



CFS Plenary 47

III: Global Thematic Event: CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises

Statement by Switzerland

- Switzerland recognizes that food insecurity and malnutrition are increasingly concentrated in countries with protracted crises and are linked to natural hazards, climate change competition for resource and conflict – often occurring simultaneously and reinforcing each other. Around half a billion people are currently affected by protracted crises. Moreover, in protracted crises, the prevalence of chronic food insecurity is about 2.5 times higher than for countries not affected by conflict. We note that it is countries in protracted crises that also top the list of countries most vulnerable to the effects to climate change. We recognize in this context the relevance of the CFS Framework for action on food security and nutrition in protracted crises and its values and principles.
- This calls for a radical change in the way the humanitarian system addresses this type of situation, by focusing on more long-term resilience-building approaches, promoting the agency of beneficiaries while reducing the risks they face, and addressing the root causes of hunger in innovative and forward-looking ways that establish more sustainable livelihoods, address the risks that beneficiaries face and put agency back in their hands to define their own futures.
- While maintaining its commitment to supporting emergency live-saving food assistance, to people in emergencies and protracted crises, Switzerland also aims over the next four years to contribute to strengthening the resilience of food-insecure people in relation to shocks that affect their livelihoods and food systems, notably in protracted crisis contexts. As special focus will be directed to disaster risk reduction, insurance and beneficiary protection and risk management.
- Switzerland supports without any reservation the values as stated in paragraph 15. Foundational is the clear and unequivocal reference to human rights. Human rights are the starting point and the driver of all we do in pursuit of a better world. Without this fundamental, common understanding of our shared dignity, we are liable to fail in our pursuit of better food security and nutritional outcome for all. Similarly crucial is the respect for International Humanitarian Law by all countries and nations.
- We support all stated principles, but wish to highlight principles 2, 3, 4 expressing an emphasis on assistance of those with vulnerabilities. Vulnerabilities are manifold, and



not always discernable from the outside. Reaching affected populations, notably children in their first 1,000 days is crucial. Key is attaining access in crises and providing them with protection in a way that reduces the risks they face. Centrality of protection, not explicitly recorded in this document, is the starting point that puts affected population in a position in which they can become agents of positive change. A conscious empowerment of women and girls is key to equal and equitable access to food and good nutrition, and of course, nutritional vulnerabilities of men and boys should not be forgotten either. The document may have benefitted from a clearer mention of people with disabilities.

- The document recognizes the relationship between conflict and hunger – and the relationship between peace-building and access to equitable food security and nutrition for all. This should never be far from our minds as we seek to address protracted crises. Switzerland is pro-actively striving to orientate more of its assistance to work on the Triple Nexus, as we seek to apply a more holistic approach to peace, development and humanitarian assistance as mapped out through the Agenda 2030's 17 SDGs.