



## Sixth informal joint meeting of the FAO Council, the IFAD Executive Board and the WFP Executive Board 30 November–1 December 2022

### RBA Response to the Global Food Security Crisis

1. A global cost of living crisis – due to a host of factors and unseen in at least a generation – has emerged, compounding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and compromising lives, livelihoods and hopes for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The war in Ukraine, engaging two major players in agri-food and energy markets, and localized conflicts, have further exacerbated the overlapping crises related to food, energy and finance. Prices of food, energy and fertilizers have soared, causing a food access crisis, along with an overall increase in hunger, poverty and inequality. The ability of many countries to withstand the multiple shocks has eroded, and countries long term strategies for sustainable development are challenged by short term humanitarian emergencies.
2. The fragility of agri-food systems, including food supply chains, has become a global concern. Given that the complexity and multi-layers of the global food security crisis requires a collective response, the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) have redirected their efforts, and a new impetus to collaboration has emerged. The RBAs are drawing on their respective data and analyses, and are jointly monitoring the impacts of higher prices of food, energy and fertilizers, as well as of the broader soaring inflation, on food security. Through individual as well as joint interventions, including with other partners, the RBAs are responding to the crisis by guiding and leading short-term emergency interventions, while seeking to build longer-term resilience.
3. In the face of the crisis and higher operating costs, the RBAs continue to implement programmes together and with other partners that support government efforts to address the impacts of various shocks that have been manifested like the current crisis.<sup>1</sup> In this regard, the RBAs are working to maintain and further strengthen their strong collaboration, particularly through regular information sharing and joint analyses, improved joint engagement in global multilateral forums, and country-level coordination of activities. These coordinated efforts include, among others:
  - *United Nations Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance (GCRG)*: The GCRG ensures high-level political leadership to advance the inter-connected challenges of food security, energy and financing and aims to coordinate the global response. All three RBAs are contributing to the group, which aims to develop coordinated solutions to the interlinked crises in collaboration with governments, the multilateral system, development banks, and academia.

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<sup>1</sup> [Update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies.](#)



- *United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub*: Hosted at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the Development Coordination Office (DCO), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO) and in collaboration with the GCRG, the Hub works to support national governments on their food systems transformation pathways, which can be a key part of strategies to overcome the current crisis and build future resilience.
- *The Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM)*: Announced by the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, along with the European Union, African Union and G7 partners. The RBAs are supporting each of the pillars of the initiative: FAO (transparency – production and dissemination of trade data through AMIS); IFAD (resilient local agricultural production); and WFP (solidarity).
- *Global Alliance on Food Security (GAFS)*: Launched by the German G7 Presidency, this initiative aims to catalyse an immediate and joint response to the ongoing global food crisis. Through the GAFS initiative, the RBAs are contributing to ensure close collaboration and coordination, as well as to improve agri-food and social protection systems through mid- and long-term interventions.
- *Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*: The CFS provides a platform for discussion and coordination to strengthen collaborative action among governments, regional organizations, international organizations and agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector associations, philanthropic foundations and other relevant stakeholders. As such, the CFS has proven a key vehicle for RBA collaboration in relation to the global food crisis. Dialogue on substantive items impacting global food security through the CFS multi-stakeholder platform reinforce the role of RBAs as central actors in the crisis response. The CFS continues to play a role in the global response through active participation in the GCRG. It provides regular updates on progress in combating the crisis through regional and global fora, including at high-level events. This year, these included the high-level special event entitled “Time to Act Together: Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis” hosted by the CFS and the United Nations General Assembly.
- *Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)*: This initiative, launched by the G20 Agriculture Ministers in 2011, aims to improve food market transparency and policy response for food security. AMIS also provides a unique platform for policy dialogue and coordination among its Members (including the Russian Federation and Ukraine). Hosted in FAO, the AMIS inter-agency secretariat is composed of 10 international institutions, including the three RBAs.
- Joint Statements by the Heads of FAO, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank Group, WFP and the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the Global Food Security Crisis. Two statements were issued in July and September 2022, calling for urgent action to address the global food security crisis and outlining four key areas for action, as follows: support efficient production and trade; improve transparency; accelerate innovation and joint planning; and invest in food systems transformation.
- *The Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC)*: Led by FAO and WFP, the focus of the FSLC is to ensure that the most vulnerable groups have immediate access to life-saving food assistance and to strengthen the resilience of the vulnerable, conflict-affected population by strengthening their capacity through restoration of agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods.



- *The Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)*: Co-led by the European Union, FAO and WFP, the GNAFC is a multi-stakeholder initiative that serves as a coordination platform for the work of humanitarian and development actors to prevent, prepare for, and respond to, food crises and support the achievement of SDG 2 on Zero Hunger. In 2022, the Global Network convened two regional ministerial dialogues in East and West Africa on addressing the root causes of acute food insecurity. The Global Network also issued the annual Global Report on Food Crises in May 2022 and its mid-year update in September 2022, three issues of the Hunger Hotspots report and two of the Monitoring Food Crises in Countries with Conflict Situations Assessments, with a third report to be released in the coming weeks. These reports are very important for informing discussions and guiding actions in the United Nations Security Council.
  - *Multi-sectoral human impact assessment (HIA)*: WFP and FAO are jointly supporting the United Nations food security and livelihoods component of the HIA to assess the overall impact on the war on the population through indicators such as the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), coping strategy index, and food expenditure.
  - FAO, together with the European Union, and in collaboration with IFAD and WFP as well as other development partners, has responded to requests of select Governments to accompany them in their efforts to transition to sustainable and resilient agri-food systems (representing a follow-up to the 2021 United Nations Food Systems' Summit and their European Union-FAO agri-food systems' assessments).
4. Moving forward, and looking to 2023, the RBAs will continue to contribute to global initiatives, together and also in collaboration with other partners, to ensure coherence and impact.
  5. For example, IFAD is one of the international financial institutions (IFIs) included in the IFI Action Plan. FAO and WFP will support the implementation of the IFI Action Plan, working with IFAD and other IFI partners, such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to leverage existing tools and programmes to ensure governments have the needed financial resources to respond to the shocks they face. Additionally, there are a range of other new initiatives that may see joint RBA involvement, such as the African Emergency Food Production Facility of the African Development Bank.
  6. The RBAs will work with other United Nations Agencies and within the United Nations country team (UNCT) to ensure their efforts are coordinated. This takes in partner United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), who are also responding to the crises with their own food security, climate change, social protection and resilience initiatives. Working together within the UNCT will ensure that overlap and duplication are avoided and the scale up of existing initiatives and the implementation of new programmes are based on comparative advantage.
  7. The RBAs will continue providing data and analysis on food insecurity, malnutrition and acute poverty through a number of publications. These include the *Hunger Hotspots: FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity*, the FAO-WFP report on *Monitoring food security in countries with conflict situations*, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)*, and the *Global Report on Food Crises* produced by the Global Network Against Food Crises. These reports will continue to serve as important resources for the analysis of trends and developments and for policy formulation and planning



8. The RBAs will continue to communicate with partners about the ongoing response, and future needs, related to the global food crisis. For example, the RBAs have actively met with bilateral agencies to discuss current challenges, priorities and opportunities for collaboration.
9. Finally, the RBAs will continue to advocate to governments in various high-level political forums, such as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the United Nations Security Council, the Group of Seven (G7), the Group of Twenty (G20), the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the RBA Governing Body meetings for matters and emerging issues related to food security and nutrition, such as:
  - Support efficient production and trade, improve agri-food market transparency, accelerate innovation and joint planning *and* invest in food systems transformation;<sup>2</sup>
  - Focus on supporting countries that are at acute risk of famine and in immediate need for assistance;
  - Step up humanitarian response, in all humanitarian contexts;
  - Avoid export restrictions and other trade distorting measures, in line with WTO rules, to stabilize food markets and commodity prices;
  - Strengthen local value chains by encouraging increased local production, supporting in particular smallholder and family farmers, cooperatives and small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) in that context promoting local market linkages, and reduce food loss;
  - Restore the availability and affordability of inputs, including fertilizers, and promote increased use efficiency, through supporting innovative approaches for the development of inclusive and sustainable input systems;
  - Reinforce and expand targeted social protection systems across rural and urban areas;
  - Invest in logistics and rural infrastructure so that food is not only grown, but it can also be stored, processed and transported efficiently;
  - Support countries so that they are equipped with the financial resources, fiscal space and funds needed to guarantee the food security of their populations;
  - Support the promotion of political solutions to end conflicts now.

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<sup>2</sup> Second Joint Statement by the Heads of Food and Agricultural Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group, World Food Programme, and World Trade Organization on the Global Food Security and Nutrition Crisis.