities often lack access to irrigation systems, climate-resilient technology and financial safety nets, making recovery from environmental shocks extremely difficult.

Droughts remain one of the most severe climate-related threats to food security. In the Horn of Africa, repeated failed rainy seasons devastated agricultural production and livestock populations, leaving millions in need of humanitarian assistance. Countries such as Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya experienced severe food crises linked directly to prolonged drought conditions. Water scarcity reduced crop cultivation, weakened local economies and intensified displacement pressures.

Flooding represents another major climate-related challenge. In South Asia, recurrent floods have destroyed crops, displaced populations and disrupted food-distribution systems. Floodwaters frequently damage transportation infrastructure and contaminate water supplies, increasing both food insecurity and public-health risks. Similarly, cyclones and rising sea levels threaten coastal and island communities heavily dependent upon agriculture and fisheries.

Climate change additionally contributes toward soil degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss. Unsustainable agricultural practices combined with environmental stress have reduced land productivity in several regions. The Sahel region in Africa illustrates how desertification and water scarcity can intensify competition over resources and contribute toward social instability.

One of the defining characteristics of climate-related food insecurity is inequality. Although climate change represents a global phenomenon, its impacts are disproportionately experienced by low-income and vulnerable populations. Smallholder farmers, indigenous communities and rural populations frequently possess limited access to adaptive resources such as agricultural technology, financial support and disaster insurance.

Climate change also functions as a “threat multiplier.” Environmental stress interacts with poverty, fragile governance systems and political instability to intensify humanitarian crises. In regions already affected by conflict or economic fragility, climate-related disasters frequently worsen food insecurity and displacement.

Economic Instability and Hunger

Economic instability significantly influences food affordability, accessibility and availability. While food insecurity is often associated with physical shortages, modern hunger crises increasingly emerge from economic barriers preventing populations from accessing adequate nutrition. Inflation, unemployment, debt crises, trade disruptions and financial instability collectively reduce purchasing power and intensify vulnerability among low-income populations.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the extent to which economic disruptions can rapidly destabilize global food systems. Lockdowns, supply-chain interruptions and reduced economic activity affected transportation, employment and food distribution across multiple regions. Millions lost livelihoods during the pandemic, significantly increasing food insecurity even in states where food supplies remained available within markets.

Inflation represents one of the most immediate economic threats to food security. Rising prices for food, fuel and transportation increase household expenditures while reducing access to essential commodities. Low-income households are particularly vulnerable because a significant proportion of their income is already spent upon food consumption. Consequently, even moderate increases in prices can push vulnerable populations toward severe food insecurity.

The Russia–Ukraine conflict further exposed vulnerabilities within global food markets. Russia and Ukraine are major exporters of wheat, sunflower oil and fertilizers. Disruptions to exports significantly increased international food prices and affected countries heavily dependent upon imported grains. Fertilizer shortages additionally affected agricultural productivity worldwide by increasing operational costs for farmers.

Debt burdens remain another major challenge affecting food security within developing economies. Many low-income countries currently face severe fiscal constraints limiting their ability to finance social-protection programmes, food subsidies and agricultural investments. Governments struggling with external debt obligations frequently possess limited capacity to respond effectively to food crises.

Economic inequality further intensifies hunger within societies. Marginalized communities often lack access to nutritious food despite sufficient national food production. Urban poverty, unemployment and informal labour conditions contribute significantly toward food insecurity, particularly during economic downturns.

Global trade systems additionally play a major role in determining food accessibility. Export restrictions, trade disruptions and supply-chain bottlenecks frequently contribute toward volatility within food markets. Developing economies dependent upon imported food remain particularly vulnerable to international economic shocks.

Addressing economic dimensions of food insecurity therefore requires broader structural reforms beyond emergency humanitarian assistance. Social-protection systems, employment generation, debt-relief initiatives, trade stabilization mechanisms and agricultural investment remain essential for improving long-term food resilience.

Intersections of the Three Drivers

One of the defining characteristics of contemporary food insecurity is the interaction between armed conflict, climate change and economic instability. These three drivers rarely operate independently. Instead, they reinforce one another in ways that intensify humanitarian crises and complicate international responses.

Conflict frequently weakens economic systems and reduces state capacity to respond effectively to environmental disasters. Simultaneously, climate-related disruptions can intensify resource competition and contribute toward instability in fragile regions. Economic shocks may increase social tensions, reduce government legitimacy and worsen existing political divisions. Consequently, modern food crises are increasingly multidimensional rather than isolated phenomena.

The Horn of Africa provides a significant example of this intersection. Repeated droughts linked with climate variability reduced agricultural productivity and weakened local economies. Simultaneously, political instability and armed violence disrupted humanitarian operations and displaced populations. Rising food prices and economic fragility further intensified vulnerability among already marginalized communities. The result was a complex humanitarian emergency involving environmental stress, conflict and economic collapse simultaneously.

Sudan similarly demonstrates how these factors interact. Armed conflict displaced agricultural populations and disrupted transportation systems, while inflation and economic instability reduced food affordability. Environmental pressures such as drought and water scarcity further intensified vulnerabilities within rural communities.

Climate change increasingly functions as a “risk multiplier” in conflict-prone regions. Scarcity of water, grazing land and agricultural resources may contribute toward communal tensions and displacement. While climate change itself may not directly cause conflict, it frequently intensifies underlying political and economic vulnerabilities.

Economic instability also amplifies the effects of both conflict and climate disasters. Inflation and unemployment reduce household resilience, making populations more vulnerable to environmental shocks and displacement. Governments facing debt crises often lack sufficient resources to invest in adaptation infrastructure, disaster preparedness and humanitarian responses.

The convergence of these drivers has additionally transformed humanitarian operations. Humanitarian agencies now confront emergencies that are longer, more complex and more resource-intensive than traditional short-term crises. Emergency food assistance alone is increasingly insufficient because underlying vulnerabilities continue to persist.

As a result, modern food-security policy increasingly emphasizes resilience-building rather than solely emergency relief. This includes climate adaptation, sustainable agriculture, conflict prevention, social protection systems and economic stabilization mechanisms.

Comparative Case Studies

1. Yemen: Conflict-Driven Food Insecurity

Yemen remains one of the most severe humanitarian crises in the modern international system and is frequently cited by the United Nations as a textbook example of conflict-induced hunger. Since the outbreak of civil war in 2014 between the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the Houthi movement, the country has witnessed the collapse of essential infrastructure, disruption of imports and severe economic deterioration. Because Yemen imports nearly 90 percent of its food requirements, disruptions to ports, transportation routes and fuel supply chains rapidly translated into widespread food shortages and inflation.

The conflict severely affected agricultural production as farmers lost access to land, irrigation systems and markets. Airstrikes and armed violence damaged roads, hospitals, water facilities and food-storage infrastructure, significantly limiting the ability of humanitarian agencies to operate effectively. Additionally, bureaucratic restrictions, blockades and insecurity complicated the delivery of aid to vulnerable populations.

Economic instability further intensified the crisis. The depreciation of the Yemeni rial reduced household purchasing power, while unemployment and salary disruptions pushed millions into poverty. Consequently, even when food remained physically available in markets, large sections of the population could no longer afford basic necessities.

The humanitarian impact has been catastrophic. According to WFP and UNICEF assessments, millions of Yemenis continue to face acute food insecurity, while child malnutrition rates remain among the highest globally. Humanitarian agencies have repeatedly warned that the absence of a sustainable political settlement will continue to undermine long-term food-security recovery.

Yemen illustrates how armed conflict, economic collapse and humanitarian restrictions collectively create prolonged food crises that cannot be resolved solely through emergency aid.

2. Sudan: Conflict, Displacement and Agricultural Collapse

Sudan represents another major example of how political instability and armed conflict contribute toward large-scale hunger crises. Although Sudan possesses significant agricultural potential, recurring conflict, weak governance and economic instability have repeatedly undermined food production and distribution systems.

The recent conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) significantly worsened already fragile food-security conditions. Armed violence displaced millions of civilians and disrupted farming activities across several agricultural regions. Markets collapsed in conflict-affected areas, transportation systems were interrupted and humanitarian organizations faced severe operational restrictions.

Sudan's food crisis was further aggravated by inflation, currency depreciation and rising fuel costs. Agricultural production became increasingly difficult due to shortages of seeds, fertilizers and irrigation support. Many farming communities abandoned cultivation altogether because of insecurity and displacement.

Humanitarian agencies additionally faced attacks on aid infrastructure and restrictions on humanitarian access. In several areas, food assistance deliveries were delayed or suspended due to insecurity.

The Sudan case demonstrates that countries with strong agricultural capacity may still experience severe food insecurity when political instability and conflict undermine governance structures and economic systems. It also highlights the relationship between displacement and hunger, as internally displaced populations remain among the most vulnerable groups during humanitarian emergencies.

3. The Horn of Africa: Climate-Induced Food Insecurity

The Horn of Africa, particularly Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, has experienced repeated droughts combined with political fragility and economic stress. The region provides one of the clearest examples of climate change functioning as a "threat multiplier" within already vulnerable societies.

Over recent years, multiple failed rainy seasons devastated livestock populations and reduced crop yields across the region. Communities heavily dependent upon pastoralism and subsistence agriculture lost livelihoods, resulting in severe humanitarian needs and displacement.

In Somalia, prolonged drought combined with insecurity and weak governance significantly restricted humanitarian operations. Ethiopia simultaneously faced both climate stress and internal conflict, further complicating food-security responses.

Climate variability also intensified competition over resources such as grazing land and water sources. In several regions, tensions between communities increased due to resource scarcity.

Economic vulnerabilities worsened the humanitarian situation. Rising food prices and limited employment opportunities reduced household resilience, while governments struggled to finance adequate adaptation measures.

The Horn of Africa demonstrates that climate change alone does not create humanitarian crises in isolation. Instead, environmental shocks interact with poverty, weak governance, conflict and limited infrastructure to intensify food insecurity and displacement.

4. Afghanistan: Economic Collapse and Humanitarian Vulnerability

Afghanistan's food-security crisis illustrates the relationship between political instability, economic collapse and humanitarian dependency. Decades of conflict weakened infrastructure, reduced agricultural productivity and displaced millions of civilians. However, the humanitarian situation worsened significantly following the political transition of 2021.

International sanctions, financial isolation and reduced foreign assistance contributed toward severe economic contraction. Banking restrictions limited liquidity, unemployment increased sharply and food prices rose substantially. Consequently, millions of Afghans became dependent upon humanitarian assistance despite the continued availability of some food supplies in local markets.

Climate-related droughts additionally affected agricultural production and livestock conditions. Rural communities experienced declining crop yields and increasing debt burdens.

Humanitarian organizations faced multiple operational challenges, including funding shortages and logistical barriers. Although humanitarian assistance prevented famine conditions in several regions, agencies repeatedly warned that emergency aid could not replace long-term economic recovery and institutional stability.

Afghanistan demonstrates how food insecurity may emerge not only from active conflict but also from financial collapse, governance instability and reduced international economic engagement.

5. Haiti: Political Instability, Gang Violence and Food Insecurity

Haiti presents a unique case where political instability, gang violence, economic fragility and environmental vulnerability collectively contribute toward severe food insecurity.

The country has long faced structural economic challenges, weak infrastructure and high dependence upon imported food. Political instability and recurring natural disasters repeatedly undermined development efforts. In recent years, however, escalating gang violence significantly disrupted transportation systems, trade networks and humanitarian operations.

Road blockades and insecurity limited the movement of food supplies into urban areas, while inflation sharply increased food prices. Fuel shortages further disrupted agricultural production and distribution systems.

Natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes compounded these challenges by damaging infrastructure and displacing communities. Limited institutional capacity reduced the government's ability to effectively respond to humanitarian emergencies.

The Haitian case demonstrates that food insecurity may also arise from chronic governance challenges and criminal instability even in the absence of full-scale armed conflict. It further highlights the importance of institutional resilience and disaster preparedness in addressing long-term hunger vulnerabilities.

Comparative Analysis Table

Case Study	Primary Driver	Secondary Factors	Major Humanitarian Impact	Key Challenges for WFP and International Community	Long-Term Lessons
Yemen	Armed Conflict	Economic collapse, import dependency	Severe malnutrition, displacement, humanitarian dependency	Restricted humanitarian access, infrastructure destruction, inflation	Political settlements are essential alongside humanitarian aid
Sudan	Armed Conflict and Political Instability	Inflation, displacement, agricultural disruption	Market collapse, displacement, food shortages	Insecurity, attacks on aid infrastructure, weak governance	Agricultural potential alone cannot ensure food security
Horn of Africa	Climate Change	Poverty, weak governance, regional instability	Drought-induced hunger, displacement, livestock losses	Limited adaptation financing, repeated drought cycles	Climate resilience and sustainable agriculture are essential
Afghanistan	Economic Instability	Political transition, sanctions, drought	Unemployment, dependency on humanitarian assistance	Funding shortages, banking restrictions, institutional fragility	Economic recovery is critical for long-term food security
Haiti	Political Instability and Gang Violence	Natural disasters, inflation, weak infrastructure	Food-price inflation, disrupted supply chains	Security threats, weak state capacity, logistical barriers	Institutional resilience and governance reforms are necessary

Current Global Response Architecture

The contemporary global response architecture addressing food insecurity is composed of an interconnected network of United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, humanitarian actors and national governments. This architecture has evolved significantly over the past several decades as hunger crises became increasingly multidimensional and transnational in nature. Modern food insecurity is no longer viewed solely as an agricultural issue; instead, it is now approached through humanitarian, developmental, economic, environmental and security-oriented frameworks.

At the centre of this response system stands the United Nations. Multiple UN agencies collectively contribute toward international food-security governance, each operating within distinct institutional mandates while frequently coordinating during humanitarian emergencies. Among these agencies, the World Food Programme (WFP) functions as the primary emergency food-assistance body. WFP coordinates large-scale food distribution operations during conflicts, famines, displacement crises and natural disasters. The organization additionally provides cash-based assistance, nutritional support, school feeding programmes and logistical coordination during emergencies.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) plays a complementary role focused primarily upon agricultural development, sustainable farming practices, rural livelihoods and long-term food-system resilience. Unlike WFP, which is heavily operational during emergencies, FAO emphasizes structural agricultural sustainability and technical assistance for member states. Similarly, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) supports rural development and poverty reduction initiatives targeting vulnerable agricultural communities, particularly smallholder farmers.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) additionally plays a major role in addressing malnutrition among children and vulnerable populations. UNICEF interventions frequently focus upon maternal nutrition, child health, emergency feeding programmes and nutritional supplementation in humanitarian settings. The World Health Organization (WHO) also contributes by monitoring nutrition-related health outcomes and coordinating responses to public-health crises linked with hunger and malnutrition.

Coordination among humanitarian actors is frequently managed through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). OCHA facilitates communication and operational coordination between governments, UN agencies, NGOs and donor states during emergencies. In situations involving famine risks or large-scale displacement, OCHA plays a central role in consolidating humanitarian appeals and organizing response frameworks.

The international financial architecture additionally remains deeply connected with global food security. Institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) significantly influence food-security outcomes through debt-relief programmes, economic reforms, emergency financing and development assistance. During periods of economic instability, these institutions frequently support states experiencing balance-of-payment crises, inflationary pressures or disruptions to food-import systems. However, their role remains controversial in several developing states, where structural

adjustment policies and fiscal austerity measures have at times reduced government capacity to sustain food-subsidy programmes and social-protection mechanisms.

Regional organizations additionally contribute toward food-security governance. The African Union, European Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other regional blocs frequently coordinate agricultural initiatives, humanitarian assistance and climate-adaptation programmes. In Africa particularly, regional organizations have increasingly emphasized climate resilience, drought preparedness and early-warning systems due to growing environmental vulnerability.

Non-governmental organizations constitute another major component of the current response architecture. International NGOs such as Oxfam, Save the Children, CARE International and the International Rescue Committee frequently operate alongside UN agencies in delivering humanitarian assistance. These organizations often possess stronger field-level access within conflict zones and remote regions, allowing them to implement localized food-security and livelihood programmes.

One of the most significant features of the current response architecture involves the increasing use of early-warning systems and data-driven humanitarian forecasting. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) framework and the Global Report on Food Crises provide standardized assessments regarding famine risks, food insecurity levels and humanitarian vulnerability. These mechanisms help humanitarian organizations prioritize interventions and allocate resources more efficiently.

Despite the existence of this extensive international framework, major operational limitations remain. Funding shortages continue to undermine humanitarian responses globally. Humanitarian appeals issued by UN agencies frequently remain underfunded, forcing organizations to reduce food assistance despite escalating needs. WFP itself has repeatedly warned of funding gaps affecting operations in regions such as Sudan, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

Humanitarian access additionally remains one of the most serious operational challenges. In conflict zones, aid agencies frequently encounter political restrictions, insecurity, bureaucratic barriers and attacks upon humanitarian personnel. Several modern conflicts have demonstrated how starvation and humanitarian obstruction are increasingly intertwined with military and political strategies.

Another structural challenge involves fragmentation within the global response system. Multiple institutions often operate simultaneously with overlapping mandates, differing financing mechanisms and inconsistent coordination structures. While humanitarian cooperation has improved significantly over recent decades, inefficiencies and duplication of efforts continue to affect emergency operations.

Climate change has further complicated the response architecture by increasing the frequency and intensity of humanitarian crises. Humanitarian agencies increasingly face situations where communities experience overlapping crises involving drought, conflict, displacement and economic collapse simultaneously. Consequently, emergency-response systems originally designed for short-term interventions now confront prolonged and recurring crises requiring multidimensional policy approaches.

The current global response architecture therefore reflects both significant international cooperation and substantial institutional limitations. While the international community has developed sophisticated

humanitarian systems capable of large-scale intervention, growing geopolitical instability, climate vulnerability and funding constraints continue to challenge the effectiveness and sustainability of global food-security governance.

Reform Pathways and Policy Options

Addressing global food insecurity requires reforms that extend beyond emergency food assistance and instead focus upon structural resilience, sustainable development and long-term institutional transformation. Contemporary food crises increasingly emerge from interconnected drivers involving armed conflict, environmental degradation, inflationary pressures and unequal global economic systems. Consequently, effective policy responses must integrate humanitarian, economic, environmental and political dimensions simultaneously.

One of the most important reform priorities involves strengthening humanitarian access during armed conflicts. In several modern conflicts, humanitarian agencies continue to face severe restrictions that prevent the delivery of life-saving assistance to civilians. Delegates must therefore evaluate mechanisms capable of protecting humanitarian corridors, ensuring safe passage for aid convoys and strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. Greater diplomatic pressure upon parties obstructing humanitarian assistance, combined with stronger monitoring frameworks under the United Nations system, could improve civilian access to food and emergency services during conflicts.

Another major policy pathway involves increasing investments in climate-resilient agriculture. Climate change continues to intensify droughts, flooding, desertification and crop instability across vulnerable regions. Traditional agricultural systems in many developing states are increasingly unable to withstand environmental shocks. Consequently, international cooperation must prioritize sustainable irrigation systems, drought-resistant crops, climate-smart agriculture and water-management infrastructure. Investments in agricultural research and technological innovation additionally remain essential for improving long-term food resilience.

Delegates should also consider the importance of supporting smallholder farmers and local food systems. Small-scale agricultural producers contribute significantly toward food production in multiple developing regions yet often remain highly vulnerable to climate shocks, market instability and limited financial access. International financial assistance and development programmes should therefore focus upon improving access to agricultural technology, insurance systems, microfinance and local-market infrastructure.

Reforming global food trade systems additionally remains a major policy challenge. International food markets have become increasingly volatile due to geopolitical tensions, export restrictions and supply-chain disruptions. The Russia–Ukraine conflict clearly demonstrated how disruptions in one region can rapidly destabilize global grain and fertilizer markets. Delegates should therefore examine mechanisms capable of strengthening international food-market stability while reducing excessive dependency upon concentrated export regions.

Another critical reform area involves expanding social-protection systems and nutritional assistance programmes. Hunger is not solely the result of food shortages but also of unequal access and economic vulnerability. School feeding initiatives, food-subsidy programmes, cash-transfer systems and maternal nutrition interventions have proven effective in reducing food insecurity among vulnerable populations. Strengthening such programmes can significantly improve resilience during economic crises and humanitarian emergencies.

Debt relief and financial reform additionally represent major dimensions of long-term food-security governance. Several low-income countries currently face severe debt burdens limiting their capacity to invest in food-security systems, climate adaptation and agricultural development. International financial institutions such as the IMF and World Bank therefore possess significant influence over global food-security outcomes. Delegates should evaluate whether debt restructuring, concessional financing and climate-adaptation funding mechanisms could improve food resilience within economically vulnerable states.

The role of technology and digital innovation within food-security governance has also become increasingly important. Satellite monitoring systems, predictive climate modelling and artificial intelligence-driven agricultural forecasting can improve early-warning mechanisms and humanitarian preparedness. Expanding digital infrastructure within vulnerable regions could significantly improve disaster preparedness and food-distribution coordination.

Strengthening international coordination mechanisms remains another major reform priority. While multiple institutions currently operate within global food-security governance, fragmentation frequently reduces efficiency. Delegates may therefore examine whether stronger coordination structures between WFP, FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, regional organizations and NGOs could improve operational effectiveness during emergencies.

Climate financing additionally requires substantial reform. Although climate adaptation has become central to food-security discussions, funding commitments remain insufficient relative to current humanitarian needs. Vulnerable states frequently lack adequate resources to invest in sustainable agriculture and environmental resilience. Developed economies therefore face growing pressure regarding climate-finance responsibilities and historical emissions accountability.

Another emerging area of discussion involves localization within humanitarian systems. International agencies increasingly recognize that local organizations and community actors often possess stronger contextual understanding and operational access during crises. Expanding support for locally led humanitarian responses may improve both efficiency and sustainability.

At the same time, delegates must remain realistic regarding institutional and political limitations. Food insecurity is deeply interconnected with sovereignty, trade interests, geopolitical rivalries and domestic economic policies. Consequently, achieving comprehensive international consensus remains difficult. Effective reform proposals must therefore balance humanitarian ambition with political feasibility and implementation capacity.

Ultimately, combating global food insecurity requires a transition from reactive humanitarian intervention toward preventive and resilience-oriented governance. Emergency assistance will remain essential during crises; however, long-term solutions depend upon sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation, economic inclusion, political stability and stronger international cooperation. Delegates are encouraged to develop proposals that address both the immediate humanitarian dimensions of hunger and the deeper structural conditions that perpetuate global food insecurity.

Questions for Committee

1. How can humanitarian organizations ensure uninterrupted food assistance during armed conflicts while maintaining neutrality and operational safety?
2. What measures can states collectively adopt to prevent starvation from being used as a weapon of war in conflict zones?
3. How can climate-resilient agricultural systems be strengthened in regions highly vulnerable to droughts, floods and desertification?
4. What role should developed economies play in financing climate adaptation and food-security initiatives within developing countries?
5. How can international financial institutions support food-insecure countries facing inflation, debt crises and economic instability?
6. What reforms are necessary to improve coordination between WFP, FAO, NGOs and regional organizations during humanitarian emergencies?
7. How can governments strengthen local food systems and reduce excessive dependence upon volatile global food markets?
8. What safeguards should be implemented to protect refugees, internally displaced persons and vulnerable populations from severe food insecurity?
9. How can technological innovation and sustainable agricultural practices contribute toward long-term global food security?
10. What balance should the international community maintain between emergency humanitarian assistance and long-term developmental reforms?

Sources and Further Reading

1. World Food Programme (WFP)
<https://www.wfp.org>
2. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
<https://www.fao.org>
3. Global Report on Food Crises
<https://www.fsinplatform.org>
4. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
<https://www.ipcc.ch>
5. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal2>
6. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
<https://www.unocha.org>
7. UNICEF Nutrition Reports
<https://www.unicef.org/nutrition>
8. World Bank Food Security Updates
<https://www.worldbank.org>
9. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
<https://www.imf.org>
10. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2417
<https://digitallibrary.un.org>